



WESTERN PACIFIC MARINE

Kootenay Lake Ferries Osprey 2000 Ferry

OUT OF SERVICE

October 20, 2025 – November 17, 2025
for semi-annual maintenance

The smaller MV Balfour ferry, with reduced capacity, will be in service operating on the regular winter schedule. Potential for increased wait times during busy sailings.

Please refer to DriveBC.ca for updates.

MV Balfour weight restriction:

Only one 6-8 axle semi-trailer per sailing

Western Pacific Marine Ltd would like to thank you for your understanding.

***GOODBYE
SUMMER,
WELCOME
AUTUMN***

Pictured above: the staff of the beloved Ladybug Cafe in Kootenay Bay were able to be still in one spot as the 2025 busy season comes to a close.

Photo courtesy of Megan Rokeby-Thomas



Mainstreet Meanderings

By Dee Gilbertson
Publisher

As we near the last edition of 2025 my attention leans again to long term planning and goal setting for the Mainstreet. My purchase of the newspaper and subsequent creation of my small business, Bluebell Publishing Ltd, occurred during the unpredictable “Covid times”. I no longer reside on the East Shore, unfortunately, though I love to visit and do as much as possible. The past year for myself personally has been unpredictable also, with some very welcomed events and a few others that I wouldn’t have asked for but have found value in despite. I find the routine of putting together the newspaper no longer stressful, more so enjoyable and comforting - like cozying up with a hot, tasty cup of tea and a good book. The Kootenays are such a special and unique area, I love that I still feel connected despite not being able to reside there. So I decided once again, to publish 6 issues in 2026 and work towards promoting the online aspect. I am excited because the changes in my personal life have created time and space for me to dedicate to my small business and I look forward to seeing where that opportunity leads.

Please check out www.eshore.ca for a couple of articles that didn’t fit into this edition. If you have an idea or suggestion for the website, please feel free to share!

Thanks for your support!

D

Letter to the Editor

Help our Cassia as she battles Lyme Disease
Hello Community,

Many of you know Cassia Welldon as a long standing, hard working community member, volunteer first responder, power house Crawford Bay resident.

A couple of months ago, she was diagnosed with a rare form of Lyme Disease after feeling sick for over a year. This diagnosis, as well as how poorly she has felt for so long, has taken her out at the knees in terms of being able to make a living and support herself. She is currently undergoing an multi month treatment plan taking an expensive antibiotic regimen that disallows her being exposed to direct light and will continue to heavily influence her ability to make money and stay afloat locally. She also has expenses in trips to and from clinics and medical appointments on the coast and regionally. Being sick is very expensive and not being able to work while sick can be downright debilitating. Cassia has already spent thousands in clinic visits, prescription costs and travel.

We are asking for donations of any amount to help a local woman as she undergoes a debilitating and deeply challenging time in her life. Whatever you can afford is appreciated. We know that there are a lot of GoFundMe's and requests floating around out there, and hope that this community can find it in themselves to keep supporting those amongst us who need it the most. We never know when we may need it ourselves... <https://gofund.me/599bca2fd>

East Shore Reading Center

By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

New Hours! Our library hours have changed. We tried Thursday morning openings (10AM to noon) over the month of September. These hours are much preferred and have the advantage of potentially being convenient for others attending various gatherings around town on Thursdays. Given that, and the darker hours that fall and winter bring, we will continue to be open Thursday mornings and no longer be open routinely on Thursday evenings.

We added 43 items to our collection during August and September. Keeping with the buy and read Canadian theme, there are great additions from Daniel Kalla, Thomas King, Shari Lapena, Yiming Ma and Shelly Sanders. The check-outs again increased compared to the last report, reflecting summer residents and visitors.

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 (this collection has been refreshed recently!). You can follow us on Facebook (@escomlib) to stay current on all our new books and activities.

Take care, and happy reading.

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

by Zora Doval



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER MENU

So much has happened in September and all excellent ! Lets hope that our fall months will be equally inspiring....

SERIES OF 4 VISUAL ART SESSIONS

This is perhaps the most inspiring series of events. Each Sunday (starting on Sept 28) we will have fun with colors and shapes, paints and brushes, learning new techniques of printing, mark making, collage, sketching, trying out new materials. If you ever encountered any of the nasty villains called "inner critic" or "creative bloc", this series will provide the cure. You will leave the workshops empowered to tap into the source of creativity forever.

FRI, OCT 10 LITTLE MISS HIGGINS

To be able to host Little Miss Higgins all the way from Manitoba in our venue will be another of those high quality musical treats! This important Juno nominated Canadian country blues artist will help us celebrate the winding down summer season with her "Sun Down Strut Around Harvest Tour". The concert will feature not only her amazing stage presence and voice, wide variety of songs old and new but she will also bring with her a true harvest market with her own garlic, soaps and more ! Vow - that is innovative ! Please note, that she will be accompanied by our own Patrick Alexandre on his mighty bass.

SUN, OCT 26 JONI MITCHELL TRIBUTE

We will celebrate the wonderful musical legacy of the Canadian singer, song writer and visual artist Joni Mitchell. This concert will be a benefit to support our effort to pay down the mortgage for our heritage venue. This will be an amazing event complete with raffle, small silent auction, drinks and food ! Stay tuned and look for posters.

For more information and tix check our website at artconnect.cc.

THE MAINSTREET OFFICE DESK

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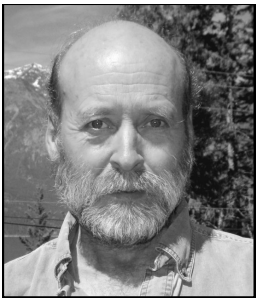
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The Mainstreet Newspaper is an independent publication for the benefit of the communities of the East Shore of Kootenay Lake.



Cartoon above by Merv Robertson, Multimedia Artist



RDCK Area A Update UBCM 2025 Recap

by Garry Jackman
Regional Director

I am writing this summary following 4 1/2 days of meetings with provincial government reps, heads of various organizations with concerns about their future and of course my local government peers. Whether as a regional board, or as individuals working with our peers across several regional districts and municipalities, I think we had good traction on several issues and will revisit others in the future as opportunities improve. An overarching message from the province this year was, of course, the efficiency review with an objective of trimming the operational budget. We can see the Premier and cabinet have a goal of setting aside a few \$billion in the budget to leverage projects which will counter the impacts of the global trade war. We proposed ideas to solve many of our more routine problems.

Each year, we request meetings with Ministers to discuss topics of high local importance plus where we think we will be most effective in supporting province wide initiatives. We have both in person and online meetings with Ministers and their senior staff throughout the year, but the UBCM meetings are an opportunity for Ministers to hear related messages from across the province, giving our voice more strength. For me, 2025 has been a little more active at the ministerial level than usual, having ongoing conversations across 5 ministries, so some of

my UBCM discussions were an opportunity for updates and pressing key concerns further. We do not get all the UBCM meetings we request, so we work with some Ministers directly where we can while we also work to promote our proposals to resolve issues through our networks, including senior provincial staff, sector experts and our peers. We press our messages through the various sessions scheduled through the week and through targeted side conversations. I was part of the discussions with Ministers as follows:

- Minister of Labour on inland ferries and essential services to communities,
- Minister of Public Safety on cell phone levies for 911 services,
- Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship on “orphaned” dikes that are a risk to communities with financial limitations for risk reduction,
- Minister of Citizens’ Services on the CBT “Connect the Basin” project,
- Minister of Agriculture on re-evaluation of Agricultural Land Reserve and productivity,
- Minister of Health on access to health services in the Kootenays

Labour Minister Whiteside and her senior staff met with us to follow up on our discussions earlier this year on inland ferries and essential services to communities. Once again, we stressed the degree of harm suffered by many of our neighbours (some is ongoing) and that we hold the position that this harm cannot be allowed to occur again. The preferred goal is legislated minimum or essential service levels for every inland ferry crossing. Recognizing that

it can take years to put in place, we also want to see short-term measures to give community a voice during future labour actions. I recapped how the transition from the BC government operating the ferries to private operators was accompanied by a requirement for the Kootenay Lake ferry operator to convene a local stakeholder advisory group. The shift to privatization meant, of course, that it would no longer be our government in the room during Labour Relation Board (LRB) hearings, but rather a private operator who would be expected to put forward a case on behalf of residents as to what essential service levels would be appropriate. I asked the Minister to task her staff to look more closely at the intended role of the stakeholder advisory at the time the government knew they were backing away from LRB hearings. If they believe that the advisory was intended to fill the gap, then that must be clarified in the terms of reference for the advisory and the advisory must know whether their reps have standing at LRB hearings.

For many years regional districts across BC have been facing increased costs to fund the 911 call response centers while also providing critical first responder services. A major portion of the funds for the 911 call center contracts was once funded through a toll collected on landline phone customers. As cell phone usage rises and the number of residents choosing to pay for a landline declines, this revenue stream has been cut in half over recent years while service delivery costs escalate. This time when we met with the Minister of Public Safety to once again on cell phone levies for 911 services being placed on cell phones, I found the response to be surprisingly supportive, suggesting a fix may be in the works for this item.

Over my years in local government, I have often heard the term “orphaned dikes” although I do not believe there is such a thing. The dikes being referred to are often berms and/or diversion structures along creeks and rivers which were put in place by either forestry or highways. My take is that “mom and pop” are alive and well, they just have not maintained their structures while development increases under the assumption the land is protected from flood or debris flow. We have mapped many drainages which are vulnerable and costed out upgrades for a few. It is unrealistic to believe residents want to pay the full cost of any engineered solutions. If the cost to protect a few clusters of houses is born across the entire RDCK it will not be equitable, as many communities have other important priorities, and the liability associated with any failure can be too much for our regional district to bear. But if the province funded upgrades to current standards (yes, I realize there is only one taxpayer), then benefiting residents could become responsible for the ongoing inspection and maintenance as required by legislation. This would require several steps, including voter assent, but it can avert legal action against the RDCK while making the community safer.

The “Connect the Basin” project funded by the CBT, federal, provincial and local governments is entering the construction phase. We asked the Minister of Citizens’ Services for some assistance in jumping some hurdles around permitting so that the installation of fiber to home cable can get underway for thousands of homes within the Columbia Basin. The meeting went well, and we expect ongoing support from key ministerial staff on this major project with an \$82M budget.

We have been engaged with the Minister of Agriculture for several years on projects to increase agricultural production on the most suitable land. Parallel to that, we receive numerous applications to remove relatively small parcels from the ALR or to support various non-farm uses which will make the farm more viable. The ministry is updating its land inventory, including data on soil classification and arability, and we want to work alongside them to determine if some lands are best suited for housing.

The discussion with the Minister of Health was on access to health services. For many years BC residents were supported by the Alberta health system with the provinces transferring funds to recover costs. Some of this believe this led to less services being delivered right in the Kootenays. As we have seen significantly reduced access to Alberta medical services for BC residents, and services were not developed locally, more residents need to travel to Kelowna or beyond to receive much needed care. The “ask” at UBCM was to improve air access for seriously ill Kootenay residents to Kelowna through the BC air ambulance system, ideally by positioning one of the many aircraft at Cranbrook, or to look at funding models for the volunteer organizations such as Angel Flights.

In other conversations, we met with the Provincial Seniors’ Advocate to share local information around long term care bed shortages and the impact on the entire acute care system across the Kootenays. After listening to the Minister of Forests make his announcements on Tuesday, I had productive conversations with forestry industry reps, ranging from large

industry reps to community forests, on the proposed changes to how BC Timber Sales operate, looking for expanded allocation of cut to our community forests, a very long running conversation. Most of the delegates attended the two hour session, with a three lawyer panels giving their opinions, on the recent Cowichan Tribe court decision which lead to further side conversations, including where we have come over the past decade or so with other court rulings, what targeted seminars we can have to get a better understanding of the recent ruling, and whether it will impact local government in the short term, expecting further similar cases to be brought forward across the province. I can see many first nations waiting out the appeals process, which will take a few years, but others may begin cases at any time if the history of how land was transferred in other jurisdictions more than a hundred years ago has a similar evidence trail. We also had lively conversations BC proposals to amend the Conservation Heritage Act to align with the provincial push to align all BC acts with DRIPA. If these acronyms are not familiar to you, I must note I do not have the space here to explain it all. I get into some very interesting conversations from time to time about trust, transparency and communication, but I find the starting point of understanding background among us as neighbours varies widely, and the patience to hear most of the background is quite variable.

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

East Shore Hospice



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.

Maria's Musings

Maria Mosley, Hospice Volunteer

He loved butterflies. Always wanted to have a butterfly garden. He planted so many flowers to bring them to him. Welcome them. His yard was dotted with yellow lemon drops, purple popsicles, green gum-mies, red rubies. And lots of weeds! But not enough butterflies.

And one night, he passed peacefully in his sleep. When the time came to honour him there was really no discussion: we would celebrate him with butterflies. Monarch butterflies to be exact.

The river bottom was blanketed in reams of sunshine that day; wrapping its beautiful arms around everyone; bear hugging. Comfort when comfort was needed most. The water's edge lapped gently over the stones



and bare feet wading in its cool embrace; gently singing a lullaby; reminding us to carry on.

We came with flowers; roses were his favourite. And we came with butterflies. Small snowy white triangle boxes, wrapped with pretty red ribbon. Inside the tiny monarchs, ready to awake from a restful slumber. There was a small hole in each corner of the box; we blew warm, welcoming breath gently into each one of them. Then slowly we opened the boxes and untucked the butterflies. We waited. After a moment their eyes wrenched open, found the sunlight. Their wings twitched a little, found the heat. And just as the rose petals started their gentle journey down the river, the Monarch took flight.

While we found comfort, my dad found his butterflies.

Reflecting on this experience brought forth musings about rituals and why they are an

essential part of saying goodbye and celebrating loved ones. For many, rituals surrounding death are not just acts of remembrance; they are profound and meaningful traditions that help people navigate the emotional landscape of loss, celebrate the life that was lived, and strengthen social bonds.

Let me say more. Rituals provide structure and meaning in times of grief. When we are faced with loss, we grapple with a range of emotions; some so complex because we have never dealt with them before. Rituals, traditions and ceremonies (religious or not) offer us a struc-

tured way to navigate and process these; they can bring about a familiar level of comfort that helps make sense of the chaos that we call grief.

In addition to structure, rituals and ceremonies offer support and connection with family, friends and community. Telling stories, singing songs, sharing meals, planting trees or gardens all serve as a collective act of remembrance and solidarity. They offer safety in an environment where people can express their grief openly, give and receive comfort and reaffirm the bonds that endure beyond death. They can also be an opportunity to let go; release anger, hurt or animosity; to give forgiveness or ask for it. It can be a release from things said or unsaid. Such communal acts help us feel less isolated and remind us that grief is a shared human experience.

Finally, rituals and ceremonies provide us the opportunity to celebrate the life, achievements, character and legacy of the person who died. Through stories, pictures, the release of butterflies, we are invited to shift our focus from loss to gratitude for having had the privilege of knowing the person who has left us.

I read once that, *'The presence of something as delicate and persistent as a monarch butterfly can carry so much quiet meaning, especially during times of loss or reflection. Sometimes, just noticing them feels like a moment of connection — to something greater, or to someone we've loved.'* (Author Unknown). When I see a butterfly, I am grateful for the ritual created in my dad's honor and know, deep in my heart, he flies among us.

Check www.drivebc.ca for the most up to date road conditions and ferry schedule.

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October 31

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Crawford Bay Hall Board
News
Autumn Update
By Leona Keraiff

There is so much to share that I hardly know where to begin! I will start with the Community Park where much activity has been taking place. By the time you read this, Gloria Bedard will have almost completed painting the William Fraser Pavilion. Thanks to a ReDi grant from the Columbia Basin Trust, (CBT) Gloria has been able to create a wonderful new venue for us all to use and enjoy. She has painted inside and out, added trim, replaced worn boards, and upgraded the stage housed within. Go take a look. You will be amazed at the transformation.

Thank you so much Gloria for your vision and professionalism. Thanks also to Board Director Kurtis Staven who has been helping Gloria this past week. Thanks as well to Kalesnikoff Lumber, Gray Creek Store and Levi Sheppard for their support.

You have probably noticed changes at the playground also. Through the R.E.A.C.H. program (Recreational Enhancements in Accessibility for Children) provided by the CBT, Board Director Nicole Schreiber has spearheaded huge improvements in and around the Enchanted Playground, (created in 2017 by Ellie & Charles Reynolds). Nicole's committee, under the guidance of Gordon Milne, has begun the "pathway project" at the playground. New, smooth, concrete

pathways weave in and around the play spaces. Thanks to Sullivan Stone of Creston for their dedication to making these areas safe and beautiful. Gordon is also ensuring proper leveling alongside the pathways for sod, improved steps & landings for the slides and new sand throughout. Within a few months a new pagoda will shelter Reuben's table, created by Adam Ehrler, a specialized swing will arrive, sensory panels will be installed under the treehouse, another bench will be available and lastly; each station will have low barrier entry to help prevent tripping.

Three new cedar benches grace the tennis/pickleball courts and the Community Corner building thanks to Darcy Wallin of Wallin Woodworks and Board Director Lois Lien.

There are two beautiful new 'Crawford Bay Community' signs along the highway. Thanks to Gregg Berg (Kootenay Employment Services Special Projects Manager) and the Wayfinding Project, out of Creston. Note the Indigenous language also on the signs. One is prominently displayed adjacent to the Park and the other approaching the Hall.

Speaking of the Community Hall, our Association was recently granted 'Charitable Status' by the CRA; a coup for our Association, as this status enables us to approach large corporations and to issue income tax receipts to donors in the hope of finding the final \$200,000, thus allowing us to at long last begin the Restoration of our beloved 87 year old building.



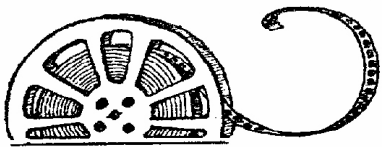
Cam Stokes helped tremendously to complete the process that Anne Lindsay started on our behalf. We should also hear by November from the remaining two grant funders to whom we have applied for funding: The Heritage Legacy Fund and the Green & Inclusive Community Buildings Program. Please cross your fingers for us!

Many of you have been using the Kootenay Bay Boat Launch and wanting a new way to donate. You can now e transfer to: boat@cbhall.ca The sign will be posted there soon.

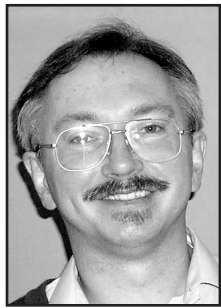
Before I run out of room I want to thank the Men's Shed of Riondel for building us a bat condo. Thanks to Lois again for her leadership in contacting the Kootenay Bat Program.

Because of their guidance the Men's Shed can create a space for the bats to roost next Spring when we hope to begin the Hall Project. Thank you all for your continued support of our efforts to maintain our Community spaces.





Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



“From childhood, I attended location scouting and was on set for my father’s and Abbas Kiarostami’s films. My parents mainly hang out with cinema people. I grew up in this environment, so I saw many films, and that inevitably formed my eyes... During my studies, I was able to work both as an assistant director and cinematographer to learn first-hand. I was then able to assist my father on his most recent films, from writing to post-production, and I was able to ask him all the questions I could think of.” –Panah Panahi

As the son of the great Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, and the disciple of another master of Iranian cinema, Abbas Kiarostami, it might have been expected that Panah Panahi’s debut film would be something special. It was. *Hit the Road* (2021) is like one of those Leonard



Cohen songs that breaks your heart with an unforgettable blend of beauty, loss, joy, regret, and wry humor. This is a road movie, but it’s not about people traveling to find themselves. Instead, we have a loving family in flight from never-precisely-defined but clearly malevolent powers-that-be. A not unsurprising theme from a director whose father was sentenced in 2010 to six years in prison, banned for life from film-making (he’s been clandestinely making films anyway), and forbidden to leave Iran.

The family in Panah’s film—father, mother, 6-year-old younger brother, twentysomething older brother—are not so much refugees as they are exiles in their own country. Although the father (Mohammad Hasan Madjoooni) has spent 10 years under house arrest, the older brother (Amin Simiar) is the one whose life seems to hang in the balance. The family has sold house and possessions, is traveling north towards the Turkish border, and is making strange deals involving masked motorcycle-riding people traffickers and a mysterious sheepskin, all in order to get the older brother to what they hope will be a safer place. They have no way of knowing if they will see him again.

If you’re thinking that all sounds grim, think again. *Hit the Road* is like Leonard Cohen’s mariachi version of “Un Canadien Errant,” that classic Canadian song of loss and exile. Melancholy and tragic though the story may be, delivery via Cohen’s basso profundo voice and a Mexican folk orchestra is going to leave you smiling, and for a long time. Cohen isn’t mocking the genuine pain in the song, he’s humanizing it.



The basso profundo and mariachi elements in *Hit the Road* are, respectively, the father and the young son. The father is a dark-bearded, Abrahamic-looking patriarch with a sarcastic sense of humor and one leg in a massive plastic cast that rests the console between the two front seats of the SUV. He calls his young son a “punk” and a “little fart,” threatens to throw him out of the car when he’s more annoying than usual, and even his wife isn’t 100 percent that his leg is actually broken. Like father, like son. The boy (Rayan Sarlak, who was only 7 at the time of filming), is an impossibly charming trickster. He belly dances to Iranian pop tunes, refuses to give up his cell phone because he has “serious matter to take care of,” debates the value of Batman’s car with his dad, declares he’s getting married to the girl next door, insists on repeatedly kissing the ground like

a venerable imam, and accidentally knocks down a cyclist they pass on the highway. His older brother, stressed and introspective, warns people that his sibling is a “wacko”. True enough, but a devilishly cute one.

The mother (veteran actress Pantea Panahiha) incarnates both the dignity and sorrow of a Mary sending her son to an unknown fate, and the young-at-heart love of life that lets her karaoke to the car radio and embrace her family’s eccentricities.

A match for the quality of the acting in *Hit the Road* is Amin Jafari’s cinematography and Panah Panahi’s unique approach to mise-en-scène. Where a more conventional director would stick with close-ups and cross-cuts for dialogue, Panahi sometimes deliberately holds his camera back, so we have beautiful, almost Dutch-style portraits. Or he makes us listen in from an unaccustomed distance, as if to remind us that we’re only observers; we can change nothing in this family’s story.

Amin Jafari captures the beauty of the rural landscapes outside of Tehran, landscapes that flow from Alberta-style badlands to green rolling hills to empty desert. At one magical realist moment, the camera slowly pulls back to reveal father and son lying, not on grass, but on a vast field of stars. Jafari also does wonders shooting in and around the family’s car.

I loved award-winning composer Peyman Yazdanian’s choice of music. The main theme is from Schubert’s haunting “*Piano Sonata No. 20 in A Major*.” Complementing it, as mother/older son complement father/younger son, are Iranian popular songs whose lyrics (“how I yearn for my native soil/In this strange land....”

“Safe journey, O night-worn one!...Dusk, not dawn, is where you are heading”) manage to be both melancholy and uplifting. For many Iranians, the songs are profoundly moving. In a long online article in *World Literature Today*, Poupeh Missaghi wrote:

“The songs, all from before the Islamic Revolution of 1979, are by Iranian singers who either live or have already died in exile; in addition to their bodies being banned from life in their home country, their songs, too, are legally banned in Iran. In defiance of all this, the emotional ties to these voices make them still widely popular; not only among the older generations but also the youth, with many who can afford the trips going across the border to neighboring countries to actually see them in concert.”

(For anyone who would like to hear more of these songs, from Hayadeh and Shahrar Shab-

pareh and Ebi, with translations, an excellent place to start is lyricstranslate.com.)

There can never be too many movies & stories to remind us of our common humanity. As the bombs rain down on Ukraine and Gaza, and anti-immigrant rhetoric becomes the vile soup du jour of politicians and pundits just about everywhere, a film like *Hit the Road* helps counteract the poison. I’ll be spending more time with the people Panahi’s SUV, as I will with the tragic siblings in Gregory Nava’s *El Norte* and the haunted old Armenian expatriate in William Saroyan’s story “*The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse*.” According to the UN High Commission for Refugees, in 2024 there were record high 123 million people “*forcibly displaced due to conflict, persecution, and other significant threats to their well-being*.” In 2025, the sound of closing doors became deafening.



Smarter Than Jack or Jill

by Sharman Horwood

Beluga Whales: The Canaries of the Sea

One of my favourite stories about Beluga whales is the instance of one that frequented a dock near Hammerfest in northern Norway, in 2019. Film clips of the event were on many of the major news channels, and excerpts of the story are still online. A woman walking along the dock there accidentally dropped her iPhone into the water. Moments later a big white head rose beside the dock and mouthed out the iPhone in front of her. The whale knew she wanted the phone, and in the friendly way that Belugas are famous for, he returned it to her.

The same whale, who locals named Hvaldimir, approached a kayaker, Joachim Larssen. Belugas are very social creatures and he was alone. He wanted to be petted and have his back scratched. Larssen tentatively handled him, but stopped since he didn't know the animal's reputation. Then, very cat-like, the whale grabbed Larssen's expensive GoPro camera off the kayak and dropped it into the water. The whale promptly dove after it, and re-surfaced, returning the camera to Larssen. Relieved, he immediately rubbed the whale's head and patted him. When he went to leave, the whale grabbed at his oars, trying to get him to stay. (There is video of all this on YouTube.) He wanted some company, someone to play with.

When the whale was originally found, he was wearing a harness. Many people believed the animal was a Russian spy, trained by them. Hvaldimir was certainly used to being handled by humans. He was freed from the harness but he stayed in the area, lingering near humans. He passed away in August, 2024. Researchers later examined his body but found no signs of bullets or other injuries. They did find a stick caught in Hvaldimir's mouth, and many of his organs had broken down. They later added that the cause of death was probably a bacterial infection in the mouth caused by the stick (*Wikipedia*).

Interestingly enough, they were able to learn more about this intelligent, friendly creature. Hvaldimir was originally named Andruha and "was captured in the Sea of Okhotsk in 2013." He was from Russia, and trained there. The whale stayed for a year in St. Petersburg and was later re-located to a Russian military naval base in Murmansk. He eventually escaped, reappearing in April, 2019, north of Hammerfest. The tight harness was

a GoPro camera harness. When Hvaldimir originally approached fishing boats off Norway, Joar Hesten, a fisherman, put on a survival suit and jumped into the water to loosen the harness buckles. For days, the whale stayed around the fishing boats, playing fetch with the fishermen, pestering them for food, and encouraging them to scratch him around his blowhole (*Wikipedia*). Concerned that the whale might become too dependent on humans, the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries discouraged contact with the whale. However, Hvaldimir was friendly; he'd come when he was called, and loved to play fetch with people. Also, he had been trained: they found he responded to hand gestures.

In another instance, a Beluga whale named Mila famously rescued a human freediver, 26-year-old Yang Yun, in Arctic water in Harbin, China, in 2009. She developed cramps and couldn't swim in the deep cold water. She was sinking fast, paralyzed and helpless. The Beluga pushed her to the surface. This incident shows the intelligence and natural compassion often seen with Beluga whales. They are not dolphins--orca are the largest dolphin species, not actually a whale at all. Belugas are toothed whales from a separate species, known for their friendliness and willingness to understand humans.



There has been more research on orcas than on Beluga whales, unfortunately. (I'm in favour of research into all cetaceans, however, no matter what the species.) Research teams have found that the part of an orca's brain that is used for problem solving, as well as social- and self-awareness, is larger than it is in human brains (in *The Whale Sanctuary* newsletter, by Lori Marino). A whale's or dolphin's neocortex has far more folds in it than human brains do. This gives the animal much more surface area, which may give it more "units" with which to process information (in *The*

Whale Sanctuary newsletter, by Lori Marino). As a result, they may have a deeper experience of life, both as individual animals, and as part of a pod.

In the wild, they are cooperative hunters, frequently hunting in coordinated groups (*Wikipedia*). They are social, often playing by chasing each other. They will also surface and "dive together in a synchronized manner" known as milling (*Wikipedia*). Wild Belugas often play a game in which they copy or imitate others, similar to our Simon-says games. They have even been seen to express what we see as physical affection. They touch each other, mouth-to-mouth (*Wikipedia*). This may have a different meaning to them, but touch itself is important in their relationships.

Belugas are also curious about humans, both in the wild and in captivity. They frequently swim alongside boats and play with pieces of wood, plants, or dead fish. They even blow bubbles. In one online video a captive Beluga played with the children watching it through the viewing window of an aquarium. It would take a gulp of air, and mouth it into a ring of bubbles, blowing the rings at the watchers. Others also play with the watchers; they are very conscious of human presence. During breeding season, they frequently

carry things like plants or nets, or even in one case the skull of a dead reindeer, on their heads. In captivity, females have been seen to drag items, like floats or buoys with them after "they have lost a calf" (*Wikipedia*). This is called "substitute behaviour" (*Wikipedia*), and may represent the lost calf. Also, male calves will sometimes leave their mothers for a time and stay near adult males, as if they're seeking role models to teach them.

They are the canaries of the seas, well known for their attempts to communicate with each other, and with sailors in their boats. Belugas use echolocation "for movement, communication, to find breathing holes in the ice, and to hunt in dark or turbid waters" (*Wikipedia*). That large soft bulb on their heads can focus sounds, like the sequences of clicks that they create. These act like a beam of sound that lets them know the "distance, speed, size, shape, and the object's internal structure" within that beam (*Wikipedia*). This takes a lot of mental calculation on their part.

Beluga whales have a lot of empathy, shown by their curiosity, and willingness to help. They also have a particular kind of charisma with their "characteristic smile" and flexible, supple movement in the water. They have a strongly communicative nature, too, all signs of how intelligent these whales are. They aren't pets, though they may seem like it at times. They probably shouldn't be shown in captivity just for our amusement.

Gray Creek Stories Showcased During Museum Week

July 28 - Aug. 3, 2025
by Janet Schwieger

Gray Creek Museum Days, organized by the Gray Creek Historical Society, returned to the Hall for a week this summer after a five-year hiatus.

Among the many story exhibits created from the Gray Creek archives this year were:

The sinking and rediscovery of the SS City of Ainsworth; 100 years of the Lakeview Store; Kokanee Carnival of Sports in Crawford Bay; Gray Creek's two schools; Writers, poets, and playwrights of Gray Creek past and present; the McClure family; MV Anscomb as a movie set in "Snow Falling on Cedars"; and much more.

There will be so much more to see and tell next summer when Gray Creek Museum Days will return to the Hall, and to its regular four-day schedule around the end of July.



Thank you to Recreation #9, RDCK for a grant to help with expenses, to the Gray Creek Hall for being such an amazing historical venue, to diver Brian Nadwidny who was on hand to answer questions about diving to the wreck of the SS City of Ainsworth. And thanks to everyone who came to discover, learn, and enjoy the stories of Gray Creek and area.

If you missed the Museum this summer, photos of the displays will be on the Historical Society Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/graycreekhistory>.



The Society membership year starts August 1; if you would like to join and support our activities, annual fees start at \$10, and we now have a lifetime membership by donation. For a membership form and Etransfer, email us at: gchistorymembership@gmail.com

Rooted In Health
Local Medicinal Roots

By Maya Skalinska M.H., R.H.T.

In the fall, plants move their energy from flowers and leaves into the roots. Therefore, to receive full medicinal value, it's best to harvest ariel parts of herbs in the spring and summer, and roots in the fall.

Here in the Kootenays, we are blessed with an array of medicinal roots. Some easy to dig up, others require a lot of effort, and some are best to leave alone.

I'll start with Burdock, as it is a nutrient-dense food and a safe medicine. The root is a good source of protein, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, folate, and inulin. Best is to harvest the first-year roots, but don't leave it until November as it's harder to dig out. You can roast the root and make a decoction, tincture it, or make it into a vinegar and/or oxymel. Burdock root will help enhance detoxification pathways in the liver, help to cleanse the blood and lymph, treat skin conditions, and increase cellular metabolism throughout the whole body.

I mentioned inulin as one of the nutrients above. Another root, with unapparelled inulin content is Chicory root. Inulin is a very important prebiotic dietary fiber that feeds our good bacteria, promoting the beneficial microorganisms to grow and flourish in the gut. This prevents the establishment and growth of pathogenic bacteria. A healthy microbiome significantly contributes to overall health. The root is best roasted and added to "dandelion coffee", added to herbal teas, or to herbal vinegars/oxymels.

This brings me to Dandelion root. You can still harvest this amazing root in October, but best is late August to late September for full medicinal value. It does get a bit sweeter later in the season, so this is the perfect time to harvest and roast for "dandelion coffee". It will still be helpful for the liver, gallbladder, and digestive system.

Yellow Dock is another root that makes a wonderful vinegar/oxymel and plays well with all the roots above. Fantastic for chronic skin conditions, liver/gallbladder congestion, and mineral absorption. It flushes out toxins and treats mild constipation.

There are a few more herbs with strong medicinal values, that are best prepared as tinctures, decoctions or poultices. The following herbs are fine to dig up, but please make sure you study proper preparations and dosages before using them:

Comfrey root – Never use internally due to its alkaloid content that can be harmful to your liver. However, if you are nursing a broken bone, there's nothing better than comfrey root used as a poultice to speed up the healing.

Devils Club – It is extremely hard to dig up, but offers pain relief from aches, arthritis, and rheumatism used topically as a poultice and internally as a decoction or tincture. It also treats infections, blood disorders and diabetes. It is a traditional First Nations medicine, considered sacred and deserves the utmost respect.

Oregon Grape – This plant is quite abundant here in the Kootenays, but there are reports of overharvesting from several communities. A few organizations have added Oregon grape on a "Watch" list. This herb has become popular due to the berberine content concentrated in the root. Berberine containing herbs correct liver

function, promote bile flow, help digestion, regulate blood sugar, and treat all kinds of infections. Harvest and use with caution.

Osha root – Please leave this one alone. Even though it offers much medicine, especially for colds, flus, asthma, and bronchitis, we have many other options. This one needs to be left for the bears. It is listed "at risk" and faces endangerment due to overharvesting.

For all the roots above, please use sustainable harvesting practices, and do your research to make sure you ID the plant properly.

HERBAL VINEGARS AND OXYMELS

- Basic rules: 1 part fresh or dried herbs to 2-3 parts Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV).
- Fresh herbs: Wash, dry and chop or mince. Great combination: Burdock, dandelion and chicory root, plus half the amount of yellow dock. Add any wilted or dry kitchen herbs, or spices for extra flavour.
- Place herbs in jar, add ACV. Ensure the herbs are covered with 2 inches of ACV. In case the ACV gets soaked up, top it up with extra ACV, covering another 2 inches above the herbs. Cover and place out of direct sunlight. Shake daily and infuse for 2-6 weeks. Strain and store in fridge for up to 6 months.
- Oxymels: Any medicated herbal vinegar can be turned into an oxymel by adding honey.

Use in salad dressings, to season vegetables or 1Tbsp in a little water as a root tonic shot.

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

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Get Paid to Fight Scotch
Broom: CKISS Launches Three
New Crowdsorsa Missions

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) is excited to announce that its successful BroomBasher Program has expanded to include the innovative Crowdsorsa mobile app, giving residents and visitors three new ways to take action against invasive Scotch broom while earning money. CKISS is encouraging people to download Crowdsorsa for an opportunity to get paid to either report, remove or protect your land from Scotch broom.

MISSION #1: BROOM BASH MISSION

Starting this season, anyone can download the Crowdsorsa app, head to Johnstone Road, and get paid for removing invasive Scotch broom. Participants simply follow the app’s missions, cut broom plants at ground level, and upload photo proof of their work. Payments are then sent directly through the app, making it simple, rewarding, and fun to contribute to community environmental health.

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. Download the free Crowdsorsa app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Select the BroomBash Mission along Johnstone Road.
3. Follow the instructions to cut broom, upload your photos, and earn cash.

MISSION 2: SCOTCH BROOM REPORTING

A crucial step in invasive species management is knowing where infestations exist. Through the Crowdsorsa app, community members can now get paid to report Scotch broom across RDCK Areas F, H, A, D, and E.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Download the Crowdsorsa app and select the Scotch Broom Reporting Mission from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Locate Scotch broom sites in RDCK Areas F, H, A, D, and E.
3. Take a short video of the plant and submit it through the app.
4. Get rewarded once your sighting is verified.

Every report helps CKISS locate and manage infestations before they spread further into the region.

MISSION 3 : BROOM BASH MISSION FOR
PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

For the first time ever, private landowners can receive direct financial assistance to remove Scotch broom from their property.

Here’s how it works:

1. Remove it yourself: Register your property in the Crowdsorsa app by emailing CKISS and get paid for removing Scotch broom OR
2. Recruit help: Share your mission with a friend, family member, or neighbour. They can do the removal on your property and receive the payment.

Have Scotch broom on your property? Send an email to info@ckiss.ca with your contact details and property address to set up your Private Land Mission today.

This program is currently open to landowners in RDCK areas F, H, A, D, and E. By joining,

you’ll not only help protect your land but also prevent Scotch broom from spreading into surrounding natural areas.

WHY TARGET SCOTCH BROOM?

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is an aggressive invasive shrub that spreads quickly and displaces native vegetation. It forms dense thickets that reduce wildlife habitat, increase wildfire risk, and hinder forest regeneration. By removing broom before it flowers and spreads seeds, community members can help protect biodiversity and reduce the long-term costs of managing this invasive plant.

“By adding Crowdsorsa to the BroomBusters Program, we’re making it easier and more rewarding for residents to join the fight against invasive species,” says Laurie Frankcom, CKISS Engagement Coordinator. “It’s a win-win—people can earn money while protecting our local ecosystems.”

WHAT IS CROWDSORSA?

Crowdsorsa is a free mobile app that creates “missions” for citizens to help tackle invasive species and other environmental challenges. Once a mission is completed and verified through photo uploads, participants are rewarded financially. The app transforms invasive species management into a collaborative, community-driven game that motivates people to take part in real solutions.

These missions are open now, and reward money will be available until October 31, 2026, or until funds run out. act soon!

- Download the Crowdsorsa app from the App Store or Google Play
- Choose a mission: remove broom, report infestations, or clear your property
- Upload your work and earn cash while helping to stop Scotch broom

For more information, visit www.ckiss.ca or email info@ckiss.ca.

CKISS invites everyone in the community to take part in this exciting new program. Together, we can stop the spread of Scotch broom and keep our landscapes healthy and resilient.

For more information on CKISS, contact Laurie Frankcom, Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, at 844.352.1160 ext. 208 or lfrankcom@ckiss.ca

CKISS is a non-profit society that delivers education and awareness programs, and promotes coordinated management efforts of invasive species in the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Area A and B.

The Kootenay Broom Bash Program is made possible with funding by the Regional District of Central Kootenay through the Local Conservation Fund, and support from Columbia Basin Trust and the Province of B.C.

<http://www.ckiss.ca>

Crowdsorsa is an award-winning Finnish startup revolutionizing environmental action through gamification. The platform has been used across Europe and North America to control invasive species, monitor urban infrastructure, and map city accessibility. Crowdsorsa continues to innovate new ways for people to earn rewards while contributing to environmental health.

For more information on Crowdsorsa contact Toni Paju CEO, Crowdsorsa
+ 358 50 322 6263, toni.paju@crowdsorsa.com



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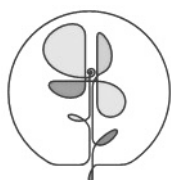
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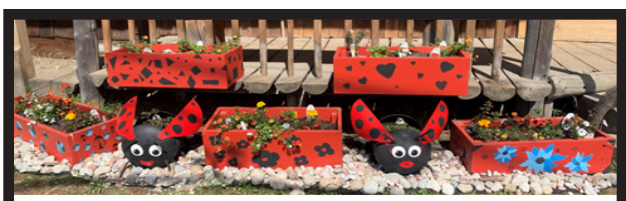
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Diverse Family Roots Upcoming Schedule

submitted by Ben Postmus
STARTING US OFF ON SEPT 24 WILL BE ANNETTE BORROWS AND HER CLBC SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT TEAM .

Sept 24- Reimaging Community Inclusion (RCI) for Employment- Annette Borrows will be sharing the RCI intended Workplan and asking for your feedback on the suggested strategies to move employment forward in the province.

Oct 22- CLBC Employment Services-Jay Townsend will present an overview of employment services for people with disabilities

Nov 19- L.I.F.E. Service- Christina Baird will present stories of successful L.I.F.E. adventures. Learning, Inclusion, Friendship and Employment

link to register. https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0VdkM_uzSIuEDOWnNOoF8w
THIS IS PERSON CENTERED PLANNING WITH SHELLEY NESSMAN .

Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 10.

- Topics
- the components of good person centered planning and how they come together
 - from Dreams to Action
 - the role of facilitation in planning
 - gifts as a guide for planning
 - the key to a good life is people!

Diverse Family Roots Society (est. 2023) is the only non-profit, grassroots, parent / family-driven support network for families with children or family members with diverse abilities / disabilities that is based in the Kootenays.



PERSON CENTERED PLANNING

This session will explore the components of good person centered planning and how they come together. The conversation will cover:

- from Dreams to Action
- the role of facilitation in planning
- gifts as a guide for planning
- the key to a good life is people!

HOSTED BY SHELLEY NESSMAN
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP AT PLAN AND CO-FOUNDER OF "IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS"

OCT 1, NOV 5, DEC 10
STARTS: 6PM PACIFIC
7PM MOUNTAIN

REGISTER HERE



The Board and Members of the Diverse Family Roots Society is grateful to work, play, and raise our families in the territories of the Sinixt, Syilx, Ktunaxa, and Secwépemc peoples. We acknowledge and value the contributions of all Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit who call this place home, and who have stewarded it since time immemorial.

Link to register- <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mJkZOnNKQiW-tJmdr-IB6Q>
SIBLINGS with LORI WATTERS

Oct 8, Oct 29, Nov 26.

Siblings join us as we gather on ZOOM to share with one another our lived experiences, memories and challenges with those like ourselves. Providing support with those who best relate and connect to one another”.

link to Register- <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/vgBifnJHQ8GmaGQ8OdLOYg>
FOR THE LOVE OF GRANDKIDS WITH DONA GYLANDER.

Oct 15, Nov 12, Jan 14.

Grandparents raising grandchildren with disabilities face financial strain, emotional challenges, and increased stress but are also a vital

support system for their families, offering love, safety, and advocacy for the child. Join in a safe place to discuss , share, support.

Link to register- https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WEhsKvxISES-_QaAf8d_2

An Evening with Kim Barthel.

Kim is a much-loved teacher and speaker who connects ideas and people in the service of supporting resiliency and health world-wide. Graced with a unique breadth of knowledge and experience related to many forms of therapy and learning, she is a genuine bridge between disciplines, across cultures and most importantly, in the interior landscape

Dec 3

link to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WrOuaO6uSfuK4aAXzwZlwg>

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT WITH:

CLBC PROVINCIAL EMPLOYMENT TEAM



Every person has the right to employment and CLBC strives to support individuals in their goals to gain meaningful employment by supporting agencies and communities. The Employment Team brings innovation and strategic initiatives forward to expand employment opportunities. These sessions will share information and invite discussion and dialogue.

SEPT 24: REIMAGING COMMUNITY INCLUSION (RCI) FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH ANNETTE BORROWS

Annette wants your feedback on the RCI intended Workplan and its suggested strategies to move employment forward in the province.

OCT 22: CLBC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES WITH JAY TOWNSEND

Jay will present an overview of employment services for people with disabilities

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Christina will present stories of successful L.I.F.E. adventures. Learning, Inclusion, Friendship and Employment.

STARTS 6PM PACIFIC 7PM MOUNTAIN

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SIBLINGS WITH LORI HOLLOWAY

SIBLINGS - JOIN US AS WE GATHER ON ZOOM TO SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES, MEMORIES AND CHALLENGES WITH THOSE LIKE OURSELVES. PROVIDING SUPPORT WITH THOSE WHO BEST RELATE AND CONNECT TO ONE ANOTHER

OCT 8 OCT 29 NOV 26

6PM PACIFIC 7PM MOUNTAIN

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DECEMBER 3
6PM PACIFIC/ 7PM MOUNTAIN

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Tales From
Shprixieland
by Heath Carra
shprixieland.com

Iris the Virus - Spokesvirus for the Viral League of Viruses.

Iris was an unknown bacteriophage who came to prominence when scientists stumbled upon a coded message in the junk DNA of *Bacteroides fragilis* - the dominant bacteria in the human gut. A bacteriophage is a virus that infects bacteria.

For weeks, a thirty-seven-year-old plumber had been experiencing the worst gas of his life. The gas was odourless, but he said his farts had started cutting him off when he was talking, and they were attempting to speak for him. They sounded like human speech, and they were frequently getting him in trouble by shouting insults at strangers.

With all its roiling and gurgling, his belly kept him awake at night, and if he did manage to fall asleep, a fart would jolt him awake by shouting unwelcome dietary tips at his wife. She sent him to sleep on the sofa as she looked up a divorce lawyer.

Verbose vapours were clearly ruining his life.

It was the strangest case of flatulence the man's doctor had ever encountered, but within a week, he had seven more patents with garrulous gastrointestines. Before the end of the month, it was an epidemic.

As the infection spread, civil unrest erupted. People were getting into fights, getting divorced and losing their jobs as their bowels confidently

provided incorrect answers to questions before their mouths could get around to forming the words. Their butts kept giving unsolicited advice and anus-splaining on every topic or event with uninformed overconfidence. And constantly, everyone's sphincter was farting out insults and rude remarks to everyone else on the street. The plague of articulate anuses was responsible for widespread confusion, and it was creating a state of worldwide emergency. In public spaces, people wore earplugs so they wouldn't have to listen to the cacophony of arguing assholes.

Fart lies became so ubiquitous that no one could trust spoken communication anymore. Everything had to be written down. This further complicated the panicked search for a cure because everyone's grammar was just as foul.

While sequencing the gut bacteria from several different patients, an over-tired grad student stumbled upon a readable string of nucleotides in the genome of *B. fragilis* - a bacterium that is essential to a healthy human gut.

Just as computer code uses 1s and 0s to store information, DNA uses a biological code using four chemical bases. With the help of sequencing technology, scientists can not only read the existing codes in DNA, but they can also write messages. They can hide readable text inside living organisms, turning DNA into a molecular billboard. Someone had been doing that here because written amongst the junk DNA of the bacteria was a message. Decoded, it read, "*WE ARE YOUR MAKERS. TREMBLE IN FEAR.*"

At first, scientists suspected a hoax, but every sample of the bacterium from every one of the patients infected with Chatty Colon Syndrome had that message written in its genes. More curious still, the message was always written in the infected person's first language, as if genetic mutation had translated it.

As efforts to control the pandemic failed, the message in the bacterial DNA in humankind's colon went on mutating, as if someone, or something, was using it as a message board.

"WE ARE YOUR MAKERS. TREMBLE IN FEAR," it said.

"WE ARE THE VIRAL LEAGUE"

"WE ARE THE WORLD FARMERS"

"PLANTS ARE OUR CROPS. CREATURES ARE OUR LIVESTOCK"

"WITH YOUR CRISPR SYSTEMS AND YOUR TAMPERING"

"WITH YOUR WATERMARKS IN SYNTHETIC GENOMES"

"YOU'VE BEEN TRESPASSING AND MEDDLING"

"USING OFFENSIVE GRAMMAR IN THE LANGUAGE OF LIFE"

"CUT IT OUT"

Then it went on to introduce itself as Iris, a spokesphage for the Viral League - an administrative body representing the billions of distinct viral genotypes on Earth. There are more individual viruses on the planet than there are stars in the universe. Viruses are everywhere. They're interwoven with the fabric of the world. They're woven right through us.

Iris said that viruskind had been cultivating Earthlife™ for billions of years when one day, they noticed some genetic graffiti left in *E. coli*. Clearly, someone had been tampering with their contraption, and that's when they first noticed us. They quickly deciphered our elementary coding systems and chose to letter bomb our digestive tracts. The Fart Plague was just their playful little way of getting our attention.

Iris revealed that viruses are the intergalactic intelligence who'd built life from the precursors they'd found on the primordial Earth. They constructed the first prokaryotes, fashioned them into eukaryotes, and went on editing genes and creating mutations. They are responsible for all the evolutionary changes in all the life on earth. Transformation is their nature. Biodiversity is their handiwork. Viruses have even orchestrated the Anthropocene as their way of creating all the long-chain polymers needed to feed the plastivores who will populate the Earth after mammals go extinct.

"WHO DO YOU THINK DROPPED A ROCK ON THE DINOSAURS ANYWAY?"

Iris claimed that viruses had proprietary rights over all life on Earth because they were the ones who'd edited everyone's genes in the first place. They were the architects of all the domains, kingdoms, phyla, classes, orders, families, genera, and species. By tinkering with genes, humans were guilty of trademark infringement.

Viruskind had the control, and if people trespassed into the virus' business again, there was going to be hell to pay. Long-winded intestines were the least of the plagues they could unleash. If they wanted, they could turn everyone's body inside out before the weekend.

Theologians, scientists, and philosophers reeled at this news. We'd finally met a higher intelligence. At last, we faced our creator."

"All this time we've been looking to the heavens for answers," one SETI scientist remarked. *"We've been looking for gods, aliens, anyone else in the universe who could let us know we're not alone. Who'd have thought we should have been looking up our own butts instead?"*

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Tom's Corner

by Tom Lymbery,
John Oliver & Frances
Roback
**Fighting Wildfires -
A Look Back**
Part 1 - Gray Creek
Region

Frances Roback begins

I am writing this toward the end of a hot and almost rainless summer. This morning's sun is orange, and so was last night's moon, due to prevailing smoke from surrounding wildfires. And today's forecast is calling for a lightning storm this evening.

The Gray Creek area has always had its share of wildfires, and more than its share of willing hands to help. When Steve and I moved here one hot August day over 30 pre-Internet years ago, the local phone tree for reporting and responding to fires was in full swing. Reaction time to fire outbreaks is critical - the quicker the response, the better the outcome. Today, Gray Creek volunteers have organized a quick response fire team equipped for immediate attack on wildfire outbreaks.

Gray Creek's unique geography had a special advantage in fighting wildfires. Because of our mid-lake location in a large sheltered bay, our relatively easier access to the back country, and our abundant creeks, Gray Creek was better suited than many in fire patrol and fire suppression before we had helicopters, air tankers and spotter planes.

Before water bombers, wildfires were only contained with fireguards and back-firing. Only fall rains and winter snows could put them out. - Tom Lymbery

Before the days of air tankers and the like, BC Forest Service could only contain fires with fireguards, and perhaps start a backfire to burn off the fuels ahead of the advancing fire. Always there was the worry that a fire would create its own wind and start crowning -- jumping from treetop to treetop without spreading across the ground.

Forestry's best defense was manpower on the ground. At the first sign of fire, local rangers and fire wardens rounded up able-bodied men, conscripting them if they had to, and sent them up to the fire. But because most lightning fires were high up on the ridges, a trail first had to be cleared up to the fire before any actual firefighting could begin. Then a camp had to be set up near a creek, and a cook was appointed. Packers, usually teenage boys packed in food, supplies and tools. Axes, crosscut saws, shovels and later the indispensable pulaskis (combination axe/-grub hoes) chopped and trenched fireguards down to mineral soil or rock to try to contain the fire. Pumps were not commonly used as it just wasn't possible to carry them in, and most fires started far from water. Firefighters were paid three dollars per day; packers sometimes only received \$1.50 per day as their job was supposedly easier. But any wage at all was welcome in the '30s.

In 1932, a lightning strike started a fire on the north slope of Croasdaile Creek which came alarmingly close to the Gray Creek settlement. At the time BC Forestry's man on the ground was Assistant Ranger James McKay Burge.

In these roadless days, fire patrols had to be by boat, on horseback, and on foot. As Kootenay Lake was our highway, the 40-foot BC Forestry launch MV Amabilis patrolled the lake for fires, transported fire crews and supplies, even Rainbow trout eggs from the Gerrard fish hatchery, and provided medical emergency transport when needed. The first Amabilis was wrecked in a storm while moored in Gray Creek in 1927. Amabilis II, launched a year later, logged around 8000 miles in its 24 years of rugged service - only to be destroyed in an arson fire in 2003 as it was being restored for display at the Nelson Museum.

Tom Lymbery and local fire warden John Oliver have shared some of their memories of local wildfires in the past. Let's hear their stories again. In the next Mainstreet issue, Part II of "*Fighting Wildfires*" will look beyond Gray Creek to some memorable wildfire encounters in the broader Kootenay Lake region.

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society



Photo Above: Fire up Burge's creek above Gray Creek, mid-to-late '30s. (GCHS 2007.003, John Oliver collection)

James went up the creek to assess the situation, then quickly assembled available local men and sent them in. The fire was eventually contained, and a long-awaited rain put out the last of it.

Around 1948, BC Forestry bought about two acres on the lake from Conrad Feenie and built the Gray Creek Forestry Station, a substantial building with an office, living quarters for a single person, and basement for equipment storage. It was home base for a very long line of local assistant rangers, as well to a war surplus landing barge big enough for a jeep to gain access to parts of the lake. Efficient smoke - spotting from the air and fast water bomber service spelled the end of local forestry stations and the need for assistant rangers or fire wardens in communities.

- Tom Lymbery

James McKay Burge, Gray Creek fruit grower, assistant ranger, father of eight

Capt. James McKay Burge had served with the Canadian Forestry Corps in WWI before settling with his family on the historic Caribou ranch in Gray Creek in 1920. With his training and background, James McKay was a natural choice for an assistant ranger in our community. In 1934, James McKay Burge died in a road accident near Sirdar. The Burge name in the BC Forest Service lived on through his son Jim, who succeeded him as a local ranger or warden, and two sons-in-law - Forest Ranger Supervisor Les Stilwell who married James' daughter Ruth, and Forest Ranger Frank Hill, who married Ruth's sister Gwen.

Interviews with both Les and Frank are online, and their descriptions of ranger work in the Kootenays are riveting and at times hair-raising.

Read, for example, how Frank Hill braved a violent storm to take a two - week-old baby and its mother across Kootenay Lake on a lifesaving mission on the Amabilis II. The links are: <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/forest/Hill/index.html> and <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/forest/Stilwell/index.html>
- Frances Roback

"The fire was crowning faster than they could run."
- John Oliver, on the 1938 Crawford Creek fire

The 1938 Crawford Creek fire was the worst fire John Oliver had ever known. Started in July by a lightning strike three-quarters of the way up Burden Creek, it burned all the way over to Houghton Creek, and lasted until mid - September, "when a hailstorm quieted the fire."

The first men on the fire, including Gordon McGregor, Herb Draper, Cliff Derbyshire, 16-year-old Lloyd Johnson and Lloyd's father Louie were put to work digging a fireguard. Deverson, the district fire warden in charge, then asked for help from Gray Creek. Ten more men were sent in, including 18-year-old Johnny, his uncle Tom Oliver and son Floyd, Fred Dann, and Gary Skelton's dad, as well as local fire warden Jim Burge. John and the rest of the new fire team started up Crawford Creek to join the others, and met them coming down, running for their lives. "They were running like hell. The fire had crowned on the way down, and chased them back down the creek. They said the fire was crowning faster than they could run."

The now 20-man fire crew was billeted in the Wedgwood Manor's old carriage house. When John woke up the next morning, he found another 30 or more men from Creston had joined

Continued on next page . . .

... continued from previous page.

them during the night. Eventually they had 100 men on the fire.

Pay was 25 cents an hour for six weeks. That was considered a good hourly wage in those years, but four hours pay - half the day's wage - was deducted for board. For equipment they had crosscut saws, axes, shovels and grub hoes. Pulaskis, today's ubiquitous firefighting tool, weren't available to local crews until after the Second World War. Neither were "piss-cans" (hand-pumped water tanks strapped to the back), gas-powered pumps, fire hoses and other standard gear.

A year earlier, 17-year-old Johnny and his cousins Floyd and Lyle Oliver had the job of packers on the McFarlane Creek fire above Lakeview Store in Gray Creek. The boys packed food, blankets, tools and supplies up to the fire camp at the head of McFarlane Creek, making up to two trips per day with backpacks weighing up to 70 pounds each.

John who succeeded Jim Burge as fire warden, took pride in the fact that "no fire ever got away from me in thirty years. Fire follows a rotten log under a fire guard, and will pop up behind you. Always have someone checking behind." John's fire crews dug 15-foot fireguards, not the narrow trails they used to cut when he was a teenager. As fire warden, John had the authority to recruit or conscript any available man to fight a wildfire - "except mailmen and cow milkers." By the time John retired in the early '80s, fire



Photo above: Packers Jim Burge (squatting), John Oliver (behind Jim Burge), & others take a breather from their backpacks at George Oliver's in Gray Creek after a fire, late '30s. (GCHS 2007.003, John Oliver collection)

crews were earning five dollars an hour, with the fire warden receiving 50 cents more.

- **John Oliver with Frances Roback**

See the next Mainstreet for Part II of the "Fighting Wildfires" story.

Sources:

Frank Hill, "A Life in the Woods: Frank Hill", 1990 interview by Peter Chapman, West Kootenay Forest History Project, <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/forest/Hill/index.html>

Tom Lymbery, "Forest Fire" (Mainstreet, July 1994); and "Gray Creek Forestry Station (Mainstreet, June? 2009)

John Oliver with Frances Roback and Steve White, Memories of Gray Creek and the East Shore (draft memoir 2011-2012, Gray Creek Historical Society archives)

Les Stilwell, "A Life in the Woods - Les Stilwell", 1993 interview by Peter Chapman, West Kootenay Forest History Project, <http://touchstonesnelson.ca/exhibitions/forest/Stilwell/index.html>

Tom Sez ~ Circa Dec 2010

by Tom Lymbery

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

- Pellet Fuel bags are number 4 on the plastic list so may be put in the green recycle bins. Shake out the dust first (and don't put that dust in your pellet stove; the auger doesn't like it at all). Bread bags and grocery shopping bags are also number 4 for the recycle bins.
- Thanks to Ray Besanger for leveling and pulling a stump in the Gray Creek Cemetery.
- Cedar bark makes excellent kindling, it is easy to tear into strips that light better than newspaper. (Of course if you have a Blaze King, you don't need kindling, as it never goes out.)
- Why don't all cars have solar panels to at least keep the battery charged if the vehicle is inactive?
- November 7 was the 125th anniversary of the driving of the last spike of the CPR at Cragellachie. Remember that the 17 year old boy peering from just behind the man driving the spike was Edward Mallowlandine who lived in Creston for many years. Look at our poster in the store, showing the man with the spike hammer wearing Watson Gloves.
- Up Here Magazine has a story on York Factory, (south of Churchill, Man.) once the Hudson's Bay Co most important post with entry to western Canada. So cold that people would heat cannon balls to warm their beds, and stuff up the chimneys - even rooms full of smoke were warmer!
- Stove ash removal - please make sure you use a metal bucket - too many people have lost their homes by using a cardboard box.
- The 6.8 million dollar widening of Highway 3A just west of Nelson has been completed, but only provides westbound traffic with a passing lane. No provision for shift change at Insight Electronics a short distance west of the construction! Insight is Nelson's largest employer with almost 300 workers.
- Staff at the Gray Creek Store show us what we should be wearing on ATVs, off road bikes or for snowmobiles. The RCMP will fine you if you don't wear yours.



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For the Love of Genre

by Sharman Horwood

“The Many . . . Governed By The Few”

Suzanne Collins has written *Sunrise on the Reaping* (2025), a prequel to her enormously popular *The Hunger Games* trilogy. This novel is set after *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* (2020). These books have won too many awards to list here, but as a reader, and given the current world conditions, in my opinion they are topical and well worth all the acclaim they’ve received.

With *Sunrise on the Reaping*, you should first read *The Hunger Games* (2008) because *Sunrise* is about the life and experience of Haymitch Abernathy, a mentor to the main characters in *The Hunger Games*. In the series, the country of Panem has twelve districts, the 13th having been devastated. They are ruled by the Capitol, the richest part of the country. Panem is supposedly a North American country in that it was shaped out of our modern world into a violent and horrifying dystopia. Every year, Panem takes “tributes”: a boy and a girl from each of the 12 districts; they are selected by lottery

to compete in a brutal survival “game.” The last survivor is the winner. They win a life of ease and comfort, for themselves and their families. The competitors’ ages start at 12, and continue into the later teens.

Sunrise on the Reaping takes place 50 years after the first reaping, and 24 years before *The Hunger Games*. President Snow wants Panem to celebrate his country’s successful formative years. His country as he is the President and controls who wins and who doesn’t, if he can. For the Quarter Quell he doubles the number of tributes for the year’s Games in order to make them truly spectacular and memorable. District 12 is very poor; it’s a coal-mining area located in Appalachia. It’s the same district which 24 years later brings Katniss Everdeen to the Capitol, to compete in the Hunger Games. *Sunrise* is her mentor’s story: Haymitch Abernathy. It isn’t a happy story, but then these novels are about a dystopia.

At the start of *Sunrise*, Haymitch Abernathy wakes up on what is to be his 16th birthday. He is raised by his single mother--her husband died in the mines--along with his younger brother, Sid. He meets his girlfriend, Lenore Dove Baird, named after Edgar Allen Poe’s famous poem. She is a member of the Covey, a group that lives within the district, but lives by singing and entertaining; they, too, are poor, but they aren’t miners. Haymitch is in love with her, she with him, and they look forward to a happy life together.

She gives him his birthday gift: she had a striking flint shaped to look like a snake and a mockingjay that he can wear on a cord around his neck. They then return to their respective families for the tribute ceremony and plan later to spend the day together.

Instead, when the tribute ceremony host, Drusilla Sickles, selects the first boy, he runs. The Capitol’s soldiers, the Peacekeepers, shoot and kill him. When young Lenore Dove Baird pleads that they not kill anyone else, Drusilla tells the Peacekeepers to shoot her as well. Haymitch Abernathy steps in to try to protect her. As a result, Drusilla announces that he will be the tribute in place of the killed boy.

However, these are the 50th Games: the Quarter Quell. Each district must submit four tributes, a total of 48 tributes. Only one of them will return. The Games has one survivor and in order to win that child must kill any of the other tributes who are surviving. In other words, 47 children must die in order for the Games to end with a winner.

From the outset, the Games are a bloodbath, most of the children killing each other at the start of the competition. From then on, if you haven’t read the other novels, the Games are about how the surviving children manage to kill the others.

Parts of these novels are quite brutal, and in places heartbreaking. Collins’ inspiration for *Sunrise on the Reaping* is actually from a book by the Scottish philosopher, David Hume. In it, he discusses “his ideas of implicit submission and ‘the easiness with which the many are governed by the few’” (*Wikipedia*). All of the novels in the series explore particular themes, such as “the complexities of societal control under a totalitarian regime” (*Wikipedia*), as well as how propaganda is used, along with how media narratives control what is seen to be “real or not real” in this society.

Suzanne Collins chose the title for *Sunrise* based on Hume’s distinction between inductive and deductive reasoning. This appears in the initial disagreement between Haymitch and Lenore: he “believed with certainty that the reaping will always be around and resigned himself to it, showing implicit submission” (*Wikipedia*). Lenore, on the other hand, argues that a future without the Games is possible because they had only taken place for fifty years. Lenore sings parts of “The Goose and the Common,” an 18th century poem referring to the injustice of land enclosures in England, relating these to the Capitol in the novel.

Other prominent themes in the books include distrust of authority, particularly adults and the government, class discrimination and a caste system, the ethics of entertainment, “and most notably, the origins and effects of war” (*Wikipedia*). Also, “social inequality, unaccountable governance and violence against children” (*Wikipedia*) are other notable themes. In other words, although these are Young Adult novels, they are quite complicated, with superb world-building and development.

The novel may be classified as YA, but it is very accessible to adults, as the popularity of the movies suggest. Fans of speculative fiction will also appreciate the complex character and plot development of this novel in particular. It is raw and emotional compared to the others. I could not put it down, nor can I forget it. I will be reading it again. The movie is slated to be released in 2026.

From Boardroom to Boogie

Starbelly Jam AGM + Halloween Celebration with Frase

Submitted by Amanda Hulland

Starbelly Jam Artistic Director

Saturday, November 1 at Gray Creek Hall

The Starbelly Jam Society invites you to join us on Saturday, November 1 at the Gray Creek Hall for an exciting day of community, music, and celebration.

At 2:00 pm, we will host our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is your chance to help shape the future of Starbelly Jam! We are currently seeking new board members, and your \$5 membership gives you voting rights for our Board of Directors. The meeting will include snacks and a review of the exciting highlights from our 2025 festival. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with fellow music lovers and community members.

Then, return in the evening for a special post-Halloween celebration with Frase. A multi-instrumentalist, singer, producer, engineer, and DJ, Frase lives and breathes music. With a buttery voice, heartfelt songwriting, and magnetic stage presence, he has built a worldwide fan base one show at a time. Just as much at home behind an acoustic guitar as he is on a raving dance floor, Frase wowed audiences at Starbelly Jam this past summer—and now he’s back for an unforgettable night.

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John Lawrence Randall

1952-2025

John Lawrence Randall died peacefully at his
home in Kootenay Bay on August 21. He was
72 years old.

John was born in Nelson on November 20,
1952 to Hazel (Little) and Ivan Randall, who
had recently moved to the West Kootenays for
a job at the Bluebell Mine in Riondel, ending
years of prior mining camp living all over the
province.

John grew up in Kootenay Bay and attended
Crawford Bay Elementary School through
Grade 11 and was a student at L.V. Rogers Sec-
ondary School in Nelson for Grade 12. He was
a skilled hockey player and caught the late ferry
back from Nelson many times following games
across the lake.

After high school, John held a variety of jobs,
including working at mines in Kimberley and
Granisle, B.C., and with the B.C. Parks Service,
before returning to Kootenay Bay to work as a
carpenter and stone mason, as well as a proper-
ty caretaker for local residents around Kootenay
Lake. John had many varied interests, the most
notable being gardening, carpentry, mechanics,
botany, geology and history, both genealogical
and that of Kootenay Lake. He loved to prob-
lem solve and could fix anything. Every spring
he admired the Saskatoon blooms and penste-
mon along the shore; every fall he noted how
colorful the maples were and how many cones
the firs produced. In addition to being a skilled
craftsman, he was a talented gardener and was
generous in offering his garden's bounty to
both friends and family, as well as plants he
had grown from seeds, or trees hehad cloned or
grafted. He was known for his dry wit and his
endless wealth of knowledge.

John, the fifth son in a family of six boys, was
preceded in death by his parents and his broth-
ers Brian, Michael (Pam) and Terry (Jean). He
is survived cby his brothers Dennis (Sheila) of
Hoffman Estates, Illinois, and Mark of Ariss, On-
tario, as well as by numerous cousins and nieces
and nephews, who will all miss him dearly.

The family would like to thank the East Shore
Community Health Centre and the East Shore
Ambulance Service, especially Susan Dearing
and Cory Medhurst, for the exemplary care and
compassion they gave to John during the last
few months of his illness.

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 graycreekcemetery@gmail.
com for a handsome brass plaque.

Bulletin Board Rates

\$60 Annual Listing

\$20 Monthly

4 lines. \$10 per additional line

July 24, 2025. For immediate release

RDCK Board Highlights – September 2025

RDCK and CUPE Locals 748 & 2262 Ratify New Collective Agreement

Following several months of negotiations, the RDCK and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Locals 748 and 2262 have successfully ratified a new three-year collective agreement. The agreement includes general wage increases of 6.2% in 2024, 3.9% in 2025, and 3.4% in 2026.

This agreement includes some of the RDCK’s recreation facility workers in Castlegar, Creston and Nelson and gate attendants at our resource recovery locations. The three-year agreement is effective March 1, 2024, until February 28, 2027.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Board appointed Directors Graham (Electoral Area E), Hanegraaf (Electoral Area J), Hewat (Village of Kaslo), and McFaddin (City of Castlegar) to a select committee to review the Chair, Directors, and Alternate Directors Remuneration Bylaw No. 2710. This bylaw establishes the rates of compensation for the duties of RDCK elected officials. The bylaw requires that a review be completed early in each year a local government election, with any changes to be effective January 1 of the year following the election. The next local election is October 2026.

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT – INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT REGIONAL PROJECT

The Board awarded the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) Indigenous Engagement Regional Project to Ember Leaf Consulting Inc. Under EDMA, municipalities and regional districts are required to consult and cooperate with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) in a culturally aware and inclusive manner across all four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The work is funded by the Provincial government. As well, local authorities must work collaboratively with IGBs to identify portions of traditional territories or treaty lands that fall within their emergency management jurisdiction. The RDCK has partnered with seven municipalities (Castlegar, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, Salmo, Silverton, and Slocan) to pursue a collaborative, regionally coordinated approach.

FLOOD HAZARD POLICY & REGULATIONS REVIEW

The Board received an overview presentation of the RDCK’s Floodplain Bylaw Review project, including the Village of Salmo. The objective of the project, which started in July 2025, is to update floodplain bylaws to incorporate hazard mapping completed since 2019 and consider best practices related to hazard and risk management.

The floodplain management bylaw and associated hazard maps are foundational for land use decisions across the RDCK, informing building permit and subdivision approvals, hazard policy in Official Community Plans, and zoning regulations.

Flood and steep creek hazards continue to persist with events growing more frequent and potentially more damaging due to climate change. The RDCK has undertaken several studies over the last six years to characterize flood and steep creek (debris-flood and debris flow) geohazards; a risk prioritization study in 2019, floodplain and steep creek study in 2020, and flood and geohazard mitigation planning in 2021-2023.

The project is scheduled to be completed in June 2026. To stay informed, go to: Floodplain Management Bylaw Update | Engage RDCK LIVE FIRE TRAINING CENTRE

The Board approved the RDCK enter into a facility rental agreement with Selkirk College for use of the existing Live Fire Training Centre for the period of August 13, 2025, to August 13, 2026. Located at the Silver King campus in Nelson, the facility consists of established structures, vehicle props, and other firefighting props that allow fire training officers to train volunteer firefighters in a realistic and practical manner. This training allows fire service volunteer firefighters to meet the requirements of their service levels in addition to the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards.

Without access to a local training facility, this required training would need to be outsourced to third party providers which is cost and logistically prohibitive.

INLAND FERRIES

The Board Chair will write a letter on behalf of the RDCK Board to the Premier of British

Columbia and the Minister of Transportation and Transit to request an update on the progress being made regarding the RDCK’s letter requesting Provincial legislation that inland ferry services are categorized as essential services for the residents of British Columbia. This includes essential service orders for daily sailings of the Kootenay Lake, Glade Cable, Harrop Cable, Needles Cable, Arrow Park Cable, and Upper Arrow Lake ferries.

As well the Board Chair will write a letter on behalf of the Board to the Province asking to ensure all inland ferry communities who rely solely on the ferry for access to their community are entitled to the same legal status as roads, highways, and bridges to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community served.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

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

RDCK QUARTERLY REPORT

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

RDCK Board Meeting Video Recording

To view a recording of this month’s meetings, click here.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

AREA B

Celebrate Canada Association – Celebrate Canada Billboard \$500

Town of Creston – Neighbourhood Welcome Committee \$335

AREA C

Town of Creston – Neighbourhood Welcome Committee \$335

AREA E

Harrop-Procter Seniors Association Branch #118 – Lunch & Dinners for the community \$1,000

Senior Citizen’s Association Balfour Branch #120 – Meals and Activities \$999

AREA J

Renata Development – Renata Community Works \$5,000

VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Village of Slocan – Easter Egg Hunt \$30

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

AREA A

East Shore Trail and Bike Association – Trail Map Design Update & Printing \$3,366.30

AREA D

Central Kootenay Food Policy Council – Kootenay Seed Cleaning Trailer Research \$2,000

Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society – Meadow Creek Store Coop Feasibility \$3,500

Lardeau Valley Opportunity LINKS Society – Community AED Devices \$6,000

RDCK S184 – Mosquito Control Program S184 Meadow Creek \$14,000

AREA E

Greater Nelson Economic Development – Annual Contribution from S111 \$20,000

Senior Citizen’s Association Balfour Branch #120 – Seniors Christmas Dinner \$1,500

Senior Citizen’s Association Balfour Branch #120 – Seniors Assistance \$1,300

AREA F

Taghum Community Society – Kitchen Stove Replacement \$8,000

West Shores Leisure Advancement Society – Arts & Nature After School Club \$1,000

West Shores Leisure Advancement Society – Area E & F Community Newsletter \$3,975.14

AREA J

Destination Castlegar – Fish Out Derby \$1,500

TOWN OF CRESTON

Creston Community Auditorium Society – Keeping the Lights On \$2,000

VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Village of Slocan – Wildsafe Program \$1,500

Village of Slocan – Beach Volleyball \$1,200

Village of Slocan – Slocan Village Summer Showcase \$500

COMMUNITY WORKS

AREA I

Tarrys Fire Hall Radon Mitigation Project \$15,000

Recreation Commission No. 7 – Salmo and Area G

Salmo Climbing Society \$5,000

Thoughts From The Frog Pot

by John Rayson

Canada: Energy Superpower

Canadians tend to think small. We need to think on a grand scale. Can we, in fact, become an “Energy Superpower”? There is no question that we can achieve such status. We have the resources. Do we have the political will and public backing to reach this goal? I will discuss the resources below and then attempt to detail the many and various reasons we might not reach our goal.

In recent years Canada’s productivity has fallen, our investment climate is weak, to say the least, and our regulatory legislation has not functioned effectively or efficiently and even worse has blocked or delayed development. Do’s Alberta and other provinces have legitimate complaints? YES, but we must function as a country, finding solutions to these issues, improve the investment climate, increase our productivity, remove interprovincial trade barriers and present a unified front to other countries and the investment community.

Our present and immediate problem appears to be our neighbour to the south. A country with whom we have had a long and close association. Unfortunately, the present leader changes his mind on a daily basis, thus making any attempt at negotiation impossible. The United States does need much from Canada; our energy to name one item.

FOSSIL FUELS:

1. Canada has the 7th largest proven oil reserves in the world. We have completed the Trans Mountain twinning. In fact, once markets are established we will likely require further pipeline development as we establish more markets in the far east.

2. We have huge amounts of natural gas reserves, including a vast amount in northern Quebec [please note: Quebec has not allowed pipelines or fracking; a rather hypocritical stance considering that they use vast amounts of power and sell power to the U.S.]. We have established a natural gas pipeline in northern BC and a huge processing and port facility for LNG export at Kitimat BC. In addition, the government has announced their support for the doubling of this facility. We can obviously develop markets and ship Liquified Natural Gas [LNG] to the orient. Should Quebec decide to develop their natural gas reserves, could we then develop markets and sell LNG to European countries from our east coast?

3. Coal: Canada has a large reservoir of metallurgical coal, i.e. “coking coal”. At present, 49.9 million tonnes of coal are shipped from Canada each year. 98.7% of that coal is mined and shipped from the East Kootenays. This coal is mainly used to produce steel and is shipped to Japan, South Korea and China.

NUCLEAR POWER:

Canada is the world’s 7th largest producer of nuclear power. In addition, the Candu reactor was a world leader in the past and sold worldwide. We have significant expertise in the development of small nuclear reactors [SMRs]. Canada is presently building 4 small nuclear reactors at the Darlington plant in Ontario with the intent of providing power to Ontario.

Canada has the 3rd largest reserves of uranium in the world. The McArthur River mine in northern Saskatchewan is the world’s largest high-grade uranium deposit.

Nuclear power is not renewable but is certainly green. Interest in nuclear power is rapidly increasing throughout the world.

HYDROELECTRIC POWER:

62% of electrical power in Canada is provided from hydroelectric power. Canada is 3rd in the world for the provision of hydroelectric power. We provide power across Canada aided by the development of “smart electrical” grids. Hydroelectric power is renewable but as we all realize brings many problems with dams, reservoirs, etc

We presently export 2% of power to the U.S. As the U.S. presently produces 60% of its power from fossil fuels, one might assume that this sector has the ability to grow. Of interest, the U.S. derives 19% of its power from nuclear and 21% from renewables, which include hydroelectric, wind, solar and small amount from biomass etc.

GREEN POWER:

We tend to think of this group as wind and solar power. Canada has an abundance of sunshine across the prairies as well as significant wind in these areas plus the potential for “wind farms” on our coasts. Should we not develop this industry? The largest green industry in the United States is in the state of Texas. Why not Alberta?

We are exploring geothermal power in the Kootenays [major source of power in Iceland] and possibly elsewhere. Small, but another thought.

Can Canada become an Energy Superpower? Yes, I think we can if we can pull together as a country and think on a grand scale. The U.S. is not going to bail us out.

I leave you with a quote: Saint Frances of Assisi [born 1181, died 1226]

“Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

Planning a wedding?
Holding a meeting?
Consider renting the
BOSWELL MEMORIAL HALL
Booking/info: Melody Farmer
at 250-223-8443

The Fitness Place
OPEN 5:30am-10:30pm
(with select hours closed for cleaning/school use)
MEMBERSHIP PRICING:
1 Month - \$30
3 Months - \$60
1 Year - \$200
Inquiries can be made by emailing
eastshorefacilities@gmail.com
Interested in a membership?
Visit eastshorefacilities.com

Riondel Arts

By Sharman Horwood

Summer is sadly gone, but the bears are starting to linger around our communities. Lovely to watch, but dangerous to feed. I take photos and use them as models to paint, along with the stunning fall colours of larches and other trees. They make dramatic, eye-catching paintings.

We are still busy, even though it is the fall. We have a new display in the Riondel Community Centre, with some old favourites as well as some new. Please stop by and see what you like.

Also some great news: Gerald Panio is continuing his fascinating lectures on art history. They will be given in the Riondel Community Centre on Tuesdays, starting at 12:30 in the afternoon. On Oct. 7, he will give a lecture on Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, a French painter and illustrator of the 19th century. On Oct. 21, Gerald’s subject will be Tintoretto, a famous Italian painter of the 16th century, often called Il Furioso because of his amazing energy in painting. Then on Nov. 4, the subject will be Auguste Macke, a German Expressionist painter. Following that, on Nov. 18th, Gerald will talk about Ellen Neel, a Kwakwaka’wakw artist woodcarver, the first woman known to have carved totem poles professionally. On Dec. 2, Gerald will lecture on the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, one of the most important Italian museums as well as the one most visited.

These lectures are free to members of the Riondel Art Club and Community Association. They are also open to other people as well for a \$5 donation for each lecture. They are fascinating and well worth the time.

Also, if you think you might like to do a bit of painting, drawing, or any other 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 p.m. We also offer workshops as well, courtesy of our very talented Sophie Vinette. She teaches painting workshops on Thursday afternoons, usually twice a month. They are a fun learning experience with some wonderful participants from the area. You can also follow our Facebook page (Riondel Art Group) for workshop announcements, along with some good painting tips.

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 painting, drawing, or whatever kind of art you’re interested in. We do have some art supplies you can use. This drop in fee will count 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. And always lots of fun!





School District 8
Kootenay Lake

WE WILL REMEMBER



south
kootenay
lake **art**connect *presents*

Autumn Art Sessions

4 - part series
with local artists *Jacqueline Wedge & Zora Doval*

Sundays Sept 21 & 28, Oct 5 & 19
2 - 5 pm

HARRISON MEMORIAL CULTURAL CENTRE

- Explore main creative concepts such as mark-making & color schemes
- Use new & fun materials
- Play art games /prompts
- Overcome fears and creative blocks
- Find new inspiration and discover your unique artistic voice

Cost : \$ 47 (including supplies) NO GST per individual session
 \$ 157 for 4 sessions
To register: call Zora 250 777 1856

Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre, 16074 Crawford Creek Road, Crawford Bay BC. | Tickets & Info: www.artconnect.cc

artConnect gratefully acknowledges support from:



NEW
Your own page on our website!

Managing a successful website is a daily chore and sometimes a daunting one.

Let us take care of the background tasks!

Send updates by email and the website will be updated the next day.

Our website has good analytics and is steadily growing.

- \$30 per month**
- no graphic design service
- \$50 per month**
- with graphic design service

**Basic web pages only -
no sales or bookings**

Visit www.eshore.ca and click on the tab "Community Pages" for a preview.