



# Tri-Village Buzz



October 2014 Issue 173

VISIT: [WWW.WASALAKE.COM / BUZZ](http://WWW.WASALAKE.COM/BUZZ)

Wasa Community Hall is having a

## Family Fiesta Night

Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm & 8:00 pm

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Music and Karaoke with Krista  
7:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Lions Cash Bar  
5:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Taco Buffet with over 20 Toppings  
(Better known as Mexican Pile-up)

Desserts, Juice, Coffee, Tea

Tickets available at Slim Pickens,  
Rec Society Members & User Groups

Advance:	Adult \$10.00
	Children 10 and under \$5.00
	Family (Immediate) \$30.00

At the Door:	Adult \$12.00
	Children 10 and under \$7.00
	Family (Immediate) \$35.00



SERVING SKOOKUMCHUCK, TA TA CREEK AND WASA



Hi readers and avid gardeners! We are soon putting our Memorial Garden to bed after another busy growing season. Before we sign off for the winter let's chat about our exciting idea for 2015. A few years ago some important

excavation had to be done to enable the Lions to complete their new skating rink. The down side of this project for us was the removal of many trees that acted as a buffer zone for the garden. Those trees protected the garden from high winds, highway sounds and the many activities at the Lions grounds. We felt something could be done so we came up with an idea and it is called "FRIENDS of the GARDEN". In spring we want to plant at least 11 Blue Spruce they will become our new privacy fence. Jim and Louise Welsh from Premier Trees will plant and supply the spruce at a very generous discount. The Lions will see we have the water needed and Garry Verigin has once again donated his time, expertise and equipment to prepare the area ready for the planting. THANK YOU one and all!! Now it's your turn, to become a 'FRIEND' you can agree to buy a tree for \$170. and we will in turn tag that tree with your name. Simply call Bev Rauch at 250 422 3335 to make it happen.

Our AGM was held Sept. 10, 2014 it was a good meeting but we were disappointed in the attendance. Our directors are aging and we really need the support of the younger crowd. There are only 2 meetings a year so the commitment isn't huge. Just think about. The next meeting isn't until spring and we would welcome you and your fresh outlook.

The following will remain as the executive for 2015 President Sandy Kay, Vice President Naomi Miller, Treasurer Bev Rauch and the Secretary Sandy Jensen. Thank you all for serving.

Thanks also to the community at large for keeping our project alive by visiting, supporting new ideas and especially your volunteer hours. You will forever be appreciated by the society.

Chat again when spring has sprung!

Sandy Kay



The **WASA RECREATION SOCIETY'S** main objective is to generate funds to keep the Wasa Hall running. Wasa Recreation Society members meet in the basement of the Wasa Hall in the Quilters Room on the last Tuesday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend.

Listed below are some of the user groups and contacts:

- Hall Rentals and Information  
Karen Markus 250.422.3514  
Lorraine Colton 250.422.3640
- Gym  
Sonia Blackwell 250.422.9201
- TOPS  
Susan 250.422.3510
- Library  
Brenda Rauch  
250.422.3335

In addition, BINGO's are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Wasa Hall. Early bird starts at 6:45 pm and regular at 7:00 pm.

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

- Minimum of 2 people in the Gym at all times
- All users must sign in with date and time
- All users must sign a Wasa Recreation Programs User Waiver located at the sign-in desk
- All users are required to wear "gym shoes" - no street shoes permitted
- All users must use the safety key on the Walking Machines
- Cost is a loonie or twoonie
- Have fun and be safe!



*In the morning 7:30 am to 8:30 am...  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays  
10 am to 11 am Mondays and Wednesdays  
Contact: Sonia Blackwell 250.422.9201*



*We're open to suggestions, give us a call if you know 2 or more people that would like to attend at a time not indicated.*

**GYM HOURS AND INFO**



**TRI- VILLAGE BUZZ  
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Sandy Kay  
Karen Markus  
Judy McPhee  
Kathy Miles-Boue  
Naomi Miller  
Ven. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha  
Gary Semenyna  
Jane Walter



**Letters to the Editor**

Dear Editor

Over the course of the past month, a few of us local residents (exact number apparently unavailable) have received letters from the WLLID re: the basic foreclosure of our homes and the placement of these homes on the market for public auction if a certain criteria (i.e. arrears in taxes in the amounts of \$200. to \$300. in cases that I am aware of) were not paid by Sept. 2/2014. Is this type of government agency that you want here in Wasa, one that has the right to sell their neighbours' home, is willing to do so, all over the issue of a few hundred dollars? We, my wife and I, have refused to pay this tax because of issues that we have here at Cameron Pond, have presented these issues to WLLID trustees in the past, have been thoroughly neglected and until recently have not been granted a meeting with the said board. I have had a trustee at my residence (unofficially) to warn me about the forthcoming letter re: the auctioning of our house and the consequences that were to follow if our back taxes were not paid. I then pointed out to him the issues that we have here on the pond to which none of these he was privy to despite numerous attempts on our behalf to tell previous board members. He then told us to contact the CBT for a grant to rectify some of these issues, to which I later found out from the RDEK that we were not eligible for because individuals cannot apply singularly and must be part of an organization. I informed the trustee that we have no problems paying the back taxes if our issues were dealt with. Once again these issues basically fell on deaf ears and we received notice of public auction re: our house foreclosure. As recently as 2 years ago, culverts between Wasa Lake and Cameron Pond were boarded up threatening to flood the residents of Cameron Pond. Is this the type of agency that you want representing your needs and is this the type of agency that you would give money to?" There

is also a map of residents who pay taxes and those who don't I ask you to look at his map and determine if it is a fair assessment or darts being thrown at a board? The WLLID's actions with threat of house auctions is definitely the grass roots and sincerest form of bullying and is inexcusable, has caused great anxieties, has pitted neighbour against neighbour, all over the cost a few hundred dollars. If these antics are being performed by so-called neighbours and friends, I would rather live amongst my enemies. I have also recently spoken to a government official in Victoria who informed me that the WLLID's only mandate is to test the water at Wasa Lake and the official was also very uncertain as to what land improvement meant. She then said that the WLLID has the right to put residences up for auction because of taxes in arrears but did not see this as a viable solution to our problems.

A very high percentage of the WLLID's tax revenue is brought in from our Alberta neighbours who have absolutely no say in the distribution of these funds and have no say in whom is elected to oversee the handling of these monies. It's time for changes and time for Wasa to have equal representation re: the distribution and allotment of these revenues. Why is there over \$40,000 of your dollars in the WLLID's coffers? If you have questions or issues re: this topic, please feel free to contact me at mcarelli52@gmail.com or better yet call Alexa Newton at government of BC at 250 387-4074 or email her @ alexa.newton@gov.bc.ca and voice your concerns.

Mario Carelli

Your comments and Letters to the Editor are a welcome contribution to this newsletter. However, the views expressed here are solely that of the writer and not necessarily shared by the volunteers of the Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter team.

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**(pking753@gmail.com)**

**or go to: www.wasalake.com/buzz**

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Wasa, BC V0B 2K0

# WASA LAKE LAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (WLLID)

## Wasa Weed

Submitted by Laurie Kay

In mid-August, a worried resident notified trustees about patches of an aquatic plant at two locations in the lake. The suspicious plant resembled Eurasian Water Milfoil, a nasty invasive aquatic plant that spreads rapidly and is extremely difficult to control. Trustees submitted samples to the Ministry of Environment who identified it as the Spiked (or Northern) Water Milfoil. Easier to control than the European variety, this native milfoil is still problematic if it spreads because it affects water recreation. On the other hand, it provides cover/habitat for fish, food for waterfowl, supports insect life, and it does not affect water quality. Trustees will work with the Ministry of Environment to inventory and monitor its growth.

## Water Testing

Throughout the summer trustees collected water samples for Ecoli testing, all results returning from the laboratory with "no water quality issues." Although Ecoli testing is now complete, we will continue to test for clarity, temperature, and oxygen (general indicators of lake health) until early November. Results provide valuable evidence of the health of the lake and a base line from which variations can be analyzed and addressed if necessary.

## Real Time River Monitoring

Trustees are investigating the installation of "real time" electronic monitoring devices in the Kootenay River. Data collected on water levels will be tied in with the Ministry of Environment test well (located by the Wasa Building Supply) to provide more information on the relationship between the river, lake, and ground water movement. This knowledge could have an impact on flood mitigation strategies.

**The next Regular Board meeting is 7 p.m. on Monday, October 20th at the Wasa Community Hall.**

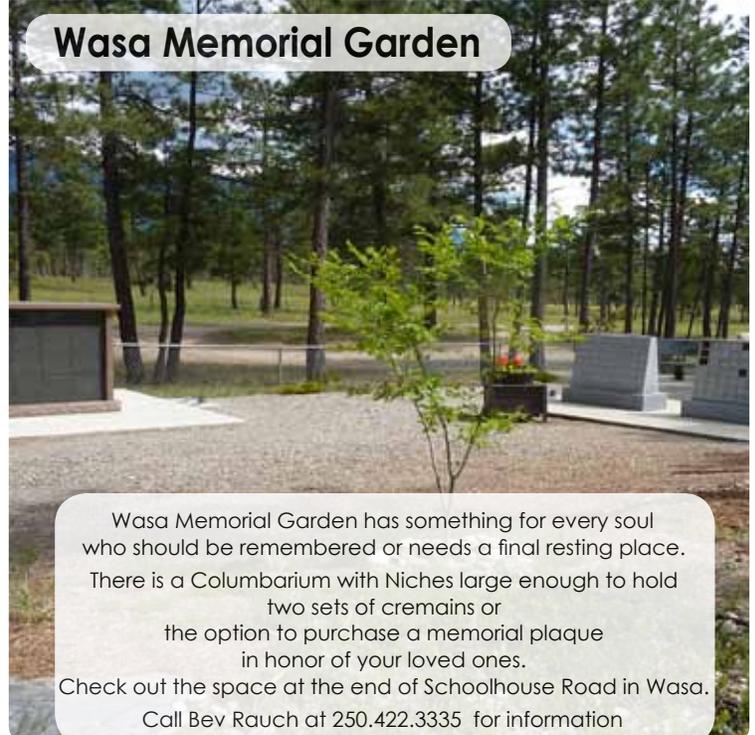
Please contact the secretary at [admin@wasalake.ca](mailto:admin@wasalake.ca) with further questions or comments.

# ANSWERS

8	7	9	4	6	1	2	3	5
2	6	1	8	5	3	7	9	4
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## Wasa Memorial Garden



Wasa Memorial Garden has something for every soul who should be remembered or needs a final resting place. There is a Columbarium with Niches large enough to hold two sets of cremains or the option to purchase a memorial plaque in honor of your loved ones. Check out the space at the end of Schoolhouse Road in Wasa. Call Bev Rauch at 250.422.3335 for information

The representatives for the Wasa and area Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) grant fund are: Marilyn Bowen, Kathy Miles-Boue and June Clubley. For questions or inquiries please contact: **Marilyn Bowen at 250.422.3210 or Cell 250.489.9586.**

Applications are available at Slim Pickens Gas & Goods.



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## Where do you take... **YOUR BUZZ?**



BC Lions fans Dar & Afton cheered on their beloved team at their very first ever "live" foot ball game in Calgary on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. The BC Lions unfortunately lost the game, but Dar and Afton enjoyed every minute of the experience!

- Send me a photo of you in your travels pictured with the Tri-Village Buzz.
- Include a brief description of where you went and the names of the people in the photo.
- I'll publish all photos received.
- The name of the person sending me the photo will be entered in a draw for a \$50.00 Gift Certificate redeemable at any one of the advertisers (of your choice) advertised in 2014 in the Tri-Village Buzz.
- The draw will take place December 2014.
- One winner will be drawn, enter as many times as you like (one photo per destination please).
- Open to all readers of the Tri-Village Buzz.

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### ITALIAN DRESSING

6 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice  
¼ tsp each salt & pepper  
1 tsp fresh chopped parsley  
½ tsp fresh chopped oregano

2 Tbsp white wine vinegar  
2 cloves garlic minced  
1 tsp fresh chopped basil  
2 tsp grated Parmesan

In a small bowl whisk together oil, vinegar, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir in fresh herbs and cheese. Makes ½ cup.

### ULTIMATE BREAKFAST SMOOTHIE

1 Banana, peeled and broken in to chunks  
1 cup (250 ml) plain or fruit flavoured yogurt  
1 cup (250 ml) milk  
1 cup (250 ml) mixed fruit (fresh or frozen)  
1 Tbsp liquid honey  
1 tsp vanilla extract

- 1 In a blender, combine banana, yogurt, milk, mixed fruit, honey and vanilla and puree until smooth.
- 2 Pour into chilled glasses and serve immediately
- 3 Variation – use chocolate milk and omit the honey

## Fanny's Favorites

**DAN CHASE**

250.427.5517



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The Wasa Lions Medical loan cupboard has been very well used by members in our community as well as temporary use for visitors to our residents. Donations to the loan cupboard are welcome. At this time we are having an increased call for seated walkers. If you have one that is not being used please consider donating to assist your community.



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## News From the Pews

By Pastor Gary Semenyna



Thanksgiving is just around the corner and at this time we know we're supposed to express our thankfulness. I trust that you will actually take time to do that this year. I want to make a challenge to you to express your thankfulness to God. The Scriptures remind us often of this truth; 1 Thessalonians 5:18, tells us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Psalm 9:1 says, "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."

But have you thought about why we should be thankful to God? Being thankful compels me to think about how great our God is, rather than focusing on myself. It humbles me. It lifts my mind off my troubles and anxieties and reminds me that God will always provide for my needs, and that "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" as Romans 8:28 teaches.

Being thankful helps us to view life with a glass half full attitude rather than viewing it half empty.

As you approach Thanksgiving, here's one way to cultivate a thankful heart: Spend time listing God's blessings in your life. And don't stop until you've listed at least 10-15. The exercise will force you to think creatively about God's care and provision in your life, even for the small things. Listing God's blessings in your life forces you to focus on Him, and in the process you catch a glimpse of His love, care, and compassion. This week you might want to take some time to do this as a couple, or as a family. I guarantee you will be encouraged.

I also want to remind you that we do have a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to come and to express your thankfulness at that Church Service. It starts at 10:30 a.m. If any of you have any spiritual questions or would like a visit, please give me a call at 250 422-3344.

I found this little poem for Thanksgiving. I hope you enjoy it.

May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey plump,  
May your potatoes and gravy  
Have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize,  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off your thighs!

## PET'S PLACE

### Tess and Bart



Tess and Bart were born this summer and are a welcome addition to the Salanski family. The little hound puppies love running and playing and yes of course... barking!

Welcome Tess and Bart!

Send me your pet photos to:  
[trivillagebuzz@gmail.com](mailto:trivillagebuzz@gmail.com)

By Area E Director Jane Walter

## THANK YOU TO WASA LIONS

I would like to thank the Wasa Lion's for putting on the Frank's and Thanks. The Bunk House Boys provided entertainment for everyone to enjoy. The Lion's were also able to express their gratitude to Doug Clovechuk who represented the BC Liberals and the \$72,027. contribution towards the new skating rink. The grant was issued through the Ministry of Communities, Sport and Cultural Development. Other funding sources for the skating rink included: \$6,500. from Columbia Basin Trust, \$6,000. from the Columbia Basin Community Initiatives as well as a \$2,000. donation from the Discretionary Grant In Aid fund (RDEK). This funding helped the Wasa Lion's to build the best outdoor rink in the RDEK. Thank you to all of the Lion's and to the many community members that volunteered and assisted with the construction of our new rink. The Peter Vereshagen Memorial Skating Rink is a real gem for Wasa and Area.

## FORT STEELE LANDFILL

The Central Landfill Scale Operations contract was awarded to TA Contracting. There was also a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee appointed which will be responsible for making recommendations to the RDEK Board of Directors on matters involving the monitoring and efficient implementation of the RDEK Solid Waste Plan.

## DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT APPLICATION

The RDEK Board reconsidered the Roberts Development Variance Permit application in Wasa waiving the minimum use able site area requirement. The Boards reconsideration

was based on new information presented and in anticipation of a bylaw amendment application that will be required in order for the applicant to proceed with their proposed subdivision.

## WASA AND AREA BUSINESS FLYER

Thank you to Steve Wilson (Wasa Hardware and Building Supplies), Bev Rauch, Marilyn Bowen, Jim Large, and Heather Fancy for the wonderful flyer which showcases Wasa and area. During the public input meetings for the Wasa and Area Official Community Plan many of the Wasa businesses were concerned about attracting people to the area. The group developed a flyer to encourage people to come to the area and discover all of the wonderful opportunities available. The funding came from the local businesses and the Wasa Lions sponsored an application for a \$2,000. grant through the RDEK's Columbia Basin Community Initiatives.

I wish to announce that I will be running for the Area E Director position in this years Municipal Election on November 15, 2014. I hope that I will be given the opportunity to continue to work with and for the residents of Area E.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy month.

Jane Walter,  
RDEK Director,  
Phone: 250-427-2577  
Email: s.janewalter@gmail.com

## Hints From Vi

By Vi Cockell



Hello Readers! We've had our first frost and now the clean up begins. It was so sad to see the frozen gardens and flowers, but we did have a great summer!

1. **Correction** to last months hint about a fast way to make a grilled cheese sandwich should have stated: Prepare the grilled cheese sandwich as normal, turn your toaster on its side and slide the sandwich in. Just like a piece of toast it will pop out when it's done!
2. When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nail to be. Simply press against the wall and the mark can be used as a guide for hammering the nail.
3. To prevent potatoes from budding and going to seed, place an apple in the container.
4. Cigarette ash on a damp cloth will remove glass rings on furniture - rub until the spot is gone.
5. To remove tar from vehicles, rub the area with a cloth dipped in Miracle Whip.

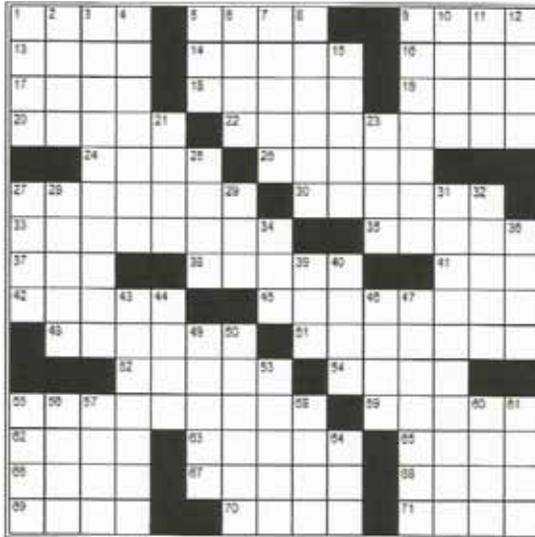
Till next time, take care.

*"A great actor can bring tears to your eyes, but than so can an auto mechanic!"*

Crossword

ACROSS

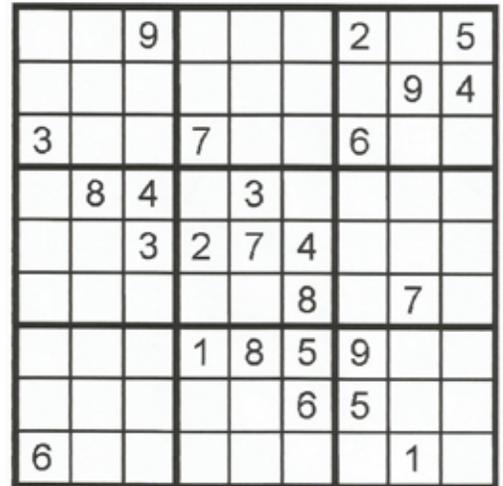
- 1. Hit hard
- 5. Was indebted
- 9. Flying saucers
- 13. Forearm bone
- 14. Eagle's nest
- 16. Not a single one
- 17. Harvest
- 18. Not domesticated
- 19. Small freshwater fish
- 20. Answer
- 22. Cops
- 24. Deceased
- 26. Turbine part
- 27. Paddler
- 30. Trinket
- 33. Wrestles (slang)
- 35. Neighborhood
- 37. Holiday drink
- 38. Aromatic solvent
- 41. Spy agency
- 42. Dirty fogs
- 45. Least old
- 48. Every year
- 51. Avoiding detection
- 52. Blacksmith's block
- 54. Satisfy
- 55. Listened
- 59. Brusque
- 62. Nobleman
- 63. Inflexible
- 65. Bulwark
- 66. Being
- 67. Serpentine
- 68. "Smallest" particle
- 69. Accomplishment
- 70. Delight
- 71. Evergreens



DOWN

- 1. Prickle
- 2. Away from the wind
- 3. Showy bloom
- 4. Pitiabile
- 5. Buffoon
- 6. Cry
- 7. Mistake
- 8. Conversation
- 9. Experience
- 10. Froth
- 11. A single time
- 12. Observed
- 15. High society
- 21. Sweet potatoes
- 23. Hood
- 25. Broad valley
- 27. Possesses
- 28. Fragrance
- 29. Mesh
- 31. Speed up
- 32. Midsection
- 34. Timid
- 36. Strip of wood
- 39. Dawn goddess
- 40. Tracks
- 43. Twisted into deformity
- 44. Gone under
- 46. Tidy
- 47. Entryway
- 49. Declares
- 50. An inner piece of cloth
- 53. Lawful
- 55. Pay attention to
- 56. Lack of difficulty
- 57. Backside
- 58. Water barrier
- 60. Not fast
- 61. Shade trees
- 64. Coloring agent

Sudoku



Find a Word  
(Look Up)

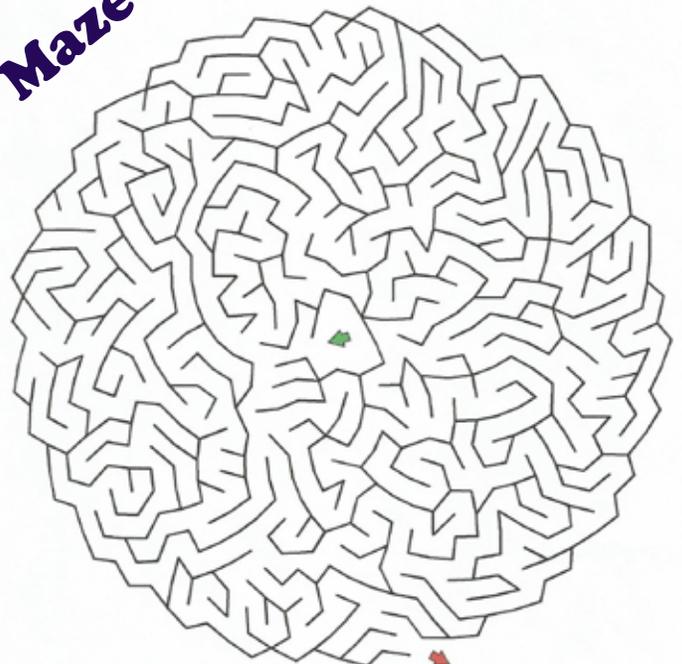
U P L A N E T S K R O W E R I F N  
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 S R A M H L A W S G J V E N U S E  
 E R E T P O C I L E H C T E U E R

- AIRPLANE
- BIG DIPPER
- BIRDS
- BLIMP
- BLUE SKY
- CHIMNEY SMOKE
- CLOUDS
- COMET
- DRONE
- FIREWORKS
- GALAXY
- HAZE
- HELICOPTER
- HOT AIR BALLOON
- JET EXHAUST
- JUPITER
- KITE
- LIGHTNING
- MARS
- MERCURY
- METEOR SHOWER
- MOON
- PLANETS
- POWER LINES
- RAINBOW
- SATELLITE
- SATURN
- SKYDIVER
- SKYSCRAPER
- SKYWRITING
- SMOG
- SOLAR ECLIPSE
- STARS
- STREET LIGHT
- THE SUN
- TREETOP
- UNIVERSE
- VENUS



Okay, Ralph .... let me 'splain it you again. You're big, I'm little; BUT!!! you're dog, I'm cat .... that makes me the boss. Got it ??

Maze





## Overcoming Discouragement and Depression

In life, it is possible to experience moments of discouragement and depression, where a feeling of past failure is added to your analysis of the situation at hand, forcing you to adhere to a more or less dark vision of your life. This can easily be overcome and, if you are going through such a period laden with obstacles and frustrations, it is capital for you to be extremely careful regarding the dark power of the mind, which can make you see yourself as darker than you are in reality.

There are a few rules you must constantly remember, if you want to go beyond the spells of discouragement and depression:

- 1- First of all, nothing is wrong in your life since things only happen. From now on, break the habit of dealing with problems; only deal with what happens without qualifying anything as good or bad.
- 2- Second, no matter what happens in your life, it always corresponds to you: it is you who is in this situation right now. Therefore you are certainly the best and most qualified person to deal with it harmoniously and successfully.
- 3- Third, you cannot and should never disagree with what happens, since what is happening can absolutely not be otherwise at this moment of your life. Accept that what is as it is and remain calm.
- 4- Fourth, nothing lasts forever, meaning that adversity in life always has an end. After the rain, sooner or later, the sun shines again; you can count on this! What seems harsh today will vanish on the time line; you can be sure of it! Trust that impermanence will bring you good fortune along the Path of Life and don't be burdened by the unfoldment of your incarnation!

You should realize that any feeling of discouragement or depression is in fact a powerful call for happiness and freedom. Focus on the fact that you don't want to be discouraged or depressed, rather that you wish to be happy; this should be absolutely clear in your mind and be your primary motivation. Assert: "I don't want to be discouraged or depressed, I just want to be happy and that is my goal no matter what!"

If you want to be happy no matter what you are going through, you must stop fighting against reality. Reality is as it is right

now, and you can't do anything about it. If you accept reality as it is, you will immediately stop fighting against it. From there, you will easily see what can and must be done now or later. For example, before you are able to repair your car, you first need to accept that your car is broken. First admit, My car is broken, and then declare, Now I can and must repair it or get a new one. Another example could be that of leaving your husband or wife. In such circumstances, you should first accept that she /he is as she / he is right now, since they cannot be otherwise. Acceptance brings you peace of mind and clarity for all future decisions. Accept first, don't blame anyone or anything, breathe deeply, and only when you are quiet enough, apply the right solution for the happiness and benefit of as many people as possible. In reality, you are never stuck anywhere or with anyone. There is always a solution!

These are the most important rules of a Yoga Sadhana Practice in your daily life. In following this advice, the words "discouragement" and "depression" will soon have no meaning for you!

May these powerful keys given to me by my Guru when I was very young help you achieve an ever-heightened level of harmony and happiness with everyone.

With blessing and love!

Warmly yours in the Lord

Venerable Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha

Adi Vajra Shambhasalem Ashram, Wasa, BC Canada

Ashram public Meditation and Teaching sessions will not take place in October and will start again on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
For more info call **250-422-9327**

Venerable Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha published a book entitled, *In the Presence of Truth. Discovering the Being Within*, which is a roadmap to Self-Realization. To learn more about this wonderful book and its author, visit: [www.inthepresenceoftruth.com](http://www.inthepresenceoftruth.com).

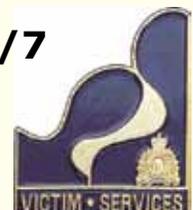
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**sarahlshields@gmail.com**

## WASA RECREATION SOCIETY

The Wasa Recreation Society is once again holding a fund raising dinner at the Community Hall. Last year was to celebrate the Community Hall's 25th birthday.

As that dinner was such a success and a great community event we are having another one. We would like to think of this not only as a fund raiser for the community hall and all that it supports, but a chance for our community to get together, socialize with new people and those familiar faces in the community, see what activities are happening here and just have some fun.

The Family Fiesta night is for all. Come out on Saturday, October 18th and try the Taco buffet (some call it the pile-on taco), sing a song for us at Karaoke with Krista and enjoy an evening out.

Tickets are on sale from members of the Recreation Society and at Slim Pickens Gas and Goods. See details on first page.

## WASA RECREATION SOCIETY

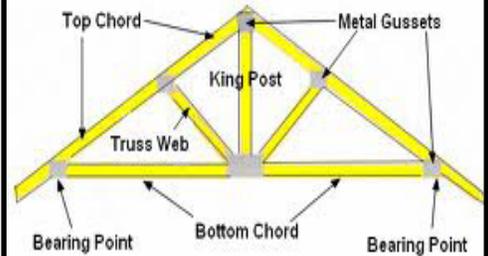
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## Wasa Community Church

~ Pastor Gary Semenyina ~

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home: 250.422.9226

Sunday

Worship Service

10:30 am

Thursday

Bible Study

7:00 pm.



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# HISTORY BYTES

BY NAOMI MILLER



## HOSMER: A FORMER COLLIERY TOWN

The sleepy village of Hosmer sits east of Fernie beside Highway #3. It started with a sawmill in 1904 then grew to a state of the art Colliery in 1908. This was a block of 3,840 acres (1,554 ha) accorded to CPR as part of the Crow's Nest Agreement in 1897. The agreement did not allow coal production for the first ten years. Building commenced in 1907 and the first full shipment of coal left the siding in December 1908. The tipple, boiler house, power house, and machine shops came first on the lower elevations with 240 beehive coke ovens. Up on Hosmer Ridge, known as A-level, the portal of the main tunnel and ventilation tunnel stood near the Lamp House and fan house. Four narrow gauge rail lines ran steeply uphill to both A and B-Level. Cable hoists pulled up a "trip" of 20 dumpsters. These were then sent into the mine pulled by horses in early years and later a small compressed air 'Dinky.' When the chain of cars entered the portal a "stopper boy" opened the portal door and closed it after all were inside.

On a lower piece of property the Canadian Pacific built housing for mine workers. Initially there was a general mine office, a mess house, a large boarding house, three officer's residences, three foremen's houses, then eighty-eight miners houses, a hospital and a church. The houses were in rows of similar construction, painted and with nominal servicing, "electric light and running water." Electricity meant that a twenty five watt bulb hung from the middle of the ceiling and burned continuously. "Running water" referred to a communal spigot in the street, one for every six houses. Miners paid either \$7 or \$12 per month rent for each dwelling. A third community sprang up between the coke ovens and the railway. About twenty-five shacks there, with no services, were known as "Tony's Camp" because most were occupied by Italians. At the peak of operations the community had Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican and Catholic Churches each with a ladies auxiliary. Hosmer Football Club,

Knights of Pythias, Sons of Scotland, the Ukrainian Society, Maple Leaf Lodge, Fireman's Hockey Club, and a Board of Trade offered something for everybody. Dances and movies were held in the Hosmer Opera House or the Queens Hotel.

Miners worked underground six days a week following the room and pillar system. Work started with a mile walk up the hill to the Lamp House. There each collected a lamp and a brass tag with his number before going underground for 8 hours. Heavy manual labor, dusty conditions and occasional explosions were expected. The lamp and name tag had to be returned to the Lamp House before the man could go to the wash house. Pay was \$3.75 a day until after the strike in 1911 when it was upped to \$7.30 per day. Each man working in the coke ovens had six ovens assigned. Three ovens would be ready each of three shifts per day seven days a week. Five or six tons of barely quenched coke had to be pulled from each oven with a metal long handled rake. The oven was so hot that when the next load of coal was loaded through the top it quickly ignited. Water used for quenching drained from the sloping floor of the oven. Trail smelter was the main user of the coke from Hosmer. Female workers were employed in the tipple to sort the coal by size and hand pick rocks from each load. Coal through the smallest screen was called "Slack." It was sent in small dumpsters to refill the coke ovens. Larger lumps for use by locomotives or various smelters were loaded onto full sized rail cars for shipping to customers.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1908 a forest fire almost destroyed Fernie and spread around. Fernie citizens were evacuated to Hosmer or Cranbrook by whatever cars the CPR could muster. Temporary shelter for many was found in the new coke ovens. The late Mrs. Norma Fink often told of her childhood adventure sleeping in a brick oven. The fire spread to the upper levels of Hosmer where it burned the timbers at the mouth of A and B tunnels, then

burned the powder house detonating the dynamite. Rain thankfully limited further destruction. In 1913 Hosmer coal lost some of its markets so in June 1914 the mine was permanently shut down. Much of the equipment and even some buildings were shipped to Bankhead or other mines. Most miners found employment elsewhere. Others citizens stayed on, minus electricity, warranting continuation of school, train station and post office. In 1922 two businessmen from Alberta cut empty staff house in half, transferred them to Coleman, where they located, restored, painted and either sold or rented them. Metal roofs of the tipple and other buildings were stripped during WW II.

In 1993-94 an effort was made to save the main buildings and a few coke ovens to create a heritage mining/ coke demonstration site. Trees were removed from inside the tipple, trusses to replace the roof were found, three coke ovens were cleared of vegetation, the cemetery was redefined and tentative management was arranged with Fort Steele Heritage Town. Unhappily the scant funding from the provincial government was cancelled, so volunteers were unable to proceed or even maintain the site. Now vegetation is masking ovens and especially the cemetery while graffiti abounds in the shells of old buildings. The Hosmer story illustrates the rise and fall of a community. Thanks go to Fred Lightfoot for caring for what's left and for providing facts for this story.



**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**

**T. O. P. S.**

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**

Every Wednesday  
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Wasa Community Hall

**For More Information Contact:**  
Susan: 250.422.3510  
Irene: 250.422.3686  
**1.800.932.8677 (Toll Free)**  
[www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org)

# October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
We the volunteers of the Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter reserve the right to refuse to print submissions due to legality, length, good taste or discriminating beliefs.			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
					No Yoga & Meditation	
<b>5</b> Church	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
		Lions Meeting 7 p.m.			No Yoga & Meditation	
<b>12</b> Church	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>BINGO</b>                      6:30 Early Bird                      6:45 Regular                 </div>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Family Fiesta</b> 
					No Yoga & Meditation	
<b>19</b> Church	<b>20</b> Cut off for September Newsletter	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
	WLLID Mtg 7 pm	Lions Meeting 7 p.m.			No Yoga & Meditation	
<b>26</b> Church	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	
					No Yoga & Meditation	

- LEGEND**
- Church Service 10:30 am
  - Gym (M,W,F 7:30-8:30 am & 10-11 M,W)
  - BINGO 6:45 p.m.
  - Rec Society 7:00 p.m.
  - Lions 7:00 p.m.
  - Library Tues. 11 am - 1 pm and Wed 6:30 pm -8:00 pm
  - TOPS Wed 6:30 pm
  - Quilters Tues. 10 am to 4 pm

### Special Events and Days Down the Road

- Sunday, November 2nd  
Daylight Savings Time ends
- Tuesday, November 11th  
Remembrance Day
- Saturday, November 15th  
Election

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- CBT Contact Marilyn Bowen.....250.422.3210
- Chase Saddle and Leather.....250.427.5517
- Clay Tippett Excavating Hauling.250.422.3330
- Econobuilt.....250.421.7813
- Hi Heat Insulating.....250.422.3457
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- The Girls.....250.581.0780
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- Post Office.....250.422.3122
- Victim Services.....250.427.5621
- Wasa Community Church.....250.422.3344
- Wasa Hall.....250.422.3514/422.3640
- Wasa Lake Truss.....250.422.3618
- Wasa Memorial Garden (Bev Rauch).422.3335