

# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

November 2025 ISSUE 286 Visit: www.wasalake.com



# FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

# Five-year restoration project underway at Bummers Flats

https://www.e-know.ca/regions/east-kootenay/five-year-restoration-project-underway-at-bummers-flats/

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), in collaboration with ?aqam First Nation, The Nature Trust of BC (NTBC), and the B.C. Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship (WLRS),

have begun construction on the first phase of the Bummers Flats Floodplain and Wetland Restoration Project at the North Bummers Conservation Area

vation Area.

Located approximately 25 kilometres northeast of Cranbrook, Bummers Flats is a large floodplain situated along the east side of the Kootenay River. The floodplain is part of a 4,941-acre conservation complex collaboratively managed by DUC, NTBC and WLRS.



Originally engineered in the 1970s and 1980s, the goal of the existing project was to create stable water levels for nesting waterfowl and to increase waterfowl productivity. However, the long-term impacts of separating wetlands from the natural floodplain processes led to habitat degradation and declining biodiversity.

Additionally, the infrastructure used to create the existing project is expensive to maintain, repair and replace over time. As an organization committed to adaptive management, DUC is continually learning from the past, and applying the latest knowledge integrated with inclusive engagement and collaboration.

At Bummers Flats, the project team is working to restore the natural connectivity of the system to a wetland complex for a broad range of species.

This five-year restoration project will return wetland and riparian habitat to a natural, self-sustaining state by breaching dikes and excavating deeper wetland areas to provide additional water storage and habitat. The breaches will allow water from the Kootenay River to enter and flood the area during spring snowmelt runoff in some years.

Phase 1 construction is expected to begin at North Bummers in October 2025 and will restore 167 acres of wetland area. Work, including contractors and heavy equipment mobilized to the site to begin earthworks, is timed to occur outside of sensitive nesting and breeding periods.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE							
Wasa Memorial Garden	2	WLLID	11				
Pretty Pumpkins	3	Military Morale	12				
November Facts	4	Rusty Memories	13				
Tops Spot	5	What Brought Me to Wasa	14				
Back Door	6	Origin of Bummer's Flats Name	15				
Shoreline Cleanup	7	New Era for Elk Valley	17				
Lion's Roar	8	Words of Wisdom	18				
RDEK	10	Calendar	20				

Serving Skookumchuk, Ta Ta Creek and Wasa Lake

# Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly

The garden quiets under November's hush — leaves like faded memories fall softly to earth, and the air carries a chill that makes you pause, listen. Winter is soon upon us.

Our fall tidy was done in a couple of events. Thank you to Kim Koswan who weeded, pruned and swept while Sherry Shields drained & covered our water-

gmail.com







water lines. Garden is now in its winter rest. 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@

wheel and covered the benches. The Lawn Dr blew out

Looking for an excellent Christmas stocking- stuffer gift? 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 recre-

ational & 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!

# REMEMBRANCE DAY 11-11-25

"The last blooms bow their heads, not in sorrow, but in reverence.

Here, even the silence remembers..."

~UNKNOWN



KOOTENAY RIPPLES HISTORICAL BOOKS NOW SOLD-OUT

### 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











Sherry Shields Pumpkins!
Won the best colour prize at the Top Crop Fall Fair!
Beautiful, eh?! And the pumpkins are stunning too!

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My fourth year growing pumpkin in the Top Crop Pumpkin Challenge. Not the BIGGEST but recognized as the prettiest.

Weights - 184 lbs & 158 lbs.

The challenge this year - as the pumpkins grew their main stem was under the pumpkin. Due to the increased weight of each pumpkin this important life-vine split.



### Why it matters

The project restores natural river-floodplain connections, improving ecosystem health and resilience.



Enhances habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians and ungulates. Boosts climate change adaptation by improving water storage and providing downstream flood mitigation.

Enhances collaboration with ?aqam recognizing that the project is adjacent to ?aqam lands and in ?amak?is Ktunaxa.

Extensive planning and design by experts has been completed, including archaeological assessments, hydraulic modelling, monitoring

and revegetation plans.

This project is made pos-

sible through the financial support of the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Columbia Basin Trust, Elk Valley Resources, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, The Province of B.C. and the B.C. Watersheds Grant, and NTBC as well as in-kind support from ?aqam, NTBC and WLRS.

Photos courtesy Ducks Unlimited Canada & Lori's Lens



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#### SOME FACTS about NOVEMBER

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4

November, the 11th month of the year, has 30 days and marks the beginning of the winter holiday season for most folks, even if the winter solstice doesn't occur until late December. Named for the Latin word for nine, "novem," as it was originally the ninth month of the Roman calendar.

November 1 is All Saints' Day - also known as All Hallows' Day, the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, and Hallowmas, is a Christian solemnity celebrated in honour of all the saints of the Church, whether they are known or unknown..

November 1 is also Sadie Hawkins Day - an American folk event, celebrated by some, where women traditionally ask men out on dates or to a dance. The custom originates from the 1937 Li'l Abner comic strip by Al Capp, which featured a day where unmarried women would chase men to the altar..

November 11 is Veterans Day (U.S.) and Remembrance Day (Canada).

If you're fortunate, you may experience an "Indian Summer" in November, but according to the traditional definition, it can only occur between November 11 and 20! What is an Indian Summer? November 19 is Discovery of Puerto Rico Day - commemorates the eventful occasion on which European explorer Christopher Columbus first landed in Puerto Rico back in 1493, after almost two months of sailing.

November 30 is the First Sunday of Advent, marking the beginning of the Advent season.

https://www.almanac.com/content/november-holidays-fun-facts-folklore



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For more information contact: Jan Barbeau, mobile (250) 201 4226, email jarbeau60@gmail.com



#### **TOPS SPOT**

submitted by - Nicky Popowichl

# I am not a bear—why do I eat like one? Or Central Heating and the Lizard Brain

Every year I lose a lot of weight. I must lose 10 to 15 pounds a year. By my estimation I have lost 650 pounds in my lifetime —and gained it all back again in the fall and winter. What's with that? I don't really need to hibernate.

Over the last couple of weeks the days have become very obviously shorter and the evenings noticeably cooler. The geese are migrating. There's a dusting of snow on the high ridges. Winter is on the way.

I noticed that the foods I was gravitating to were soups, and stews, and mashed potatoes. Somehow the summery salads have lost their appeal. My brain was telling me to eat higher calorie food.

I wondered if I was imagining this or if it is really a thing. My fingers started tapping away and sure enough my computer found out a lot about this. Our ancient ancestors and more modern ones too didn't have furnaces. Furnaces in Canada really only gained popularity after WWII. Many homes didn't have furnaces until the 1960s and 70s.

As daylight decreases your body increases certain hormones. Our primal (lizard) brain is suddenly cued to eat, eat. And like the obedient slaves we are, it's very hard not to. Now the new problem for many of us is: our work is in warm centrally heated buildings, our homes are warm, our cars are warm and we aren't burning off the excess calories that our chilly ancestors did. It used to take a massive caloric load to provide food, water, and heat to a household in our long Canadian winters.

So many of the wonderful inventions of our times make our lives easier but work against our healthy bodies. It doesn't have to be dire though. Keeping to a fairly strict, sleep/wake routine, adding lots of green vegetables and getting out in the natural sunlight as often as possible will help curb these cravings.

Maybe one day our primal brains will catch up to the way things are now and not how they used to be.

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

### Max Lucado writes in Back Door:

I rolled out of bed early, real early. I'd been on vacation for a couple of weeks, and I was rested. My energy level was high, so I dressed to go to the church office. My wife, Denalyn, tried to convince me not to go.

"It's the middle of the night," she mumbled. "What if a burglar tries to break in?"

There had been an attempted break-in at the office a few weeks previously. [Ignoring my wife's concern, I drove to the church,] entered the office complex, disarmed the alarm, and then re-armed it.

A few seconds later the sirens screamed. Somebody is trying to break in! I raced down the hall, turned off the alarm, ran back to my office, and dialed 911. After I hung up, it occurred to me that the thieves could get in before the police arrived. I dashed back down the hall and re-armed the system.

"They won't get me," I mumbled defiantly as I punched in the code.

As I turned, the sirens blared again. I disarmed the alarm and reset it. I walked to a window to look for the police. The alarm sounded a third time. Once again I disarmed it and reset it.

Walking back to my office, the alarm sounded again. I disarmed it. Wait a minute; this alarm system must be fouled up. I called the alarm company.

"Our alarm system keeps going off," I told the fellow who answered. "We've either got some determined thieves or a malfunction."

"There could be one other option," he said. "Did you know that your building is equipped with a motion detector?"

Then the police arrived. "I think the problem is on the inside, not the outside," I told them, embarrassed that I was the culprit setting of the alarm.

Am I the only one to blame an inside problem on an outside source?

Alarms sound in your world as well. Heaven knows you don't silence life's alarm by pretending they aren't screaming. But heaven also knows it's wise to look in the mirror before you peek out the window.

https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2003/november/14668.html

# God's Standard Is Perfection

All of us occasionally do what is right. A few predominately do what is right. But do any of us always do what is right? According to Paul we don't. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:10, NKJV).

Some may beg to differ. "I'm not perfect, Max, but I'm better than most folks. I've led a good life. I don't break the rules. I don't break hearts. I help people. I like people. Compared to others, I think I could say I'm a righteous person."

I used to try that on my mother. She'd tell me that my room wasn't clean, and I'd ask her to go with me to my brother's room. His was always messier than mine. "See, my room is clean; just look at his."

Never worked. She'd walk me down the hall to her room. When it came to tidy rooms, my mom was righteous. Her closet was just right. Her bed was just right. Her bathroom was just right. Compared to hers, my room was, well, just wrong. She would show me her room and say, "This is what I mean by clean."

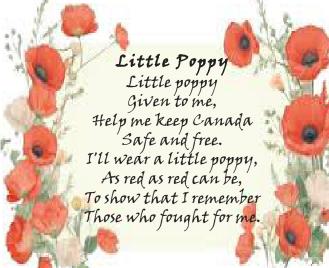
God does the same. He points to himself and says, "This is what I mean by righteousness."

 ${\it https://www.preachingtoday.com/illustrations/2001/november/13381.html}$ 

### Wasa Lake Land Improvement District - Annual AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY Shoreline Clean Up

A big thank you on behalf of the WLLID goes out to all the volunteers who helped out on Saturday October 18th picking up the litter along the Wasa lake shoreline. Not included in the above picture were Sherry Shields, Wendy Davis, her daughter Alecia, and grandchildren Chase, Simon, and Arthur as they were all still devoted to their task when the photo was taken. Every piece of trash removed from the shoreline means one less piece of garbage that will pollute our lake! Everything that is collected is recorded and submitted to Ocean Wise and becomes important data that can be used to inform governments and clean water advocates to help address pollution at its source. Ocean Wise is a global conservation organization on a mission to build communities that are taking meaningful action to protect and restore our earth's water bodies. This year the two most likely to find items on the shoreline were styrofoam and plastic pieces. Jan Barbeau





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

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Wasa Lions Grounds Rentals **Contact Person:** Danielle @ 778.877.2201



# The Lions Den Lions Roar

### Wasa & District Lions Club - Serving Wasa & Area since 1976

submitted by Terry Marvel

Fall is definitely in the air! The snow on the mountain tops attest to that. The crisp mornings are a harbinger of things to come. Hopefully a mild winter ahead of us but be prepared for the worst.

The Wasa Lions are ready for the winter months with the Grounds being put to bed for the season. The book sale is over but the recycle program continues with donations of empty cans and bottles gratefully accepted at the green door of the pole building on the grounds. The proceeds of this effort help with the Scholarship Program and the upkeep of the various buildings and the skating rink. The donation box at the rink helps offset the costs of operating the rink. Any and everything is gratefully accepted. As is usual, the volunteers that keep the rink operating for the winter are very much appreciated. The Zamboni is prepared for a winter of rink usage with sharpened blades and maintenance. Here's hoping for a great winter of ice surface.

The Lions are gearing up for another stellar Christmas Dinner and Dance on December 6th. Mark your calendars for November 15th, for advance ticket sales 10:00-11:00 at the Community Hall. The gala includes a raffle for many donated gifts from donors across the area. Many great prizes and a lot of fun! The catered meal is always scrumptious and the music will be supplied by Lili the DJ. There will be a cash bar as well so, see you there!

We will be doing our annual Christmas Light-up again this year with a tour of judges making the rounds of the area on December 21st. So have your displays lit up that evening and show us what you can do. Cash prizes for the best three displays.

The other item to note is our annual Winterfest December 28th. It's a great time to visit with your neighbors and have some coffee, hot chocolate, weiners, brats and the always tasty bannock. There will be kids games and ice skating activities. There is always bonfires to keep everyone warm. Everyone welcome and free of charge.

So, until next issue, keep warm and safe and healthy.



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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 50.421.3019 or Rod 250.422.3253

TOPS:

Nicky Popowich (250) 422-9248 or Sonia Blackwell (250) 421-3019

Quilter's Club:

Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095







YOU'RE INVITED TO:

# Wasa Lions

# CHRISTMAS DINNER, DANCE & RAFFLE

— Saturday, December 6, 2025 —

Doors open 5:00pm Dinner 7:00pm Bar opens 5:30pm Dance 9:00pm

Ticket sales November 15, 2025 at 10 - 11:30AM
Wasa Community Hall
\$45/Ticket

Ticket sales after November 15, 2025 call Marilyn 250-489-9586

# RDEK NEWS



By Area E Director Jane Walter

#### A QUICK NOTE:

Reminder for Open House Bookings for Accessory Dwelling Units

Zoom for All electoral areas Thursday Oct. 23, 7-9 p.m. or Monday, December 1, 7-9 pm. You must pre register for these meetings. There will be 2 meetings at the Wasa Hall

Saturday, November 8, 10 am - noon

Thursday November 27, 4-6 pm

I hope that many of you can participate and let the RDEK know how you feel.

This summer many of the non profit groups has been very busy making improvements on their structures.

The Lion's have Fire Smarted the outdoor kitchen and the Rec Society has been Fire Smarting the Hall. The Columbia Basin donated funds for these projects.

The Memorial Garden is in magnificent condition, when you go there it is very relaxing.

I hope everyone had a great summer.

If you have any questions or concerns Please call me or email me. My phone number is 250-427-2577, my email is s.janewalter@gmail.com

Jane Walter

HOURS

# **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.

What did Yoda say when he saw himself in 4K?

#### **BOTTLE & CAN RECYCLING**

Donate your Clean Liquor, Pop, Water, Milk & Juice Containers to the Wasa & District Lions Club Support



Local Scholarships & Lions Grounds Maintenance

# WASA LIONS MEDICAL LOAN CUPBOARD

BOX 10 WASA, BC, V0B 2K0

Medical Equipment Loan Service

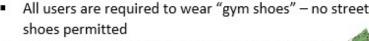
Contacts: Sharon 250 417-7654

Trinda 250 793-9491 Jocelyn 250 505-4752

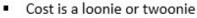
Equipment is loaned free of charge on a temporary basis for up to 3 months.

# 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 must use the safety key on the Walking Machines



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.





2025 AGM Report

The WLLID Board hosted the AGM on 15 October at the Community

Hall library. A great space for the meeting.

Several residents attended to hear the Chair's yearly over-view of WLLID activities which included a Water report and tax report.

The Board approved the 2024 Financial statements and the Minutes from the 2024 AGM.

These reports are available on the WLLID website – www.wasalake.ca.

This site provides the latest news, events schedule, reports, water testing alerts and flood notifications from the WLLID Board.

All Trustee's are returning for another year-Luke Anderson, Jan Barbeau, Phil Godsave and Shauna Mabey. Nowell Berg was elected as the Board Chair. A friendly reminder that its residents' responsibility to keep the WLLID informed about any changes in mailing address and contact information. Tax notifications and invoices are sent to the mailing address on file with WLLID.

If you've had a recent change in how to reach you, please send your name and new mailing address to admin@wasalake.ca.

As several Trustee's will be away in November, and WLLID doesn't have a December Board meeting, the next one will be held on January 14th, 2026, 7pm at the Community Hall, lower level.

Keep checking wasalake.ca for the latest Board news and information.



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# **Sending Christmas Morale Mail to Military Members**

### Any Canadian Armed Forces Member Program Still Running:

"The program is still running. However, due to the volumes of letters received, we are trying to encourage the public towards sending virtual wished to CAF members." said Captain Jason Rheubottom, Public Affairs Officer (Expeditionary Operations), Canadian Joint Operations Command.

For Canadians wishing to send a Christmas card, they still can, but they need to pay domestic postage charges and ensure their return address is on the envelope.





"Cards will require postage to be paid to Canada Post in order to have them delivered to the CF Pstal Unit in either Halifix, Trenton, or Exquimalt for further distribution overseas." said the Captain.

Alternatively, "the cards can be boxed up, and postage paid on the box itself and not each card."

People can send their holiday cheer and thank-yous to deployed personnel this holiday season cost-free in a few ways. Here are the options:

<u>Facebook:</u> Canadians can leave a message on the CAF Operations Facebook page. And a picture, if they would like, of their holiday card.

<u>Send a Message:</u> Canadians can show appreciation by sending a message directly through the Government of Canada website. Messages are a maximum of 1500 characters, including spaces. Visit here (https://apps.forces.gc.ca/en/wrt/post-message.asp).

To send a paid postage card with a return address, Canadians can send cards to the following three addresses. The CF Postal Unit will further distribute the cards.

Any CAF Member mail program c/o CFPU Operations
Astra ON K0K 3W0

Any Canadian Sailor Fleet Mail Office Halifax PO Box 99000 Stn Forces Halifax NS B3K 5X5 Any Canadian Sailor Fleet Mail Office Esquimalt PO Box 17000 Stn Forces Victoria BC V9A 7N2

# Remembering Veterans: Postcards for Peace

Another option suggested by CJOC is the Veterans Affairs program, Postcards for Peace. Canadians can send cards to Veterans in long-term care facilities. People can search in VAC's searchable database for Veterans in their area. Visit here (https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/classroom/recognition-cards/veterans-health-care-facilities) for more information.

# **Donating to Support Our Troops**

If so inclinded, Canadians can donate to the Support Our Troops Charity. It is the official charity for the Canadian Armed Forces. The organization provides "financial support and assistance to Canadian Armed Forces members, veterans and



their respective families in a number of important and often life-changing ways that are not provided by government funding." Visit here (https://www.supportourtroops.ca/).

https://www.cmfmag.ca/while\_away/sending-christmas-morale-mail-to-military-members/



# "RUSTY" Memories by Rusty Brewer



Anyone care for some Wasa history?

Another memory - the big stove I mentioned ...

It mostly burned coal. The boys were responsible for loading the coal bucket every day during the cold season. Well, kids being kids, a couple of the older boys decided to prank Mrs. Andrews. I tagged along with them across the highway, over to the railroad tracks. There used to be chunks of sulfur beside the track. The pranksters brought some of these into the classroom. When Doris went out to the outhouse he threw a good size chunk of sulphur into the stove and closed the chimney damper.

Sure enough, 5 minutes after she came back in stinky yellowish smoke started rolling out of every crevice in the stove. We were all rushed outside and got a little break from class. We thought this was hilarious. Mrs. Andrews didn't. The student paid dearly for this.

I thought this was such a cool idea, I just had to try it. I found a nice piece of sulfur. During a recess when everyone was outside I went back into class and threw the sulfur into the stove. I sat there at my desk, smirking to myself, waiting ... waiting for all of us to be chased outside. I waited some more.

The magic cloud of smelly smoke never happened. I didn't know that you had to close the pipe draft to get the smoke. I sat there, embarrassed now, thanking myself that I never told anyone.

The coal - it was hauled in from Cranbrook in a dump truck a couple times a year. We liked when it came. It was a noisy affair when it backed up to the big flip up door and dumped the coal. We got a break while this happened. However a new driver came one day. He didn't realize how the door worked. As he raised the box that door fell down onto the coal. It was a big heavy door.

As he dumped the coal he actually ended up lifting one side of the building about a foot in the air. It suddenly came crashing down, back onto its foundation. The whole class were scared witless. Everyone ran outside to survey the damage. It turned out okay but the big door needed repairs.

To this very day I'm still grateful that Mrs. Andrews taught us all how to survive a nuclear blast. I can still remember the technique she taught us, how to hide under our desks, closing our eyes and covering our ears with our hands. I'm still ready, however I don't have a proper desk now!

The old school/ hall was even busy in the summer.

A preacher and his family came from Calgary every summer. The Wilsons.

They lived in a big wall tent for a week while he put on a daily "Sunday School." Most of the kids from the community attended this and looked forward to it every summer.

Funny, the thing I remember most, we learned how to make vegetables soup sandwiches from them. They scooped cold vegetable soup from a can onto buttered bread. We all loved it. Many years later I tried it again. The soup must have changed. It tasted terrible. I'm sure if some of us old Wasa school students got together we could probably write an entire book about Doris and her school.

Mrs. Doris Andrews. Gone, but never forgotten. Our community will always owe her a debt of gratitude!

Rest In Peace Mrs. Andrews



# What Brought Me to Wasa, and Why I Stayed continued from October issue

by Rhonda Berger iii

Without Emma, our chaperone, I did spend the night with him... But it wasn't what you'd expect for our first night together. I couldn't bear the thought of the night alone with her out there in the cold, so I spent my first night with him, awash with worry. That rather kills the intimacy of the moment, Let me tell ya!

I was up most of the night, and before the crack of dawn, we were up there again, calling and searching. To no avail. Through the grapevine, and this wonderful little community, I found out who owned the traplines, and bless their hearts, they went to check them. They went the mile further, and checked the train tracks, where they found her.

A couple years prior, the exact same thing happened to another of their dogs ... who was also in the care of a sitter. He'd found a bone, took it to the tracks and was so intent on it, never heard, or felt the vibrations of the approaching train. My friend said she thought Emma went into a sort of depression, that she wasn't the same after that ...

To make a long story, short, she met her maker that day, and joined her brother in dog heaven.

To make this story even weirder, she was covered in icicles. The man who found her brought her to the road for me in his truck. My new friend picked her up, and I said Wait! I need a picture. He was standing there holding this frozen dog, with her head smashed in, while I run to get my phone for a damn picture. After reading his book, I thought, oh, this guy is tough, he won't mind. OH, but he did! He was squeamish as hell having to do that. And, I had no idea why I felt the need to do that.

On our way to Cranbrook, to the crematorium, I received a call from the owners mother, who I'd recently met, to ask if we'd found her and commiserate with me as she lost Emma last year, under her care. She had taken her for a walk, just like I did, off-leash, and free.

To be continued

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Why did the pilgrim's pants keep falling down?

Because his buckle was on his hat.

What would be everyone's favorite season if money grew on trees?

Fall.

111



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# Where Did the Name Come From? **Bummer's Flats**

There does not seem to be a consensus for the origin of the name for the wetlands south of Wasa - Bummer's Flats.

Bummers Flats has a history tied to pack trails, ranching, and conservation. The name's origin is unclear but is associated with the mining era and may refer to "bummers" or transient prospectors. It's believed it was a stopping off point for transients to camp while hoping to strike it rich with the gold in the Wildhorse. In 1864, Bob Dore, en route to Fisherville, camped here. The name origin is unclear. Suggestions have been a shanty town for hobos possibly once existing This seems the most likely explanation, since the name was already established at this river ford by 1878, long before Doyle appearing with his bummer lambs.

However, ranching had continued on the flats since that time. CP named their flag stop as Doyle when the line opened.

In the late 1960s, Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) took an interest in the area and in the 1970s enhanced the area's wetlands to improve waterfowl habitat. Fish and Wildlife made arrangements to purchase the property in 1973 to develop habitat for wildlife.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia acquired 988 hectares (2,441 acres) of land at Bummers Flats between 1985 and 1986. The acquisition aimed to protect the area as a crucial staging and nesting ground for waterfowl along the Pacific Flyway. Recent acquisitions have expanded the total conservation area to nearly 5,000 acres, creating a larger, more connected landscape for wildlife.

A multi-year project began around 2025 to restore the natural floodplain by removing dikes and ditches and reestablishing natural river inlets and outlets.

The restoration is a collaborative effort between Ducks Unlimited Canada, ?agam, The Nature Trust of BC, and the Province of BC.

Bummers Flats is home to a diverse range of animals, including elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer. It is also crucial for the American badger, which is a federally endangered species and the blue-listed American Bittern. Waterfowl, shorebirds, Western toads, the endangered Leopard frog and Western painted turtles are among the wildlife that will benefit from this project.







Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

### **Be Informed Traplines are Active**

Be aware when you're out walking your dogs. Traplines are active from October 1 to April 30.

While there is signage, there are no specifics on where these traplines are. And traps do not discriminate - they will kill your pet as quickly as any other animal. Please don't assume you and your pet are safe new traplines seem to be springing up everywhere. Watch for the signage and stay safe.





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Box 779,

6102 Wasa Lake Park Dr., Wasa BC



Scarlet poppies can flutter like fragile butterflies in the dry yellow corn of summer.

And they can dance like graceful ballerinas among the feathery stalks of barley.

Red poppies can glow like bright little lamps on our warm winter coats in November.

And they can whisper, like long-lost voices from the forgotten fields of Flanders.







# A new era begins for the Elk Valley's Kootenay Forest Lands

October 23, 2025 by Amelia Caddy

In early October, Elk Valley residents awoke to news that the Nature Conservancy Canada had sealed the deal on the purchase of more than 45,000 hectares (110,000 acres) of the valley (and some additional private lands in the East Kootenay) for future conservation. Representing one third of all private land in the Elk Valley, many have called the protection of these forests the most significant step forward for conservation in the region's recent history — and for good reason.

Conservationists have been trying to protect the Kootenay Forest Lands, as they're known, for decades. Located in the heart of ?amak?is Ktunaxa, they sit in one of the most heavily utilized corridors for wide-ranging carnivores in the BC southern Rockies region, as well as being a well-loved recreation playground. But until now, these lands have been managed as private forests and heavily logged at the hands of various owners, from Jemi Fibre Corp to CanWel, and, most recently, Doman Building Materials.

Now, under the NCC's stewardship, there is an opportunity for the Kootenay Forest Lands to heal from the overharvesting, including through collaborations with the Yaqit ?a·knuqli'it First Nation, which the NCC has said it looks forward to collaborating with, and Elk Valley residents.

"Minimally regulated private land logging activity has taken a heavy toll on these lands over the last decade. Through restoration, reforestation, invasive plant control and protection of remaining intact forests, our hope is that a greater balance will be achieved," said Wildsight's Casey Brennan.

### A missing piece of the wildlife movement corridor

The NCC's acquisition extends a network of protected areas that connects Alberta's Crowsnest Pass right down to Montana's northern Rockies. Known to the Blackfeet Nation as the 'Backbone of the World', huge swathes of this ecologically diverse region are still largely intact and provide critical habitat for wide-ranging animals such as grizzly bears, wolves, cougars, elk and lynx. For this reason, it's part of several transboundary conservation initiatives, including Yellowstone to Yukon and Crown of the Continent. But with the region falling under more than 20 different jurisdictions, it's a challenging landscape to protect, particularly when it comes to the private land it encompasses.

On a local scale, these lands connect wild areas like the Flathead Valley and Wigwam to the south with large areas of core habitat and protected areas to the north, including the upper Elk Valley, Canada's Rocky Mountain national parks, and the Elk Lakes, Height of the Rockies and Kananaskis Country provincial parks. In a landscape that's been heavily impacted by open pit coal mining, industrial forestry and transportation development, the Kootenay Forest Lands will provide wildlife with secure passage between intact wilderness areas to help support their continued survival.

### Healing from overharvesting



Despite the Kootenay Forest Lands' history of intensive logging, they still contain areas of ancient, old and mature forests, as well as other important habitats for Elk Valley wildlife. Grizzly bears, for example, can be found gorging themselves in the area's many huckleberry patches, while ungulates like deer and elk benefit from its mix of grasslands, open forest and low-elevation cottonwood forests.

The Elk Valley also contains rare, provincially at-risk, high-elevation grasslands, which are essential for supporting bighorn sheep throughout the winter months.

With these lands protected, parts of the property that have been logged can now begin to regenerate. The NCC estimates that 370,000 tonnes of CO2e can be saved each year through this regeneration, plus the protection of existing old and mature stands.

The NCC has stated it will repopulate the logged area with native trees like western larch, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, sub-alpine fir and whitebark pine. It also intends to use small-scale timber harvesting as an ecological tool to help mitigate wildfires and restore dying forest.

When combined with invasive weed control, flood mitigation and responsible recreation, there's a good

# From the Ashram

# Words of Wisdom



# Recognizing the Oneness of God to Build a Moral and Enlightened Society

In our Ashram, the only "spiritual passport" we ask for is neither religious affiliation nor a particular belief, but acceptance of the Total Unity of all Aspects of the Divine, whatever they may be. This fundamental recognition that God is One and the Same for everyone is the foundation of our spiritual life and the universal meeting point for all souls in search of truth. But this Unity of the Faces of God also carries a responsibility: to stand against inverted ideologies that, by denying the morals and ethics of a balanced Society, divide, degrade human dignity, and obscure the Divine Light within Man. Recognizing God in all His expressions also means rejecting anything that distracts Man from his True Humanity. Religions have played an essential role in the history of Humanity. They have structured societies, transmitted values, protected spiritual heritage, and provided guidance in times of uncertainty. Yet they have also been the source of divisions, conflicts, and rivalries. This paradox raises the question: how is it that traditions that claim to lead to God or to Truth have so often erected walls between people?

Today, a new momentum is emerging. Humanity, faced with unprecedented global challenges-ecological, social, technological—is rediscovering the need for a Universal Spiritual Consciousness. This momentum does not deny Religions but transcends them by recalling a simple Truth: God is One and the Same for all Beings. Whether He is called Allah, Yahweh, Brahman, Buddha, the Great Spirit, or the Father, He remains One and the Same Supreme Reality reflected through different cultures.

The contemporary era invites us to understand that Religions are like multiple paths leading to a Single Summit. Each tradition expresses, with its own symbolic language and rituals, a facet of the Divine. But if we attach ourselves to forms instead of Essence, we lose sight of what is Essential: the One Source that connects all that lives. Universal Spirituality is not a new Religion, but an Opening of Consciousness that recognizes this Transcendent Unity.

Moving from Religion to Universal Spirituality means leaving religious exclusivity behind and entering into mutual recognition. This transition does not eliminate particular beliefs; it illuminates them. A Christian can remain Christian, a Muslim can remain Muslim, a Buddhist can remain Buddhist, but all can recognize that the light that shines within them is the Same. This recognition paves the way for a New Brotherhood, where each person's spiritual identity is respected while being part of a broader horizon.

Modern science itself, by discovering the interconnectedness of all things, intuitively confirms what the Sages and Prophets have been teaching for millennia: that everything is connected. The universe is not an assembly of separate elements, but a Unified Field of Consciousness. Similarly, Humanity is not a patchwork of disconnected peoples, but one Great Family where each Being is a Bearer of the Divine Spark.

This transition to a Universal Spirituality also requires inner work. Recognizing the Unity of the Divine means not only cultivating love, forgiveness, and peace within one-self—beyond dogmas and certainties—but also demonstrating realism and logic. For if God is truly One and the Same for all, then

everything that divides or reverses the Universal Values of Man appears for what it is: a falsehood. This Clarity of Consciousness leads to a lucid and absolutely logical view of the inverted ideologies that, over the past twenty years, have emerged and imposed themselves as norms contrary to the dignity and Balance of Humanity.

Recognizing the Unity of the Faces of God therefore means accepting to lay down the weapons of the ego in order to listen to the silent voice that dwells in every heart, while discerning and firmly rejecting anything that severs the Sacred Bond connecting each Being to their own dignity and to human brotherhood. Thus, the real question is not. "Which Religion is right?" but rather, "Am I ready to see the other as a Brother, a Sister, a Particle of the Divine?" As long as this recognition is not there, Humanity remains imprisoned by its separations. But as soon as it opens itself to this Truth, and also rejects the forces that oppose the Light, the barriers collapse, and Authentic Peace can take hold in the world.

The spiritual future of humanity does not lie in the victory of one Religion over another, but in the recognition of the Divine Unity that flows through them all. It is this transition—from institutional Religion to Universal Spirituality—that can reconcile peoples, heal the wounds of history, and offer the planet a chance to evolve into a New Age. Divine Unity is therefore not only a spiritual vision; it is also the Condition for an enlightened, just, and fraternal Humanity.

With Love in Unity with Universal Truth of the Divine

OM OM OM

Venerable Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ NEWS TEAM

#### **Editor**

Lori Vandette - 250.417.1570 trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

# Treasurer/Invoice Coordinator Website Coordinator

Clay Tippett

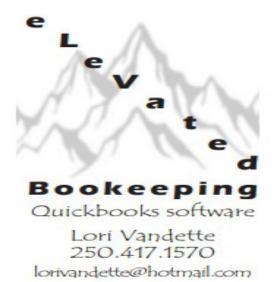
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chance the Kootenay Forest Lands will provide biodiverse and functioning ecosystems soon.



The Flathead River.

Photo: ILCP

#### Flow-on effects

The protection and regeneration of these lands is a boon for local wildlife, but

it will also have much further reaching impacts. More than 930 kilometres of streams crisscross this area. Many of them feed into the Elk River, which flows through Fernie, into Lake Koocanusa, and across the border into the US. Some also flow into the Flathead Valley, whose waters wind south to provide drinking water for Montana residents.

The liquidation of the Kootenay Forest Lands has increased flood risk and impacted water quality for these downstream communities. Steep slopes have been stripped and vast areas of the Coal Creek watershed have been heavily logged and roaded, causing a massive change to the hydrological balance in this important fish spawning tributary of the Elk River.

During the atmospheric river event of November of 2021, one of the few waterways that experienced significant flooding was Coal Creek. Compared to more natural adjacent streams like Lizard Creek, Coal Creek is now much less resilient, as illustrated through data collected by the Elk River Alliance. With flood mitigation and natural regeneration, however, the slopes of the Kootenay Forest Lands should stabilize.

#### A landscape for all to enjoy

When news of the NCC's acquisition reached public ears, local trail users rejoiced — with cautious optimism. The lands are a haven for hikers, trail runners, mountain bikers and more, but active logging has limited access to some shuttle roads and trails. When the Fernie Trails Alliance shared the news with its Facebook followers, the post quickly amassed dozens of comments, with many asking whether they'd now regain access to these areas, and how the acquisition would impact future trail development.

For now, current closures remain in place, and the NCC has said it will work with the FTA, local trail users, hunters, fishers, and motorized sports groups to ensure continued and responsible access. https://wildsight.ca/2025/10/23/a-new-era-begins-for-the-elk-

DO NOT DESTROY MY HOME AND THEN ASK WHY I WANDER INTO YOURS.

valleys-kootenay-forest-lands/

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November 2025								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
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Church 10:30 am Nov 2nd fall back	3 HAPPY SANDWICH DAY	<b>4</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	5	6	7	8		
Church 10:30 am	10	11  Remembrance	12	13	14  NATIONAL PICKLE DAY	December submissions due!		
16 Church 10:30 am	17	Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	Wasa Coffee Social 1-3 pm	20	21	ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE		
<b>23/30</b> Church 10:30 am	24	25 "Eat With A Triend"	26	27	28	29		

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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





# 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
- Next WLLID Board mtg in January

