



# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ



April 2026 ISSUE 290 Visit: [www.wasalake.com](http://www.wasalake.com)

FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

## The Hole Size Chooses the Bird

When it comes to nest boxes, a few millimeters make all the difference. The entrance diameter decides who moves in — and who stays out.

- 28 mm — Blue Tit: Small bird, small opening. Best placed 2–4 meters high.
- 32 mm — Great Tit: One of the most commonly occupied sizes. Install 2–4 meters high in a tree-filled garden. Relatable mistake choosing a “one size fits all” hole and wondering why no one shows up.
- 45 mm — Starling: Needs a larger cavity and more open space. Install at least 4 meters high.
- 32 mm with 3 compartments — House Sparrow: A social species that prefers shared nesting. Mount under a roof or eaves.
- Rectangular opening — White Wagtail or similar species: Prefers a semi-open, bright nest box. Attach to a wall 2–4 meters high.
- Open front — Robin: Install low, well hidden, and under 1.5 meters.
- Flat box against trunk — Treecreeper: Slim design that mimics loose bark.
- Under-roof flat box — Swift: Direct access to open sky, minimum 5 meters high. Install in groups.
- Horizontal tunnel — Little Owl: Length 80–100 cm. Suitable for large gardens with mature trees.

Three golden rules:

1. Face east or northeast.
2. Never add a perch below the entrance.
3. Install boxes by late winter.

Precise hole, right species, smart placement — that’s how you invite the right bird home.



continued on pg 13

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4H Update	2	Guide to Birdhouses	13
Fred Burrin obituary	3	Help Spot Bat Killing Fungus	14
Hints by Vi	4	With Christ You Can	15
Tops Spot	5	Wasa Volunteer Fire Society	16
WLLID	9	Cariboo Court	17
Wasa Memorial Garden	10	Words of Wisdom	18
Lion’s Roar	11	EKISC	19
RDEK	12	April Calendar	20



## Congratulations Speakers!

By: Nancy Day

The Wasa & District 4H Club hosted our Communications Day on March 7, 2026. Special thanks to our judges Mrs. F. Totton, Mrs. MJ. Bolen, and Mr. D. Sawchuk. All of the members did a great job with their speeches and presentations. Thank you also to the College of the Rockies for the kind use of their facility. Congratulations to our top members: The top speakers will advance to regionals in Creston on March 29.

### Junior Speeches

1. Charley Beckley
2. Nancy Day
3. Roxanne Blumhagen

### Senior Speeches

1. Sheldon Blumhagen
2. Jimmy Keyes, who also had first place impromptu

### Speak & Show

1. Denver Blumhagen
2. Jorgie Pighin

And congratulations to J.J. Gorrie and Olivia Blumhagen for their first place Senior Demonstration.

We also did a 4H meeting on March 9, 2026, and we are excited about our upcoming Rally Day to be held at the Wycliffe Exhibition Grounds on April 18. At Rally Day we will learn about judging animals and projects and get to do some hands-on learning with clinics and demonstrations.

We will have five 4-H market steer projects and two market hog projects ready for auction at our show and sale in the end of May. If you would like more info about our market projects, please contact the club or any of our members.



Back row: Charley Beckley, Sheldon Blumhagen, J.J Gorrie, Olivia Blumhagen, Denver Blumhagen, Jimmy Keyes

Second Row: Sydney Beckley, Sawyer Beckley, Jorgie Pighin, Natalie Tamasi, Nancy Day, Daniel Day, Roxanne Blumhagen

Front Row: Emery Burton, Tinsley Peterson



# TY BUILT CONTRACTING

### Booking Spring & Summer Projects

Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter

High-Quality Residential  
Construction

- Kitchen & Bathroom Renovations
- Structural Framing & Repairs
- Hardie Siding & Exterior Upgrades
- Additions & Custom Projects

BC Housing Licensed Builder

Fully Insured • Warranty Backed



BC HOUSING



250-581-2160

[www.tybuilt.ca](http://www.tybuilt.ca)

**Fred Burrin August 22, 1935 - March 2, 2026**

Fred passed away peacefully at the East Kootenay Regional Hospital March 2, 2026, with his family by his side.

Fred will be deeply missed by his wife Margaret Ann (nee Scott), daughter Charlene Welsh & Glen, (Dane), daughter Holly Thygesen & Tim, (Ryan & Tierra), (Taylor, Reid & Brylee), grandsons Bryant & Heather (Zealand & Dane), Fred & Laura, (Briar) & granddaughter Destiny.

Fred was predeceased by his parents Fred & Violet, sister Pat Oakland & brother-in-law Ernie, brother Peter & son Fred.

Fred was born and raised in Kimberley and married in September of 1956. where they lived for 4 years while he ship before returning to Kimberley.

Fred worked for Cominco, Industrial the Skookumchuck Pulp mill where in 1998.

Fred was an avid musician - starting mastering the saxophone and learn- the years. Fred had an incredible ear listen to a song, play it and remem- including the Swing Kings & the Kim- untold hours providing musical enter- Memorial Home and Kimberley Pines over

Fred's family would like to express their deep gratitude to the doctors & nurses that took care of him in his final days.



where he and Marg dated in high school The newlyweds moved to Vancouver completed his electrical apprentice-

electrical construction and finally he retired from the electrical shop

on the violin at 6 years old before ing many other instruments over for music with a unique ability to ber it forever. He was in many bands berley Community Band. Fred spent tainment for Seniors at the FW Green many years.

There will be a private celebration of Fred's life for family at a later date.

Memorial donations can be made to the Wasa Lions Club or BC SPCA.

**McPherson Funeral Home**

**Wasa Lions  
Grounds Rentals**

Contact Person:  
**Danielle @  
778.877.2201**

**HELP STARTS HERE ...**



**VICTIM SERVICES**  
**250-427-5621**  
**Call Anytime 24/7**

**BOOKS BY  
DONATION**



@Wasa Lions Grounds  
Supporting the Wasa Lions & the Wasa Recreation Society

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 50.421.3019  
or Rod 250.422.3253
- **TOPS:** Nicky Popowich (250) 422-9248  
or Sonia Blackwell (250) 421-3019
- **Quilter's Club:** Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY**

**Wasa Lions is a fun way to give back to your community.**

**It's About Fundraising**

- Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance/Raffle
- Yard Sale/ Pancake Breakfasts
- Bottle Recycling
- Gran Fondo/ Triathlon
- Lions Grounds Rental



**It's About Giving**

- Wasa Lions Path/Skating Rink
- Tennis & Basketball Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Ball Diamond • Scholarships
- We Care We Serve community funding
- Medical Loan Cupboard
- Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Recycling



**It's About Fun & Socializing**

A Great Reason to become a Lion!  
For Information call 250 422-3210

SUDOKU answer on page 23

	2	1		5		6		9
8	9		1			4		
4			7				3	
		4				5		
	3		4				2	
1		7			3			
		9						4
				6				
3								

The other day I held the door open for a clown.

It was a nice jester.

If you need an ark to save two of any animal? I Noah guy.



**WASA LIONS MEDICAL LOAN CUPBOARD**  
**Medical Equipment Loan Service**  
 Contacts: Sharon 250 417-7654  
 Trinda 250 793-9491 . Jocelyn 250 505-4752  
 Equipment is loaned free of charge on a temporary basis for up to 3 months.

**Hints by Vi**

I had the privilege of meeting Vi only a few times before she passed away in April 2016. Vi contributed monthly to the Tri Village Buzz and her column was always one of my favourites. I hope I can do this sweet and lively little lady justice.



1. Shine Copper: Use hot sauce to polish and shine copper items.
2. Chrome Fixtures: Rub a wax candle over faucets to prevent water spots, then polish with a microfiber cloth.
3. Stainless Steel/Chrome: Use a small amount of baby oil to remove streaks.
4. Floor Polish: Apply car wax to backsplashes for a long-lasting shine.
5. Broken Candle: Freeze candles to make them burn longer.
6. Disposal Cleaner: Drop lemon or orange peels into the garbage disposal to deodorize.
7. Flower Preservative: Add 2 aspirins or a splash of 7-Up to vase water to keep flowers fresh longer.

Have a great month everyone!



## TOPS SPOT

submitted by - Sonia Blackwell

When I joined Tops in 2014 and started my weight loss journey, I discovered that if I eat the same thing almost every morning, I would always make a healthy breakfast choice. I modified this muffin recipe to add things I like and I have one every morning with a banana. It keeps me full til lunch time and gives me lots of energy for my gym workouts. You can add or exchange different ingredients and it's still great.

- 5 cups whole wheat flour ( can use all purpose)
- 5 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup natural bran flakes
- 1 cup chopped flax
- 2 cups craisins or raisins
- 1tbsp. salt
- 3 cups Bran Bud cereal
- 1 cup hemp hearts
- 1 cup chia seeds
- 2 cups chopped walnuts

Mix all together in a large bowl.

In another bowl

1/4 cup molasses ( or more brown sugar) dissolved in 3 cups warm water

Add 4 eggs, 2 cups unsweetened applesauce or other soft fruit

1 quart of buttermilk ( I use 1% milk with a tbsp. of vinegar let set 5 minutes

Mix wet ingredients into dry, stir well. If it seems dry add extra water. The bran will soak up lots of it. Cover and keep in fridge for 8 hours.

Stir well, batter should be moist, but not too dry - can add extra water if needed. Heat oven to 400.

Fill up sprayed muffin tins. Cook for 13-15 minutes. Makes 4 - 4 1/2 dozen. After cooling I put 7 muffins in small freezer bags and freeze. Then I take one bag out each week and keep in the fridge to enjoy.

I hope you will try this recipe and enjoy them as much as I do.



**Lions  
RECYCLE  
For Sight**

Wasa & District Lions Club  
Recycling program  
250 417-7654

The roofs are shining from the rain. The sparrows tritter as they fly,  
And with a windy April grace The little clouds go by.

Sara Teasdale



**HD Railings AND  
Screenrooms**

"The Aluminum Deck Railing Specialists"

OVER 9 MILES OF EXPERIENCE &  
MILLIONS OF FRUSTRATED INSECTS!

- Manual and remote control awnings
- Retractable shade and insect screens
- Aluminum fencing
- Retractable screen doors for large openings
- Storm Doors

**Harold Hazelaar**  
www.hdrailings.ca sales@hdrailings.ca  
Cell 250.342.7656

**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!






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

**GYM HOURS AND INFO**

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.

Please *join us* for a



*Spring Tea  
and Bake Sale*



Wasa Community Church  
Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

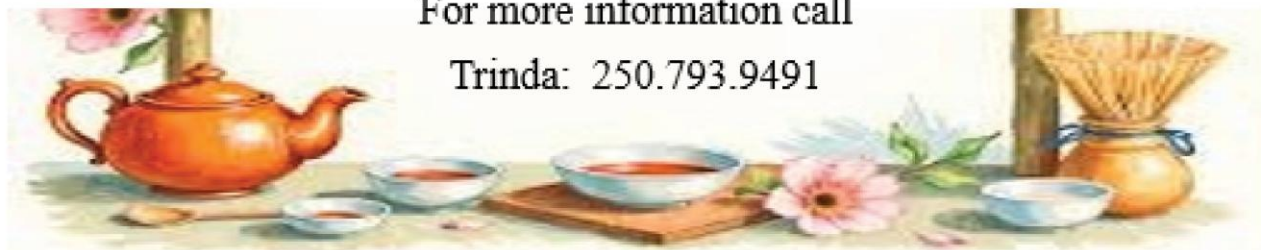
Admission \$10.00 per person

*Everyone Welcome*

Put your name in for a gift basket / door prize!

For more information call

Trinda: 250.793.9491





The Tri-Village Volunteers 3rd annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 9th starting at 8:00 AM. Location is the same: South garage 6595 Wasa Lake Park Drive. Tomato, cucumber and pepper plants along with a variety of bedding

plants will be green, frisky and ready for your garden. Donations of plants for the sale will be happily accepted.

The third annual JC McPhee Memorial Swim will be held at Horseshoe Beach on May 23rd 11:00 AM. Hot coffee and cookies will be supplied to both the brave swimmers and other folk who drop by to raise a coffee cup in memory of our friend and tireless volunteer JC.



**To Our Valued Community Donors,**

The Wasa and District Lions sincerely appreciate your generosity in donating clean, working items for our Summer Yard Sale. Your support helps make this event possible and benefits our community in many ways.

Because our storage space is limited, we are unfortunately unable to accept larger items such as couches, loveseats, TVs, or clothing. We encourage you to consider donating these items to other organizations that have the space to store or distribute them.

Thank you again for your continued support and for helping make our yard sale a success.



**LANKO**  
**ELECTRIC**  
**250-520-1002**

**Taylor Made Services**

**your one stop shop for property maintenance**

**Your local contractor/handyman is just round the corner**



residential/commercial  
landscaping  
construction  
janitorial  
handyman

250 602 1515

TaylorMadesvs.com

**support local**

Give Tavis a call for monthly specials!

**The Tata Garden**

**& Landscaping Center**



**All your garden and landscaping needs here.**

- rock
- mulch
- topsoil
- bulk bags
- deliveries
- firewood

call for service  
250 602 1515



## Ed's Famous Recipes for Pests

### *Aphids, earwigs, mites, thrips, etc.....*

- Mix 40 parts water with 1 part liquid soap (20 oz. spray bottle plus one tablespoon soap)
- Spray plant thoroughly and leave on for 10 minutes
- Rinse with spray of clear, room temperature water
- Repeat 3 times over 10 day period



### *Mealy bug, scale and wooly aphids*

- Mix 40 parts water with 1 part liquid soap and 8 parts rubbing alcohol (20 oz. spray bottle plus 1 tablespoon soap plus ½ cup rubbing alcohol)
- Spray plant thoroughly and leave on for 10 minutes
- Rinse with spray of clear, room temperature water
- Repeat 3 times over 10 day period



### *Ants*

- Mix 2 cups warm water with 1 teaspoon of boric acid and 6 tablespoons of sugar
- Cut six 1-cm holes around sides at the base of a plastic margarine-type container
- Soak 2 cotton balls and place in container, replace lid
- Place in path of ants and leave for several weeks. Label and store surplus mixture in fridge, replenish as necessary.



[www.gardeningwithed.com](http://www.gardeningwithed.com)

# CATAMOUNT

O  
N  
T  
R  
A  
C  
T  
I  
N  
G

**Serving the community for  
over 40 years**

Land clearing – tree & stump removal  
Top soil, sand & gravel hauling  
Snow removal & sanding ice  
Road building  
Landscaping  
Excavating



**GUY WINKLEMAN**  
Bus: 250.422.3694  
Cell: 250.417.9728  
Box 181 Wasa, BC V0B 2K0

## HI HEAT INSULATING.com

HAROLD HAZELAAR  
OFFICE 250.342.7260  
CELL 250.342.7656

[sales@hiheatinsulating.com](mailto:sales@hiheatinsulating.com) • [www.hiheatinsulating.com](http://www.hiheatinsulating.com)

Residential & Commercial Insulation - Attic upgrades  
Fiberglass, Dense Pac Cellulose & Spray Foam

### PUFFED WHEAT CAKE

1 cup brown sugar  
½ cup corn syrup  
⅓ cup cocoa  
½ cup butter

Bring to a boil & mix for approx. 1 ½ minutes.  
Remove from heat & add 1 tsp. vanilla. Pour hot mixture over 8 cups of puffed wheat, mixing thoroughly. Place in a 13 x 9 pan, pressing down firmly.



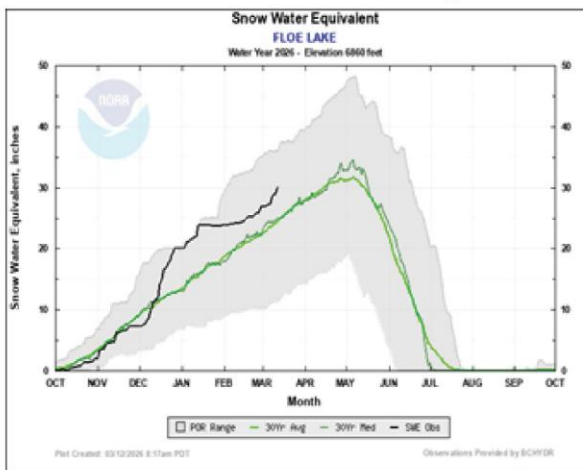
The WLLID Board met on 11 March to carry out its activities pertaining to the quality of water here at Wasa.

So far, this has been the winter of non-winter.

Starting 4 March, open

water appeared in the central west section of the lake. Full open water (at least 90%) happened on 8 March. Ice melt and open water this early in the year has never occurred before, according to WLLID ice on/off records. This past winter saw open water on 25 December, with full ice on happening the next day. There was only nine (9) weeks where there was ice covering the whole lake. Usually in early March, ice fishing is still going on. On 9 March, the fishers were back in their boats.

The WLLID will issue its estimate peak water



level on June 1, 2026. It will be posted on the WLLID website,

[www.wasalake.ca](http://www.wasalake.ca).

As of 12 March, the Floe Lake snow pillow was at 125% of average, with 30.52 inches of snow water equivalent. This bodes well for summer water levels.

Due to damage sustained last summer, the WLLID Board will be purchasing a new electric motor for the boat used in water testing. As well, we will be adding a solar panel battery re-charger.

The next WLLID Board meeting will be 8 April 2026, 7pm at the office, lower level Wasa Community Hall.

**BOTTLE & CAN RECYCLING**

Donate your Liquor & pop bottles, cans, Juice and water bottles to the Wasa & District Lions Club

Support Local Scholarships & Grounds Maintenance  
(No Cream or non-refundable containers)

**Cranbrook♥Kimberley HOSPICE SOCIETY**

127C Kootenay St. N. Cranbrook, B.C. V1C 3T5

Phone: (250) 417.2019  
Fax: (250) 417.2046  
Toll Free: 1.855.417.2019  
Email: [info@ckhospice.com](mailto:info@ckhospice.com)  
Website: [www.ckhospice.com](http://www.ckhospice.com)

**Volunteer Today!**

Cranbrook / Kimberley Hospice Society needs volunteers to help with Client and Family Companioning & Grief Support

# Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Mitsu Oishi



The unseasonably warm weather has left our Memorial Garden without its usual calming blanket of snow. The visible layer of pine needles and winter dust doesn't much detract from the serenity and beauty of this sacred space but the garden does seem to be gently coaxing us into spring clean-up mode. In that vein I hope all volunteers will have their rakes and overalls at their ready when the call comes on our Facebook page. If you'd like a call, contact Sherry Shields via email: slshields27@gmail.com. Clean-up is always a satisfying and fun time and it goes without saying, the more the merrier!

Also, please consider supporting us by becoming a member of the Wasa and District Historical Association and Memorial Garden group. It cost a mere \$5 for a lifetime membership and it's open to recreational residents as well as our permanent residents. Judy Reimer, our membership coordinator would love to hear from you: mjlrreimer@shaw.ca, ph 250 -422-3343.



**KMI**  
KOOTENAY MONUMENT INSTALLATIONS

Granite & Bronze Memorials,  
Dedication Plaques,  
Benches, Memorial Walls,  
Gravesite Restorations,  
Sales & Installations

**IN-HOME CONSULTATION OR  
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM**

6379 HIGHWAY 95A  
TA TA CREEK, bc

250.422.3414  
1.800.477.9996

info@kootenaymonument.ca

**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

**KOOTENAY RIPPLES HISTORICAL  
BOOKS NOW SOLD-OUT**



**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

**WILDLIFE IN DISTRESS?**  
Call

 Little Mittens Rescue:  
250.939.8085

or Northern Lights:   
250.877.1181 or Kim

Balcom:   
250.602.9693

*April showers bring May flowers  
That is what they say.  
But if all the showers turned to  
flowers,  
We'd have quite a colourful day!  
There'd be bluebells and cockleshells,  
Tulips red and green,  
Daffodils and Chinese squill,  
The brightest you've ever seen!*



**The Lions Den  
Lions Roar**

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

submitted by Terry Marvel

Well, spring seems to be in the air for the most part except for the occasional snow squall and gale force winds. The birds and fowl have returned to our valley in full force, sometimes a bit reluctantly I would think with the geese and the swans having to land on the ice in places. If they are confident, then so am I! The lion's Club will be doing our spring cleaning of the grounds and the highway soon. Notices will be put out regarding these events as they are decided on.

With the warmer weather the ice is going off the waterways quickly. A reminder to not trust the ice to be safe this time of year. The fishing is said to be at it's best as soon as the ice is off the lakes. I'm not much of a fisherman, but I've been told!

The Lion's Recycle Program continues to bring in much needed funds for our grounds and the Scholarship Program. Drop off your empty refundable containers at the green door by the Fire Smart building on the grounds. Many thanks go out to the volunteers that sort, bag and deliver the empties to the recycle depot.

We have received a grant to have new siding installed on our washroom building and the front of our eating area of the Pancake Breakfast building. The Lion's have to pay half of the cost of the project which in part, comes from the Recycle Program. Thank you to the community for your participation in this endeavor. We will be painting the interior of the eating area as well when weather permits.

The possible date for the Lion's 50th Anniversary has been tentatively scheduled for August 15th with most of the local Lion clubs to be invited.

March and April are fairly quiet months for the Lion's club, but look forward to the annual summer book sale which is ongoing all summer and the huge Garage Sale in June.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a successful planting season with no flooding. We all know how devastating that can be!

**WASA  
HARDWARE  
& BUILDING CENTRE**

**GARAGE  
PKGS NOW  
AVAILABLE**

**CHECK US OUT!**

Phone: 250.422.3123  
Fax: 250.422.3300  
Email: [wasa.hardware@shaw.ca](mailto:wasa.hardware@shaw.ca)  
Box 779,  
6102 Wasa Lake Park Dr.,  
Wasa BC

**WASA LAKE  
GAS & FOOD**

**Your one-stop-shop for:**

**Groceries      Cold Beer**  
**Ice Cream      Fast Food**  
**Wine & Spirits      Lotto!**  
**Fishing gear      Propane**

**and more!!**

**Open Daily**  
**Call for store hours**  
**250.422.9271**

**6112 Wasa Lake Park Drive**

# RDEK NEWS

RDEK NEWS



By Area E Director Jane Walter

## *To Area E, With Gratitude*

As you may know, this October there will be local government elections in BC. After a lot of thought, I have made the decision to retire and will not be running for Electoral Area E Director.

I was first elected in 2011, following the passing of my husband Norm, who was also a Director. Watching how much he believed in this work—and how passionate he was about representing our region—inspired me to step forward. I wanted to give back in the same way.

Serving you and our community has been an honour. This role has enriched my life in so many ways, and I will take away so many incredible memories. Whether it was the laughter in the outdoor kitchen preparing and serving pancakes, rolling up our sleeves to work together to tackle tough issues, working with the Board on regional items, listening as constituents shared their concerns and passionate beliefs, or working to find solutions to provide services and programs for Area E—the list is endless. Thank you for being part of it.

I also want to thank the many volunteers who have been part of my time as Director, and who have reached out over the years to share concerns, seek support, and offer insight into the incredible projects being undertaken to make our community more vibrant. A special thank you to the members of the Electoral Area and Advisory Planning Commission. Your volunteer service truly helps shape our region, and I can't thank you enough.

Being the Area E Director requires someone who is dedicated to public service, wants to make a difference, can work with the public and see all sides of issues, and who can step in and represent not only Area E, but the entire region. In the weeks to come, the RDEK will be sharing more information for potential candidates. If you're interested, I encourage you to run. Watch the livestream of meetings, talk to other RDEK directors, and talk to the community about what matters to residents. This is a role that calls for someone who runs FOR Area E to represent a wide range of views, to listen to all perspectives and to give us a voice at the regional table.

Being an Area Director is interesting, fulfilling, demanding, educational, inspiring, and rewarding all at the same time. This is an incredible opportunity for someone new to step into the role and have their life changed in the same dynamic way as it has changed mine.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you. It has truly been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

Jane

### **Golden – Cranbrook Route**


Runs: Tuesdays and Thursdays. The bus leaves Golden at 8:00am, Invermere (hospital) at 9:20am, Invermere (Chamber of Commerce) at 9:25am, and arrives in Cranbrook at approximately 11:15am with stops at a number of health facilities by request. The return schedule departs the East Kootenay Regional Hospital at 3:00pm and arrives in Invermere at 5:00pm and Golden at 6:30pm.

To book your space: Contact 1-877-343-2461 Option 1 or direct 250-364-3262 at least 24 hours in advance to book your seat.



**Found Injured Wildlife?**  
**PLEASE DON'T PICK IT UP!**

In BC it is **ILLEGAL** to capture wildlife without a permit.

 **CALL THE RAPP LINE**  
**1-877-952-7277**

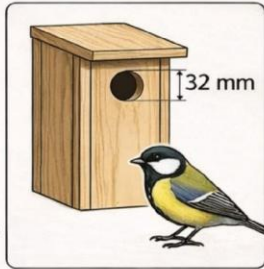
 **CONTACT**  
**LITTLE MITTENS ANIMAL RESCUE**

# GUIDE TO BIRD NESTING BOXES

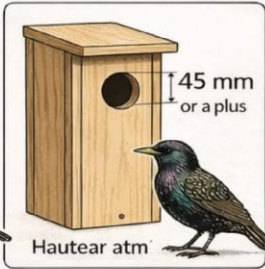
Select the right entrance size for each species



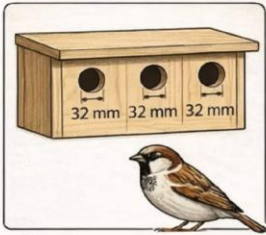
1 Blue Tit  
• Blue Tit



2 Great Tit  
• Great Tit



4 45 mm or larger  
Starling



4 House Sparrow –  
communal box



5 Robin –  
semi-open box



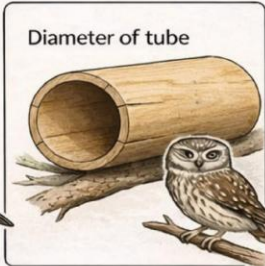
6 Robin  
• Max. 1,5m



7 Treecreeper –  
triangular box



8 House Martin –  
semi-oval box



9 Little Owl –  
tube box

• Face East or North-East • Perch-free

STOP adding perches. They are unnecessary and help allow predators easy access. Provide a metal frame around the entrance hole. Follow recommended interior dimensions and hole sizes for the type of bird you desire. Many times, when it comes to construction and livability, the simplest design is the best. Score the wood on the inside of the house below the hole (or tack on wire mesh) so chicks can easily climb up and out. Do not forget to provide enough air slots or holes for proper ventilation. Metal roofs must have an insulating layer of wood underneath or else you will bake the birds. Always make the cleanout opening on the side or front, this way it is easy to pull out the debris, inspect and clean the interior. (BTW wear a mask while cleaning out, the nest material is dusty and contains all kinds of nasty stuff.) A top opening is the most awkward, you will have great difficulty digging everything out and dusting or else you will have to take down the house and tip it over. Bottom openings are just plain awkward, and you have to put your face below the house to clean and to see if you got everything out.

Nest box plans: <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/right-bird-right-house/>

**WASA COFFEE SOCIAL**  
 Wednesday April 15  
 1 - 3 PM  
 Last social of the season.  
 At the  
 Wasa Community Hall

By Donation

Sponsored by the Wasa Recreation Society and the Tri Village Volunteers

For more information contact: Jan Barbeau, mobile (250) 201 4226, email jbarbeau60@gmail.com

e  
L  
e  
v  
a  
t  
e  
d

**Bookkeeping**  
 Quickbooks software

Lori Vandette  
 250.417.1570  
 lorivandette@hotmail.com



## HELP SPOT BAT-KILLING FUNGUS

Biologists asking the public for reports of bats

Nelson - The Kootenay Community Bat Program is asking the public for reports of dead bats and winter daytime bat activity in an effort to detect white-nose syndrome, a fatal disease, caused by a fungus, that has killed millions of bats.

"Almost everyone loves a good horror story with vampires and bats," says Elodie Kuhnert, coordinator for the Kootenay Community Bat Program. "However, what's truly spooky right now is that our bat populations might face severe declines in the near future due to white-nose syndrome." All BC's bats eat insects - there are no blood- or fruit-eating bats in Canada. BC bats are essential to our ecosystems and provide substantial economic benefits by helping control agricultural, forest, and urban insect pests including mosquitoes.

"We are working in collaboration with the Province of BC and researchers, to detect and prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome," says Kuhnert. Residents are urged to keep an eye out for any daytime bat activity in winter and report any sick or dead bats up until May 31.

White-nose syndrome has killed millions of bats in North America since its detection in New York in 2006 and continues to spread westward. "The disease has been found in bats just across the border in Washington and Alberta, and the fungus was found in a guano sample in the BC Boundary region. However, we have yet to see bats with evidence of the disease, which often appears several years after the fungus moves in," says Kuhnert.



Bat sleeping on wood - Reporting sleeping bats helps researchers learn what is normal. Photo by OCBP

The fungus responsible for the disease spreads primarily through bat-to-bat contact during hibernation in cool, humid environments. White-nose syndrome does not cause illness in humans or pets, but it can be spread between suitable sites by contaminated clothing, gear, and equipment, particularly after recreating in or near caves. Avoid entering caves in winter and follow white-nose syndrome decontamination protocols if you must enter one.

Bats suffering from disease can have the fungus growing on their muzzle, ears, and wings causing the bats to wake up more frequently during hibernation. "The excessive energy expenditure and dehydration can lead to bats taking flight during daylight in winter in search of food and water," says Kuhnert. "Unfortunately, many bats starve and die."

"Seven of our 15 BC species could be severely affected by the disease," says Kuhnert. The Little Brown Myotis and the Northern Myotis are both listed as Endangered in Canada primarily due to white-nose syndrome. Researchers are working on several promising options to reduce the severity and it may be possible to mitigate the effects of this wildlife health crisis.

All live bats should be left alone — keep your distance, snap a photo and report it to the Kootenay Community Bat Program. "Dead bats are usually found on the ground but sometimes bats can pass away hanging upside down," says Kuhnert. Never touch a bat with bare hands. Contact the Kootenay Community Bat Program for further directions on how to collect dead bats. Report bats at [www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca), 1-855-9BC-BATS ext. 14, or [kootenay@bcbats.ca](mailto:kootenay@bcbats.ca) (or [info@bcbats.ca](mailto:info@bcbats.ca)).

In partnership with the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the Kootenay Community Bat Program provides information and promotes local stewardship and citizen science. The program runs thanks to funding from the RDCK local conservation fund, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Environment and Climate Change Canada, BC government, and BC Conservation Foundation and regionally with the support of numerous businesses, organizations, and volunteers.

## With Christ You Can

The women who buried Jesus on Friday returned to visit him early Sunday morning. They brought spices and perfumes to anoint the body. What they found is the substance of Easter hope: no stone in front of the grave, no body within the grave. They found an angel, clothed in white, seated on the stone. "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Mt. 28:6 NKJV).

When they did, they saw the first signs of the resurrection: a vacant slab, an abandoned burial cloth, a folded shroud, and a beaming angel. And, could we examine the empty grave with them, we'd find something else. Languishing in the corner, in the dust, doomed to be sealed and buried forever...your stack of I can'ts.

God buried your I can'ts in the grave of Christ. Every last one of them. You say you can't forgive someone? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't survive the struggle? You can't, but with Christ you can. Can't hang on any longer? Turn to Christ for help. "God's power is very great for us who believe. That power is the same as the great strength God used to raise Christ from the dead" (Eph. 1:19-20 NCV). The same steely, burly force that raised Christ from the dead will turn your "I can'ts" into "I cans": "I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me the strength" (Phil. 4:13 NCV).

With Christ you can face the struggles of Friday. Set your mind on the joy that awaits you.

With Christ you can endure the silence of Saturday. Be patient. Christ will come.

With Christ you can celebrate on Sunday. The same power that defeated His death will give you life. Have you asked for it? Have you asked God to help you?

He will. He will give you strength in this life and eternal joy in the next. All you need to do is ask him. Make this prayer a part of your Easter celebration.

"Dear God,

Without you I can't solve my problems, remove my sins, or go to Heaven. But with you I can. I ask you to help me, cleanse me, and save me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

<https://maxlucado.com/with-christ-you-can/>

**Just**  
LIQUID  
SPORTS

# Wasa Lake

## TRIATHLON

# JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>

**The Wasa Lake Triathlon is an annual event (over 30 years!) held at the stunning Wasa Lake Provincial Park in the East Kootenay, British Columbia.**

**Our events include Trikids, Standard Triathlon, Sprint Triathlon, Super Sprint Triathlon, Standard Team, Aquabike (1500m swim+40km bike).**



**PROUD TO BE THE 2026  
BC SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT!**

**Register today @ [rmevents.com](http://rmevents.com)**



How time flies! It's 2026 already and fire season's just around the corner. The fire danger will increase quickly if we have a dry spring so get ready now. The three most effective things you can do are: clean up

pine needles and other surface debris (such as dead grass) from your yard, clean your gutters, and trim lower tree branches to within 3 m of the ground.

There's no way around it; Firesmaring your property is an ongoing chore.

As usual, the community water trailer will be ready by mid-April after its winter vacation.

Saturday, May 16 is our annual community celebration. This event is intended to inform and inspire everyone to support Firesmart practices for the good of the entire community. More info will be included in the May Buzz.

If you do spot a wildfire, call our local crew whose numbers are listed on the Who Do You Call list, and BC Wildfire at 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on a cell phone. When you call the local Wasa Volunteer Fire Society, we will bring the community water trailer to the site as fast as we can, alert others who also have water trailers on standby, and do our best to stop the fire from spreading. Although we do not solicit individuals to come help, we appreciate everyone's assistance as long as they are prepared to observe basic safety rules: wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and follow instructions from the people in charge. Your safety is paramount. BC Wildfire Service does not normally action a fire on private property, but they will attend if they're available and there is a threat to forestry lands.

If you wish more information, check our website at [www.wasafire.weebly.com](http://www.wasafire.weebly.com) or email Kathy at [kathyemccauley@gmail.com](mailto:kathyemccauley@gmail.com). Plenty of free resources can be downloaded or viewed at [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://www.firesmartbc.ca)

#### COYOTE PARENTS RIGHT NOW:

- 6 pups need 4-5 lbs of food per day
- Hunting at dawn and dusk
- Operating in wider territory than any other time of year
- Bolder and more persistent than normal

#### THE MATH:

- Small pets under 25 lbs = highest risk
- Peak danger: dawn and dusk

#### WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Don't leave small pets out unsupervised at dawn/dusk
- Don't leave pet food outside
- Don't run — triggers chase instinct

#### WHAT WORKS:

- Haze them: face it, yell, wave arms, throw near (not at) them
- Motion-activated lights and sprinklers
- Keep cats indoors, always
- Supervise small dogs during high-risk hours

**THE CONTEXT:** Coyotes fill the ecological role of eliminated wolves. They control rodent populations. Areas with coyotes have lower tick-borne disease rates. Killing them triggers larger litters the following year. Coexistence with precautions is the only strategy that works. Pup season ends late June. Your vigilance starts now.

We are (supposedly) the more intelligent species - let's prove it by co-existing with the wildlife, instead of eliminating it.

#### DID YOU KNOW :

- Coyote pup season runs April through June – the most dangerous window for small pets all year
- Coyotes are now confirmed in all 50 US states after a 300%+ suburban population expansion
- They hunt at dawn and dusk – exactly when most people let small dogs out unsupervised
- RIGHT NOW parents are hunting aggressively in expanded territory to feed newborn pups
- Running from a coyote triggers its chase instinct – always face it, make noise, stand tall
- Killing coyotes triggers larger litters – lethal control makes the problem worse, not better
- Your small dog at 6 AM is operating inside someone's active hunting territory.



## Federal government taken to Court over 11-year delay in protecting caribou habitat

February 9, 2026 by Wildsight Photo: David Moskowitz

After more than a decade of broken promises, delay is driving iconic species toward extinction.

Ecojustice, representing Wildsight, Stand.earth, and Wilderness Committee, is taking the Government of Canada to court over its more than 11-year delay in fully mapping critical habitat for threatened Southern Mountain Caribou. Habitat mapping is a necessary first step under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) to protect and recover caribou and other threatened and endangered species.

For thousands of years, Southern Mountain Caribou moved freely through old-growth forests in British Columbia and Alberta. These iconic animals are now fast disappearing due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and widespread changes in their ecosystems. In southern and central British Columbia, 8 of 18 herds have already gone locally extinct.



Southern Mountain Caribou have been listed as a threatened species for over two decades. Under SARA, the federal government must fully identify the critical habitat the species needs to survive and recover so they can take steps to protect that habitat. But effective habitat protection cannot happen without full, accurate maps — and those maps remain unfinished.

In 2014, in response to Ecojustice litigation, the federal government released a long-overdue recovery strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou that included only partial habitat mapping. The government promised to complete the work by the end of that year. More than a decade later, that promise remains broken.

During this delay, logging and industrial development have continued — and, in some cases, increased — across caribou habitat. Old-growth forests have been clearcut, and remaining herds pushed closer to extinction. While some herds show promising signs of recovery, their success depends largely on having their critical habitat protected before it's too late.

“The federal government is undermining the purposes of the Species at Risk Act, namely the protection and recovery of Canada’s threatened wildlife,” said Ecojustice lawyer Sean Nixon. “The government’s ongoing failure to finish habitat mapping for Southern Mountain Caribou — more than two decades after the species was listed — is causing serious harm to an iconic Canadian species.”

Environmental groups warn this pattern has played out before.

“It is now clear to us that without accountability and legal action, the federal government will delay protecting Southern Mountain Caribou for as long as they can. We are done waiting,” said Lucero Gonzalez, Conservation and Policy Campaigner at Wilderness Committee. “We have already seen the consequences of Canada’s inaction in British Columbia, where the failure to map and protect critical habitat pushed the spotted owl to the edge of extinction. At this point, extinction is not accidental; it is a political choice, and this lawsuit is our refusal to accept it.”

“We’re taking the Minister to court with heavy hearts in memory of the South Selkirk, South Purcell, Central Purcell, Monashee, Frisby, Central Rockies, George Mountain, and Columbia South caribou herds,” said Eddie Petryshen, Conservation Specialist at Wildsight. “We cannot allow more localized extinctions to happen; the federal government must step up and fulfill its responsibility to protect this iconic and threatened species.”

“Eleven years is far too long to wait for the federal government to fulfil its duty,” said Tegan Hansen, Senior Forest Campaigner at Stand.earth. “While the ministry responsible drags its feet, we’re watching some Southern Mountain Caribou herds vanish entirely. It shouldn’t take a lawsuit for the government to meet its obligations, but we don’t have another decade to waste if we want this species to survive. That’s why we’re headed to court.”

The lawsuit asks the Federal Court to declare that the federal environment minister’s delay in completing critical habitat mapping is unreasonable and unlawful. A ruling could force action not only for caribou, but for many other endangered and threatened species still waiting for protection.

<https://wildsight.ca/2026/02/09/federal-government-taken-to-court-over-11-year-delay-in-protecting-caribou-habitat/>



## Escaping Media Propaganda and Rediscovering the Facts

Spiritual seekers are, above all, seekers of truth. Their quest is not limited to meditation or spiritual teachings; it also concerns understanding the world in which they live. A person committed to a spiritual path is not disconnected from human and social realities. They are interested in current events and how events are reported. In a free society, journalism should be one of the fundamental pillars of democracy, with a mission to inform the public by reporting the facts in an honest, verified, and balanced manner. However, a growing number of citizens today realize that this mission has gradually changed. Information seems increasingly biased, filtered, slanted, or presented according to specific ideological and political party lines, to the point that many now question the validity of what they read or hear in the media.

The problem is not new in history. Every era has seen forms of propaganda. However, what distinguishes our current period is the scale of the phenomenon and the degree to which the major media outlets are in the hands of political, economic, or ideological interests. When the media become dependent upon these influences, information loses its fundamental role and becomes an instrument of persuasion. In such a context, information is no longer just about reporting what is happening; it becomes a constructed narrative. Some facts are amplified, others are minimized, and certain events completely disappear from the media. The way in which topics are presented can also play a de-

cisive role. The choice of words, the tone used, the images broadcast, and the repetition of certain themes gradually create a particular perception of reality.

This dynamic can lead to what could be called *the programming of mindsets*. When the same narrative is constantly repeated by many media outlets, it eventually becomes accepted as self-evident. The public then receives not just information, but a pre-packaged interpretation of the world. Fear, outrage, or urgency often become tools used to steer public opinion toward certain political or social positions. This phenomenon has a major consequence: loss of trust. Many citizens are beginning to mistrust traditional media, not because they reject the very idea of information, but because they feel a disconnect between what they observe in their daily lives and what is presented to them in the media. Faced with this situation, the solution is not to reject all information. Rather, it is to adopt an attitude of intellectual vigilance. Modern readers can no longer be mere consumers of news. They must once again become seekers of facts.

Seeking out facts means comparing different sources of information, examining contradictions, verifying data, and being aware of the interests that may influence the information presented by the media. Citizens must learn to distinguish between raw facts and interpretation or commentary.

The emergence of the Internet and digital networks has profoundly transformed this balance. These new platforms have enabled the emergence of independent media, freelance

journalists, and investigations disseminated outside traditional channels. These alternative spaces have opened up a new field where certain information can be discussed, analyzed, and sometimes even revealed when the mainstream media is not interested in it.

In this expanded media landscape, responsibility increasingly falls to citizens themselves. Freedom of information does not mean believing everything we hear. It means exercising our capacity for discernment. A truly free society is not one where information circulates uncritically. It is one where individuals are able to examine that information intelligently and cautiously. Critical thinking is not an act of rebellion against journalism; on the contrary, it is the condition that allows journalism to remain true to its mission.

Breaking free from media propaganda is therefore not just a matter of denouncing the exaggerations and distortions of certain media outlets. Above all, it means relearning how to seek the reality behind the narratives, questioning sources, and rejecting any form of imposed thinking. Only when citizens themselves become seekers of truth does information regain its value. When facts are patiently examined and compared, they always end up emerging beyond discourse, ideology, and manipulation (e.g., the handling of Covid). And it is precisely this patient search for reality that forms the foundation of a free conscience.

Warm regards to all.

OM OM OM

Venerable Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ NEWS TEAM

## Editor

Lori Vandette - 250.417.1570  
trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

## Treasurer/Invoice Coordinator

## Website Coordinator

Clay Tippett

## Article Submitters

Jane Walter Mitsu Oishi  
Terry Marvel Nancy Day  
Sonia Blackwell  
Wendy Davis Kathy McCauley  
Ven. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha

*The April sunshine steeps your boughs and  
tints the buds and swells the leaves within.*

William Cullen Bryant



EAST KOOTENAY  
INVASIVE SPECIES  
COUNCIL

Being PlantWise doesn't stop at your garden beds - it extends to your pond, water feature, and shoreline plantings too.

Many aquatic and marginal plants sold at garden and pond centres are beautiful and easy to grow, but some are invasive and can cause serious harm if they escape into natural waterways. Because these species thrive in wet environments, they can spread quickly through connected streams, wetlands, and lakes - making them some of the most difficult and expensive plants to manage once established.

Take Purple loosestrife, for example. This striking purple flowering plant can produce up to 2.5 million seeds per year, and those seeds can remain viable in soil for up to 20 years. Once established, it forms dense stands that crowd out native wetland plants and reduce habitat for birds, amphibians, and pollinators. Another example is Yellow floating heart, a floating aquatic plant that spreads by both seed and plant fragments. Even small pieces can drift away, root elsewhere, and create thick mats that block sunlight, reduce oxygen levels, and interfere with recreation.

Why aquatic invasives are especially risky:

- Water moves seeds and fragments long distances
- Plant pieces can root and grow into new infestations
- Dense growth can choke waterways and wetlands
- Control is extremely difficult and costly once established

Avoid these species when planning your pond:

The following plants are known to be invasive and should not be used in ponds or shoreline landscaping:

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- European waterlily
- Flowering rush
- Fragrant waterlily
- Himalayan balsam
- Purple loosestrife
- Scentless chamomile
- Smallflower touch-me-not
- Yellow flag iris
- Yellow floating heart
- Yellow loosestrife



PlantWise pond tips:

- Choose native or non-invasive alternatives suited to your region
- Never release pond plants or water into natural waterways
- Bag unwanted plants - never dump them in water or compost
- Clean tools, boots, and containers to prevent spread
- Share plant divisions responsibly and label species clearly

Healthy ponds support biodiversity, water quality, and wildlife - and choosing the right plants helps keep our lakes and wetlands thriving!

## Advertising Rates Per Issue

1 column width .....\$18  
or \$90 / 5 issues  
\$162 / 10 issues

(1 column width = 2.5")

business card .....\$9

2 column width .....\$30

3 column width .....\$44.55

Full page.....\$55

For more information or to place an ad, please contact

Lori Vandette 250.417.1570  
or email

trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter

Box 169 Wasa, BC V0B 2K0

5	6	2	1	4	9	8	7	3
1	9	3	7	6	8	2	4	5
4	7	8	2	3	5	9	1	6
6	4	9	3	8	2	7	5	1
8	2	7	5	1	4	6	3	9
3	1	5	9	7	6	4	8	2
2	3	1	8	9	7	5	6	4
7	5	4	6	2	1	3	9	8
9	8	6	4	5	3	1	2	7

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Find a Rainbow Day	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Church 10:30 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>8</b> WLLID Mtg 7 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> May submissiins due! Wasa Coffee Social 1-3 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  CRAWFISH Day	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Talk Like Shakespeare Day!	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>27</b> MORSE CODE DAY	<b>28</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**LEGEND**

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

## *and Days Down the Road*

- TOPS every Wednesday morning at the Wasa Hall. Weigh in at 9 - 9:30 AM - mtg 9:30 to 10:30
- Pickleball - every Monday & Wednesday 9 - 12, Community Hall
- Wasa Lions AGM april 7th 7pm
- Next WLLID Board mtg April 8th
- Plant Sale! May 9th
- JC McPhee swim May 23rd

DESIGN | PRINT | COPY  
**Glenn Johnson 250.489.4213**  
www.kootenaykwikprint.com

**NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

Ashram Meditation & Yoga.....	250.422.9327
BC Wildfire.....*5555.....or .....	1.800.663.5555
Catamount Contracting.....	250.422.3694
Conservation - Emergency.....	1.877.952.7277
Cranbrook/Kimberley Hospice.....	250.417.2026
Econobuilt.....	250.421.7813
EMERGENCY.....	1.800.663.5555 (*5555)
Hi Heat Insulating.....	250.422.3457
HD Railings.....	250.422.3457
Kootenay Kwik Print.....	250.489.4213
Kootenay Monument Installations.....	422.3414
Lantz Farm (Hay).....	250.420.1660
Rascal Dock Systems.....	250.421.1746
TOPS.....Nicky Popowich....	(250) 422-9248
Wasa Country Pub & Grill .....	250.422.3381
Wasa Hall.....	250.422.3514.....422.3795
Wasa Hardware & Building Ctr.....	250.422.3123
Wasa Lake Gas & Food.....	250.422.9271
Wasa Lions Med Eqp...250.417-7654....	793.9491
Wasa Lions Trail Donations.....	250.417-7654
Wasa Memorial Garden (Sherri Shields)....	email-
Wasa Post Office.....	250.422.3122

