



FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

September 2024 ISSUE 274

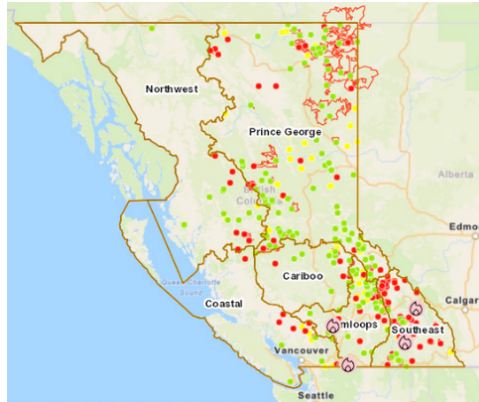
Visit: [www.wasalake.com](http://www.wasalake.com)

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## Wildfires are Affecting Wildlife!



As wildfire season continues throughout the province, thousands of wild animals are forced to flee from their habitats into unfamiliar urbanized areas. This puts them at a greater risk of falling victim to human-caused problems.

Pet predation, window collisions, being struck by vehicles, and other human-wildlife confrontations pose new challenges for these animals. The wildfires themselves can cause severe injuries to wildlife and destroy their habitats. On top of that, the intense smoke can cause respiratory issues and alter the migration routes of various species.

### How You Can Help

You can help wildlife persist through these disastrous situations by leaving out a shallow dish of water or creating shade in your yard for any wildlife passing through. For extra precaution you can also keep your pets indoors, to help avoid unwanted interaction between them and wildlife. If you see an animal in your yard that doesn't appear injured, remember to give them adequate space to prevent the animal from becoming stressed.



If you see an injured or sick bird, bat, amphibian, or reptile contact Wildlife Rescue right away for assistance. Taking a photo or video also helps the team assess the situation. Visit <https://www.wildliferescue.ca/> for additional ways you can help.

**Top Crop**  
Garden, Farm & Pet  
helping our community grow



Top Crops giant pumpkin and fall fair day.. September 28

### CONTESTS:

best tomato - best squash

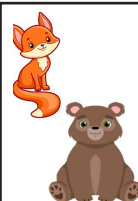
best onions - Best root vegetable

best cut flower arrangement

best animal trick - baking contest

### FREE EVENT

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## Zoning Application 3245 - 3246

There were concerns raised about the process.

### **Access RDEK Website**

I have asked Loree to write an explanation on how to find the info.

### **Zoom Meeting**

The Zoom meeting is very efficient in regards to allowing everyone to speak freely. The staff and Directors have seen first hand at public hearings where people are intimidated by the more aggressive individuals. A public hearing is only to provide the information on whether there is support or not. Remember that you can always submit a letter.

### **Aquifer Study**

Unfortunately the RDEK does not have funding to pay for the study, so if there is a large enough demand for the study, the RDEK would have to hold an Alternative Referendum to find out whether the Wasa property owners would be willing to pay for the aquifer study. If anyone is interested in forming a committee to do the aquifer study, please contact me. The RDEK used that system when we did the Recreation tax.

### **Interior Health Recommendations**

The interior health recommends that we subdivide to 1 hectare or 2.5 acres. They have concerns about septic seeping into the aquifer. During the Board meeting we heard from a past Interior Health employee that he was not concerned so much about the new systems, that he felt there are some old systems in Wasa that could contaminate the surrounding areas. After hearing everyone concerns I am wondering if we should even give property owners a building permit for smaller lots than what Interior Health recommends.

### **Official Community Plan ( OCP )**

The OCP is a living document every property owner has the right to apply to make a change e.g. zoning, setbacks, secondary suites.

In all applications the RDEK has a responsibility to represent both sides - the developer and the community. The developer can decide to have their own public meeting with residents to inform and discuss his or her application. A Public Hearing held by the RDEK is not for consultation but for the residents of Wasa to formally declare their support or opposition. This may sound critical, but it is what we need to understand, no matter who our Director is.

The process that the developer and myself as a Director was trying to come to a satisfactory outcome for themselves and the community. During the process they agreed to have 4 covenants placed on the agreement which the RDEK will hold. In the beginning they were wanting 24 lots, the Board did not support that application. The next application was for 16 lots and there were also 4 covenants, and a group septic system.

After the public hearing I approached the staff to please talk to the proponent about changing their application. They did agree to change the zoning to R-1 which is each lot will be 2.5 acres. The Board supported that application 14 in favor and 1 against.

Last month someone had placed an announcement that gave the wrong information about registering the letters or getting on the zoom meeting. Please remember that if myself or RDEK staff submit something that the RDEK logo will be on the info.

I want to thank everyone who has been coming out to the Pancake breakfasts, the funds that are made help many groups with their projects.

I hope everyone has had a great summer. If you have any questions or concerns please call me 250-427-2577 or email me [s.janewalter@gmail.com](mailto:s.janewalter@gmail.com)



## Hello Tri-Village Community!!

A subscriber brought this to my attention and I would like your thoughts.

Is this something that would work at Wasa Lake? Knowing it will need to be continually restocked. Is there anyone? any group? that would like to take on this project, perhaps in partnership with the Parks, so it can be offered next season?

Email me with your thoughts, suggestions, etc.

trivillagebuzz@gmail.com



## Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

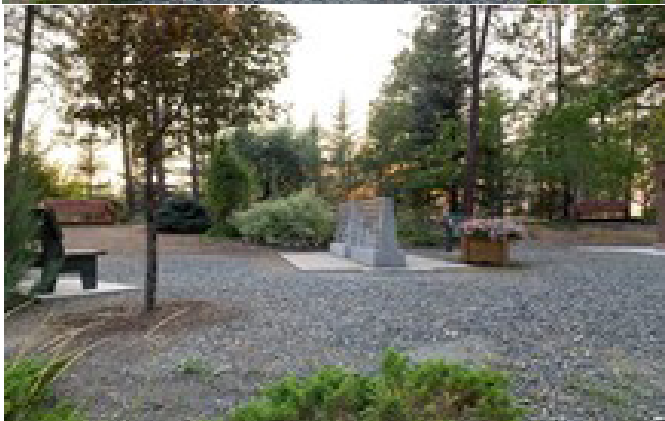
submitted by - Kate Kelly



A reminder that the Memorial Garden & District Historical Association will hold its public AGM Thursday, September 12 at 7:00 pm. We would love to have new attendees at our meeting. New ideas are welcome and appreciated. A suggestion had been made to have gatherings at the garden during the summer to hear stories of how families came to live and vacation in the area. What is your History? If you enjoy gardening & have been looking for a way to connect with neighbours in the community volunteering at the Memorial Garden is a great place to start. Please contact Sherry Shields via email [slshields27@gmail.com](mailto:slshields27@gmail.com)

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### 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](mailto:pwalkey@shaw.ca)



*"But now it's  
time for me to  
go; the autumn  
moon lights  
my way."*

### Wasa Lions Grounds Rentals

Contact Person:

Linda Gold @ 250 421-6302

## Wait For The Lord

- In Touch Ministries

*“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”* (Psalm 130:5-8, NKJV)

Trusting God’s timing can be incredibly difficult when everything within us cries, “Do something!” When we’re dealing with a painful or challenging situation, we want action, so waiting for God feels passive.

To wait for the Lord means to pause for further instruction while remaining in the present circumstance. It is a purposeful, expectant focus on God—a choice to be still and quiet in our heart while listening for His voice and watching for His intervention

*“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”* (Psalm 46:10 NKJV).

At times, God will change a situation to redirect us, or He will motivate another person to give guidance. However, always remember that any advice or direction we’re given must align with the Lord’s will as revealed in His Word; otherwise, it is not from Him.

The first step in waiting for the Lord is submission to His choice of how and when He will act. What are you hoping God will do? Are you seeking Him, or are you seeking only the thing that you want from Him? Since He alone knows what is best for you, let go and trust His decision.

<https://www.intouchcanada.org/read/daily-devotions>

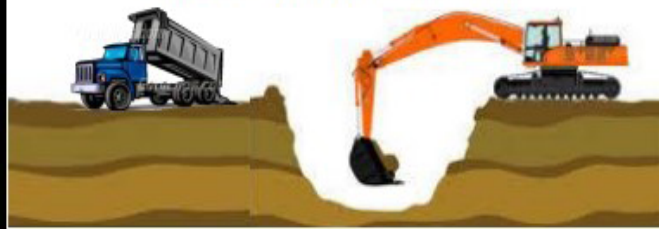
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Support Local Scholarships & Lions Grounds Maintenance

### 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

## Two Development Applications - 14 years apart Ford Property - Granny Leask's Field

*"The more things change the more they stay the same."*

The Ford Development was a near miss. It was a perfect storm where the odds were stacked in favour for approval. Director Norm Walter died at the beginning of the process. A power vacuum ensued for 4 months during the by-election for a new director. Jane Walter was elected and at her first board meeting was pressured by various board directors to pass the application.

Think about this, Jane was a widow of less than 6 months, ran for director and at her first board meeting persuaded the board to oppose a 45-lot development application. It was a split decision 6 in favour, 8 opposed.

During this period of uncertainty, a few community members stepped in and actively campaigning against the application. We spoke about water management, density, available land inventory, and the necessity for an updated Official Community Plan. It was a stressful time. In the parking lot outside the RDEK after the committee meeting, things got heated and I was personally attacked by the agent for the Ford development. Fast forward 14 years to 2024 and the Granny Leask field Development Application, known as Bylaw 3245/3246.

A Development Application is like a chess game. The first gambit by the developer is usually pie in the sky.

- The initial discussion was north of 24 lots. First formal application was for 24 lots, opposed by the RDEK board and Janes volunteer advisory commission. The next revised application was for 16 lots, fewer with 11 smaller lots serviced by a community sewer system. 4 restrictive covenants were offered.

An experienced director and the planning department work together in determining how much a developer and his agent will negotiate on the numbers and covenants. Before the August RDEK board meetings Jane asked the planner to speak to the agent for the developer about an amendment to the 16-lot application. In her opinion the vote would be mixed with a greater chance of failure. The final deal from the developer was for 9 lots. This change was supported by 14 of the 15 directors. At the beginning of this process Jane was aiming for 8 lots.

*As the song goes; You've got to know when to hold & 'em Know when to fold & 'em. There'll be time enough for countin' when the dealin's done.*

So, what have we learned in the 14 years between these 2 applications?

My thoughts: Development and its association with water is complex, it is deeply personal, and it is full of contradictions. It is about the uncertainty of human behavior.

For developments such as these we are at a disadvantage by not conducting a community wide water management study that addresses the relationship between the lake, and the overlay of septic systems and wells in our community.

The question is, who would be responsible for the project and who would pay for it?

Susanne Ashmore

### **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.



## TOPS SPOT

submitted by - Susan Manahan

### I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER

Mom always told me it was easier to lose weight before the age of fifty. Mom was right!! What do we do when we want to lose weight. We go on a diet and we usually announce it to our friends and family with words like, “No thanks, I am on a diet.”

Diets are “all or nothing” and we never announce to our friends and family, “I went off of my diet at noon yesterday.” We think when we “diet” that we must be perfect and we indeed are not perfect beings. Trying to be a perfect dieter makes us distrust ourselves around food. We blame ourselves and think that we have no self control. The problem is not you, it is the All or Nothing Dieting.

Your weight is important to your overall health. We used to think about losing weight, getting it done with a diet and then carrying on. We carried on and the weight and more came back. We need to think about WEIGHT MANAGEMENT.

“Reframing your thinking to weight management stops you from getting discouraged and feeling like a failure when regain occurs. Weight management allows monitoring your weight to be a more neutral act. Stepping on the scale no longer determines how ‘good’ you’ve been or whether the rest of your day will be full of anxiety.”

There is no “one size fits all” for weight management. You need to find a way of eating that you can maintain for the rest of your life and meets your nutritional needs. A woman should not go below 1200 calories a day to meet those needs. Work on increasing healthy behaviors. Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and plant-based proteins. You need to find activity that suits you and that you enjoy. There is no sense in deciding to run a mile 5 times a week if you hate running. Check out the Wasa Gym – find a buddy and a time that is good for the two of you. Check out a support group, we have such a group in Wasa. Be accountable to yourself. Manage your weight. Yes there will be gains. Not the end of the world, weight management requires continual attention all of your life.

You are worthy of love and care just as you are.



**THE VEGGIE Shack** | **LANTZ FARMS**



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**Safety guidelines and things you need to know:**

- Minimum of 2 people in the Gym at all times
- All users must sign in with date and time & 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.*



I want to thank the RDEK Board and Area E Director for listening to local residents who were opposed to the housing density and septic concentration of Mallard/Benson sub-division.

The RDEK Board ruling sets a precedent for the future where any Wasa sub-division must maintain a minimum lot size of 1 hectare (2.5 acres).

Based on resident opposition, the developer scaled back the number of properties from 16 to 9. Each lot size must be a minimum 1 hectare, which means there will only be nine (9) lots.

Local residents, both no-boat and pro-boat supporters, pulled together, uniting behind the common cause of protecting our community.

The results of this local action come from the politics of belonging, and demonstrates how a unified community can stand against any forces that threaten its health and safety.

Nowell Berg

Wasa

***"Evidence of Long-Range Transport of Selenium Downstream of Coal Mining Operations in the Elk River Valley, Canada"***

Wildsight shared this information on facebook: Late last month, the US Geological Survey published a study which found selenium from Elk Valley coal mines is being transported over 575 kilometres downstream to the Columbia River.

The contaminated waters cross the U.S.-Canadian border twice and pass through two reservoirs (Lake Koochanusa and Kootenay Lake) on their journey, before flowing into the Columbia River just upstream of the B.C.-Washington border.

The finding highlights that sadly Elk Valley coal mining operations may be impacting aquatic life far beyond just the Elk River Valley.

If you're interested in the details, you can read the full study here:

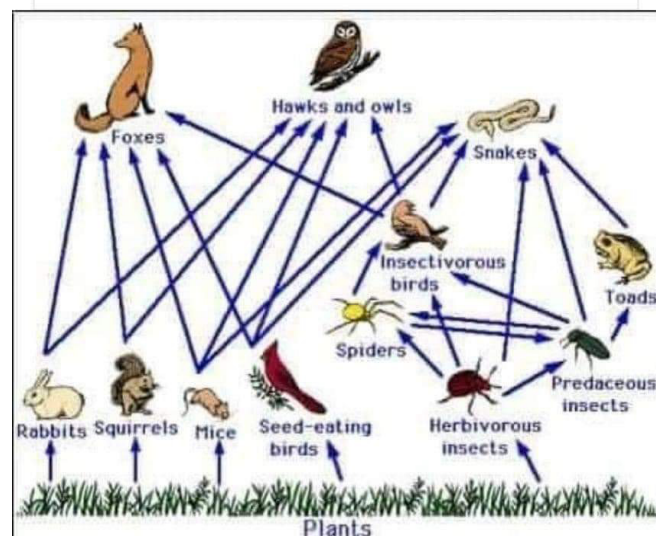
[https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.4c00222?fig=tgr1&ref=pdf&fbclid=IwY2xjAwExAthleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUsHhjkUIdjkl55axoIYDbulRKEa\\_AFXcYe8mYcMIQU\\_OZC-MOuQFnBWskA\\_aem\\_cCniNMtkGL\\_hrPxsFGu0bQ](https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.4c00222?fig=tgr1&ref=pdf&fbclid=IwY2xjAwExAthleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUsHhjkUIdjkl55axoIYDbulRKEa_AFXcYe8mYcMIQU_OZC-MOuQFnBWskA_aem_cCniNMtkGL_hrPxsFGu0bQ)

This illustrates the fact we really do not know what the long-term effects are of many of the products we use on a daily, or seasonal basis; the poisons that we pour down our drains, spray on our trees, cover our lawns with. We are led to believe it will not impact our pollinators, or leach into our drinking water. But who is telling us this? The companies selling the products and/or services? Doesn't that make it a bit of a questionable source?

Its time we started doing our own research and choosing better ways to deal with the 'pesky mosquitoes', or keeping our yards weed free, fertilizing ... We are told water is a renewable resource - but is it? If there is less flowing from the decreased snow packs each year? Less rain? More pollution?

It's time we started treating our groundwater, our environment, like the precious resource it is and stop assuming it will recover on its own.

**When you poison anything below, including the grass, it just moves up the chain. Stop using poison.**



## Falling wildfire embers were main ignition source that destroyed Kelowna, Shuswap homes:

Author of the article:Gordon Hoekstra, Published Apr 04, 2024

The preliminary findings show that embers ignited shrubs around homes such as junipers and cedars — and also vehicles, RVs, boats, hot tubs, outbuildings and ATVs.

Devastating fires ignited by falling embers that destroyed hundreds of structures in the Kelowna and Shuswap areas last year underscore the need to increase the fire resiliency of homes and properties in B.C., according to the preliminary findings of a new study. Wildfire embers, some of which travelled 2.5 kilometres across Okanagan Lake, for example, were the primary mechanism by which fire entered communities in the Interior, shows an examination undertaken by FPInnovations, FireSmart B.C. and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.



The McDougall Creek wildfire in West Kelowna in 2023. Photo by DARREN HULL / AFP via Getty Images

The preliminary findings, commissioned by the B.C. Wildfire Service and the B.C. FireSmart committee, were released to Postmedia this week. A final report is expected in May. The study included a retrospective analysis of the wildfires' characteristics and an investigation of burned and undamaged structures. Experts conducted site visits between August and November last year and examined 107 structures. The study found many homes were subjected to sudden and massive storms of firebrands.

In one instance, embers landing in Bear Creek Valley just north of West Kelowna started fires that grew to an area about two and half times the size of a football field within two to five minutes. The valley is near Traders Cove, which was hit hard by the wildfires. The findings show that embers ignited shrubs around homes such as junipers and cedars — and also vehicles, RVs, boats, hot tubs, outbuildings and ATVs. Those in turn ignited buildings and led to fire spreading to other homes.

In some cases, the first thing to be ignited was flammable roofing, siding, decks, skirting and fences. Items on decks, such as patio furniture, also caught on fire from embers. The findings also showed that homes and structures which had so-called "FireSmart" characteristics had better survival rates.

***FireSmart measures, promoted as a voluntary initiative in B.C., include reducing flammable conifer shrubs and trees and other material such as needles and dead branches adjacent to and near homes, and installing fire-resistant roofing, siding and decking on homes. The study's preliminary conclusion is that the use of these proactive measures are critical because wildfire crews cannot safely suppress wildfires when they blow up to these extremes and firefighters are overwhelmed by the number of simultaneous fire starts in structures. Experts forecast that these type of intense wildfires will increase in frequency and severity as the climate warms.***

"There are simple things that people can do to increase the probability of structure survival," says Greg Baxter, the research lead on the project for FPInnovations wildfire operations, a private not-for-profit forestry research organization. A task force commissioned last year by the B.C. government on emergencies delivered recommendations Thursday that included creating a method to track the effectiveness of the FireSmart program. In 2023, Postmedia reported progress from the volunteer program was unclear. Baxter noted the findings show that a highly flammable cedar shrub next to a house, or an old wooden deck, can be the first item to ignite from the falling embers. The fire can then spread to vinyl siding, for example, and then ignite the soffit on the underside of a roof overhang, usually made of some light metal such as aluminum.

"So, once the fire gets into the roof structure that's basically game over," said Baxter.

But homes without cedars and junipers, and instead protected by a deciduous willow tree, for example, are less likely to ignite, he said.

For the complete article go to: <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/falling-wildfire-embers-were-main-ignition-source-that-destroyed-kelowna-shuswap-homes-study>





In this month's article I thought I would focus on where you can find information about upcoming RDEK meetings and events as this will be the most reliable place to confirm meeting dates and times. All meetings such as public hearings, bylaw amendment notices, open houses, etc. are posted on the RDEK's website. To access them, you can follow these steps:

**ON A COMPUTER:**

1. Visit [www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca)
2. Hover on the Meetings & Minutes tab so the drop down menu opens
3. Click on Meetings & Notices
4. Scroll down the page to view the various meetings and click on the grey boxes below each meeting type to open individual sections

**ON A PHONE/TABLET:**

1. Visit [www.rdek.bc.ca](http://www.rdek.bc.ca)
2. Click on the "hamburger menu" that looks like three lines on the top right of the screen
3. Click on the Meetings & Minutes tab
4. Click on Meetings & Notices

Scroll down the page to view the various meetings and click on the grey boxes below each meeting type to open individual sections

To access the Board Meeting and Committee Meeting agendas and minutes, you follow the same steps above, but choose the AGENDAS & MINUTES option. The agendas are posted one week prior to the Board Meetings and the amended agendas are posted the Tuesday evening immediately prior to the Board Meetings.

If you are looking for the results of a public hearing, check the RDEK Board Meeting Agenda, Section 11 (Planning Bylaws) and look for the PUBLIC HEARING REPORT for your line item. Depending on the timing of the public hearing, it may not be posted until the Amended Agendas go out on the Tuesday immediately prior to the Board Meeting. You can contact the Development Services Department for assistance.

The search option is also a handy one. Once you've entered your keyword in the Search window, it will bring up a page of results and if you scroll through the results you can often find what you are looking for. While it may not be the top result returned, if you look at the options, you can often find what you are looking for.

There will be some changes coming later this month as our Communications team is currently working on a major update on the website that will change the way menus are displayed. These changes will make navigating the website more efficient for users and should be in place sometime in the late fall or early winter. If you are ever having issues navigating the site, please feel free to reach out to the Communications Department and they will be happy to provide you with assistance. - Loree Duczek

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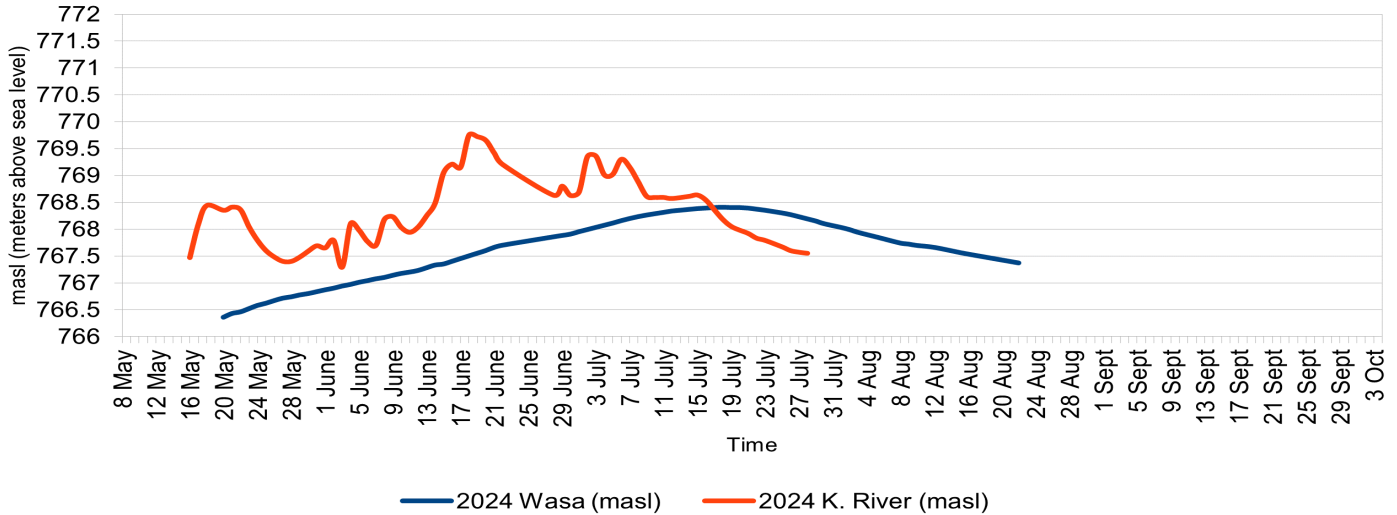
With the 2024 water season mostly behind us, the WLLID Board wants to thank local volunteers Becky, Jan, Alex and Adam for participating on the water testing crew.

As most would have seen, the water levels this year were nearer to normal than 2023, which saw an early freshet and low water levels.

This year, freshet did not start until after Mother’s Day. Peak water at Wasa occurred in mid-July lasting from the 13th to the 16th reaching 768.40 masl (meters above sea level). Last year, peak water level occurred over a month earlier on 6 and 7 June reaching a level of 768.06 masl.

The graph below shows this years Wasa and Kootenay River water levels as of 18th August.

Water Levels (2024)



Kootenay River levels dropped below the measuring gauge on 24 July. The Rivers sustained elevation through early July helped keep water levels higher at Wasa than last year. The highest surface water temperature this summer was recorded on 18 July at 26.5o C.

Over the past eleven (11) years, the average high water mark has been 768.70 masl. Yearly peak water levels are reported in the chart below.

Year	Peak Water Reading (masl)	Year	Peak Water Reading (masl)
2024	768.40	2018	768.70
2023	768.06	2017	769.46
2022	769.53	2016	768.24
2021	768.84	2015	768.09
2020	769.42	2014	768.94
2019	768.05		

Water quality testing occurs weekly from late May to mid-September. These tests include E. coli, dissolved oxygen and temperature readings.

The most recent results from August 13th show the water at public beaches contains, on average, <5 e. coli per 100 ml of water, which Interior Health deems “acceptable.” The level where concern would be raised and public beaches closed is an e. coli count >200 per 100 ml of water.

On August 5th, WLLID undertook extensive water sampling from a location at the centre of the lake. The tests include a range of parameters covering the chemical composition of the water. A similar test was conducted in November of 2020. The WLLID Board would like to undertake this type of water test each year.

These test results have been obtained from the laboratory. At first glance the results show no anomalies in the water composition. The Board is looking to have a professional hydrologist review the two sets of data and provide a report. The plan is to provide residents with that information at the WLLID AGM (October), through the newsletter and on our website, wasalake.ca.

The WLLID Board has been in attendance at the Saturday morning pancake breakfasts providing information on Board activities, answering questions and listening to resident concerns. It has been a positive experience and residents taking the time to chat support the water monitoring and testing being done.

The RDEK decision on the SE Mallard/Benson sub-division resulted in changes to the Wasa OCP and zoning that restricts parcels to a minimum 1 hectare (2.5 acres) size, which meets Interior Health's "best practices" for subdividing rural land. As such, there will be 9 lots, each with a water well and Type-1 septic system.

Prior to the up-coming AGM there will be three Trustees positions open for nominations. If you are interested in being involved in activities to support the health of Wasa lake by standing for a position on the WLLID Board, please contact us, [admin@wasalake.ca](mailto:admin@wasalake.ca).



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**The Lions Den  
Lions Roar**

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

submitted by Terry Marvel

The hot, dry weather of the summer is gone and we begin the days of fall. The scorching heat and wild fires this summer made for a memorable one.

The Lions have not had many projects going for the month of August. The grounds have been well used though. The pickle ball and tennis courts are favorites of the summer. The pancake breakfasts have been very well attended with the weather being so nice in the mornings. Just a reminder that the last one is going to be August 31st.

We have submitted a request to the Columbia Basin Trust Foundation for grants to upgrade our buildings for fire protection and appearance. It may include cement board siding and new windows and security shutters.

As in every article in this paper, we would like to thank everyone for the donations of recycle products and book sales by donation. It makes a lot of work for the volunteers that sort and count the cans, bottles and cartons but it is well worth it for the Club. And just a reminder: please! No garbage in the bags.

Here's hoping for a bountiful harvest for everyone that grows produce and fruit. It has been a great year for growing.

Have a safe and happy September!

## Water quality and boats: what's really going on?

submitted by Tom Braumandl

September has arrived and with it the activity on the lake is calming. While it is great seeing people enjoying the lake in summer, there are some activities that may have some unforeseen consequences.

I have noted from our dock on many occasions that on a busy day in the summer the lake will be sparkling clear in the morning and pretty murky by evening. What's going on? I have suspected that it is motorboat activity stirring up sediment. Who cares about a little murkiness? Does it matter? The answer is we all may end up caring because of what this murkiness may bring.

An in-depth study recently completed on Windemere Lake over the period of two years looking at numerous features of water quality, safety, and recreational boat use has concluded that large parts of Windemere Lake are not suited to heavy recreational boat use, particularly wake boats. Lake Windemere is a shallow lake, so is Wasa. While many more boats use Windemere Lake, that lake is many times larger than Wasa, so the intensity of boating (on a boats per area basis) is likely similar. Additionally, with Wasa being so much narrower the potential for almost all boats to create wave erosion is much higher than at Windemere (wakes can require over 300 meters to dissipate). Another factor that may make Wasa even more at risk than Windemere is the fact that it has no surface inflow or outflow to help flush the waters. The main concern is that nutrients and contaminants, such as metals and hydrocarbons, which are trapped in fine sediments, are suspended into the water column by boat turbulence that can reach up to 8 meters in depth (very little of Wasa Lake is deeper than this). With global warming, the temperature of the lake is going to increase, with extra suspended sediment this warming is accelerated. More nutrients, warmer temperatures – algae love it! We have started to see algae blooms around the lake. We could be in for much worse.

I would strongly recommend that people interested in the water quality of Wasa Lake read the Lake Windemere report or at least its executive summary. It is available from the Lake Windemere Ambassadors website at:

<https://www.lakeambassadors.ca/lwawp/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Lake-Windemere-Recreational-Impact-and-Sediment-Quality-Assesment-Final-Report-Aug-2024.pdf>.

Briefly, the conclusions of the report are "that intensive boating simultaneously threatens Lake Windemere values including:

- sediment resuspension releasing nutrients and contaminants,
- increased ongoing threat of invasive mussel introduction,
- accelerated algae growth and algae blooms
- wake shoreline erosion
- impact on fish, birds, and aquatic life"

And that some restrictions on power boating will be required to safeguard water quality.

Voice your concerns to the people charged with safeguarding the water quality of the Wasa Lake, the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District (WLLID) email: [admin@wasalake.ca](mailto:admin@wasalake.ca). I am not convinced we need a similar study at Wasa as it is clear that similar or greater risk factors are at play at Wasa and that we need to act to prevent a potential catastrophe. If we wait for 3 or 4 years to complete a similar study, if we can even access funds for such a study, we will have had 3 or 4 more summers of water quality deterioration. I am concerned that if we do not act quickly that everyone's enjoyment of the lake will be severely curtailed.

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The **Wasa Recreation Society** manages the Wasa Community Hall. The main objective is to have a Community Hall that is viable for events & 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:**  
Heidi Wright 250-919-3675
- **Library:**  
Rose Smith 250-422-3088
- **Quilter's Club:**  
Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095



Wasa & District Lions Club  
 Recycling program  
 250 417-7654

**“Everyone  
 must make time  
 to sit and watch  
 the leaves change.”**

ELIZABETH LAWRENCE

# FIRE!

## IN WASA

### WHO DO YOU CALL?

In a fire emergency, first call BC  
 Wildfire 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555 on a  
 cell phone.

**Then call these Wasa volunteers until  
 someone answers.**

- Mike Gall 250-417-9422**
- Lyle Zaksauskas 250-421-2650**
- Sharon Prinz 250-417-7654**
- Kathy McCauley 250-427-6637**

The people listed are members of the Wasa  
 Volunteer Fire Prevention and Suppression  
 committee. In the event of fire, they will  
 arrange to activate the community water  
 trailer and call others with water trailers to  
 help.

**The aim is to prevent fire from  
 spreading, NOT to put out house fires.**

The community water trailer is only available  
 mid-April to mid-October. It does not operate  
 during freeze-up months



# Wasa Volunteer Fire Society

submitted by Kathy McCauley



Recent rains and lower temperatures (especially at night) lulls us into thinking fire season is over; however, the recent fire incident in TaTa Creek proves that's not true. We must remember that fires happen for a multitude of reasons and at any time.

On Sunday afternoon, August 11, Wasa Volunteer Fire Society members were called out to a hay field fire at a ranch on River Road south of TaTa Creek. BC Wildfire also attended and volunteers came out of the woodwork to help. The fire somehow started in the baler and when the bale was spewed out, the field started on fire and then ignited the surrounding brush. Fortunately, things were under control within a few hours. Had this baler fire occurred several weeks earlier during our hot spell, the outcome would not have been as positive. We were lucky this time.

There's something new to see at the FireSmart Demonstration Site. A 6' x 4' sign displayed on the north side of the information kiosk tells the story of the 2021 Mount Bill Nye wildfire. Complete with impressive photography, It's a grim reminder of the damage and disruption that wildfire creates, and that it happens close to home.



The Regional District of East Kootenay FireSmart Coordinator, Paul Grismer, has been visiting Wasa homeowners over the last month or so, to offer his guidance on how to reduce the fire hazards around the community. Read his article in this month's Buzz to find out what it's all about.

For the latest info on wildfire, local and throughout the province, visit [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca) To learn about how to reduce the fire hazard on your own property visit [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://www.firesmartbc.ca) Find out more about the local Wasa Volunteer Fire Society at [www.wasafire.weebly.com](http://www.wasafire.weebly.com) or contact [kathyemccauley@gmail.com](mailto:kathyemccauley@gmail.com)

*"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn awakened."*

-Raquel Franco

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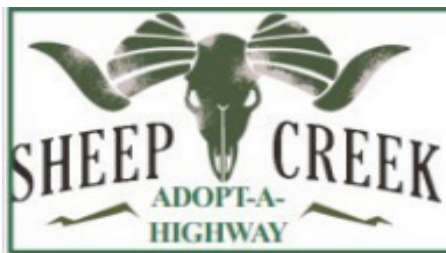
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### VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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."*

### FIREWOOD COLLECTION SEASON IS UPON US!!

Please check the regulations for harvesting firewood for personal and commercial use: get your firewood permit - it is free

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

land or First Nations reserves.

Only dead or downed trees may be cut for firewood

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



### 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!

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## ***There's a Bat Outside the Front Door. What Do We Do?***

It's August and bat pups are learning to fly and leaving their summer roosts. The BC Community Bat Programs get many reports of bats found in unusual spots like entryways, on the ground, or even flying into a house if the door is left open. This is normal at this time of year. Please remember to never touch a bat, dead or alive, with your

bare hands.

"Leave the bat alone," says Elodie Kuhnert, Kootenay Community Bat Program Coordinator. "If you find a bat on a wall, and it is unlikely that young children or pets will come into contact with it, then it is best to let it hang out. It will likely fly off after dark or in a few days." To alert visitors, you can place a note nearby that says 'Leave the bat alone. It's sleeping.'

A low percentage of bats in BC are known to carry rabies; this is why it is important to avoid any contact. "If you must move a bat that is roosting outdoors, use a trowel to gently pick it up or touch the bat's feet with a 2-foot long stick until it grabs on. Always wear leather gloves to protect yourself from direct contact," says Kuhnert. "Release it by placing it on a large tree, as high up as you can reach." Ensure pets are kept away from bats. If contact between a pet or domestic animal and a bat occurs, contact your veterinarian. Always vaccinate your pets against rabies.

Talk to your children to make sure they understand to never touch, play or try to rescue injured or sick-looking bats. If you suspect a bite or scratch from a bat: 1. Immediately wash the area with soap and water for 15 minutes; and 2. Contact your public health or your doctor as soon as possible, or go to the emergency department. For more information on rabies please refer to the BCCDC website <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/rabies>.

If doors are left open in the evening, bats might fly in chasing a moth. "Keep doors closed and ensure window screens do not have any holes," says Kuhnert. "If you find a live bat inside your home, open the main doors and close interior doors until the bat leaves, or follow the steps on how to remove a single bat on our website at [www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca)."

Bats are important and beneficial wildlife. They are essential to our economy and our ecology. All 15 species of bats in BC eat insects, including mosquitoes, agricultural and forestry pests. Some bat species have adapted to live in human structures, and colonies may be found under roofs or siding, or in attics, barns, or other buildings. Having bats is viewed as a benefit by many landowners, who appreciate the insect control. Others may prefer to exclude the bats. Under the BC Wildlife Act it is illegal to exterminate or directly harm or harass bats, and exclusion should only be done in the fall and winter after it is determined that the bats are no longer in the building. If you have bats on your property, the BC Community Bat Programs can offer advice and support.

For information on safely moving a bat and to report bat sightings, landowners can visit the Got Bats? BC Community Bat Program's website ([www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca)), email [kootenay@bcbats.ca](mailto:kootenay@bcbats.ca), or call 1-855-9BC-BATS ext.14. The BC Community Bat Programs are supported by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, the Habitat Stewardship Program, the Government of BC and many regional partners, including the RDCK local fund, the Columbia Valley local fund, and the Columbia Valley Community fund.

Contact:

Elodie Kuhnert, Coordinator  
Kootenay Community Bat Program  
T. 250 777 2531  
E. [kootenay@bcbats.ca](mailto:kootenay@bcbats.ca)

Paula Rodriguez de la Vega, Provincial Coordinator  
BC Community Bat Programs  
E. [info@bcbats.ca](mailto:info@bcbats.ca)  
T. 1-855-922-2287 ext.20  
C. 250-809-8152



**Bats roosting in exposed locations, such as this bat on a screen door, can be left alone and will usually move on at dusk or after a few days. Photo: Kootenay Community Bat Project.**





Hello! From your Regional District of East Kootenays (RDEK) FireSmart Coordinator, Paul Grismer.

THANK YOU, WASA! – what a great collection of people! For welcoming me onto your porches, into your yards, and even into your homes while I’ve been out trying to meet everyone with a few questions and some information on wildfire resilience.

As the regional FireSmart Coordinator, I oversee the RDEK FireSmart programs from the USA border to Spillimacheen in the Columbia Valley. Because of its location, its proximity to recent wildfire events (Bill Nye, Aq’am), and its historied FireSmart program – Wasa is positioned well to review how an East Kootenay rural community is preparing for disaster at a home by home level. AND, how well are we supporting your FireSmart goals with our programs and services through the RDEK FireSmart program. You may have met me already or noticed me canvassing various areas of Wasa over the past few weeks. I intend to try and have contact with every home in Wasa before the 2024 fire season wraps up.

Wasa is lucky to have a committed and active volunteer group that is educating and advocating for FireSmart, and has been doing so for years. If you have not visited the FireSmart park on Wasa Lake Park Road, it’s a wonderful example of their passion and expertise – and full of great information!

FireSmart is a program directed at private property, to assist owners with protecting their cherished homes and property from wildfire effects. Recent North American wildfire disasters, including British Columbia have shown that over 90% of homes lost are ignited from wildfire ‘EMBER CAST’ (shown below) and long-range spotting. Simple and low-cost maintenance, landscaping, and building with fire resistant materials are all key aspects of FireSmart and is designed for effective passive fire and ember resilience. BC wildfire service response, sprinklers, rainfall and weather are all variables that provide great assistance – on top of that constant, which is the state of your home and property in the face of wildfire. More information can be found at firesmartbc.ca.

For information and questions - I can be reached at firesmart@rdek.bc.ca, or paul.grismer@nupqu.com.

Assistance is also available from your local FireSmart champions Mike Gall and Sharon Prinz. Contact kathy-emccauley@gmail.com

Paul Grismer, FireSmart Coordinator

Office: 250-420-2724 ext 4381; Cell: 250-464-0983

Home: 867-445-2529; Email: paul.grismer@nupqu.com



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## The Existence of God

The question of God's existence has been a profound and enduring one, encompassing various disciplines such as philosophy, theology, science, and personal experience. It is very interesting to explore the multifaceted arguments for the Existence of God, drawing from classical philosophical arguments, contemporary scientific discoveries, and experiential evidence. The existence of God has been debated for centuries, attracting thinkers from diverse fields. While some argue from a purely materialistic standpoint, others draw upon metaphysical, scientific, and experiential evidence to assert God's Reality.

The cosmological argument suggests that everything that exists has a cause, and this chain of causes must ultimately lead to an uncaused original cause, which is identified as God. This argument, rooted in the works of Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, suggests that the universe's existence points to a necessary "Self-Existent Being", or "Supra-Intelligent Force".

The teleological argument (*Teleological means starting from the end and reasoning back, explaining things based on their end purpose*) or the "argument from design", observes the order and complexity of the universe, asserting that such intricacies imply a purposeful Designer. William Paley's watchmaker analogy is a famous articulator of this argument, suggesting that just as a watch's complexity necessitates a watchmaker, the universe's

complexity necessitates a Divine Designer.

The moral argument, on the other hand, asserts that objective moral values exist and are best explained by the Presence of a moral Lawgiver, which is God. Recent scientific discoveries have highlighted the fine-tuning of the universe, where fundamental physical constants are precisely calibrated to allow life. This fine-tuning is argued to be highly improbable by chance, suggesting the influence of a purposeful Creator.

The origin of life remains one of the most profound mysteries in science. While naturalistic explanations exist, the complexity and information-rich structures within living cells have led some scientists to infer an intelligent source behind life's inception. Consciousness and human self-awareness pose significant challenges to purely materialistic explanations. Some argue that Consciousness points to a non-material dimension of existence, aligning with the concept of a Soul and a Divine Creator.

Millions of individuals throughout history have reported personal experiences of the Divine, ranging from mystical experiences to answered prayers. While subjective, these testimonies collectively form a significant body of evidence suggesting a reality beyond the material world. Historical events, such as the life, death, and reported resurrection of Jesus Christ, provide additional grounds for the belief in God.

Expanding on these arguments, some propose that life is part of

a vast program of evolution, a school designed for discovering our true Divine Nature. According to this perspective, life is not entirely real, but is a dimension within multiple dimensions. This view aligns with certain interpretations of quantum physics, which suggest that reality is not as solid and immutable as it appears. As Jesus said, "There are many dwellings in the house of my Father," implying that our current existence is just one of many realms in a Greater, Divine Reality. This idea adds a profound layer to the discourse on God's existence, suggesting that our experiences and growth in this life are steps toward realizing a Higher Spiritual Truth.

So, as you can see, the existence of God is a profound question that touches upon various dimensions of human understanding. Philosophical arguments, scientific discoveries, and personal experiences collectively provide a robust framework for the belief in God. While debates continue, the cumulative case for God's existence remains compelling, offering a coherent explanation for the universe, morality, and human experience. The notion that life itself may be a journey toward discovering our Divine Nature enriches this discourse, aligning with both ancient wisdom and contemporary scientific thought.

May God Bless you all in your Spiritual Quest for Truth!

Warmly!

OM OM OM

**H.H. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha  
Adi Vajra Shambhasalem Ashram**



## TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ NEWS TEAM

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Lori Vandette - 250.417.1570  
trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

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## Basin Stories

### Diligent monitoring helps keep potentially disastrous mussels out

The Invasive Mussel Defence Program's goal is simple: keep invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of provincial waterways. And, so far, the program has managed to do just that.

A program targets highly destructive zebra and quagga mussels. They may be small, but they're a significant hazard.

"Zebra and quagga mussels represent a serious threat to BC's aquatic ecosystems and substantial economic impacts to sectors such as hydropower, agricultural irrigation, municipal water supplies, tourism and recreational boating." So says Martina Beck, Unit Head of Freshwater Applied Science and Programs with the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

That's why, driving in and out of the Basin, you may have noticed watercraft-inspection stations on the side of the highway. Their goal is simple: to keep these hugely harmful invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of our waterways. And, so far, the Invasive Mussel Defence Program has managed to do just that.



The good news is that there is currently no evidence of either species in BC waterways (whereas they're now in 33 American states and in four Canadian provinces: Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec).

"Unfortunately, though, we can't let our guard down, as many waterways in this region offer suitable conditions for these mussels to survive," says Beck.

And the impacts are shocking. These creatures could clog water intakes, reduce the availability of nutrients essential for aquatic life, and cause beaches and docks to become encrusted with shells. Financially, the estimated annual cost of mitigation is upwards of \$129 million provincially, including a minimum of \$17 million targeting hydro infrastructure.

To help keep them out, the Invasive Mussel Defence Program



—delivered by the provincial government for more than a decade and supported by the Trust, Columbia Power, BC Hydro, FortisBC and others—has been diligently inspecting watercraft (as well as any sporting and recreational equipment that comes into

contact with water) at inspection stations across the province—including the Basin. It has also been doing monitoring at lakes and educating boaters on the vital importance of practicing "clean, drain, dry" on watercraft and equipment after every use.

<https://stories.ourtrust.org/diligent-monitoring-helps-keep-potentially-disastrous-mussels-out/>

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> WLLID Board Mtg 7 pm	<b>12</b> Wasa Memorial Garden AGM 7 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>30</b> 	Rec Society Mtg 7 pm				

**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
- Sheep Creek Hwy Clean up 10 am
- WLLID board mtg September 11th 7 p.m.
- Memorial Garden AGM Sept 12th



**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.....	250.417.2024
Econobuilt.....	250.421.7813
<b>EMERGENCY.....</b>	<b>1.800.663.5555 (*5555)</b>
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.....	250.919.3675
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

