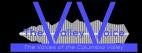


COVER PHOTO: JEN BEWSKI



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!

Send us a note on Facebook or Instagram @thevoicecv

OR

by email to news@thevoiceca.ca





LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Dear Readers,

We have a question for you this week. What are you doing to enact the change you want to see?

Many people want change, though in order for change to occur, you need to be adaptable. If there is something you want to see changed in your life, community, or environment, you are the one who can act on that change.

Our communities have been hit with a pandemic, economic crisis, natural disasters, and more. The one thing we should not be hit by right now, is each other. Kindness, compassion, and empathy is what our community thrives on and is known for. As people, we need to show these to others, especially so close to the holiday season.

Put your differences aside and remember one thing, everyone has their own problems and challenges. What keeps us connected is the support and kindness we show one another in times when it is needed the most.

The VVV

Ban (ets ankors need ed!



Weather is getting colder... let's all help those living rough by giving a little warmth!

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

ANKORS Office Monday -Thursday 10am-2pm



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GAMER'S CORNER: **NEXT EVOLUTION OF GAMING**



What you need to know as cases showing the omicron variant have appeared in Ontario.

Ontario Health officials, Christine Elliott and Kieran Moore, released a joint statement that two travelers from Nigeria recently tested positive for the variant, <u>as reported by NBC News</u>.

The variant has been deemed a concern by the World Health Organization and is inspiring caution from global leaders. It's apparent mutations indicate this variant may be highly transmissible with the ability to escape the body's immune response and some protection rendered by vaccines.

The Omicron variant was discovered last week by public health authorities in South Africa. The government of Canada has placed precautionary measures in place, enhancing border measures for travelers who have been in the South Africa region. Foreign nationals who have traveled to any countries within the region within 14 days of attempting entry to the country, will not be permitted into Canada. Those who are citizens, permanent residents, or with status under the Indian Act who visited the region within 14 days of returning to Canada will be subject to enhanced testing, screening, and quarantine measures, regardless of vaccination status.

Researches around the globe are working to study the omicron strain to better understand it's many aspects and will continue to share findings when they become available. The transmissibility of the variant is not yet clear, as to whether it is more or less transmissible than other variants, including Delta. The number of cases of omicron continues to increase even as this article is written. It's also not clear as to whether the symptoms of the omicron strain cause more severe disease compared to other variants. Though, initial data suggests the variant may be as lethal if not more so due to the increasing rates of hospitalizations in South Africa. Understanding the level and severity of the omicron variant can take days to several weeks.



EFFECTIVENESS OF OMICRON

The World Health Organization is working towards understanding the impact this variant has on existing countermeasures such as vaccines and physical distancing. The vaccines remain a critical component of reducing the severity of the disease, including death which current vaccines have show to remain effective against. PCR tests, which are widely used, continue to detect the virus, including those infected with the omicron variant. Studies are continuing to determine whether the new variant has an impact on any other types of tests. Current treatments for patients with severe COVID-19 can continue and be effective against omicron, other treatments will continue to be assessed to determine their effectiveness against omicron.

Being Cautious

The omicron variant has been designated a Variant of Concern by the World Health Organization and they are calling on countries to undertake enhanced surveillance and sequencing of cases to prevent further spread of the variant. It's being recommended that countries continue to implement effective public health safety measures utilizing risk analysis and a science-based approach. For individuals, WHO advises the most effective precautions you can take are to keep physical distance, wear a mask, avoid poorly ventilated or crowded spaces, wash your hands, and get vaccinated.

The World Health Organization continues to provide updates as more information becomes available on the omicron variant. Classification of omicron and more information on the new variant can be found on the World Health Organization's website HERE.



Sunrise Rotary Club Of Radium



2021 DECEMBER CALENDAR YEAR CALENDAR MONTH

CALENDAR MONTH FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Send greeting card(s) to someone	Tip Big for Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner	03 Donate to Food Bank or Charity of Choice	04 Buy Gift - Locally	Call Single Or Senior Or Friend you have lost touch with
06 Put an Ornament or Holiday Baking at Someone's Door	07 Friend Need Groceries?	08 Thank You Card To Local Business	09 Take a Friend to Bingo	Donate to Radium Rotary Mental Health & Wellness Fund on CVCF website	Volunteer your time for a cause of your choice	12 Place Rock!
13 Donate to Family Dynamix or other Charity	14 Take someone Soup or secretly purchase meal for another table	Write a note to a person who made a difference in your life	Take Treat to local post office or other local business	17 Eat Locally, Tip Big!	Pass out Candy Canes or leave Secret Santa gift(s) for friend(s)	19 Buy Scratch Ticker for Friend
20 Neighbour Need Groceries or Driveway Shoveled?	21 Take Treats To Front Line	Go for a nature walk with a neighbour or friend	23 Buy Someone Coffee	24 Call Family - Send Love	25 ENJOY!	26 ENJOY Sleigh Ride!
ENJOY Sleigh Ride!	28 ENJOY Sleigh Ride!	ENJOY Sleigh Ride!	ENJOY!	ENJOY!	Happy New Year!	

MONDAY

<---Color Me!



Mourtainside Villas

FALL & WINTER RENTALS

1-Bedroom Villa \$135 2-Bedroom Villa \$165

Plus tax for multiple nights from Oct 29 - Feb 11th

Reservations (855) 345-6341 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm www.mountainsidevillas.com

VALLEY PROMOTIONS



Coaches Ashley and Christian have a combined 17 years experience. We offer both adult and kids Brazilian Jiu jitsu programs, as well as women's options for both Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and self defense.

We can be contacted via:

e mail @ <u>journeybjj2020@gmail.com</u> phone @ 250-421-7886

Facebook @ Journey Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Instagram @ journeybrazilianjiujitsu

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FUNDING FOR BROADBAND NETWORK

A FIBRE-OPTIC NETWORK IS COMING BETWEEN KIMBERLEY AND WASA AND FRUITVALE AND NELSON.

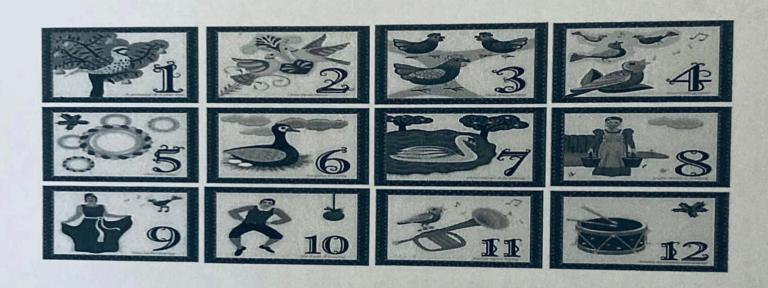
Columbia Basin Trust is teaming with several organizations to bring fibre optic broadband to rural communities. \$7.6 million in funding has been secured which will expand Columbia Basin Trust's regional fibre optic network to route between Kimberley and Wasa and Fruitvale and Nelson.

The project will be commencing soon with support from federal, provincial, and regional partners which will see 70km of fibre optic cable installed with a project completion goal of March 2024. The fibre optic cable will be installed between Fruitvale and Nelson, benefiting the communities of Erie, Hall, Meadows, Montrose, Park Siding, Porto Rico, Salmo and Ymir; and 30 km of backbone fibre optic cable between Kimberley and Wasa, benefiting the communities of Meadowbrook and Ta Ta Creek.

Once the project is complete, internet service providers such as Shaw, Telus, etc. can connect to the newly expanded network to provide services. Those who are already subscribed to high-speed internet service will immediately see an improved network performance and a reduction in your internet downtime due to outages. In total, the trust is funding \$1.29 million into the projects. Partners included in the project are the federal Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, the provincial government, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, and the Regional District of East Kootenay.

TOP DRAWER & MORE PROUDLY PRESENT

12th Day From Christmas Vendors Market In Support of Operation Street Angel







Sunday Dec 12, 2021 11am to 3pm Admission by Donation

803 Cranbrook St. N. Cranbrook, BC V1C 3S2 (250) 489-4301

ADMISSION BY DONATION, CASH, NON PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM ALL VENDORS AND THOSE ATTENDING MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION AT THE DOOR



questionaire

StartUp Columbia Valley will be hosting monthly mastermind meetings in the New Year at no cost.

Interested? We'd love to hear what would make your mastermind the best it can be. Please follow the link to share your insights!

Answer the Questionnaire Here

https://forms.gle/CaB8AxNCnyoXmpVf9

Learn More at startupcv.ca



INTRODUCING RENT BANK

BRITISH COLUMBIA BECOMES COVERED BY RENT BANK SERVICES.

Housing across the province, let alone here in our own communities, has proven to be a struggle. Both finding a place and staying financially secure within it have proven challenging to most across our province.

There are now rent bank services available for low to moderate-income renters in B.C. to help keep people in their homes. The service provides no-interest loans to those who are in an urgent housing situation and need the support. The BC Rent Bank is partnering with Kamloops and District Elizabeth Fry society to support centralizing rent bank services across the province.

In a statement reported by <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, Melissa Giles who is the project manager of BC Rent Bank wants to help communities who are struggling to keep residents housed.

"We're really focused on keeping people housed or helping them move into safe and affordable housing. We do that by offering financial resources in the form of a loan," said Giles. "You would apply, and if you qualify we would issue that payment and then you repay that loan on an interest-free basis over the next few years. We're trying to make that bite-sized pieces that people can pay back on a month-to-month basis. This is a major milestone for our project to achieve, considering that two years ago there were seven rent bank locations primarily in the Metro Vancouver area. Rent banks are much more than lenders. We are very much focused on the whole person – the renter who is experiencing housing insecurity and financial shocks – and we are striving to care for their well-being beginning with stable and safe housing."

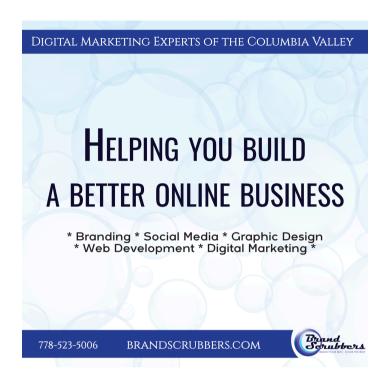
The services provided by BC Rent Bank are supported through a \$10-million investment provided by the B.C. government. For more information and to apply, you can visit <u>HERE</u>.







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FACEBOOK GROUP







VALLEY PROMOTIONS



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SICK LEAVE FOR B.C. WORKERS

WORKERS IN THE PROVINCE WILL RECEIVE UP TO 5 PAID SICK DAYS A YEAR.

British Columbia has become the first province in Canada to legislate a minimum of five paid sick days a year for workers in the province. The legislation comes into effect on January 1st, 2022 after the province surveyed over 60,000 workers and employers to determine what the appropriate amount of permitted sick days would be.

The legislation will support both full-time and part-time employees and is in addition to the 2 days of unpaid sick leave that is provided under the Employment Standards Act. In order to be eligible for paid sick days, you must have worked with your current employer for a minimum of 90 days.



Any employee covered under the Employment Standards Act will be able to take benefit of the new legislation. The act does not cover certain types of employees including those in federally regulated sectors, self-employed or independent contractors, and professions or occupations excluded from the Employment Standards Act.

In a statement reported by <u>myeastkootenaynow.com</u>, Standard paid sick leave begins in January - My East Kootenay Now B.C. premier John Horgan sheds light on how the pandemic provided them with the chance to further support workers.

"Beginning in the new year, workers will no longer lose pay for making the responsible choice of taking a sick day. The pandemic has highlighted that when workers don't have paid sick leave, it's bad for them, it's bad for their co-workers and it's bad for their employers."

The B.C. government received a great deal of feedback from workplaces who already provide their workers with paid sick leave. The majority of them found their workers took between zero to five days off within a work year. Provincial officials analyzed how similar legislation worked elsewhere in places like Australia, New Zealand, and other European countries. They had determined the increase of cost for businesses impacted were much less than expected and worth the increase to employee productivity.



Invermere Library Christmas Silent Auction

November 20-30
Online through Fundables

New and gently-used items or gift certificates accepted until Nov. 17

Please drop donations off at the library







"LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS" DECORATING CONTEST & TOUR

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.

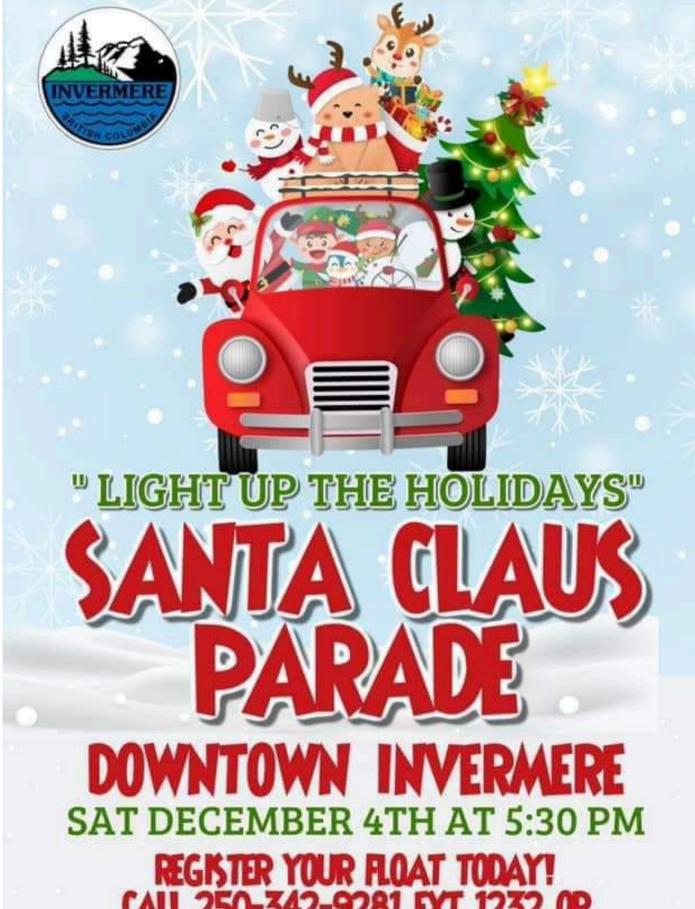
Prize \$75

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!





PARADE BEGINS AT POTHOLE PARK AND ENDS AT ARENA. MAINSTREET WILL CLOSE TO TRAFFIC AND PARKING AT 5PM.



Eight brands of Secret and Old Spice have been recalled by Health Canada.

On November 26th, Health Canada issued a recall of specific Secret and Old Spic brands of aerosol spray antiperspirants and deodorants. The cancer-causing chemical benzene was detected in the product which called for the recall affecting 1.4 million units across the country. Any items purchased between November 2019 and November 23rd 2021 are included under this recall.

Benzene is a cancer causing agent that has been shown to cause leukemia and other blood cancers. The Environmental Protection Agency has confirmed the levels found in their testing would not cause adverse health issues even with daily exposure.

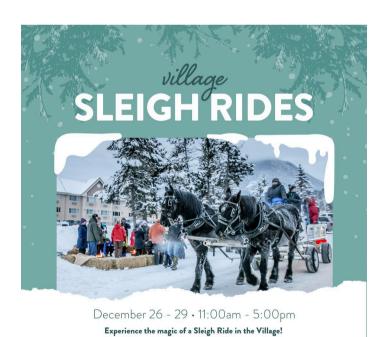
If you have any of the products listed below, Health Canada advises to stop using them and discard them then contact the company to be reimbursed.

PRODUCTS RECALL LIST

Old Spice Sweat Defense Pure Sport Plus Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Old Spice Sweat Defense Stronger Swagger Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Old Spice Sweat Defense Ultimate Captain Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Old Spice Sweat Defense Ultimate Captain Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Secret Dry Spray Lavender Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Secret Dry Spray Waterlily Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Secret Outlast Completely Clean Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g
Secret Outlast Protecting Powder Dry Spray Anti-perspirant/Deodorant; 107 g









VALLEY PROMOTIONS

21 Days of Giveaways starting December 1st!

Every purchase gets an entry for a daily gift bag from our amazing artists!



Village Arts

Over 45 artists in one location!

Shop unique work from local artists and artists from AB, BC and more!

Beautiful handcrafted items suitable for every occasion and budget

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 www.facebook.com/villagearts/
 www.instagram.com/village.arts/



VALLEY SHARES



SANTA'S COMING TO CRANBROOK!

Interior Health has given the green light for the Santa Claus Parade to commence in Cranbrook on December 11th. The parade will start at 5:30pm and the floats will travel along the route of Baker St to 12th Ave S then making their way up to 1st St S and 8th Ave S. Proof of vaccination is not required to attend though spectators are asked to keep physical distancing from others when possible.



EOC IN FERNIE

Due to the inclement weather forecasted, the City of Fernie has activated its Emergency Operations Centre. This is to support coordination and response efforts to potential hazards and safety concerns caused by weather impacts. The operations department of the city is working to protect critical infrastructure while executing their recovery phase from last week's storm. A self-serve sandbag station is located at the corner of Railway Avenue and Ridgemont Avenue.





CANDLELIGHT VIGIL HELD IN CRANBROOK

Over 50 people were in attendance at the Tim Hortons drivethru in Cranbrook the night of November 27th. A candlelight vigil was held in honour of Nolan Wiebe, the voice heard every morning through the drive-thru speaker at the Tim Hortons location. Those who were impacted by the positive spirit of Nolan Wiebe gathered in a circle to remember him. Nolan was known as a community supporter for those in need through his church and additional community work projects. The vigil was organized by Hailey Palmer, Megan Jenson, and Collin Martina Clark.



ROTARY CLUB CALENDAR

The Rotary Club of Radium has created a 24 Days of Christmas calendar (SEEN ON PAGE 6) that focuses on bringing holiday cheer to our communities leading up to Christmas. Each day focuses on reaching out through the community and follow the season of giving. There will also be another fundraiser for Radium Rotary after the Christmas season with details to follow closer to the dates.



YEARS LATER, MARVEL ULTIMATE ALLIANCE 3 IS STILL AMAZING.

Marvel Ultimate Alliance 3 was released on July 19th, 2019 for the Nintendo Switch. After a recent black Friday sale in the Nintendo eshop, yours truly finally got their hands on this game. I've played the original games in the series on Xbox and have always been a fan. Not just for the universe of Marvel but the gameplay and features that came with the franchise. I love the ability to level up my characters individually and build them to my specifications. The third installment in the franchise certainly didn't disappoint in that regard.

The game itself feels like a reboot instead of a continuation of the franchise. The story centers around heroes and villains banding together to capture the Infinity Stones scattered across the universe. If you've been following the MCU movies, you know exactly how this story is going to go. Throughout your journey many villains want to get their hands on the Infinity Stones, though only one villain matters and that's Thanos and the Black Order.



While the game doesn't add many new features or functionality from it's predecessors, it does provide us with new game modes and a level cap of 300 for all characters. Providing hundreds of hours of gameplay in the Marvel universe. The story mode itself is about 12 hours if you play casually, though once you're done two additional story modes unlock at higher difficulties. The better the challenge, the higher the levels your characters receive.

There's an Infinity mode which is where you'll be the majority of the time, grinding your characters. Theses are level-based challenge trials that also provide rewards with each completion, including XP cubes that allow you to level up your characters faster. If you purchase the DLC expansion pass, not only will you unlock a plethora of new characters, you also receive Gauntlet and Danger Room modes. In the Gauntlet, you're tasked with specific challenges in order to complete and once you do, you can grind that Gauntlet in a survival style mode to keep levelling up your characters. In the Danger Room, you get to take part in a variety of training simulations to level up your characters.

Overall, the game plays great on a handheld and was definitely designed for it. It would be great if the next installment came to console as well to expand the capabilities of the game. Even though I was lucky enough to purchase this on sale, the game is definitely worth the full price.

JOSH GRIEVE



Just Doesn't Learn

My husband was driving home from work when he was pulled over for not wearing a seat belt.

Two days later—same ticket, same cop. "So," the officer said, "have you learned anything?"

"Yes, I have," said my husband. "I've learned I need to take a different way home from work."



Can I Trade?

I asked my brother-in-law, the father of four boys, "If you had to do it all over again, would you still have kids?"

"Yes," he said. "Just not these four."



Vague Announcements

Heard over the plant's paging system: "Will John Porter please return to where you were before you went where you are."



English is Tricky

"Give me a sentence about a public servant," the teacher instructed her second-grade student.

"The fireman came down the ladder pregnant," he answered.

"Umm ... Do you know what pregnant means?"

"Yes," said the boy. "It means carrying a child."

A LITTLE FUN

Across

1- Pack animal: 4- Ezio Pinza, for one: 9-HOMES, e.g.; 14- Fur scarf; 15- The Hunter; 16- Great Lakes tribesmen: 17- Permissible: 19- Dressed to the ; 20- Prophets; 21-They get high twice a day; 23- Being, to Brutus; 24- Headgear of a monarch; 27- Did the butterfly; 30- Negative electrode; 32-Carry a balance; 33- Produces milk; 37- Draw a bead on; 39- Austrian composer; 40- Armed conflict; 42- Irish Rose; 43- Inventor of the gramophone; 44- Rat-a-___; 45- Values highly: 48- Be up and about: 50- Warming drink; 51- Cure, in a way; 55- Managed; 57-Boring tool: 58- Put together: 60- Airport: 64-Sharp-edged instrument: 65- Commerce: 66-Frat letters; 67- Like helium; 68- Lets up; 69-Decade divs.:

Down

1- Put down; 2- Mends a shoe; 3- Type of pitch; 4- Bends downward; 5- First name in Notre Dame football; 6- Bro or sis; 7- Impresario Hurok; 8- Ring combo; 9- Give for a while; 10- Spring sign; 11- Female relative; 12- Extra-wide shoe size; 13- Draft org.; 18-

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Mined mineral; 22- Neither Rep. nor Dem.; 24- Members of the Felidae family; 25- Hwys.; 26- Cries of surprise; 28- Alert; 29- Unit just above a yard; 30- Bring about; 31- Viscounts' superiors; 33- Atty.-to-be exams; 34- No longer on deck; 35- Find fault with; 36- ____-Bo; 38- ____ were you...; 40- Garden intruder; 41- Military force; 43- Night spot; 46- ____-Foy, Quebec; 47- So far; 49- Helicopter part; 51- Big ____, Calif.; 52- Prolonged pain; 53- Ring-tailed primate; 54- Head lock; 56- Chipper; 57- Citrus quenchers; 58- Mentalist Geller; 59- Photographer Goldin; 61- Chapter in history; 62- ____ Tafari (Haile Selassie); 63- Lyric tribute;

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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*

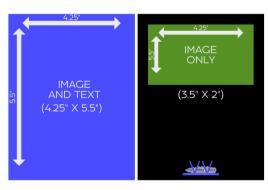
FOR A FULL-PAGE PLACEMENT

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 full-page 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?

Email us at news@thevoicecv.ca