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"Christmas, my child, is love in action." ~ Dale Evans



TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

December supplement 2019 Issue 225

Visit: www.wasalake.com/buzzsu

For the Love of a Donkey

It's a Memory – Sherry Shields (nee Vereshagen)

My story begins in the summer of 1969. At the time, our family lived in Fruitvale in the West Kootenays. Dad loved the East Kootenay area from past years hunting along with his job as a truck driver delivering produce to the East Kootenays.

Dad came up with a plan - a family camping trip to Wasa.

No family adventure would be complete for dad without horses. Frank Glover's campground, which is now the site of Catamount Contracting, was a perfect spot to camp as they would allow us to camp with horses. We loaded up the truck with all our camping provisions, including two horses Thunder and Flicka. I think dad's idea of camping and the rest of the family's idea of camping were a bit different. We were all excited to spend our days at the lake. He thought we would be spending our days riding horses exploring the area we were camped in.

I believe Thunder and Flicka might have found the whole camping experience a bit boring. One morning we awoke to find Flicka was gone. Call it fate.

The search for Flicka led dad to Wolf Creek Road, where he discovered a parcel of land for sale. Apparently, Flicka's adventure also led her to Wolf Creek Road, where she fell in love with Gordon's donkeys. Dad and Mom contacted the owners of the land, Mina and Blondie Blundell. The land was purchased, and on November 1, 1969, the Vereshagen family moved to Wasa along with six horses (Deuce, Sheline, Thunder, Flicka, Snowflake & Rain), one milk cow (Jenny) one dog (Tipper) and two Muscovy ducks (Irvin & Martha).

We are so thankful dad had the insight and the love of the Wasa area to move his family to this beautiful place.

Whenever I hear the neighbourhood donkey brae, I recall the fateful day Flicka fell in love with a Donkey.

Wolf Creek donkeys:

Smokey and Jenny were the residing donkeys Flicka was so fond of.

The latest donkey residing on Wolf Creek road passed away October 27, 2019. RIP Donna Mae donkey. I will miss your brae.



Library closes for Christmas
-Tuesday,
December 17/19
-- 1:00pm
Reopens -
Tuesday,
January 07,
2020 -- 11:00am

What often falls in the winter but never gets hurt?

Snow

WINTERFEST
December 29th

Noon -
3 p.m.

food, fun,
festivities!

*"Kindness is like snow -
It beautifies everything it covers."*
Kahlil Gibran

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."

A reminder - there is no Buzz published in January
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
Everyone!

What's the difference between a Christmas alphabet and the regular alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

Take These Steps for Your Home

Many people prefer to remain indoors during winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. Take these steps to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

Check your heating systems.

1. Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
2. Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
3. Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
4. Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
5. Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies.
 - Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
 - Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Helpful Hints



By Sherry Shields
In Memory of Vi Cockell



Dale Gray

Phone: 250.422.3638

Cell: 250.421.1746

email: dale58@shaw.ca

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Go on a Christmas Scavenger Hunt. Piling into the car to go look at the Christmas lights is fun, but going on a Christmas Scavenger Hunt is even better. Make a list of the things that you're going to search for before heading out. Your list can include things such as the following:

- A nativity scene.
- A polar bear.
- A reindeer.
- A snowman with a top hat.
- A Christmas tree in a window.
- Three wise men.
- Penguins.
- Santa on his sleigh.



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Donate your pop cans & liquor bottles (no dairy please), to the Wasa & District Lions Club to help with their scholarship fund. Please call Val @ 250.422.3499 to make arrangements for drop off at the Lions Grounds



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!



For Gym Schedule Please Contact:

- Sonia Blackwell at 250.421.3019 or
- Rod at 250.422.3253



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

Peek-a-Boo Bear



Jim Head and Lorraine Colton had a curious visitor in their yard a few weeks back. The large fellow looks a little confused by the tree art almost seems to want to play a game of peek-a-boo!

Great captures!

But it is a reminder to us that although we are heading into December, our weather has been relatively mild. And the bruins have continued to visit the area. Be bear aware.



It has been noticed in the community, that we have a Good Samaritan among us. **Greg Hluden** is trying to get the citizen of the year award for keeping the Rankin subdivision looking a bit cleaner, lol. He goes for a walk twice a day with his best friend Coco (the dog), and while on his walks picks the weeds along the route. He has pretty much eliminated 2 species and trimmed some of the wild bushes and shrubs in the ditches.

This helps keep the neighbourhood looking good as well as assists with the Firesmart program the community is trying to emphasize. It was thought that mentioning this in the next Buzz might kickstart some others into doing the same as not only is it Firesmart, but assists in making our community look better. He pretty much patrols the Rankin subdivision on his walks.

Thank you Greg!!

for setting such an awesome example for the rest of us.



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What do you call ten rabbits
hopping backwards through the
snow together?

A receding hare line.

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WASA LIONS CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP

December 15/19 6:30-8:30pm

Light up your house or yard for Christmas



Win one of Three

\$50 Prizes

- Have a Christmas Treasure Hunt. A favorite Christmas tradition for many families is to let each family member open one present on Christmas Eve (and the rest are opened on Christmas morning).
- Instead of just giving each family member a gift to open on Christmas Eve, make them search for their gifts.
- Hide one gift for each family member, and then come up with a series of clues to help them find their gifts. Here's an example:
- Clue #1 leads them to the cookie jar in the kitchen, which contains Clue #2.
- Clue #2 leads them to the lamp on the coffee table; Clue #3 is under the lamp.
- Clue #3 leads them to the plant by the entrance; Clue #4 hidden among the leaves of the plant.
- Clue #4 leads them to the closet in the den. The gifts are hidden in the closet.
- You can come up with rhyming clues, jumble up the letters to make the clues more difficult, use cryptograms, or write the clues in a foreign language.

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Where
do you
take your
BUZZ?



Email your photos with "The Buzz". Your picture will be featured in the current issue of the Buzz and your name will go into a draw for the

"2020 Where do you take Your Buzz" contest.

Email: trivillagebuzz@gmail.com

Wasa TOPS

Friday mornings downstairs

Wasa Community Hall

Weigh-in 9 - 9:30 am

Meeting 9:30 - 10:30 am

Everyone welcome - Contacts:

Susan 778-524-0012

or Irene 250-422-3686



**TAKE OFF POUNDS
SENSIBLY**



Welcome to one of the grayest times of the year, but there's good news behind those gray skies!

The Wasa Lion's outdoor kitchen received it's new concrete floor and it looks spectacular! No more soft spots in the floor and black mold and mildew. Now all we have to do is put everything back together again. For that we need strong, young help and a few if we can find them all at one time. The stove and the cutting table are the two heaviest things that have to go back in. I'm sure we will have accomplished this by the time this goes to print. Our community is always eager to give a little time for things of this nature.

As always at this time of year, the annual Lion's Christmas Dinner and Dance is up and coming. For those of you who didn't get your tickets on the sale day, there are still a limited amount available from Lion Marilyn @ 250-422-3210.

The Lion's will be doing our annual Christmas Lightup campaign again this year. Watch for posters around the area and light up your yard and house to show your community how you can shine!

The Wasa Lion's grounds are soon to be sporting another addition in the form of a building for the Wasa Fire Suppression. It will house a trailer with a filled water tank and pump and be ready to spring into action at a moment's notice in case of fire. A great addition to the community!

The Lion's will also be hosting another exciting Winterfest this year at the Lion's grounds on December 29. Time to be announced but don't miss out on a chance to have some awesome homemade bannock and hopefully, rides on the horse-drawn Fort Steele wagon or sleigh (depending on the weather) as well as some beautiful bread from the bakery there.

As this is the last issue before Christmas, the Lion's club would like to extend ***BEST OF WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON! And a Happy New Year to everyone!***

Rink News.

The Surface has been cleaned and washed. The Zamboni has been serviced and some operators organized.

It's now up to some consistent well below zero weather. On average the rink is usually up and running around the second week of December, but who knows.

Sign up sheets are now up at the Post Office and Gas Station for help needed when snow has to be removed by shovelling and snow blowers prior to flooding and Zamboni use.

The **Wasa Recreation Society** manages the Wasa Community Hall. The main objective is have a Community Hall that is viable for events and recreation of the community. Through fund raising, volunteering and rentals we are able to have an economical community hall for our community. The Recreation Society meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 in the basement. The meetings are open for anyone wanting to attend with new ideas or becoming part of the Society committee.

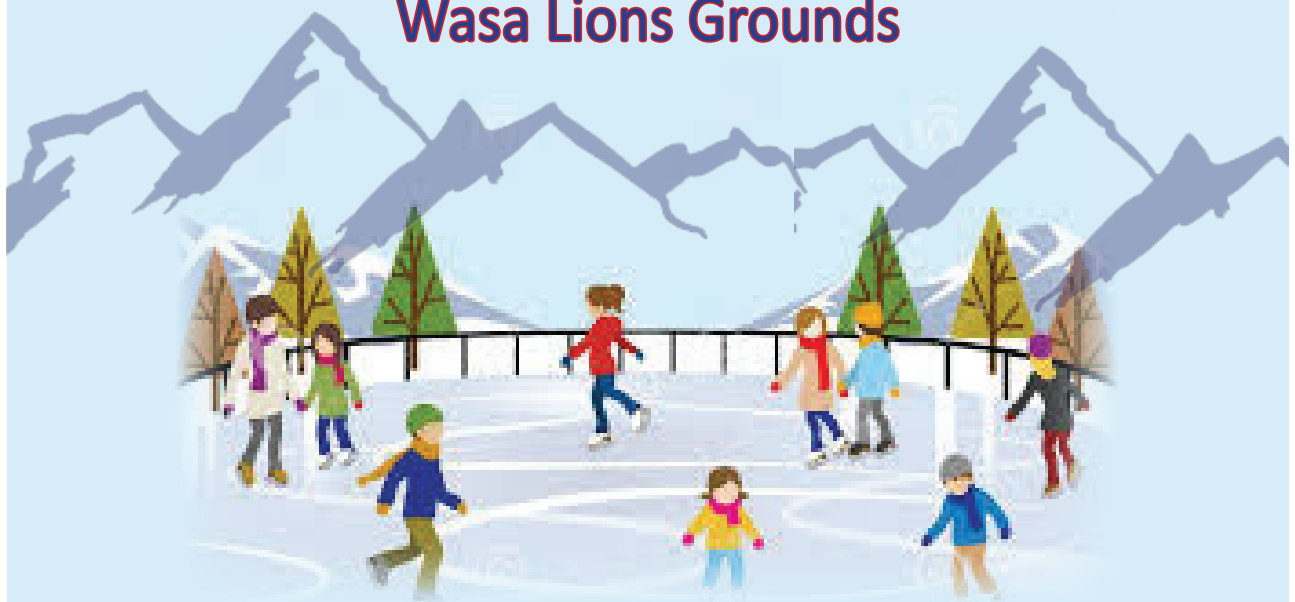
- Hall Rentals and Information: Karen Markus 250.422.3514 Bonnie Meena 250.422.3795
 - Gym-Sonia Blackwell 250.421.3019, Rod 250.422.3253
 - TOPS - Susan 778.524.0012
 - Library-Judy McPhee 250.422.3766
 - Quilter's Club - Linda Sungaard 778.524.4456
- In addition, BINGO's are held on the **2nd Tuesday of each month** at the Wasa Hall.
 - Early bird starts at 6:30 p.m. and regular at 6:45 p.m.

Sponsored by:
Wasa & District Lions and Fort Steele Heritage Park

6th Annual Winterfest

Sunday, December 29th Noon to 3:00 p.m.
(weather permitting)

Wasa Lions Grounds



- skating • sleigh rides • bonfires • games
- hot chocolate
- bannock
- hot dogs
- coffee



- family fun for all ages • visit friends & neighbours

What is all the buzz about the Buzz?



Tri-Village Buzz – Past, Present, Future

What is all the buzz about the Buzz? A simple community newsletter with very humble beginnings. Over the years it has evolved into a vital source of information about the area's history, fun facts, biographies of the pioneers that shaped the community, highlighting local services, inspirational stories and teachings, recipes, and the list goes on – and on.

And it is all volunteer run. That's right. Like so many of the services and committees we have access to and enjoy throughout this community, the Buzz is dependent on volunteers. We look to you – residents of Skookumchuk, TaTa Creek and Wasa (both full and part-time), for our submissions:

- Feature stories
- Helpful Hints
- Fun Page articles
- Recipes
- RDEK news
- WLLID info

And everything in between!

Between all the effort from our submitters and compiling those submissions into a readable format for printing, each Buzz requires at least 100 volunteer hours, every month, 10 months of the year. And because of our aging demographic, we are experiencing gaps. So we are appealing to all of you, young and old, to consider contributing, even on an occasional basis, to our Newsletter. It has come so far over the years and we don't want it to end.

- Do you have a favourite recipe?
- Which home or garden hack has never failed you?
- How did you come to settle here? What's your story?

We want to hear from you – this is your paper – we need your input.

Keeping our newsletter going not only takes hundreds of hours from numerous volunteers – it takes money. Our printing / postage costs currently surpass our advertising income. Can we reserve a spot in every issue for your advertising needs? Or would you consider making a donation, either on an ongoing basis – or one-time event - to cover our most basic expenses?

I encourage you to reach out – to friends, family, community. Send us your stories, your tips and tricks, your pictures and jokes - and if this Buzz has made a difference to you and yours, consider sending us a monetary donation to help us keep you in the loop.

Wasa Road Group

If you would like to have a voice going forward in a group format concerning our road conditions, please email: wasagr422@shaw.ca Send your questions, suggestions, experiences and we will see them forwarded to our elected officials and other appropriate persons.



Julie Ann Kneller (nee Miles)

September 9, 1957 – December 6, 2019

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Julie, our devoted mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt and friend, in her loving home in Wasa on December 6, 2019 at the age of 62.

"A positive attitude will let me live another day. Never give up. There is

always hope."

Love Julie

Please join us in a Celebration of Life at the Wasa Community Hall on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Wasa Lions Club.

Arrangements entrusted to McPherson Funeral Services.

Condolences for the family can be offered at: www.mcphersonfh.com

Let Me Sit With You Awhile, O Lord

Just let me sit with you awhile

We don't have to say a thing

Or we can visit through the night

Either way will be alright

.Just let me sit with you

While the world is far away

While the troubles of the day

Fade, fade away

Let me tell you 'bout

all the things I meant to do

but never got around to

Let me tell you 'bout

my hopes and dreams

and things that never came to

Let me ask you why

you loved me

when all I ever did

was fail you

I know you'll say,

that's not true

Maybe it is

Maybe it isn't

What I do know

is that you love me, Lord,

by all the times you

came through for me

when you didn't have to

And I know you already know

every word I'm gonna say

every thought I'm gonna think

every feeling I'm gonna feel

before the words leave my lips

before I can put two thoughts together

or break a tear

or crack a smile

Just the same,

thanks for sittin here with me

with the cold all around

and lettin me ramble

Nice hangin out

with a friend

As I make my journey

home

~ poem "Let Me Sit With You Awhile"
by Michael Traveler, author/poet

Wasa & District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by Sherry Shields

Fall was a perfect time for repairs before a winter blanket covered the garden. Thank you to Murray Blackburn for repairs to the water wheel. Along with repairs an extension to the roof was added. Thank you to Bruce Walkey for repairing our bridge over the dry creek. The bridge looks great and also resolved safety issues.

2019 Columbarium

Niche & Plaque Costs

UNIT 1 Columbarium

Upper levels - \$1000.00 +
engraving

Bottom Row - \$900.00 +
engraving

UNIT 2 Columbarium (new)

Niche cost - \$1100.00 +
engraving

Niche Engraving - \$275.00

Memorial Plaque - \$300.00

Contact: Pat Walkey

250-422-3530 or

pwalkey@shaw.ca

KOOTENAY RIPPLES

History of Wasa/Ta Ta Creek/
Skookumchuk.

There are a few books still available
for sale.

\$50.00

A great idea for a Christmas gift.

Contact Pat Walkey @ 250 422-

3530 or

pwalkey@shaw.ca.

"And don't think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous." – Rumi

"I realize there's something incredibly honest about trees in winter, how they're experts at letting things go." – Jeffrey McDaniel

Many of you have a story, adventure, or life stories about people you know in our area, that happened in years past. And you are eager to share so that the history is not lost. I would like to include them in the "Following the Trails of Yesterday" page. Please phone me if you would like to contribute to the column at 250.422.3766 or email me at -- judymcphree9@gmail.com --

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER

RETURNS IN 2020!

Armchair Traveller takes a bit of a "departure" from the normal schedule in 2020! Shows will run on consecutive Thursday evenings from February 20 to March 12. As always, all proceeds (by donation) will go towards supporting other community activities.

Watch for posters and the February Buzz for show topics or email kathyemccauley@gmail.com for further info.



We are looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

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Put Together Themed Stockings for Your Favorite People. There are few things as rewarding as spending the day putting together themed stockings for the most important people in your life. Do you have a little boy who loves trains? Get him a train quilted stocking, and then fill it with toys that are train-related.

Is your sister a bookworm? Get her a stocking decorated with books and fill it with all of the following:

• An Amazon gift card (to buy books, of course);

• A personalized bookmark;

• The first book in a series you know she'll love;

• A rolled up tote bag (to carry books);

• A coffee mug with a Shakespeare quote on it; and so on.

Take in the Smells of Christmas. Christmas time is an incredible olfactory experience. Make sure that this year you take in all the scents that make up the holiday season. Here are some of the smells of Christmas:

• The smell of fresh pine.

• Cinnamon.

• Orange and cloves.

• Roasting chestnuts.

• Honey-glazed ham.

• Peppermint.

Go Christmas Camping. Camp out in front of your Christmas tree one night. Keep the tree lights on and read holiday stories. Make sure to eat holiday treats: Krispie Treat Christmas trees; chocolate dipped pretzels covered in red and green sprinkles; Christmas caramel popcorn; and so on.

Lister Canning - Tribute to a Pioneer

submitted by Helen Hannah

Lister was one of the few true pioneers of the valley.... He was born here on November 11, 1925, grew up here, married and raised his family here, and now passed away here, he never lived anywhere else. He would say he was born on a rock on bummers flats because they couldn't make it from Sheep Creek to Cranbrook hospital that quick! For quite a few years Helen and Fred thought that Remembrance Day was in recognition of their dad's birthday, and he never told them any different.



When Kathleen Hockley came to the neighbourhood to teach school, Dad had to check the new teacher out. He rode his horse into the one room schoolhouse, where he immediately left a pile of horse poop! It must have impressed Kaye, because she married him in March 1947 and they had many happy years together. Raising three kids, Helen, Fred and Kathy, all who live in the immediate area still.

For the first years of their married life, Lister and Kaye lived on Pete Lum's place up on the Sheep Creek. When Helen had to go to school they bought the present Canning place on the flats north of Ta Ta Creek. They lived there until they moved to the Kimbrook in the summer of 2014, where they stayed until Kaye passed away in 2016. Then Dad moved to the Pines until he passed in 2019.



One of Lister's favorite stories was when his father would take him hunting as a kid. They were way up Ram Creek one time, and saw another man track, his dad got so mad, they quit and went home, grumbling about the country being overrun by people!

As a young boy growing up at Sheep Creek in the fall after school on Fridays, he would ride his horse up the trail to Marmalade Basin to where his dad was camped guiding a hunter..... probably a two hour ride, ending in darkness.... No helmet, no cell phone!! He would spend the weekend and then return home Sunday night, to ride to school the next day.



He spent many summers as a kid at White Swan Lake with his mentor, Billy Stork. The Canning ranch at Sheep Creek was the head of the trail from this end to White Swan..... there were no roads there at that time.

His guiding career started at a young age, guiding for some of the original outfitters in the White Swan... Jimmy White, Pete Lum, Arthur Nichol and his own dad, Fred. In 1949 he guided up the Palliser River for Jim Tegart, where he worked for a few years. In the 1950's he packed geologists for the GSC, into the Purcell Mountains, spending 2 months at a time. He supplied the horses, tents, grub etc. packing and moving camp as needed. During that time he bought his own hunting territory in the St. Marys valley. He hunted there for 16 years, during which time he said he saw 2 other people in that country, both geologists.

Lister always had horses in his life whether it be the team at the farm or his pack horses or rope horses. He chased wild horses in the 40's with the Pommier boys and built a corral on the flats between the highway and the Premier lake road, pieces of it still stand today. In the 1960's along the sheep creek top, he roped and threw down a nice looking black horse and took him home to make him into a good saddle horse. Unfortunately he did not survive a collision with an Arrow chip truck on Skookumchuck Prairie a few years later. At that time Dad had a small string of horses which he used to pack the Parks Branch crews into Mount Assiniboine park. For many years he had a string of pack horses for his guide and outfitter business.

When he wasn't guiding hunters or packing the surveyors, he had his own lumber truck. He hauled slabs from the portable sawmills that were in the bush, mostly from the Finlay Creek and Ram Creek. The slabs were loaded by hand and taken to the railroad siding at Canal Flats and loaded on to boxcars again by hand to ship back east for firewood. He also had a dump box for his truck and hauled gravel for construction of the White Swan road in 1956. He moved his family to Camp 14 and they all lived in a tent during the road construction.



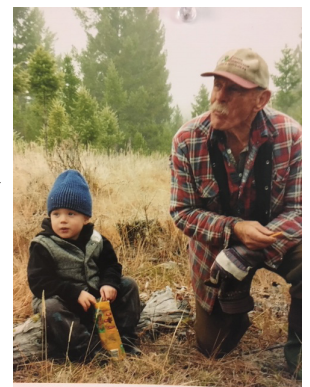
He enjoyed rodeoing with the Pommier and Cloarec boys in the early days. He then bought a good calf horse from Cam Ellis and once the kids got old enough, he hauled us to rodeos, gymkhanas and jackpots. Summer highlights were the trips every year to rodeos in Eureka, Montana and Bonners Ferry Idaho with all the family in the big 3 ton truck..... tent camping at the rodeo grounds were the best! Kaye lost patience in Eureka, the time the kids tried to entice the brahma bull into the tent using her pancakes for bait!! Terrapin was at least 1200 pounds and although he was pretty friendly out of the bucking pen, Kaye was not impressed.

Fred made his dad proud when he became a real competitive calf roper. He and his dad competed at rodeos in the valley from Windermere to southern Alberta and across the line. Lister made a few trips to the B.C. Team Roping finals, either at the coast or one trip to Prince George. Lister was also a member of the Century Team Ropers in Alberta and qualified to go to the finals of the Alberta Team Ropers Assn in Camrose. He was an original member of the Pine Ridge Roping Club in the Cranbrook area and was awarded a buckle in 2015 honoring his many years of involvement. He was an accomplished header and was never short of partners wanting to rope with him. He hosted many jackpots at the arena at home and along with Kathy and her husband Darcy, produced a successful 10 Steer roping for a number of years. That roping attracted competitors from Alberta and the interior of B.C. and was then one of the richest ropings in B.C.

Lister loved his rodeo, and he and Kaye spent many hours camping at rodeo grounds throughout Canada and the US either with the kids in the old 3 ton with stock racks and tents or his truck camper and horse trailer. Later on he and Kaye would go to Pendleton Oregon, Innisfail, Ponoka and Strathmore pro rodeos. In the late 70's and early 80's Kaye and Lister spent a few weeks of the winters in Arizona, camping in Little Canada. Lister renewed many friendships on these trips and treasured all of them, he was a life time supporter of the Cranbrook Rodeo both while it was amateur or professional, running the timed event end, which his kids inherited when Lister retired.

Lister loved his hockey and he played hockey for the Sheep Creek Beavers for many years on the lake at Premier and then at the ice rink he built on the home place. He drove many miles taking Fred to and from hockey games and practices, and in later years supported the Kimberley Knights and the Kootenay Ice.

Christmas treeing was always a family business. When the kids were pretty little, everybody went to the permit up at Sheep Creek. Kaye packed trees out to the road, and trimmed handles, while Fred and Helen "worked" on their own piece of ground that their dad marked out for each of them to prune and cut trees.... However they mostly built forts and ran wild in the bush! He spent hours at the permit.... pruning and fertilizing in the spring and cutting in the fall. In the early days, both Kaye and Lister worked for Hannah Tree Farms, in the yard and loading boxcars at the siding in Wasa. Then in later years he had his own tree lot in Lethbridge for many years and made many lifelong friends doing that. He would take the travel trailer out and spend the month of December living in it and selling trees at the mall lot. He loved that time. For years there was always an assortment of good quality trees for sale in the yard at home for his regular local



customers. He got a contract with the Kiwanis Club in Trail and every November he would ask a few of the neighbours to help load a big load to send over the Salmo Creston. Those days were hard work, but always ended up with Kaye feeding everybody and some good stories shared over a few drinks. Grandson Cody and his wife Claire and boys Levi and Dawson are carrying on the Canning Christmas tree harvest on the same piece of ground.

Lister always loved his farming. He spent many hours on the tractor, making hay – some people still say he had the best horse hay around. He was running the tractor and irrigation into his 80's! And he had learned to repair almost anything that broke down... not just his own either. Bob Cale can attest to that!



He spent a lot of time in his garden and produced more than the family needed! He ran a good cow/calf herd for many years, and then he bought and sold yearlings, running them on the range between the homeplace and the Skookumchuck river. There were more than a few cows that fell victim to the CPR in the days before the train tracks were fenced.

Lister was a good 4H dad, enabling all three kids to raise and market calves every year for many years. He drove to any competitions in the valley, from Windermere to Grasmere, and helped each kid pick out a calf either from neighbouring ranchers or home grown... then hauled to the year end competitions in June. After the summers off the whole procedure began again in the fall!

Lister and Kaye built a Quonset on the place and established a feed business, "Canning Feeds" which Kathy was conscripted to help with in Christmas tree times. He hauled feed from Calgary first, then Lethbridge to supply customers from Windermere all the way down the valley. They made some lifelong friends through that venture.

For a long time, the Cannings had a milk cow that kept them in milk and cream and butter. He never understood why Kaye would not learn to milk the cows, but we know now who the smart one really was in our family! She was pretty glad when Carol joined the family because she inherited the milking job!

Lister worked for BC Parks branch at Wasa for many years where he met so many who remained friends. He also worked at the community stockyards in Cranbrook and was a provincial brand inspector in his spare time.... Yeah right, did Dad have that???

The family would like to thank Brian Clifford, Susan Manahan and Cheryl Shaw for being there for our dad when he was in the Pines. He really looked forward to their visits and enjoyed time spent with them. Lister always did enjoy his country music... Wilf Carter was a favorite in the old days, and the musical entertainers that came to the Pines could always make him smile. Most especially the Bunkhouse boys.... Charlie and Barry.



The Canning kids also want to say thank you to

- the Wasa Lions
- the kitchen crew... Helen, Barb and Josie
- Friends who brought treats
- Those who made donations to the Community Hall in our dad's memory

And everybody who came out to the tremendous memorial to share stories and remember Dad.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.
John Quincy Adams

Christmas Safety Tips & Suggestions:

Holiday trees:

- If you put up a live tree, keep it fresh with daily watering.
- Place the tree away from high traffic areas and doorways. Make sure the tree is well-secured in a sturdy stand.
- Place the tree away from heating vents, radiators, stoves, fireplaces and burning candles.
- Dispose of the tree as soon as the holidays are over, or as soon as the needles start to fall.

Holiday lights and decorations:

- Check the light strings and extension cords you use, discarding any that are frayed or have exposed wires, loose connections or broken light sockets. Never run electrical cords through doorways or under carpets.
- Avoid plugging too many lights and decorations into an outlet. Overloaded circuits can overheat and start a fire.
- Turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or leave your home. Placing your lights on a timer will not only be energy smart, but eliminate the need for you to step outside in the cold to shut off or unplug your lights.

Holidays & pets:

- Make sure you keep your pets away from poinsettias, holly, mistletoe and real Christmas trees. They can be toxic for pets.
- Avoid tinsel. Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a nibble can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery.
- Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth and digestive tract.

merry christmas

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Firewood Permits

Members of the public who wish to cut firewood on Crown land for personal use must have a "Free Use Permit for Firewood" from each Natural Resource District where they intend to cut, issued by the appropriate District Manager or designate.

**ONLY DEAD OR DOWNED
TREES MAY BE CUT FOR
FIREWOOD.**

There is no charge for this privilege, only a commitment to abide by a number of simple rules that are outlined in the permit. Each permittee must:

- Carry the permit and associated maps at all times
- Read and understand the conditions of the permit prior to signing, conditions differ between districts
- Produce the permit at the request of a Natural Resource Officer, Conservation Officer or Peace Officer



FOLLOWING THE TRAILS OF *Yesterday*

submitted by Judy McPhee

TRADITIONS

As Christmas approaches, a time of traditions, many of us remember the warmth of get-togethers with family and friends where the spirit of the Lord's birthday was truly the centre of all festivities. Most families- some who have been here four, five or even six generations in our valley celebrate their own traditions and cultural customs which they adhere to.

These customs and rituals are often handed down from generation to generation by experience or word of mouth. They link us to our family, our roots, our community and awaken in us the gift of memory. Story telling, in some families is often full of colourful details and laughs and is closely meshed with the passing on of family traditions.

May God bless you all as you celebrate this season according to your families tradition and culture. Many summer residents at Wasa, over the years, have created their own summer traditions.

BEGINNING OF OUR HISTORY BOOK



In the late 1990's, a committee of women spearheaded by a group of library volunteers including co-editors, Bev Falkner and Brenda Rauch. After much talk Bev and Brenda decided to get "cracking" and collect our areas history. The word was put out and after intensive advertising, submissions were sent in. Women in our community met weekly at the home of Bev under the auspices of "Wasa and District Historical Association" to edit the submitted articles

on family histories, business' mining, logging, ranching, etc.

Bev and Brenda were most grateful for the family histories, pictures, reference materials, proofreading and most especially to those who were consulted repeatedly for clarification of details.

It was indeed a "Labour of Love" and hundreds of hours of work putting together the history book.

KOOTENAY RIPPLES WASA - TA TA CREEK - SKOOKUMCHUK

The committee spent hours editing and checking facts. June Owen spent countless hours firming up the editing and typing the finished product for the publisher--"Friesen's Publisher's Altona, MB. What a marvellous job! Thank you, June.

continued on page 16

Following the Trails, *continued*

Susan Bond, (now deceased) was the last person to read the final disks before they went to the publisher. Many people fund raised to help with the printing of the book. Francis West, (now deceased) did a most magnificent job fund raising. Dale Tagg (now deceased) organized all the photos submitted for the history book.

And a very special thank you to all who submitted articles.

Many of the old timers have passed away and it would be most difficult now to collect and collate such a comprehensive history which included the early years in our valley.

1250 books ordered-----45 books now left for purchase at a cost of \$50.00 a book.

Available from Pat Walkey at 250-422-3530.

LAUNCHING OF HISTORY BOOK

The gala party and reunion at the Wasa Hall to launch the history book took place on the weekend of Aug. 1-3, 2002. People from our area and with roots in our area came from far and wide to attend the pancake breakfast at the "Lions Centre" and the party in the beautifully decorated Wasa Hall.

First copy auctioned off for \$500.00 to Mario Liberto at the breakfast.

CHERISHED HISTORY - recorded in a diary-

The land up Wolf Creek Road was first deeded in the late 1800's as payment for serving in the Boar War. "Prospector and city of Fernie founder, William Fernie and his brother, Peter Fernie both had land up Wolf Creek Road."

Along with J.E. Humphries, the Fernie brothers were the first owners of "The Grange" Ranch-home/hotel up Wolf Creek Road.

The diary of the ranch for the years 1890, 91, 92, 93 is in our Wasa Library to borrow. This "Stagecoach Hotel" is written up in the Dec. 2015 of the TVB.

All editions of the TVB are available to read on the internet at <http://www.wasalake.com/buzz>

Apropos Christmas, a "**CHRISTMAS TREE DANCE**" was held every year at the old Wasa Hall, now the church, to raise money to buy every child a present and a bag of candy at the annual "Wasa School Christmas Concert." Both events were well attended by the people in the communities around here.

THANKFULNESS

Volunteers are the gold of the community and Christmas is a special time for each of us to offer our thanks to the many volunteers and people in our lives who have enriched our community and made our area of BC a very special place to live.

I believe each of us have things to be thankful for. Do show your appreciation by thanking someone this season.

I am especially thankful to the many multifarious talents of volunteers in our community and for the many people who have shared their photographs for us all to enjoy.

I include a picture of the main street in Wasa (date unknown), looking west at the south end of Wasa. It was recently given to me by Bill Rankins.

I conclude with this thought:

Rituals and Traditions-- "**THE PAST IS NOT MASTER OF THE PRESENT**" - Paul St. PIERRE

Blessings to you all this wonderful season and to each of you, the traditional, '**Merry Christmas**'

Wasa Roads

I asked Hilary Barnett from the Ministry of Transportation to give some information for future work on the roads at Wasa.

This is the list for next spring.

1. Mainroad is planning on completing shouldering along many of the roads. This will help address some of the berming and water ponding, as well remove some of the additional material that has deposited on the shoulder from the sealcoating this last spring.
2. As always in the Spring Mainroad will be completing their typical sweeping program. Should any surface deficiencies become apparent over the winter, they will also be repairing those.
3. The Ministry has installed new "confirmatory 50km/h" signs along the back side of Wasa Lake Park Drive to help address speeding concerns. They will also be looking at upgrading the pedestrian signage and other signage to address some of the concerns that have been brought forward this past year.
4. The Ministry will be bringing back the speed reader boards next summer for two weeks over the August long weekend. They will be parked along Wasa Lake Drive.

They have also stated that the road surface will be smoother next spring after the winter maintenance will further the packing of the road surface.

FireSmart

The RDEK Board has made an application to receive a government Grant to continue the firesmart program through out the area.

If we are successful this will allow more communities to receive financial aid.

I hope everyone has a great holiday this year. I also hope to see everyone at the Lion's Winterfest.

If you have any questions or concerns Please contact me at s.janewalter@gmail.com or call me 250-427-2577

Merry Christmas

The Wasa Recreation Society would like to thank the family of Lister Canning for naming the Wasa Community Hall as a their choice of "In memory of Lister" donations. To this date the hall received \$515.00. These donations are greatly appreciated by our Society.

The Wasa Recreation Society would like to thank all our volunteers and user groups for the past year for their contributions to the Community Hall. Your time spent helping or baking for our bingos, working on facility projects or just lending a hand whenever needed is greatly appreciated as we keep our Community Hall a place for community gatherings and events. Thank you very much and best of the season to all and look forward to a happy and prosperous new year.

Karen Markus

Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

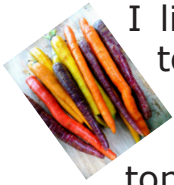
John Boswell

Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.

Edith Sitwell

Garden Facts & Fables

Gardens have been put to bed. Soaked by fall rains and probably covered in snow. Spring bulbs have been planted. Now we sit by the fire, browsing seed catalogues or googling seed companies and different varieties of flowers and vegetables to try in the spring. And there is so much to try!!



I like colour! I grow rainbow carrots every year - it's so pretty to see red, white, yellow, purple and orange on a plate. And I have begun growing coloured potatoes - my violet queens were an incredibly dark purple, even after cooking! So cool! And tomatoes! oh my! Did you know they come in orange, green, yellow, striped, strawberry shaped, pear shaped, and the list goes on.....



I tried a few different types of garlic this year, too. Creme de la rosa, persian star, wildfire



It is absolutely amazing how many different types there are to any and every vegetable you want to try. And if you're anything like me, it's fun trying new things. In fact, I have so many tomato varieties to try, I have planted some to grow indoors - maybe have fresh tomatoes by Valentine's? Some things work, some don't. But being a gardener is doing one experiment after another. Whether it is trying different varieties of vegetables or flowers. Or experimenting with different fertilizers to see what your soil needs.

So google - browse - dream of something odd and wonderful to try next spring. Maybe check out a few of the following. Who knows what may inspire you to experiment?

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/>

<http://www.rasacreekfarm.com/>

<https://www.rareseeds.com/>

<https://www.botanus.com/>

<https://www.veseys.com/>

And if you want to check out specifically Canadian seed companies, check out this link:

<https://seeds.ca/sw8/web/diversity/seed-catalogue-index>

I am looking forward to seeing pictures next year of any and all of the odd and wonderful things **you** have tried in your garden. I want to hear what has worked for you and what has not. I will even come to you to take the pictures, if you like. I have seen some absolutely awesome gardens around the area, and it would be great if you could share what makes you a successful gardener.

In the garden, pull the weeds, dig a hole, plant the seeds!

Cover them up, water them too. Watch them grow in front of you!

Make sure the sprout gets lots of sun. To grow a plant is tons of fun!!

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

WINTER WORD SCRAMBLE



1. PCONENEI _____
2. IEC _____
3. TTEMISN _____
4. ATOC _____
5. RPIECEFLA _____
6. AEGEDNRIGBR _____
7. EZRNFO _____
8. YBURARFE _____
9. SONW _____
10. OWO _____
11. EBDMECER _____
12. TEAKS _____
13. OTBOS _____
14. YEOKHC _____
15. LIIEC _____
16. UAYRAJN _____
17. OLCD _____
18. KSSCO _____
19. INHMCEY _____
20. ARSFC _____

Want something fun to do with your spare time?

We are looking for a new "Fun Page" submitter

WORD SEARCH!

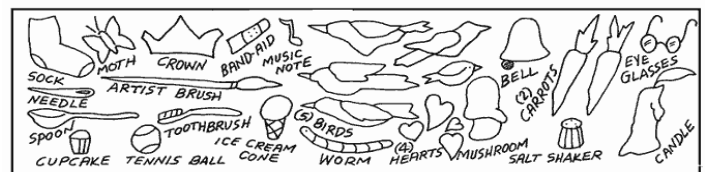
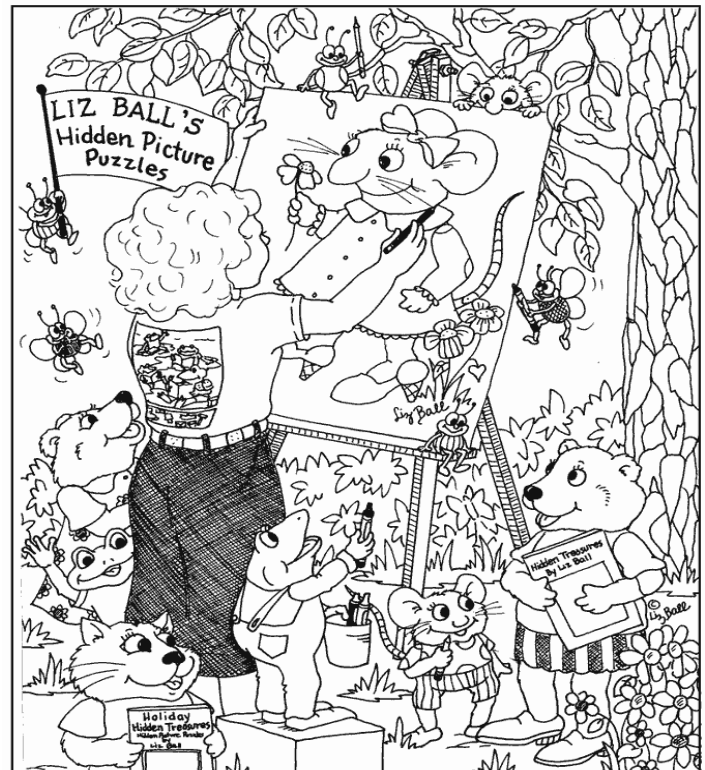
WINTER FUN

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST...WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR DIAGONALLY --FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

WORD LIST

BOBSLED
DOGSLED
HOCKEY
HUNTING
ICE FISHING
ICE SKATE
SHOVEL
SKI
SKIJORING
SLED
SLEIGH RIDE
SNOW
SNOW ANGEL
SNOWBALL
SNOWBLOWER
SNOWBOARD
SNOWMAN
SNOWMOBILE
SNOWSHOES
TOBOGGAN

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



December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 	4 	5	6	7
8 Church 10:30 a.m.	9	10 BINGO 6:30 Early 6:45 Regular	11 	12	13	14 
15 Church 10:30 a.m. Wasa Lights!	16	17  Wright Bros Day	18 	19	20	21
22 Church 10:30 a.m.  1st day of winter	23	24	25  	26 Boxing Day	27	28
29 Church 10:30 a.m. Winterfest!	30	31  New Year's Eve	1	2 	3	4

LEGEND.

Church Service 10:30 am
Rec Society 7:00 pm
Quilters 10 am - 4 pm
Library Tuesdays 11 am - 1 pm
TOPS Fri 9 am Weigh in & Mtg. 9:30 -10:30 am
Armchair Traveller 7:30 pm

BINGO 6:30 pm
Lions 7:00 pm

Special Events and Days Down the Road

- Dec 14 - Julie Kneller memorial @ Wasa Hall, 2 p.m.
- Dec 17 Library closes, reopens Jan 7
- Dec 29 - Winterfest!
- No Buzz in January

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Ashram Meditation & Yoga.....250.422.9327
BC Wildfire*5555 ...or.. .1.800.663.5555
Brunos Plumbing.....250.342.5105
Catamount Contracting.....250.422.3694
Cranbrook/Kimberley Hospice...250.417.2019
Conservation - Emergency ... 1.877.952.7277
Econobuilt.....250.421.7813
EMERGENCY.....1.800.663.5555 (*5555)
Hi Heat Insulating.....250.422.3457
HD Railings.....250.422.3457
Kootenay Kwik Print.....250.489.4213
Kootenay Monument Installations....422.3414
Lantz Farm (Hay).....250.420.1660
Rascal Dock Systems.....250.421.1746
TOPS.....778.524.0012.....422.3686
Wasa Hall.....250.422.3514.....422.3795
Wasa Hardware & Building Ctr...250.422.3123
Wasa Lake Gas & Food.....250.422.9271
Wasa Lions Med Eqp.250.422.3227..422.3499
Wasa Lions Trail Donations.....250.422.3773
Wasa Memorial Garden (Pat Walkey)422.3530
Wasa Post Office.....250.422.3122

