

# The Valley Voice

*The Voices of the Columbia Valley*



Jen Bewski  
PHOTOGRAPHER

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

### K-12 RETURN TO SCHOOL

Students have returned to in-class learning environments.

### FUNDS FOR FARMERS MARKETS

British Columbia is ensuring residents have emergency access to food.

### WILDLIFE MAY BE FOOD CONDITIONED

A black bear was spotted in -25 degree weather.

### HORROR GAMING DONE RIGHT

Resident Evil: Biohazard can stand against the best of them. Worth playing.



Jessie Blakley  
PHOTOGRAPHER

## LETTER FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

---

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

For many this is a time for new beginnings and resolutions. Over at the Valley Voice camp, we have a lot of exciting things to roll out for you this year. We're keeping tight lipped about them for now but stay tuned because they're going to be amazing.

One of the things our volunteers want to do is feature more non-profit organizations and the people who do amazing things for our communities. The positive impact these organizations and people have are important

to our communities and a light deserves to be shined on them.

We will be reaching out to non-profits over the coming weeks, though we would love to hear from our readers of any people and organizations who are doing good in the community. We want to feature the positive impacts they have in our community, so send us an e-mail and let us know.

The VVV



Anonymous  
PHOTOGRAPHER

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 04 K-12 RETURN TO SCHOOL

Students have returned to in-class learning environments.

## 08 FUNDS FOR FARMERS MARKETS

British Columbia is ensuring residents have emergency access to food.

## 10 WILDLIFE MAY BE FOOD CONDITIONED

A black bear was spotted in -25 degree weather.

## 14 NEWS BITES

Bite sized news snacks from around the community.

## 16 HORROR GAMING DONE RIGHT

Resident Evil: Biohazard can stand against the best of them. Worth playing.

## 18 B.C. HOME OWNER'S GRANT OPEN

92% of residential properties will be covered by the grant.

### 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](mailto:news@thevoiceca.ca)



# K-12 Return to School

---

Students have returned to in-class learning environments.

Despite the risk of the highly-transmissible Omicron variant, B.C. government officials have announced students across the province will return to in-class learning environments. Students returned to enhanced safety measures in place at schools which include break times being staggered, virtual assemblies, and restrictions on visitors. Three-layered masks will also be accessible to schools.

Staff and students are being asked by the provincial government to pay close attention to their health. Should they show any symptoms or signs of illness, staying home would be the best course of action. Communication between parents and schools on the spread of COVID-19 will also be adjusted. In a statement reported by [myeastkootenaynow.com](https://myeastkootenaynow.com), Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside had the following comments.

“Schools will be monitoring attendance closely and notify public health and the school community if attendance dips notably below

typical rates for this time of year,” explained Whiteside. “That will trigger a response from public health, which may include an investigation and rapid testing to get a better understanding of what’s going on on the ground.”

In response, the president of the B.C. Teachers Federation Terri Mooring, held a news conference to express frustrations towards the lack of protection being provided by the government. She mentioned the importance of avoiding school closures and the frustrations from the union surrounding the layers of protection available. Mooring wants the province to make N95 masks accessible to students and staff, upon request. She also calls for booster dose prioritization for teachers and more support towards getting students vaccinated.

Schools will also no longer be responsible to report individual COVID-19 cases for contact tracing. Instead, health authorities will only be



## Rapid Testing

B.C. Health Officials are facing calls from across the province to make rapid testing more accessible. With students returning to school, improving the accessibility of rapid testing could help keep protect families and educators. Rapid tests are expected to arrive in the province at the end of next week which would then be distributed accordingly. Symptomatic school staff will receive accessibility first with support for families and children to follow. The rapid tests already received by the province have been assigned to long-term care facilities for health workers currently assigned there along with remote Indigenous communities.

## Health Order in Place

The province has announced 349 people are hospitalized with COVID-19 while nine have died from the disease. Currently, 23.9% of COVID-19 tests in the province have come back positive which is above the 5% test-positivity rate, which indicates a concerning level of community transmission. The Omicron variant is rapidly spreading with a total of 3,144 new cases being reported and impacting testing capacity in the province.

In the wake of Omicron's rapid spread, business owners across the province are now being ordered to re-activate their COVID-19 safety plans in response to the spread of Omicron. B.C. employers are required to have approved health and safety protocols implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This order requires employers to minimize the risk of COVID-19 to staff and customers through physical barriers, capacity limits indoors, etc.

**"Schools will be monitoring attendance closely and notify public health and the school community if attendance dips notably below typical rates for this time of year."**



*© Edicale Photography*



   
#MSVillas

## *Mountainside 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](http://www.mountainsidevillas.com)

# VALLEY PROMOTIONS

# Journey



## Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

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 @ [journeybjj2020@gmail.com](mailto:journeybjj2020@gmail.com)

phone @ 250-421-7886

Facebook @ [Journey Brazilian Jiu Jitsu](#)

Instagram @ [journeybrazilianjiujitsu](#)

SERVICE YOU CAN COUNT ON



- Security Systems • Audio/Video
- Internet and Wifi
- Home Automation

**RFEALARMS.COM (250) 342-6549**

**BK Designz**  
 Custom Steelwork and Laser Cut & Engraved Items

Brian (250) 342-5959 Kari (250) 688-3474  
[www.linktr.ee/BKDESIGNZ](http://www.linktr.ee/BKDESIGNZ)

Custom Furniture, Address Signs, Metal Bird Tree Art, Lasered Steel panels

**CORDILLERA  
FIRE PROTECTION**

**INSPECTION, TESTING & MAINTENANCE**

We provide you with pieces of equipment and training to help protect you, your loved ones, employees, and your investments from dangerous fires.

For more information please call/email  
 250.409.7233  
[admin@corfirepro.ca](mailto:admin@corfirepro.ca)  
[www.corfirepro.ca](http://www.corfirepro.ca)



# Funds for Farmers

British Columbia is ensuring residents have emergency access to food.

The provincial government is providing farmer's markets with funding to help them operate during emergency situations. This is to ensure residents across the province have access to food in the event of an emergency. With the events last year including wildfires and floods taking out roads and highways, this is a much-welcomed relief for many communities across the province.

Eligible applicants include non-profit groups, co-operatives, corporations, local governments, and First Nations farmers market operators that primarily sell food and beverage products from British Columbia. Applicants who are eligible will receive up to \$15,000 each and can be used towards signs, merchandising, storage, transportation, power, and other operating costs.

The funding is a one-time, cost-shared, reimbursement-based program delivered through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, in collaboration with the BC Association of Farmers' Markets. It will help markets come back stronger from their pre-pandemic

operating levels, set a strong foundation for future growth and long-term success, and support efforts to strengthen B.C.'s food security. In a [press release by the B.C. government](#), B.C. Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham had the following comments.

"This new program funding will help ensure farmers' markets can stay open and operate during emergencies so British Columbians can access the foods they count on," said Lana Popham, B.C.'s Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. "Through the pandemic and extreme weather events the province has seen over the last year and a half, the importance of local food has never been greater. Markets will be able to grow and welcome more vendors while keeping everyone healthy and safe."

Applications are being taken by the provincial government on a first-come, first-served basis and can be filed [HERE](#). Deadline for submitting applications is January 28th at 12:00pm.

# EDGEWATER

## Youth Hockey @ Frank's Rink

**MONDAYS 3:00PM – 6:00PM GRADES 4 – 12**

**Helmets Required**



- + All Skill Levels
- + Hot chocolate
- + Music
- + Snacks
- + Just For Fun



**MONDAYS – MONDAYS – MONDAYS – MONDAYS – MONDAYS – MONDAYS**

# Wildlife May Be Food Conditioned

---

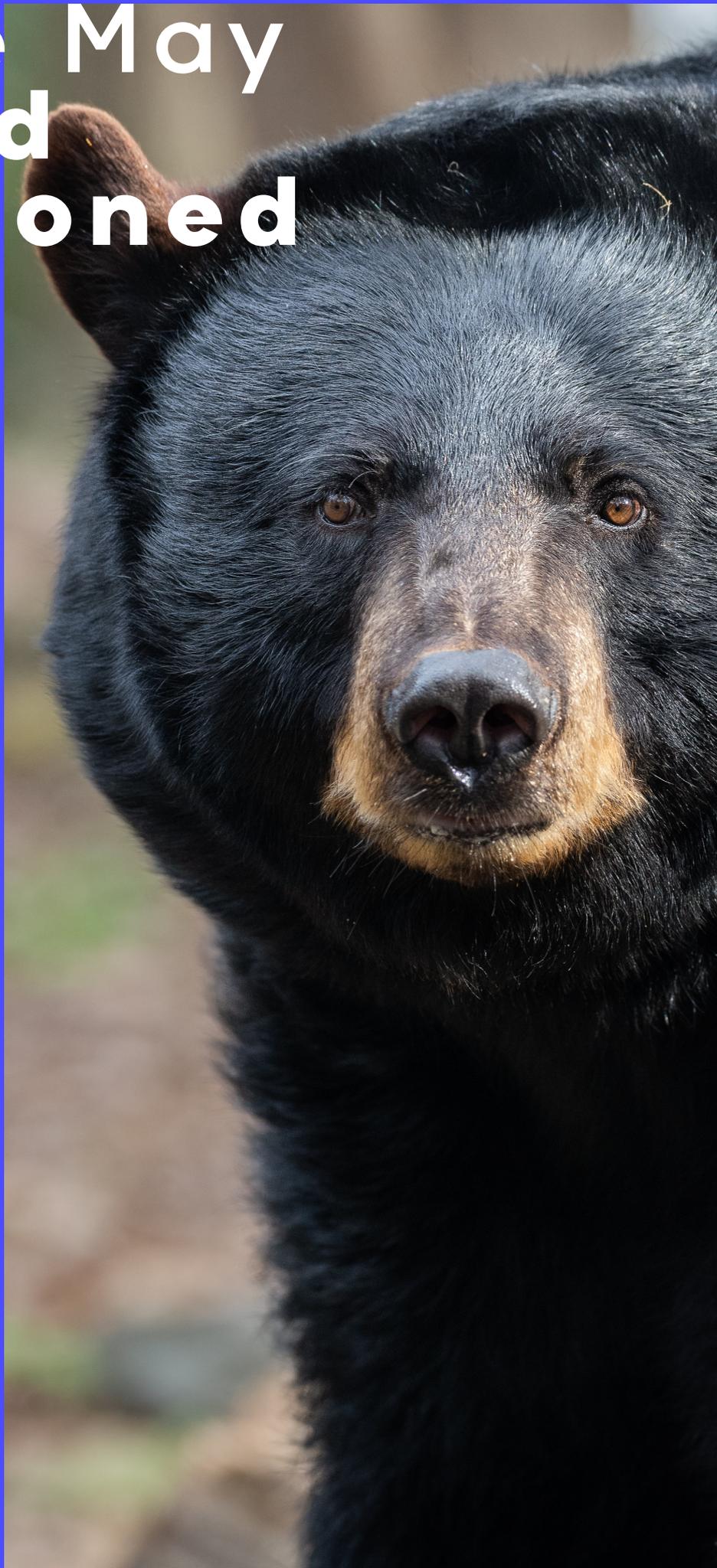
**A black bear was spotted in -25 degree weather.**

Bears are normally hibernating during the winter season and are not seen roaming around, especially during these frozen temperatures. Though, a black bear was seen in Kimberley last week in -25 degree Celsius temperatures. WildSafeBC claims this may be a sign the bear is food conditioned which is why they are venturing out of hibernation.

A black bear was first spotted on December 28th in Kimberley wandering around the front yard of a resident. WildSafeBC also reported a black bear being spotted by the Conservation Officer Service the same day.

If you have a concern regarding a bear during the winter time, it is best to contact the Conservation Officer Service and do the following.

- Don't try to approach, capture, or feed the bear. This may cause them to become habituated with you which is the opposite of what you want.
- Report the sighting to the RAPP line (1-877-952-7277) so the Conservation Officer Service has all the information on whereabouts to respond.
- Provide as much information on the size and behaviour of the bear as possible.



radium hot springs  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you want to be more involved in your community?

Are you passionate about libraries?

*Apply to become a Library  
Board Trustee!*



**We have two vacant trustee positions**

**Eligibility:**

- Must be a resident or elector of the Village of Radium Hot Springs
- Must be willing to attend trustee training and information sessions

The successful candidates should possess a strong sense of community service, a willingness to work respectfully as part of a team, have strong communication skills, and be a library advocate.

**Application Deadline: January 14, 2021**

Email [info@radium.bclibrary.ca](mailto:info@radium.bclibrary.ca) or visit the library to pick up an application package.

Submit applications to: [jill.logan@radiumhotsprings.ca](mailto:jill.logan@radiumhotsprings.ca)



### CNC By Design

You dream it, we will build it.  
All products are custom made to order  
Brian Daviduke (250) 342-5959

DIGITAL MARKETING EXPERTS OF THE COLUMBIA VALLEY

## HELPING YOU BUILD A BETTER ONLINE BUSINESS

\* Branding \* Social Media \* Graphic Design  
\* Web Development \* Digital Marketing \*

778-523-5006

BRANDSCRUBBERS.COM



# Story Time

with the Invermere Library

Fridays at 10:45 am

Columbia Valley Centre Hall



Join us for stories, songs and a take-home craft!  
Geared towards preschool age but all welcome!  
Please bring a blanket to sit on  
& masks are required for all ages 12+



250-342-6416

publiclibrary@invermere.net  
invermere.bc.libraries.coop

# LIBRARY OPEN LATE

Wednesdays & Thursdays

10 am-8 pm

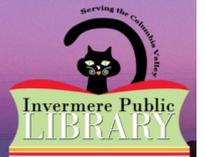
Mon, Tues, Fri: 10-5

Sat: 10-2

Sun: Closed

250-342-6416  
publiclibrary@invermere.net

invermere.bc.libraries.coop



# VALLEY PROMOTIONS



# Family Storytime



**NOW INDOORS!  
SATURDAYS @ 11:00AM**



**TOTAL CARE**  
— CABIN AND BOAT SERVICES —

**SPOTS ARE FILLING QUICKLY!**  
Secure your secure indoor boat storage with Total Care Ltd.



Located 5 minutes from the Invermere boat launch.

www.totalcareltd.ca • 403-650-4213 • totalcaresteve@gmail.com



**AFTER-SCHOOL DROP-IN**

<b>TUES.</b> 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	<b>WED.</b> 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	<b>THUR.</b> 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	<b>FRI.</b> 1:00PM TO 8:00PM
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

<b>FREE FOOD</b>	<b>Upstairs Hang Out</b>	<b>Outdoor Chill Zone</b>	<b>Friday Skate Night</b>
<b>Virtual Reality</b>	<b>Music Room</b>	<b>Gaming Computers</b>	

**STRICTLY ENFORCED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN PLACE  
\*\*MASKS MANDATORY\*\***



LIFE IS BETTER AT THE CABIN

## Cabin Cannabis

Visit us on Wednesday's and mention "Weed Wednesday" for 10% off your purchase.

Visit us at 4992 Frontage Rd, Fairmont BC



# NEWS BITES

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

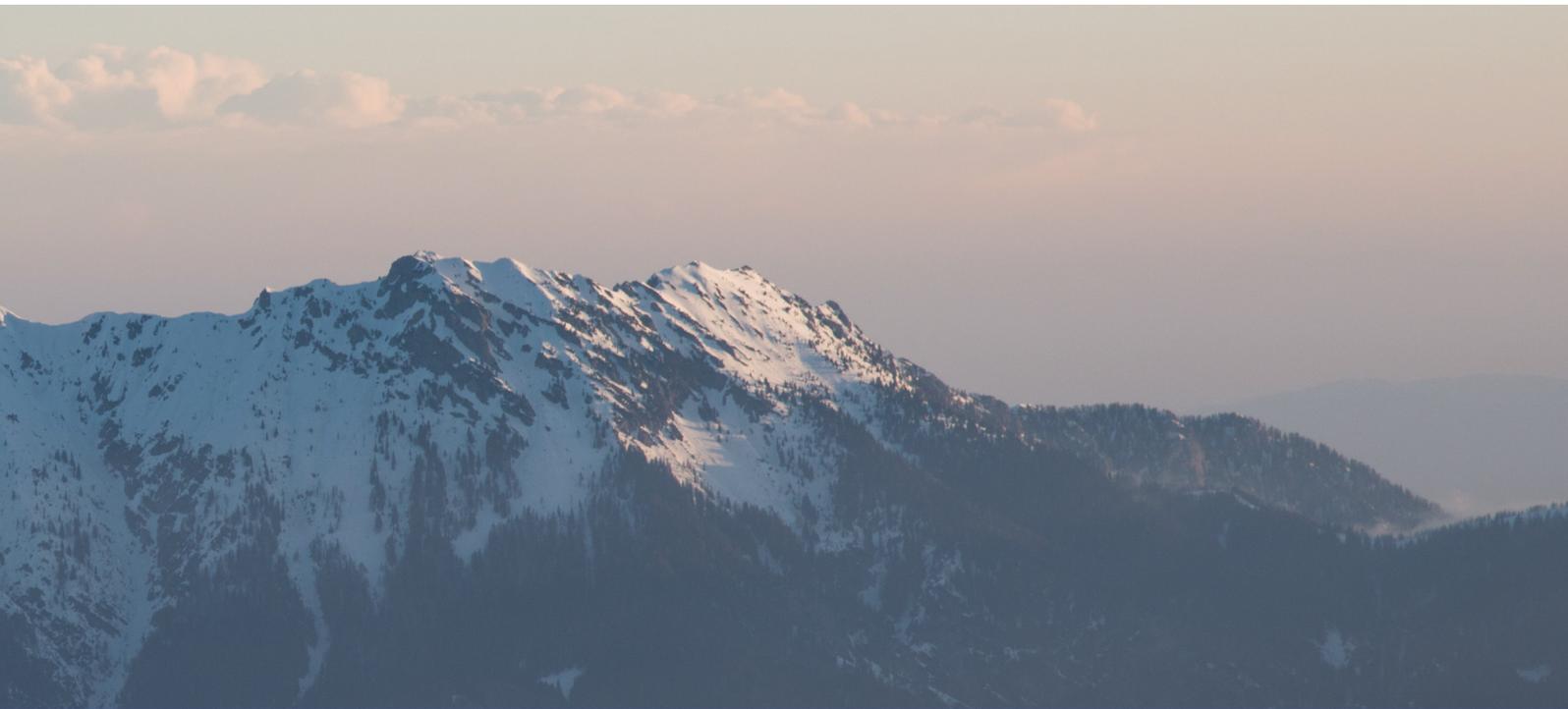
The Kootenays ended the year with a dip to the unemployment rate by 0.6% from the previous year, 2020. 74,000 people were working and 4,700 people were looking for employment last month out of a total population of 139,800.



## CRANBROOK REMINDS RESIDENTS TO CLEAR SNOW

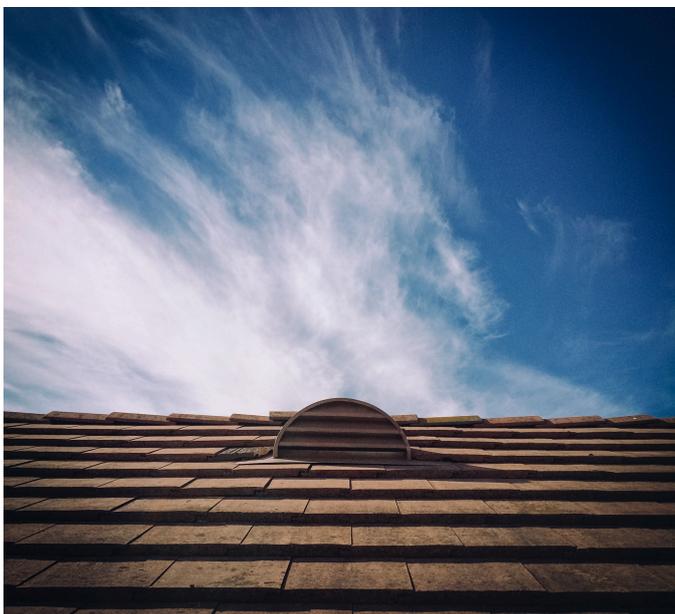
The City of Cranbrook is reminding residents that snow is required to be cleared from sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall. There has been challenges in where property owners will put the snow due to the exceptional amount the community has experienced. The city recommends residents pile the snow onto an area of their property.





## CLEAR YOUR EXHAUSTS

Sparwood Fire Department recently responded to a call for a Carbon Monoxide alarm inside a home. The fire department is urging residents to ensure their in-home exhaust vents are cleared of any snow, ice, or other obstructions/debris. These can cause a blockage in your vent, causing Carbon Monoxide to leak into your home.



## ARSON IN KIMBERLEY

RCMP responded to a fire on December 18th, 2021 at the Kimberley Alpine Resort. The fire had engulfed the operators hut at the top of Northstar Quad and has been deemed arson. RCMP officials said investigators are continuing to work on the case, and anyone who may have information can contact the Kimberley RCMP at 250-427-4811.



# Horror Gaming Done Right

Resident Evil: Biohazard can stand against the best of them. Worth playing.

---

This year I am on a quest to actually complete games. I've hopped around way too many games and never actually completed them. After the depressing adventure that is called Cyberpunk 2077, I figured I'd dive head first into another intense adventure, though in a different way.

I started playing Resident Evil: Biohazard and didn't stop for 4 straight hours. I didn't even realize that much time had passed, yet it had. The game has all the elements you know and love about Resident Evil with a completely new twist on the game. Instead of fighting some corporation who unleashed a virus of mutating zombies into the world, you're thrust into a supernatural world that is reminiscent of Texas Chainsaw Massacre.





Sometimes that makes for an interesting backdrop, especially as you begin to trace the residents of the Dulvey Mansion's descent into savagery and uncover the way it's manifested in their domestic life. Traces of humanity aren't hard to find behind all the locked doors: old photographs, trophies for academic achievement, a discarded football helmet. Compared to the cold, medieval interior of the still-beloved Spencer Mansion, the Baker household actually feels like a lived-in space rather than a grandiose maze of traps and hidden laboratories, which is an interesting and more intimate change of scenery that focuses on something that the series has never fully explored before.

The environment, gameplay, and thrills are worth it for any horror gamer. You start off chasing ghosts and end up uncovering a tragic mystery that only leads to more thrills and horrific uncoverings. While I haven't completed the game yet, I'm chomping at the bit to get back into that house. I recommend this game to any horror or Resident Evil fan. Average completion looks to be 10-15 hours which is perfect for a short break between games.

## JOSH GRIEVE

Gamer and Author

---



# B.C. Home Owner's Grant

92% of residential properties will be covered by the grant.

The B.C. Home Owner Grant is for homeowners in northern or rural areas of the province that lowers the amount of property taxes people need to pay on their primary residence. The grant has a total of \$1,975 available and can be as much as \$770 to \$1,045 for seniors or those with a disability.

The grant is reduced by \$5 for every \$1,000 of assessed value above the threshold. Low-income seniors, veterans and people with disabilities who lose some or all of their grant due to the high value of their homes can apply separately for a low-income grant supplement that can replace any grant amount lost due to the threshold.

Those who would like to apply for the Home Owner Grant can do so through the [B.C. government website](#). You can also receive help by calling 1-800-663-7867 or by visiting a ServiceBC Centre.

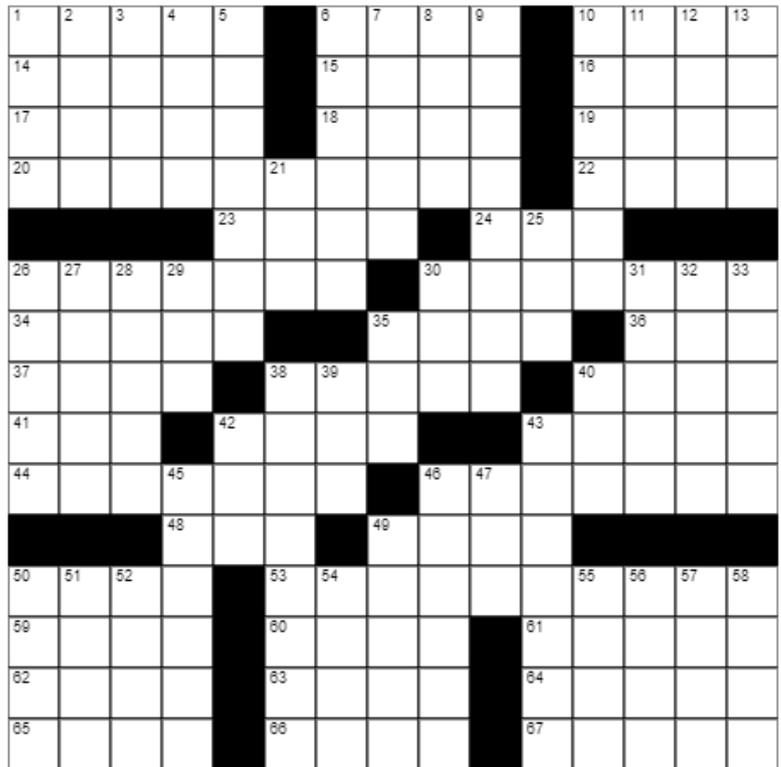
It's recommended to apply for the grant in May once homeowners have received their BC Assessment notice and municipal property tax notice. In order to complete your application, assessment roll and jurisdiction numbers will be required. For homeowners 55+ or financially supporting a dependent child, you may also be eligible for property tax deferral.



# A LITTLE FUN

**Across**

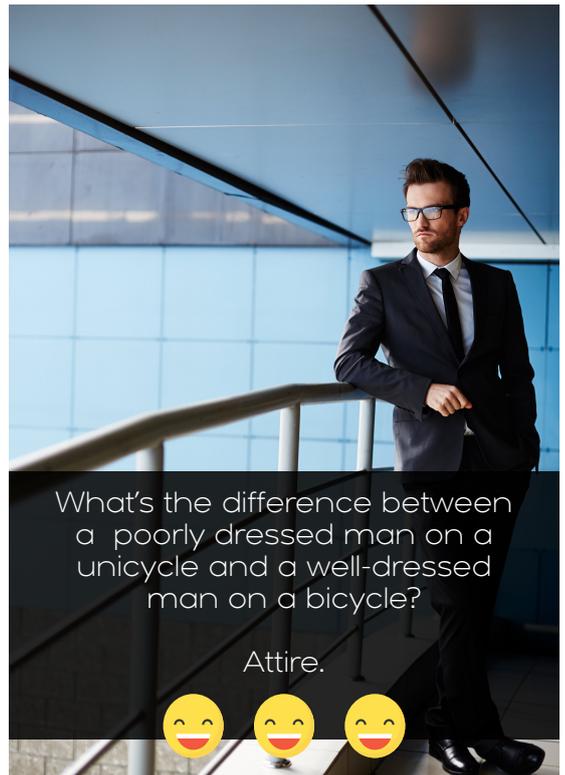
1- Flax refuse; 6- Scrutinize; 10- Buddy; 14- Maker of Pong; 15- Mandlikova of tennis; 16- Arizona Native American; 17- Shakespearean sprite; 18- Queue after Q; 19- Very much; 20- nflammation of the gums; 22- Fast time; 23- Motion picture; 24- Compass pt.; 26- Remove obstruction from; 30- Pan-fried; 34- Claw; 35- Env. notation; 36- Heston's org.; 37- Langston Hughes poem; 38- Specimen of genus Aquila; 40- Med school subj.; 41- PC linkup; 42- Teen spots?; 43- Employ again; 44- On in years; 46- Distinct sort or kind; 48- \_\_\_ dreaming?; 49- Really moved; 50- Farrow and Hamm; 53- Patrician rank; 59- Limerick language; 60- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...; 61- Scheduled; 62- Island of Hawaii; 63- Inwardly; 64- \_\_\_ of Two Cities; 65- Cry; 66- Billiard implements; 67- Fields of comedy;



**Down**

1- Dutch name of The Hague; 2- Longfellow's bell town; 3- Drops from the sky; 4- Remnant; 5- Nonmetallic element; 6- Contract; 7- Class of Indian society; 8- Against; 9- Sicken; 10- Ski lodge; 11- Gap; 12- Atop; 13- Baseball glove; 21- Singer Damone; 25- Sky light; 26- Functional; 27- Birth-related; 28- Light-colored hair; 29- Elton's ohn; 30- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 31- World-weariness; 32- Clear the boards; 33- Palm fruits; 35- Get on; 38- Like the moon in the earth's shadow; 39- \_\_\_ port in a storm; 40- Former nuclear agcy.; 42- Branch; 43- British soldier; 45- Relax; 46- Squirts; 47- Architect I.M.; 49- Inscribed pillar; 50- Feline line; 51- Dies \_\_\_; 52- Tennis great Arthur; 54- Hokkaido native; 55- Enthusiastic about; 56- Rat-\_\_\_; 57- Anklebones; 58- Fencing sword;

5	6					7	
			5		9	2	4
2		4		8		5	
		2	8	9		7	3
	5		3		2	1	
	3	8		7	5	6	
	9			5		4	1
7	8		9		4		
	2					9	7



# 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 businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs are welcome to submit a business ad for free. \*Ads must be refreshed periodically. Once an add is out of date or stale, we will remove it.\*

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:news@thevoicecv.ca)

### Business Ad Sizing Rules

IMAGE AND TEXT	IMAGE ONLY
<small>If you have a completed ad that you are submitting, use the image and text sizing below, 4.25"x5.5"</small>	<small>If you are submitting image with separate word copy, use the image only sizing below, 3.5"x2", with the understanding the copy will be sized to fit the remainder.</small>

## 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.

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
[thevoicecv.ca](http://thevoicecv.ca)

**VISIT US ON SOCIAL**  
[@thevoicecv](https://www.instagram.com/thevoicecv)