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Farewell Edition



Mainstreet Meanderings The Pivot

By Dee Gilbertson
Editor/Publisher

The East Shore quietly said farewell to two iconic legacies recently, both reknown for their steadfast positions in the community. You will find the obituaries for Sean O’Malley and Tom Lymbery in this edition. I extend my deepest condolences to those who knew and loved these men who provided their selves and services to the East Shore for so many dedicated years. May they rest forever in peace and their memories be kept alive for years to come.

A farewell is also in order for the East Shore Mainstreet, as we know her. I am so excited to announce that the Mainstreet is growing in 2026! The world we live in is changing at rapid fire speed. The Kootenays are a unique and special place. The thought of growing the Mainstreet into a Kootenay-wide publication gives me the feeling of butterflies in my stomach. I have loved even the difficult times of getting my feet under me in the media realm. The baby steps I have taken I feel were preparation for this time. With the rising costs of printing and shipping if the Mainstreet doesn’t grow it will quite possibly cost money to produce it as a print publication serving solely the East Shore. We receive a fair number of submissions/articles each month that don’t have an appropriate avenue to be shared in such a specific geographic location. My daughters are keen to be part of this adventure, which doubles my excitement; and my heart leaps at the thought of my Kootenay time and Mainstreet career becoming a bigger portion of my life.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to each and every writer who has contributed to the Mainstreet in my time at the wheel and the periods of prior management as well. Without submissions from various talented and/or concerned people, there would not be much to put together into a newspaper! Entering year 35 is impressive, and I am very proud to be continuing the legacy of the Mainstreet. Without the dedicated labour of love by so many before me, I would not be standing on the edge of this opportunity and I am very grateful to be here.

As we approach the holiday season I would like to extend my best wishes to all the Mainstreet readers, contributors, and advertisers. I find the season bittersweet, a push/pull of emotions as I reflect on loss and hope, times past and times to come. May you find some solace and comfort in small moments, in twinkling lights, warm fires, and the heartfelt good wishes from many.

Merry Christmas, and bring on the New Year!

Until next month,
D



P.S. In the republished Tom Sez this month, there is mention of an Albertan liscence plate that reads “Riondel”. I wonder if this person still frequents the East Shore? Pretty clever, I’m a little jealous!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is time for John Rustad to step aside. It has been eleven years since the last Conservative Provincial leadership race. A growing number of provincial Conservative leaders are daring to ask for a leadership race. The issue is no longer “if” but when will John Rustad do the right thing and step down like Kevin Falcon graciously did. This would clear the way for a much-needed leadership race.

Only the NDP wins by letting this drag on longer. Is David Eby hoping that Rustad hangs on as long as possible?

This could be a win/win if John Rustad does the right thing and steps down like Kevin Falcon did. If he resigns quickly and graciously, the leadership race could allow a renewed engagement as happened with the federal party leadership race, giving us Pierre Pollievre.

Rev Dr. Ed Hird

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfl-GX_aQgYbQRVGtTp0tSpx5omGhlSsn-4o7T-brs2EOxfMk-g/viewform (Endorsing the Burnaby-New West-Tri Cities Open Letter)

Dear Editor,

The board of the ArtConnect Society wishes to express deep gratitude to the Lion's Club for their support of our organization. The president of the ArtConnect Society Zora Doval receives a check with the donation towards a water system project which will represent a major improvement for our infrastructure. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness !!!

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Zora Doval

Photo on right.

Dear Editor,

A plea for saving scotch broom in the Kootenays Reading your article one would think that broom was taking over the Kootenays. Invasive: maybe. Introduced: certainly. If it is invasive, it is fairly benign.*

I have lived my life on Kootenay lake and apart from some broom on the North Shore, at Crawford Bay and sprinkled along the r / w and a bit at Boswell, it is not a problem as an invader. It has a rich green foliage and in spring, it has a lovely yellow flower display. It was introduced first to the coast by settlers and over time, established in a few areas in the Kootenays and I think it is grand! Instead of bashing broom how about a good old knap bash. Knapweed is far more invasive and persistent than broom. There are probably some areas where some control may be beneficial but not starting a war.*

Russ Trenaman



THE MAINSTREET OFFICE DESK

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Satement from MLA Brittny Anderson

submitted by Devon Leathwood

"I know that people are eager for updates on the new Kootenay Lake Ferry vessel. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit is working to complete the delivery of the Kootenay Lake Ferry Services Improvement Project, which will enhance safety, reliability, and service for travellers.

Major milestones are already complete including dredging of the Western Arm of Kootenay Lake for navigational safety and upgrades to the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals. Construction of the new vessel to replace the ageing MV Balfour is approximately 75 percent complete, as outlined in the latest project update.

The ministry is working with the design-builder to resolve remaining challenges and ensure the vessel meets the highest standards. Activity on site has recently slowed as part of this process, planning and coordination work continues in the background to keep the project moving forward.

The ministry is using every available contractual tool to minimize delays, with the goal of delivering the new vessel in 2027. Our goal is that ferry service on Kootenay Lake remains uninterrupted while construction of the new vessel in Nelson continues.

I will keep the community updated as things progress, as always it is my priority to support workers, constituents and ferry travellers in the Kootenays."



RDCK Area A Update 2026 Budget Sessions

by Garry Jackman
Regional Director

In preparation for review of the consolidated draft 2026 budget, we are participating in a series of budget review meetings for related groups of RDCK services. We have done this for several years for the “resource recovery” services which include recycling, organics diversion and compost site operations plus residual waste management (including landfill operations and transfer stations) since those services make up a substantial portion of the total budget, solid waste management is mandated by provincial legislation to fall under the responsibility of regional districts across the province and those services are complex and inter-related. I will delve into those first. The other major services which drive taxation (or local government requisitions to the provincial tax bill, as is more accurate) are recreation and fire/emergency services, which I will go into in detail as well. I will not have space here to cover other grouped services such as transit. Transit is grouped as services across the Creston Valley into Wynndel as well as a set of integrated services in the ‘west’ stemming from Lardeau through Nelson to the Slocan and north beyond Nakusp as well as Castlegar through to Trail. Other groups of services paid primarily by rural (electoral area) residents were reviewed as a cluster including planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement and GIS.

healthy reserve for building upgrades now and has not seen large increases over recent years. Another group of residents pay into the Crawford bay hall and parks service, which is an arm’s length transfer of funding to the hall society. That service is at its maximum requisition amount allowed under the bylaw (without voter assent for an increase) so is relatively stable. Residents north of Kuskonook (Cow Creek is the hard service area boundary) pay into the Rec 9 service. This service, at the request of the East Shore Facilities Committee, is taking on a larger role at the community fitness facility within the Crawford bay School, so there will be a shift in taxation through Rec 9 as opposed to the previous support provided by the RDCK through community development and/or discretionary grants (which is also funded through taxation). Residents from Kuskonook south to Wynndel pay into the Creston and District Rec service, for which we had a draft budget presentation on November 6th where a 4.6% taxation increase was proposed. Scheduled replacement of the ice plant is a major cost driver for 2026.

Emergency services delivered through the RDCK include mandatory services (as required by the province) for emergency planning, response and recovery plus 911 service as well as optional services such as structural fire protection, first responder and road rescue services, participation in prioritizing wildfire operational fuel treatments, educational programs such as Firesmart and flood risk mapping updates and enhancements. Some of our RDCK fire services are facing challenges with budgeting for major apparatus replacement (primary pumper trucks plus water tenders) as costs escalate. For

As I am writing this article, I hoped I would see the third and final draft budget document for resource recovery/solid waste management, but it was not available. Across the RDCK, solid waste management/resource recovery is divided into three distinct services, for the east, central and west subregions, which must maintain separate accounts for each service. Over history, humans have moved back and forth from practices of discarding most of what they no longer find useful, even dating back to ancient waste piles or landfills, to separating out what they feel they need or want to reuse. Reuse has peaked during times of conflict, when access to new resources was limited so reuse made short term economic and survival sense. Now we have established a more robust system of diversion and reuse which is maintained at a relatively stable level, with slow growth, yet still subject to economic cycles which impact the value of diverted materials.

Our resource recovery budgets across the three subregions now include allocations of staff time, facilities and contracted services to both organics diversion and recycling. For our organics diversion, the strategy was to establish two major composting sites, one at the Creston landfill and the other at the old central region landfill south of Salmo, where most organic material collected is turned into class A compost suitable for reuse in agriculture or domestic yards and gardens. Some organic material, mainly the contaminated waste wood collected, cannot go into this stream as it would limit the future use of the compost. Some waste wood is ground and blended with topsoil sourced from landfills prior to expanding waste cells and later reused as landfill cover, while some other

contaminated wood is landfilled directly. Recycling is divided into three allocation services, each mirroring the waste subregions described above, but with some transfer of funds between the subregions because of conditions imposed on regional districts by the provincially approved plan of RecycleBC which creates different categories of recycling depots and pays different amounts to support the categories. I will note here that due to extensive lobbying by local government, the level of reimbursement for recyclable materials collected on your behalf has been substantially increased this year and will be reviewed routinely for future increases. This is a two-sided good news story, since by diverting the most recyclable and organic material from landfills we extend the landfill life, reduce leachate, reduce methane generation and reduce future costs, while we are now repaid a somewhat fairer share of the eco fees on recyclable packaging that you were required to pay in the first place.

For the two subregional resource recovery draft 2026 budgets that I have reviewed so far, the net proposed requisition increase (the amount that goes onto the provincial property tax bill as an RDCK amount) is a proposed 3% increase for central subregion and a proposed 10% increase in the draft budget for the west subregion. The 3% is essentially an inflation prediction, while the 10% increase for the west subregion is a result of major capital projects coming up in the next few years.

Recreation is another large part of RDCK service budgets, with Area A residents paying into various services depending on which defined service areas we live in. Several residents pay into the Riondel rec service, which has a

both the Riondel and Wynndel/Lakeview services which Area A residents pay into, reserves are in good shape and short-term budget increases are nominal. Other emergency services, mandated by the province, are seeing larger increases in the cost of 911 services, but otherwise the taxation required to provide the balance of the services is largely being contained to inflationary increases. There are still unknowns around future cost implications arising from changes to the Emergency Management Act.

Details for all of the draft budgets received so far are available from the agenda packages of the respective meetings, or in the case of the fire services I can send the drafts once comments from early conversations are incorporated. RDCK wide public budget review sessions will be held mainly in February, but the next budget reviews for the Board will be part of the public agendas for the January and February meetings

FERRY SERVICE FOLLOW-UP

Last month I provided a summary following 4 1/2 days of meetings with provincial government reps, including the Minister of Labour and senior staff around the ferry issues. Since then, I have posed more questions to our MLA and the MoTT (highways) senior staff member who was in previous meetings around the problems with the perception of fairness while loading the small ferry as well as the recent rumours about stopped work on the new ferry. I have asked for much more detail in the



press releases about the new ferry project, setting aside the line about contract confidentiality, so we can understand what the realistic completion schedule is going to be. I highlighted how each cycle of reduced capacity (while the MV Balfour is in service) harms community. We still have not had conclusive news on the operational changes for the Osprey, now compounded with uncertainty as to how many more Osprey maintenance cycles we will need to endure while the MV Balfour is the only backup. I also have not heard a reply to my request of the Minister to task her staff to look more closely at the intended role of the stakeholder advisory which was first established during ferry operation privatization when the government knew they were backing away from representing us at LRB hearings.

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

***NEXT SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:***

Friday, January 02

**NEW EMAIL:
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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.

To the East Shore Community, we call on you once again.

The Christmas Angel tree is up at Newkey's. We are asking you to come and tell us a family that is having a hard time and in need for their kids. The angel tree provides "angels" for the community to take and purchase a gift that Santa will deliver Christmas eve. There are some guidelines but, if in need, the Angel tree will provide.

To the community, once the angels are up, we ask you come in and take an angel, provide a gift and know you have made another person's Christmas a little better.

The families the angels provide for are confidential..



For more info,
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Maria's Musings The Goodbye's We Never Got to Say

Maria Mosley, Hospice Volunteer

Someone once said, *"Sometimes the hardest goodbyes are the ones we never got to speak."*

I attended a funeral recently where a young man stood to honour his father. He spoke with tenderness about their relationship: early morning hockey practices, weekend games, camping trips, a wicked sense of humour, a contagious laugh, encouraging words.

That's why it surprised me when he quietly shared that something had come between them over a year ago. The details weren't important. What mattered was that the year slipped by, his father died unexpectedly, and the chance to reconnect—and to say goodbye—never came.

I think many of us know these stories, either from our own lives or those close to us. Anger, pride, frustration, misunderstandings - they all create distance. My relationship with my own father was tumultuous at best. I remember my mother's stern warning that I would regret it if I didn't find a way to set aside my stubborn belief that I was right and he was wrong. I couldn't then, and my father died before I could reconnect or say goodbye.

My father and I disagreed on almost everything, but those disagreements never meant I loved him any less - just as the son at the funeral loved his father no less. So what do we do with these unsaid packages of words - some wrapped in anger, some in love, some in remembrance - that we never got to share?

Here are three things to consider:

1. THE UNSENT LETTER

My favourite place to begin is the Unsent Letter. Writing can be healing. Putting your thoughts on paper—everything you couldn't say while they were alive—can be powerful.

Try starting with: "There is something I never told you, and today I want to place those words gently in the space between us."

Let your writing wander where it needs to go:

- A moment you wish you could return to
- What you were afraid to say
- What you hope they understood anyway
- A gratitude you never voiced
- A hurt you never named
- A goodbye that was never spoken

End if you wish with: *"I release these words to you, not to change the past, but to soften the place in me where you still live."*

Read it to a friend. Read it aloud to yourself. And then let it go—burn it, shred it, or tuck it away. Choose whatever feels like a true and gentle ending.

2. THE CONVERSATION WALK

If writing isn't for you, consider a Conversation Walk. Go for a walk somewhere you feel connected to them—along a trail, by a waterfall or stream, in a favourite camping spot—and speak aloud as if they were walking beside you.

Many people find this unexpectedly healing.

3. LEGACY CREATION

If words still feel out of reach, consider a Legacy Creation. Sometimes our message can be expressed more naturally through action rather than speech.

You might:

- Plant a tree in a place meaningful to you both
- Continue a tradition they loved—Soup Sundays, a yearly fishing trip
- Finish something they started
- Support a cause they cared about

These acts, though silent, carry messages all their own: I remember. I honour. I continue your story.

Distance between loved ones—whatever caused it—does not need to become a burden we carry as punishment. Accept that it happened. Accept that you cannot change it.

And know this: you can honour and release the pain in a way that holds your heart gently and helps your soul heal because,

"even when goodbye goes unspoken, love continues the conversation." (Author Unknown).

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

Crawford Bay Hall Board News

By Leona Keraiff

I would like to start by thanking the Remembrance Day Committee, led by Anne Lindsay MacLeod for a solemn and yet joyful ceremony. From the displays to Gerald Panio’s Battle of the Atlantic lesson and all points in between ie: The Last Post, the bagpipes, the singing, the wreaths, the five girls who beautifully recited ’In Flanders Fields’; Crawford Bay Hall was full of people experiencing meaningful moments of Remembrance. On the fourth of November,1938, the Crawford Bay Community Hall opened its doors. I wonder how many of the men who volunteered to build the hall went on to volunteer to fight in WWII? At one time there was a plaque in the hall commemorating our local war heroes. Perhaps someone knows where it is?

By the time you read this, our Association will have held our AGM on Dec 2. I hope many of you will have attended and a few of you will have decided to join us in our efforts to maintain and care for the Crawford Bay Community Hall, the Community Park & Kootenay Bay Boat Launch.

Unfortunately, we have discovered the Community Corner building in the Park has been broken into and items have been taken: two card tables and numerous new chairs. Windows have been damaged in attempts to enter and doors left unlocked. We have notified the police

and are considering installing surveillance cameras. If any of you notice activity around that building, probably in the dark of night, please take note and let us or the police know. Thanks. Of all things as well; our pickleball net has been pilfered!

Last month’s article noted Park improvements however two companies who were most helpful were not mentioned: Arrow Mountain Electric of Creston and Duck Lake Turf of Wynndel. Arrow Mountain generously donated labour and materials as well as sourcing special parts in order to move one of the tall light standards in the playground. Duck Lake Turf kindly discounted the cost of the sod installed. The \$1000 in total saved allowed us to purchase lumber which is shoring up the slides, thanks to Gord Milne, volunteer extraordinaire.

The Starbelly Jam Society donated to our Association recently. We are going to use their gift to help us purchase new flag poles which are in desperate need of replacing. A huge thanks to

the SBJ Board of Directors for recognizing our efforts in the Park.

As many of you are aware, our Association has been tirelessly working since 2020 to raise the funds needed to restore our 87 year old Community Hall. We are just \$250,000 (misprint of that total last month) away from starting in 2026! To the many of you who have responded to our recent FB request, thank you for the \$7800 received thus far. YAHOOOO!

If others of you are able to honour our efforts with a financial donation we can now give you an income tax receipt as we have been granted charitable status. We are approaching all organizations, businesses, Foundations, friends and family that we can name! Your help will ensure the Crawford Bay Community Hall, a vital community hub, remains a welcoming, resilient and inclusive gathering place for generations to come. Please e transfer: donate@cbhall.ca or mail a cheque to Crawford Bay Hall Box 71 Crawford Bay, BC V0B1E0 All Donors will have their names prominently displayed in the new entryway, if they so choose.

In closing, I would like to extend heartfelt wishes for us all to enjoy continued good health and the merriest of Christmases.





Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



“The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship.” –William Blake

“This ain’t a place for cows.” –random prospector, Oregon, 1820

“How much do you think someone would pay for a biscuit like that?” –King-Lu

“I will sing the song of companionship, Friendship is the good old word....

Now I care not to walk the earth unless a friend walk by my side.” –Walt Whitman

It isn’t hard to imagine a classic Western film getting high drama out of a gunfight at the OK Corral or from a sociopathic Billy the Kid. It’s a little harder to imagine when the source of the high drama is baking. Honey-glazed buttermilk biscuits, to be exact. Kelly Reichardt, the director of *First Cow* (2019) is clearly not someone to be daunted by this challenge. In fact, she very much enjoys playing around with her audience’s expectations.

Reichardt’s teasing starts with the opening credits. Audiences nowadays, if they’re treated to opening credits at all, are used to million-dollar pyrotechnics that can pack a bigger punch into a movie’s first five minutes than a lot of older films managed in their entire ninety-minute or two-hour run times. *First Cow* kicks off with an old-fashioned 4:3 (TV) screen ratio and plain credits in standard-font lettering on a blank ground, followed by a very leisurely shot of a freighter sailing on and off the screen to the strains of the spare & haunting acoustic guitar music (by composer William Tyler) that will punctuate the rest of the film. At this point the viewer must be asking himself/herself if this isn’t going to be one of the world’s most boring art films and if they’d be better off watching *John Wick 17* or streaming reruns of *True Blood*.

Then a dog digs up a skull in a field by the riverbank from which we’ve just watched the meandering freighter. And the dog’s owner slowly uncovers two skeletons lying side-by-side.

Cue the 200-year flashback.

Suddenly we’re in Oregon in 1820, gold rush days, hiking through the brush with a raggedy-ass bunch of mountain men whose primary means of communication seems to be verbal abuse followed by beating the tar out of one another. Ah, the good old days. This is the Wild West of Robert Altman’s *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, not John Ford’s *Stagecoach*.

One younger, black-bearded bushwhacker doesn’t quite fit the picture of ham-fished survivalism. Despite being as hirsute and as primitively dressed as the rest of the gang, we suspect that Cookie Figowitz (John Magaro)



would be happier packing a sketchbook or a herbarium than a pick and shovel. He’s in the wrong company, but it’s the only company there is in the wilds of Oregon at the turn of the 19th century.

When Cookie, mushroom hunting in the forest, discovers a Chinese immigrant, King-Lu (Orion Lee), naked and starving and hunted by Russian traders, his destiny become Charles Dickens’ oft-quoted “best of times and worst of times.” Best of times because he finds a kindred spirit in a hardscrabble world. Worst of times because King-Lu’s ambition embroils him in a scheme that puts both their lives at risk.

Where Cookie sees only brutality and barbarism, King-Lu sees the opening of a land with endless opportunities. He’s traveled the world, seen Europe and Africa, but on the western frontier of North America he finds the place he’s been searching for: “This land is still new. History isn’t here yet. It’s coming, but we got here early this time. Maybe this time, we can be ready for it. We can take it on our own terms.” That’s a kind of immigrant’s credo—on the one hand, irrepressibly optimistic and forward-looking; on the other hand, colonialist and dismissive of the First Nations peoples whose connection to the land goes back more than 10,000 years. In *First Cow*, we see the indigenous peoples as the colonizers saw them—in the background—as traders and servants and “country wives,” to be condescended to, exploited, and dismissed when new opportunities arose.



Not that either Cookie or King-Lu is doing the exploiting. They’re just trying to survive. Shortly after their initial meeting in the forest, Cookie and King-Lu are separated, only to have their paths cross many months later. Cookie, homeless and too far from his dreams, moves into King-Lu’s cabin which, like every other shelter except for the Chief Factor’s, is cobbled together of anything that comes to hand and looks like something the wolf would blow down with a half-hearted puff. Still, the shack is home for two men who have been uprooted from their lives in their own countries. There’s a lovely moment, just after Cookie has accepted King-Lu’s invitation, when he picks up a broom and tidies the shack while his friend chops firewood. Unaffected domesticity in a setting better known for lawlessness & rapacity.

Something else crosses their paths not long after their second meeting. It’s the first cow in Oregon, brought up from San Francisco for the Chief Factor of the local fortified trading post. The bull and calf that were to accompany her into the northern territories hadn’t survived



the journey with her. She’s tethered, alone, on the edge of the clearing surrounding the Factor’s house.

One lonely cow seems an unlikely source of riches or tragedy, but we’re talking about a place and time where a fresh buttermilk biscuit could be worth its weight in gold or silver. A clafoutis would be priceless. Just as Jack London did for one common household foodstuff in his superb gold rush story “The One Thousand Dozen,” so do *First Cow* screenwriters Reichardt and Jonathan Raymond (who also wrote the novel from which *First Cow* is drawn) show themselves to be equally deft storytellers at using another kitchen staple to maximum effect.

‘Nuff said. Let the film work its quiet, eccentric magic on you. Its theme of friendship, even though tainted with sadness, is more than welcome in these dark times when self-interest parades as virtue.

Quality attracts quality. Along with good direction, solid storytelling, and strong lead actors, *First Cow* also has a first-rate supporting cast: Gary Farmer as First Nations elder Totillicum, Toby Jones as the Chief Factor, and Scott Shepherd as the Captain. If you don’t blink, you’ll catch Rene Auberjonois as Man with Raven.



To make us see the past as we’ve never quite seen it before requires first-rate cinematography (Christopher Blauvelt), production design (Anthony Gasparro), Set Decoration (Vanessa Knoll), and Costume Design (April Napier). No surprise that *First Cow* picked up 21 awards and 141 nominations in multiple categories at dozens of international film festivals.

First Cow is currently streaming on CBC Gem and Tubi (no subscription needed for the latter). If your taste for off-kilter, potent Westerns is whetted, head down to your local library for copies of Guy Vanderhaeghe’s *The Englishman’s Boy*, *The Last Crossing*, and *A Good Man*. If you’ve enjoyed this first taste of Kelly Reichardt’s filmmaking style, check out another of the dozen feature films she’s made since her first, *River of Grass*, in 1994.

Smarter Than Jack or Jill Pigeons, Remarkable Birds

by Sharman Horwood

Pigeons are everywhere: particularly in cities and towns around the world, foraging for food. They are adaptable and work to survive in difficult environments. They are smart birds. Not smart in the same ways as corvids (ravens, crows, and jays), but in their own way.

First of all they are very social birds. Social animals tend to be smarter. They learn from each other, cooperate with each other, use social learning in their flocks, all of which take some skills they wouldn't have if they lived alone. They also mate for life.

Pigeons have difficult lives. In captivity, they can live up to 30 years, but in the wild, they are lucky if they live for five. They have remarkable eyesight: their eyes are situated on their heads so that they can see for 340°. With the help of their flock, this means that together they can see 360°. In a short life, where foraging for food takes up most of their time, this sight advantage is important. They have to feed as much as 30% to 40% of their body weight every day to fuel their flights, or survive the cold. They have great memories. They keep track of opportunistic times. Like cats and dogs remembering when their humans will be home and dinner will be served, pigeons know when humans will arrive and scatter free food. One pigeon in London, England, catches the subway, forages through the cars, and then finds its way back to its home, miles away. Furthermore, they recognize faces, particularly of the people who feed them. Like crows and ravens, even if these people change clothes, pigeons still recognize them.

Pigeon brains are amazing. They have small brains, but these are more densely packed with neurons than some larger brains, and neuron capacity is important when storing information. They recall thousands of images and patterns, and as with Whitetail, they don't easily forget these bits of information.

Pigeons may not seem very smart, but they are very good with numbers. In laboratory tests, the birds are able to solve the Monty Hall Dilemma about choosing which door will open to reveal the prize (one door hides the big prize, a second door hides a joke prize, like a goat, and the third door hides nothing). This is a statistical puzzle, and pigeons get this problem in relative probability right more frequently than humans do. They also are able to "put images picturing up to nine objects in proper order from lowest to highest number" (*The Genius of Birds*, Jennifer Ackerman). They can remember and associate colours related to food in some experiments.

Perhaps because they are so ubiquitous, pigeon intelligence is often under appreciated. They are masters at adapting to their environments, making and remembering geographical maps in their memories to help them find their way, and they are amazing at solving number puzzles. Pigeons are underrated, but because of their skills, highly successful in their environments.



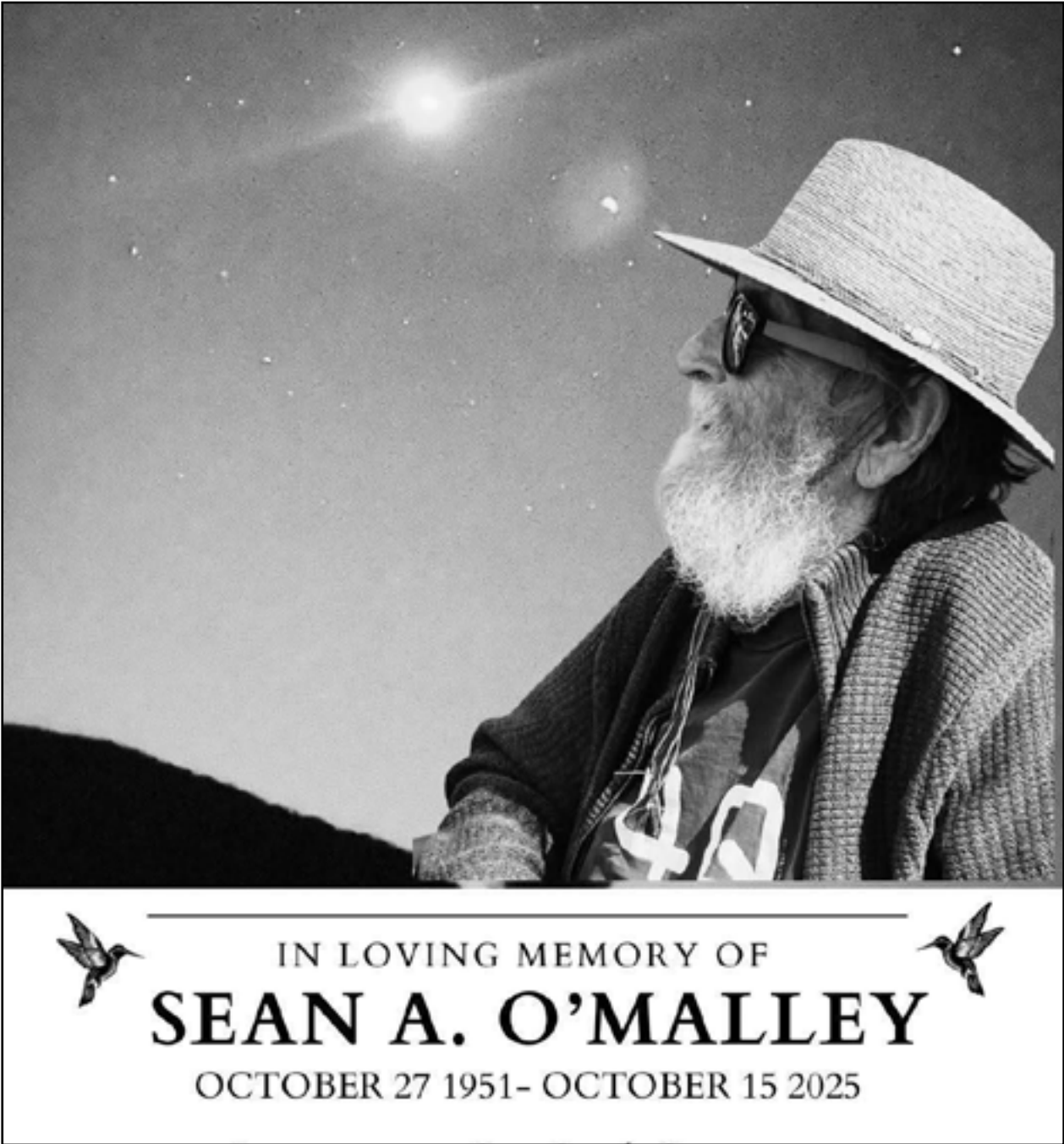
Their chicks have a very short time to grow. However, pigeons have a trick that among birds, only two other species--emperor penguins and flamingoes--have. They feed their newly born chicks with milk that is secreted by a gland in their throats. This milk has a high fat content, good protein, and passes on the parent's antibodies to the chicks. The chicks need this advantage. They have only 32 days in which to grow, fly, and survive on their own.

Pigeons are smart. (There is a separate page on *Wikipedia* that lists the ways pigeons show their intelligence: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pigeon_intelligence.) They distinguish between other individual pigeons, for example. They "can be taught relatively complex actions and response sequences, and can learn to make responses in different sequences" (*Wikipedia*). These birds also show "mirror-related" responses during mirror tests. This is the experiment, which shows whether the animal has a sense of itself as a separate entity. Elephants, for example, like to look in mirrors. If you put a hat on the elephant's head, however, and it looks in the mirror, it doesn't reach for the hat in the mirror. It reaches for the hat on its own head, indicating that it is conscious of itself as separate. Pigeons seem to have that awareness of themselves as well. Also, those people pigeons remember are just some of what they recall. Pigeons "can remember large numbers of individual images for a long time" (*Wikipedia*). They recall "hundreds of images" for long periods, including several years, which is one of the skills they use for homing.

Homing is pigeons most widely known ability: "this homing behaviour is different from that of birds that learn migration routes, which usually occurs over a fixed route at fixed times of the year, whereas homing is more flexible" (*Wikipedia*).

They have at times been released in Europe and still found their way home to the U.K. Apparently they use three senses to do this. First of all, they remember patterns and objects, so they know when they are in Trafalgar Square, for instance. "Homing pigeons can find their way home from hundreds of miles away" (PBS' *Nature*, "The Pigeon Hustle"). They also use their sense of smell to find their way, as well as geomagnetic signals, to reach their homes. Smell directs them to places where they can find food, geomagnetic signals give them a sense of direction, and those marvelous mental maps they make of geography all go together so they can usually find their way.

There are many stories of heroic feats of navigation and speed when it comes to pigeons. In April, 2002, Tom Roden recognized a racing pigeon that landed in his loft at Hammersley, Hyde, near Manchester, England. The bird looked very much like his racing pigeon, Whitetail. However, that bird had disappeared five years previously during a race across the English Channel. It had won thirteen races, and successfully flown fifteen Channel crossings previously. However, this one race in 1997 was known as the "Great Pigeon Race Disaster" (*The Genius of Birds*, Jennifer Ackerman). More than sixty thousand homing pigeons were released in France. The journey set for them was approximately four to five hundred miles, from Nantes, southern France, to their home lofts spread out across southern Britain. Something went wrong. Only a few of the birds managed to straggle in, and the "champion bird, along with tens of thousands of other experienced racers, never made it home that day" (*The Genius of Birds*, Jennifer Ackerman). No one knows why. However, after five years, Whitetail did make it home. It hadn't forgotten its route, nor the location of its home loft.



... continued from previous page.

logging in federally mapped spotted owl critical habitat. The organization has documented 253 hectares of approved cutblocks, 202 hectares of cutblocks pending approval and 195 hectares of proposed cutblocks that threaten the viability of the recovery strategy for the most endangered bird species in Canada.

“Provincial governments have no shame,” said Protected Areas Campaigner Joe Foy. “Demanding more logging subsidies while continuing to issue permits to cut down the habitat of endangered species like the spotted owl.”

And the spotted owl is not the only species affected. More analysis by the Wilderness Committee shows that since southern mountain caribou habitat was federally mapped in 2014, there have been 52,557 hectares of approved cutblocks.

"Governments across the country are abandoning their biodiversity and climate goals while pouring public money into supporting status quo resource extraction instead," said Conservation and Policy Campaigner Lucero González. “Earlier in the fall, we spent time on the land documenting logging in southern mountain caribou critical habitat. Witnessing that destruction reminded us that when you subsidize logging in species at risk habitat, you subsidize extinction.”

Logging also continues in the most endangered forest habitat of all: big tree old-growth forests. The kind that Vancouver Island is famous for. But these old-growth forests earmarked for protection by the B.C. government are still falling fast, threatening endangered forest-dependent species like the marbled murrelet. The Wilderness Committee’s mapping analysis shows that since marbled murrelet critical habitat was mapped in 2014, 14,389 hectares has been approved for logging, with an additional 6,085 hectares pending approval or proposed.

"There are areas on the island where murrelets once nested and now no longer do,” said Forest Campaigner Tobyn Neame. “If the federal government is putting millions into forest industry subsidies, it must demand that the province uphold its old-growth protection commitments before the marbled murrelet disappears for good.”

Download the Wilderness Committee's most recent maps on provincially approved logging of federally mapped habitat here, along with photos and video documenting some of these areas. In addition to the three species analyzed in this mapping, logging also continues in the critical habitat of dozens of others across the country. The Wilderness Committee will continue research and on-the-ground documentation as well as grassroots public mobilization efforts to protect endangered wildlife and threatened forests across B.C., Manitoba and Ontario.

In Loving Memory Of
Elfriede Wenger

September 29, 1928 -July 25, 2025



Elfriede Wenger was born on September 29, 1928 in the historic centre of Salzburg, Austria. Growing up in Salzburg, a stone’s throw from Mozart’s home, Elfriede was surrounded by-history, culture and music. From her apartment, she watched the who’s who of royalty, politics, and culture gather for the annual Salzburg Music Festival – sparking a lifelong curiosity about people and far off places.

When the movie “The Sound of Music” came out in 1965, it instantly became Elfriede’s favourite film, as it captured the essence of her Salzburg, her childhood, her history and the people she grew up with.

After graduating from high school in 1945, during the American liberation of Salzburg, Elfriede pursued a career in nursing at the University Hospital Salzburg.

In 1952, driven by a spirit of adventure and fascination with North American First Nations people, Elfriede answered the call of the wild and set sail for Canada. She began her nursing career in Toronto before accepting a position at a remote Arctic hospital on the island of Moose Factory in James Bay, where she cared for

Cree and Inuit patients. It was here that she met her future husband and lifelong partner Heinz Wenger, a physician at the hospital.

Several years later, they ventured west to Calgary to begin a practice in family medicine. After their wedding in 1958, Elfriede and Heinz came to Kootenay Lake on their honeymoon. The clear blue lake surrounded by mountains reminded Elfriede of the countryside back home. They were so enchanted with the area, that when they came upon Ethel Magee’s weathered “for sale” sign in Gray Creek, they seized the opportunity and purchased the property on which an abandoned Larch log cabin stood.

In the ensuing years, spring, summer, and fall saw Elfriede and Heinz return to their beloved cabin in Gray Creek with their growing family and the supplies needed to make it cozy and livable. The cabin and its surrounding woodlands became their cherished retreat – a place they lovingly referred to as “God’s Country.”

Following Heinz’s passing in 2009, Elfriede and her family continued to come to their beloved Gray Creek cabin, embracing the tranquility of the natural surroundings and the enduring friendships that they fostered over a lifetime.

Today, her family continues to lovingly care for their Gray Creek cabin and surrounding woodland, honoring the legacy that Elfriede and Heinz began over six decades ago. As a final tribute, Elfriede’s family came together at the Gray Creek Cemetery on September 29, 2025 – on what would have been Elfriede’s 97th birthday – to inter her ashes in the family plot in her beloved Gray Creek.

A contribution in Elfriede’s memory will be made to the Gray Creek Historical Society, to help preserve the area’s rich legacy for future generations.

**For Immediate Release —
November 26, 2024**
**B.C.’s Unkept Promises on
Old-growth Fueling Recent
Arrests**

BC NDP’S “TALK-AND-LOG” APPROACH
DESTROYS NONRENEWABLE ANCIENT FORESTS
AND DRIVES CONFLICT IN WALBRAN VALLEY

VICTORIA / UNCEDED LEKWUNGEN TERRITORIES — In response to arrests this week at blockades in the Walbran Valley, the Wilderness Committee is placing responsibility for all conflict in the woods squarely with the B.C. government’s destructive and disingenuous “talk-and-log” approach to forest policy, which undermines Indigenous sovereignty and puts ancient ecosystems at risk.

The organization further calls on the province to fund Indigenous land governance planning, with emergency interim protections for at-risk ecosystems, along with a just transition away from old-growth logging.

“People only turn to blockading when every other avenue is exhausted or ignored,” said Forest Campaigner Tobyn Neame. “When the BC NDP permits clearcutting in forests it’s promised to protect, it creates the conditions for conflict. It’s a mess for the communities and First Nations

that pay the price, and it’s the fault of the politicians who made commitments and then refused to honor them.”

The Walbran Valley contains some of the last intact stands of ancient forest on Vancouver Island. Despite years of public outcry, expert reports calling for immediate deferrals of logging in at-risk old-growth forests, and promises from the BC NDP government for a paradigm shift, the province continues to issue logging permits, all while touting its commitments to reconciliation and conservation. The Wilderness Committee has criticized the province for avoiding accountability and withholding adequate funding for conservation.

“The BC NDP government has made big promises, continued status quo logging and let communities and First Nations get caught in the conflicts,” said Neame. “The result is predictable: public anger over broken promises, conflict, arrests, erosion of trust in forest management and the continued destruction of non-renewable forests.”

The Wilderness Committee is not involved in the blockades, and respects the sovereignty and decision-making authority of the Pacheedaht First Nation and all Indigenous Rights and title holders. The organization insists it is the responsibility of the provincial government to deliver on its policy commitment to protect old-growth forests including creating the conditions to make that possible.

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Thoughts From The Frog Pot Immigration

by John Rayson

Immigration is an interesting and controversial topic. A majority of countries in the world are opposed to immigration; yet, there are more people on the move throughout the world now, than that at any time in history. Opposition to immigration, which includes Canada, is fascinating as it was immigration that built this country. We want to grow our economy and stand as an independent country [not the 51st state]. Interesting, how do we accomplish these goals without an increase in population?

The fertility rate in Canada is 1.3 [the fertility rate for replacement is 2.1]. Canadians are a part of a world-wide trend that appears to oppose immigration [note until recently, Canada and the U.S. were the only two countries with positive immigration policies; not so, in the U.S. today] and yet we wish to grow our economy. As I have stated in the past, we are a large geography with a small population. Fertility rates are also, dropping rapidly in countries that have traditionally been a source of immigrants for Canada [eg. India: fertility rate 2023; 2.2, twenty years ahead of projections]. Will such rapidly changing fertility rates impact Canadas ability to attract immigrants?

If we are not meeting replacement via births in the country it is rather difficult to grow the population and economy. It would seem that we need more people to come to the country: I think that is called immigration. Prior to recent history, Canada was known to have one of the leading immigration policies in the world. In 2000 Canada admitted 460,000 immigrants; 48.7% were permanent residents. By 2024 we admitted 2,096,600 immigrants; 76.6% were temporary workers or on student visas and only 23.4% were permanent residents. Did we overshoot the mark? It would seem that the policies from 2016 to 2024 were not in the long-term best interests of the country and yet we need immigration.

Government has now scaled back on temporary work permits and student visas. However, temporary work permits are necessary in many areas of Canada requiring seasonal agricultural workers. Agricultural workers are not a remote problem as they are required in such places as Creston and Okanagan Valleys during fruit harvesting. In addition, the government intends to give preference to applications for permanent residence to individuals presently in Canada. Makes sense, some of these families have been in the country for a number of years, working, paying taxes and have children attending school. Such individuals are far less likely to require ongoing assistance. Statistics also show that after 10 years the unemployment rate for immigrants is less than 5% [lower than our national figures].

The unintended consequence of a massive increase in student visas, was to have various colleges etc. depend on high tuition rates from foreign students to fund programs [an example of such funding; UBC depends on foreign student tuition for 26% of its operating costs; doesn't state what % of student body is foreign students]. This source of funding is now not available and the programs are not necessary. In addition, it appears that housing rentals, costs and availability became an issue with the large increase in student visas.

As a country, we are now in the process of a significant reset of our immigration policies. There is no question that we require reassessment of these policies, but we must not lose sight of the fact that immigration is what built this country and immigration must continue in the future if we are to be successful as a country. Do we presently have a sensible, rational policy? I'm not sure but I do know that we need a policy that ensures our growth for the future and we must not develop a policy that is opposed to immigration in any form.

Immigrants have been, are and will be a vital resource for Canada. In 2024, one in four private sector businesses in Canada was majority-owned by an immigrant.

Do not forget, Adrienne Clarkson came to Canada as an immigrant from Japanese occupied Hong Kong and became the 26th Governor General of Canada



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Media Release

NOVEMBER 25, 2025

FOOD BANKS UPGRADE THEIR SPACES AND EQUIPMENT

FOURTEEN PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD WITH SUPPORT FROM COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

(Columbia Basin) – Food banks across the region are upgrading their facilities and equipment to create safer, more efficient spaces for volunteers and clients. With support from Columbia Basin Trust, these improvements will help organizations better store, move and distribute food to the individuals and families who rely on their services.

“All people in the Columbia Basin deserve access to locally grown, healthy food, and food banks are a vital resource for many,” said Katie Kendall, Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits, Columbia Basin Trust. “These upgrades help ensure food is stored and handled safely and that food banks have the tools they need to operate efficiently.”

The Trust is supporting this work with over \$430,000 for 14 projects in 11 communities. To view all projects, visit the website.

In addition to these infrastructure improvements, the Trust is providing seasonal support

to food banks, First Nation communities and Métis associations to help meet increased holiday demand.

COLUMBIA VALLEY FOOD BANK

Volunteers at the Columbia Valley Food Bank are committed to offering a wide range of nutritious items to people in need, but moving bulk food up and down stairs in its Invermere building has been challenging. To improve safety and ease the workload, the food bank is installing a freight lift between its basement storage and the main floor. “With the continued increase in the number of clients we serve, we now purchase much of our food in bulk, which is heavy and difficult to carry,” said Eileen Bilodeau, Board Chair. “We are privileged to work with over 60 dedicated volunteers, who are mostly retired and over 60, and they struggled to move these items up and down our steep staircase. The Board felt it needed to do something to protect these valued volunteers and decrease the chance of injury, and the solution was the freight lift.”

NEW DENVER AND AREA COMMUNITY HAMPER SOCIETY

The New Denver and Area Community Hamper Society is enhancing its food bank space by adding new counters with storage, and completing electrical work to improve lighting and ventilation. “This project will allow us to improve efficiency by reconfiguring our current layout in the food bank and office,” said Shelley Welch, Board member. “The space will become more

user-friendly and functional for our volunteers, clients and Board members; air flow and circulation will be improved, and we’ll have more space for storage.”

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS REVELSTOKE SOCIETY

The Community Connections Revelstoke Society is purchasing an industrial washer and dryer, plus two fridges to replace equipment that is no longer reliable and to meet food safety standards. It’s also adding bins to help sort, organize and display items. “Upgrading our equipment and organizing our space isn’t just about efficiency, it’s about creating an environment where every person who comes through our doors feels dignity, respect and a sense of place,” said Austin Luciw, Kitchen Manager. “By replacing equipment that no longer meets our operational needs and thoughtfully arranging our space, we can ensure food is handled safely, access is easier, and every visit feels more like a grocery store experience rather than a handout. These improvements allow us to serve our community with care, compassion and pride, supporting not just their physical needs, but their well-being and self-respect.”

Columbia Basin Trust supports the efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit ourtrust.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

Press Release

Nelson Community Food Centre

NOV 19TH, 2025

Lawrence from Main Street Diner, one of our many long-time supporters, and his collection of RfC Tshirts.

With a Little Help from Our Friends: Restaurants for Change

On October 22, the community came alive with a day of good fun, good food, and good will at 19 local restaurants who partnered with the Nelson Community Food Centre to sponsor Restaurants for Change.

This annual event helps NCFC address the growing reality of food insecurity in Nelson and its neighboring communities. Each participating restaurant generously pledged a percentage of their proceeds from the day, funds that help Nelson Community Food Centre continue to serve our community through the many programs offered:

- Weekly full course quality community meal
- Good Food Bank focusing on fresh, healthy food
- Sandwiches delivered
- No cook grocery bags for those without cooking facilities
- Grocery bags delivered to those who are unable to leave their residence
- Food skills and cooking lessons
- Gardens to increase food production

To the restaurant owners, managers, staff, and patrons from Nelson to Balfour who came out to enjoy a great meal in service to the well-being of their neighbours - we thank you! Congratulations to the 2025 restaurants who participated:

The Library Lounge, The General Store (Hume Hotel & Spa), Marzano, Broken Hill Nelson,

El Taco, Louie’s Steakhouse, Beauties, Busaba Thai Cafe, Cantina Del Centro, John Ward Fine Coffee, Main Street Diner, Red Light, Sprout Plant-Based Eatery, Yum Son, Kootenay Tamil Kitchen, The Block at Railtown, Tandoori Indian Grill & Lounge, Kurama Sushi Japanese Restaurant, and Osprey Mountain Grill.

Stay tuned for our “Festive Food Days” to meet the needs of the approaching holidays. Spread some holiday cheer by making a donation on our website <https://nelsoncfc.ca/make-a-gift/> or [etransfer. mailto:ed@nelsoncfc.ca](mailto:ed@nelsoncfc.ca)

Although we are not affiliated with the United Church, the NCFC operates at the location at the Nelson United Church, at the corner of Josephine and Silica. We are fortunate to use the large lower space and industrial kitchen that NCFC has renovated for its purposes. Feel free to drop by, enjoy a meal, use our services, or just say hello.

Thanks again to our local restaurants, past and present, their patrons, and our greater community!

- The Nelson Community Food Centre Family

Transfer Station Hours

Crawford Bay

May 1 to early November Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am - 3:00 pm

Early November to early March Sunday & Tuesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Closed on all Statutory Holidays

Boswell

Wednesday and Saturday

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Closed on all Statutory Holidays

November 5, 2025 – For Immediate Release

SD8 Board of Education Chair and Vice-Chair Elected by Acclamation

Trustee Susan Chew was elected by acclamation to her first term as board chair and Trustee Julie Bremner to her second consecutive term as vice-chair at the School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Board of Education inaugural meeting on November 4.

“It’s an honour to have the opportunity to serve as chair of the SD8 Board of Education. Our work is about meeting the learning needs of every student and reflecting the values of the communities we serve. I look forward to leading the Board as we make decisions on budgeting, policy, and continue to implement our five-year strategic plan to strengthen K-12 education across SD8,” said Chair Chew.

“Serving as vice-chair is an opportunity to continue to support children, families, and school communities through strong governance and open communication. I look forward to working with our new chair and with all board members as we keep students at the centre of everything we do,” said Vice-Chair Bremner.

Also elected by acclamation were Trustee Murray Shunter who will serve as a provincial councillor for the B.C. School Trustees Association, with Trustee Mary Jane Blackmore as alternate; and Trustee Al Gribbin who will serve as a B.C. Public School Employers’ Association representative, with Chair Susan Chew as alternate.

The positions of chair and vice-chair, along with external committee roles, are elected annually by the Board. The nine trustees on the SD8 Board of Education are elected every four years during B.C.’s General Local Elections, held on the third Saturday in October. The SD8 Board of Education is entering the fourth year of a four-year term ending on October 17, 2026.



Tom’s Corner
by Frances Roback
Farewell Tom,
Farewell Tom’s
Corner

Tom Lymbery died on October 25, 2025 at the age of 97, and his death marks the end of his 35-year-long local history column in the *East Shore Mainstreet*.

Tom was my local history mentor, teacher, and the very reason Steve and I were drawn to Gray Creek in the first place - but that’s a story for another time. Tom was a tireless public-spirited community spokesperson, speaker and tour guide, and the go-to resource for local journalists, and public officials. He loved nothing more than to keep Gray Creek in the public eye, and so he turned his storytelling talents to writing for local media, especially East Shore newspapers.

Ever since its launch in 1990, the *East Shore Mainstreet* was the perfect venue for Tom’s monthly local history column, “Tom’s Corner”. For the next 30-plus years, Tom wrote about local people and places, rail, road, and lake transport, commerce, business and industry, community events large and small, and local legends. In 2011 Tom’s vast *Mainstreet* archive became the seed for “Tom’s Gray Creek: A

Kootenay Lake Memoir”, a combined memoir and local history book chronicling life and changing times in Gray Creek and beyond. Little did we know the project would grow to occupy two volumes and five years, but grow it did. And every one of Tom’s writing projects brought home to me how rich our local stories are, and how richly endowed, how endlessly tappable was Tom’s memory bank.

In 2016 both books were done, but Tom was not. He had another book project in mind - a first-ever collection of writings on the experience of riding the Kettle Valley Railway. Tom rode the KVR in wartime as a schoolboy between the Kootenays and Vancouver, across hairy-scary high wooden trestles, up impossibly steep grades and around tight switchback turns. He had hoped to persuade other KVR riders to contribute their own memories to his anthology. But sadly, he was unable to locate enough living contributors to make a book.

It’s been an honour to have worked with Tom on his many writing projects over 30 years. He has taught me so much, and if I would boil it all down to one thing, it is this:

No matter how small a community appears on first encounter, its history is huge and its stories are beyond measure - as long as there are story keepers and storytellers in our midst.

In the new year, I’ll wind up the “Fighting Wildfires” story with tales of wildfire dramas on the west side of Kootenay Lake, a heroic lifesaving mission on the Forestry patrol boat *MV Amabilis*, and fire patrols on horseback, by water, and by air, Kootenay style. Please watch for Part 2 of “Fighting Wildfires” in the new monthly “Kootenay Mainstreet”.

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society

Editors Note:

My deepest sympathies to the many who will miss Tom. The *East Shore Mainstreet* wouldn’t have been the same without his years of valuable contributions. May his memory forever be bright.

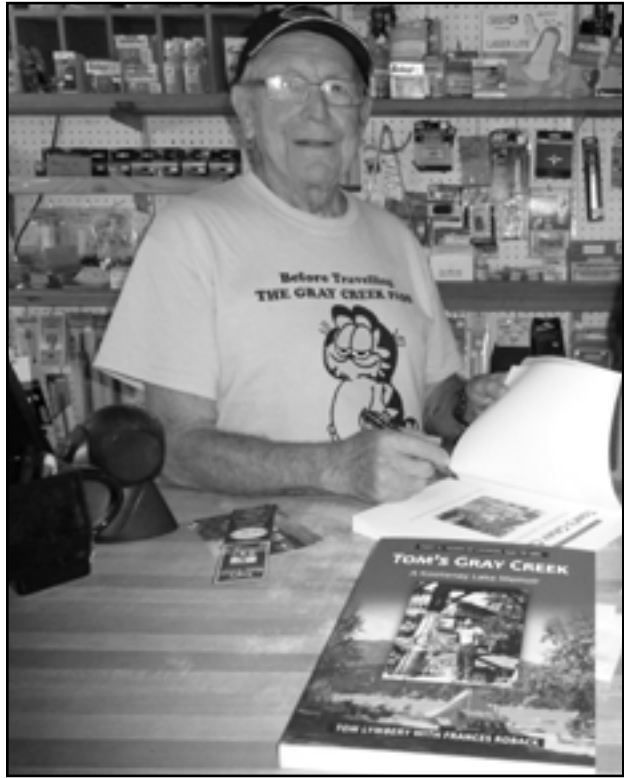


Photos:

Below: Tom Lymbery’s book team meets for the first time in early November 2011 to discuss a proposed combined memoir and local history book. At centre is primary author Tom; at left, book editor, photo finder & second writer Frances Roback; and at right, book designer Warren Clark. Photo: Sharon Lymbery, 2011

Left: At the Gray Creek Store, Tom autographs one of the just-released second volumes of his monumental book, “Tom’s Gray Creek: A Kootenay Lake Memoir”. Photo: Janet Schwieger, 2016

Above: A favourite memory is of Tom in his iconic Gray Creek Pass shirt, at the Gray Creek Hall. Photo: Janet Schwieger, July 2017



Tom Sez ~ Circa Dec 2013

by Tom Lymbery

By the time this reaches print, Tom's Gray Creek –a Kootenay Lake Memoir, may be in your hands to read. If you enjoy it, please complement Frances Roback as her editing surpasses much of what I have written. Her sidebars as well as captions for the 205 photos she has chosen make this book worthwhile, even for those who peruse the pictures more than the text.

Zapp the Bears – we now have the Zapp surrounds for your garbage can. When the 2 D batteries are switched on any bear or dog will get an electric shock if they attempt to tamper with your garbage or compost.

MV Balfour turns 60 in 2014, having been launched at Nelson in 1954. We hope she still has to be ready to go whenever the Creston – Salmo route is closed with snowslides.

When will car makers include a solar panel on the car roof to keep your battery charged?

While our store sold woodstoves from 1913, it was 60 years ago that the controlled combustion woodstove became a staple stock item. The Warm Morning made in Kansas City with its brown enameled body turned up on our sales floor, taking 24" wood and burning 12 hours on a load. However it was many years later when clean burn technology was able to burn the creosote and particle emissions out of the former blue smoke. I can remember my mother coming down the stairs first thing, and exclaiming "Warm Morning!! – they certainly named that stove correctly."

If you get a picaroon you will find that its like having an extra hand when you are working with logs, timbers, or firewood.

Since we couldn't pin down a date for the release of my book, I promise to sign your copy at any time I'm available.

Video surveillance at the store showed a bear digging up compost in the flower garden to find an apple or two among the coffee grounds.

Today's wood and fireplace units don't appreciate being hooked up to cold brick or masonry chimneys – they are designed for insulated stainless steel chimneys. Attempting to use an old style chimney is similar to putting a 1950s muffler on a 2014 vehicle.

Who has the Alberta license plate that says RIONDEL?

Where have all the birch trees gone? Perhaps because birch is not considered a valuable timber species nothing has been done to slow up the bugs that have devastated our Kootenay birches. In Sweden and Norway these are carefully pruned, with the best trunks selected to provide wood for furniture such as Ikea's.

Where would Black Press be without Greg Nesteroff? For the province-wide BC News story "Seven Great Remembrance Day Reads from Around BC" Greg wrote two. He also had a most interesting report in the Nelson Star on the small town of Slocan City moving its impressive marble war memorial to a more visible site. All these appear in almost every BC town's newspaper.

In Loving Memory Of

Thomas Arthur Lymbery

June 2, 1928 - October 25, 2025



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Tom Lymbery on October 25th, 2025, at the age of 97. Tom was born on June 2nd, 1928, in Kaslo, BC, spent most of his life in Gray Creek, BC, and lived his final years in Nelson, BC. Tom's life was filled with a lifelong commitment to serving his community, a passion for writing, reading, and sharing history, as well as love for his family.

Tom is survived by his devoted wife Sharon (McClure), his daughter, Lorena Lymbery (Mike Gareau), his son, David Lymbery (Kristine McRory), his grandsons Adam Gareau and Chandler Lymbery, his niece Janet Bruce, and many other nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Arthur and Kathleen (Warren) Lymbery, and sisters Ann, Beatrice, and Alice (Stan Bruce).

Tom was the proud owner of the Gray Creek Store which he grew from his father's tiny 1913 general store into a 3-storey emporium, and which, 112 years later, continues to serve the needs of locals and visitors for miles around. During his life, Tom also helped his dad with the post office and Greyhound agency, tended cows and picked fruit, served as Notary Public and insurance agent, and ran the Gray Creek Auto Camp together with his wife Sharon.

Tom authored the two-volume history 'Tom's Gray Creek, A Kootenay Lake Memoir, Part I' and 'Part II', which paints an in-depth portrait of Gray Creek and the Kootenay Lake region from sternwheeler days to the modern era. He published monthly articles in the 'East Shore Mainstreet' for 34 years and contributed historical articles to the journal 'British Columbia History' and other periodicals. A tireless promoter for the area, this public-spirited man became the go-to resource for all things East Shore. He shared his amazing memory bank with all who were interested.

Tom and Sharon spent many winters in Barra de Navidad, Mexico, where they were often joined by friends and family. Once again, he showed his commitment to community by joining the Costalegre Rotary Club.

Tom's lifetime dedication to community and local history was recognized by many awards' province-wide, including the BC Community Service award from the BC Achievement Foundation, Heritage BC's Distinguished Service award, and BC Genealogical Society's Family History Book award. In 2018, Tom was one of two in the province to be appointed Fellow of the BC Chamber of Commerce for outstanding service. He was a proud lifetime member of the Kaslo Masonic Lodge and Kootenay Lake Lions Club. He was also an active member and organizer of numerous other groups, including the Gray Creek Historical, Cemetery, and Hall Societies, Kokanee Karnival of Sports, and the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce, among many others.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff in Diamond Cottage at Mountain Lakes Care Home in Nelson for their kindness, compassion, and laughter. You made us and Tom feel at home while Tom was in your care.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring at the Gray Creek Hall, where Tom attended school and later served as President of the Hall Society for a mere 64 years. In lieu of flowers, Tom would wish for people to donate to projects and organizations in their own communities.

East Shore Reading Center
December Update

By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

The library continues to be open Thursday mornings (10AM to noon) as well as Tuesdays and Saturdays (noon to 3PM). Thursday mornings tend to be a little quiet so please spread the word. However, Thursday mornings are also a good time to process new items when the mail schedule works out that way!

Since the last issue we added 32 items to the library collection. This includes Louise Penny's eagerly anticipated novel The Black Wolf along with a seasonal novella from Iona Whishaw, A Season for Spies. We have also added items from Canadian authors including Brian Thomas Isaac, Emma Knight and Amanda Peters.

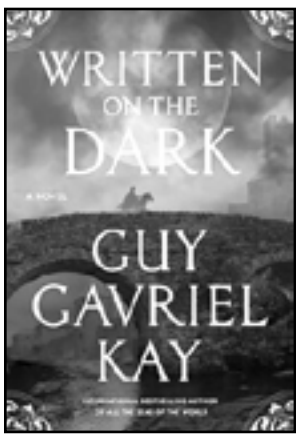
The library is very thankful to our donors and supporters. As a charitable organisation we are committed to ensuring high quality materials are available for lending in our area and appreciate contributions to ensure this. We welcome requests for new materials and try to purchase these when able. Recently the library society was a recipient of funding from the Guiding

Hands Society to support materials for youth in our area and have purchased some items thanks to this generosity.

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

Take care, Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!





For the Love of Genre A World Guided by Poets

by Sharman Horwood

One of the best novels I've read in a long time is Guy Gavriel Kay's *Written on the*

Dark (2025). Kay has been one of Canada's pre-eminent fantasy authors since he came out with the Fionavar Tapestry trilogy in 1984. He followed that with *Tigana* (1990), another fantasy based on the social milieu of Renaissance Italy. *Tigana* won the Canadian Aurora Award for best novel, and *The Wandering Fire*--one of the Tapestry novels--won the Prix Aurora Award. Kay has won many awards for his work, and deserved every one of them, but you rarely hear his name, unfortunately. His most recent two novels (*All the Seas of the World* and *Written on the Dark*) are some of his best work.

The narrator of *Written on the Dark* is Thierry Villar, a poet of Orane, the fictional capital city of Ferrieres. This is a country that corresponds to what we know as medieval France. Many of Kay's novels, by the way, take place in a Renaissance Italy or France, along with the fictional Sarantine Mosaic novels that are set in Justinian I's dominion.

Thierry is a tavern poet. He is an educated man, his background similar to Kay's own. He studied philosophy and law, and was licensed to practice law, though he prefers to pursue poetry. (Kay's own volume of poetry, *Beyond this Dark House*, published in 2003, won critical acclaim, and Kay was studying philosophy at the University of Manitoba when he was hired by Christopher Tolkien to help him edit *The Silmarillion*. After that, Kay returned to Canada

to pursue a law degree, and is now still licensed to practice law in Canada.)

A tavern poet isn't the usual kind of poet. Instead, he or she earns a living by creating and performing poetry in taverns and bars. These poems are usually witty, and often mock the public figures of the city. Thierry is very well known for this poetry, much better known than he'd realized.

One night on his way to a nearby tavern, he is stopped in the street by the Provost of Orane, an official he doesn't want to see. Thierry is also planning to burgle a religious sanctuary. He has had difficulty finding work and needs the money because of his gambling debts. The Provost of Orane encourages the poet to give up his plan to rob the sanctuary. He is persuaded instead to assist in the investigation of the savage murder of Rollin Duke de Montereau, the mad king's brother. The Provost wants Thierry's help. The poet has contacts within the city's taverns, and knows many who are willing speak to him instead of the Provost's men.

Very quickly in the investigation, Thierry realizes that the murder was arranged by the king's cousin, Laurent, Duke de Barratin, a character apparently inspired by the real John the Fearless of France in that time (Wikipedia). Rollin is believed to be having an affair with the king's wife. Given the king's madness, the city is in a dangerous position. His bouts of insanity seem to come and go, often leaving state affairs disrupted.

This knowledge puts Thierry's own life in danger. Twice, he has to save himself from violent attacks. The second time, he kills his assailant to save his life, but is forced into exile for a time, because his life is now in danger due to his association with the Provost and the royal court. Before he leaves his city, due to his investigation into Rollin's murder, he comes into contact with Marina di Seressa, a famous and

quite serious poet. She introduces him to the court and its key figures. She also familiarizes his poetry to the court, although many have heard of his mocking poems. Apparently, their notoriety has spread across the city and elsewhere.

The city and Ferrieres are at this time faced with civil war. Duke de Barratin wants to take over the throne, and at the same time King Hardan of Angland wants to take over Ferrieres. The country is in a precarious position. Orane will be either in the middle of this civil war, as well as defending themselves against the invading forces heading their way.

Thierry is forced to leave Orane. Medieval France of that time was a dangerous place, and Thierry faces some unexpected hurdles before he can return to the city he loves. His flight from the taverns and other poets takes him away from the poetry he knew and loved, though he hadn't taken it seriously before he meets Marina di Seressa. She pushes him in a direction that makes him recognize the power poetry has over his life. He realizes quite quickly that it is the art he wishes to pursue in his life, and he wants to do that in Orane, his beloved city.

The novel has a complicated plot as Thierry makes his way through this very complex world. The plot is in some ways dominated by the two poets. The course of Duke Barratin's trial, the resulting defense against King Hardan, are both influenced by the poets, rather than soldiers and rulers, which gives the story an unexpected quixotic flavour.

Written on the Dark is a story for winter nights, as the fire on the hearth or in the stove lights the room, a story that revels in the power of words and ideas. It is about the evolution of French and Italian society in a different direction. That is in a good way: just enough drama, just enough conflict, and yet measured by the wise minds of poets.

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Riondel Arts December Update

By Sharman Horwood

Hard to believe that now we're into December. The year is slipping by so quickly. However, we're having a wonderful fall, and there's still no snow so I'm not complaining.

Since the last posting, the Riondel Art Club has put up a new display of work that I'm sure you'll want to see. There is a wide variety this time, and an interesting variety, too. Sunlight may be missing, but stop by and take some time away from the rain to look at the display. It will cheer you up.

Every second Tuesday afternoon, Gerald Panio is continuing his art history lectures, and they are fascinating talks. On December 16, he will give a lecture on Takao Tanabe, a Canadian artist from Prince Rupert who began with abstract art pieces, but later became more nature based. On December 30, Gerald will present a lecture on Clara Peeters, who was a Flemish still life painter from Antwerp in the 17th century. Gerald will include Rachel Ruysch, a Dutch still-life painter from the Dutch Republic in the 17th century. Gerald's lectures are always fascinating. They are free to art club and community association members. A \$5 fee

is charged for anyone who doesn't belong to these organizations.

If you're at all interested in pursuing art - of any kind - drop by the Riondel Community Centre on Tuesday mornings. We get together to do our art also on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00, or Sunday afternoons at the same time, but most of our members go on Tuesday mornings. If you want to try your hand, the first time is free. Our annual membership is \$100. However, after the first drop in, you can pay \$10 a time, and each time you do that it will count towards the annual membership. We also give workshops. Sophie Vinette, our talented workshop teacher, always has a waiting list for her workshops, usually given on Thursday afternoons. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for her postings: Riondel Art Group.

In the meantime, keep creating!



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for the most up to date
road conditions and
ferry schedule.*

*This page can be
found online
and is updated there in
real time as needed!*

MEETUPS

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

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

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Join us Sundays at 10AM. Coffee fellowship after
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\$60 Annual Listing

\$20 Monthly

4 lines. \$10 per additional line

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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

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com for a handsome brass plaque.

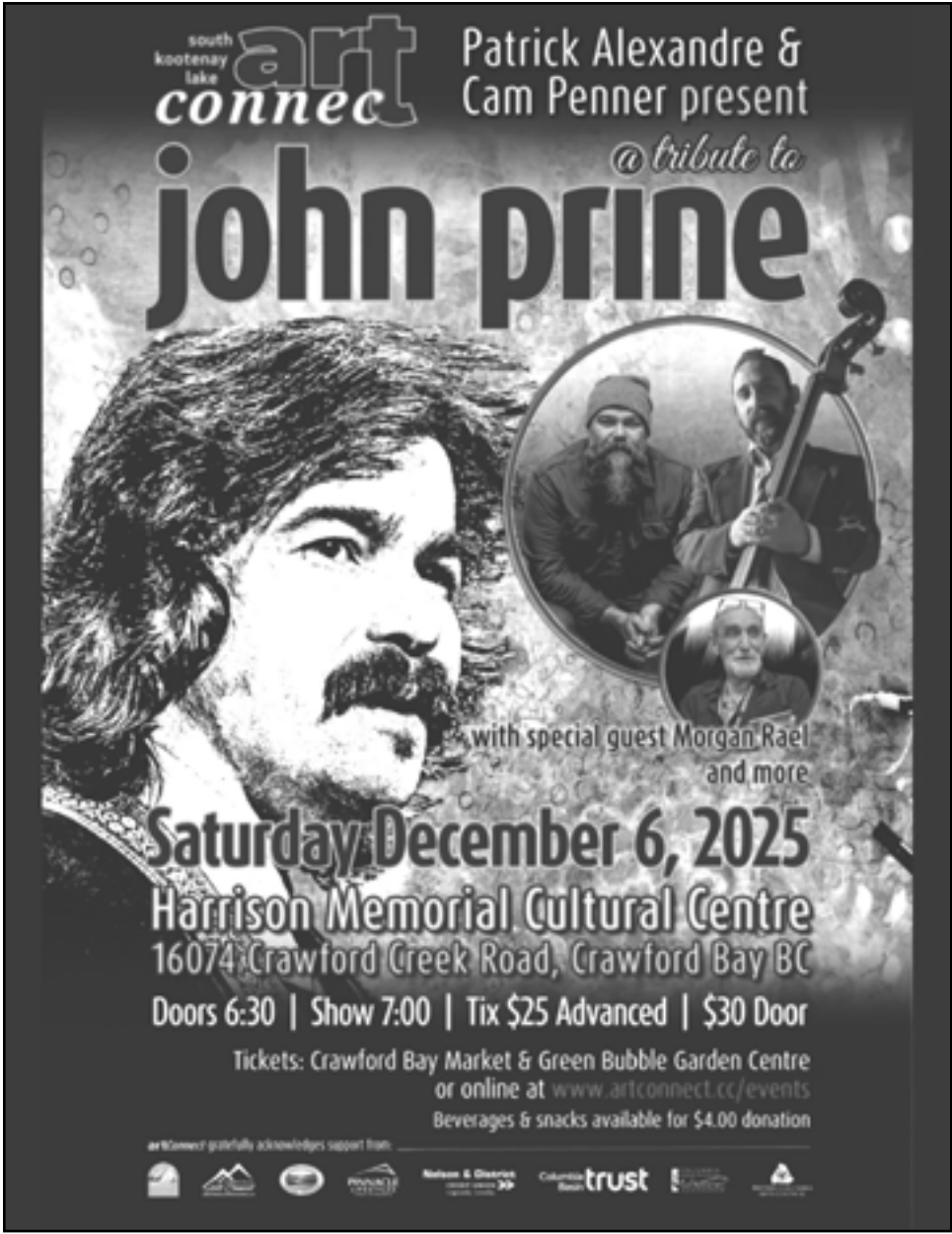
South Kootenay Lake Art Connect *Presents* at Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre A Rich Galore of Events!

by Zora Doval

Our board is proud to present several events in December and all of them remarkable in their own way. Make sure you pay attention to the posters or better yet, check out our website at artconnect.cc.

Our first event will be John Prine Tribute on Saturday, December 6, at 7 pm. With this concert Patrick Alexandre will pay tribute to the artistry of the great John Prine. He will be joined by Cam Penner and Morgan Rael on various instruments. This will be fun and very entertaining! How do I know? I know because this amazing trio already played this same concert at our venue some years ago and it was the most sold out show of all times. People literally had to sit on the floor! Wow! You dont want to miss it! Get your ticket soon as we expect to sell out.

You dont want to miss our yearly Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14, 6 - 8 pm either. This event has become a very welcome tradition in our three communities of Riondel, Crawford Bay and Gray Creek to celebrate the season of winter, solstice, rebirth and the ending of the calendar year. Community members are invited to contribute a season song or poem to help create the festive feeling typi-



cal of Christmas. This year we already have a long list of local musicians such as the favorite choir Sweet Tuesdays, Many Bays Band, Dallas Stobbe, Patrick Alexandre, Paul & Mary Wherezpeter, Evan Salmon, Zora Doval and Ken Wilson. The celebration will begin with the group of Carolers led by Alanda Greene. Please contact Zora at 250 777 18 56 if you are able to donate some baked goods, some of your time to decorate, start the fire, keep the fire or help with clean up. All help will be appreciated.

We are also partnering up with the Gray Creek Society to offer a New Years Dance at the Gray Creek Hall to be a benefit to our society. The format of this event is in planning stages, watch out for posters. Our society wishes to express our deep gratitude to the present board of the Gray Creek Hall Society for their support of our cause in the spirit of kinship and kindness.

Thank you so much!

RDCK Board Highlights

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

For immediate release

Aimee Watson acclaimed as RDCK Board Chair for 2026

Electoral Area D Director Aimee Watson was acclaimed as Board Chair for 2026 by the RDCK Board at this month’s meeting. Chair Watson has served as the RDCK Electoral Area D Director since 2014 and begins her eighth term as Chair.

Village of Nakusp Councillor and RDCK Director Aidan McLaren-Caux was elected as Board Vice-Chair for 2026 by the Board of Directors. Vice-Chair McLaren-Caux has served as a RDCK Director since 2022 and begins his second term as Vice-Chair.

The Board Chair and Vice-Chair are elected annually by the Board of Directors and serve a one-year term.

2026-2030 DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN

The Board continued its discussions on the 2026-2030 Draft Financial Plan, with presentations on Emergency Consolidated Services, Geospatial Information Systems, Building Inspection, and Planning & Land Use. The ob-

jective is to provide the Board an earlier review of the budget process to allow for feedback, questions, or requests. The final draft of the budget needs to be ready for adoption at the March 2026 Board meeting for submission to the ministry.

Visit the website to read the draft financial plan review.

Visit the website to review the 2025-2029 sub-regional budget presentations from last year’s engagement process.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST WILDFIRE GRANT

The Board authorized staff to apply for the 2025 Columbia Basin Trust Community Resiliency Investment Program, a grant from Columbia Basin Trust in the amount of \$1,638,130 to build resiliency towards wildfire through education and wildfire risk reduction work. If successful in attaining the grant, the funds will go towards Youth FireSmart Education, incremental funding to support the delivery of FireSmart Farm and Ranch Assessments in all Electoral Areas, and prescription and fuel treatments based on current Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT

The Board authorized staff to apply for the 2026 Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Support Services (ESS)

grant from the Union of BC Municipalities in the amount of \$225,195 to support and improve ESS service delivery across the RDCK. If approved, this funding will support key program improvements, expand training options, and allow ESS teams to gather as a regional team more frequently. ESS is a provincial program delivered by local governments to provide short-term support to residents displaced by emergencies or disasters. Within the RDCK, ESS is coordinated regionally and delivered locally by trained volunteers to all electoral areas and municipalities, with the exception of Castlegar and New Denver, who administer their own ESS programs.

Just this month, the RDCK hosted a regional gathering to bring together volunteers for a day of community building, planning for the future, and acknowledging the many years of dedicated service by our volunteers. There are nine ESS teams in the RDCK, but always room for more people to volunteer. Interested residents can find out more information at www.rdck.ca/joinESS.

**EDITORS NOTE: to find the latest RDCK Directors Report, Quarterly Report, Board Meeting Video Recording, and lists of Discretionary and Community Development Grants please visit the RDCK website.*

Media Release
Reflecting on 75 Years: The
Story of Nelson & District
Credit Union

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER
24, 2025

Nelson, BC – On November 16, 1950, ten
visionary residents of Nelson, British Columbia
gathered around a kitchen table with a metal
cash box and a bold idea: to create a financial
institution rooted in local decision-making,
democratic ownership, and community care.
That humble beginning gave rise to what we
now know as Nelson & District Credit Union
(NDCU)— a thriving co-operative that has
served Nelson, Rossland, and the East Shore for
75 years.

From its earliest days, NDCU has stood apart
by putting people before profits. In the 1960s, it
expanded services and adopted its current name,
reflecting a broader regional mission. Over the
decades, NDCU has weathered economic shifts,
embraced technological innovation—all while
staying true to its founding values.

Whether pioneering climate actions in the
workplace, launching award-winning youth ser-
vices, or responding to accessibility challenges

with remote services, NDCU has consistently
demonstrated agility and empathy. Its re-imag-
ined Community Impact Program has returned
over \$4.5 million to local initiatives—from
wellness centres and daycare facilities to public
parks and grassroots organizations.

“Nelson & District Credit Union has had an
amazing month celebrating 75 years,” says
Tom Murray, CEO of Nelson & District Credit
Union (NDCU). “In particular, the connections
and collaboration with community partners that
were celebrating milestones as well. The list is
surprisingly long and includes Kootenay Co-
op Grocery Store (50), Upper Columbia Co-op
Council (25), Kootenay Co-op Radio (25), Os-
prey Community Foundation (25) and Nelson &
Area Friends of the Family (25).”

As NDCU winds-down celebrations, it looks
ahead with the same spirit that launched it:
a commitment to local decisions that create
lasting impact. Strategic growth, member edu-
cation, and board engagement are shaping our
future, ensuring that NDCU remains a thriving,
independent, community-based credit union.

Thank you to our members, our employees, our
directors, and the community that helped us
achieve and celebrate this significant milestone
in your credit unions history

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

BCGEU demands BC Wildfire
Service act immediately to pro-
tect wildland firefighters

BURNABY, B.C. (Coast Salish Territo-
ries) – The B.C. General Employees’ Union
(BCGEU) is calling on the B.C. Wildfire Ser-
vice (BCWS) to take immediate and meaningful
action to protect wildland firefighters following
yesterday’s significant administrative penalty is-
sued by WorkSafeBC. The fine of \$759,368.84
recognizes the agency’s failure to ensure the
safety of its workers in connection with two
workplace incidents in 2023, one in which re-
sulted in a worker fatality.

“This decision confirms what our members have
been saying for years, that systemic safety issues
within the BC Wildfire Service are putting work-
ers at risk,” said Paul Finch, BCGEU President.
“We welcome WorkSafeBC’s direction to bring
the employer into compliance with basic health
and safety obligations. Every worker deserves to
come home safe at the end of the day.”

WorkSafeBC’s findings echo long-standing con-
cerns raised by BCGEU members about inade-
quate supervision, training, and risk assessments
in wildfire operations. The union has repeatedly
pressed the BCWS to address high turnover and
inconsistent safety practices that undermine both
worker protection and public safety.

“Wildland firefighters work in some of the
harshest and most unpredictable conditions
imaginable,” Finch said. “Those challenges are
made worse when chronic understaffing, poor
retention, and inadequate training leave new and
young workers exposed to unnecessary danger.”

High turnover is a major systemic issue for the
wildfire service. The 2024 wildfire season saw a
turnover of 55% of fire crew leaders, which puts
everyone from frontline workers on the fire line
to fire-impacted communities at greater risk.

While critical of ongoing safety failures, the BC-
GEU acknowledges several positive steps made
since these incidents:

Establishment of a provincial Joint Occupational
Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) between
BCGEU and BC Wildfire Service — a vital
forum for collaboration and systemic improve-
ments.

Targeted wage increases won through recent BC-
GEU job action that may help reduce turnover
and retain experienced crews.

Initial efforts by BCWS to improve safety train-
ing and equipment standards, though more work
remains to ensure consistent implementation
across the province.

“The 2023 wildfire season was the most dev-
astating on record, and this fine must serve as a
turning point,” Finch said. “The government and
BC Wildfire Service must act now to rebuild a
culture of safety, transparency, and respect for
the workers who risk their lives to protect our
communities.”

The BCGEU represents over 2,000 members
working with the BC Wildfire Service, including
wildland firefighters, logistics officers, and sup-
port staff across the province.

For Immediate Release —
November 25, 2025
Wilderness Committee calls for
end to logging in endangered
species habitat as feds float
logging handouts

Carney government commits \$1.2 billion
to subsidize the forest industry while evidence
shows provinces approve clearcutting in feder-
ally mapped critical habitat of several species.

VANCOUVER / UNCEDED xʷməθkʷəy̓əm,
Skwxwú7mesh AND səliłwətał TERRITORIES
— New analysis by the Wilderness Committee
shows that British Columbia and other provin-
cial governments continue to ignore federal
efforts to protect the critical habitat of several
endangered species while seeking a share of a
federal forest industry aid package.

In August, Ottawa earmarked \$1.2 billion dol-
lars to subsidize Canadian logging operations
in the face of rising U.S. lumber tariffs and
there’s little transparency around which compa-
nies have applied for, or received, this funding.
This means the federal government could be
subsidizing provincially approved logging that
actively accelerates habitat loss for species le-
gally recognized as at risk, pushing them closer
to extinction.

The Wilderness Committee’s mapping analy-
sis shows that since June of this year — when
the federal government published its finalized
recovery strategy for the northern spotted owl
— the B.C. government continued to permit
logging in federally mapped spotted owl cri-
tical habitat. The organization has documented
253 hectares of approved cutblocks, 202 hect-
ares of cutblocks pending approval and 195
hectares of proposed cutblocks that threaten the
viability of the recovery strategy for the most
endangered bird species in Canada.

“Provincial governments have no shame,” said
Protected Areas Campaigner Joe Foy. “De-
manding more logging subsidies while contin-
uing to issue permits to cut down the habitat of
endangered species like the spotted owl.”

And the spotted owl is not the only species
affected. More analysis by the Wilderness
Committee shows that since southern mountain
caribou habitat was federally mapped in 2014,
there have been 52,557 hectares of approved
cutblocks.

“Governments across the country are aban-
doning their biodiversity and climate goals
while pouring public money into supporting
status quo resource extraction instead,” said
Conservation and Policy Campaigner Lucero
González. “Earlier in the fall, we spent time
on the land documenting logging in southern
mountain caribou critical habitat. Witnessing
that destruction reminded us that when you
subsidize logging in species at risk habitat, you
subsidize extinction.”

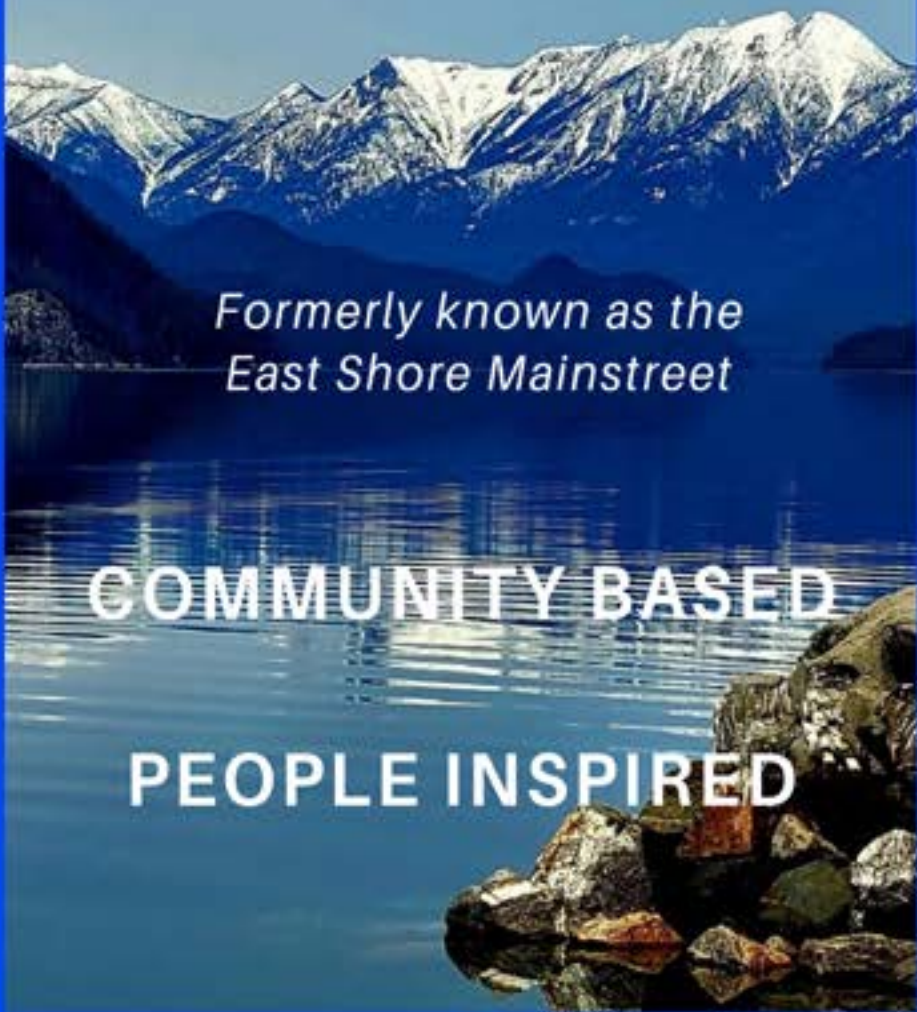
Logging also continues in the most endangered
forest habitat of all: big tree old-growth forests.
The kind that Vancouver Island is famous for.
But these old-growth forests earmarked for pro-
tection by the B.C. government are still falling
fast, threatening endangered forest-dependent
species like the marbled murrelet. The Wil-
derness Committee’s mapping analysis shows
that since marbled murrelet critical habitat
was mapped in 2014, 14,389 hectares has been
approved for logging, with an additional 6,085
hectares pending approval or proposed.

“There are areas on the island where murrelets
once nested and now no longer do,” said Forest
Campaigner Tobyn Neame. “If the federal gov-
ernment is putting millions into forest industry
subsidies, it must demand that the province
uphold its old-growth protection commitments
before the marbled murrelet disappears for
good.”

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