



FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION

# TRI-VILLAGE BUZZ

December 2024 ISSUE 277

Visit: [www.wasalake.com](http://www.wasalake.com)

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**There will not be a January Buzz - as per tradition**

## Advent Family Activity Calendar

1.  Bake Christmas Cookies	2. Watch a Christmas Movie	3. Donate items to charity	4. Family Holiday Karaoke	5. share a favorite Christmas memory
6. Learn about another culture's holiday traditions	7. make a homemade ornament for the tree	8.  Drink hot chocolate	9. Thank You Cards for community helpers	10. Board Game Night
11.  make paper snowflakes	12.  Random Act of Kindness	13.  Decorate a gingerbread house	14. indoor snowball fight!	15. PJ's and Popcorn Night
16. Take a family photo by the tree	17.  Color Christmas coloring pages together	18. Drive around and look for Christmas lights	19.  Christmas music dance party	20. Donate to a GoFundMe
21.  Celebrate Winter! Go on a nature walk	22. Donate food to a food pantry	23. Go outside at night and look at stars	24. Read "Night before Christmas" poem	25.  Celebrate Christmas!

IT'S NOT WHAT'S  
 under the tree  
 THAT MATTERS  
 it's who's gathered  
 AROUND IT

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## ***Hope Still Comes***

We banter the word “hope” about carelessly. We hope the Red Sox will win the world series. We hope the store will stay open late. But the hope of Christmas is a greater hope. The message of Christmas is simply this: a good God is up to good things in our world.

It often feels impossible to remember in the chaos of our world.

Christ came! In spite of sin and scandal, Christ came. In spite of racism and sexism, Christ came. Though the people forgot God, Christ came. In spite of hopelessness, Christ came. In spite of, and out of, the pandemonium, Christ came.

The surprise pregnancy, the sudden census, the long road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Unpleasant and difficult, yet they resulted in the world’s greatest miracle. ***“And [Mary] brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger”*** (Luke 2:7 NKJV).

Everything prior to this happened so this moment would happen. Was the first Christmas different from what Mary had planned? Yes, but it turned out greater than she could have dreamed. God used the struggles to accomplish his will.

Don’t you need that reminder? In your world of short nights, hard work, and high stress, don’t you need to know that Jesus holds it all together?

I created a four-step reminder to find in HOPE even in the midst of the chaos during the holidays:

**Help** – reach out to someone who needs an act of kindness.

**Open** your heart to miracles

**Pray** – make this the year that you take time to talk to God

**Enjoy** – enjoy what you have. Don’t dwell on what you don’t have. Fix your mind on the good around you and enjoy it.

You might relate to the jalopy I once saw. The car clattered down the freeway, one door missing, hood dented, needing paint. On the loosely hanging bumper was this sticker: “Honk if anything falls off.”

***“For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment”*** (Colossians 1:16–17 MSG).

God holds it all together. And he will hold it together for you.

Everything inside you and every voice around you says, “Get out. Get angry. Get drunk. Get high.” But don’t listen to the voices. You cannot face a crisis if you don’t face God first.

Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6–7 TLB).

Cling to him. In the ER, when your dreams are falling apart, say to him, “Lord, I need you now.” Between the headstones of the cemetery, whisper, “Dear Jesus, lift me up.” During the deposition, when others are grumbling beneath their breath, may you be overheard repeating this prayer: “God, you are good. I . . . need . . . help. Encourage me, please.”

In the prayer journal of King David, we read this question: ***“When all that is good falls apart, what can good people do?”*** (Psalm 11:3).

Isn’t David’s question ours? When all that is good falls apart, what can good people do?

When terrorists attack, when diseases rage, when families collapse, when churches divide...when all that is good falls apart, what can good people do? What is the godly response to the unexpected mishaps and calamities of life?

Curiously, David doesn’t answer his question with an answer. He answers it with a declaration. ***“The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his throne in heaven”*** (vs. 4).

His point is unmistakable: When everything shakes, God remains unshaken. He is in his holy temple. His plan will not be derailed. God is unaffected by our storms. He is undeterred by our problems.

God has made a business out of turning tragedy into triumph. He did with Joseph, with Moses, with Daniel, and, most of all, he did with Jesus on the cross. The innocent one was slaughtered. Heaven's gift was murdered. Mothers wept, evil danced and the apostles had to wonder, "When all that is good falls apart, what do good people do?"

God answered their question with a declaration, with the rumble of the earth and the rolling of the rock. He reminded them, "The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his throne in heaven."

Is your Christmas a difficult one? Then take heart. God is still in his temple, still on his throne, still in control. And he still makes princes out of prisoners, counselors out of captives, Sundays out of Fridays and brings beauty out of Bethlehems.

He did then, for them. He does it still, for you and me.

With hope, Max

<https://maxlucado.com/hope-still-comes/>



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or Kim Balcom: 250.602.9693



### VOLUNTEER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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

*Volunteering is a work of heart."*

# Wasa Lions



# CHRISTMAS

## *Dinner, Dance & Raffle*

SATURDAY

7

DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 5:00PM

BAR OPENS 5:30PM

DINNER 7:00PM

DANCE 9:00PM

TICKET SALES SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2024 10AM-12PM  
WASA COMMUNITY HALL  
\$45/TICKET

*Prizes,  
Raffle,  
Support  
the Food  
Bank*



On October 30th, the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District (WLLID) held the AGM at the Wasa Community Hall. The well attended event, 30 people came out to hear about the WLLID’s activities over the past year.

The Board of Trustees put in over 350 hours of volunteer time to help monitor the quantity and quality of water here at Wasa. The water testing crew

added another 50 plus hours volunteering to sample water for E. coli testing, along with dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature and Seechi (clarity) readings.

This year, freshet did not start until after Mother’s Day. Peak water at Wasa occurred in mid-July lasting from the 13th to the 16th reaching 768.40 masl (meters above sea level). Last year, peak water level occurred over a month earlier on 6 and 7 June reaching a level of 768.06 masl.

A WLLID volunteer gathers weekly water samples from six locations around the lake. E. coli analysis is done by Interior Health (IH). It shows that water here has, on average, less than 5 e. coli per 100ml of water, which is deemed “acceptable’ by IH.

WLLID also undertook a significant water sample and analysis that shows the water is relatively unchanged from a similar sample taken in 2020. Detailed analysis of the two samples (2020 & 2024) can be found on the WLLID website-wasalake.ca.

For the first time in many years, an election was held to fill three vacant Trustee positions. Four candidates stepped forward. Each made a short statement on why they wanted to be part of the WLLID Board. Clay Tippett was the Returning Officer (RO) conducting the election. WLLID Corporate Officer (CO) Lori Vandette also over saw the election process and Dawn Marchi was our Scrutineer. Eligible voters must be a Canadian citizen, resident of BC over 18 and their name must appear on the land title registration for a property within the jurisdiction of the WLLID. Each registered voter was able to select up to three candidates out of the four nominees.

In total, 25 votes were cast. In alphabetical order, by last name, here are the results:

Anderson, Luke	21	Barbeau, Jan	25
Mabey, Shauna	15	Plested, Darren	9

Mr. Plested was an incumbent Trustee who served one three-year term on the Board. After 17 years volunteering with the WLLID Board, Sharon Prinz retired from the Board. WLLID thanks Ms. Prinz and Mr. Plested for their contributions to the WLLID.

As 2024 draws to a close, the WLLID Board sends our best wishes for a very merry Christmas and happy holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Ho Ho Ho!

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Support Local Scholarships & Lions Grounds Maintenance

In today's day and time,  
It's easy to lose sight,  
Of the true meaning of  
**Christmas**  
And one special night.  
Brian K. Walters  
christianity.about.com

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The RDEK, in conjunction with our consultant Pinna Sustainability, has been working on crafting its first formal Climate Action Plan for our six Electoral Areas. The Plan lays out a series of objectives and actions that can be taken to reduce emissions and increase resilience both in the region and in our corporate operations.

The DRAFT Climate Action Plan has just been completed and is now available for public comment prior to being taken to the RDEK Board for review at its December Board Meeting. The comment period deadline is Noon on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Here are some links you may find helpful:

Draft Climate Action Plan: [https://hdp-ca-prod-app-ek-engage-files.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/3917/3081/9399/24.11.01\\_DRAFT\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://hdp-ca-prod-app-ek-engage-files.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/3917/3081/9399/24.11.01_DRAFT_Climate_Action_Plan.pdf)

Link to online comment form: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/climate>

More information can be found on the Climate Action Project page here: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/climate>

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the DRAFT Plan. If you have questions, you can contact Krista Gilbert at [kgilbert@rdek.bc.ca](mailto:kgilbert@rdek.bc.ca) or in our Cranbrook office at 250-489-0314.

Take care, Loree

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

- **Hall Rentals & Information:**  
Karen Markus 250.422.3514
- **Gym:**  
Sonia Blackwell 250.421.3019  
or Rod 250.422.3253
- **TOPS:**  
Nicky Popowich 250.422.9248
- **Library:**  
**Quilter's Club:**  
Gayle Andrews 250-422-3095

### HELP STARTS HERE ...



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*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.*

*Norman Wesley Brooks*

### Wasa Lions Grounds Rentals

Contact Person: Linda Gold @ 250 421-6302

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### Did You Know?

Coca-Cola played a part in Santa's image: Santa wasn't always the jolly man in red. Older depictions of Santa from the early 1900s depicted him more sternly, and there wasn't a standardized "look" for his appearance. The classic image of a happy and plump Santa that we all know today came in part from Coca-Cola ads, drawn in 1931 by illustrator Haddon Sundblom.



# Wasa Lions

December 29 Noon- 3pm

AT THE PETER VERESHAGEN  
MEMORIAL RINK IN WASA.

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FAMILY FUN!

Keep warm by the fire!

SKATING, FUN, FOOD AND MORE!



## Is the Green Movement Really Green?

There has been increasing pressure on society from all sides to “go green”. From individuals to all levels of government. But how green are some of the alternatives we are being pressured to consider?

For example; electric vehicles. Sounds amazing on the surface. But are they really a green alternative? Their bodies are composed of lightweight aluminum for the most part; which is a combination of Lithium, Copper, Magnesium, Silicon, Manganese and Zinc. The mining of these elements comes at a price that is anything but “green”!

Lithium mining has many environmental impacts, including:

- **Water contamination:** Lithium mining can contaminate water sources with chemicals like sulfuric acid, which can harm wildlife and human health.
- **Soil contamination:** Lithium mining can contaminate soil, which can lead to biodiversity loss and damage to ecosystems.
- **Carbon emissions:** Producing lithium batteries can emit more carbon dioxide than manufacturing conventional cars. One ton of mined lithium emits nearly 15 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- **Waste:** Lithium mining produces large amounts of mineral waste, which can alter the hydrological cycle and increase respiratory problems. These toxic metals can contaminate water sources, threatening not only humans but also animal biodiversity. Since a large majority of them are disposed of in landfills, leaks of environmental contaminants are quite frequent. Often, these leaks lead to underground fires, which release even more pollutants into the atmosphere. When particles of hazardous metals contained in batteries – like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, and copper – enter the human respiratory system, they can cause a variety of health problems.



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- **Energy consumption:** Lithium mining is energy-intensive, especially when extracting lithium from hard rock.
- **Deforestation and soil erosion:** Lithium is often found in areas with fragile ecosystems, so mining can lead to deforestation and soil erosion. Deforestation, habitat destruction and water pollution further exacerbate the ecological toll. The delicate balance of nature is disrupted, which leaves long-lasting damage that takes generations to heal. The carbon dioxide and other greenhouse emissions that come with the process of lithium mining, extraction and overall production are worse for the climate than the production of fossil fuel-powered vehicles. A study from The Wall Street Journal in 2019 revealed that 40% of the total climate impact caused by the production of lithium-ion batteries comes from the mining process itself.
- **Impact on local communities:** Lithium mining can lead to human rights issues and social struggles, particularly for indigenous communities. The indigenous people of South America are negatively impacted by lithium mining, and the practice has driven hundreds off the land that they once called home. Mining giants in the region originally pledged to consult indigenous communities over lithium mining on their land to make sure it was environmentally sound. However, these corporations have refused to give indigenes a voice in how they are operated. Community leaders have rightfully demanded profits be channeled their way. The indigenous community in the Chilean Atacama Desert has two mining companies situated there. The head of the environmental unit of the Atacama Indigenous Council, Francis Mandoca, has said that the lithium mines are branded “sustainable” energy, but they are not, as they ruin one zone to satisfy another. The community feels frustrated and concerned because the ponds they used to use have been contaminated with harmful chemicals and are now unusable.
- **Land subsidence:** Lithium mining can cause land subsidence. The environmental fallout from lithium mining is clear and far-reaching. Massive quantities of fresh water, classified as a precious resource in these arid regions, are diverted for lithium mining operations, fueling the salt flats brine.



This leaves local communities and wildlife parched. Sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide used in lithium extraction penetrate the soil and water, poisoning ecosystems and endangering species. Research from the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society shows that two flamingo species in Chile are threatened because of lithium mining

**We need to be more environmentally conscious of our actions. We need to look at alternatives to some of the energy sources we now take for granted. But we need to be smart about it. Take a detailed look at the long-term effects of the alternatives we're being pressured into accepting. Don't blindly accept – question, research, explore. We owe it to future generations to do our best; both individually and as a community.**

One last question: is the energy used to charge electric vehicles coming from a “green” source? If not, are they really a green alternative?

[https://www.google.com/search?q=environmental+impact+of+lithium+minint&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enCA1019CA1019&oq=environmental+impact+of+lithium+minint&gs\\_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIJCAEQABgNGIAEMgkIAhAAGA0YgAQyCAgDEAAyFhgeMggIBBAAGBYHjIICAUQABgWGB4yCAgGAAyFhgeMgOIBxAAGIYDGIAGIoFMgOICBAAGIYDGIAGIoFMgOICRAAGIAEGKIE0gEJMTAyODhqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=environmental+impact+of+lithium+minint&rlz=1C1CHBF_enCA1019CA1019&oq=environmental+impact+of+lithium+minint&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIJCAEQABgNGIAEMgkIAhAAGA0YgAQyCAgDEAAyFhgeMggIBBAAGBYHjIICAUQABgWGB4yCAgGAAyFhgeMgOIBxAAGIYDGIAGIoFMgOICBAAGIYDGIAGIoFMgOICRAAGIAEGKIE0gEJMTAyODhqMGo3qAIAAsAIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

<https://earth.org/lithium-and-cobalt-mining/>

<https://www.mining-technology.com/analyst-comment/lithium-mining-negative-environmental-impact/>

**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!

**GYM HOURS AND INFO**

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

Let's get the most out of our gym. If a group of at least 3 people are interested in using the gym other than Mon-Wed-Fri 8-9 am, when a group already goes, or evenings, & willing to commit for at least 3 months, contact Sonia with the time & she will arrange a key & let others know the time for more to be able to go too.

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**Lions RECYCLE For Sight**

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*I would like to thank the Tri-Village Community for your support over the past year.*

*Thank you to the faithful advertisers; your commitment is what covers the cost of printing and mailing the Buzz each month.*

*Thank you to the faithful submitters that provide the articles that keep our community informed and involved.*

*Thank you to the generous individuals who donate to help cover the cost of printing, mailing and prizes.*

*I couldn't do it without you.*

# Wasa and District Historical Assoc. & Memorial Garden Group

submitted by - Kate Kelly

Warm Winter and Christmas Greetings to you all from the Memorial Garden Group...

An appreciation to all volunteers that help keep the garden so well maintained. A special thank you to the volunteers who came on such short notice to for our winter prep where shavings were spread on the pathways and benches were covered. A shout out to the following folks: Larry Gould from Mardis for his donation of shavings, Sarah Shields from Get the Girls for delivery and to the worker bee of volunteers who spread the chips, Sherry Walkley, Kim Koswan, Kathy McSwan, Gary Bzdel and



Sherry Shields.

While the garden had been put to bed for the winter, there is still much peace and beauty to be found.

We continue to look for new members. Did you know that it's only \$5/per person for a lifetime membership? Having a large 'membership' helps us apply for government grant monies which keep our garden looking great. We kindly ask that Wasa residents (both recreational & permanent) to



consider a \$5/per person lifetime membership. Makes a great stocking stuffer for Christmas! Please contact Judy Reimer at [mjlreimer@shaw.ca](mailto:mjlreimer@shaw.ca) or by phone 250-422-3343 to join. Thank you for your consideration!

If you enjoy gardening & have been looking for a way to connect with neighbors in the community volunteering in the Memorial Garden is a great place to start! If you're interested in volunteering for the spring & summer seasons, please contact Sherry Shields via email at: [slshields27@gmail.com](mailto:slshields27@gmail.com)

## 2024 Columbarium Niche & Plaque Costs

### UNIT 1 Columbarium

Upper levels - \$1,000 + engraving

Bottom Row - \$900 + engraving

### UNIT 2 Columbarium (new)

Niche cost - \$1,100 + engraving

Niche Engraving - \$290

Memorial Plaque - \$350

(Engraving costs are subject to change)

### Contact info:

Pat Walkey @ 250.422.3530 or

[pwalkey@shaw.ca](mailto:pwalkey@shaw.ca)

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## BIOMIMICRY



*A big thank you to all our friends and family members who came and also those who worked to make Jim's Celebration of Life a wonderful success*

*Thank you*

*Lorraine Head, Melinda & Lisa*

## 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.

## Black Bart

Ailsa Hebert

Now sit yerself and listen a spell  
'Bout a man who's called Black Bart.  
Cussedest man I ever met  
And wild right to the heart.  
Now once a month – a Friday –  
Ole Bart would come to town,  
He'd walk right to the local saloon  
And slap his money down.  
And then demand some whiskey,  
Cuss and yell and fight  
And whoop it up and holler  
Till the wee house of the night.  
No one thought to tell Black Bart  
To straighten up his ways  
They just sorta kept their distance  
And let him have his say.  
A foolish miner once had said,  
"We don't want you here no more!"  
Bart just grabbed him by the scruff  
And flung him out the door.

Well....  
I was there the day that Sal arrived  
In denim jeans and shirt.  
She whooped and yelled, "I'll roast in Hell  
Before I'll wear a skirt!"  
Well, Bart he scoffed at women  
And he did at Sal I think  
'Cause she pushed right in beside him  
And matched him – drink for drink.  
First they started cussing,  
Bart won twisting wrists  
But Sal she won at poker  
And they drank lots in betwixt.  
They say its love or some such thing  
That tames the savage heart  
And everyman does meet his match  
And Sal was made for Bart.  
And so the two were married  
And that Sal don't take no crap.  
And Bart?? HE cleans the cabin  
While Sal goes out to trap!

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## CONGRATULATIONS to Eric Morrison

this year's winner of the \$50 gift certificate in our monthly "Where Do You Take Your Buzz" contest!

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

"2024 Where Do You Take Your Buzz contest"

Email:

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**Wasa Lions Club**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Light Up*

Drive our beautiful community  
and enjoy the Christmas lights on  
display.

December 22, 2024 6:30-8:30pm.

Prizes to be won!

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If you have not had a chance to check out the RDEK's Engage Page (<https://engage.rdek.bc.ca>), it is an information hub that features a range of different projects. The first section includes the current or active projects and the bottom section of the main page has a number of archived projects that can still be viewed.

One of the current projects of interest is the Climate Action Plan, which the RDEK is in the process of developing for our six Electoral Areas. The Plan will lay out how we can reduce emissions and increase resilience both in the region and in our corporate operations. Over 1,080 people took part in an initial survey and an Engagement Summary (including a summary of the survey results) can be found under the "Documents" heading on this Climate Action Plan project page. The DRAFT Climate Action Plan has now been prepared and is open for public review and comment until Noon on December 2, 2024. Comments received will be shared with the Board, which will be considering the Draft Plan at its December 13 Board Meeting.

The goal of the Climate Action Plan is to set targets to reduce community and corporate greenhouse gas emissions, identify actions in key areas that will set out how the RDEK will help meet these targets, and identify actions to help the community become more resilient to changes in our climate. It will also provide guidance on the expenditure of the RDEK's Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funds.

You can view the Draft Plan and provide comments prior to Noon on December 2 here: <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/climate>

One of the other pages of note on the site includes a detailed Recycling page. The RDEK is gearing up for a major education campaign about recycling and waste reduction as the next few weeks are the busiest of the year at area transfer stations, landfills, and recycling facilities. For holiday recycling tips, check this page in the coming weeks as there will be updated resources and a wide range of information on what can be recycled and where. There is also a Q&A section where you can ask questions and have them answered.

Other pages that may be of interest include the East Kootenay FireSmart page, which is full of resources for residents and neighbourhoods looking to help increase their property's resiliency to wildfire; and, the East Kootenay Accessibility Committee page which summarizes the work being undertaken to create a regional Accessibility Plan.

The RDEK Engage Page is one more way you can find the latest information on projects of note in our region. If you have questions or would like more information about how to access the Engage Page or other ways to get information on RDEK projects and services, please reach out to the Communications Department at the RDEK or to me at [director.walter@rdek.bc.ca](mailto:director.walter@rdek.bc.ca) and I will connect you with a member of the RDEK team.

Director Jane Walter



Things have slowed down this time of year but the Lion’s have a few things on the go. The biggest thing is, of course, the Lion’s annual Dinner and Dance which takes place on December 7th. Hopefully, everyone got their tickets on the sale date. Any unsold tickets will be available from Lion Marilyn (250-422-3210). There will be a time limit however, to allow our members to know how many seats to set up and to let the caterer know how many meals to prepare. It’s always a great time and a chance to win some of the many awesome prizes that have been donated. It is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Lion’s, so come out and support our club! Don’t forget to bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank and receive a free raffle ticket for the prizes. The Party begins at 5:30 with the bar opening at 6:00.

The Trunk or Treat evening was a huge success as always and very well attended. The pumpkin carving contest was won by Jodi Pickering (1st) - Chocolate witches’ house. Shannon Reynolds was judged 2nd by the goblin judges with a prize of a Halloween colouring book. The event was enjoyed by most of the community and a few visitors.

On November 11th, (Remembrance Day) a wreath donated by the Lion’s Club was placed on the Cenotaph in Kimberley by veteran Dale Leask. Lest we forget.

We’ll also be doing our Christmas Light-up this year on the 22nd of December so make sure you have your displays lit up this evening, as we cover as much of the trivillage area as possible to make it as fair as possible. Prizes are awarded on a random draw basis.

The Annual Winterfest will also be held this year on December 29th starting at 1:00 and going til 4:00. It’s a great way to get together with friends and neighbors and enjoy some hot chocolate, hot dogs and bannock made by the Verigan clan as is customary. The rink will be open for skating and if there is enough snow, a small slide for the little ones to have fun on. Heat will be supplied by fires and seating by hay bales.

In conclusion, we would like to wish everyone the very best of the season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

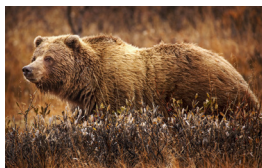


wildsight

A recent study monitored 76 grizzly bears in the Elk Valley. Between 2016 and 2023, 22 of the bears died, and only one of these died from natural, non-human causes. 14 died from

human-bear conflict (mostly due to unsecured attractants at private residences), 6 died from road or railway collisions, 1 was likely from a human, and 1 was naturally-caused.

Education and understanding of how to manage human-bear interactions is the most critical step forward. Bear aware training, use of deterrents (such as bear spray), and removing access to attractants such as garbage, fruit trees, or livestock (electric fencing, removal, etc), have all proven extremely effective. Lethal removal of bears has proven to only provide short-term relief, as any remaining attractants will continue to draw in more bears and require continuous removal.



What do you do to help keep our grizzly populations safe?

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### How can I manage my weight over the holidays?

I don't know about you, but I am sure that over the years I have put on excess weight over the holidays (and then failed to take it off in the new year). It is a particularly hard season with all the goodies and many celebrations we attend. Plus, it's the beginning of winter and for sure I'm watching more TV than in the summertime.

In any case, it is a recipe for slow weight gain and I want to head into the new year without any added pounds. So, how to do this? I have done a little research. You've probably heard all these before, but according to experts at Columbia University :

1. Stick to a routine – wake time, meal times, bed time
2. Eat protein in the morning – really does help keep you feeling full
3. Get adequate sleep
4. Limit alcohol
5. Exercise early in the day
6. Try a protein preload before that party
7. Eat strategically – imagine filling part of your plate with veggies instead of cheese ...
8. Don't deprive yourself - have your favourites, but perhaps a smaller portion

Well, OK. All good ideas to try. Personally, I'm trying to eat slower – consciously putting my knife and fork down during a meal. Just sitting back and taking a deep breath once in a while! This is a big change for me as I'm pretty sure I could win if there was an Olympic event called "speed eating"!

And I found this article from TOPS online:

#### How to Navigate 3 Holiday Eating Situations



I'm so full from your delicious meal, but I'd love to take some home.

There's no shortage of healthy holiday eating and food advice this time of year. As a weight-loss and wellness organization, we are happy to share this type of advice on everything from choosing holiday cookies to making a broccoli Christmas tree. But food isn't the only part of the holidays that can be challenging to navigate. Let's not forget about the people. Try these tips for navigating through three common holiday eating situations.

- 1. The multiple dinner situation.** It's not uncommon to be expected to attend several holiday meals in one day, especially if you're trying to keep multiple sets of relatives happy. But how do you keep up appearances and enjoy multiple visits without feeling totally overstuffed? Plan ahead! For example, if you know that Grandma Gladys has a recipe for mashed potatoes that can't be beat, and you're heading to her house that evening, be sure to save room. And don't be afraid to be choosy. Try to avoid eating the foods you don't truly love just because they're there.
- 2. The food forcer.** Food forcers don't necessarily mean to be pushy. In many families, sharing food may even be a way of showing love. But how do you turn down Aunt Mary's famous pie without hurting her feelings? One simple way is to politely say that you're full from her delicious meal but that you'd love to take a piece of pie home. You could even ask her for the recipe if she's willing to share.
- 3. Unsolicited comments.** When you're trying to make healthy choices, you may encounter the relative or friend who "misses the old you" or wonders why you're "eating all that healthy stuff." Lifestyle changes can be scary to the people who are closest to you, and this can lead to hurtful or obnoxious comments. Remember, this is your life and you're choosing what's best for you. That being said, having your responses planned out ahead of time is never a bad idea and you can be assertive while still being polite. Try not to dwell too much on what others say. This just robs you of valuable energy.

We may not be able to control what people do, say, or how they feel, but we can control how we respond. We are in charge of the healthy choices that we make, not only during the holidays, but all year long.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us at Wasa TOPS!**

## Going for a Natural Christmas Tree This Year?

There are several rules for cutting down a Christmas tree in British Columbia, including:

- Permits: You need a Free Use Permit from each Natural Resource District where you plan to cut a tree. You must carry your permit with you and show it to a Natural Resource Officer if requested.
- Location: You can only cut trees on vacant Crown land, such as:
  - BC Hydro rights-of-way
  - Logging roads within three meters of the edge
  - Open range lands
- What you can cut: You can only cut one tree per permit, and it must be for your own personal use. You can't sell the tree.
- How to cut: You should:
  - Cut the tree as close to the ground as possible, leaving the bottom one or two branches on the stump
  - Don't leave a pointed stump
  - Don't cut trees that show signs of wildlife use
- What to bring: You should bring:
  - Ropes, gloves, tools, a first aid kit, a mobile phone, and warm clothing
- Clean up: You should clean up any debris and leave the area as clean as possible.
- Transportation: You shouldn't transport your tree outside of the province.



You can contact the individual districts where you plan to cut for more information.

[https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/166\\_2000#:~:text=7%20A%20holder%20of%20a,5%20m%2C%20%241.50%20per%20tree.](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/lc/statreg/166_2000#:~:text=7%20A%20holder%20of%20a,5%20m%2C%20%241.50%20per%20tree.)

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

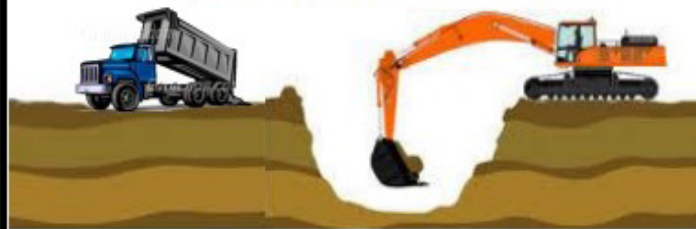
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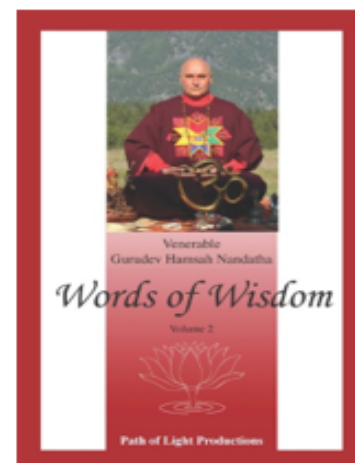
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## The Magic of Christmas: a Journey to the Heart of Enchantment

Christmas, that bright and cheerful holiday that comes around every year, seems to carry with it a unique Magic, an indefinable mystery that enchants the hearts of children and adults alike. We're transported into a Magical world of twinkling lights, brightly decorated streets and a sense of hope and renewal. **But where does this Magic come from?** Is it simply the result of festive ornaments and age-old traditions, or is there something much deeper behind it?

In reality, the Magic of Christmas isn't just about the decorations and external celebrations. It's born of an inner movement, a resonance of our Consciousness with the wonders that surround us, and above all, with the purity of childhood that resurfaces at this special time of year. It's this connection that opens the doors to an enchanted world, a world where simplicity and generosity bring us back to the basics. While the modern world often plunges us into complexity, Christmas offers us a priceless chance to reconnect with that timeless Magic, that innocence that lies dormant in all of us, no matter our age.

Imagine for a moment that the whole of Humanity could vibrate in unison, on the same frequency of peace, love and benevolence. Christmas is that unique occasion when this harmony seems almost palpable, when everyone can feel a kind of collective serenity in the air. Even the most hardened hearts, those that life has made cynical or distrustful, seem to soften. Gestures of solidarity become more natural, smiles more numerous, and the atmosphere lighter.

But why? Christmas awakens in us

a deep memory of benevolence, generosity and unity. It reminds us that, far beyond our differences, we are all part of the same Humanity. Traditions, whether religious or cultural, convey universal messages of peace and love. And at the heart of this movement is the Magic of Christmas, which, when we let it penetrate our Consciousness, transforms every moment into one of wonder.

It's easy to enter into this Magic. All we have to do is consciously open ourselves to it, let go of our daily concerns for a moment, and look at the world through the eyes of a child. Children, in fact, are the true Masters of this Magic. Their ability to marvel, to live in the moment without letting thoughts or expectations weigh them down, is a constant reminder that simplicity is the key to enchantment.

Now let's talk about Santa Claus, this mythical figure who embodies a much deeper idea: that of giving, of selfless love, and of the power of Magic to transport us beyond ordinary reality. For children, Santa Claus is real. There's no doubt in their minds, because in their hearts, Magic knows no bounds. As adults, we tend to lose this ability to believe in what we can't see. And yet, there's a part of us that longs to reconnect with this simplicity. We may no longer believe in Santa Claus in the literal sense, but the very essence of what he represents – generosity, childhood Magic and dreams – is still ever present in us. Christmas invites us to rediscover the beauty of simple things: a shared laugh, a kind glance, a gesture of generosity. In a world where everything moves faster and faster, where we often chase after material goals or fleeting successes, Christmas reminds

us that true Magic is found in the simplicity of love and sharing.

**But how can we adults fully enter into this Magic?** The first step is to slow down. Christmas is not a race against time, but a time to stop and savor the beauty of life. Take the time to observe the Christmas lights glistening in the streets, listen to the carols on the radio, smell the cookies baking in the oven. All these little details are gateways to Magic.

Then let yourself be surprised. Magic can't be ordered; it's invited in by those who know how to welcome it. Be open to surprises, to moments of wonder, like a child discovering a "New World" at every turn. Perhaps this year you'll see Christmas in a new light. Perhaps that moment of calm, that gesture of generosity or that smile will awaken in you that feeling of enchantment you thought you'd lost. Finally, don't forget that the Magic of Christmas is something to be shared. Christmas isn't just about receiving presents or enjoying the lights. It's also, and above all, a time for sharing. Whether it's a kind gesture, a comforting word, or an act of generosity toward those in need, it's in giving that we reconnect to the very essence of this holiday. After all, Christmas is a celebration of love, light and kindness.

Dearest readers, both children and adults, this year, make room for the Magic of Christmas in your life. Join in this dance of light, dreams and simplicity. Let yourself be transported by the enchantment, and remember that, as long as you believe in the beauty of the world, Magic is always there, ready to fill you with wonder.

Merry Christmas to all!

OM OM OM

H.H. Gurudev Hamsah Nandatha



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## RECREATIONAL VEHICLE BYLAW

If you're new to the community you may not be aware of some of the bylaws in the community that apply to you. And after several minutes of googling, I have to admit, they are not easy to find. Below is the bylaw regarding recreational vehicles and a link to the site where you can find all of the bylaws that pertain to our community. Its worth a read-through to avoid the warnings/fines you could be on the receiving end of:

### 1.19 PLACEMENT OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

(1) Within the boundaries of the Wasa and Area Official Community Plan Bylaw area:

(a) On parcels located in the R-1, R-1(A), RS-4, RR-1, RR-2, RR-4, RR-8, RR60, and RES-1(A) zones no more than 2 recreational vehicles may be stored, placed or seasonally occupied.

(b) In the R-1 and R-1(A) zones at least one recreational vehicle must be registered to the owner of the property on which it is located.

(c) Recreational vehicles must be sited in accordance with the applicable setback requirements for accessory buildings and structures in the zone in which they are located.

Definition of a recreational vehicle: Recreational vehicle means a vehicle which is or was originally designed to travel or to be transported on a highway and constructed or equipped to be used as temporary living or sleeping quarters for seasonal occupancy, or a vehicle which is designed as a recreational conveyance on or off the highway and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes a trailer, travel trailer, tent trailer, coach, camper, motor home, but not a manufactured home or park model trailer. Recreational vehicles must be connected to wheels that can be used for conveyance on or off the highway

[https://www.rdek.bc.ca/web/planningbylaws/bl2502\\_areaezoning\\_floodplain/BL\\_2502\\_-\\_Consolidation\\_-\\_June\\_14\\_2024.pdf](https://www.rdek.bc.ca/web/planningbylaws/bl2502_areaezoning_floodplain/BL_2502_-_Consolidation_-_June_14_2024.pdf)

Map of the Zones:

[https://www.rdek.bc.ca/web/planningbylaws/bl2502\\_areaezoning\\_floodplain/bl2502areaezoningmeadowbrooka7jun24.pdf](https://www.rdek.bc.ca/web/planningbylaws/bl2502_areaezoning_floodplain/bl2502areaezoningmeadowbrooka7jun24.pdf)

### Did You Know?

The eight tiny reindeer have had lots of names:

Rudolph was almost named Rollo or Reginald and his crew also had lots of other names. They've previously been called Flossie, Glossie, Racer, Pacer, Scratcher, Feckless, Ready, Steady and Fireball.

Mistletoe isn't as sweet as it sounds:

Mistle thrush birds eat the plant's berries, digest the seed and then help the plant germinate with their droppings. The Germanic word for mistletoe literally means "dung on a twig." Really makes you want to pucker up, doesn't it?

# December 2024

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



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

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 
<b>5</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>8</b> WLLID Board- Mtg 7 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Happy National Save the Eagles Day!	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>  <b>DRESS UP YOUR PET DAY</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Wasa Lion's Mtg 7 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> Church 10:30 am	<b>27</b>  <b>INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**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 Dec 7
- Coffee Social Dec 19 @ 1-3 pm
- BINGO December 10th



**NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

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- BC Wildfire..... \*5555.....or .....1.800.663.5555
- Catamount Contracting.....250.422.3694
- Conservation - Emergency.....1.877.952.7277
- Cranbrook/Kimberley Hospice.....250.417.2024
- Econobuilt.....250.421.7813
- EMERGENCY.....1.800.663.5555 (\*5555)**
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- HD Railings.....250.342.7656
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- Lantz Farm (Hay).....250.420.1660
- Rascal Dock Systems.....250.421.1746
- TOPS.....250.422.9248
- 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 (Sherri Shields).....email-
- Wasa Post Office.....250.422.3122

