



FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

December 2023 ISSUE 267

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Remember our troops this
Christmas!!

Send a Christmas card to:
"Any Canadian Armed
Force Member"

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BC utility-scale solar farms - where to put them

This is about solar farms in British Columbia.

A crown land tenure is being requested with the ultimate goal of building a large solar farm on ecologically valuable land.

Background information:

<https://www.rockymountainnaturalists.org/rmn-projects--issues/communique-industrial-scale-solar-in-the-east-kootenay>

A few years ago, the attention of renewable energy companies turned to the wide-open spaces in the East Kootenay Valley. Their intent was to start the development process for large-scale utility-grade solar farms. That's great! Right!? If we're going to wean ourselves off fossil fuels, we're going to need more electricity from renewable sources.

The problem: **SOME** of them wanted to ruin ecologically valuable grassland like at Skookumchuck Prairie Important Bird Area. And they wanted rangeland. They would take land that is currently helping slow the rate of climate change, maintaining biodiversity, turn it into electricity ... and call that green.

After it was pointed out by **MANY** groups and people, how hypocritical that was because of this land's ecological importance, **SOME** of the land grant requests were turned down by the BC Government. Fortunately, development has **NOT** progressed on the natural land that **WAS** granted, but **UNFORTUNATELY** the BC Government **STILL HAS NOT** formalized any policies - guidelines - laws to make sure large-scale solar development is done ecologically responsibly in British Columbia. An example of responsible development is the Sun Mine in Kimberley which is on old Cominco land heavily impacted by ore milling activities related to the Sullivan Mine.

Anyway, they're at it again – the development companies; well, one development company again **SO FAR**. They're trying to get the cheapest land they can, of course, in proximity to existing power lines and roads.

But the land they have chose is:

- critical habitat for many species at risk, deer, elk, badgers, etc.,
- critical grazing for cattle
- natural carbon sinks
- part of the most endangered ecosystem in the world - temperate grassland - more endangered than Amazon rainforest and tropical reefs (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)

As many of you know, I am the volunteer caretaker of Skookumchuck Prairie Key Biodiversity Area.

continued pg 2

KOOTENAY
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Serving Skookumchuk, Ta Ta Creek and Wasa Lake

I have spent a lot of time there, at my own expense, documenting the Lewis' Woodpeckers – a Threatened species and a very cool bird. In the past eight years, I have found 63 nests and four dozen nesting trees. It's probably the densest breeding population of Lewis' in Canada. I have submitted the data to the Provincial database (not an easy task) to try to make sure lawmakers know about it. In all that time, only one government biologist has ever come out to see my discoveries (a two-hour field trip). A sad situation.

This time, the developer wants even more land on Skookumchuck Prairie – in the Lewis' Woodpecker area AND the Long-billed Curlew nesting habitat. I have done volunteer work on Curlew too – helping put solar satellite tags on them and tracking their movements. That work was done by Bird Studies Canada. Unfortunately, the area has almost NO conservation protection recognized by the federal or provincial governments.

It doesn't make sense to me. Solar panels can be placed on roof tops, parking lots, old mine sites, in old gravel pits, on man-made reservoirs, squeezed in along freeways, etc., etc. There is no need to put solar farms on natural, ecologically functioning land.

So, if avoiding wrecking sensitive ecosystems makes sense to you too, please submit your comments and concerns to the BC Lands Branch so that we can once again steer these companies away from destructive practices.

And urge the government to responsibly develop solar technology for net ecological benefit. Nip this in the bud NOW. The pressure on natural lands is only going to get worse unless Government steps up and says NO.

In all of British Columbia, the East Kootenay has the highest levels of solar irradiance, so WE are the testing ground for developing solar farms in BC – but this affects EVERYBODY. Are we going to do it responsibly? We've already flooded thousands of hectares of grassland for hydro (the Libby Dam for power to the US). Are we willing to wreck some more here? WE are the government, ultimately, so it's up to us – "tuum est".

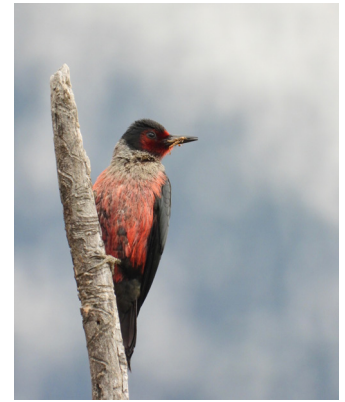
Go to the link above by December 3, 2023, to submit your comment. I have provided some examples of concerns you might agree with which you can copy/paste. Or check out the online info communique I wrote (see link above) for more information about this particular development plan.

Some examples of things you can say:

- The solar farms would need to be fenced off for security and fire protection. This means:
 - Loss of winter ungulate range for the elk and deer
 - Loss of high-value rangeland for local cattle ranches
 - Loss of habitat for species at risk that are dependent on grassland and open pine forest
 - Severe costs to protecting those facilities from wildfires and prescribed burning done for ecological restoration
- solar irradiance can be measured from satellite, so there is no need for crown land usage for this purpose
- portions of this request were previously disallowed, and we believe that decision should be upheld
- "The area selected is within an endangered grassland ecosystem which is being actively managed and restored. This ecosystem provides critical habitat for ungulates (primarily elk) and species at risk and is an important cattle grazing area. The government and organized groups have spent approx. \$14 Million dollars on ecosystem restoration in the Rocky Mountain Trench ..." (Lands Branch, Reason for Decision, ca. 2017, Crown land file #4405732)
- Parcels requested are on Skookumchuck Prairie Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) – an area recognized internationally as necessary for maintaining global biodiversity.



- Examples of impacts:
 - elk and deer would be impacted through loss of habitat, particularly ungulate winter range
 - Lewis' Woodpecker would be impacted through loss of feeding habitat, loss of nesting trees, and alteration to the microclimate affecting the free-flying insects they feed on
 - Lewis' Woodpecker would be impacted by human activity during construction and maintenance of solar farms
 - Long-billed Curlew would be impacted by loss of habitat for nesting, brood-rearing, and pre-migration staging and by human activity during construction and maintenance of solar farms
- Statistics about Skookumchuck Prairie:
 - Twelve breeding territories of species-at-risk Long-billed Curlew occur on the parcels requested
 - Sixteen nest trees of species-at-risk Lewis' Woodpecker occur on parcels requested. This is the densest breeding colony of Lewis' Woodpecker in Canada
 - 70 % of the bird species found in the East Kootenay are also in the Skookumchuck Prairie KBA making it the richest bird area per hectare in the Region. 227 species have been documented (see website: eBird).



- Other points

Utility-scale solar plants are an industrial use incompatible with our objectives for managing our agricultural rangelands and natural ecosystems.

The parcels encompass or directly impact 6 Wildlife Habitat Areas (BC Ministry of Forests designation), for Long-billed Curlew, antelope bitter-brush, endangered Williamson's Sapsucker, and endangered American Badger.

Solar panels can be placed on roof tops, parking lots, old mine sites, in old gravel pits, on man-made reservoirs, squeezed in along freeways, etc., etc. There is no need to put solar farms on natural, ecologically functioning land.

The Province of BC needs to develop and implement policies and guidelines for the responsible placement of solar technology including identifying places where large-scale utility-grade solar farms can be placed so that areas that are ecologically valuable can continue to contribute to slowing climate change

Thanks everyone! Take care! Dianne Cooper, volunteer caretaker, Skookumchuck Prairie KBA, Kimberley, BC You can submit comments to the BC Government on this tenure application at: <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?clidDtid=4406427&id=6529b28b646c73002270b4ab#details>
BC Government – Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision, Crown land file #4406427

Comment by December 3, 2023

If you feel you can't comment right now for whatever reason. No worries. In future, please keep an eye on this issue because it won't be going away. Thanks for reading!

Photos courtesy of Lyle Grisedale, Bobby Dailey & Kalin Ocana



Wasa, Ta Ta Creek & Skookumchuk

Christmas Light up!

Dec 17/23 @ 6:30 -8:30pm



Turn on your lights.

Win a Prize

Go for an en**light**ening drive.



Wasa Community Church

A Giving God

The Christmas season is one highlighted by a very special advent (arrival, coming). Being born into humanity, God came down to earth. Here are a few reasons why:

Hebrews 10:7 - ***“Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”*** He came to follow the plan. The person of God that is the Son came to do the will of the person of God that is the Father. That will was to fulfill what was prophesied about Him in the Old Testament Scriptures (the only Scriptures at that point in time).

1 Timothy 1:15 - ***“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...”*** One of the most important things to fulfill about those prophecies was the saving of sinners. Entry into heaven requires you to be perfect, so even committing one sin disqualifies you (something we’ve all done). No matter how good we can make ourselves, it will always fall short. We needed rescue.

Mark 10:45 – ***“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*** God is just, so the penalty for sin had to be paid. Thankfully, God is also love, so He took the penalty for sin upon Himself by giving up his life as a ransom, dying on a criminal’s cross. He did us the ultimate service.

John 10:10b – ***“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*** Now that He came down, the path is now before us. The gift of eternal life that was paid for by His blood is being offered freely to us. Do we accept it or reject it? Genuine repentant faith that holds to His Lordship and believes in His death and resurrection is all that’s required from people to have their spot in His heavenly presence reserved for them.

The Christmas spirit is a spirit of giving, rather than a spirit of earning. Jesus didn’t die for you to struggle to earn your way to heaven by your good deeds. He died to purchase you a gift. In Romans 4:4, it says, ***“Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.”*** The only thing we were due was punishment. Our works were never going to be good enough, but thanks be to God that He is a gift giver. As those who have accepted and received His gift, we still want to give back (serving both God and others around us as we continue on in life). However, we can rest assured that it didn’t come down to our work (it’s not wages earned), so let’s be givers, not to earn any merit for eternity, but rather because we’ve got a sure gift waiting for us in the future. That precious gift that God came down to give.

Pastor Jon Malpass, Wasa Community Church, (250) 464-4419

Wasa Lions Grounds Rentals

Contact Person: Linda Gold @ 250 421-6302



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Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly



2023 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

(Engraving costs are subject to change)

Contact info:

Pat Walkey @ 250 422-3530 or

pwalkey@shaw.ca

Hard to believe that a mostly mild November is now in the review mirror... As the days continue to grow colder and shorter (& hopefully snowier), The Wasa and District Historical Association & Memorial Garden group wish all of you a very warm Christmas and much health and happiness in the coming New Year.

In Memorial Garden news, our community has lost an indispensable part of our garden "Family"; JC McPhee volunteered at the garden and was involved in maintaining the original water system. We thank him for his many 'fixes' around the garden. You will be missed by many, JC. May your memory be a blessing to all who knew your kindness.

A reminder that our District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group "membership" could still use some 'growth'. We kindly ask that Wasa residents (both recreational & permanent) to consider a \$5/per person lifetime membership. Having a large 'membership' helps us apply for government grant monies which keep our garden looking great. Please contact Judy Reimer at mjlreimer@shaw.ca or by phone 250-422-3343 to join. Thank you for your consideration!

Volunteers are always welcome. If you enjoy gardening & have been looking for a way to meet neighbors in the community, please contact Sherry Shields at her email address: slshields27@gmail.com

*A little more sparkle, A little less stress!
May your Christmas Be happy & blessed!*

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Wasa Lake Land Improvement District

Trustees wish everyone a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our next Board Meeting will be January 10th
2024 - public is welcome (encouraged) to attend

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.



VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

Volunteering is a work of heart."

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Solar in British Columbia? and Skookumchuck Prairie and pretty bird pictures

By Dianne Cooper, Kimberley, BC

Dear Editor:

Solar seems inevitable around here. I mean, they're doing it everywhere else, right. And they SAY we get the most sunshine in the Province here. And electric cars and bikes and heat pumps are the latest eco-fad. Electricity needed.

Alberta's doing it, covering up ag fields (but paused right now while they rethink that – the Vulcan solar farm covers over 13 km²). Ontario has over 35 solar farms. China, Indonesia, and New Jersey have floating solar farms. In the desert, on the fields, here there everywhere. Miles and miles of black – all because of one molecule, so it seems. Carbon, also black, well, carbon dioxide, which is clear and fizzes your pop. Solar is supposed to be “green”, right? OK, maybe. We have to do something to stop this crazy weather, climate, whatever. We may as well try.

But covering up perfectly good fields? That makes no sense. But that's what some people want to do. Ecological. Biodiversity. Global ecosystem. Biosphere. Sustainability. Habitat. This isn't the 60s, before these words started to make it into the average persons' vocabulary. These words, their ideas, were around a long time before that, since the 1800s, but that's another story. We're not afraid to use them in polite society anymore, are we?

Here in the Kootenays, these words smack us in the face whenever we step out the door. Mountains that stretch all the way to Alaska and all the way to Chile. Frost and fog and snow that come from water that was in the Pacific and will return there. Deer and elk, or just their poop all over, and squirrels. Birds that go and come back from California and Mexico, and some keep going to the tundra in the spring, and some stay here all year long or come down to the valley bottom only in winter. Forests and grasslands that don't need to be anything else. We see, smell, hear, feel these words.

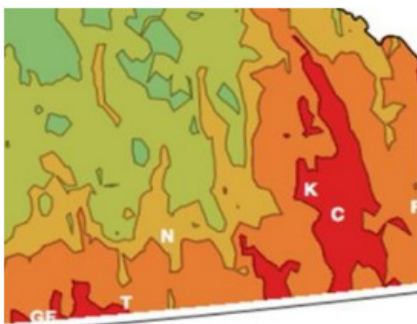
We're focussed on one molecule – carbon dioxide, trying to control how many we put into the atmosphere and counting every one, well, every **tonne**. We know it's just a simple way to measure the impact of our existence on this Earth. We're worried about what we're doing. But if we're going to count molecules, shouldn't we also count every square meter of good green Earth, too?

The whole problem is bigger than me. It boggles my brain. I don't want to think about it. One thing I know though, is that covering over perfectly functional natural lands with solar panels is a bad move, makes no sense. A cheap fix, profiting only the companies doing it, or only the short-sighted, four-year-term politicians trying to get re-elected.

There's no need to put solar panels on “green virgin land”, as Michel de Spot, engineer of the Sun Mine in Kimberley, called it. There are plenty of brown fields – already wrecked land – like the old Sullivan Mine concentrator site, where there's 4,000 hectares available. Or over parking lots, on roof tops, on reservoirs even. Maybe even agri-voltaics – shading crops. This is not NIMBY, this is common sense.

Yeah, private land would cost more. Too bad. It SHOULD cost more. It should cost what it **actually** costs to the global biosphere, all things considered. But we're not there yet in our thinking nor in our economic structure. Until companies include THAT in their bottom lines, our strongest recourse is government policy and laws. What are the odds governments will do the best thing? We shall see.

Commenting worked before. We got **two** of these stupid ideas nipped in the bud back in 2017. But a couple slipped through before those with greater sensibility caught wind. Two tenures were granted to explore developing solar farms. Then locals, ranchers, naturalists, hunters, fishers, ecologists, engineers, etc. piped up and the Lands Branch listened. The last two tenure applications were disallowed. Fortunately, nothing seems to have come from the tenures that slipped through. But unfortunately, one of those companies hasn't given up and is trying to kick-start plans again.



Solar irradiance in southeastern BC



Lewis' Woodpecker

Photo by Kalin O.



The northeast corner of the main fields of Skookumchuck Prairie Key Biodiversity Area, north of Lantz' Farm.

This is home to at least two pairs of Long-billed Curlew every year. The chicks leave the nest within days of hatching and have to find food themselves, the parents don't feed them, they're just the guards, warning of predators, and sometimes scaring the predators away.



Typical nesting snag of Lewis's Woodpecker.
Just south of Farstad Road

They want crown land in the valley bottom, of course, because its close to roads and power lines; construction costs would be lower, and crown land is cheaper, I guess. And again, they want some on a bird sanctuary – Skookumchuck Prairie. No. It's rangeland, ecologically important grassland, open forests already storing carbon. We want this habitat just the way it is, no – better. You can say “No” too or whatever you wish.

To submit a comment online, go to the Government of British Columbia “Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision” web page by December 3rd and “Find” crown land file number 4406427.

To submit a comment by email (if after the deadline) send it to: erin.sketchley@gov.bc.ca

Submit by mail or in person to any Front Counter BC. Phone Front Counter Cranbrook with your questions: 250-426-1766

Read more on my blog: “Birding East Kootenay & Beyond” Or on the “Rocky Mountain Naturalists” webpage

Species at Risk - What Does it mean?

Species at risk is a term that encompasses all wildlife that are endangered, threatened or of special concern and if action isn't taken to reverse their decline, could become extinct.

The greatest biodiversity in the country exists in the lands now called BC, but also the highest number of species at risk. The vast majority of species at risk living on non-federal land, 94 per cent of the land base in BC, lack protection from being harmed or having their habitat destroyed.

From the Vancouver Island marmot to southern mountain caribou species at risk are left to fend for themselves against logging, oil and gas activities, mining, climate change, toxic contamination and urban sprawl. Today, more than 1,900 species and subspecies are at risk of disappearing from our province. That number will grow unless BC prioritizes biodiversity in all its plans and policies affecting the land.

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/BCSpecies>
<https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/page-10.html>



Long-billed Curlew in the grassland.

Photo by Jo Ellen F.

In recognition of your service to our country:



Jack & Wendy Davis made a trip back east to celebrate Remembrance Day with a cherished friend. And were kind enough to share this photo with the Buzz.

Thank you, Jack, for your service - you do the community (and our country) proud!

Jack's medals are from the outside in:
Canadian Forces Decoration with bar
Multi National Force and Observers
Sinai Egypt

The Peace keeping medal when Jack was on the HMCS Kootenay during the embargo on Haiti 1994.

The wings were from Jack's tour with 437 Transport Squadron.



Wasa Community!! We are looking for volunteers to help this winter in snow clearing the path around the lake and skating ovals on the lake itself. If you'd like to help, even if all you own is a snow shovel, please let me know at ctippett@telus.net.



I entered my photograph of orion's belt in a competition. I didn't win, but I did get a constellation prize.

When I was a child, I wanted to be aluminum man so I could foil crime.

Time for the birds of prey quiz. Fingers on buzzards

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We meet every Tuesday from 10-4 in our own space in the basement of the hall. Drop in any Tuesday! We'd be more than happy to show you the endless possibilities in this creative atmosphere! No previous experience required.

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TOPS SPOT

submitted by - Susan Manahan

A HISTORY OF TOPS AND ESTHER MANZ---this year, 2023, celebrating 75 years.

In 1948, Esther Manz was a housewife and mother to 5 children in Milwaukee. Esther was 40 years old, 5'2" and weighed 208 lbs. Esther and her friends, seated around the kitchen table, wanted to support each other in losing weight and leading a healthy lifestyle. That table chat led to the formation of TOPS—Taking Off Pounds Sensibly.

TOPS chapters grew like wildfire and by the end of 1951 there were about 2500 members in six states across the U.S. The first Canadian chapter started in Hamilton, Ontario in 1955. Canada now has chapters from coast to coast. There are two chapters in Cranbrook and of course our chapter, Wasa,-- B.C. 4999.

TOPS also has an online program for those that prefer to meet this way or for those that live too far from a meeting place.

Esther Manz was offered over a million dollars for the organization but she turned down that offer as she wanted to keep TOPS as a non-profit and affordable group for all. The Basic Program cost only \$59 Canadian for the first year. This small cost gives the member six informative magazines a year, a "My Day One" start program and a weight tracker booklet and weekly meetings with other members. Also available is a manual for a cost of \$25. This is an optional choice.

"TOPS remains the same organization it started as: All about support, accountability, lasting friendships and connections, and plentiful resources—today the group offers recipes, TOPS Talks, featuring the latest from the health and inspirational community, meal planning ideas, workouts, chapter resources and more."

Esther Manz died February 26, 1996 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

Esther Manz has left the most amazing legacy—a weight loss support group that has grown into a 300,000 member nonprofit organization.

A quote from Esther ---"Life is a battle. Just let us win the one on obesity."

More information is available on TOPS. Org website and on UTube you will find a wonderful video with the story of Esther Manz and the beginning of TOPS.

Safety guidelines and things you need to know:

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



For Gym Schedule please contact:
Sonia Blackwell at 250.421.3019 or Rod at 250.422.3253

GYM HOURS AND INFO

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.

HELP STARTS HERE ...



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Volunteer Today!

Cranbrook / Kimberley Hospice Society needs volunteers to help with Client and Family Companioning & Grief Support



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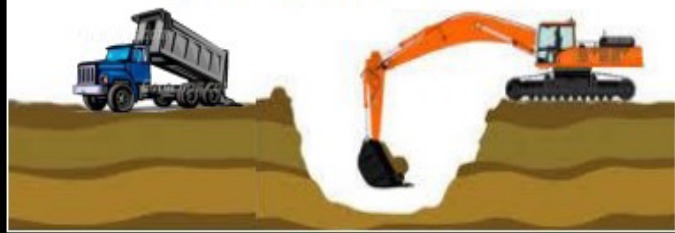
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Guy Winkleman

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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 or
Jane Gendron 250-421-2535

• **Gym:**

Sonia Blackwell 250.421.3019 or
Rod 250.422.3253

• **TOPS:**

Heidi Wright 250-919-3675

• **Library:**

Rose Smith 250-422-3088

• **Quilter's Club:**

Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Wasa Lions is a fun way to give back to your community.

It's About Fundraising

- Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance/Raffle
- Yard Sale/ Pancake Breakfasts
- Bottle Recycling
- Gran Fondo/ Triathlon
- Lions Grounds Rental



It's About Giving

- Wasa Lions Path/Skating Rink
- Tennis & Basketball Courts
- Pickleball Courts
- Ball Diamond
- Scholarships
- We Care We Serve community funding
- Medical Loan Cupboard
- Eyeglass & Hearing Aid Recycling



It's About Fun & Socializing

A Great Reason to become a Lion!
For Information call 250 422-3210

Wasa Lions Annual Fundraiser

Christmas Dinner & Dance

Saturday December 2, 2023
@ Wasa Community Hall

Doors open at 5:30 pm
Cocktails at 6:00 pm
Dinner at 7:00 pm

Raffle at 8:00 pm
Dance at 9:00 pm

Tickets on sale Saturday November 4th
at 10 a.m - \$40 per person
@ the Wasa Community Hall

support the Wasa Lions
check out amazing raffle prizes
visit with friends & neighbours
dance the night away
please bring a gift for the food bank

for more information, or to purchase
tickets you can call
Marilyn @ 250 422-3210





The Lions Den Lions Roar

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

submitted by Terry Marvel

Halloween has come and gone and the Trunk or Treat was attended by a good number of ghouls and goblins and a good time was had by all. As usual, hot dogs and hot chocolate were provided by the Wasa Lion's and the Wasa Recreation Society. There was a pumpkin carving contest which was won by Nancy Day. Good job by everyone!



As winter bears down upon us, and the area volunteers ready the Pete Vershagen Memorial ice rink for the winter's skating enjoyment, more help is always needed for this endeavor. The more the merrier! With the passing of our rink master, JC McPhee, it is especially imperative to have all the help we can get. Whether you have experience or not, your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

On that note, the community has lost one of the great volunteers of this time. J.C. McPhee suffered a fatal accident at his workplace early in November. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Our heartfelt condolences to his family and close friends. As a former Lion Member, J.C. was instrumental in the installation of most of the infrastructure at the Lion's Grounds and knew the workings of most of the community projects in the area. He will never be replaced. RIP J.C.

The next big happening for the Wasa Lions will be the Christmas Dinner and Dance and raffle to be held December 2nd at the Wasa Community Hall. All raffle prizes have been donated by local people and businesses. Be prepared for some amazing prizes! This promises to be the largest fund raiser the Lions hold every year. It was on hold for a couple years because of COVID but we're back on track. There are still a few tickets for sale at the Wasa Post Office as of this printing, but act now because they will sell out. Cocktails are at 6:00 and dinner will be at 7:00. The dance will commence around 9:00.



It seems a little early to be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, but it will be here before we know it and this is the last issue before the big day....So, have the very best Christmas and don't forget the Lions Winterfest Celebration to be held December 30th at the Lion's Grounds. A great day to connect with your neighbors and friends and enjoy a bit of Bannock and hot chocolate or coffee and a cup of soup. There will be activities for the children and adults alike. Come out and welcome in the new year!



Rick and Sonia Blackwell took their family (& the Buzz) on vacation to Cancun

And being the only submission in 2023, Rick and Sonia Blackwell are the winners of our contest!!

Congratulations!!



Get your submissions in for your chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to one of our amazing Tri-Village Buzz advertisers!

Where do you take your Buzz? Take a photo of you with the Buzz and email your travel stories to me. Your picture will be featured in the current issue of the Buzz "2023 Where Do You Take Your Buzz contest".

Email: trivillagebuzz@gmail.com



What synchronicities tell us about God

Part 1- We are not alone!

We have all experienced some amazing perfectly timed coincidences. Being receptive to these serendipitous events, which are linked by meaning rather than cause, enables us to hone our intuition. In science, the first person to have used the word “synchronicity”, referring to coincidence, was the great Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Gustav Jung.

Mysteriously happy coincidences... They manifest themselves at just the right moment, allowing us “as if by magic” to unblock a situation or fulfill our greatest desires. It’s the story of so-and-so who, in a newspaper left on a bus, discovers the advertisement for their dream home, or of another who meets the exact person needed to move a project forward, or of yet another who, in the midst of his inner questioning, walks into a bookshop and, in a book opened almost mechanically, stumbles across exactly the information he needs to move forward.

Some would say that this is the expression of pure chance, of a statistical probability that is admittedly slim, but within the realm of possibility. Or that it’s an over-interpretation of the mind’s ability to make up whatever suits it.

Yes, but... Other cases of strange coincidences, such as that of actor Anthony Hopkins and a novel that inspired the script of a film he was to star in, found by “chance” on a park bench after he had searched in vain for the book in several bookshops, leave us perplexed.

For the talented and renowned

French physicist Philippe Guillemant, these “necessary coincidences” are no accident. On the contrary, he sees in these events, linked by meaning rather than cause, a form of response from the universe (or God as Super Consciousness) to a need expressed consciously or unconsciously by the individual, which transcends space and time. This concept of intelligent, meaningful chance, while foreign to our Western minds, is much more natural in the East, where it is seen in its entirety as a law of cause and effect.

Without lapsing into magical thinking, it’s interesting to welcome the synchronicities that present themselves to us. They often come in bunches, often at key moments in our lives when we’re going through a transformation or transition (moving house, divorce, change of professional or personal project, mid-life crisis, illness, spiritual quest, etc.). They can also be quite trivial, involving “little things” like needing the address of a specific store and finding it written on the back of a bus while driving your car behind it. So, synchronicities take on a variety of manifestations, including people, objects, animals, words overheard on the fly in the street, or even repeating numbers like mirror hours.

Synchronicities are most often known for their happy side, as a “gift from the universe”, but they can also signify misfortune. This is the case, for example, when, over a short period of time, various incidents accumulate in our private or professional environment: power failures, car accidents, thefts, loss of contracts, and so on.

Other synchronicities seem enigmatic, even gratuitous. They appear like the entanglement of two particles in quantum physics. An example might be running into one of your oldest friends you haven’t seen for years or decades while on the other side of the world walking along a faraway beach at an unlikely moment when neither of you knew of the others’ journey or destination. Some of these synchronicities appear as genuine “photocopies of the universe”. In this case, we see a subject of great significance to us materialize in our environment in a mirror effect. It is as if the universe or superior intelligence (which can be called God) orchestrates things in order for us to understand or accomplish something with a higher level of awareness. These innumerable synchronicities are tangible proof that something greater than us is at work in our very lives.

Next time, we will study how to recognize the synchronicities that elicit that familiar stamp of emotional stupefaction and wonder. So, when a synchronicity occurs, don’t judge it, don’t denigrate it, especially if it concerns something trivial... and at all costs, don’t try to explain it or fit it in a box. Simply receive it, observe it, and feel how it resonates with you.

May all wonderful and beneficial synchronicities be granted to you, especially during this auspicious period of Christmas time and New Year. Open your eyes! The Divine Force talks to you always and in many ways! We are not alone!

OM OM OM

H H Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha
Adi Vajra Shambhasalem Ashram

Wasa Lions Winterfest

Sunday Dec 31/23

Weather Permitting

Noon to 4pm

@

Peter Vereshagen Memorial Rink

Wasa Lions Grounds

Skating, Snow hill, Games, Tug of War, Bonfires,

Hot Chocolate, Bannock, Hot dogs

Family Fun for all ages



Time has gone very fast this year, it is hard to believe that 2023 is coming to a close..

Aquifer levels have been questioned during applications for zoning changes (subdivision). Registering your domestic well creates a record on the Provincial Groundwater Wells and Aquifer (GWELLS) This application of your water use, would help to ensure that your use is considered in decision making and during water scarcity.

Please register on the Provincial Groundwater Wells and Aquifer (GWELLS) application.

Area E Town Hall

I would like to thank everyone that attended the meeting. The RDEK staff gave reports on:

- 5 Year Financial Plan Overview
- Mosquito Control Program
- Climate Action Plan
- Emergency Preparedness
- Lazy Lake Water Control Service Taxation update
- Short Term Rentals Update

Then we held a session for questions.

It is my honour to formally recognize Kathy McCauley and Mike Gall as our Electoral Area E Volunteers of the Year.

Kathy and Mike have contributed countless hours of work in Area E and are passionate advocates for the safety and well being of the Wasa community and beyond. Diverse in their skillsets, Mike and Kathy create a dynamic and effective duo that we are so fortunate to have in our area.

In 2017, after the devastating loss of two homes that burned down, they reached out to the community and to me to begin the formation of the Wasa Volunteer Fire Prevention and Suppression Group and FireSmart Board. The strides they have been able to take with the group since that time have been remarkable. Their passion and dedication to getting the community engaged has led to a great improvement in the community wildfire resiliency of our area.

Kathy and Mike have been instrumental in obtaining grants for the FireSmart demonstration lot at the corner of Wasa Lake Park Drive and School Road. They have worked to acquire an old Parks water trailer for community protection, created and readied a call list of residents with water trailer setups, and taken care of the logistical work involved with financials and grant funding. A great number of volunteers have been organized and inspired by their dedication to creating a safer community.

In addition to these huge projects, Mike is the Volunteer Project manager for the Lions in the Community Resiliency Investment Program – Columbia Basin Wildfire Resiliency Initiative grant for the Lions grounds and Kathy has donated many hours of her time to projects that the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District is involved with. Kathy has also been a volunteer for the Armchair Traveler productions held at the Wasa Community Hall.

Kathy and Mike, you are immense assets to the community - and all of Area E. Thank you for your energy, leadership, expertise, and heartfelt volunteerism. Congratulations on being named our Electoral Area E Volunteers of the Year. There will be a presentation and gift to formally recognize them at the Wasa Lions Christmas Dance. I hope everyone has a great month. If anyone has a question or a concern please call me 250-427-2577 or email me at s.janewalter@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year

Jane Walter

DID YOU KNOW?

Candy canes date back to 1670. - According to History.com, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany gave the red and white sugar sticks to young singers to keep them quiet during the Living Creche tradition on Christmas Eve.

"Xmas" isn't a recent term. - The word actually dates back to the mid-1500s, and gets its roots from the Greek letter X—which is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ.

The original Elf on the Shelf was named Fisbee. - The Elf on the Shelf was inspired by the creators' own toy elf, Fisbee, who they grew up with in the 1970s. They told HuffPost that Fisbee "would report to Santa Claus at night and be back in a different position in our house the next day."

Why do we kiss under the mistletoe? - This popular kissing tradition may have its roots in Norse mythology. The History Channel reports that Frigg, the goddess of love, promised to kiss anyone who passed under the berry-laden plant after it saved her son's life. It wasn't until the 18th century, however, that the Christmas custom picked up steam in England.



Tuesday
December 12
Wasa Hall
Doors Open at 5:30
Early Bird 6:30
Regular Bingo 6:45
Concession



Wasa & District Lions Club
Recycling program
250 417-7654

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I wander forth this chill December dawn: John Frost and all his elves are out, I see, As busy as the elfin world can be, Clothing a world asleep with fleecy lawn.

Robert Williams Buchanan



Members of the public who wish

to cut a Christmas Tree on Crown land for personal use must have a Free Use Permit for a Christmas Tree from each Natural Resource District where they intend to cut, signed by the appropriate District Manager or designate.

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

December

Wintry mornings wrapped in white, Evenings, calm and still, Snowflakes dancing all around, Sled rides down a hill, Gatherings with loved ones - Such a pleasure to remember - All memories and special gifts That come with each December.

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(1 column width = 2.5")

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3 column width\$37

Full page.....\$49.50

For more information or to
place an ad, please contact

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Tri-Village Buzz Newsletter

Box 169 Wasa, BC V0B 2K0



SOLD OUT OF HAY

Thank you for another great season!
www.lantzfarms.ca | @lantzfarms

Dear Editor,

It is important for EK residents to be aware of a pending tenure and investigation application by Enterprise Renewables (2017) to secure access to 12,308 acres of Crown land located on Sheep Creek flats, Skookumchuck prairie, Woods' Corner/LD Ranch Road and Elko to build a utility-scale solar farm.

The land being targeted is ecologically valuable grassland that is helping to slow the rate of climate change as a carbon sink, home to bio-diverse flora and fauna-deer, elk, badgers-and endangered species like Lewis' woodpeckers and long-billed Curlew. Our portion of the Rocky Mountain Trench is part of the north-south migration route for swans, geese, ducks and other water fowl.

This project would eliminate valuable grassland needed for ranching, which, in turn, would further jeopardize local food security.

The size of this development is bigger than anything the East Kootenay has seen since the Sullivan Mine.

The proposed use of 12,000 plus acres (4,981 ha or 49.8 km²) is 56% (17.8 km²) larger than the footprint of the City of Cranbrook, which is 32 km². A utility-scale solar farm would be the equivalent of 196,928 tennis courts.

If this farm, if one can even call it that, moves forward, it would destroy the forest with clear cutting and chemically wipe-out all grass and vegetation making the land look like a nuclear blast site.

I am opposed to the Provincial Government granting a tenure or an application to investigate solar farms to be located on this natural pristine landscape that provides invaluable and irreplaceable habitat here in the EK. This land should not be destroyed for corporate profit.

In the face of persistent neglect by the Provincial government, only by standing together can our EK community fight for its future, and against environmental destruction.

The public has until December 3rd to provide comments to the Provincial government. Register your comment here, and use Crown land file #4406427.

<https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?id=6529b28b646c73002270b4ab#details>

Please email MLA Doug Clovechuck, doug.clovechok.mla@leg.bc.ca, MLA Tom Shypitka, Tom.Shypitka.MLA@leg.bc.ca, BC Premier Eby, premier@gov.bc.ca, Minister J. Osborne, EMLI.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister G. Heyman, ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Minister N. Cullen, WLRs.Minister@gov.bc.ca,



Nowell Berg

Wasa

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 
3 Church 10:30 am	4 	5 Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	6	7 	8	9
10 Church 10:30 am	11	12 	13	14	15	16
17 Church 10:30 am	18	19  Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	20	21	22	23 
24/31 Church 10:30 am 	25 	26 	27	28	29	30

BOTTLE & CAN RECYCLING

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

Support Local Scholarships & Lions Grounds Maintenance



Are you interested in First Aid Training?

The Wasa Lions Club is sponsoring a 4 hour Basic First Aid CPR A Course for up to 10 community members. Date to be determined.

Contact 250 417-7654 for further information.



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Accepting new patients

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3 	4	5	6
7 Church 10:30 am	8	9 Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	10 WLLID Board mtg 7 pm	11 	12 	13
14 Church 10:30 am	15	16 <i>Appreciate a Dragon Day</i> 	17 	18	19	20
21 Church 10:30 am	22	23 Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	24	25 	26	27 
28 Church 10:30 am	29 	30	31			

LEGEND

Church Service 10:30 a.m. Lions 7 p.m.
Quilters 10 - 4 Tops; friday 9 a.m.
Lion's meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month



**SPECIAL
EVENTS**

and Days Down the Road

- TOPS every Friday morning at the Wasa Hall. Weigh in at 9 - 9:30 AM - mtg 9:30 to 10:30
- Pickleball - every Monday & Wednesday 9 - 12, in the Community Hall
- Wasa Lions Dinner & Dance December 2
- WLLID board mtg Jan 10, 2024



NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Ashram Meditation & Yoga.....	250.422.9327
BC Wildfire..... *5555.....or	1.800.663.5555
Catamount Contracting.....	250.422.3694
Conservation - Emergency.....	1.877.952.7277
Cranbrook/Kimberley Hospice.....	250.417.2023
Econobuilt.....	250.421.7813
EMERGENCY.....	1.800.663.5555 (*5555)
Hi Heat Insulating.....	250.422.3457
HD Railings.....	250.422.3457
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Kootenay Monument Installations.....	422.3414
Lantz Farm (Hay).....	250.420.1660
Rascal Dock Systems.....	250.421.1746
TOPS.....	250.919.3675
Wasa Country Pub & Grill	250.422.3381
Wasa Hall.....	250.422.3514.....422.3795
Wasa Hardware & Building Ctr.....	250.422.3123
Wasa Lake Gas & Food.....	250.422.9271
Wasa Lions Med Eqp...250.417-7654.....	793.9491
Wasa Lions Trail Donations.....	250.417-7654
Wasa Memorial Garden (Pat Walkey).....	422.3530
Wasa Post Office.....	250.422.3122

