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November 2018

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Riverside Park

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Special Section: Remembrance Day

Town

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Inside

Wow, October was busy. The municipal election is over, funding for the fire hall has been approved and the community can focus on new things. We begin the month with exciting news about a new riverside park on property purchased by the Trails For Creston Valley Society. The society has a vision to establish a Parks and Rec Commission to build an inventory of parks and trails with structures that can be added to, not taken away.

November, of course, means a special Remembrance Day section. Remembrance Day marks the end of hostilities during the First World War and an opportunity to recall all those who have served in the nation's defense. This November 11th marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice. In this section are four powerful stories: recounting the over 200 persons from the Creston Valley / Kootenay Lake area that served in World War 1; , telling the story of the first woman of First Nations heritage to receive the honour of National Silver Cross Mother; a veteran tale of skills learned in service; and the tragic story of Everet Fortier.

While the municipal elections are over, Chief Louie of the Lower Kootenay Band explains that the

Band has its own Custom Election & Regulation process under the Indian Act and their voting day is November 22nd.

With the colder weather comes tips on staying warm and keeping your spirits up. One tip is to watch Thundercat hockey as they find their way under new coach Nick Redding who took over the team after the season started.

There is a recap of the Discovery Centre season and information on an educational program, Wild Voices, offered as part of the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN).

And there is so much art happening in the valley this month. We learn about "eco printing" using leaves. The annual Christmas Art and Craft fair happens November 17th coinciding with the 26th annual Images Art Show and Sale November 17/18 and Indigo Go Go, an exciting opportunity for young artists from grade 7 thru grade 12. To close out the month Footlighters will be performing the classic story, A Christmas Carol.

Lest we forget. Every year, The Royal Canadian Legion conducts the Poppy campaign, along with thousands of our members who volunteer from coast to coast to coast, to raise funds in support of Veterans and their families. Poppies are distributed freely, but your generous donations are invaluable. ♥

Feature

05 Trails For Creston Valley Society

18.8 acre purchased for new park



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Advertising | Carli Calhoun
250.977.5321 | carli@ilovecreston.com

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Design | Editorial | Wendy Franz
250.402.8711 | wendy@ilovecreston.com

A New Park in the Making

BY JIM JACOBSEN

Much of the talk in the community the past several months (although it may feel like forever) has been around the contentious fire hall debate and it came to a head during the recent municipal election. During the campaigning, however, a new issue emerged with a charismatic community activist, Mary Jayne Blackmore - who ran for Mayor - bringing the development of community parks and trails to the forefront. Self-described as the “relentless voice of the Trails for CV Society”, she aspires to have a local government that supports “infrastructure which naturally enriches the livability and vitality for all ages of citizens”.

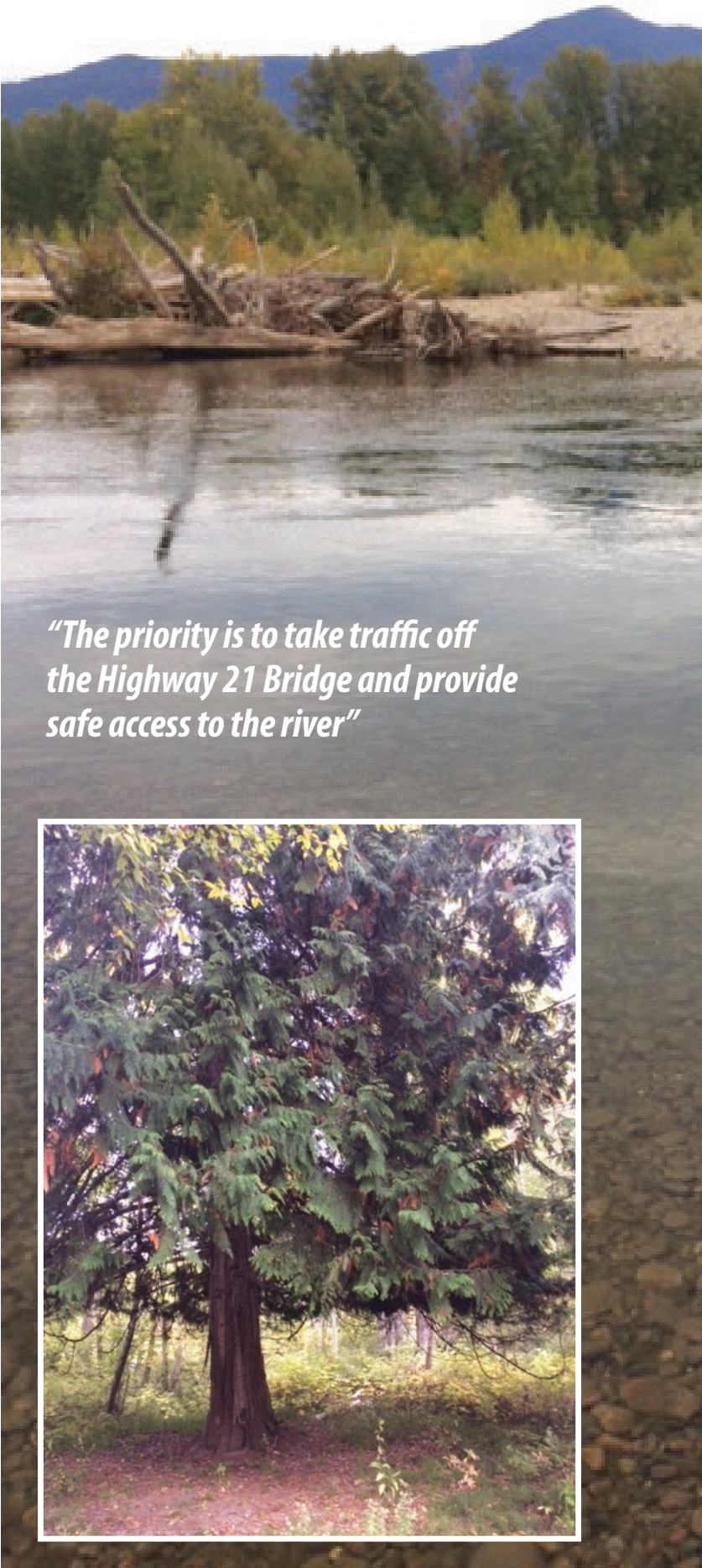
Feature Story

Citing the recently completed Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Town of Creston and Areas A, B and C, Blackmore describes the plan as evidence “we value parks and recreation and we are willing to pay for it. It is a big win.” She continued, “It is a tool that directs the RDCK to support parks and recreation in the future. This supports allocating funding at budget time to fund a parks and recreation commission.”

The commission is essential as it provides local government the capacity to take on ownership and maintenance for a park. As the Trails Society worked on various projects they could not have access to RDCK staff. Several opportunities to purchase or receive donated land have been stalled or lost in the last decade because of the eroded support in the RDCK for parks and recreation. At one point a donation of waterfront property fell thru because the RDCK has no infrastructure to accept the donation. “Nobody knew what we did not know,” explained Blackmore. “There were no mechanisms in place. It has taken years of sleuth work to figure out what was missing in our system which has left our region so underserved and supported on the parks and trails end of things.” So when a new opportunity arose to acquire land along the Goat River, the Trails Society took action. With generous support from community members, they purchased the 18.8 acres and have since raised the entire \$237,000 purchase price through donations.

Riverside Park will feature a parking lot located a safe distance from the highway. Purchase of this land will also allow for critical infrastructures – such as toilets, picnic tables, and garbage cans – to be installed and maintained regularly. The priority is to take traffic off the Highway 21 Bridge and provide safe access to the river. The future potential is enormous. Think kayak launches, a lazy river tube ride down Goat River, and a campground. Blackmore cited the Millenium Park in Castlegar as a great example. It has become a tourist attraction and is part of a bundle of community assets that attract people to the region.

With a formalized rec commission the RDCK can designate the area as a regional park and the TCVS will donate the land to the RDCK. Then they can get to work creating a strategic network of parks and trails.



“The priority is to take traffic off the Highway 21 Bridge and provide safe access to the river”



Feature Story

Blackmore envisions a robust Parks and Recreation Commission to function as a useful tool regardless of future political direction so the community can build an inventory of parks and trails with structures that can be added to, not taken away. “Zero is not the right number when talking about parks” she explains. “Local government has to accept that parks are needed and they need money”.

Blackmore is the president of the Trails For Creston Valley Society, an organization with a remarkable track record over the past few years. Just four years ago a couple of local hiking enthusiasts called a meeting to discuss the loss of access to public water spaces in the valley. Fifty people attended that meeting. That meeting re-invigorated the Trails For Creston Valley Society, an organization that now has 350 members and growing.

As stated on their website (www.crestonvalleytrails.ca) the society is “a group of outdoor enthusiasts with a passion for our beautiful valley and waterways” with the goal “to protect and maintain access to our treasured outdoor spaces”. A society run completely by volunteers, they have accomplished great things in a short time.

In order to get some political buy-in, the society needed to tackle low hanging fruit in order to engage the community and get a record of success to show local officials and funders.

The first undertaking was the cleanup and development of the old Kootenay Ferry Landing. Long a local launching point for all sorts of water adventures as well as a garbage dumping site, the society has created a family-friendly picnic spot and gateway to the Kootenay River. The site is complete with picnic tables, a fire pit, and improved road access.

Next was the Kootenay Lake Access project. This involved hundreds of volunteer hours spent combing over maps and data from the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and physically visiting the identified public land along the lake to determine which sites were appropriate for day use and what improvements are needed. The result was a map of public access points including GPS coordinates, property boundaries, and right-of-ways that was presented to the RDCK.



Feature Story

A third successful project was the development of the Ka Papa Cedars Trail, an interpretive trail through a stand of giant cedars along summit creek. "Ka Papa" means "grandfather" in Ktunaxa and is a reference to the ancestral trees along the trail. The trail was the vision of local hiking enthusiast Ralph Moore. "The first time I was on the trail I followed the description of the trail as described to me by Ralph. It was exactly like he described it" beamed Blackmore. "Ralph's Grove" is a cluster of big Cedar trees at one end of the trail named in honour of Moore.

They also operate and maintain Midgely Cabin, are shareholders on the Community Forest Corporation and

are active in community planning around tourism and economic development. They see a robust multi-phase plan for developing and promoting parks and trails as an important economic development strategy for the valley.

This led us to the president of the Trails Society running for Mayor in the first place. "We need the newly elected representatives, whoever they are, to value the information gathered in the survey to move forward and build a sustainable parks and recreation commission model", explained Blackmore. "I would love to see long-term that this is not an opt-out thing for the Regional District and the municipality. ♥



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Town of Creston



From the Mayor's Desk

BY RON TOYOTA
Mayor - Town of Creston

The next 4 years from my perspective!

One of my favorite quotes about leadership comes from Martin Luther King Jr. – “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” For me, the meaning in these words can be equally relevant when applied to an individual, group or community context. It’s during the tough times that we get to demonstrate who we really are.

In recognizing both the challenges and controversies that our community has worked through this past year, I’d say that collectively we have a lot to be proud of. THANKYOU to the 2,245 Town of Creston voters who participated in the Democratic process last month. With the outcome of the election, I find myself ready to continue on the path of meeting challenges head on and working for the betterment of our outstanding community.

Our new Town Council members will be formally “inaugurated” on November 6. After that, we will meet to strategize about our goals and priorities for the upcoming term. During my time serving as your Mayor, I’ve had the great privilege of working with 3 previous Councils and we have realized many successes during that time. I am looking forward to working with our newly elected Council members, with the invaluable support of staff, to secure many more wins for our community.

You guessed it - our first priority will be moving forward with our new Fire Hall that will serve our entire Creston Valley for the next 50 years plus. Our leadership group will continue with its commitment to seek out funding opportunities with the goal of reducing the actual amount of borrowing required. This, in turn, will reduce the long-term mortgage amount and the cost of that borrowing. While I

have some ideas of my own, I would welcome you to visit me in my Town Hall office to share your ideas and thoughts.

While the borrowing referendum was a central focus for many during the election period, I can assure you that my perspective as Mayor is far more global. I will continue working to prioritize implementation of the community vision declared in our award-winning Official Community Plan and it is my hope that Council will support this approach in the Town’s upcoming Strategic Planning process. In this decision making, we will roll up our sleeves and get down to the business of municipal governance - a task that is far broader than any one single issue. Now we can come together and move forward.

I would be remiss if I failed to congratulate all of the candidates who put their names forward to run for the Town of Creston Council, the RDCK Board of Directors and the School District #8 Trustees. Regardless of the role in which you choose to serve, I believe that leadership is not for the faint of heart. ♥

Don’t hesitate to contact me by: Visiting me at my office in Town Hall, email at ron.toyota@creston.ca or call 250 428 2214 (extension 227)

TOWN OF CRESTON NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS SIDEWALK CLEARING

As the winter season approaches, property owners are kindly reminded to comply with Part 8, Section 31 of Traffic Regulations Bylaw No. 1546, which requires the owner/occupier of land adjacent to a sidewalk to ensure that it is kept free of snow and ice (excluding Sundays and Statutory Holidays). In addition to snow removal, we suggest the use of pure nitrogen fertilizers (instead of salt) for melting the ice, as this will prolong the life of our sidewalk surfaces.

Failure to comply with this bylaw could result in fines or the work being performed by Town crews at your expense.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of pedestrians.



CRESTON VALLEY

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Message from the Chief

BY JASON LOUIE
Chief - Lower Kootenay Band

The Election Process

Ki'suk kyukyit (greetings). My term as Lower Kootenay Band Chief is up once again after four years. I wish to explain to readers the process and give some clarity to this position as well as the Councillor positions. The Lower Kootenay Band has its own Custom Election & Regulation process. This is a system under the Indian Act. The Chief position is actually referenced as the Chief Councillor. This differs from what a Hereditary Chief is. A Hereditary Chief is a lineage through the bloodline of a generation of males. Our leadership is comprised of one Chief Councillor and four Councillors. Terms for each of the positions are for four years. There is a staggered election process. This year will see an election for one Chief Councillor and two Councillors. In two years' time, for now, there will be an election for the other two Councillor positions.

A nomination meeting took place on October 11/18, where candidate names are nominated by an LKB member who is at least 18 years old. Another LKB member must second that nomination. The person who was nominated must either accept or decline the nomination. I was nominated on October 11/18 & will let my name stand.

I am stating that I am seeking re-election to the Lower Kootenay Band Council. There are no guarantees that I will be elected the Chief position. Through our

Custom Election process, the candidate with the most votes becomes the Chief. The candidate with the second most votes will fill a Councillor position and the candidate with the third most votes will fill the final Councillor position.

Requirements to vote are LKB members who are 18 years of age. An advance poll will take place on November 01/18 at the LKB Complex. Absentee ballots will also be mailed out on November 01/18 to LKB members who reside off Reserve or out of the country. The main voting day will be November 22/18 at the LKB Complex. Voting is conducted through a ballot system.

I will let my name stand and pledge the following: The only promise that I will make is that I will always do my best. I will not engage in a smear campaign against the other candidates. My leadership style is based on ethics and principles that are deeply Ktunaxa. Should I be successful in this election I do not wish to bring more of the same outcomes. Through ongoing professional development, I wish to create a new and improved leader for the Lower Kootenay Band. I wish to constantly strive toward a path of self-sufficiency and self-reliance where one day in the near future the Lower Kootenay Band does not rely on the Federal Government to survive. We must embrace our history, culture, and language, and strive for economic

development prosperity.

I have also come to terms with the possibility that I may not be elected to either the Chief or Councillor position. I wish for the readers to understand that what has been accomplished so far I did not do on my own. I worked with dedicated past and present Council members and Administrative staff who worked as a cohesive team who dared to dream big. Should this be my farewell from this position I thank the following of LKB members, article readers, supporters, family, and my small circle of friends for all of your love and support. Thank you all! I will now leave this process in the hands of the LKB voters and also leave this to Creator.

TAXAS. ♥

Reach Jason Louie at 250-428-4428 ext. 235,
mjasonlouie@gmail.com or online at
www.lowerkootenay.com.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOV 2 - EMMA KADE

Local Singer/Songwriter - 8pm

NOV 3 - JAM NIGHT

Hosted by Kevin Hunter - 8pm

NOV 9 - GRAHAM STRANG

Live Music from Vancouver
Indie/Rock/Pop Artist - 8pm

NOV 10 - KARAOKE

Hosted by Rudy Sager - 8pm

NOV 16 - BEAN BAG COMPETITION

Sign up to play and win tickets to
Canucks VS Predators, in Vancouver, Dec 6

NOV 17 - JURASSIC MIKE

Mike Stenhouse, local one man band - 8pm

NOV 23 - DEVO

Live music from local Folk/Rock artist - 8pm

NOV 24 - Bryan Ferguson

Live music from local Country artist - 8pm

NOV 30 - JUST US

Local Rock Band - 8pm

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After the Armistice

BY TAMMY BRADFORD

Manager - Creston &
District Museum &
Archives

Of the 470,000 Canadians who served overseas in the First World War, about 200 of them were from the Creston Valley and East Shore. If we assume half of the region's population of about 2,000 people was eligible for military service (after factoring out women, children, elderly men, those exempted from service for one reason or another, and anyone of German or Austrian origin who would not have been accepted no matter how fit and enthusiastic), that's a whopping 20% enlistment rate. Nearly a quarter of those young men never returned, and many who did return were permanently wounded or suffering from debilitating illnesses. That is a considerable sacrifice for any community to make.

Now add the significant impacts at home: the loss of a considerable portion of the labour force and all it meant for local industries; the endless fundraising that saw hundreds of thousands of dollars raised here; the privations in food and other supplies which were felt even in Canada; the guilt and helplessness felt by those who could not serve; the shame heaped upon those who would not. You would think, taking all this into consideration, that the official end to the war would be cause for enormous celebration. But the armistice of 11 November 1918 was celebrated very quietly, with only a flag flying at Creston, flags and bunting at

Sirdar, and nothing at all – at least in newspaper accounts of the day – in other communities. There were two reasons for this.

First, in late 1918, Creston faced a new enemy, one much more frightening and closer to home than the Kaiser's armies: Spanish Influenza. Public gatherings of all kinds were banned. Schools everywhere except Wynndel and Sirdar closed; even the post office issued a notice asking people to let enough time to pass for the mail to be sorted before coming to collect theirs, to avoid the possibility of people loitering about and spreading germs. Orders – not mere suggestions or requests – were issued compelling all residents to use face masks to check the spread of the disease.

The influenza epidemic lasted six or seven weeks and peaked in mid-November. By the time it ended, at least eighteen people died: one each from Sirdar, Wynndel, Erickson, and Canyon; four from Creston; and eight among the Lower Kootenay Band. Dozens more fell ill but recovered. The flu-induced casualty list was far greater than the Valley experienced in any six-week period of the war itself.

Secondly, for many, the war was far from over. Just days before the armistice was signed, a new Victory Loan campaign was launched with the Creston Valley's quota at \$40,000. Newspaper editorials made it abundantly clear that, unless you had given almost to the point of bankruptcy, you had not yet "done your part." Continued hard work was also required, especially on

the part of the Red Cross, to care for troops still in overseas hospitals and the wounded that were being transferred to Canada. The Creston Review sincerely hoped that the ladies of the Red Cross would "be up and doing on a scale that at least equals their wartime effort."

Those men still in Europe were of primary concern. The newspaper emphatically decreed that "the men who left Canada in 1914 should take precedence over all others," and listed four such Creston Valley men: Percy Foote, R.C. Royston, A.C. Ford, and Paddy Hope.

But for Paddy Hope, that wish came too late. He died in camp in England on 17 December 1918, of narcotic poisoning, leading one to wonder if he took his own life. His civilian life as a druggist lends some support to the speculation; he would certainly have been familiar with narcotics and their effects. But why would he do so, with the war over and his return home all but settled? Perhaps he was in extreme pain. He suffered from severe rheumatism, the result of service in wet and muddy trenches from 1914 to 1916, and his second round of overseas service (Forestry Corps, 1917-1918) would have exacerbated his condition. Perhaps four years of war had damaged his mind; many soldiers suffered "shell shock" – what we now identify as PTSD – and the support for mental health issues was nowhere near what we have today. Perhaps another clue can be found in the fact that Paddy's wife, Sadie, died from influenza early in November; the six weeks that elapsed between her death and his are just time enough for the news to have reached him.

For many soldiers, the period of waiting was interminable. Still

History

subject to military discipline with – as they saw it – no need for it now that the war was over; housed in overcrowded barracks in overcrowded camps waiting for transport ships; watching as other units, more recently arrived in France, were shipped home first: all this added up to a growing feeling of discontent and resentment. In early March 1919, at Kinmel Park Camp in Wales, that resentment boiled over into a riot: YMCA facilities, mess halls, and nearby shops were looted, and five soldiers killed in the fray. John Crane, who had enlisted with the Forestry Corps mustered in Creston two years before, was one of 78 men arrested for taking part in the mutiny. He was sentenced to 120 days imprisonment.

The emotional and physical scars were felt in the community for years after the soldiers returned. Cecil Allan, having lost a leg at the Battle of the Somme, was absolutely enraged to find his peaceful, pleasant existence as manager of Creston's Imperial Bank threatened by a pair of armed robbers in 1925. Erickson's Sam Scott invalided out of the army in 1918, has a service record littered with terms such as "nervous breakdown," "suffering from dementia," and "mentally unstable" – a probable case of PTSD that undoubtedly affected the rest of his life. Bert Arrowsmith (Huscroft), Russell Leamy (Canyon), and Maurice Issacs (Ktunaxa) returned with tuberculosis, chest wounds, and permanent lung damage and died within a few years of their return, casualties of war long after hostilities had ceased. And in Lister, which had been established as a camp for returning soldiers, the construction of an irrigation system in 1929

coincided with the arrival of a wave of German and central European settlers, arousing considerable resentment over the perception that services were being provided to "the enemy" that had not been provided for "our loyal fighting men" ten years before.

This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the armistice that

ended the First World War. It is a very appropriate time to look back on the war, to learn more about it, to honour those who died. But while we're doing that, let's also recognise the sacrifices of those who had to live through the aftermath – and work to make sure no one else ever has to. ♥

To learn more, contact the Creston Museum at 250-428-9262 or crestonmuseum@telus.net, or visit www.crestonmuseum.ca.

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BY RANDY MEYER
Creston Valley Agriculture Society

The 2018 growing season has come to an end. What a roller-coaster of weather conditions we had this year. A cold and wet spring followed by extremely hot, dry and smoky July and August stressed and reduced yields of many crops and prematurely dried up many area pastures. An unusually wet and cool September made harvesting of later hay and grain crops quite a challenge. A final, exceptionally nice, clear and dry spell in mid-October allowed for much of the field crops to be harvested after all.

Thankfully we didn't get all the early snow that a large portion of the prairies got which really hampered

their grain harvest. It seemed that no matter what crop or commodity that growers were dealing with, pretty much everybody was affected more than usual by our weather this year. The bigger question is whether these "unusual" weather patterns are going to become the "normal" with changing climate conditions worldwide. Cropping practices will have to adapt to better deal with this changing climate if we are to continue to provide enough food for all.

As we are just past the municipal and regional elections, hopefully, all the people voted in will continue to be aware of the importance of agriculture to our town and valley. It will be important for them to work with area farmers and their representative groups to address concerns and assist where possible, especially when dealing with provincial ministries. Newly elected regional Director for Area C is Adam Casemore. The bulk of agriculture land in our valley is in Area C. He will get to work with farmers growing a wide variety of

crops and livestock on larger scale farms than what we have in other parts of the valley. Nearly all the dairies, grain farms, and beef cattle operations in the valley are in Area C, as well as many acres of hay and export timothy grass fields. As diverse as our valley agriculture is, there will be much to be learned and many issues to become familiar with for this new Director. Our agriculture community needs a strong advocate for this economically important part of our valley. We wish him well in this new position.

As this year nears its end, most of the production part of the year winds down as well. The pace slows somewhat for growers and there should be some time to reflect on the year. What worked, what didn't, and what needs to be changed or fixed for next year. Maybe it's time to get involved with area agriculture groups and help spread the word about our Creston Valley agriculture and help others be Ag Aware. ♥

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Honouring Our Veterans

Remembrance Day 2018

11.11.18



November 11, 2018 Cenotaph Service

MC - Don Leben
O Canada - Bryan Daybell
Prayer - Rev. Leon Rogers TSSF
2 Minutes of Silence
Last Post and Reveille - Poul Christensen
Piper - Bill Plant & Brian O'Neil
Fly Past
Laying of the Wreaths
Mormon Hills School Choir
Benediction - Rev. Leon Rogers
God Save the Queen

March off the Colours
Dismissal

Our thanks to the members of the Army Cadets, Creston Valley Flying Club, Stew Crew and Bryan Daybell for their participation.

A special thanks to the establishments and organizations who supported the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign.



Branch 29 ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Thursday, November 8
Remembrance Day Ceremonies
at the area schools
(ARES, Canyon/Lister,
Erickson, Yaqa Nuki & PCSS)
Members and cadets attend

Friday, November 9

10:00 am
Remembrance Services at
Swan Valley Lodge

Remembrance Day Calendar of Events

11:00 am
Remembrance Services at Crestview
Village

2:00 pm
Members and cadets attend
Remembrance Services at 6 local
cemeteries (Pioneer, Warrior Rock,
Kootenay Band, Lister (2),
and Forest Lawn)

Sunday, November 11

The Service of Remembrance will be
conducted by Rev Bill Plant and Rev
Leon Rogers, Padre of the Creston
Legion and assisted by Comrades of
the Branch

10:00 am
Service of Remembrance
Held in the Legion Upstairs
Hall

10:45 am
Parade forms
(behind Pharmasave building)

11:00 am
Cenotaph Service and Laying of
the Wreaths

“Open Door Policy”

The public is welcome to
afternoon entertainment in the
lounge

Remembrance Day

Canadian Motherhood

BY TAMMY BRADFORD
Manager - Creston & District Museum & Archives

Every year, during the Laying of the Wreaths at the Remembrance Day cenotaph ceremony, one wreath is laid by a woman representing Motherhood of Canada.

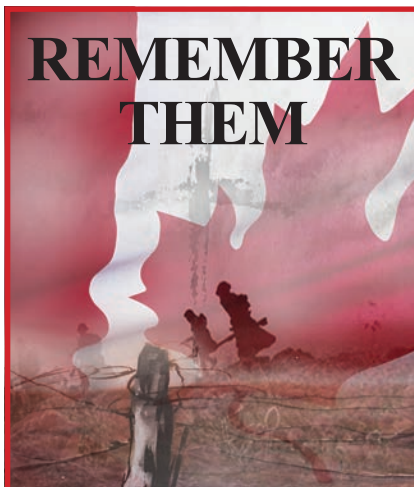
This is an honour no one covets, as it can only be won by losing a child. The woman that is chosen to lay the wreath represents all women in the community who have lost a son or daughter in military service, whether that be in action, in the course of his or her

duties, or as a result of their service.

This is a tradition that, nationally,

goes back to 1936. It is upheld by Legion branches in communities large and small across the country.

Each year, the Royal Canadian Legion chooses one woman – named the National Silver Cross Mother – to represent all Canadian mothers and lay a wreath on their behalf at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.



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NOVEMBER 11

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Tanya Wall
Regional Director, Area B



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as we that are left grow old,
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nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
we shall remember them."*

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Remembrance Day

The selection of the National Silver Cross Mother is made each year from nominations by individuals and provincial commands of the Canadian Legion. In 1972, the recipient was Mary Louise McLeod.

She lost two sons in World War II: Private Alfred Joseph McLeod, who died on 17 January 1944 at Ortona, Italy; and Trooper John Joseph McLeod who was killed near Caen on 27 July 1944.

The Creston Review article that announced her selection mentioned that she lived near

Warton, Ontario, but the Canadian Legion website is more accurate. It states that she was of Neyaashiinigmiiing, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation – she was, indeed, the first woman of First Nations heritage to receive the honour of National Silver Cross Mother.

Mrs. McLeod's husband, John, served in both World Wars and seven of her children – the two sons who died in World War II, and four other sons and one daughter – also joined the military. ♥



A 75-year old Indian, from the Saugeen reservation near Warton, Ont., will represent Canadian motherhood at the national Remembrance ceremony in Ottawa on November 11.

She is Mrs. Mary Louise McLeod who lost two sons during World War II. Alfred Joseph McLeod, 29, was killed in Italy while serving with the Perth Regiment. John Joseph McLeod, 23, was killed while serving in the 6th Armoured Regiment in North-West Europe.

Mrs. McLeod will place one of the five official wreaths during the ceremony.

"All we have of freedom,
all we use or know -
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us long and long ago."
-Rudyard Kipling



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Job Skills from Korea

BY TAMMY BRADFORD

Manager - Creston & District Museum & Archives

In 1955, when I was in the Yukon, I met up with a fellow on a construction work site in Whitehorse. He was a master mechanic and a super welder, and over a year of working together, we became pretty close friends.

In 1956 we decided to pull out of the North. I had a 1940 Ford Coupe convertible and we loaded it up and left.

When we reached Dawson Creek, there was a pipeline construction project going on. When we checked in with the construction company, the first question they asked was, "What can you do?" I wound up

running a crane on a pipeline crossing on the Parsnip River south of Dawson Creek. But Frank answered, "I can weld."

"What makes you think you can weld pipeline?" came the reply.

All Frank said was that he had quite a bit of experience welding, and when they pressed him for details, he said he'd got his experience in the Canadian army in Korea. They basically laughed at him but decided to give him a test: he had to weld two pieces of metal together, then they would x-ray the weld to see if there were any faults.

They had him do that three times, and even put the welded pieces into a press and bent them right on the

weld – none of them broke. The inspector and the other two men who were carrying out this test looked a little embarrassed, but that didn't stop them.

They said, "You're a pretty good welder, but suppose I asked if you could do that with your left hand?"

Frank shrugged and replied, "Sure, I guess so," and proceeded to do the test again with the same results. Somehow, he managed to keep a straight face through all of this, and in the end, they hired him.

I asked Frank how he had got so much experience welding in the army. He told me that, while serving in Korea, he had been on a mechanic crew that repaired the tanks. "They

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ON NOVEMBER 11

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Remembrance Day

took them out to battle during the day,” he explained, “and I would weld all night to put the damn things back together.”

Frank could weld anything, with his right or left hand, in any position, even upside down.

That’s the sort of experience young men got in the army in those days. It served him well, but it kind of angered me to see how those pipeline company guys were treating him. Frank was used to that, though. He didn’t like it, but he was used to it. Remember, this was only about ten years after the Second World War, and lots of the veterans from that war looked down on the veterans of Korea. They seemed to feel that

a Korean vet wasn’t as much of a veteran as they were. Frank always argued that soldiers who died in Korea were just as much a loss as soldiers who died in any other war –

and I think he was right.

• Cyril Colonel, Wynndel BC, on the skills to be gained in the army and the value of Canadian veterans of the Korean War. ♥



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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9

Axe n' Rose – Starting at 7:30

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

DJ Stix – Starting at 9pm

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16

Freya – West Kootenay Duo
Starting at 7:30

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23

Lorne Heltman – starting at 7:30

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Remembrance Day

Names on a Cenotaph – Everett Fortier

BY TAMMY BRADFORD

Manager - Creston & District Museum & Archives

The image of the soldiers of the First World War, as enthusiastic young patriots eager to fight for King and Country, is true for many who signed up in the war's early months. But as the fighting dragged on and the casualty lists grew longer, that enthusiasm waned. By 1917, volunteers were no longer numerous enough to fill the depleted ranks on the front line, and the Canadian government was floating the idea of Conscription.

At the same time, men were being recruited to work in the forests in France and England and produce all the lumber the army needed for a multitude of uses. The Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC) was an opportunity for men to serve who were too old for the infantry or who had been turned down by a medical review board. It was also seen as a way to serve without getting too close to the enemy. With Conscription looming, that was a very attractive incentive for some.

We don't know why Everett Fortier chose this moment to sign up. He was 33 years old at the time, so he could have enlisted in the infantry, but he was also from Maine and if he was in the US until 1917 he might not have had an earlier opportunity. The impending entry of the US into the war, with its potential for service in the forward ranks, might have been a factor in his decision to enlist with the CFC.

Whatever his motives, he left it until nearly the last possible moment, enlisting on 4 April with a unit that

left Creston on the 14th. He, like the vast majority of the other men with that Corps, wound up in the 41st Company CFC near Rouen, operating a sawmill and building railways.

For several months, his service was unremarkable, with none of the minor infractions of absents himself from barracks or duty that appear so often in the records of others in his unit. That changed on 25 March 1918, when he was arrested for stealing public property.

In addition to three months imprisonment, his CO recommended him for transfer to a frontline unit: the 72nd Canadian Infantry Battalion which was moving towards Amiens for the major offensive that would end the war.

Germany, released from the Eastern front by Russia's exit from the war, transferred all her troops to the Western Front. Early 1918 saw a series of German advances on the Western Front, and the Allies, determined to end the war, called on all the auxiliary service units to train men for service on the fighting line. Fortier was one of them. His offense had brought him to the officers' attention at the worst possible moment.

The Hundred Days Offensive began at Amiens on 8 August 1918 and pushed forward steadily to Mons, the last battlefield of the war. Everett Fortier did not live to see the armistice signed, though; he was killed in battle 21 August 1918. ♥

Local Colours!

BY JESSE MORETON

It's sure to be an exciting year with three new presenters showcasing their pictures and adventures from around the Kootenays. Come out and revel in the beauty of our mountain wonderland. Get a splash of colour before winter really sets in. Re-live your adventures vicariously or discover new places to explore!

The show will be held on Saturday, November 17th at the PCSS Theatre, 7 pm to 9 pm.

Breaking the ice is Jeff Banman. Jeff is known by many as the amiable high-school socials teacher. But he is also a photographer and very involved in his community. He operates under the name "Jeff Banman Photography" and teaches an elective photography course at PCSS. This year Jeff plans to take us on a photographic journey highlighting his personal development as a photographer. Knowing Jeff, we can also expect some wit and humour to entertain us along the ride.

Clayton Dunham will then showcase some lofty perspectives from local mountains. Clayton moved to Creston this last summer with his wife, Carley. He explains, "The natural beauty of the area is one of the main attractions that brought us here". Together, they enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, but Clayton's favourite pursuit is hiking to the tops of mountains. He says he's not a peak bagger; he simply prefers hikes with a view. He shares his career choice in common with Jeff, working in the education system.

Next, Andrew Bibby returns for a second consecutive year with an eclectic mix of landscapes, animals



and outdoor pursuits. Although most of his colours will indeed be local, he is currently touring the desert parks of southern Utah and will no doubt include some colour of the red-rock nature. Andrew runs "Andrew Bibby Photography" and has also been involved in a number of community projects. In his other life he plays the role of skilled tradesman and is a long-term Creston resident.

After an intermission, Justin Vance will entertain us with pictures from a multi-day backcountry ski traverse. Although a working family man, Justin carves out one week each year for a truly epic and remote adventure. His presentation will feature pictures from one such trip into either the northern Purcells or the Selkirks. Justin is also a Creston local who keeps busy with his family's furniture store during the week.

Lastly, Jesse Moreton will wrap up the evening with his usual blend of annual outings. Included in this year's menu up is a couple's retreat to Starbird Pass and some closer destinations with the kids. He promises this year's edition will be no less captivating. That is, however, only if you thought his previous pictures actually were captivating (Man, it's hard to write in the third person.). Jesse is closing in on 8 years of chiropractic practice in Creston

and still loves the mountains as much as at first.

So come out and bask in the stunning colours of the Kootenays. It's the best night of the year. ♥

Please note that this year's event will be held at the PCSS Theatre, not the Tivoli Theatre, as has been the case in the past. This new venue facilitates use on weekends and allows for more seating. Also, new this year, presenters will be using a new format; slides will advance automatically challenging presenters to stay on pace.

Local Colours

Creston's Outdoor Photography Show

Sat Nov 17th, 7-9pm
PCSS Theatre



Cost: \$10 @ the door
Doors open: 6:30pm



42 Annual Creston Christmas Art and Craft Fair

CRESTON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL

On Saturday, November 17, the Creston and Community District Complex will be a great place to visit. Those who like to keep annual traditions alive will want to attend the 42nd Creston Christmas Art and Craft Market between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm and sponsored by the Creston Valley Arts Council.

This market is one of the most popular sales events of the year with more than 2,000 people coming through the doors last year. It is one of the ongoing successful accomplishments of the arts council. Once again it is attracting over sixty exhibitors from the Creston Valley and from throughout the Kootenay region.

The annual market is sure to have something for everyone. The products this year range from the usual potters from Canyon, Creston, and Crawford Bay as well as cold glass work, jewellery, and woodwork ranging from driftwood art to cutting boards, signs, and handcrafted wooden wine totes.

There will be a great selection of foods and edibles from hand-made chocolates and candy to preserves, spices and home baking including gluten-free. There will also be a selection of wines and spirits grown and crafted in the valley.

There will be repurposed garden art as well as up-cycled clothing, hand painted and natural dyed silks along with wearable art. There will also be beautiful fresh Christmas wreaths and decorations.

Prints and original artwork will also be on sale not to mention knitwear, quilts and unique sewing gifts made by artists and artisans. Local herbalists and soapers have crafted a wide selection of herbal remedies, creams, and soaps.

Contributing to the cultural ideals of the market will be the Creston Valley Hospital Tuck Shop with a selection of their products as well as the Creston Valley Museum. Footlighters will be selling tickets to their next show, A Christmas Carol, based on the novel by Charles Dickens, which will be on the stage at the Prince Charles Theatre on Nov 30 and Dec 1 at 7:30 pm with a matinee on Sunday, Dec 2 at 2:00 pm.

In the Erickson Room will be a special juried art show – The Indigo Art Show. This show will mark the beginning of a year-long series of events to celebrate the fiftieth year since the inauguration of the Creston Valley Arts Council. This youth art show will feature anything indigo, from felt work to artwork to art on blue jeans. The Art Show will open with a reception on Friday evening between 6:00 and 8:00 pm then be open the same hours as the Art and Craft Market on Saturday.

Across the parking lot at Rotocrest on Saturday will be the Images Art Show and Sale which will be open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. This show will also be open Sunday, Nov. 18 from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm.

Admission to the Market is a cash donation to the Creston Food Bank. Vendors will be supplying items for raffle baskets so please enter the free raffle at the front door.

The Creston Valley Arts Council uses the profits from this event to support artists and arts-related groups throughout its mandated area which stretches from Riondel to Yahk. The Council would like to thank Anne Fetterly for her year-long dedication to organizing the market. She is assisted by a large group of volunteers. ♥

Further information is available on the Arts Council's website at www.crestonvalleyartsCouncil.ca.

CHRISTMAS

ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

Creston & District Community Complex
Saturday, November 17 - 9am to 4pm



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Indigo-Go-Go

CRESTON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL

Indigo-Go-Go is an exciting opportunity for young artists from grade 7 thru grade 12 in the Creston Valley whether they are in public school, private school, or homeschooled. This Art Show, sponsored by the Creston Valley Arts Council, will take place at the Creston and District Community Complex November 16 and 17.

The organizers of this exciting event are looking for art submissions from students. While the theme of the show is indigo blue, the committee will accept any type of art from students – sketches, cartoons, paintings, sculptures, clay work, quilting, sewing etc.

Indigo is among the oldest dyes to be used for textile dyeing and printing dating back approximately 6000 years. It was discovered about the same time in Japan, West Africa, China, and India.

Historically, indigo is a natural dye extracted from the leaves of certain plants, and this process was very important economically because blue dyes were once very rare. A large percentage on indigo produced today, several thousand tonnes each year, is synthetic. It is the blue that our denim jeans were originally dyed with.

Several workshops have been held with students in watercolor and indigo dyeing. These workshops were given by Val van der Poel, Anne Fetterley and Brenda Brucker. Grade 7 students have had the opportunity to create blue jean collages as well as decorating blue jeans.



Examples of Indigo dyeing from recent workshop.

Students who have art they wish to display are asked to contact Brenda Brucker at 250.428.3358. While the organisers would prefer that art is ready to display the committee will be able to assist students in presenting their work. The art will be judged and three prizes will be presented.

"Indigo is among the oldest dyes to be used for textile dyeing and printing dating back approximately 6000 years"

The opening reception for the Indigo-Go-Go Art Show will be the Erickson Room Nov. 16 from 6:00 thru 8:00 pm. The show will also be open Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9:00 am thru to 4:00 pm which is the same hours as the Christmas Art and Craft Market.

Indigo-Go-Go Art Show is the first in a series of special events being organized by the Creston Valley Arts Council to celebrate the council's fiftieth anniversary. The next event will be a wine and cheese reception, Jan 11, 2019, to celebrate a new show at Art in the Chamber. ♥

The CRESTON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL Presents

INDIGO-GO-GO

An Adjudicated Art Show
featuring
**Indigo Blue Artwork
by Grade 7-12 Students**

November 16 & 17
Creston & District Community Complex
Opening Reception 6-8 PM Nov. 16
9 AM-4 PM Nov. 17

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CRESTON VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL
AREA B

Annual Art Show Celebrates 26 years

BY JIM JACOBSEN

There is something about the Creston Valley that draws artists to the area. There is an incredible assortment of talented people that reside here that draw on the natural beauty to create fine art. One group of professional artists put on an annual art show and sale every Fall that is free to the public.

The 26th annual Images Art Show and Sale will take place Saturday, November 17, 9:30 am – 5 pm and Sunday, November 18, 11 am – 4 pm at the Rotacrest Hall on the Rec Centre grounds. The show features the work of nine (9) local artists: painters Elaine and Andy Alföldy, Ute Bachinski, Laura Leeder, and Eileen Gidman; glass artist Sarah Miller; and photographers Jim and Howard Smith, and Peter McLellan. For Miller

and McLellan, this is their first appearance in the Images Show.

The event is a “varied, interesting and professional show” according to organizer Elaine Alföldy. Alföldy, along with her husband Andy, has been painting art for over fifty years. They have owned and operated the Alföldy Galley since 1982 displaying their original watercolour paintings, paper batiks, miniatures and art cards depicting life in the Kootenays.

Co-organizer, Ute Bachinski works primarily in watercolours, pastels, and with fabric. Formerly the art teacher at Prince Charles secondary school her work is in private collections all over the world including Canada, the US, England and Switzerland.

Laura Leeder is a watercolour & mixed media artist specializing in garden floral and teacup art. Her work can be found in collections as far away as Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Eileen Gidman is a textile and watercolour artist. A graduate of the Emily Carr College of Art and Design,

Gidman also teaches watercolour classes.

A father and son team, Jim and Howard Smith are avid hikers and use photography to relate the magnificence and wonder of our mountain landscape and express their strong connection to nature.

Miller is a self-taught glass artist with over twenty years’ experience. In addition to selling her fused glass art, she offers a series of written and video tutorials on her Etsy page.

For McLellan, this is his first major show. Working most of his life in motion pictures and television, photography was mostly a hobby. Having travelled with his camera to over fifty countries with his camera he is finally making images for himself. “The Images group represents a select group of some of the finest artists currently working the Kootenays,” explained McLellan. “I’ve long admired their work and I’m proud to call many of them friends. To be asked to join them is a special privilege”.

You can join them, too, November 17 and 18 at the Rotacrest Hall, 230 19 Ave N, Creston. ♥

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Ute Bachinski is beginning a pastel on paper, plein air, on McDowell's Hilltop in Lister. She will come more than one time to work on the piece and finish it in her studio. The light and seasonal colours and flow of the landscape are best caught on site.

Eco-printing. How hard can it be?

FLY IN THE FIBRE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY Carmen Ditzler of Heartfelt

The goal of eco-printing is to make marks on cloth using leaves. Sometimes the “prints” are clear and defined and have a lovely colour. Sometimes they are a mishmash of brown mess. I collect the “right” leaves, soak the wool cloth and silk in vinegar, place the leaves on the wet cloth, roll it up tightly around a piece of copper pipe, (or wood) wrap and tie it tight with string. As I am doing this I am brewing up a stew of water, vinegar, and maybe some onion skins, tea bags or rusty nails in a designated pan on my studio hot plate. Then I add the tied bundles and simmer for about 2.5 hours. The bundles are pulled out and as soon as possible unwrapped for the big reveal. Results are anyone’s best guess - rarely what I think will happen, often surprising, and sometimes delightful and beautiful.

Eco-printing is an elusive process; every practitioner has a different secret and like most things, the more you do it the better you become at predicting results. Properties of the leaves depend on their growing area or region - some leaves work well for example in Ireland but not in Canada.

Eucalyptus is a big staple of many eco printers but it doesn’t grow here. As I have picked and rolled and stewed, there have been many failures, disappointments, and some awesome results too. Every time I start a new batch it feels like a gamble, a roll of the dice. I suspect that this is the beginning of another new obsession.

For more info and inspiration, two well-known eco-printers are India Flint and Irit Dulman. Their work has become part of a reaction against toxic and wasteful practices within the textile industry and fast fashion. ♥

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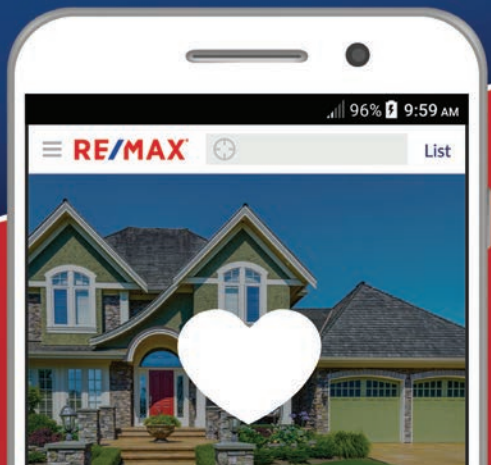
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Footlighters presents the holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*

FOOTLIGHTERS THEATRE SOCIETY

The Christmas season is approaching, and Footlighters Theatre Society is bringing the holiday spirit to the Prince Charles Theatre when it presents *A Christmas Carol* from Nov. 30-Dec. 2.

"It is a story that is timeless, and we watch the film every year, usually the Alistair Sims version," says director Gary Atha. "It's a story everyone knows, but I think they will see some interesting things they haven't seen in other versions."

Based on Charles Dickens' 1843 novella, *A Christmas Carol* tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present

and Yet to Come. Their visits help transform Scrooge into a kinder, gentler man.

As adapted by John Jakes, an author best known for writing American historical fiction, this production presents the story as told by Dickens, played by Footlighters newcomer Lucas Szuch, who gave more than 100 public readings of *A Christmas Carol* between 1852 and his death in 1870.

"This makes that come alive," says Atha, who played Dickens in an Abbotsford production several years ago. "He becomes part of the story. We see him flow through it, eventually serving drinks and singing."

Dickens is present through most of the play, as of course is Scrooge, played by Jason Smith, who directed and co-wrote the Footlighters 24th season opener, *Some Fools, and Their Money*, in July.

"The audience is not going to like Scrooge right from the beginning," says Atha. "He's a nasty so-and-so, and Jason portrays the meanness very well."

Smith enjoys playing that nasty side, as well as Scrooge's eventual emotional and philosophical transformation, but admits that learning the play's authentic dialogue has been a challenge.

"The language makes it a little tricky to memorize," says Smith. "I don't think they use any words we don't use, but very little is said the way we say it."

With a cast of about two dozen and numerous scene changes, the production is larger than the previous shows

FOOTLIGHTERS THEATRE SOCIETY Presents

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

By John Jakes

November 30
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FOOTLIGHTERS THEATRE SOCIETY

Arts Council

Real Food



The ensemble of *A Christmas Carol* rehearsing one of the show's Christmas carols.

Atha has directed; the comedy *Nana's Naughty Knickers* and the thriller *And Then There Were None*. With the addition of several Christmas carols arranged by music director Simone Wiebe and period costumes overseen by Jennifer Dewald, audiences will feel immersed in the Dickensian world as they explore *A Christmas Carol*'s deeper meaning.

"It shows redemption," says Atha. "Even if you're the not the nicest person, if you see your future, you possibly have the chance to change. That's a lesson in itself." ♥



BRIAN LAWRENCE
Jason Smith (left) as Ebenezer Scrooge and Norm Eisler as Jacob Marley's ghost rehearsing a scene from *A Christmas Carol*.



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BY CARLA AHERN -
Senior Manager
Kootenay-Co-
lumbia Discovery
Centre Society

Successful Year One at the Discovery Centre!

The Discovery Centre at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA) had a very successful first season! We opened the doors to a new temporary facility (Phase One) located in the parking lot of the old Wildlife Centre in early May. The 600 square foot space was full of displays and information about wildlife and wetlands and was a launching point for our programs and events.

We hosted school programs, Jr Naturalist summer science camps, guided canoe tours and many other

special events and programs. We wanted to reach out and thank the Creston and Kootenay community, as well as the many tourists from around the world that visited us, for their support and interest in the educational endeavours we offered this year. Your enthusiasm and participation fueled our passion to educate!

The Kootenay-Columbia Discovery Centre Society (KCDCS) took over running the educational programming at the CVWMA in

"Your enthusiasm and participation fueled our passion to educate"

2018. We received core funding through Columbia Basin Trust and the CVWMA to ensure the continuation of programming for the next 5 years while KCDCS moves forward with the development of a new Discovery Centre (Phase Two+).

KCDCS is developing a strategic plan that will include some outreach activities and a Membership Drive this coming winter. This will help us to inform the community of what KCDCS has been up to and to gather feedback and support.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information on what this looks like in the coming months. Sign up to be on our email list to keep yourself up to date on this and other initiatives by heading to our website at www.discovery-centre.ca.

What was one of the best moments of 2018 for me? I have too many to choose from! Leading the Jumping Jacks preschool groups was loads of fun as their curiosity is infectious and leading them through discovery activities is just plain fun! There were some magical moments paddling through the wetland in the canoes – ospreys soaring overhead and diving for fish; painted turtles swimming by; and seeing all the aquatic plant's flowers bloom creating a sea of colour...My job is way too fun!

Our 2018 seasonal staff brought knowledge, interest and excitement to the programs, so a huge thank you to Megan, Natasha, Spencer, Will and Julia! ♥

We will see you all again in May of 2019 when we reopen to deliver more programs and events! We are always keen to get feedback and suggestions for the types of activities and events you would like to see happen out here in the wetlands, so please reach out to us! Phone: (250) 402 6905, Email: education@discovery-centre.ca

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Entering Winter

BY MAYA SKALINSKA
Master Herbalist,
Registered Herbal
Therapist

Transitioning into winter can be challenging. There are short days, long nights, and damp cold that goes straight into your bones. These can all get you down, but there are a few simple measures you can do to counteract the cold and dark, helping you enjoy the winter months.

Deficiency in Vitamin D can lead to depression. I recommend a high-quality cod liver oil as it naturally contains vitamin D and omega 3 essential fatty acids. You can also take a vitamin D3 supplement, 2000IU taken with an omega 3 supplement. Make sure you get an assortment of omega 3 (naturally available in fish) and omega 6. If you don't eat fish, flax oil is a good option.

St. John's Wort is also very effective for Seasonal Affective disorder (SAD) as it's a mild anti-depressant. I recommend it in a tincture form, made from fresh flowers. Do not take St. John's Wort if you're already on antidepressants. If you need a gentle pick me up, a nice hot

tea made with herbs like Lemon Balm or Holy Basil are my favorite to lift up your spirits.

Other than keeping your spirits up, keeping warm is just as important. Stay away from cold foods like raw vegetables, ice cream, cold cereals, and cold drinks. Instead, drink warm water, hot teas (ginger is best), hot cereals like oatmeal, lightly steamed veggies, soups, and stews. Use warming ingredients like garlic, ginger, chili powder, turmeric, cinnamon or cloves. This will ensure your digestive fire is strong and going all winter long.

Of course, with winter also comes the cold and flu season, so keeping your immune system healthy is important. Besides the omega 3&6 and the vitamin D supplements, make sure you eat a nutrient dense diet, with all the colors of fruits and vegetables you can find. This will ensure you're getting enough vitamin C and antioxidants from your food. My favorite nutrient-rich superfoods are broccoli, blueberries, yams, bell peppers, thyme, parsley, kale, and squash. If you are prone to infections, try medicinal mushrooms like reishi, chaga or turkey

tail in powder or tincture form. For herbs, astragalus root is great as a tincture or tea simmered for 20-30min. You can also add astragalus, ginseng or medicinal mushrooms into your soup broths.

It's important to remember that as soon as you feel you might be coming down with something, like a tickle in your throat or low energy, take action right away. The faster you support your immune system, the faster it will work for you. Have a cold and flu tea or tincture on hand as you never know when a bug might hit you.

A warming whole food diet with a few supplements mentioned above will keep you and your family healthy and happy this the winter. I will have a booth at the

Creston Christmas Craft Fair, November 17th. I invite you to come and meet me and ask me any questions while enjoying a free hot healing tea. I will have medicinal mushrooms, powerful cold, and flu tinctures and teas and much more, to set you up for the winter. ♥

Maya Skalska is a master herbalist, and a registered herbal therapist, offering iridology, herbal medicine, nutrition consultations and flower essences in Crawford Bay and at Vital Health in Creston.



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Cats Start To Find Identity Under New Coach

CRESTON VALLEY THUNDER CATS

It's been an up and down start to the year for the Creston Valley Thunder Cats. With many personnel changes on the ice and a couple large changes off it, it's safe to say that the 2018-2019 season got off to a rocky start. First, there was the addition of assistant coach Carter Duffin to replace Jeff Wagner (who went to Fernie) and then a few days later the exit of Duffin as he took a head coaching position with the

Castlegar Rebels. Tobin was then tasked with finding another body on short notice, which he did, until he himself moved on the BCHL with the Surrey Eagles, leaving the Cats without anyone at the helm of the ship.

Enter Nick Redding; a former KIJHL player, collegiate athlete, KIJHL coach, and most recently Hockey Operations director with the WHL's Seattle Thunderbirds. A young face behind the bench with a youthful and passionate take on how the game is played. Speed and skill, that's the name of the game for Redding, only he wasn't able to impart his wisdom on the team for quite some time. Chalking it up to red tape, Redding was unable to coach in Canada as he was held up with immigration procedures. That left Captain Tyler Witzke to run practices, and ex-Fernie Ghostriders coach Craig Mohr to run the bench on game days. While Witzke and Mohr's work was admirable and helpful beyond recognition it left the team directionless with no systems in place, having to rely on raw skill and senses to get them through. It worked to a point, but with new players and rookies still getting their bearings about them, the initial few

weekends left untapped potential on the bench.

The team guided themselves to a 2-0-1 record before Redding took over, but it wasn't all sunshine and butterflies once he did. A character-building streak where the team went 1-5 and were outscored 30-14 over the six games welcomed Redding back into the league. A long and painful season was staring the Cats in the face.

It's understandable, really. A new coach coming in after the season starts trying to gain the trust of a team he didn't build. Rookies adjusting to the speed of the league and hoping the new coach likes what he sees. Veterans, used to an old coach and different systems, were learning all over again. It's a recipe that calls for the occasional bump in the road while everyone tries to adjust, but the pieces are in place to achieve bigger and better things. There have been flashes of greatness over the past month, a 5-1 win over the rival Columbia Valley Rockies in a hostile arena, and even a tough 3-1 loss to the (at the time) conference-leading Nelson Leafs where they played with heart for the full 60 minutes.

The Cats are a team on the brink of making their mark. It can be a large learning curve and there are sure to

be a few more character-building moments, but this team was built with a championship in mind and a new coach doesn't change that. ♥

Come out & cheer on your local Junior B Team!

NOVEMBER
Home Games 7:30 pm

Friday, November 9th
vs Castlegar Rebels


Saturday, November 10th
vs Fernie Ghostriders
PARENTS WEEKEND

Tuesday, November 13th
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Friday, November 16th
vs Columbia Valley Rockies

Friday, November 23rd
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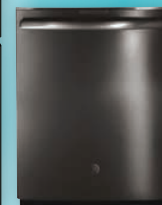
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