



TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

September 2025 ISSUE 284 Visit: www.wasalake.com

FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION



The Wasa Lakeside Market

(written by June Sobocinski)

The summer of '25 has been wonderful, hasn't it? Great weather, no scorching days, occasional moisture, no local wildfires, and little smoke! Something that made the summer even more special was the launch of the Wasa Lakeside Market. Since July 4th, the Market has been running every Friday from 4-8 pm in the parking lot behind Wasa Gas & Food. The Market will continue until October 10th and end with a big celebration - Harvest Festival and Hard Rock Hoe Down.

The market hosts a nice variety of vendors. Friends Amber and Mags sell beautiful produce (I bought the most exquisite heirloom tomato from Mags August 15) and handmade items like soaps. Kelly by Creation (Kelly lives on Wolf Creek Road) offers jams (I loved the blueberry jalapeno), baked goods and paintings on upcycled materials. Brandan and Janel (who also live in Skook) do powder fabricating and sell the popular metal signs. Wingfield Honey from the Premiere area sells wildflower honey, beeswax, and honeycombs. Michelle St. Jean from Drift Boutique has a variety of natural fabric clothing including exclusive Canadian brands. Marar Orchards has brought lovely fruit and produce. Serenity Bow Wow has CBD products for dogs. There are more great vendors with unique items; there's not enough room to list all of them! Other nice features of the market have included a petting goat named Hank (brought from Kimberley by M&N 3-D Printing), food trucks, and local musicians adding to the positive vibe.

This is all thanks to our neighbors in Skookumchuk, starting with Amber Guenther. Originally from Vancouver, she and her husband fell in love with an acreage along the Skookumchuk river and have been here permanently for seven years. Amber loves to garden and had been selling at other markets but thought it would be nice to have one for Wasa and the tri village area. She brainstormed about a Wasa market with like-minded neighbors like naturalists Mike and Mags of Skookum View Acres – and together they brought it to life! Amber hopes the Wasa Lakeside Market will become a tradition and plans to be back next year. But we're not done with this summer yet – the market goes through October 10th, and the finale will be special.

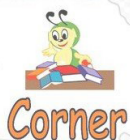
In addition to the vendors, food truck, and music, the October 10 Harvest Market and Festival from 3 - 7 pm will include games like pumpkin bowling, pumpkin tic tac toe, and pumpkin toss, and have a photo booth. Inside the "contest tent," competitors will vie for best pie, best chili, and best dog trick. Prizes for each will be an award valued at \$100. Special music at the Market will be the Dean Smith trio, members of which have also volunteered to be the contest judges.

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Serving Skookumchuk, Ta Ta Creek and Wasa Lake



UPDATE

Thank you so much for the community support - words cannot express my gratitude!

Mail-outs to TaTa Creek and Skookumchuck have resumed. And in light of the 'disappearance' of most of the Buzz copies early in June, I am considering doing mail outs to all Wasa residents with minimal copies in the two Buzz boxes. This does mean an increased cost each month and I am open to suggestions on how to manage that. An emailed digital copy is also available to anyone who supplies their email address to me. And Clay Tippet will continue to upload a digital copy to wasalake.com.

Please feel free to submit articles to help keep the Buzz interesting and community centered!

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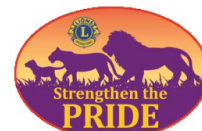
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"There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green, and the days are still warm, but somehow you know that it is all about to end, as if summer was holding its breath, and when it let it out again, it would be autumn."

— Sharyn McCrumb

The Wasa Lakeside Market continued

Following the Market, the grand finale is the Hard Rock Hoe Down at the Wasa Community Hall from 7 - 11 pm. The talented band is Ethan Askey and the Elevators. Joining Ethan in the band are Mike Honeyman on bass, Rene Volf on drums, and Keith Larsen on guitar. Ethan grew up in Wasa and the band plays rock, blues, and funk. The band won "Best of 2023 Contemporary Blues worldwide" and their recent hit getting radio play time is "Clarksdale" (check out www.ethanaskey.com). A cash bar will be available. Tickets for the Hard Rock Hoe Down are \$20. You can purchase by contacting Amanda at rhondaguenther0@gmail.com or 250-421-7095. Or purchase from Amber at an upcoming Wasa Lakeside Market.

Want to be involved? Enjoy the markets - each has attracted about 200 people so you can catch up with old friends and make new ones. Come to the Harvest Festival, or better yet, enter a contest for best pie, chili, or dog trick. Come to the Hard Rock Hoe Down and enjoy great live music without having to drive to Cranbrook or Kimberley. Be a future vendor - it's only \$25. Or volunteer - Amber needs a few extra hands for the Harvest Festival.

Wasa Movie Night

It was so fun! The first Family Movie Night at the Community Hall in Wasa.

Katie Scott came to the Wasa Recreation Society (society operating the community hall) with the idea of a family movie night. The reality of it happened on August 8. From grandparents to wee ones and everyone in between; in all 80 attendees. Admission was by donation and the concession had a movie meal, as well as drinks and popcorn for sale.

Before the movie began children could make their own drive-in car from cardboard boxes and decorate them with all kinds of fun stickers and markers. A coloring table and a fish pond was also in the play area.

Thanks to Katie Scott for making this a great family night come alive. Also supporting this Night were financial donations from Columbia Basin Trust and Caroline & Larry Kelly; Wasa Quilters (donated all the treats for the Movie Meal); concession volunteers, Karen Markus, Jane Gendron, Mitsu Oishi, Jim Hill, Pat Walkey and Rhonda Berger; "Movie Theatre" volunteers Katie Scott, Danielle and Debbie.

Thank you to the community and visitors for attending the night. Your contribution through donations and purchases at concession are very appreciated in continuing to upkeep the community hall for future events.

Our hope is to continue next summer with a couple summer movie nights.

--Karen Markus



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E.coli Update

Two recent spikes in E. coli readings from Campers Beach, one June 16 (7300 E. coli per 100 ml) and the other July 29 (1000 E. coli per 100 ml), have residents asking questions about what's causing it, why it's happening, especially before a long weekend? What's the source? What can be

done to fix it?

Here's how E. coli testing at Wasa works.

Water samples are drawn from six locations – Main Beach, Horseshoe Beach, Campers Beach, Fir Beach, Pine Beach and Cedar Beach – and done every week, usually on a Monday or Tuesday morning, from mid-May to mid-September. Since the two high readings, WLLID has taken an extra water sample at Dog beach to compare results from there and Campers beach.

A WLLID volunteer draws water using a plastic bottle labeled with the location, date and time. The six samples are then submitted to the Public Health unit of Interior Health (IH) in Cranbrook. This facility receives water samples on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30am to 1pm. All other times, you're out of luck. Once IH (Cranbrook) has the samples, they are sent to a lab in Kelowna for analysis. IH will then report the results, at least three business days later, longer when there is a holiday, on their public website. <https://services.interiorhealth.ca/publichealthprotection/watersamples.aspx>

WLLID will also post the numbers on our website, www.wasalake.ca. However, by the time we receive the E. coli numbers, the water in the area has returned to a normal reading. As it did after both recent spikes in E. coli counts. See Table below (16 August 2025)

Wasa e. coli Water Testing (2025)	16 June		24 June		2 July		8 July	
	E. coli per 100 ml		E. coli per 100 ml		E. coli per 100 ml		E. coli per 100 ml	
Campers Beach	7300	Un-Acceptable	15	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	5	Acceptable
Cedar Beach	9	Acceptable	5	Acceptable	5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Horseshoe Beach	<5	Acceptable	50	Acceptable	10	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Main Beach	60	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Pine Beach	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Fir Beach	5	Acceptable	5		<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable

Wasa e. coli Water Testing (2025)	29 July		5 August		11 August	
	E. coli per 100 ml		E. coli per 100 ml		E. coli per 100 ml	
Campers Beach	1000	Un-acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
DOG Campers			<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Cedar Beach	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Horseshoe Beach	<5	Acceptable	20	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Main Beach	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable
Pine Beach	<5	Acceptable	5	Acceptable	<5	Acceptable

IH has a level of 235 E. coli per 100 ml of water that once crossed they start inquiring about possible events at the beach that may have caused the spike. This level has only been reached at Wasa once in the last 20 years. High E. coli levels are not typical at Wasa. This is the first summer where extremely high readings have occurred. They are specific to Campers / Dog beach. Both sites, post-29 July spike, have readings of <5 E. coli per 100 ml of water.

After the June spike, WLLID received emails reporting a high number of dogs on Campers beach and not staying within Dog beach boundaries as the possible cause of high readings.

Regarding the 29 July reading, discussions with IH Environmental Health officer covered what beach activities may have led to the high reading. Since the other 5 readings from around the lake were well within their historic range, IH suggested there was no need for a beach warning or closure. IH also added that one small,

barely visible, flake of dog feces will cause the E. coli count to jump higher than normal.

BC Parks plays a role in communicating with beach users about high E. coli counts.

WLLID received an email from a resident who reported that on August 1, "Park staff came down to the beach shouting for everyone to get out of the water as it was unsafe and that everyone should go and have a shower immediately. They compared the event to a 'shark sighting' in a movie like Jaws. People were scrambling and obviously confused."

To clarify WLLID's role, we do not have jurisdiction over Park lands which means we do not place warning signs, close beaches or order people out of the water.

WLLID does its best to keep residents informed by posting E. coli and other water news on its website.

As a Board, we are five local residents who volunteer over 300 hours per year to running the organization, sponsoring Water Day, undertaking additional water testing for dissolved oxygen, temperature and chemical composition, investigating reported invasive species and monitoring algae and milfoil growth.

We understand that many people around Wasa receive their local news through Wasa Facebook forums. The WLLID Board has recently decided to move forward with establishing a Facebook page. Volunteer anyone?

WLLID has also received emails from residents who have suggested the source of high E. coli readings is septic system leakage from shore-front properties.

At this time, WLLID believes that septic leakage is not the cause of high E. coli readings. Other than the two recent high readings, all E. coli numbers from across the lake have been, this year and previous years, within historical ranges. The water is safe to swim in, be on and enjoy.

If septic systems were leaking, WLLID expects the E. coli numbers to be consistently higher in more than one location over more than a couple of samples.

Given WLLID's lack of jurisdiction over Parks beaches and private property, we would like to see BC Parks and IH undertake a dye test of the septic system used at the public washroom at Campers Beach, and septic systems on private property to the North and South of Campers Beach.

These tests would provide evidence, one way or the other, of septic leakage. WLLID will keep pushing for Parks and IH to undertake these tests.

The WLLID AGM will be 15 October 2025, 7pm, at the Community Hall.

All residents welcome. See you there!



**WASA VOLUNTEER
FIRE SOCIETY**

With the exception of the rather dramatic property fire on Wasa Lake Park Drive on April 23, the 2025 fire season has been blessedly quiet. Most years we receive alerts to several fires over the season, but thanks to cooler temperatures and

increased precipitation, we have had no recent calls. As we roll into autumn, we anticipate continued cool weather; nevertheless, the current fire ban remains in effect until October 30, or until further notice. Small campfires (no more than half metre high by half metre wide) are still allowed but FIREWORKS, burning barrels, air curtain burners, controlled air incinerators, and binary exploding targets are not. These restrictions are in effect until October 30, 2025 or until further notice.

By the way, fall is a really great time to FireSmart your property by cleaning up and disposing of yard debris and getting a head start on next year. FireSmarting is an ongoing process, never a one-time thing—unfortunately.

Please remember that the local fire crew will be putting the community water trailer away for the winter by October 15. The water trailer has to be drained and winterized so that water hoses and pumps avoid freezing. In the off-season, we'll be working on reports and planning for the future, and back in business by mid-April of next year.. If you wish more information, check our website at www.wasafire.weebly.com or email Kathy at kathyemccauley@gmail.com.

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

Fall is on its way. Happy Hunting!

Sincerely, Wasa Volunteer Fire Society Board: Bill Walkley, Lyle Zaksauskas, Sharon Prinz, Mike Gall, and Kathy McCauley



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FIRE!

IN WASA

WHO DO YOU CALL?

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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 250-417-6637

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.

On 9/12 We Ran to God

On 9/11 we ran for cover. On 9/12 we ran to God. Churches overflowed. Synagogues were packed. Sanctuaries and temples swelled to capacity. Four thousand people gathered in a Manhattan Cathedral. A New York City church filled and emptied six times in one day. Street vendors were replaced by prayer counselors who stood beneath banners that read: "We will pray for you."

Across the country, congregations hastily assembled post-attack prayer services. We did in San Antonio, Texas. "Come and Pray for Peace" our outdoor sign invited. You would have thought it was Easter Sunday. Standing Room Only.

Ironic. Usama Bin Laden intended to bring America to her knees, and he did—we prayed. What does this say about us? At least this much: we are a spiritual people. For all our talk about secularism, self-reliance and self-sufficiency, where we do we turn in turbulence? We turn to God.

We find Him to be—to use the old coinage—"*an anchor of the soul*" (Heb. 6:10). Everyone anchors to something. A retirement account, a resume. A person or a position. "When the storm comes," they say, "this will get me through."

On 9/11 we turned to the sturdiest anchor of all: God. Only He promises to secure our most precious commodity—our souls. When God breathed into Adam, he gave him more than oxygen; he gave him an eternal essence. He gave you the same. Because of your soul, you wrestle with right and wrong, value the lives of others and get choked up at the singing of our national anthem. The soul is that part of you dares to believe that good comes out of evil, Right still sits on the throne and the next life will make sense of this one.

This world can be tough on a soul. Yours needs an anchor: a double pointed cast-iron hooking point that is sturdier than the storm.

Storms still rage. Hurricanes wreak havoc and earthquakes shake our national monuments. Economy feels as sturdy as paper-mache. God never promised a life with no storms. But He did promise to meet us in the midst of the storms. He met us ten years ago. He does still.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Here's hoping we never have to face another 9/11. But if we do, I pray that you've secured your soul to God—the anchor of the soul.

<https://maxlucado.com/on-912-we-ran-to-god-2/>

SEPTEMBER

The golden-rod is yellow;	In every meadow nook;	And autumn's best of cheer.
The corn is turning brown;	And asters by the brook-side	But none of all this beauty
The trees in apple orchards	Make asters in the brook.	Which floods the earth and air
With fruit are bending down.	From dewy lanes at morning	Is unto me the secret
The gentian's bluest fringes	the grapes' sweet odors rise;	Which makes September fair.
Are curling in the sun;	At noon the roads all flutter	'T is a thing which I remember;
In dusty pods the milkweed	With yellow butterflies.	To name it thrills me yet:
Its hidden silk has spun.	By all these lovely tokens	One day of one September
The sedges flaunt their harvest,	September days are here,	I never can forget.
With summer's best of weather,	Helen Maria Hunt Jackson	

A guy walks into a bar and tells the bartender, "If I show you a wild trick, will you give me a free drink?"

The bartender shrugs, "Sure, why not?"

The guy reaches into his pocket and pulls out... a tiny rat. Then out of the other pocket, he pulls a teeny-tiny piano. The rat stretches, cracks his knuckles, and starts playing the blues like a rodent Ray Charles. Stunned, the bartender pours him a free drink. After finishing it, the guy says, "Now, if I show you an even better trick, do I drink free all night?"

"Buddy, if you can top that, you're drinking on me till closing," the bartender replies.

The man pulls the rat and piano out again, and this time reaches into his coat and pulls out... a small bullfrog. The frog clears his throat and starts belting out soulful blues lyrics. The rat's playing, the frog's singing — the bar is dead silent in awe.

Suddenly, a man rushes up and says, "I'll give you \$10,000 for that frog!"

The guy says, "Nope, not for sale."

"\$25,000!"

"Nope."

"\$50,000! Cash!"

"Deal."

The bartender's jaw drops. "Are you CRAZY? That frog was a gold mine! Why'd you sell him?" The man smirks and says, "Relax. The frog can't sing... the rat's a ventriloquist."



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.



Wasa & District Lions Club
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The Lions Den Lions Roar

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

submitted by Terry Marvel

The dog days of summer are going away quickly and Fall is approaching. Here's hoping the weather cooperates and we have a beautiful Indian summer. We have had a near perfect summer for growing and the berries and fruit are abundant. Hopefully it's not a bad omen for the winter ahead. May your harvests be plentiful!

The Pancake Breakfasts have been very well attended this summer. Kudos to the various groups that have contributed to them. The entertainment has been an asset to them as well. The money made by the breakfasts will be divided up equally between the groups and used to maintain them as they see fit.

Many thanks goes out to the people in the community that have donated their returnable cans and bottles to the Lion's recycle program. The money made from this effort goes toward the maintenance of the grounds and our Scholarship program.

We used some Redi Grant money to purchase two grass trimmers and a lawn mower to enhance the grounds. A grant has also been applied for to replace the siding on the bathroom building on the grounds as well as the barbeque building to render them more Firesmart and more appealing. The Country Kitchen and the Garage building are so much better looking and secure with their facelifts.

The Lions will be holding our Trunk or Treat festivity again this year near Halloween. More on this in a later issue.

In closing, I would wish everyone a bountiful harvest and a wonderful Fall season.

Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly



The whispers of autumn linger in the late summer breeze. In the stillness, whispers of autumn stir the leaves. Summer fades and autumn begins to whisper her name. Soft whispers of autumn rustle through golden fields. The sun still shines but, in the shadows, autumn whispers.

As these summer days come to an end at the Memorial Garden, we thank the many dedicated volunteers for their hard work. The garden was beautifully maintained; the beauty did not go unnoticed!

Next on the Memorial Garden volunteer "to do" list is our fall clean-up. Please watch Facebook for an announcement of a date. In addition, please join us at the Wasa District Historical

Association & Memorial Garden Group for our AGM on Thursday, 11 September at 7:00p.m. in the Wasa Community Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

We welcome any interested folks looking to lend a hand with next year's volunteering. If you would like to be added to next summer's volunteer rotation or the fall clean-up, please contact Sherry Shields via email at: slshields27@gmail.com

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



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Niche Engraving - \$290

Memorial Plaque - \$350

(Engraving costs are subject to change)

Contact info:

Pat Walkey @ 250.422.3530 or
pwalkey@shaw.ca



In Loving Memory of Kenneth Albert Miles

September 20, 1930 - July 25, 2025

It is with great sadness that the family of Ken Miles announce his sudden passing at his home at the age of 94 years. Ken lived in many of the local communities around the Kootenays, including Wycliffe, Ta Ta Creek and Cranbrook but many might remember him most from Wasa Lake where he and his beloved wife Sophia continued to raise their beautiful family.

Ken worked for many years as a Millwright at Cominco (Teck) in Kimberley where he happily retired, but for Ken, that just wasn't enough to keep him busy. He also was a trustee on the Kimberley school board for over 30 years, held a spot on the Farmers Co-op board of directors, volunteered for the Wasa Land Improvement, was a Junior Forest Warden Leader, vol-

unteered the use of his ranch and himself to keep many of the animals for the Calgary Stampede or the Wycliffe exhibition grounds, along with many other things. And, if that wasn't enough, many of us could look in our wallet and find our Hunters card issued by him from the Hunters training course that he proudly taught for many years. In the fall he would be found in his butcher shop at home always helping out the locals.

When Ken would finally find some time to just relax, it was spent either on the lake, with his rod in his hand slinging Rainbow trout at Premier Lake or Kokanee in Kookanusa or hiking through the forest with a rifle in hand to ensure that his family would always have meat on the table. If these options weren't in season, you could always find him at home with an apron on. Those who know, know! I can still taste those delicious cream puffs. Of course, we can't forget about his all-time favourite thing to do, storytelling. He was a great listener, but he was by far an even better talker. He shared his memories in a way that could make you feel as though you were there alongside him in 1945 or 1951 or any timeline that he was describing.

Ken has left behind his daughter Kathy Miles-Boue, Sons David Miles and Rod Miles, Grandchildren Tanya Kneller, Cyndee Kneller, Duane Kneller (Marianne), Gaetan Boue, J.D. Miles as well as great grandchildren Colton Green (Chassadee), Kylie Sage, Katelyn Sage, Cheyanne Kneller and Lukis Kneller. He was predeceased by his parents Fred and Edythe Miles, Brother's Fred Miles and Don Miles, Sister Dorothy Miles, Loving wife Sophia Miles and Daughter Julie Kneller.

A service to celebrate his long life will be held on Saturday October 11, 2025, at 1:00 P.M. at the Wasa Community Hall to share all of our fondest memories.

September Garden Chores:

Plant cool-season vegetables, Continue harvesting, Sow garlic, Plant cover crops

Cut back dead stems, Water deeply, Prepare for winter, Divide and transplant

Fertilize:, Shop for deals, Inspect for pests, Consider fall color

Harvest your own seeds, Choose & plant fall bulbs for spring blooms

Plan next year's garden layout, Keep weeding

Gather & store your garden tools, Drain your hoses & store

Park your carts / wheelbarrow upside down so they don't accumulate snow



It is hard to believe it is already nearing the end of summer. It has been another busy few months in Area E and there have been so many activities and events that are made possible thanks to the efforts of volunteers. One of those groups of hard-working volunteers is the crew that oversees the pancake breakfasts under the leadership of coordinators Karen Marcus, Marilyn Bowen, Jane Gendron and Pat Walkey. To each and every one of you who gives back to your community in ways big and small – thank you!

As summer winds down and fall starts to creep in, there will be a number of engagement opportunities coming up for residents. Two that will be of particular interest include the new Accessory Dwelling Unit Planning Process and the kick off of the Rural Transfer Station Optimization Project. The Accessory Dwelling Unit project will identify needed updates to zoning and land use bylaw regulations to continue to align with the requirements set out by the Province in the Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023 (Bill 44). Accessory Dwelling Units – also known as ADUs - are any independent, self-contained living space that is in addition to the principal dwelling unit or structure on a single property, and includes interior, attached, and detached dwelling units. RDEK communities have expressed the need for a range of housing types and this project will include consultation and engagement in all six of the RDEK Electoral Areas, including Area E. There will be a series of workshops coming up in the fall and I encourage everyone to get out and take part so that the process is reflective of a wide range of perspectives. To learn more about this planning process, you can visit the project page: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/housing>. The dates are just in the process of being set for the community engagement sessions and will be posted on the project page once they are confirmed.

The second project is one that I know many Area E residents are eager to see get underway. The Rural Transfer Station Optimization Project will also be kicking off this fall and the first step in the process will be a high-level survey focused on gathering information on how people are currently using their rural transfer station (like the Wasa Transfer Station). Following the initial survey, staff will compile the information received along with a wide range of other data about transfer station use in the rural areas and will come back out to the community to share more about what they learned and begin looking at different ideas and opportunities that may exist. No decisions have been made and the public input will be a really important piece of this project, so I hope everyone will participate in the initial survey and in every step of the process along the way. Staff will be creating a project page on engage.rdek.bc.ca as the project gets closer to kicking off, but I thought it would be good to make you aware to be watching for details coming in the upcoming weeks.

I hope everyone enjoys these last days of summer,

Jane Walter

VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Volunteering is a work of heart.”

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What kind of key opens a banana?

A monkey

When do you do on red and stop on green?

When you're eating a watermelon

Why couldn't the jalapeno practice archery?

Because it didn't habanero!

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**



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.

GYM HOURS AND INFO

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:**
Heidi Wright 250-919-3675
- **Library:**
Rose Smith 250-422-3088
- **Quilter's Club:**
Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095



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



BOOKS BY DONATION



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



EAST KOOTENAY
INVASIVE SPECIES
COUNCIL

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAM

Invasive plants don't respect property lines and neither should our efforts to control them. That's why the Regional District of East Kootenay

(RDEK) developed the **Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program** to support landowners and occupiers in managing priority invasive species on private land.

This program provides landowners with free site visits, management advice, educational resources, and depending on eligibility, financial rebates or equipment loans to support their treatment efforts. From backpack sprayer loans to rebates for herbicide purchases or contractor services, the program is designed to make invasive plant control more accessible and collaborative.

While landowners are responsible for managing invasive plants under the BC Weed Control Act, this program helps lighten the load - especially when dealing with newly detected or particularly aggressive species. By working together across private and public lands, we can take a more coordinated approach to protecting the ecological, economic, and social values of our region.

The program runs annually from May 1 to October 1 (or until funding runs out), so don't wait! Get involved and be part of the solution in the East Kootenay's war on weeds!

To learn more visit: https://www.rdek.bc.ca/departments/environmentalservices/invasive_plant_control

Did you know that how you get rid of your garden waste could be helping invasive plants spread?

Invasive plants are often tough, resilient, and surprisingly good at surviving - even after you've pulled them. Many species found in BC, like knotweeds and hawkweeds, can't be destroyed through backyard composting or even some municipal composting systems. Improper disposal, like illegal dumping or composting invasive plants at home, is one of the leading causes of their spread into parks, forests, and wild spaces.

So what can you do?

Preventing the spread starts with proper disposal:

- Do not compost invasive plants in your backyard or regular green bin
- Bag plant material in heavy-duty plastic and take it to a landfill or incineration facility
- Secure your green waste when transporting it to avoid dropping seeds or fragments along the way
- Ask your municipality about disposal programs - some may offer pick-up services for a fee
- Be PlantWise: Know what you grow and choose native or non-invasive alternatives.

Let's keep invasive plants out of BC's wild places! Dispose with care and spread the word, not the weeds

Learn more here: <https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Dispose-with-Care-FS-2023.pdf>.



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*Ken and Helen Maine and family
would like to thank everyone who
attended the celebration of life
July 26 for their son*

Allen Maine

(Dec 2 1960 - April 17 2025)



TOPS SPOT

submitted by - Norma Williams

How to Stay Hydrated in the Heat: Practical Tips for Every Day

When temperatures rise, your body works harder to regulate its internal temperature. Sweating is your built-in cooling system, but it also causes fluid loss that can quickly lead to dehydration. Staying hydrated in hot weather is not just about comfort—it's essential for your health, energy levels, and overall well-being.

Why Hydration Matters in the Heat

In warm conditions, your body can lose more than a liter of water per hour through sweat. This loss isn't just water—important electrolytes like sodium and potassium are also depleted. Without proper hydration, you may experience fatigue, headaches, dizziness, muscle cramps, or even heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Signs You Might Be Dehydrated

- **Thirst** (a late warning sign—don't wait until you feel it)
- **Dark yellow urine** or reduced urination
- **Dry mouth** or lips
- **Fatigue** and sluggishness
- **Headaches** or dizziness

Tips to Stay Hydrated

1. Drink Water Regularly, Not Just When You're Thirsty

Aim for small, frequent sips throughout the day. Waiting until you feel thirsty means your body is already behind on fluids.

2. Balance Water with Electrolytes

If you're sweating heavily, consider drinks that replenish electrolytes—like coconut water, diluted sports drinks, or water with a pinch of salt and a splash of fruit juice.

3. Eat Your Water

Fruits and vegetables like watermelon, cucumber, oranges, and strawberries are rich in water and can help boost hydration while adding valuable vitamins and minerals.

4. Limit Diuretics in Extreme Heat

Beverages like coffee, tea, and alcohol can have a mild diuretic effect. You don't need to cut them out entirely, but balance each serving with extra water.

5. Carry a Refillable Bottle

Having water within arm's reach makes it easier to stay on track. Insulated bottles can keep your water cool longer, which can encourage you to drink more.

6. Adjust for Your Activity Level

If you're exercising or working outdoors, increase your fluid intake before, during, and after activity. A good rule of thumb: drink 1–2 cups of water an hour before exercise, sip during activity, and replenish afterward.

7. Cool Your Body

Hydration works hand-in-hand with temperature control. Wear breathable clothing, take shade breaks, and use cool, damp cloths on your skin to reduce water loss from excessive sweating.

When to Seek Medical Help

If you or someone else shows signs of heatstroke—such as confusion, rapid heartbeat, flushed skin, or loss of consciousness—seek emergency medical care immediately.

Bottom Line: Staying hydrated in the heat means more than just drinking water—it's about maintaining a steady balance of fluids and electrolytes, listening to your body's signals, and preventing heat stress before it starts. By making hydration a habit, you can stay active, safe, and energized even on the hottest days.

**Beginning immediately Tops will changing our meeting day to
Wednesdays. Weigh in at 9:00-9:30 and meeting from 9:30-10:30.**

ARE YOU GUILTY? That potato chip you dropped? Might seem like nothing. To a wild animal, it could be the start of a bad habit. If every visitor dropped just one chip a year, that's 3.5 million chips on the ground. With the back country becoming more accessible and travelled, wildlife see a lot of people and some start getting too comfortable. Animals that lose their natural wariness become habituated. It's not cute or harmless; it's risky. Add in a snack left behind, and an animal may become food-conditioned, linking humans with easy meals.



Habituated behavior may increase consequences for wildlife and people:

- Aggressive behavior may result when people bridge the now small gap
- Increased risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions
- Greater chances of animals finding unsecured food
- Some animals may even be moved for public safety
- If food-conditioned, an animal may be euthanized

Keep wildlife wild:

- Don't feed wildlife (on purpose or by accident)
- Pick up dropped food and crumbs, no matter how small
- Secure all food, trash, and scented items in a bear box or hard sided vehicle with windows up
- Don't leave food or trash in fire rings
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Zoom with your camera, not your feet
- Give animals space—25 yards for most, 100 yards for bears & wolves

As visitors and stewards of our beautiful area our collective impact matters. Let's all work together to keep wildlife and people safe.

If a bear approaches you take ALL FOOD with you. DON'T leave it behind and let the animal get a food reward.

<https://www.facebook.com/GrandTetonNPS>

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WASA LAKE LAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 15th at 7 PM

WASA COMMUNITY HALL

Purpose of Annual General Meeting

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to provide an opportunity for the board to present financial statements and report on the activities of the past year, and for landowners to discuss activities and ask questions.

There will be no election for trustees this year.

The agenda and financial statements will be available at www.wasalake.ca prior to the meeting. For more information, please contact admin@wasalake.ca

Everyone is welcome to attend!



Southern mountain caribou have been part of British Columbia's landscape since the last ice age over 10,000 years ago, and they've evolved to thrive in the province's wet, mountainous forests. The Kootenay and Columbia region is home to the two most southerly mountain caribou herds in B.C.: the Central Selkirk and Columbia North herds. All seven other herds in this region have been declared locally extinct over the last two decades.



What may have once been a single, large mountain caribou population is now fragmented into as many as 18 sub-populations that have little-to-no interactions with one another. This ecotype (a genetically distinct geographic variety) of woodland caribou migrates throughout the season, moving up and down mountainsides to find food and evade predators. Our southern mountain caribou occupy valley floors in spring and fall, and move to high-elevation forests in winter and summer.

Threats to southern mountain caribou

Southern mountain caribou numbers in B.C.'s Inland Temperate Rainforest have been steadily declining — from approximately 2,500 in the late 1990s to 1,250 today.¹ Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation from logging, particularly old-growth logging, are the largest contributors to the decline of our southern mountain caribou.

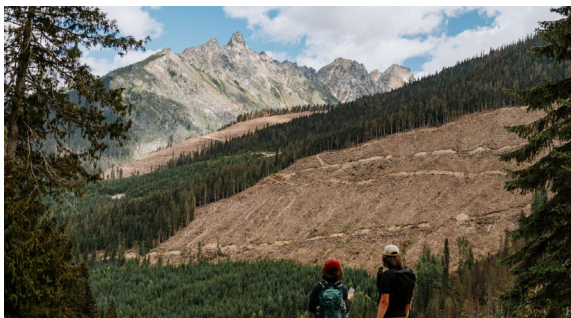
There's also some evidence that heli-skiing, snowmobiling, and other human-based recreation can displace caribou, increase stress and energy expenditure, and force animals into lower value and more avalanche-prone habitats.

Why are old growth forests so important for caribou?

B.C.'s southern mountain caribou depend on old-growth forests for several reasons. In winter, when other food is buried, they stand with huge snowshoe-like feet on top of the snow to feed on lichens growing on the branches of old-growth trees — hence why they are sometimes called 'deep-snow caribou'.

In late fall/early winter, caribou occupy low-elevation forests, where the thick canopies of old hemlock and cedar trees reduce the amount of snow on the forest floor. Here, caribou are able to paw through the snowpack to find food such as falsebox, an evergreen shrub.

Old-growth forests typically contain fewer prey species than young forests. Mature forests also have better sightlines to detect predators, due to the low density and broad spacing of trees. In contrast, predators can hunt more easily in logging areas by traveling along forestry roads. Clearcuts and young forests are also highly suitable for other ungulates — causing deer, moose and elk to move into the area. This draws



in more predators like wolves and cougars⁴, which end up preying on caribou as well.

Despite the perilous state of our remaining southern mountain caribou herds, logging continues to occur in critical southern mountain caribou habitat. In 2014, the federal government released its southern mountain caribou recovery strategy, which recommended limiting disturbance to critical caribou habitat. In the five years after the strategy was released, more than 90,900 hectares — an area equivalent to over 227 times the

size of Vancouver's Stanley Park — of critical caribou habitat was logged in B.C.

Today, only one third of the Columbia North herd's core habitat is protected, despite the federal recovery plan recommending that all of the herd's core habitat be protected.

What is Wildsight doing?

Wildsight has advocated for increased caribou protections for more than 30 years. Currently, we're pushing for habitat protections for the last two remaining herds in the region: the Columbia North and Central Selkirk herds. We also work alongside First Nations and other organizations to defend southern mountain caribou from a variety of threats.

In 2014, we won a lawsuit forcing the federal government to map critical habitat for at-risk species and release corresponding recovery strategies. This included the release of the 2014 Recovery Strategy for Southern Mountain Caribou. Advocating for the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan which was legislated in 2007, protecting more than 2.2 million hectares from logging and associated road building.

<https://wildsight.ca/programs/mountaincaribou/>



Escaping the Fear Created by the Media Information Channels

In today's world, fear has become a commodity. The media, across all information channels, whether governed by political authorities or financial lobbies, whether traditional or digital, know that anxiety-provoking information captures more attention than neutral or positive messages. The mechanism is simple: the more emotion we feel, the more connected we are, and the more we can be influenced. Thus, fear is not just a side effect of the news: it is sometimes a product intentionally manufactured to keep minds in a state of tension and dependence.

In recent years, millions of people rushed to receive a vaccine presented as the solution to a global health crisis, even though it was an experimental injection whose efficacy had not yet been proven—and whose side effects have only gradually been revealed over time. Many of these people not only accepted this treatment without question, but also sought to convince, or even coerce, those who were hesitant or refused, going so far as to marginalize them and accuse them of conspiracy theories. Today, the question remains: how many of them would still be willing to submit to the next upcoming mass vaccination campaign, whatever its nature? While vaccines may be useful, they must still fulfill their primary purpose: to prevent the development of disease in individuals, not simply to alleviate symptoms while exposing them to unknown risks. All this has been made possible by way of

a skillful manipulation of collective fear that influences behavior, while Big Pharma continues to line its pockets thanks to this health crisis. Our misfortunes, whether natural or imposed, always seem to benefit the richest. This constant climate of impending danger acts as a mental fog. It weakens our judgment, reduces our ability to reason and perceive nuances, and pushes us to react instinctively rather than thoughtfully. Individuals immersed in a continuous stream of shocking images, alarming figures, and catastrophic narratives may end up seeing the world through a distorted lens, where everything seems threatening and unsafe.

Breaking free from this conditioning begins with a simple but decisive step: regaining control of our own attention. This means consciously choosing our sources of information, limiting the time we spend in front of screens, and diversifying our points of view. Listening to different voices, consulting independent media, or turning to international sources can open up new perspectives and reveal that there are always multiple versions of reality concerning the same event.

It is also essential to reintroduce moments of silence, observation, and reflection into our daily lives. Reading a book, walking in nature, meditating, or simply breathing deeply allows the mind to regain a clear and peaceful inner space. In this calm, the fear created by the media loses its grip, as it can only feed on our constant attention.

Lucidity also means recognizing that information is often incomplete, biased, or filtered. This

does not mean that we must reject everything or cut ourselves off from the world, but rather that we develop a critical mind and ask ourselves who benefits from a particular narrative, what is the real context behind an image, and what intentions may be hidden behind certain information campaigns.

Finally, to break out of the spiral of fear once and for all, we need to cultivate trust: trust in our own analytical abilities, in human resilience, and in the possibility of a better future. The media tends to amplify the negative, but reality is also made up of progress, solidarity, and positive transformations that are often ignored. By choosing to feed our minds with what uplifts rather than what frightens us, we regain control of our perception and, consequently, of our lives.

Thus, to extricate ourselves from the fear created by the media is not an act of escape, but an act of inner sovereignty. It is deciding that our view of the world will no longer be dictated by those who have an interest in keeping us in a state of anxiety, but by our own quest for truth, clarity, and inner freedom.

May your hearts be calmed by vigilance. May we all learn to extricate ourselves from the instinctive and dangerously subjective movements created by fear in order to regain the clarity, freedom, and strength of mind necessary to act according to our conscience, and not under the influence of manipulation.

With love to all.

OM OM OM

H H Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



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What Brought Me to Wasa, and Why I Stayed

continued from August issue

by Rhonda Berger

"The First Date"

First was Emma. I've been told it's not safe (for the house) to leave her alone.

So instead of him picking me up like a normal (omg, did I just SAY that! —there is nothing normal about my life!), he walked across the lake (romantic in itself, walking under the moonlit and starry skies).

He smelled so good when he got to my door. All fresh air-y.

We were going to go in my hostess's car, which is what I take with Emma, but he didn't feel comfortable driving someone else's car.

I am a passenger, and a follower. To drive myself on our first date??? I don't think so.

We took my car. HURDLE!!!! He had to fold himself like a pretzel to get in! Omg, we laughed! He's 6' something. Makes me chuckle just at the thought!

It's been YEARS since I was a passenger in my car. Hurdle #2! Found out my seat belt is stuck. Like REALLY stuck. Couldn't get it, so he suggested we take his truck. We were already running late, and we didn't want to miss the start of the show. Sooooo, off we go!

Hurdle #3. It's standard and had been quite a few years since he'd driven one. My little car bucks once in a while going into first and of course it chose then to do it. Much to his chagrin, I'm sure! It's like riding a bike, tho. Once you learn, you don't forget.

Finally, off we went! Emma happily ensconced in the back seat with a pile of blankets. (It Is Winter) But don't forget, she's a Husky. She'd rather be out than in. And, definitely with me, than not.

The date was a success!

To be continued ...

A Texas farmer went on vacation to Australia. He met up with an Australian farmer who proudly showed off his wheat field.

"That's nothing," said the Texan. "Back home, we have wheat fields that are twice as large as this."

Next, the Australian pointed out his cattle.

"They're nothing," said the Texan. "Back home, we have longhorns that are twice as big as your cows."

Just then, half a dozen kangaroos bounded across the road.

"What are those?" asked the Texan.

The Australian replied, "Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?"

TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ - September 2025 - ISSUE 284 - 19



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Church 10:30 am	8 	9	10 WLLID Board Mtg 7 pm	11	12	13
14 Church 10:30 am	15 October submissions due!	16 Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	17	18	19	20 
21 Church 10:30 am	22	23	24 Happy National Punctuation Day! 	25	26	27
28 Church 10:30 am	29	30 				

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, in the Community Hall
- WLLID board mtg September 10th 7 p.m.
- WLLID AGM October 15@ 7pm



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