

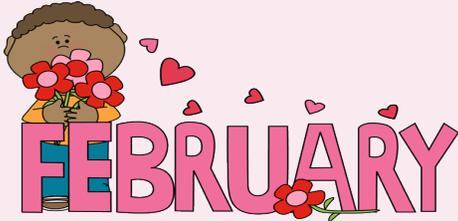


FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

February 2022 ISSUE 248

Visit: www.wasalake.com



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Surprisingly, Groundhog Day is not a North American tradition - it came to North America via German settlers in the 1700's! "Groundhog Day (Pennsylvania German: Grund'sau dāk, Grundsaudaag, Grundsow Dawg, Murmeltiertag; Nova Scotia: Daks Day)"

Candlemas - February 2nd - falls midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, and is a significant day in several ancient and modern traditions. The Celts, for instance, celebrated it as Imbolc, a pagan festival marking the beginning of spring. The weather lore was brought from German-speaking areas where the badger (German: Dachs) is the forecasting animal.

The original weather-predicting animal in Germany had been the bear, another hibernating mammal, but when they grew scarce the lore became altered. The groundhog was once also known as a bear-rat; or marmot.



Candlemas is celebrated as Groundhog day in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. (Hate to be a party-pooper, but we are very unlikely to see 'spring' before the middle of March, irregardless of shadows)

The Groundhog Day ceremony held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centering on a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil, has become the most frequently attended ceremony. The first official Groundhog Day celebration took place on February 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It was the brainchild of local newspaper editor Clymer Freas, who sold a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters—known collectively as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club—on the idea.

The men trekked to a site called Gobbler's Knob, where the inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news when he saw his shadow.



Nowadays, the yearly festivities in Punxsutawney are presided over by a band of local dignitaries known as the Inner Circle. Its members wear top hats and conduct the official proceedings in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. (They supposedly speak to the groundhog in "Groundhogese.")

WHEN THE MOON HITS YOUR EYE

submitted by Barry Morvai

Hello and welcome to the valentines (and shortest) month on the calendar. Last month I discussed comets, so this month I thought I would follow up with planetary volcanoes lol kidding how about asteroids. Asteroids are small rocky objects that orbit the sun, not unlike the planets in our solar system. The "main asteroid belt" that resonates between Mars and Jupiter is thought to house around 200 rocks that are over 100 km in diameter. It may also contain between 1.1 and 1.9 million rocks larger than 1 km in diameter. The earth does get hit by celestial objects all the time. Some are small and some are planet killers sorry for the scary term but it does happen. If you ever get a chance, I recommend a trip to Arizona to see the Barringer crater. It's an impact crater that's nearly a mile wide and 560 feet deep and happened around 50,000 years ago. It is quite a site to see and gives you an idea of what a piece of rock about 160 feet across can do, at what's thought to be, a speed of 29,000 mph so they believe.



Although most asteroids maintain a general orbit, they do get "thrown" off by Jupiter's gravity, which has sent them in any and all directions into space. Yes, even into earth. The last big one being, of course, 65 million years ago. The rock that collided with earth was only 3 miles wide, but hit with the force of 10,000 nuclear warheads kinda sounds like I'm quoting Armageddon eh?

In December, I was fortunate enough to see what I believed to be a meteor streaking across the night sky. According to Nasa, a meteor is a piece of an asteroid that has broken off somewhere "out there" in its travels.

There are three composition classes of asteroids. C-, S-, and M:

C-type are the most common and are believed to consist of clay and silicate rocks and are dark in appearance. They are the most ancient objects in the solar system.

S-type are made up of silicate and nickel-iron.

M-type are metallic in nature with the center being nickel-iron and the outer layer consisting of volcanic lava kinda like an M and M peanut lol.

So now that you're nearly asleep from reading all that, here's what's happening in the night sky for February



Feb 1 - **new moon**. If it's relatively mild outside, this is a good time to see planets and other celestials in the sky.

Feb 16 - **full moon**. The natives referred to this as "snow moon" as the snows were heaviest at this time of year and made hunting difficult, which is why it's also called "hunger moon".

Feb 16 - Mercury at greatest western elongation. The best time for viewing is in the morning, where it can be viewed low in the eastern sky.

And there you have it folks. All the best for February and enjoy your evening viewing.

What was most significant about the lunar voyage was not that men set foot on the moon but that they set eye on the earth.

Norman Cousins

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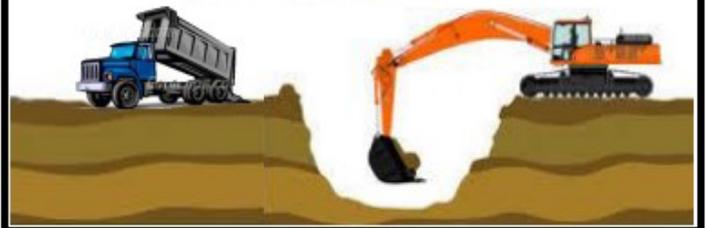
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The **Wasa Recreation Society** manages the Wasa Community Hall. The main objective is to have a Community Hall that is viable for events and recreation of the community. Through fundraising, volunteering and rentals, we are able to have an economical community hall for our community. The Recreation Society meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., in the basement. The meetings are open for anyone wanting to attend with new ideas or becoming part of the Society committee.

- **Hall Rentals and Information:** Karen Markus 250.422.3514 or Bonnie Meena 250.422.3795
- **Gym:** Sonia Blackwell 250.421.3019 or Rod 250.422.3253
- **TOPS:** Susan 778.524.0012
- **Library:** Marg Burrin 250-422-3565
- **Quilter's Club:** Linda Sundgaard 250.421.0843
- In addition, BINGOs are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month - 6 months of the year, at the Wasa Hall. See details in the calendar. Early bird starts at 6:30 p.m. & regular at 6:45 p.m.

VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Are you new to the Community? Recently retired and have time on your hands? Want to meet neighbours? Just love to get involved and give back? We might be able to help with that!

Because our Communities are small, we rely very heavily upon Volunteers. And there are so many areas that would benefit from any skills you have to share. I encourage you to take a look at the list below and call existing members to see where you can help out.

Wasa & District Lions Club, Bingo, Wasa Recreational Society, Armchair Traveler, Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter, Wasa Gym, Wasa Community Library, Wasa Lake Land Improvement, Wasa Pancake Breakfast, Wasa & District Historical Association/Garden Group are a few of the areas that would welcome new members. Step up, step out, expand your horizons. We would love to see you!

"Volunteering is a work of heart"

INVASIVE SPECIES ENTER THE FERAL PIG

When I think of feral pigs, I think of South America, or Africa Did you know British Columbia has wild pigs?! Although predominantly on the West coast, they can be found throughout the province. Saskatchewan will soon have more wild pigs, than people! Alberta launched a "squeal on pigs" campaign to address the problem earlier this year, and this month the animals breached a national park in that province for the first time.



A small population of feral pigs were first reported around the Dawson Creek area, back in 1990 - though they may have been prowling our forests before this. They are the descendants of domestic pigs that have escaped to the wild and may or may not have mated with wild pigs. Populations have been reported from the Thompson-Okanagan, Peace, Chilcotin, and Kootenay regions. They have been introduced and eradicated from Vancouver Island.

Feral pigs are large omnivores, and threaten amphibians, ground-nesting birds, crustaceans, small mammals, mollusks, and reptiles. They are a serious threat to BC native wildlife. They damage crops, prey on livestock and can transmit diseases to livestock, such as swine brucellosis. The animals will revert to their traditional, boar-like characteristics in just a few short generations, with their coats or hair changing colour. Their tusks can grow, and they will also become more aggressive than domestic pigs. Feral pigs prefer to live close to fresh water and seriously damage wetland ecosystems by creating mud "wallows". An adult female pig can produce several litters under ideal conditions, each with 10+ piglets. Once established in an area populations can grow rapidly.

Feral pigs resemble domestic pigs, but their bodies are covered in coarse, dark hair and they may have tusks. Generally, there is variation in the size and colour of these animals, but typically they are brown with males weighing 60-200 kg, while females weigh 35-150 kg.



Wild pigs are legal to hunt in B.C. with a licence, but Gail Wallin (executive director of the Invasive Species council) prefers that people take a photo if they can and report the pigs to her organization or the province's RAPP line.

If one pig in a group is killed, the rest will scatter and establish separate, dispersed groups, making it harder to get the population under control,

I have a question for our TriVillage residents - have you ever seen a feral pig in our area?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/invasive-feral-pigs-bc-1.6226472>

<https://bcinvasives.ca/invasives/feral-pig/>

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/alerts/feral_pig_alert.pdf#:~:text=Yes.%20Within%20B.C.%2C%20feral%20pigs%20have%20been%20reported,WHAT%20SHOULD%20I%20DO%20IF%20I%20FIND%20ONE%3F



**Wasa Community
Library**

call Marg Burrin
@ 250-422-3565 or

Rose Smith @ 250-422-3088

We close for summer
and Christmas holidays

Located in our Community Hall,
Wasa Community Library will open

Tuesdays in February From 11:00 am - 12:00 p.m.
We have a wide variety of books for you to browse through
and borrow.

The library will be open every Tues except holidays.
The Library Volunteers: Marg Burrin & Rose Smith
Thank you

WHY BUZZ?

Aaaww the ever-present Tri-Village Buzz (almost) every month you will find it either in your email inbox, or one of the big yellow boxes you can find in Wasa. A newsletter that has been around for close to **17 years**. Kept alive by our awesome advertisers, the contributions of which help to cover the costs of printing and postage. The random financial donations, which help cover the gift certificates won by contest participants And the many, many individuals who, over the years, have submitted articles every month.

We exist to entertain, inform and acknowledge our Tri-Village community.

FREE advertising includes:

- birthday wishes
- obituaries
- local interest stories
- fundraising for non-profit organizations
- notices of community events

So if you need to get the word out about ANYTHING taking place in the TriVillage Community, and you have advance notice of the event, please contact us, so we can help you get the word out! :)

Some ground rules you may not realize.

- We will not publish politically sensitive articles.
- There are advertising costs for any submission designed to create an income for a business or individual, ie the advertising you see throughout, advertising your garage sales, etc.
- The deadline for submissions is always the 15th of the month prior (ie. February 15th for March, etc.)

We ONLY exist because of faithful, loyal submitters who send in their articles and stories every month. And like any organization, we experience a bit of turn-over, due to individuals moving away, retiring or otherwise becoming unavailable to continue their commitment.

Which means we are always on the look out for new talent!! Is there a subject you would like to see covered in more detail? A new series you would like to see start? Have an idea of something that can make a regular appearance?

Give us a shout!!
We want to hear from you!
trivillagebuzz@gmail.com



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LOGO CORRECTION!

In January's article by Dennis Walker, I mistakenly used the wrong logo. My apologies - Google is NOT always your friend. The logo should have been:



HEARTS LIKE WILDFLOWERS

I hope you are blessed with a heart like a wildflower.

Strong enough to rise again after being trampled upon, tough enough to weather the worst of the summer storms, and able to grow and flourish even in the most broken places.

Nikita Gill



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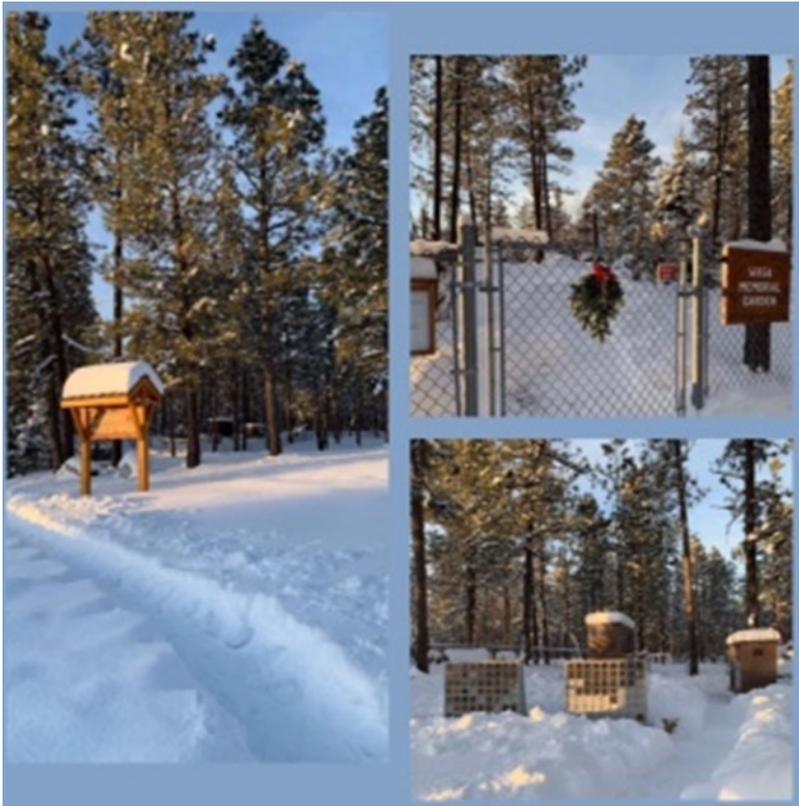
250.422.3414
1.800.477.9996

info@kootenaymonument.ca

Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Sherry Shields

SO MUCH SNOW!



The garden is covered with a blanket of snow. Thank you to Bruce and Pat Walkey for shovelling a pathway from the parking lot to the garden and around the columbarium and plaque sites.

Also thank you to Judy Reimer for the welcoming wreath on the garden gate.

Our garden holds in its arms so many cherished memories of residents of our community. This January on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon a long time member of the community was taken to their final home on snowshoes. What a thoughtful loving tribute.

If interested in volunteering at the garden please contact

Sherry Shields @ 250-919-7887 © or email slshields27@gmail.com

2019 Columbarium Niche & Plaque Costs

UNIT 1 Columbarium

Upper levels - \$1000.00 + engraving
Bottom Row - \$900.00 + engraving

UNIT 2 Columbarium (new)

Niche cost - \$1100.00 + engraving

Niche Engraving - \$275.00

Memorial Plaque - \$300.00

(engraving costs are subject to change)

Contact info:

Pat Walkey @ 250 422-3530 or
pwalkey@shaw.ca.

To My Valentine in Heaven

I have a 'Special Valentine'

Who waits in Heaven above ...

Tho I can no longer send a special card,

I still send my eternal love ...

They never are forgotten,

Especially on this date ...

I know in life I was so, so blessed,

To have found my 'True Soulmate' ...



Mary G.

KOOTENAY RIPPLES

There are a few books remaining for sale.

\$50.00/ea

Contact Pat Walkey @ 250 422-3530 or
pwalkey@shaw.ca.

From the Community - to the Community: Winter has come upon us and I want to give a big Thanks for all the volunteers who make this a good community to live in.

Thanks goes to Mike for making the cross-country trail in the provincial park. It is nice to have our own trail for some exercise and get outdoors in this COVID time. Mike has made a walking trail beside the ski trail so a little hike can happen. Thanks Mike.

Thanks goes to the guys keeping the rink going. A lot of work has happened to make the ice and keep the rink clean with all the excess snow this year. Thanks guys.

Thanks to whoever plowed out the parking lot down at the rink. Please share the rink with everyone.

Thanks to all the people trying to make our community a vibrant one.

Bylaw 3098 is known as Regional District of East Kootenay, Wasa Recreation contribution Service Parcel Tax Roll. The amount of the tax for the next five years will be:

2022	\$45.00
2023	\$34.00
2024	\$34.00
2025	\$35.00
2026	\$36.00

Thank You for the support that everyone has given for the existing recreation facilities/

Bylaw No.3106 and bylaw No. 3107 (wasa/ Kaljac Consulting)

They applied to change 16 Hectares from Commercial (C1) Highway frontage to change to RR4 - Rural Residential (Hobby Farm). This property is across the highway from the hardware and that at one point it was designated for a golf course and campground. This new zoning will only create four residential lots.

Volunteer of the Year: The RDEK is once again on the search for outstanding nominees for our annual Electoral Area Volunteer of the Year Awards. Nominees must be a full-time resident of an Electoral Area (cannot reside in an incorporated municipality) and make voluntary contributions to the spirit, culture or people of their community/area.

The nomination form is available on <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/volunteer> and the nomination deadline is February 11, 2022. Paper copies of the nomination form are also available through our office for anyone without computer access. You can also find a list of past award recipients on the project page (and when you read it, you really get a sense for how many incredible people we have in our communities!).

I hope everyone has a great month.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 250-427-2577 or email me s.janewalter@gmail.com

*You don't have to be
great to start,
but you have to start
to be great.*

Zig Ziglar



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Safety guidelines and things you need to know:

- Minimum of 2 people in the Gym at all times
- All users must sign in with date and time
- All users must sign a Wasa Recreation Programs User Waiver located at the sign in desk
- All users are required to wear "gym shoes" – no street shoes permitted
- All users must use the safety key on the Walking Machines
- Cost is a loonie or twoonie
- Have fun and be safe!

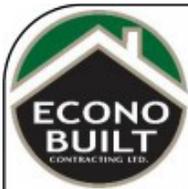


GYM HOURS AND INFO

**For Gym Schedule
please contact:
Sonia Blackwell at
250.421.3019 or
Rod at 250.422.3253**



We're open to suggestions, give us a call if you know 2 or more people that would like to attend at a time not indicated.



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Stuffy Nose: Mix a teaspoon of apple cider vinegar in a glass of water and drink. This helps sinus drainage.

Sore Throat: As soon as you feel the prickle of a sore throat, employ germ-busting apple cider vinegar to help head off the infection at the pass.

Muscle Relaxant: add 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar and a little honey to a glass of water and drink to ease nighttime leg cramps

Toothpaste: The vinegar helps remove stains, whiten teeth, and kill bacteria in your mouth and gums.



Donate your BOTTLE & CAN RECYCLING to the Wasa Lions.
Support Local Scholarships and Grounds Maintenance.

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Rick: 250-793-7836



God rest you merry gardeners
Let nothing ye dismay,
For Spring is soon to come again
With lengthening of days,
The sun will warm the soil once more
And send Jack Frost away.
Oh tidings of composting and Joy!
Compost and joy!
Oh tidings of composting and joy!

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11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday
January, February, March & April

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Get your travel photos in!!

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Your picture will be featured in the current issue of the Buzz "2022 Where do you take Your Buzz" contest.

Email: trivillagebuzz@gmail.com



Remember the old saying; A place for everything and everything in it's place?

This is true, even at our local Transfer Stations. The time of spring clean up, is almost upon us and we can all use a reminder of what is acceptable at our Transfer Stations - and what is not.

We are privileged to have transfer stations that are so easily accessible to us, day or night, 365 days a year - without extra fees required to gain entry. But this may not continue if the current transfer stations continue to see the 'abuse' that has taken place in the not-so-recent past.



The sign that greets you as you drive down towards the drop off areas is very clear and concise about what is allowed and what isn't in the different areas of the Transfer Station in Wasa. And where it should be placed.

We have another reminder by the main bins:



Unfortunately, there are individuals who don't pay attention to the signs



We, as a community, need to do better, there is no question. This is not a privilege we want to see disappear. But if 'history' repeats itself - it may well happen.

If your 'spring' cleaning won't fit in the bins, make alternate arrangements for its disposal. This could mean taking it back home, until the bins have been emptied. Or make the drive into Cranbrook?

Regardless, please **DO NOT** create the mess we've seen in past years.

Respect the community and do your part to keep it clean - and free.



WASA TRANSFER STATION - 7310 Prairie Rd (4 km South of Wasa Lake Park Drive on Hwy 93)

Services: residential garbage, residential recycling, residential yard and garden waste, residential wood waste, residential scrap metal and appliances

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

FORT STEELE TRANSFER STATION - 6400 Fort Steele Dump Rd (1 km East of Hwy 93/95 on Holmes Rd)

Services: residential garbage, residential recycling

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Wasa Community Church

*“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God” (1 John 4:7a).
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).*

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:10).

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:9-11).

These are just a few of the many verses in the Bible that tell us about the love of God. Three of them clearly tell us how He showed that love to humanity. Two of them show us how we should respond to that love. One of them encourages us that the love of God will never be shaken, nor will it ever fail.

To a God of perfection, we’re easily far from being loveable people, with all of our shortcomings, the mistakes we’ve made and the sins that we’ve committed. However, God still loves us humans, and the degree to which He loves us still amazes me. The Perfect One Himself came down from heaven, becoming human, only to take our punishment for sin upon Himself through the agonizing death that is crucifixion. I talk about Jesus’ death on the cross so often, but that’s alright with me. It’s the most powerful display to show me that He loves me.

We can’t just stop there, however. If we’ve come to know God’s love, we certainly need to share it. So many Christians fail there, including myself from time to time. When times like those strike, we need to realize that we’re not the source of true love. As the first verse says, “love comes from God.” That’s the love we need to rely on as we live our lives, trying to show love to one another. Our love can easily be shaken, and there are times where it fails, but God’s love is never shaken. It never fails.

Pastor Jon Malpass, Wasa Community Church, (250) 464-4419

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her secret is patience.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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The Lions Den Wasa & District Lions Club – Serving Wasa & Area since 1976
Lions Roar

submitted by Terry Marvel

The Wasa Lion's tennis and basketball courts have been in need of repairs for quite some time and we were looking into monies to allow us to update these facilities, but unfortunately, another road-block appeared. Our country kitchen propane stove has failed. This is an important item for the pancake breakfasts as well as revenue for our rental grounds during the summer and our New Year celebration. The stove is 50-some years old and replacement parts are not available any longer. The replacement stove will be around \$7000. We will be applying for grant money to purchase an new one and the Rec Society will apply as well. Hopefully we'll have it up and running by the first pancake breakfast date!

The Lion's Raffle tickets are going well and there are still some available. \$10.00 per ticket with \$1000.00 first prize and second prize of a handmade knife and gift cards worth \$440.00. Third prize will be gift cards worth \$240.00. Draw date is to be Feb.15, 2022 so get your tickets before they're all sold out! Tickets are available at the Post Office and Wasa Gas and Grocery. Contact any Lion's member as well.

There have been some concerns by skaters as to the use of the rink for general skating. The rink does get used by casual skaters and hockey players alike. We have designated times for the general public to skate and for the hockey users. They are posted at the rink and on websites. "No hockey 5-7 p.m. daily, Wednesday until 11 p.m. and Sunday 12-5 p.m." These hours are for casual skating.

Hopefully we are on the downside of winter now and can soon put away the snow shovels and take out the garden spades. That's positive thinking! Have a great February!

What did the French groundhog see on February 2nd? *His chateau*
 February 10th should be National Fart Day. *Because it's 2/10*



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- VERTICALS
- SOLAR SHADES
- ROLLER SHADES
- HORIZONTALS
- CELLULAR (INCLUDING BLACKOUT)
- TRANSITION SHADES



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WLLID Letters Patent Changes

Over the past year, the WLLID (ID) Board of Trustees reviewed its Letters Patent (LP). They were originally issued by the Provincial Government in late 1968. The full text can be found at www.wasalake.ca/history-of-wllid.

In 1983-1984, the Board sought and obtained a change to the Letters Patent that added this clause: "and the control of mosquitos and insects through chemical spraying and all matters incidental thereto."

On January 10th, 1997, the RDEK Board adopted Bylaw #1295 that was assented to (December 14th, 1996) by the electors of Wasa/Ta Ta Creek/Skookumchuk to establish a mosquito control service area which took the function away from the ID. Since then, the mosquito clause remained part of the WLLID LP.

The current WLLID Board of Trustees proposes to ID taxpayers that an amendment be sought to remove the mosquito stipulation in the LP. The Board also discussed the possibility of changing the name of Wasa Lake Land Improvement District to Wasa Improvement District.

The rationale for these changes is straight forward.

The RDEK's Bylaw #1295 removes the mosquito responsibility from the WLLID. Changing the LP is an acknowledgment of this fact, and should have been done 25-years ago.

At the last Board meeting (13 Jan. 2022), Trustee Nowell Berg proposed the name change, saying, "There has always been a disconnect for me between the Letters Patent focus on the 'quantity and quality of water' and the inclusion of land in the name." Given the focus on water, dropping Land creates less confusion about the ID's role at Wasa. Removing "Lake" from the name reflects the fact the Federal and Provincial governments refer to our community as Wasa, not Wasa Lake. Further, a shortened name streamlines communication and makes branding the ID much easier.

The down-side to any name change is cost. At this time, the Board does not know what that cost would be, but will present the best possible cost for making the change before it is officially adopted. If the cost is too high, then the Board would not seek a name change.

Initial contact with the Governance and Structure Branch, Local Government Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Ministry) indicates they would support a request for these two changes.

Government/Ministry approval will only be granted as long as community consultation is undertaken and there is support from taxpayers.

The September (2022) WLLID AGM will provide information and cost regarding the name change as well as gather feedback and input. The ID Board does not expect these proposed changes to be approved by the Ministry until summer or fall 2023.

Comments greatly appreciated: Email, admin@wasalake.ca.

The coyote (*Canis latrans*); an animal many love to hate, especially if they have small livestock, or small pets that reside outside. The coyote's range has increased since the arrival of Europeans and the reduction in wolf populations.



Coyote breeding season begins in late December (early January) until March when coyote pups are born in March and April. So keep an eye on your outdoor pets and such over the next couple of months. Understandably, the coyote will be on edge. Unlike wolves, coyotes are well-adapted to living close to human settlements and can help control rodent populations. As much as they may be a nuisance to some, they are an integral

part of the ecosystem. Removing them creates an imbalance that will impact everything else.



BRINGING the SALMON HOME

The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative

Indigenous-Led Vision

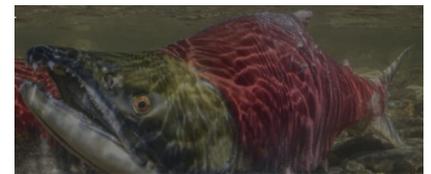
Bringing the Salmon Home: The Columbia River Salmon Reintroduction Initiative is an Indigenous-led collaboration of the Syilx Okanagan Nation, Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc Nation, Canada and British Colum-

bia. The Letter of Agreement was signed at an official ceremony on July 29, 2019 in Castlegar, BC. This is a three-year renewable commitment by the five governments to work together to look at the feasibility and options for reintroducing salmon into the Canadian side of the Columbia River. Salmon have been blocked from returning to the Canadian portion of the upper Columbia River for more than 80 years. The long-term vision is to return salmon stocks for Indigenous food, social and ceremonial needs, and to benefit the region's residents and ecosystems as a whole. Guiding this work are the Indigenous Nation-chaired Executive Working Group, Implementation Team, Technical Working Group, Indigenous Knowledge Guidance Committee, and a Communications Advisory Group. An Indigenous Nation hosts the Secretariat.

Historically, Pacific salmon occupied an extensive area of the upper Columbia River Basin upstream of Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams (located in Washington State). This area extended well into Canada and included distributions of sockeye and chinook salmon, as well as steelhead¹. The area in southeastern BC is the priority focus for the Bringing the Salmon Home initiative.

Sockeye Salmon - also known as Red Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)

Before Grand Coulee Dam blocked salmon passage in 1939, there were 14-18 nursery lakes for sockeye salmon across the entire upper Columbia River Basin. Within the Canadian portion, sockeye salmon inhabited the Upper Arrow, Lower Arrow, and Slocan Lakes, and may have also used Christina, Kinbasket, Windermere, and Columbia Lakes, although this distribution is highly uncertain. Spawning and incubation occurred in many of the tributaries to these lakes.



Chinook Salmon - also known as Spring, King, Tye (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Historically, spring, summer, and fall run chinook salmon inhabited extensive habitat within the Canadian Columbia River basin. The species had unrestricted access to the mainstem of the Columbia River throughout its course to Columbia Lake, the mainstem of the Pend d'Oreille River below Metaline Falls, and 80 kilometers of the Kootenay River and its tributaries below Bonnington Falls (including the Slocan River). Chinook salmon may have also utilized the Kettle River, but habitat is likely to have been restricted by a natural falls a short distance upstream of the US-Canada border.



<https://columbiariversalmon.ca/about/the-initiative/>

VALENTINE PICK UP LINES:

*Did you put Snickers in your valentines? Because you satisfy me.
This Valentine's Day, let's make like fabric softener and Snuggle.
Hey, didn't we have class together? I swear we have chemistry.
Is there an airport nearby or is that just my heart taking off?
Even if the earth didn't have gravity, I'd still fall for you.
Do You Have GPS? I Keep Getting Lost In Your Eyes.*



Spirituality and Politics

It is not uncommon to meet spiritual people who consider politics to be too mundane of an interest. Being a spiritual seeker should go along with being an involved citizen in social life. Doesn't the nobility of politics consist in seeking a way of living together, in seeking individual happiness within common harmony, in aiming for truth and building the collective good upon which the individual good depends? In this sense, politics is no longer a career in the service of personal ambitions but a Spiritual Exercise, an essential branch of philosophy, of the quest for wisdom. Indeed, the act of governing has been long understood as an exercise of solitary power over a country or state. Yet, the collective dimension of power, the complexity of the decision-making process, the multiplication of the groups of pressure and interests and of counter powers make the political power not only more fuzzy and opaque but also more corrupt.

If any politics is intended to raise the threshold of happiness for every human being, then Spirituality and Politics possess a serious common ground.

This is very well illustrated by the life of the Great Spiritual and Enlightened Master Sri Aurobindo. Sri Aurobindo (*August 15, 1872, in Calcutta - December 5, 1950, in Pondicherry*) was one of the main founders of the militant Indian independence movement, and a spiritualist philosopher, poet and writer, who developed a new approach to yoga called "Integral Yoga". After his studies in Cambridge, England (1879-1893), he returned to India and began to study the great traditions of his country. Struck by the condition of his patriots whom he had left young to go study, he became

a fervent nationalist convinced that his country should regain its independence. Little by little, it seemed to him that, in order for his country to regain its independence, it had to rely on its own cultural heritage which intimately linked philosophy and spiritual inquiry. He himself then entered a search for spiritual powers that would allow him to better fight for the independence of India. His meeting with a great Master of his time and practitioner of yoga named "Bhaskar Lele" allowed him, he says, to access the state of consciousness free from thoughts, which he considered to be the premise of Enlightenment. According to Sri Aurobindo, as it is at our Ashram, the Adi Vajra Shambhasalem in Wasa, British Columbia, Canada, the Conscious Path of our Evolution is to be sought in the development of our own Spiritual Capacities. According to him, a more radical development of the spiritual capacities already explored by mankind would one day lead to the Awakening of a still quiet and Supra-Conscious dimension. The manifestation of such a Dimension of Consciousness would mark the evolutionary leap specific to the manifestation of a new species, in which the "Mental Man" would be replaced by the "Conscious Man".

My own Spiritual Master used to remind us that if we want to better the world, we need to better ourselves. This means that we should grow spiritually to infuse the Wisdom acquired by our Proximity to the Divine Force into the world, as the world doesn't need more politics but more Wisdom.

Plato, the Greek philosopher, believed that political wisdom was one type of Practical Wisdom or "prudence", and that the goal of politics should be the happiness or well-being

of society, or what we might label as the "common good". But such happiness requires people to live according to objective reason and to be virtuous. He thought that the true student of politics must have studied virtues above all things. Among virtues he identified or suggested are moral virtues such as courage, temperance, justice, self-discipline, moderation, gentleness, modesty, humility, generosity, friendliness, truthfulness, humor and honesty. All these are nothing other than the qualities of a true Yogi. In spirituality or politics, intellectual virtues of Practical Wisdom are necessary. As for a spiritual seeker, Plato says that: "The work of man is achieved only in accordance with Practical Wisdom as well as moral virtue, for virtue makes us aim at the right mark, and Practical Wisdom makes us take the right means."

We can understand here that Politics and Spirituality should not be separated, for if there is no Spiritual Wisdom in politics then what are politics for? We should always encourage and support the wisest and most enlightened people in Politics. We should call for wise men and wise women to take action in the world. A wise politician should be able to see the reality of present society as it is and act according to the necessity of the moment for the benefit of as many people as possible.

May Spirituality and Politics cooperate more and more for the salvation of our world before it is too late for humanity! Ask for and seek Wisdom from our politicians before all electoral strategies and pray often for their protection, as their task is one of the most difficult there is.

With Love and Blessings in the Lord.
OM OM OM
H. H. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



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Lotto ~ ATM

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February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 	3	4	5
6 Church 10:30 am	7	8 	9	10	11 	12
13 Church 10:30 am	14 	15	16 	17	18	19
20 Church 10:30 am	21 	22	23 	24	25	26
27 Church 10:30 am	28					

LEGEND

Church Service 10:30 a.m. Lions 7 p.m.
 Rec Society 7 p.m. Quilters 10 - 4
 Library; tuesdays 11 - 1 Bingo 6:30 p.m.
 Armchair Traveller 7:30 p.m.
 Tops; friday 9 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS and Days Down the Road

- February 15 - Wasa Lions raffle draw date

You can help bats hibernate safely this winter:

- Avoid disturbing bat hibernation sites, such as caves and mines.
- Consider placing a bat box on your property to provide suitable roosts.
- As long as its safe to do so, leave dead and decaying trees in place as these provide important bat roost sites.



<https://www.wildliferescue.ca/>



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- BC Wildfire..... *5555.....or.....1.800.663.5555
- Catamount Contracting.....250.422.3694
- Conservation - Emergency.....1.877.952.7277
- Cranbrook/Kimberley Hospice.....250.417.2022
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