#37 Issue The Voices of the Columbia Valley

THE Provincial government urges residents to remain off highways.

KIMBERLEY'S NEW STR REGULATIONS Kimberley follows Radium in Short-Term Rental licensing.

MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING GRANTS

COVER PHOTO: JEN BEWSKI



How ARE WE DOING?

The Volunteers of the **Columbia Valley Voices** Online Magazine are dedicated to providing content that is generated and supported by our valley residents.

We welcome and encourage all communication - we want to know how we're doing!

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LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

Holiday season is fast approaching with some places already seeing frost and signs of snow! We're also seeing many highway closures and accidents across the province. Now is the time to take extra care and precaution when you're driving out on the roads. Everyone has somewhere to be but it's important we all arrive there safely.

We're also gearing up for our holiday issues and we would love to see your holiday cheer! Send us any holiday related photos and we'll make sure they'll be includéd in our upcoming issues. We would lové to see how everyone is celebrating the season.

There are tons of great updates coming from our team in the new year so make sure to stay tuned and thank you everyone who continues to support our online magazine.

The VVV

THE COLUMBIA VALLEY VOICE

Bankets ANKORS needed!

donate blankets/sleeping bags to be distributed directly to people in need in Cranbrook:

ANKORS Office 1324 2nd Street N Cranbrook Monday - Thursday 10am-2pm



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STAY OFF THE HIGHWAYS

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO REMAIN OFF HIGHWAYS IN B.C.

Weather conditions have proven treacherous for many regions across the province. This has caused major highway closures, traffic delays, and accidents which is prompting the provincial government to ask residents to stay off the highways unless absolutely necessary.

DriveBC shows road closures all across the province due to flooding and debris on major highways across British Columbia. Multiple sections of Highway 1 in the Interior region are closed, rocks and debris caused a closure between Sicamous and Revelstoke along with the stretch of highway between Golden and Revelstoke. At this time, travel is not recommended to these regions though detours have been setup with an estimated additional travel time of eight hours.



A look from a flyover of **#BCHwy1** at Tank Hill near Lytton and Nicomen.

For the latest **#BCStorm** travel info, check **@DriveBC**'s website: bit.ly/20jcClS

#TransCanadaHighway



Weather warnings have been issued across the province by Environment Canada which tells us these conditions are nowhere near ceasing. If you intend to drive on highways in the province, make sure you have prepared additional time for travel in the event of detours, closures, or accidents.

The province is working towards supporting those affected by floods in their communities. In a press conference on November 15th, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General had the following statements as collected by myeastkootenaynow.com,

"Over the weekend BC experienced an atmospheric river event caused by heavy rain and localized flooding. The province has been in continual contact with local governments and working to support those affected."

Before you start your journey on any highway in the province, make sure you are prepared in the event you are stranded for a period of time.

Here are some ways you can prepare yourself for winter driving conditions:

- 1. Keep a roadside emergency kit in your vehicle.
- 2. Add appropriate chains to your tires.
- 3. Have a windshield scraper, snow brush, and shovel in your vehicle.
- 4. Keep salt or some type of traction aid to help your vehicle gain traction in the event you're stuck.
- 5. Have a pair of booster cables readily available in case your battery needs power.
- 6. Make sure you have an extra jug of antifreeze in your vehicle.
- 7. Flashlight with an extra set of batteries in case you need to see in the dark.
- 8. Visible winter outerwear with reflective gear.
- 9. Blankets, clothes, and nonperishable food items.

10. First-aid kit.

Farnsworth ended the press conference with thanking the hard work of crews across the province, "Let me finish today by thanking local governments for their response and the crews from the ministry of transportation, search and rescue, police and firefighters who are out there on the front lines supporting those evacuees,"

You can visit DriveBC before leaving for updates on road conditions and closures in the province.

DID YOU KNOW ...?



*Fact taken directly from BCAA Website.





Did you know that in the event of an earthquake or disaster, you'll need to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours before emergency responders might arrive? Ensure you're prepared with an emergency kit in an accessible location in your home, car, or workplace.*

Not sure how to truly prepare for an emergency? BCAA has you covered.

Visit their **Disaster Preparedness** planning on building a safety or first aid kit!



Story Time

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Fridays at 10:45 am

Columbia Valley Centre Hall

Join us for stories, songs and a take-home craft!

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MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVING GRANTS!

CRANBROOK AND INVERMERE TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE PROVINCE.

The City of Cranbrook and District of Invermere are set to receive funding from the province in the form of a grant, which is paid out in lieu of municipal property taxes.

The funding being provided by the provincial government totals over \$17 million and will be divided between 55 municipalities across the province. Cranbrook will be receiving \$32,041 and Invermere will receive \$11, 466. The BC government provides these grants each year to regions and municipalities in lieu of paying property taxes. The funding provided by these grants go towards services provided by municipalities such as roads, fire protection, parks, sewer systems, etc.

In a statement reported by <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens Services shares the difference these grants make to municipalities,

"Through our annual grants-in-lieu program, we're reimbursing municipalities for the important services they provide to provincial properties so they can fund the services and projects that meet the needs of their communities. The funding makes a big difference in communities throughout B.C., particularly now, as local governments and the people they serve navigate the economic impacts of the pandemic."

Properties owned by the province are also set to receive funding from these grants such as offices, warehouses, and courthouses to maintain public services and infrastructure projects.

Moment IN TIME

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CRANBROOK, BC

Cranbrook, British Columbia is the largest urban area of the East Kootenay region with a population of 20,047 as of 2016.

The land in which Cranbrook currently occupies was originally inhabited by Ktunaxa peoples and was purchased by European Settlers who renamed the land to Cranbrook. The name derives from the home town of Colonel James Baker who named the town. Cranbrook really started to gain its stride when James Baker convinced the Canadian Pacific **Railway to establish the Crowsnest Pass** line through Cranbrook instead of Fort Steele. This put Cranbrook in the forefront as a hub for the region. This effectively put Fort Steele into ghost town territory where it was eventually designated as a heritage property in 1961.

Fort Steele has more than 60 buildings and structures to explore, including the original Windsor Hotel and the entire community is considered a "living historical site". Hundreds of thousands of visitors have made a stop in Fort Steele Heritage Town over the years and it continues to be a staple of history for locals and tourists alike.

Cranbrook was also the site of the Kootenay Indian Residential School until 1975, which is now the site of St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino. Four Ktunaxa communities took over full ownership of the St. Eugene Golf Resort and Casino in 2018, effectively turning a dark moment in history into an economic opportunity for their community.

More than 5,000 First Nations people were forcibly removed and separated from their families between 1912 and 1970 in an effort to assimilate them into a new culture. While the decision to not bulldoze the school entirely is certainly controversial, the community aims to return the culture and language to a building where it was taken away.

Cranbrook is a great place to visit for history buffs, especially the Cranbrook History Centre which is the home to Canadian Museum of Rail Travel, the Cranbrook Museum, a model railway, and the rebuilt Royal Alexandra Hall. The Canadian Museum of Rail Travel golds a collection of 28 passenger rail cars with 13 of them open to the public for a guided tour.

Thought the highlight of the museum is the seven sleeping train cars from the 1929 "Trans-Canada Limited" line which was only in operation for two years between Montreal and Vancouver. The cost of luxury rail travel was unsustainable at the time, causing the route to eventually end.

THE TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY, CRANBROOK, B.C.

Cranbrook Series No. 47



KIMBERLEY STRS GET New Regulations

KIMBERLEY FOLLOWS RADIUM IN SHORT-TERM

RENTAL LICENSING.

The housing crisis across communities in the Columbia Valley is on the forefront of many residents minds. The Village of Radium Hot Springs recently passed a bylaw requiring Short-Term Rentals in the village to be licensed through them in order to operate. This was in effort to mitigate the lack of available housing for residents and workers of the village.

Now Kimberley has followed suit! The city council has approved licensing for short-term rentals along with a regulation bylaw to support their housing availability. On November 8th, 2021 amendments to the bylaw were made in reference to signage requirements, fee structures, and responsible person requirements. The bylaw will work in conjunction with existing zoning bylaws and no changes are made as to the types of Short Term Rentals allowed in Kimberley.

As such, zones where tourist accommodations or bed and breakfasts are included as either primary or secondary uses will be permitted to house Short-Term Rentals. Operators are provided with clear directions on how to operate with the new bylaw. The license application forms and guide will be available from the City of Kimberley soon via their website. You can view the full bylaw here.

Invermere Library Christmas Silent Auction

Online through Fundables

New and gently-used items or gift certificates accepted until Nov. 17 Please drop donations off at the library





250-342-6416 publiclibrary@invermere.net

November 20-30



"LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS" DECORATING CONTEST

All District of Invermere residents, businesses & organizations are invited to participate and light up the town in anticipation of the Holiday season. Join us decking your homes and businesses with lights and holiday decor. Then take the Light up the Holidays Decorating Tour to view displays!

Tour & General Public Voting **December 6th-20th**

A winner will be chosen and awarded cash prizes for each of the following categories: 1. Best Decorated: Knock our socks off with the best decorated house in Invermere. Top prize \$100 2. Clark Griswold (Most lights): Do your best impression of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Prize \$75

3. Best Commercial: Businesses, organizations, churches, clubs and school groups may enter this category. Prize \$50

\$10 Entry.

Register on eventbrite.ca until Nov 25th! Visit Invermere BC Events on Facebook for full details!



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CRANBROOK MODELS EFFECTIVE RECYCLING

252 tons of material has been recycled since adopting the program.

Cranbrook adopted a recycling program on May 3rd, 2021 which has shown to be wildly effective with an impressive amount of recyclable material collected. Recycling has been collected from over 6,236 households in Cranbrook with 44,376 recycling carts worth of material being retrieved since inception of the program.

Though an impressive amount of recyclables were collected, there is still work to be done. The average contamination rate is around 6.5% and the City of Cranbrook is looking to drop that number around 3%.

The contamination rate circles around items being included with recyclables that are not recyclable. Separating your garbage and recycling will help keep the items that are recyclable and remove the chance of garbage being collected. Items such as compost, chip bags, items with food residue, etc. cannot be recycled and should be included with your garbage pickup.

In a statement reported by <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, the Mayor of Cranbrook, Lee Pratt, had the following comments on the success of the recycling program,

"The community has really embraced and is strongly supporting this new service. I am very happy to see the success we're having with curbside recycling for our residents. I want to again thank our staff for all their hard work and thank the RDEK and RecycleBC for working closely with us funding the purchase of the recycling carts, and special thanks to RecycleBC for funding the majority of the collection fees."

While glass and flexible packaging materials can be recycled, they should not be included with your recycling pickup. These items should be dropped off to the RecycleBC Depot located at the Cranbrook Transfer Station.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Did you know that even a few spoonfuls of peanut butter left in a jar can contaminate a tonne of paper? Taking the time to rinse containers and ensure that no food gets into the recycling bin should be a priority, as our recyclers have had to adopt costly processes to weed out contaminated products. In some Canadian cities the contamination rates of blue box items are as high as 25% of items.

What you can do: We know it's hard, but come to terms with the fact that an oilsoaked pizza box isn't recyclable paper and is better off in the landfill or your compost bin. Rinse liquids and loose food out of jars, coffee pods, and other recyclable containers (there's generally no need for soap) as food is a contaminant.

*This and more helpful information on recycling can be <u>found on BCHydro.Com</u>



HELP IS **AVAILABLE.**

VISIT OVERDOSE RESOURCES FROM GOV.BC.CA

DRUG TOXICITY CONTINUES TO CLAIM LIVES

THERE HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE DEATHS ACROSS THE PROVINCE IN

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

The BC Coroners Service (BCCS) has reported 333 deaths in the province related to illicit drug toxicity in August and September, 2021. Two people lost their lives in the East Kootenays in August and one in September while Central Kootenay saw one death in August and three deaths in September.

This year, 1,534 residents across British Columbia have already lost their lives in relation to drug toxicity as of September 30th, 2021. The month of August saw 181 people die from drug toxicity related deaths and 152 deaths in September. While the number declined in September from August, the amount of deaths stemming from drug toxicity in the province is alarming. With the province-wide death rate currently at 39.4 per 100,000, we are now at nearly double the provincial death rate from when the public health emergency was declared in 2016. The month of September also marks the 12th consecutive month where more than 150 people have died in the province due to drug toxicity.

While the key player in the majority of drug toxicity cases in recent years is fentanyl, the BCCS has noted additional toxic substances have been detected in the majority of drug tests. Such substances as cocaine, methamphetamine/amphetamine, and other opioids are being frequently detected in drug testing.

The number of people losing their lives to drug toxicity highlights the increased need to provide safe access to illicit drugs along with affordable treatments to overcome substance abuse and addiction. The leading cause of death for people aged 19 to 39 in British Columbia is drug toxicity, with over 1,000 deaths seen in the first half of the year alone.

If you or someone you know is struggling with substance abuse and needs support, here are some options for judgment-free assistance.



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VALLEY PROMOTIONS







Amanda Јоу

Jocelyn Hastie



Dr. Donna McArthur Ianisch



VALLEY SHARES



FUEL THEFT ON THE RISE

The RCMP has been receiving calls in the Columbia Valley in regards to fuel being stolen directly form vehicles. The first report came into the RCMP on December 6th where someone noticed a hole drilled into a gas tank of a Ford F150 in the Village of Radium Hot Springs. Another call was received on December 7th with similar circumstances in Invermere. This tactic is commonly used by thieves to steal fuel from gas tanks.

RCMP is urging anyone who observes suspicious activities in their area to contact them right away.





SPARWOOD GETS HENS

The District of Sparwood is allowing residents to keep up to give hens on their property in conjunction with a strict set of rules. In order to keep the hens on your property, you must receive consent from your neighbours and approval for the enclosure and coop. You will not be permitted to sell any products derived from the hens, though they can be given away.

In terms of the environment, electric fencing will be required for enclosures to prevent potential predators from causing damage. With the recent uptick of bears in Sparwood, the bylaw took additional time to develop to make sure it would be effective. The bylaw will be in effect for one year before reexamining to determine any amendments needed.

Columbia Headwaters Creek Concerns Survey

Have a say in restoring and protecting your streams

Survey closes Nov 30th

https://bit.ly/CreekSurvey Survey closes Nov 30th

CRANBROOK CENOTAPH VANDALIZED

On November 11th, a day where we take time to honour those who gave their lives for our freedom, Cranbrook RCMP received a call that the Cenotaph had been vandalized with green spray paint.

A message had been spray painted across the Cenotaph and no one was seen at the time of the incident. RCMP are looking for anyone who may have information on the vandalism as an investigation into the suspects is ongoing.

COLUMBIA HEADWATERS SURVEY

Do you want to have a say in creek restoration projects in the Columbia Headwaters between Canal Flats and Rogers Pass? Here's a chance, please fill out this short survey!

https://bit.ly/CreekSurvey

We are seeking input on creek restoration in the Columbia Headwaters. Čolumbia Headwaters Aquatic Restoration Secwépemc Strategy (CHARS) is a Shuswap Indian Band project working to recover and restore five creeks in the Columbia Headwaters in the East Kootenays between Canal Flats and Rogers Pass.

All information you provide will remain confidential unless you wish to leave your name. Fill out the survey for each stream area you have a concern or interest in, one survey per area. Please forward this survey to others who might want to have a say in restoration. The survey will be open until November 30th and re-open again in the spring 2022.



Hot Springs

JOINT WATCH WILL BE UNLOCKED. FE HALVED FOR 2 DAYS. HOT SPRINGS WILL B

NO, WE'LL SET UP OUR OWN WATCH

YES, LET'S SET UP JOINT WATCHES

Your engineers found out that someone sabotaged one of the main pumps heating the hothouses. Some crops were lost and it will take at least a day to resume food production.

We believe this to be the doing of New London or their sympathisers. We are anxious that if they do this again and cripple the food production, we might starve. To prevent this, we should work together even closer than before. Do you agree?

HEN GAMING RRORS R THE COLUMBIA VALLEY NEEDS TO STEP UP OR STEP ASIDE.

When it comes to city management, resource building, political diplomacy, and strategy in a game, I will always recommend Frost Punk. While the conditions in which you can win scenarios may be viewed as unethical or immoral, sometimes things need to be done for the greater good of everybody.

Frost Punk is a game where a catastrophic storm has engulfed the world. Leaving nothing but a wasted land of snow with the human race trying to find a way to survive. I recently purchased the DLC packs for the game and one of the included packs is titled "On The Edge". The scenario takes place after the main story of the game where you are a simple settlement under rule by New London. You need to search for other settlements in hopes to work in conjunction with them for your own survival.

Ironically, one of these settlements you will find is called "Hot Springs". A settlement of people who believe in living off the land, healing their people through their own medicinal remedies, and are guite helpful while being open to new people. This was the first settlement I had found and I was overjoyed because they had so much food (a resource that is essential in this scenario since you can't get food anyway else).

I started working with this settlement and doing everything in my power to save them. started by sending some of my people over to help build structures. Well, that's when things started to get interesting and a little TOO real. Immediately they began to turn on my settlement and people. Why would they do such a thing when I was giving them everything they needed to live and survive?

The big ticket items - they were against technology and traditional medicine. Are you starting to see the theme here?

Immediately playing this scenario and trying with all my might to save this settlement, I could not help but make comparisons to the Columbia Valley. As an entrepreneur and techie, I couldn't help but see the similarities between Hot Springs and the Columbia Valley. In my experience, people in the Columbia Valley are extremely resistant to new technology and change. The idea of it is something many organizations are in love with, though have no desire to follow through and in fact will do what they can to avoid it.

Similar to what occurred when I tried to save Hot Springs with technology and ideals that were different than there's. Because of my decision, I actually failed the scenario. I wasn't able to save them, then I played it again and made a discovery. This time around, I made no effort to save them. If they want to be resistant, let them be! Well, I beat the scenario and because of they're resistance everyone in Hot Springs died.

Moral of the story, being resistant to change and things that are intended to help us evolve as people, will lead to one thing, an absolute end. Without constantly changing, evolving, and adapting, there is no further for us to go in our lives. Nothing more to learn, we know it all! Keep your minds open and learn to become adaptable.

THE COLUMBIA VALLEY VOICE 24







Time Traveler

When I bought beer at the grocery store, the clerk asked for my birthdate.

I said, "10-3-60."

Her next question: "Is that '19' 60?"



Will You Always Love Me?

Ah, marriage. I was standing in front of the bathroom mirror one evening admiring my reflection, when I posed this question to my wife of 30 years: "Will you still love me when I'm old, fat, and balding?"

She answered, "I do."



Cute

My young son ran to me, crying. "Daddy, I stubbed my toe," he sobbed.

"Let me kiss it and make it better," I said. "Which toe was it?"

"The one that has no roast beef."



Trendsetter

"What's a hipster?" asked my four-year-old cousin.

"Someone who will wear something just to look different," I said. "They'll often buy clothes in thrift shops and wear thick glasses."

"Is Grandma a hipster?" he asked.

A LITTLE FUN

Across

1- Woody's boy; 5- Phnom ; 9- Biblical verb: 14- Unskilled laborer: 15- Omniumgatherum; 16- Native American tent; 17- As to; 18- Holds up; 19- Kitchen come-on: 20-Without interruption; 22- Cherish; 24- Test choice: 25- Foreigners: 26- Concurs: 29-Devoured: 31- Paces: 32- Suffix with exist: 33- Hole-boring tool; 36- Pet name; 37-Sleep; 40- Falsehood; 41- End for Siam; 42-Son of Zeus; 43- Mall frequenters; 45- Hue; 47- Weights: 48- Branched: 51- Finishes: 52-Hyundai model; 54- Go in again; 58- Nick of "Cape Fear"; 59- Gator's kin; 61-Sacramento's Arena; 62- alia; 63-Designer Schiaparelli; 64- Classic autos; 65-Approaches; 66- North Sea feeder; 67-

Down

Slippery;

1- Neat as ___; 2- "All The Way To ___", song by REM; 3- Forsaken; 4- Ragtime dance; 5-Permeable; 6- Run away with a lover; 7- Pen point; 8- Flexible tube; 9- Horse's home; 10-Scag; 11- Strike ; 12- Yellowish citrus fruit; 13- Crews; 21- Head lock; 23- British buddy;

26- Tennis great Arthur: 27- Old Pontiacs: 28- Lacoste of tennis: 29- Go into: 30- Breezes through: 32-Monetary unit of Greece; 33- One of the Baldwins; 34- Fermented grape juice; 35- Not so much; 38- More healthy; 39- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 44- Catch; 45- Easy gallop; 46- Furry swimmers; 47-; Culkin movie; 50- Mediterranean island: 51- Uneven: Kind of garage; 48- Kidney enzyme; 49- Home 53- -deucey; 55- Family portrait?; 56- Earth Day subj.; 57- Cheerful; 60- Literary monogram;

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GET INVOLVED

There are MANY ways you can get involved with this awesome online publication! We hope to hear from you.

BUSINESS ADS

Any and all businessess, organizations and entrepreneurs are welcome to sumbit a business ad for free. *Ads must be refreshed every 3 months*

FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

Donate a product or service for giveaway through the Valley Voice. Help us give back to the readers and we will help place you. Though, we will likely reserve this to one per issue. Businesses can choose to host more than one giveaway through Valley Voices to obtain additional feature pages.



Business Ad Sizing Rules

FOR A FULL-PAGE FOOD WRITE UP

We will ask you to provide the meal set you want tasted, at no charge, to our public food writer. (One of the front facing volunteer positions through the Valley Voice where anonymity is not always possible.) You will be notified when to expect the critic and they will introduce themselves. Once the meal has been completed, you can expect a fullpage review, complete with photography of your food, to appear in a future issue.

TO GET ON THE COVER

This one is really easy... take the best photo. If the best photo has been submitted by a business, it's the business who will be credited on the front page.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

We are still looking for content curators, front-facing liaisons, photographers, and promoters.

Want to get involved?

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