



FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

November 2021    ISSUE 245

Visit: [www.wasalake.com](http://www.wasalake.com)

## Letters From the Front

*"When an air raid occurs, you've got to tumble off your bed (three planks of wood), grab your steel helmet and spend hours in the dug-out until the fun is over. Sometimes, it lasts about two hours, so it's no joke. But it's an amazing sight, watching the searchlights probing the skies, hearing the drone of the planes, the terrific burst of the anti-aircraft guns, and the still noisier bombs from the 'Jerry' planes."*

Every Remembrance Day during the two minutes of silence, while the haunting strains of the "Last Post" play, I visualize my uncle, Norman Parker, manning anti-aircraft guns in the Western Desert Campaign in North Africa during World War II.

My impressions come from a small bundle of letters from relatives and friends of my parents that I found among my late mother's possessions. The letters bear three-penny postage stamps and an indelible blue ink rubber stamp reading, "Passed By Censor."

I believe my mother kept these particular samples as they offer congratulations on my birth on November 4, 1941:

*"I'm very glad to hear about the new arrival in the family. It certainly is a very nice name you have chosen for her. I am looking forward to seeing her very much, and I hope it will not be very long before I am back,"* wrote Uncle Norman.

These letters offer a sanitized glimpse of a soldier's life at the front. The idea was to retain confidentiality and to downplay the terrors of the war to shield loved ones at home.

The first letter from the pile is dated October 2, 1941, and reads:

*"A line or two from Egypt. I've been here for about two months now. And though I've searched about for what novelists often describe as 'that lure of the desert' or 'the romance of the desert,' I've found nothing but sand, sand and more sand."*

Another letter offers the following description:

*"The only place that I have found with a bit of colour is where we are camped at now. It is really quite pretty here, as there are masses of all sorts of wildflowers, the prettiest of which are real poppies, and they are blood red, and certainly a sight for sore eyes in the desert."*

continued pg 4

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# WHEN THE MOON HITS YOUR EYE .....

submitted by Barry Morvai

Hello people, I know it's the 11th month, but this is my one year anniversary since submitting articles to the Buzz ..... yay me! 😊 I sometimes wonder what I'm going to write about, but once I sit down with the laptop, it just sort of comes together ..... in case anyone was wondering.

On the evening of October 11, we were shown the Aurora borealis in all its glory. What an amazing site to be seen in the east Kootenays. I say that because we rarely get to see these northern lights this far south. These lights were "dancing" in the sky for well over two hours and we spent the better part of an hour getting pics.



So, without getting into technical jargon ..... the earth's magnetic field is disturbed by the sun's charged particles. Sometimes more prevalent after a solar storm. The solar wind blows the charged particles around the north and south poles. In the north, we call them Aurora Borealis, but in the south, they are known as Aurora australis. The lights have been seen as far south as Kentucky.

I hope you had as much fun viewing them as we did!

Moving right along, here's what's happening in the night sky for the month of November.

**Nov 4 - New moon.** Always a great time to view faint objects in the night sky.

**Nov 4,5 - Taurids meteor shower.** This long running shower runs annually from Sept 7 to Dec 10 and produces around 5-10 meteors per hour. It peaks on Nov 4, and the new moon will make viewing that much more spectacular.

**Nov 5 - Uranus at opposition.** The blue-green planet will be at its closest approach to earth and will be fully illuminated by the sun. Although it will be visible all night long, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot without the aid of a telescope.

**Nov 17,18- Leonids meteor shower.** This shower produces up to 15 meteors per hour on a regular yearly basis. The Leonid's has a unique cycle though, where every 33 years it produces hundreds per hour and the last one occurred in 2001.

**Nov 19 - Full moon.** This moon will be slightly different as there will also be a partial lunar eclipse that will be visible to most of the northern hemisphere. This moon is also known as Beaver moon as natives would set their traps before the swamps and rivers froze. Other names for this moon include Frost moon, Freezing moon, Digging moon, Deer rutting moon and Whitefish moon. Kinda feels like winter is fast approaching huh?

So there ya go folks. A little more knowledge for you to impress your friends with.

Have an enjoyable November and happy viewing!!







## What's Happening at the Community Hall in November and December?

### **Bingo**

November bingo will not be held as October bingo had very low numbers. We have decided the community is not quite ready to go forward with this event for November.

Good news is there will be Bingo on December 14. We will be adhering to the guidelines of the BC Health Authority. Watch for more info closer to the date.

### **Flu Clinic**

Lisa will be coming out to the Wasa Community Hall for a flu clinic on Friday, November 19, 2021 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Consent forms must be filled out before the flu shot is administered. The form can be downloaded from the Facebook Wasa Community Page announcement or the Wasa Community Hall outside bulletin board (limited amount).

### **Library**

The library will be open every Tuesday in November from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. There is a wonderful selection of books. At this time the library is getting very low use. In the new year we will determine if it is worthwhile to continue with this program at the Community Hall. If you are unable to come during this time, please call Marg Burrin (250 422-3565) for an appointment and she will be pleased to open the library for you.

***Supporting local events keeps our community and facilities viable.***

Karen Markus

Wasa Community Hall

6145 Wasa School Road, Wasa BC

Mailing Address: Box 164, Wasa BC V0B 2K0

Hall Bookings Contacts: Karen Markus 250-422-3514 or Bonnie Meena 250-422-3795

### ***DID YOU KNOW??***

Not only does the TriVillage Buzz make every effort to keep you informed of community events, historical trivia, etc. We will also be honoured to publish personal thank you notes, obituaries, etc. free of charge.

I cannot stress enough, the Buzz is here to serve the community, keep the community informed of past and upcoming events, and entertain with thought provoking human interest articles.

So send in your poems, your anecdotes,  
your stories, your events -  
to [trivillagebuzz@gmail.com](mailto:trivillagebuzz@gmail.com)



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## Letters From the Front, continued

Other letters refer to the living conditions:

*“We’ve been having intermittent sandstorms; the sand, which is fine and powdery, is whipped up by the wind, accompanied by a whining noise, and you can’t see three feet ahead. Everything becomes covered by desert, your food, blankets, etc. But you get used to it.”*

The letters also mention the names of battles that took place in the Western Desert Campaign including Bardia, Sollum, Halfaya and Sidi Rezegh, without going into any details except to add:

*“We had a good share of the action,” or “We were on the run, and inevitably, “We didn’t get much sleep or a decent wash.”*

One letter gives an account of an air raid:

*“Once I saw a plane caught in the searchlight, as a resort to getting out, dive right down the beam, and the bullets from its machine guns going right down into the light. When the shells or bombs come your way, they whistle.”*

From the sketches in the letters, days off offered a sense of relief. *“A decent meal, bath and show, and believe me, one needs it here.”*

Leave comprised visits to places such as Cairo and Alexandria.

*“I have been very fortunate in being able to see quite a fair bit of the cities in this country as I was stationed outside Cairo for just over a month. I have been out to see the Pyramids and the Sphinx and to most of the mosques, and it was really very interesting. Cairo has a huge population.”*

Another account gave his impressions of Alexandria:

*“Alexandria is a blending of the new with the old, the East with the West. It’s an oriental city, white buildings, square-topped, dust, heat and thousands of uniforms. I never want to see another uniform after this war.”*

Norman was spared and returned home safely to become an enormous influence on my life. As a young child, he was my fairy godfather showering me with treats or a coveted half crown on each visit.

As a teen, he became my mentor, encouraging me to study hard and rewarding me with a camera on completing high school. On my wedding day, he drove me to the church and said, “You make a beautiful bride.” He delivered the toast to the bride and groom, ending with a line from “Ode to the West Wind” by Percy Bysshe Shelley: “If winter comes can spring be far behind?”

Considering the difficulties he overcame fighting in World War II, I didn’t anticipate anything as challenging ahead of me.

He was my role model my entire life. He was highly principled, fiercely patriotic and believed in doing his duty, which made him a hero in my eyes. He was not only a perfect gentleman but also a gentle man. I can’t imagine what my life would have been without his guidance and nurturing.

Each Remembrance Day, as I fondly recall all he did for his country and me, I am overcome with melancholy as I despair at all the lost lives and empty places in other families. We can never forget the sacrifices of these men.

Penny Heneke, Burlington, Ontario (<https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/canada/remembrance-day-veteran-stories/>)



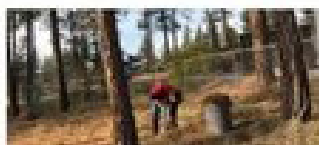
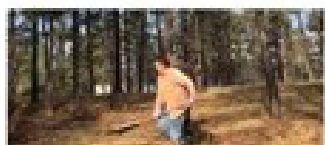


# Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly

It's an obvious fact that people can do things more quickly and easily when they work together. The Memorial Garden fall clean-up happened on Oct. 5th. It was a BIG job but thankfully, many hands make light work. A **BIG** thank you to **ALL** the volunteers who came out and generously shared your time and muscles to get the garden winter ready. There were so many pine needles this year - we filled two trailers! The Memorial Garden would not be possible nor look this good without your gift of volunteerism so many, many thanks!

If interested in volunteering at the garden please contact  
Sherry Shields @ 250-919-7887 © or email slshields27@gmail.com



## KOOTENAY RIPPLES

There are a few books remaining for sale.

\$50.00/ea

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

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.”

by Robert Laurence Binyon

## 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.

## Wasa Lions Medical Equipment Loan Cupboard

A recent Injury? Plans for Surgery? The Lions may be able to assist with a 3-month loan of Medical Equipment.

For Loan information or Equipment Donations to the Cupboard

Contact: Sharon 250 422-3227 or Jocelyn 250 505-4752



## PUMPKIN CHALLENGE - Tri-Village Style

submitted by Sherry Shields



This spring I joined the Top Crop Great Pumpkin Challenge 2021.

I planted my 2 seeds in late April in the house. They became Pete and Paddy Pumpkin. These 2 plants along with 2 Pie Pumpkins named Barbie 1 & 2, 1 watermelon named Sherlock because I wasn't sure what he was and 1 spaghetti squash named Luigi made up my squash garden. Sherlock produced 1 very tiny little melon. Luigi produced an amazing amount of spaghetti squash along with some interesting cross over squash that look like a fat narrow pumpkin. SO many pretty little orange pie pumpkins scattered throughout the patch. Pete and Paddy produced 9 varying size giant pumpkins.

Challenge weigh on Oct 2, we took 4 of the largest pumpkins in to be weighed. The largest weighing in at 209 lbs, total weight of the 4 was 743 lbs and our guesstimate of total pumpkins to be 1500 lbs.

Winning pumpkin in challenge was 289 lbs. Pumpkin challenge was a fun and learning experience. GAME on for 2022.

Where  
do you  
take your  
Buzz?

*The year is slowly coming to an end - and draws closer to someone winning a \$50 gift certificate to one of our amazing Tri-Village Buzz advertisers!! Where do you take your Buzz?*

*Take a photo of you with the Buzz and email your travel story to me. Get your travel photos in!!*

*Let's make it a real competition for this amazing prize!!*

Your picture will be featured in the current issue of the Buzz "2021 Where do you take Your Buzz" contest.

Email: [trivillagebuzz@gmail.com](mailto:trivillagebuzz@gmail.com)

### 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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[info@kootenaymonument.ca](mailto:info@kootenaymonument.ca)

## Wasa Community Church



There are a few Johns in the Bible. For instance, there's John Mark, a writer of one of the four Gospels. Another writer of a Gospel is the disciple whose name was John. Within his Gospel, we find yet another John, this time John the Baptist, and there's one very simple thing that he says in that Gospel that should speak to the life of every Christian:

***"He must increase, but I must decrease"*** (John 3:30).

Who must increase? John the Baptist speaks of Jesus. The word 'Christian' basically means Christ-follower. To have become a Christian is to have believed in what He's done for you in loving you enough to die for your sins on the cross and, on the third day afterward, rise again. Knowing that love to be true, you want to show Him love. Understanding how He gave His life for you, you give your life to Him. His goals become your goals. You want to accomplish what He has in mind for you. The priorities you had before choosing to follow Christ change, and living for Him becomes the main priority. Sure, you can still work to achieve success in this world. However, that kind of success should no longer mean as much to you as accomplishing the purposes of God.

This idea is in the mind of John the Baptist: ***"He must increase, but I must decrease."*** Strive less to accomplish my own purposes, work more toward Jesus'. Take less pride in myself, give more glory to Jesus. Think of myself less, think of others more, because as we serve others, we also serve Jesus. Of course, we never want to neglect ourselves. We do need to take care of ourselves. However, that's not the main focus of the Christian life. The Christian life is not about self. The Christian life is about Jesus. Let Jesus increase. Let self decrease.

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

### Open House



There was a great turnout to the Open House Wednesday October 6th night. Thank you to all who attended.

The display boards from the Open House have now been posted in the Key Documents section on the Wasa Recreation Contribution Service project page: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/wasarecreation>.

The RDEK is seeking direction from the community on whether to proceed with establishing the new service via an Alternative Approval Process (AAP). If 10% of the 708 eligible electors sign & submit elector response forms in opposition, the service cannot proceed without first holding a referendum.

Elector response forms are available on the project page & through the RDEK's office & can be submitted **between October 15 & 4:30pm November 17, 2021**.

If you have questions, you can use the Q&A tool on the project page, or contact RDEK staff or your Electoral Area E Director:

- **SERVICE DETAILS / ELECTOR ASSENT PROCESS QUESTIONS:**

Tina Hlushak, Corporate Officer  
250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335  
thlushak@rdek.bc.ca

- **TAXATION / FINANCE QUESTIONS:**

Holly Ronnquist, CFO  
250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335  
hronnquist@rdek.bc.ca

- **AREA DIRECTOR:**

Jane Walter, Electoral Area E  
Director  
250-427-2577  
director.walter@rdek.bc.ca



## Helping Bats at Halloween

Bat box time for maintenance: Fall is the perfect time to check that your bat box is watertight and clean, ready to offer a safe roosting site for bats in spring. Photo: Habitat Acquisition Trust

As Halloween approaches, images of scary bats become commonplace. This is the perfect time of year to counter bat myths and do something to help bats, by taking part in International Bat Week (October 24-31).

Bat Week is all about appreciating these amazing animals and their benefits, including eating insects, pollinating flowers, and spreading seeds and nutrients.

Take a moment to learn about the many ways bats contribute to our lives, and what you can do locally for bats, at [www.batweek.org](http://www.batweek.org) or through the BC Community Bat Program at [www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca). Research bats online, watch a bat cam (e.g. <https://batworld.org/bat-cams/>), help restore a wetland, learn about bat-friendly community initiatives, clean and maintain your bat box for next spring... there are many ways to participate and support bats. Check our Facebook page for the upcoming quiz.

"Bats in BC help control agricultural and forest pests, as well as mosquitoes in our yards – but now bats need our help," said Mandy Kellner, Coordinator for the BC Community Bat Program.

"The conservation of bats in B.C. has always been important, since over half the species in this province are considered at risk. With the continuing spread of White-nose Syndrome in Washington State, bat conservation is more important than ever as we expect to see impacts in BC in the near future."

Bat Week marks the time of year when bats disappear from our neighbourhoods, until the return of warmer weather in spring. As insect-eaters, our B.C. bats must leave their summer roost sites and migrate or hibernate to survive the winter.

If you do see a bat in winter, please report it. Monitoring for white-nose syndrome in B.C. will continue this winter, with Community Bat Programs requesting reports of dead bats or sightings of winter bat activity.

In partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment, and funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Habitat Stewardship Program, Columbia Basin Trust and the Kootenay Conservation Program, the Kootenay Community Bat Program provides information and promotes local stewardship and citizen science. You can report winter bat sightings, find out more about the BC Community Bat Program, BatWeek activities, and options for helping local bat populations, at [www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca), [info@bcbats.ca](mailto:info@bcbats.ca), or 1-855-922-2287.

<https://www.e-know.ca/regions/east-kootenay/helping-bats-at-halloween/>



image: *Myotis lucifugus*, Little Brown Myotis: the Little Brown Myotis is common and widespread across BC but endangered in Canada, and is expected to decline in B.C. due to WNS. Photo: M Schirmacher, Bat Conservation International



Poppies should always be worn on the LEFT side, over the heart. The red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that WW 1 formally ended.

## Firewood Permits

Members of the public who wish to cut firewood on Crown land for personal use must have a "Free Use Permit for Firewood" from each Natural Resource District where they intend to cut, issued by the appropriate District Manager or designate.

### **ONLY DEAD OR DOWNED TREES MAY BE CUT FOR FIREWOOD.**

There is no charge for this privilege, only a commitment to abide by a number of simple rules that are outlined in the permit. Each permittee must:

- **Carry the permit and associated maps at all times**
- **Read and understand the conditions of the permit prior to signing, conditions differ between districts**
- **Produce the permit at the request of a Natural Resource Officer, Conservation Officer or Peace Officer**

Cutting firewood on Crown land without this permit may result in confiscation of the wood and charges. It is up to the permit holder to determine whether they are cutting on "vacant Crown land" and not private land or First Nations reserves.

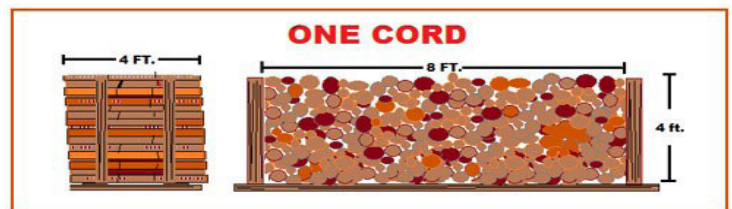
Moving firewood can spread invasive species and diseases. B.C.'s forests are threatened by non-native insects that can damage trees. Moving firewood from one area to another increases the risk of spreading disease, fungi and pests. Plan to burn firewood in the area where you collect it or buy it.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/natural-resource-permits/firewood-permits>

### **LOOKING TO SELL YOUR FIREWOOD? KNOW THE RULES .....**

Any firewood cut under this permit is for personal use only and cannot be sold. For information on commercial firewood cutting permits, please contact your local Ministry office and inquire about the Small Scale Salvage program. (Rocky Mountain Natural Resource District (DRM))

A cord of firewood will measure 4 ft. high by 8 ft. wide by 4 ft. deep, coming to a total volume of 128 cubic ft. As firewood can come in many different shapes and sizes, a cord of firewood is a stack of logs that have been packed together as tightly as possible to provide the most amount of firewood within the defined area. A face cord of firewood is typically a stack of firewood measuring 4 ft. high by 8 ft. wide by 16 inches deep.



### **NOVEMBER FACTS:**

The Anglo-Saxons also called the month of November "Blod Monath", or blood month. It gained this name as it's in November that they would traditionally slaughter cows to provide food for the long winter months.

The fifth of November marks a historic day in the UK. On this day in 1605, a group of Roman Catholics plotted to blow up the English Parliament while King James I was inside. Fortunately, the plot was foiled. Every year festivities are held across the country to celebrate the group's failure, which includes setting off countless fireworks, lighting bonfires, and even setting alight effigies of Guy Fawkes, one of the conspirators.

November 3, 1957, was a historic day for both Soviet Russia and the world. It was on this day that the first spacecraft carrying a live passenger was successfully launched into space. The passenger was Leika the dog, an unassuming looking stray pooch who had been found on the streets of Moscow. The Soviets used stray dogs in their tests because they assumed that they would be used to the hunger and cold that they would inevitably experience in outer space.



## The Lions Den Lion's Roar

*Wasa & District Lions Club – Serving Wasa & Area since 1976*

submitted by Terry Marvel

Well, it's definitely fall. The leaves have all turned now and lots have fallen. It's definitely time to drain the hoses and dig the root crops. There's been frost on the pumpkins for sure!

The Lion's are going to go ahead with the Trunk or Treat this year. See the poster in this issue. Bring the little ones out to the Lion's Grounds the evening of the 31st for hot dogs and hot chocolate and goodies.

The soffitting for the country kitchen has been ordered from Wasa Building Supplies and will be installed as weather permits.

We're looking forward to a fantastic winter of skating at the rink with the new boards installed. Huge thank you to all the people involved with that project and the many volunteers that are needed to keep the rink running for the skating season. Hopefully it will last a little longer with the application of paint on the north side of the ice to prolong the ice surface.

We will once again be doing our Christmas Light-up this year. The "judging" will be done December 19th, so get those lights and displays out there!

Happy Halloween to all!



### **STORY BEHIND MT. BILL NYE**

In response to many queries, the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) went on a quest to discover the naming of Mount Bill Nye. We contacted the Provincial Toponymist who searched the Geo Names Archives and Resources Library for the name origins of Mount Bill Nye.

According to her findings, the mountain was named on January 14, 1954.

Wasa and Tracey creeks were explored and staked actively in 1895-96. Among those staked was the 'Bill Nye'. The claim was bonded in 1898 to Spokane parties, and a 100-foot tunnel was forged.

Samples from the claim were submitted to the Paris Exposition in 1900, and they received a diploma of high award.

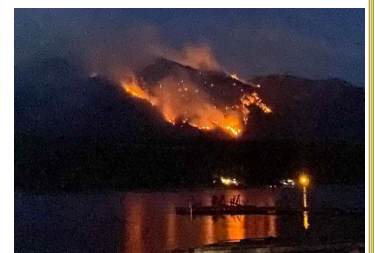
The original staker of the claim was William M. Violet, a prospector born in Nova Scotia, in 1854, according to the 1901 Census resident in Fort Steele.

Violet named the mine, and he presumably was familiar with the popular American humorist Edgar Wilson Nye (1850-1896), pen name "Bill Nye" derived from Bret Harte's famous poem 'The Heathen Chinees'.

Our best guess is that the mountain was named after Nye in 1953-54.

As a footnote, we did run down the Houston, B.C., First Nations chief Bill Nye and several other leads, but they did not stand the test of reason.

<https://basininstitute.org/blog/2021/08/18/best-guess-the-naming-of-mount-bill-nye/>







COME TREAT THE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS  
AT THE WASA LION'S GROUNDS

October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4 - 5 pm

Hosted by

Wasa Lions and Wasa Recreational Society

**SAM** (Safe in the arms of his BUB)

April 10, 2004 - September 29, 2021

Sam was born at Kootenay Lake to a feisty little Shitzu mama and an amorous Chihuahua papa.

His humans fell in love with this tiny little corn-cob while on a fishing trip to Bayshore on Kootenay Lake.

Sam lived a full and adventurous life (17 ½ years) with his mom and dad in Wasa. His time was shared with his loving Bub who lived next door. Sam enjoyed his play toys, which he would shake with vigor then toss them in the air. A smart little character he learned to sit, heal, high five, sneak & play dead.

Sams' favorite times of all were breakfast, supper and treat time. He especially enjoyed sharing his dad's bowl of cereal each morning AND spaghetti noodles.

Sam spent countless hours with his mom and dad fishing, hunting, hiking or doing yard work. His favorite was helping dad clean grouse. Grouse heart was an extra special treat.

Sam enjoyed his daily visits and walks with his Bub. An afternoon nap in the sun on his Bubs head after their walk was a treat they both enjoyed.

Sam was predeceased by; his Uncle Mikey a mixed breed Chow and his protector, Uncle Henry a Shepherd Lab cross that loved to play with him and his beloved Bub his other "Person" and faithful walking companion.

Sam touched the lives of many and was well known in the neighborhood as his bubs companion. His mom and dad and all his human family and friends will sadly miss him.

RIP our little man.



## M's Interiors

WINDOW TREATMENTS

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



**FREE CONSULTATIONS**

Call for an appointment

**250-489-9586**





## *It's a Joy*

submitted by Arla Monteith

How many of you write letters? As the holiday season approaches, have you considered a letter as your gift?

One of my favourite things to do is write letters.

From the time I learned to print I wrote letters to my grandmother. I numbered the sentences... 1. How are you? 2. I am fine. I found out later that after she died the letters were thrown out. I was disappointed as I felt that a part of me went with them. After my husband's mother died, I found letters written to her from her grandchildren. So I bundled them up and returned them. They were thrilled to get them back.

A few years ago I went up into our barn and found a box which said "Don't throw out!" on it. It was a box of memorabilia, mostly letters, that I had left at home after graduation. I opened it and spent a whole afternoon going down memory lane... reading letters from family, friends and even old boyfriends. I could feel their presence there with me. Next thing I know, I hear my husband calling me. I came out covered in the dust of the past and back into the present.

Handwritten letters are eternal and a part of my family's history. My great grandfather in Scotland was a Justice of the Peace and quite involved in politics. I have a handwritten note he had received from Prime Minister Asquith thanking him for helping him to get an important bill to pass. My great grandfather owned a sugar plantation in Cuba. I have handwritten correspondence between him and the plantation manager, dated 1866.

So letters are eternal. They live on.

Letters are powerful. Amnesty International, an organization that encourages the writing of letters to governments all over the world whose unfair policies suppress and abuse people. One hundred to five hundred individual letters piling up on desks are much more effective than a petition, a single sheet with lots of names on it that can get lost in the shuffle. A bit of time and a stamp enables you to help those in another world.

When I wrote letters by hand it was very time consuming and I would often end up with cramps in my hand... ouch! I loved it though and corresponded with many on a regular basis. The pen I used was important. I especially liked the old cartridge pens. I read somewhere that a pen is to a writer what a brush is to an artist. And there was the fancy paper with envelopes to match. I am not a shopper, but I do love shopping for stationery. Staples, here I come!!

With computers and word processors, letter writing is a much easier process these days. I do my letters on fancy paper.. it's fun... and I use stickers as well. And, the letters are much more legible from beginning to end. It's especially nice when writing to an elderly person with failing eyesight as I can bold the printing and make it larger too. I also send letters via email. However, my sister-in-law tells me that no matter how many emails she gets from me, my Christmas letter (via regular post) is one of her favourite parts of Christmas. She always looks forward to it as no one writes anymore and it is such a treat to get one.

I always looked forward to my visits to the post office, wondering who I would hear from today. This doesn't happen on a regular basis anymore but at Christmas that old feeling of anticipation returns. I can't wait to head out to the post office, pick up my mail, get home, make a coffee, then sit back and read my letters.

One morning in January of this year I was listening to NXNW (North by Northwest) on CBC radio. Natalie Lim was being interviewed about letter writing.. specifically handwritten ones. She asked people to write to her and she would return a handwritten poem. I did and I got a handwritten poem in return. She was flooded with letters and had to ask people not to send anymore.

If someone fails to respond after several times...keep writing. I used to quit until a friend told me that he and his wife kept writing to someone and eventually heard back. He had been going through a bad time but their letters kept him going.

What brings me the most pleasure is knowing the happiness I can bring to others by writing a letter. Even my husband enjoys reading my letters. He finds out what he has been up to.

So sit quietly, speak from your heart by writing to those you care about...even by hand. Make it your gift. It doesn't cost much. It's a joy, for them and for you.





## 2021 Volunteers of the Year Celebrated

The RDEK is celebrating its 2021 Electoral Area Volunteer of the Year award recipients.

"Year upon year we are constantly impressed with the level of volunteerism shown in our region," says RDEK Board Chair Rob Gay. "The 2021 award recipients have contributed to our rural communities in

so many ways. Publicly thanking them for their efforts, & generosity is our way off recognizing the impact they have made to make the East Kootenay such a great place to live."

This year's award recipients are:

- Area A – Kristina Bursey
- Area B – Walter Semeniuk
- Area C – Al Freeze
- Area E – Sharon Prinz
- Area F – Doug Charlton
- Area G – Phyllis Christensen

"The efforts of the Volunteer of The Year award Recipients will be felt throughout the East Kootenay for many years, from keeping community halls running smoothly to providing bicycles to some of Canada's newest residents. From search & rescue training through trail stewardship & outdoor recreational clubs, this year's volunteers of the year are continually making a difference," adds Gay.

### Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients Backgrounders

#### Area A – Kristina Bursey



Kristina is heavily involved in the Valley Riders Equestrian Club, the snowmobile club, young people's archery as well as PAC & other activities. She is the secretary-treasurer of the snowmobile club & takes a leading roll organizing events such as Snow-a-Rama. As treasurer of the Valley Riders, Kristina runs the twice weekly Horse Play Games & works extensively at the grounds. Kristina is also deeply involved in youth.

#### Area B – Walter Semeniuk

Walter came to Jaffray nearly 70 years ago to work for Galloway Lumber. He met & married his wife & they raised their children in the area. Walter has been a long time & deeply devoted member of the Jaffray Lions Club & Sand Creek Seniors. He was a past president of the Sand Creek Seniors & took care of the maintenance of the hall for many years.



#### Area C – Al Freeze



Al has been an outdoor recreation & trail advocate since the 1970s when he moved to the Elk Valley. Since retiring to Cranbrook in the mid 2000s he has been volunteering with the local outdoor recreation community. For a number of years he used his own equipment to groom the South Star cross country ski trails & is still active in their volunteer program. Since retirement he has regularly volunteered to maintain & repair backcountry trails for both BC Parks & Recreation Sites & Trails BC. Since 2016 Al has volunteered to supervise the contract labour crew during the construction of the Chief Isadore Trail. Al & his family members have been responsible for the clearing of the Chief Isadore Trail every spring since it

opened. Al continues a busy schedule of volunteer trail projects. Already this year he has groomed trails at South Star; spent countless days clearing downed trees off the Chief Isadore this past winter & spring as well as replaced a damaged gate; replaced two bridges on the Lost/Sunken Creek trail for Recreation Sites & Trails BC. He is always ready to donate his labour & equipment for a public trail project.

#### Area E – Sharon Prinz

A retired nurse, Sharon, keeps her finger on the pulse of Wasa through her countless hours of volunteer work in a variety of community organizations. As chair of the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District for the past 4 years, she contributes to the community by caring for the lake and working cooperatively with government authorities such



as Regional District of East Kootenay, BC Lake Stewardship Society, and others. As a trustee, she participates in the annual Shoreline Cleanup and Adopt a Highway. Sharon serves on the Emergency Support Services team offering assistance to people in times of large scale emergencies such as flood and wildfire. She is an invaluable member of the Wasa Volunteer Fire Prevention and Suppression group. Sharon has been a member of the Wasa Lions for many years, currently serving as secretary-treasurer. She is a tireless fundraiser for the Lions and helps manage the Medical Loan Cupboard.

### Area F – Doug Charlton

Doug refurbishes bicycles that were destined for the dump and gets them into the hands of people who can not afford them. Doug makes regular trips to Calgary to gift the bikes to refugees that have recently arrived in Canada as well as to many families throughout the Columbia Valley. Already this year more than 400 bicycles have been handed out to happy recipients after being carefully repaired in his backyard shop.



### Area G – Phyllis Christensen



Phyllis Wikman Christensen has lived in Edgewater almost all of her life, attending Edgewater school beginning in Grade 4 and continuing through to graduation from Edgewater High. As a young married woman she belonged to the Edgewater United Church Women's Evening Circle - a service organization which catered to special events and overall improved the quality of life for young marrieds in the community. Over the years Phyllis was involved in the 4H Club as a leader specializing in Public Speaking. When the board of the Edgewater Community Hall decided to renovate the hall, Phyllis was on the executive and was a tireless worker in fundraising and the actual labour of renovation. When the Reno was completed, she then stayed on the executive for many years during which time "The Base" Youth Centre was instituted in the hall basement. She was instrumental in forming the successful Edgewater PAC which she chaired for the first few years of its existence even though her children had moved on to


the high school in Invermere. In 2001, when her parents, Walter and Vera, moved into assisted living quarters Phyllis stepped into her mother's role as secretary to the Edgewater Seniors. A position which she very capably holds to this day. She's also a steady worker who initiates projects and is the number one cleaner of the facility. Because of her knowledge of the local scene, Phyllis was recruited to the first board of the Steamboat Mountain Music Society and served for the first several years of its existence as Vendor Convenor at the annual Steamboat Mountain Music Festival. Her knowledge of the available local pool of skills helped ensure the success of the music festival. A number of years ago she joined the Edgewater Radium Health Care Auxiliary and has served as secretary. Phyllis has been a loving and supportive daughter, wife, and mother who successfully raised a family of six, a staunch community supporter, a faithful friend and a voice of reason and fairness within her community.



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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 fund-raising, 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 OPPORTUNITIES 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"*

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## 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 November**

From 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

*There Stands A Soldier*

There stands a soldier, tall, proud, and still guarding and protecting, the rights of all who will ...

All who will remember, all who live so free in this great country, Canada, home for you and me.

by Audrey Waters





## Changing our life by changing our associations

### Satsangha: the Good Association - Part 1

No matter what we do or where we find ourselves, we are all associated with something or someone, whether inwardly or outwardly. "Tell me who you hang out with, I'll tell you who you are", said the great philosopher Plato, and it is true that our relationships shape our personality, and also our destiny. If you had been raised in another environment, you would be very different from what you are today. The question that arises here is whether we are aware of what we are associated with and if we can transform ourselves by having more uplifting and evolving associations.

#### From a yogic point of view, there are two large categories of associations:

1-Physical associations (or worldly associations) called "karmic associations".

2-Associations of Wisdom (or Spiritual Associations) called "Satsangha" in Sanskrit (meaning "Assembly of Wise Men").

#### 1- Physical or worldly associations encompass:

-Relational associations, meaning associations with people and the phenomenal world in which we live.

-Emotional associations, meaning associations to memories and recollections of the past, whether pleasant or unpleasant.

-Mental associations, meaning inferences, reflections, ideas, thoughts, opinions, imaginary scenarios, etc.

The relational associations feed the emotional associations, and the latter feed the mental associations. In other

words, what you come into contact with in the outside world influences how you feel, which creates emotions. These emotions are tied to memories which then act as programmings and generate series of acceptances or repulsions which are supposed to make your ego (sense of you as a separated being) happy or unhappy. On the physical plane, we are shaped by the interplay of events and actions of those around us or who have raised us since birth. Through our body and our associations with these people, we imagine a "self" that is merely the result of an identification with the outside world, to the detriment to our Original Nature that will never be perceived or experienced through our mind. By this principle, we have become aware of what we are not, and alien to what we are originally.

Our associations only in the outer world and our belief in what we have become intellectually and emotionally cut us off from our true Eternal and Immortal Self. Our personality is nothing more than a neuro-psychological formation, a random imaginative representation on the timeline of stimuli coming from the outside. Change your associations, and through these new stimuli, you will clearly develop another brain, another personality, another conduct, another destiny! The people around us influence us as much as we influence them, through the neuroplasticity of our brains. You have become who you are as a direct result of those you have met, whether they are members of your family, your friends, those who have hurt you, your co-workers, etc. This altogether answers the question of: "why have I become what I have become at this precise moment in my life?"

All the reactions of your personality are nothing more than programs registered by your brain to protect the existence of the imaginary being that you have become in your own eyes by forgetting your Original Nature. As long as we do not discover what we are beyond our personality and our transitory body, we remain locked in an illusion, as real as the mirage of a pond of water appearing beneath the hot sun of the desert. We remain deluded about ourselves precisely because we do not even think to question our associations, which always stimulate the same illusion of believing ourselves to be real solely as the person we have created on life's timeline.

The environment in which we live makes us similar to it. Our environment is composed of physical associations, emotional associations and reflective mental associations, and these associations determine what we can and cannot perceive. Family people are dependent upon family associations and they may place them above all others; or a true cowboy will act like a cowboy by association with other cowboys and will taint his environment with a cowboy vision, etc. But if we want to change our condition, we must question the nature of our present associations and open ourselves to other associations more in line with what we truly aspire for.

In the next article, we will go further into changing our life by changing our associations in studying the second type of associations called Satsangha, the association of Wisdom.

With Love and Blessings.

Warmly yours,  
OM OM OM

H.H. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha  
Adi Vajra Shambhasalem Ashram



## Annual General Meeting (2021)

Following pandemic protocols, the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District (WLLID) conducted its 2021 Annual General Meeting on 30 September at the Community Hall.

Sharon Prinz, Board Chair, presented a small crowd with an over-view of the past years WLLID activities. These included presenting the Financial Statements, acknowledging community volunteers who participated in the annual Shoreline Clean-up, Adopt-a-Highway (Wasa Lake Park Drive) campaigns, water monitoring and preparation for planned activities in 2022.

Trustee Nowell Berg provided a detailed review of lake water, both quantity and quality. See October Buzz for details.

Trustee Phil Godsave presented a review of tax policy and told participants the \$50/parcel/year levy would remain unchanged for the next tax year.

Elections were held for two Trustee positions. Only two candidates accepted nominations and were elected by acclamation. Incumbent Trustee Sharon Prinz and first-time Trustee Darren Plested will be part of the Board for a three-year term. They join Trustees Berg, Godsave and Tom Braumandl.

The WLLID wishes to thank outgoing Trustee Ged Kelly for his service to the Improvement District.

The WLLID Board will continue its water monitoring activities and dispensing information about the changing nature of water and the foreshore at Wasa.

### Remembrance Day

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the Great War ended.

The first Remembrance Day was held in 1919 to commemorate the end of the war.

King George V initiated a 2 minute silence to remember those who had given their lives.

Originally this day was known as Armistice.

### Remember our troops this Christmas!!

**Send your Christmas cards to:**

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And dawn coming late,  
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And earth sinks to rest  
Until next spring."*

— Clyde Watson



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# November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 	3	4 	5	6
7 Church 10:30 am	8	9	10	11   In Remembrance...	12	13
14 Church 10:30 am	15	16	17  NATIONAL TAKE A HIKE DAY	18	19 	20
21 Church 10:30 am	22	23  NATIONAL ESPRESSO DAY	24	25	26	27 
28 Church 10:30 am	29  Square Dance Day	30			What sports star did Canadian pumpkins always cheer for? Gourd-ie Howe	

## LEGEND

Church Service 10:30 am  
Rec Society 7 pm  
Library; tuesdays 11 - 1  
Armchair Traveller 7:30 pm  
Tops; friday 9 am

Lions 7 pm  
Quilters 10 - 4  
Bingo 6:30 pm

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- October 31: Trunk or Treat
- November 19: Flu Clinic 10-3
- December 14: Bingo 6:30

*SHARON PRINZ*

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