



FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

February 2025 ISSUE 278

Visit: www.wasalake.com

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EAST KOOTENAY
INVASIVE SPECIES
COUNCIL

Did you make a resolution? A bucket list? Maybe a bingo board? It's a new year, but we're sticking to our big

goals: protecting the East Kootenays and keeping invasive species at bay. Let's tackle our 2025 resolutions together—because teamwork makes for thriving ecosystems. Here's how you can join the fun:

Report, Report, Report

Spot an invasive species? Snap a pic and report it through Report Invasives BC. The more reports, the less welcome they feel!

Brush Those Boots

Before hitting the trails, clean off mud and seeds. It's a simple step to stop invasive hitchhikers.

Stay Sharp

Commit to learning! Take at least two workshops or courses on ecology, species ID, or community engagement—because knowledge = power.

Plant the Good Stuff

Show biodiversity some love by planting native species and spreading the word to friends and neighbors.

Be Kind

Discussions about goat grazing or herbicides? Let's keep it respectful and collaborative—we're all on the same team!

Clean. Drain. Dry.

Same water-loving mantra, new year. Let's keep our lakes and rivers invasive-free with every boat trip.

Celebrate Success

Every weed pulled, every species reported, and every milestone achieved deserves a celebration. Let's party about progress!

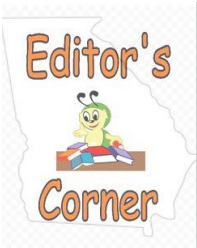
Here's to a year of action, impact, and thriving East Kootenay ecosystems!

COYOTE MATING SEASON
Now through early March
After a gestation period of 63-65 days, a litter of five to seven baby puppies is born.

- ▶ RESTRAIN YOUR PETS
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- ▶ MAKE NOISE IF YOU SEE COYOTES

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Future of the Tri-Village Buzz – at Risk?

Due to the rising costs of printing and postage – and the decline in advertisers & reader donations – the Buzz closed the year in the red. Over \$900 in the red. For the first time in years. The only reason this issue is going out is because of a positive balance carried forward. But this will not last. So we have to face some hard decisions. We do have options and I am very open to suggestions from the community. Or

2025 will be the swan song of our Community Newsletter.

1. The obvious is increased advertisers. But no business can justify spending on advertising if it doesn't garner any extra business – so there's that.
2. Reduce the printed copies and eliminate the mail outs to TaTa Creek. I will implement this immediately.
3. Beg for donations. When the Buzz was first created it survived on a generous one-time grant from Columbia Basin Trust and donations from individuals. The grant money has long since been allocated and donations have dwindled to near zero over the years.
4. Eliminate contests that require a monetary pay out. At this time there is only the "Where Do You Take Your Buzz" which offers a \$50 GC once a year.

What are your suggestions? An ongoing solution must be found asap, or the June 2025 issue will be the final issue of the Tri-Village Buzz.

The Wasa Recreation Society manages the Wasa Community Hall. The main objective is to have a Community Hall that is viable for events & recreation of the community. Thru fund-raising, volunteering & rentals, we're 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 & Information:**
Karen Markus 250.422.3514
- **Gym:**
Sonia Blackwell 250.421.3019
or Rod 250.422.3253
- **TOPS:**
Nicky Popowich 250.422.9248
- **Library:**
Quilter's Club:
Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095

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Want to learn to Quilt?

Looking to advance your skills or learn a new one? Join the Wasa Country Quilters Group and learn with a talented group of quilters!

We meet every Tuesday from 10-4 in our own space in the basement of the hall. Drop in any Tuesday! We'd be more than happy to show you the endless possibilities in this creative atmosphere! No previous experience required.

Call Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095 for more info

Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly



While the Memorial Garden is hushed under a blanket of snow, it is still a beautiful place to come and enjoy the solitude; a quiet invitation to pause, breathe, and appreciate the beauty in the stillness of winter.

We continue to look for new members. Did you know that it's only \$5/per person for a lifetime membership? Having a large 'membership' helps us apply for government grant monies which keep our garden looking great. We kindly ask that Wasa residents (both recreational & permanent) to consider a \$5/per person lifetime membership. Please contact Judy Reimer at mjlreimer@shaw.ca or by phone 250-422-3343 to join. Thank you for your consideration!

If you enjoy gardening & have been looking for a way to connect with neighbors in the community volunteering in the Memorial Garden is a great place to start! If

you're interested in volunteering for the spring & summer seasons, please contact Sherry Shields via email at: slshields27@gmail.com

2024 Columbarium Niche & Plaque Costs

UNIT 1 Columbarium
 Upper levels - \$1,000 + engraving
 Bottom Row - \$900 + engraving

UNIT 2 Columbarium (new)
 Niche cost - \$1,100 + engraving

Niche Engraving - \$290
 Memorial Plaque - \$350
 (Engraving costs are subject to change)

Contact info:
 Pat Walkey @ 250.422.3530 or
pwalkey@shaw.ca

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.
 ~H. Borland

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Wasa Lions Grounds Rentals
 Contact Person: Linda Gold @
 250 421-6302

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 & 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

Let's get the most out of our gym. If a group of at least 3 people are interested in using the gym other than Mon-Wed-Fri 8-9 am, when a group already goes, or evenings, & willing to commit for at least 3 months, contact Sonia with the time & she will arrange a key & let others know the time for more to be able to go too.



Wasa District Lions Club Raffle Funds Donated to the Starlight Campaign

Wasa District Lions Club donated \$3,384 towards East Kootenay Regional Hospital next campaign towards major oncology and renal upgrades! The funds were raised through a raffle. The new campaign is going to be a major one that means so much to so many of healthcare professionals, patients, families, and loved ones across the East Kootenay.

RDEK NEWS



On the Hunt for the 2025 Electoral Area E Volunteer of the Year

The RDEK is on the hunt for nominations for the 2025 Electoral Area Volunteers of the Year.

Area E is full of incredible volunteers and without each and every one of you, our communities would not be as vibrant, supportive, and amazing as they all are. From helping plow a neighbour's driveway, to driving a friend to medical appointments, clearing the path for others to walk, organizing fundraisers and events, or flipping pancakes...there are so many examples of the generosity, commitment and dedication of incredible volunteers in Area E.

The Electoral Area Volunteer of the Year program started in 2001 and the first Area E Volunteers of the Year were Stan and Julie Kneller. Since then, we've been able to honour so many other incredible Area E residents including: Marilyn Bowen, Kathy McCauley & Mike Gall, Stan Yawney, Sharon Prinz, Larry Gould, Wendy Davis, Pat Walkley, Naomi Miller, Karen Markus & Jim Hill, JC McPhee, Barry & Greta Garland, Susanne Ashmore, Orleana & Hugh Campbell, Charlie Harding, Jans Keesman, Ida Cale, Christian Verigin, Don Kenschuh, Bev Rauch & Sandy Kay, and Ursula Kaufman.

If you know an outstanding volunteer who lives in Electoral Area E and gives of their time, talents, and heart without asking anything in return, we encourage you to nominate them for the 2025 award. Nominees must be full-time residents of an Electoral Area (cannot reside in an incorporated municipality) and voluntarily contribute to the spirit, culture, or people of their community/area.

The nomination form is available at engage.rdek.bc.ca/volunteer, and the **nomination deadline is February 4, 2025, at 12 PM**. Paper copies of the nomination form are also available through the RDEK office for anyone without computer access and our staff can send a hard copy or complete the nomination submission over the phone.

If you are making a nomination, please provide as much detail about the nominee's contributions and accomplishments as possible.

Once the nominations are received, they are compiled and shared with the Electoral Area Advisory Commission, who make a recommendation to the RDEK Board on the Volunteer of the Year. The final decision rests with the Board and we hope to present the awards in the late spring.

HELP STARTS HERE ...



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Wasa & District Lions Club
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Little Mittens Rescue:
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or Northern Lights:

250.877.1181

or Kim Balcom: 250.602.9693



GREAT NEWS - WASA LAKE IS BACK ON THE MAP!!

The Community Connector Bus Will Now Pick Up Wasa Residents bound for Cranbrook Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 at Gas Station - Return from Cranbrook Hospital, 3 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays stopping at the Gas station 3:30. This bus continues up to Golden if you need. **Price is \$2.50 each way.** Medical patients have first priority. If there is room, others can ride this bus. phone 250.427.7400 to book your ride.



How are your health resolutions going?

submitted by - Norma Williams

This year I am not going to eat white bread! This year I am cutting out sugar!

I'm writing this the first week of January, and of course, resolutions are on my mind.

Anyone else succumb to these type of resolutions? Like others, I have overhauled my diet in the past, and then tended to give up, finding it just too difficult to maintain. In a world where I feel inundated with conflicting information, how can I stop the overwhelm? My actual resolution this year will be to try to avoid that "all or nothing" thinking, and focus on food as nutrition. Health first. Small decisions I make everyday will make a difference.

Here are 10 easy tips that might help you on your health journey. Maybe consider trying one or two that resonate with you the most.

- 1. Eat more legumes.** Legumes like lentils, peas and beans are packed with protein and a suite of other valuable nutrients. Legumes are affordable and versatile.
- 2. Scale back on sweet drinks.** Cutting back may be one of the best ways to improve your health. Sweet drinks can account for more than a third of the added sugars people consume.
- 3. Put vegetables in everything.** Most adults don't consume enough vegetables, so they are missing out on their antioxidants, anti-inflammatory compounds, fiber and essential nutrients.
- 4. Eat fewer ultra processed foods.** Nearly 60 percent of the calories we consume come from ultra-processed foods like hot dogs, lunch meats, sodas and certain snacks and baked goods. One problem with ultra processed foods is that they can be easy to overconsume. These foods can make you eat calories you don't realize you're eating.
- 5. Take a walk after meals.** What you eat is just one aspect of your health. Physical activity goes "hand in hand" with good nutrition. It helps with digestion and blood sugar control, and it improves sleep, heart and muscle health, and immune function.
- 6. Try eating three square meals per day.** Our society tends to snack and graze all day long. Having constant access to very palatable food is not doing us any favours. Perhaps think of feeling hungry as a good thing - get in touch with your body's signals of hunger and satiation.
- 7. Make big batches of food when you can.** Preparing meals at home is one of the best things you can do for your health. Home cooked meals are almost always better for you — usually less processed and lower in sodium and added sugars — than prepackaged or restaurant meals. Brown rice, quinoa, roasted vegetables, shredded chicken and sautéed tofu, for example, can be combined into various satisfying meals like burrito bowls, salads and wraps.
- 8. Use convenience foods to build healthy meals.** If you are going for convenience, using simple, packaged foods like frozen vegetables, canned beans, tinned fish and precooked whole grains to more easily prepare balanced meals at home.
- 9. Consider the source.** It is easy to fall into the rabbit hole of false dietary information and new health trends. We need to be mindful of the algorithms and bots that will feed us information that is similar to what we have looked at before. I'm skeptical, especially of "doctors" who are making millions selling supplements or books. Try checking out a myth busting site like McGill University's Office for Science and Society. Their website is full of information and, I quote "With a mandate to de mystify science for the public and separate sense from nonsense, the Office has a history of tackling fake news in the world of science well before the term "fake news" even existed." <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/our-history>
- 10. Find support.** Talk about your goals with a friend. At TOPS we often discuss the difficulties we have in managing our dietary choices. If you have been hyper-focused on perfect nutrition or frustrated with cycles of dieting, weight loss and regain, it can sure be helpful to know you aren't alone! Our weekly meetings offer non-judgmental support of others who have similar health goals. In Wasa we meet downstairs at the Wasa Hall on Friday mornings - weigh in is from 9-930, and our meetings are from 930-1030. Drop in or take a look at TOPS online at <https://www.tops.org/home>. Call Nicky for more info at 250-422-9248.



The Wasa Lions have been fairly busy for this time of year, trying to keep the rink up and running with the unsettled warmish weather etc. but it's now doing really well thanks to the tireless efforts of the rink committee and volunteers. A huge thank you goes out to them. Without you, we would not have a skating rink.

The Wasa Lion's Dinner and Dance that was held December 7th was a huge success. Katie Scott who organized it did an amazing job. The dinner was superb and the raffle prizes were fantastic. Thanks to Ian and Kim for bartending the entire evening and making sure no one went thirsty. Many thanks go out to all the volunteers that made this event happen so flawlessly. Mike Gall, the emcee, kept everything running smoothly so that the dinner and raffle went like a well-oiled machine. Thank you also to all the people and businesses that donated the great prizes.

The annual Christmas Light-up which was held the evening of December 22nd revealed some real extravagant displays. The judges chose Chris Plested, Ryan Fuessel and Kelly Moritz as the winners with \$25 each for their efforts. As usual, it was a hard decision to choose just three. Great job everyone!

The Lions donated a cheque for \$3380 to the Starlite Campaign for the Oncology Tower at the Cranbrook Hospital. The funds were raised by a raffle to be drawn February 14th.

A Redi Grant that was applied for and received to allow us to install three chair-height toilets in the Lions Grounds toilets as well as two handicap tables for our eating area at the country kitchen and two more cigarette butlers for the grounds.

Winterfest was held on December 28th at the Lion's Grounds with a very good turnout. Hot chocolate, coffee, hot dogs, brats and the ever-present bannock was served by donation. A good time was had by all with skating, sledding and catching up with the community. A big thank you to the Vershagen clan for the bannock. I think it gets better every year! The hay bales donated by Jim Large were very comfortable around the bonfires. A thank you also goes out to all the community volunteers that helped with the event.

The Lion's Club is growing! We have inducted new members this year and more to come. The more the merrier.

Our recycle program has contributed to much of our finances for this fiscal year. We encourage everyone to drop off your recyclables at our pole building next to the Firesmart building near the green door. Thumbs up to the sorters who go through the bottles and cans and bag them for the recycle depot as well as the guys that transport them. The funds raised go toward our scholarship fund and the maintenance of the grounds.

In closing, I would like to encourage anyone wanting to be a member of the largest non-profit organization in the world to contact any Lion Member to attend a meeting and see if you're a good fit! Have a great February.

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. Take a look at the list below and call existing members to see where you can help out.

Wasa & District Lions Club, Wasa Recreational Society, Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter, Wasa Gym, 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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On behalf of the Wasa Community Church we would like to thank the Vendors who participated in the Christmas Arts and Craft Sale held on Saturday December 30th, 2024. There was quality workmanship and a variety which gave the customers a wide assortment of gift ideas.

Vendors were: Lorraine Head (Colten), Helen Maine, Sherilyn and James Puffer, Sharon Stegeman, Marian Stack, Sherin Laurie, Cindy Whelden, Jessica Reynolds, Carol Dahl, (sharing a table) Audrene Harasiuk, Shannon Hrisook & Speedie family - Alexi, Ayva, Kayla & Lewis, Kelli Widmeyer, Judy Grant and Wasa Church Ladies.

Thank you to all the volunteers and customers that helped in making the event successful.

Get your submissions in for your chance to win 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 stories to me. Your picture will be featured in the current issue of the Buzz "2025 Where Do You Take Your Buzz contest"

Email: trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

*Frost flowers on the window glass,
 Hopping chickadees that pass. Bare old trees that bend and sway,
 Pussy willows soft and gray. Silver clouds across the sky,
 Lacy snowflakes flitting by. Icicles like fringe in line,
 That is outdoors' valentine.*

Thank you to the Local Businesses and Community For their support of our successful Wasa & District Lions Christmas Event & Raffle. We couldn't do it without you!

The Blessing of Giving

As we take time to see and appreciate God's goodness, our natural response will be to give joyfully.

“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Have you ever noticed that the more skilled you are at something, the more you enjoy it? For example, when an orchestra plays a masterpiece, an accomplished musician will likely derive greater pleasure from listening than would a person with an untrained ear. You might be surprised to learn the same is true of giving.

God has many reasons for us to give. First, returning a portion of our wealth to the Lord acknowledges that everything actually belongs to Him. ***“For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.”*** (Psalm 50:10). Second, God tells us to give, as He has given to us. ***“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.”*** (Deuteronomy 16:17). Third, contributing to a cause or helping another person is kingdom work, which brings us deep joy. Fourth, our offerings are an opportunity for God to reveal His character. As we demonstrate generosity, He faithfully provides for our needs and blesses us abundantly, ***“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”*** (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Giving involves more than our money. God has also blessed us with talents, time, and resources. It's important to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance to know what and how much we should give as well as to whom we should give it.

Remember, the Lord is continuously blessing us—with salvation, comfort, encouragement, and countless other good things. We should give back, not out of obligation but with a heart of gratitude and joy. ***“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*** (2 Corinthians 9:7).

<https://www.intouchcanada.org/read/daily-devotions/the-blessing-of-giving>

In February there is
everything to hope for
and nothing to regret.

- Patience Strong



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Columbia
Basin **trust**

BOOSTING WILDFIRE READINESS

With wildfire seasons becoming increasingly intense, communities in the Columbia Basin are stepping up their preparedness by investing in essential equipment, training and strategic planning. Columbia Basin Trust is supporting 34 projects that focus on proactive measures to help communities prevent and respond to wildfires, including purchasing specialized equipment and training local firefighters.

“Planning and preparation are key to helping communities stay safe during wildfires,” said Hannah Holden, Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits, Columbia Basin Trust. “Every piece of equipment purchased or person trained strengthens our region’s ability to respond effectively, protecting homes, properties and community assets while respecting the ecological role of fire in our forests.”

Some funded projects focus on equipment purchases, such as chainsaws and hoses, while others involve training courses like first aid and wildland fire fighting. Essential planning efforts, such as ensuring water availability and delivery, are also supported.



Since fall 2022, over 100 projects have received more than \$4.8 million in Trust support. To learn more about the program and see previously approved projects, visit ourtrust.org/wildfirereadiness.

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The Wasa Lake Land Improvement District (WLLID) Board starts 2025 with excitement and anticipation of several events planned for the 2025 water season.

First, the WLLID Board will continue attending the Saturday morning breakfasts to provide residents with information regarding the health of

the water at Wasa, answer any questions and listen to your concerns. We are also interested in hearing about your best Wasa experience.

Second, the Board will be holding a Trustee workshop in late February to discuss and prioritize various water projects that have been under consideration. These include, but not limited to, a new aerial photograph, lake bottom sediment sampling, a bathymetric survey that would measure water depth and map the lake bottom, a study on how to get more water into the lake during low water years and a re-organized website.

Third, the WLLID and volunteers will continue daily water level monitoring during freshet, undertaking weekly dissolved oxygen (DO), water temperature and Seechi readings, as well as taking water samples from public beaches for E. coli analysis by Interior Health (IH).

As of 13 January 2025, the Floe Lake snow pillow was 11.08 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) which is 72% of normal. The 30-year average for this time of year is 15.4 inches of SWE. The Floe Lake snow basin is the most important source of water for the Kootenay River and Wasa.

This past December 31 saw the first winter water testing. Volunteer Adam assisted Trustee Nowell in drilling a hole in the ice and taking DO and temperature readings at the test location in the SE section of the lake.

On that day, the ice was almost 18 cm (7 inches) thick. The surface water temperature was 2.4C. The water temperature 15 meters below the surface was 5.2C.

During summer months, the DO reading reaches zero at 10 meters below the surface. The December readings show that DO at 10 meters to be 6 mg/L, and 4.05 mg/L at 13 meters below the surface. At 14 and 15 meters, the DO reading was considerably lower, 0.67 and 0.45 mg/L, respectively. These types of readings are important to show that DO is reaching into the lower levels of the water.

Sufficient levels of DO are required to support aquatic life.

WLLID hopes to gather more winter data in late January, February and hopefully, March, before the ice thaws and spring arrives.

On 21 November 2024, several WLLID Trustees attended a webinar hosted by the Lake Windermere Ambassadors (LWA). Several consultants hired by the LWA reported results from an extensive lake and water study: Recreational Impact and Sediment Quality Assessment. The scope of the study covered the impact of boating on the sedimentary lake bottom, water quality and the volume, frequency, location and type of watercraft being used at Windermere.

Here is the link to the webinar: <https://youtu.be/iXjbbSp6SOw?si=8Q9cnAnnHQ0p3H-h>.

The written reports from LWA can be found here: <https://www.lakeambassadors.ca/lwawp/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Windermere-Recreational-Study-Report-V1.0.pdf>

And here: <https://www.lakeambassadors.ca/lwawp/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lake-Windermere-Recreational-Carrying-Capacity-Study-Public-Release-Version.pdf>

If you wish to make a presentation to the Board, please contact admin@wasalake.ca two weeks before the meeting date so that you can be added to the agenda.

The next Board meeting is 12 February, 7pm, at the Community Hall. All welcome.

10 - ISSUE 278 - February 2025 - TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ



Where on Earth Did Groundhog Day Come From??

The first official Groundhog Day celebration took place on February 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The annual ritual has roots in pre-Christian traditions and was brought to the U.S. by German immigrants.

Falling midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, February 2 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.

As Christianity spread through Europe, the timing and themes of Imbolc coincided with Candlemas, a feast commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the holy temple in Jerusalem. In certain parts of Europe, Christians believed that a sunny Candlemas meant another 40 days of cold and snow.

Germans developed their own take on the legend, pronouncing the day sunny only if badgers and other small animals glimpsed their own shadows. When German immigrants settled Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, they brought the custom with them, choosing the native groundhog as the annual forecaster.

The first Groundhog Day celebration in Punxsutawney 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.")

Every February 2, tens of thousands of spectators attend Groundhog Day events in Punxsutawney, a borough that's home to some 6,000 people.

Also known as woodchucks, groundhogs belong to a group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. They grow up to 25 inches long and can live for 10 years in captivity. (According to legend, Punxsutawney Phil is more than 125 years old thanks to the magical punch he imbibes every summer.)

Groundhogs spend the winter hibernating in their burrows, significantly reducing their metabolic rate and body temperature; by February, they can lose as much as half their weight.

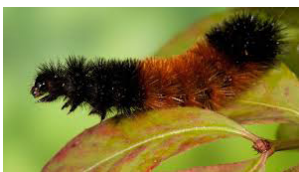
When they're out and about, the bristly rodents eat succulent plants, wild berries and insects—and they don't mind helping themselves to garden vegetables or agricultural crops.

Some groundhogs that make weather predictions in Canada include:

- Wiarton Willie: An albino groundhog from Wiarton, Ontario
- Shubenacadie Sam: A groundhog from Shubenacadie Wildlife Park in Nova Scotia
- Fred la Marmotte: A groundhog from Val-d'Espoir, Quebec
- Manitoba Merv: A groundhog from Manitoba
- Balzac Billy: A groundhog from Alberta
- Groundhog Harvey: A groundhog from Oil Springs, Ontario

What About Woolly Bears?

For the last 30 years, residents of Vermillion, Ohio, have turned to a very different creature for their annual weather forecast: the woolly bear caterpillar. According to tradition, if the bugs have more orange than black coloring in autumn, the upcoming winter will be mild.



More than 100,000 people attend the town's Woollybear Festival, held every fall since 1972.

But woolly bear caterpillars aren't the best prognosticators, either: While their bands may vary from year to year, researchers have found the variation is due to last year's weather, not the upcoming winter.

<https://www.history.com/news/groundhog-day-history-and-facts>



5th Annual Ice Fishing Derby
Sunday, February 16th/25



6:00 am- 4:00 pm

Prizes for 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd in Mens, Ladies & Children	\$15 Adult
1 st for Best overall	\$5 under 12
1 st for combined weight for couples	100 Km radius of Wasa

Registration:

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In Person: Wasa Gas Station parking Lot 6 am-9am

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Why does a Chicken Coop only have two doors? Because if it had four, it'd be a Chicken Sedan!

Why were they called the "dark ages"? Because there were a lot of knights.

Where should you go in the room if you're feeling cold? The corner—they're usually 90 degrees.

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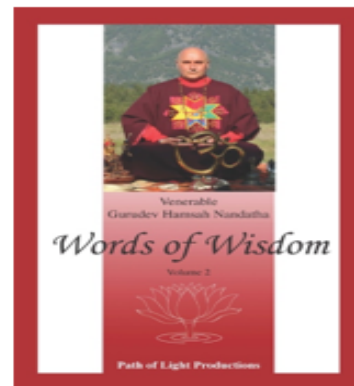
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Is there a Canadian identity?

Canada is often described as a cultural mosaic, a nation shaped by waves of immigration, each enriching the national identity with diverse contributions. Yet despite this richness, a fundamental question persists: what does it mean to be a Canadian? What is the definition of a Canadian citizen beyond one's passport or birth certificate? While this question may seem simple on the surface, it raises profound questions about the very nature of Canadian identity, and the challenges of uniting a country around its flag.

An elusive identity: Unlike other nations where national identity is based on a homogeneous history or a single cultural foundation, Canada is distinguished by its diversity. Quebecers, with their French culture, First Nations with their rich Aboriginal heritage, and the many immigrant communities who call Canada home, all contribute to a plurality of identities. Yet this diversity poses a challenge: how do you unite a nation when its essence seems elusive?

In this context, Canadian identity seems to be defined more by values – such as tolerance, equality and respect for diversity – than by shared symbols or traditions. But are these values, however essential, enough to forge a shared sense of belonging? It's a question worth asking. Until we know clearly and precisely what Canadian identity is, we can neither unite our population around shared values, nor represent a real political, social and economic force on the world stage.

Is there such a thing as a Canadian culture? To define what it means to be a Canadian citizen,

we have to ask whether there is such a thing as a uniquely Canadian culture. Is it our celebrations of winter, with activities like hockey and ice festivals? Is it our love of nature, of vast forests, mountains and lakes? Or is it our culture of compromise, born of bilingualism and the need to coexist peacefully in an immense territory? Some critics believe that Canada is more of a "melting pot" than a true mosaic, where cultures intermingle without any single one clearly dominating. This leads to a dilution of collective identity, and makes it difficult to define what unites citizens beyond geographical borders. Others argue that it is precisely this diversity that constitutes the very essence of Canada: a country where identity is fluid and open. However, this lack of a defined culture can weaken our social cohesion. If we don't know who we are as Canadians, it becomes difficult to create a sense of belonging that transcends cultural and linguistic differences. And without this sense of unity, Canada struggles to position itself as a united force on the international stage.

Immigration and national unity: Immigration plays a key role in this reflection. For decades, Canada has welcomed millions of people from different cultures, languages and religions. While this has enriched the social fabric, it has also made the emergence of a single identity quite complex. In such a multicultural society, each group brings its own vision of Canada, sometimes to the detriment of a common vision. This phenomenon raises a concern: in the absence of a clear definition of Canadian identity, how can we build a solid national unity? If citizens don't

know precisely what they share as Canadians, no political or social project will be able to rally the population into a collective movement. And beyond our borders, how can we project a strong, coherent image on the international stage if we don't know exactly who we are as a nation?

A question for the future: Being a Canadian citizen is more than having legal rights and responsibilities. It's a sense of belonging that must be felt in the collective heart with a shared pride and sense of unity. But for this unity to emerge, we need to know what it means to be Canadian. Is it the common thread of democratic values? Is it a recognition of history, with its victories and sorrows? Or is it simply a sense of welcome and openness to others? These questions need to be debated not just by politicians and intellectuals, but by every citizen, for it is in this reflection that the key to Canadian unity may lie. Until we can answer this fundamental question, we will remain divided, unable to create a truly coherent and powerful political, social and economic force. This shortcoming hampers our ability to mobilize the country around a common vision and exert meaningful influence in an ever-changing world.

Ultimately, to build a truly united Canada, we need to understand and redefine who we are, who we aspire to be, and what it is that we must protect as a nation. While an ambitious task, it is essential for a country as diverse and promising as ours.

With Love and Blessings on our beautiful Canadian Country!

OM OM OM

H.H. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



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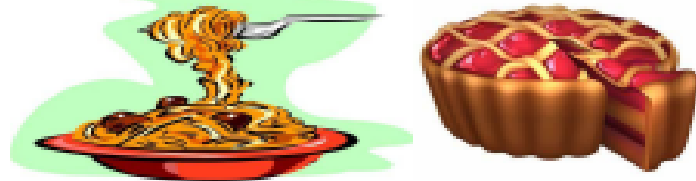
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Craft Fair And Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday February 15th/25
Wasa Hall

Craft Fair 10:00 am till 4:00 pm

Free admission

Concession available

Spaghetti Supper 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Dinner includes spaghetti/meatballs/
caesar salad/ bun/dessert and beverage.

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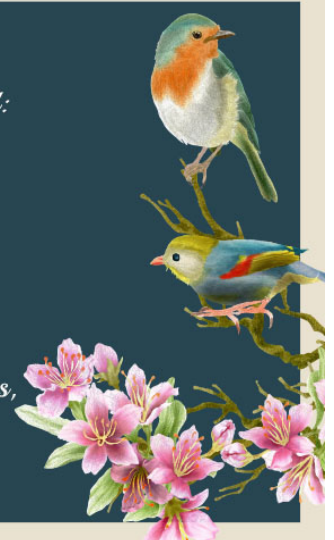
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*A small bird twitters on a leafless spray,
Across the snow-waste breaks a gleam of gold:
What token can I give my friend to-day
But February blossoms, pure and cold?
Frail gifts from Nature's half-reluctant hand...
I see the signs of spring about the land...
These chill snowdrops, fresh from wintry bowers,
Are the forerunners of a world of flowers*

~Sarah Doudney,



BLAST FROM THE PAST

CONGRATULATIONS

JUDY MCPHEE

CONTEST WINNER

Three Strikes- You're Out

Indelibly engraved in my brain, this story is not about baseball, it is about the fury of nature unleashing its power on our little community of Wasa, B.C. It is about three storms I have experienced. Three precious lives lost. Two families grieving.

As I remember, it was a Friday night in the summer of 1971. Approximately 35 children met that week in the "old" Wasa Hall for Vacation Bible School sponsored by the Marysville Church and local donations. Families and friends were invited to the end of the week concert put on by the children.

The day was hot. All around the lake, people and dogs were in the lake cooling off. There wasn't a breath of wind. The air was sultry, heavy and humid

As we were dining outside with friends before the concert, I noticed an ominous silence. No birds were singing. We rushed dinner, leaving the dishes on the table so we could arrive at the concert on time.

Toward the end of the concert, I looked out the windows. I was startled. The wind started to blow, instantly the sky was an eerie purple and yellow.

The concert finished. We socialized and headed home - to save the dishes!

Upon arriving home, we noticed a boat bobbing up and down in the waves at approximately 70-80 degrees.

Are you crazy, we thought - out in this storm? The next day we found out why.

A little girl from Alberta was on a blow-up toy. She was blown further out. Her father tried to save her, he couldn't swim. They both drowned. The police boat was trying to find their bodies.

I wondered how many lives were saved because of the concert.

Seven years to the day, a violent lightening and wind storm struck Wasa leaving behind a few scorched trees. Fortunately no lives were lost, just scared people, dogs and us sitting in our cabin with our runners on!

On July 21, 1997, nature's fury struck again. Just after dinner, the sky turned an eerie colour, the wind picked up and storm clouds gathered in the south-eastern sky. All of a sudden the wind blasted down the lake for ten to twelve minutes at approximately 150-160 km. The lake in the middle formed a perpendicular wall. Many, many trees were blown down, some on homes. A fish was embedded in a limb on a tree.

A little girl and her family, dining at main beach pedaled back to their campsite during the storm. A tree fell on the girl at the north end of the lake. She lost her life. Three valuable, significant lives lost.

Three strikes -you're out
Game over - Nature won

We've had enough deaths. I write this story so you may be acutely aware of the danger of letting your children play on blow-up toys in the lake on hot humid days.

"Memory is where the proof of life is stored"

By Judy Mcphee



Hints From Vi

By Vi Cockell



The holidays are over and now is the time to set some goals!!!!
One of mine is to fix up my flower beds with different plants.

1. Squeak-proof your windshield wipers with rubbing alcohol. First wipe the wiper blades clean, next wipe the blades with a clean cloth saturated in rubbing alcohol. This little trick can make badly streaked windshields and squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence and clarity.
2. With all the slush and dirt on the roads remember to keep your headlights clean with car wax, just a small amount lasts for six weeks.

February 2025

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

LEGEND

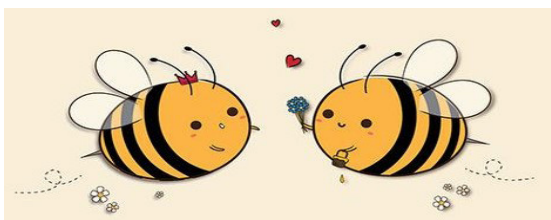
Church Service 10:30 a.m. Lions 7 p.m.
 Quilters 10 - 4 Tops; friday 9 a.m.
 Lion's meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month



SPECIAL EVENTS

and Days Down the Road

- TOPS every Friday morning at the Wasa Hall. Weigh in at 9 - 9:30 AM - mtg 9:30 to 10:30
- Pickleball - every Monday & Wednesday 9 - 12, in the Community Hall
- BINGO February 10th
- WLLID board mtg Feb 12th @ 7pm



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