

The Valley Voice

The Voices of the Columbia Valley



Let's Ride BC
[@Letsridebc](#)
 PHOTOGRAPHER

INSIDE THIS EDITION

COVID-19 PRESCRIPTION

Health Canada has approved use of an antiviral prescription for COVID-19 treatments.

PANDEMIC IMPACTS STAFFING

City of Cranbrook experiences staffing challenges.

A BOOST FOR TOURISM

Provincial aid is coming for the tourism industry.

DRUG-POISONING PREVENTION

Funding is coming for drug-poisoning prevention in the trades industry.



Kevin Hiscott
PHOTOGRAPHER

LETTER FROM THE **VOLUNTEERS**

We're a bunch of volunteers who are not afraid to speak our mind. If there's something happening that we don't feel is right, we're going to talk about it. The only way you can spark change in your communities is by making the issues and challenges a topic of conversation.

What's on your mind? Your our readers and what you think matters to us the most. Is there something happening in your community that you want to talk about? Perhaps something you may want to have looked into? We want to hear about it.

Our team of investigative journalists are combing the community for issues and challenges our residents are facing. We want to get the spotlight on helping others and making sure we continue to live in the growing, positive community we've come to know and love.

Your voice matters.



Jessie Blakley
PHOTOGRAPHER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 COVID-19 PRESCRIPTION

Health Canada has approved use of an antiviral prescription for COVID-19 treatments.

08 PANDEMIC IMPACTS STAFFING

City of Cranbrook experiences staffing challenges.

10 PROVINCE BACKS MENTAL HEALTH

Better support for crisis lines is coming from the provincial government.

12 A BOOST FOR TOURISM

Provincial aid is coming for the tourism industry.

14 DRUG-POISONING PREVENTION

Funding is coming for drug-poisoning prevention in the trades industry.

20 GOODBYE MINECRAFT, HELLO CONAN

The next generation of building already arrived.

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



No drug, including Paxlovid, is a substitute for vaccination, when it comes to reducing the risk of hospitalization.

COVID-19 Prescription

Health Canada has approved use of an antiviral prescription for COVID-19 treatments.

On January 17th, authorization was provided by Health Canada for use of Pfizer's COVID-19 antiviral treatment Paxlovid. This treatment is the first prescription medication to be cleared for COVID-19 in this country that can be used orally and at-home. The medication has been provided to adults over the age of 18 to treat mild and moderate cases of COVID-19 once a positive test is confirmed.

Paxlovid has been authorized for use in specific situations such as preventing COVID-19 infections or treating patients who are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19. It also can only be taken for five days in a row and cannot be given to anyone under the age of 18.

In a [statement reported by CTV](#), Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Supriya Sharma discusses the authorization of the new drug and speaks on whether it can be a substitute for vaccinations, "The authorization today provides a new tool

the toolkit against COVID-19 at a crucial time the pandemic as we're faced with new variants. Importantly, it is a more accessible antiviral treatment for those at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19. No drug, including Paxlovid, is a substitute for vaccination, when it comes to reducing the risk of hospitalization."

Previous medications that have been authorized in the fight against COVID-19 have been provided in clinical settings. This is the first of its kind to be provided for Canadians to take at-home. The federal government is getting pressure from provinces to rollout the medication and it was announced that 30,400 full treatments have arrived in the country and will be distributed this week. CBC also reported a statement from Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam who cited there is a "limited global supply" of the medication and stressed to provinces and territories to set guidelines on treatment.



Increased Clinic Capacity

Alongside this new medication, Interior Health is expanding clinic capacity for COVID-19 immunization clinics to make receiving booster doses easier. Clinics will be extending their hours of operation which in turn will provide the ability for more appointments to be booked. Clinics in Cranbrook will be opening later this month. Booster doses are only available by appointment only and can be booked once receiving the invite via SMS or e-mail. Invitations are received six months after the date of your second dose.

Omicron to Peak

The federal government is forecasting several intense weeks of COVID-19 across the country as Omicron continues to spread. Despite being less severe than Delta, the variant has shown to be more transmissible and has surpassed the amount of activity of any other variant. Since the last modeling by the federal government, COVID-19 related hospitalizations have reached close to 7,000 a day with almost 900 of those being critical. The country expects a daily case count of 170,000 come February.

“Previous medications that have been authorized in the fight against COVID-19 have been provided in clinical settings. This is the first of its kind to be provided for Canadians to take at-home.”



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

TUES. 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	WED. 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	THUR. 3:00PM TO 8:00PM	FRI. 1:00PM TO 8:00PM
----------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------

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

**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



Pandemic Impacts Staffing

City of Cranbrook experiences staffing challenges.

Businesses have experienced many challenges in the wake of COVID-19. Outside of the temporary shutdowns, there's also the aspect of having staff who may become exposed to the virus. The City of Cranbrook cites they are experiencing staffing challenges due to COVID-19 and service disruptions can be expected.

Staff at the City of Cranbrook continue to work towards ensuring access to classes and programming are available at the aquatic centre and arenas. Though with the mandates constantly changing and staffing being impacted, there's no confirmation on how long they will remain operational.



In a statement [reported by myeastkootenaynow.com](https://myeastkootenaynow.com) City of Cranbrook experiencing staffing shortage - My East Kootenay Now Mark Fercho, CAO of the City of Cranbrook thanked their staff and ensures residents there are protocols in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“COVID illness in our staff team has reduced our operational capabilities. Thank you to our remaining staff for working extra hours and changing duties to meet service needs when key roles are vacated. Residents should know that we have protocols to limit the impacts and spread of illness within our workforce to continue delivering essential services at

reduced levels.”

If you need to visit any of the City of Cranbrook office facilities, they are open for payments, licenses, and applications at City Hall. Guidelines have been provided by the City of Cranbrook for anyone who is visiting their office facilities.

If you have underlying medical conditions, it is recommended that you do not visit our municipal hall or facilities.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, which primarily displays as a persistent cough, will not be permitted on the premises. If you are sick, stay home.

If you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or you live in a household where someone is showing symptoms of COVID-19, stay home.

Physical distancing is always required (minimum of two meters). Failure to observe physical distancing risks the closure of the facility, and as such, you will be asked to leave the premises.

We ask that any financial transactions be conducted electronically and not in cash.



Cranbrook Townsman
PHOTO CREDIT

M₃ E₁ N₁ T₁ A₁ L₁

H₄ E₁ A₁ L₁ T₁ H₄

Province Backs Mental Health

Better support for crisis lines is coming from the provincial government.

Crisis line services in British Columbia will be enhanced to provide better services to residents. The government plans to enhance services to include additional responders on the crisis lines, improve their recruitment and retention, and upgrade and standardize their training for call responders. The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) will be overseeing crisis line services and will be a direct liaison with crisis line providers through the Crisis Line Enhancement Project.

The province of British Columbia is providing an additional \$2.35 million in funding per year towards crisis lines which is close to double the province's investment in the service currently. Crisis line services will continue as they are currently with the PHSA working over the coming months to transition towards a single service contract for each health authority.

Since July 2020, over \$1.6 million has been provided towards crisis line services in support of improving capacity during the pandemic. These funds were used towards increasing capacity and enhancing technology being utilize by call responders to improve the service they can provide. PHSA will officially take over crisis lines as of spring 2022 and will be working towards new contracts with service providers come fall of 2022.



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



A Boost for Tourism

Provincial aid is coming for the tourism industry.

Accommodation providers and tourism operators who hold tenure and BC Parks permits have access to grants dedicated to alleviate fixed-cost pressures caused by the effects of the pandemic. The funding is being provided through the Tourism Accommodation and Commercial Recreation Relief Fund and will support businesses by offsetting fixed costs. Eligible operators can receive support for property taxes, utilities, and operating costs.

Up to \$15 million in funds will be provided towards B.C. owned large accommodation providers who employ 150 people or more, Indigenous owned large accommodation

properties who employ 100 people or more and located on a reserve, and those who have tenure and BC Parks permits to operate as tourism businesses.

Large accommodation providers with 150 or more employees can receive up to 25% of their property taxes funded up to a maximum of \$500,000. Indigenous-owned large accommodation providers on reserve can receive 100% of their BC Hydro fees funded up to a maximum of \$200,000. Commercial recreation businesses with tenure or BC Parks permits can receive 100% funding up to a maximum of \$200,000.

The support comes as a recommendation from the Tourism Task Force which identified financial support was needed in the tourism industry for fixed costs. As public-health measures restricted travel and gatherings, the tourism industry was among the most impacted. The support is intended to ensure viability in the sector throughout 2022.

To learn more about the program or apply for the grant, [visit the Province of British Columbia website Tourism Accommodation and Commercial Recreation Relief Fund - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#). Application intake is open between January 14th, 2022 and February 14th, 2022.



Columbia Valley Interact Club



David Thompson Secondary School

Merritt K – 7 Elementary School Disaster Relief Project



It came to the attention of the Sunrise Rotary Club of Radium through the Columbia Valley Interact Club and the David Thompson Secondary School student council that they would like to get involved in helping this school get back on their feet and try to salvage the school year for these young learners.

The school library was severely damaged and the school is in urgent need of books, toys, pens, paper, pencils, storage bins and other learning aids. The organizing students would like to be able to present the items with a trip to Merritt to personally drop off the items to the school.

Deadline To Drop Off Items: **Feb 15th**

Radium Drop-Off Location : Canfor Mill Main Office - 4685 Forsters Landing Road

Radium Drop-Off Times: 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Mon- Fri)

The students will also be reaching out through other social media to provide information as to drop off locations in Invermere.

Radium Hot Springs
Rotary
Club



Drug-Poisoning Prevention

Funding is coming for drug-poisoning prevention in the trades industry.

The number of deaths from drug toxicity across the province continues to climb. In response, the provincial government is providing \$1 million in funding towards drug-poisoning prevention in the trades industry. Recent comments from Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions cited that those who work in the trades make up a significant portion of those dying from the toxic drug crisis, as [reported in my eastkootenaynow.com](http://reported.in.my.eastkootenaynow.com).

In the same report, Malcolmson comments on the tragic rate at which drug toxicity deaths continue to increase.

“The toxic drug crisis continues to take lives at a tragic rate. In cases where we know where someone worked, nearly 20 per cent of those who died worked in trades, transport or as equipment operators.”

The provincial grant was received by Vancouver Island Construction Association who will be expanding their Tailgate Toolkit project. The association is intending to reduce stigma associated with substance use and raise awareness surrounding new and alternative pathways to treatment. Their support includes mental-health first aid, naloxone training, and pain management.





NALOXONE

SAVE A LIFE

How to Use Naloxone

<p>1</p>  <p>Flip off the cap to reveal latex seal</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Turn vial upside down. Pull plunger to draw up liquid</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Inject into muscle Press plunger all the way down to trigger safety (retraction)</p>
 <p>Tap ampoule to send all liquid to the bottom</p>  <p>Push top away from you to snap open the ampoule</p>	 <p>Pull plunger to draw up liquid</p>	 <p>Inject into muscle Press plunger all the way down to trigger safety (retraction)</p>
 <p>Peel the package open and hold the device. Do not press until ready to give naloxone.</p>	 <p>Place the tip in the nostril</p>	 <p>Press firmly</p>

bcpharmacists.org/naloxone

applications open!



KINDNESS

matters

Kindness Microgrants

Supporting grassroots community kindness initiatives for charities, non-profits, and individuals. Celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17th.

Application Deadline: January 31st, 2022

- www.valleyfoundation.ca/kindness -





© *Edicato Photography*



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

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

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

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
www.corfirepro.ca



NEWS BITES

CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT EXTENSION

The government of Canada has announced they are extending the repayment deadline of the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). The deadline has been pushed forward to the end of 2023. Businesses who have borrowed money through the program will have until December 31st 2023 to repay as the government received feedback from businesses on this kind of flexibility.



RELIEF FOR SHUTDOWN BUSINESSES

Starting January 17th, businesses who have been temporarily shut down due to public health restrictions can access up to \$10,000 in COVID-19 relief. The amount received is dependent on the number of employees in the business. This applies to businesses who were ordered to temporarily shut down on December 22nd. The funds can go towards operational expenses, wages, and utilities and can be applied for [here](#).





WATER LINE REPAIR IN CRANBROOK

Public works crews from City of Cranbrook will be repairing a water line on January 19th on Slater Road and local businesses may notice discoloured water until service is restored. Work will begin at 9:00am in front of Wolseley Plumbing and single lane alternating traffic will be implemented until late in the day.



SUSPECT ARRESTED IN KIMBERLEY ARSON

On January 13th, RCMP made an arrest on a 26-year-old man for the fire deemed arson at the Kimberley Gymnastics Club last month. The suspect has been charged with one count of arson and appeared in court on January 17th. Kimberley RCMP thanks the community for coming forward to help with the investigation into the arson.



Goodbye Minecraft, Hello Conan

The next generation of building already arrived.

My favourite gaming genre is the builder/survival genre. These games usually give you an open canvas to explore and do pretty much anything you can think of. There's no tutorial, you just figure everything out yourself! Kinda like real life, right?

Well, Minecraft is an amazing game and it has been for over a decade. Fans continue to play and pass it down to generations because it truly is the best building game there is. Or, at least that's what I thought until I turned on Conan: Exiles.





I'll admit, I was a bit hesitant of this game at first. I was worried it was going to be World of Warcraft with a caveman era skin. I was very, very wrong. Yes, it has RPG elements where you can level up your character and items. Though, that's not the point. You start the game pinned to a cross and are eventually let down by a mysterious individual. After that, you wander around the world learning the environment and finding items to survive.

The game was originally developed for PC and was remastered for console, though there are indications it was a PC game which come in the form of the HUD and building mechanics. While they're not enough to turn me away from the game, some people may find the controls slightly clunky and sometimes frustrating. But just like any builder game, once you get used to it there's no issue.

JOSH GRIEVE

Gamer and Author

Think of this game as an adult Minecraft, it truly is the next generation of the building genre. While the game may not have received critical reception on release, why it doesn't get more love from the gaming community I'm not sure! It's definitely the best builder I have ever played, personally. The map is massive with many different environments to learn and explore. Not to mention there's friendly camps where you can meet other people (not that I've met anyone friendly yet!).

If you're looking for a new building game like I was, don't look any further. Stop what you're doing and go play Conan: Exiles, it's FREE on Xbox Game Pass!

4 PM PT
7 PM ET
Thursdays
Jan, Feb & March

The Outdoor Learning Winter Virtual Workshop Series!



Jan 13, Feb 3, March 3
Campfire Connections



February 10
Key Strategies that Transform Learning for Education, Citizenship and Sustainability



January 20
Resources to Teach & Learn for a Sustainable Future



February 24
Not Extinct: Keeping the Sinixt Way



January 27
Exploring Inquiry & Justice Through the Arts



March 10
Water Education Resources

Hosted by





REGISTER AT OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.CA

A LITTLE FUN

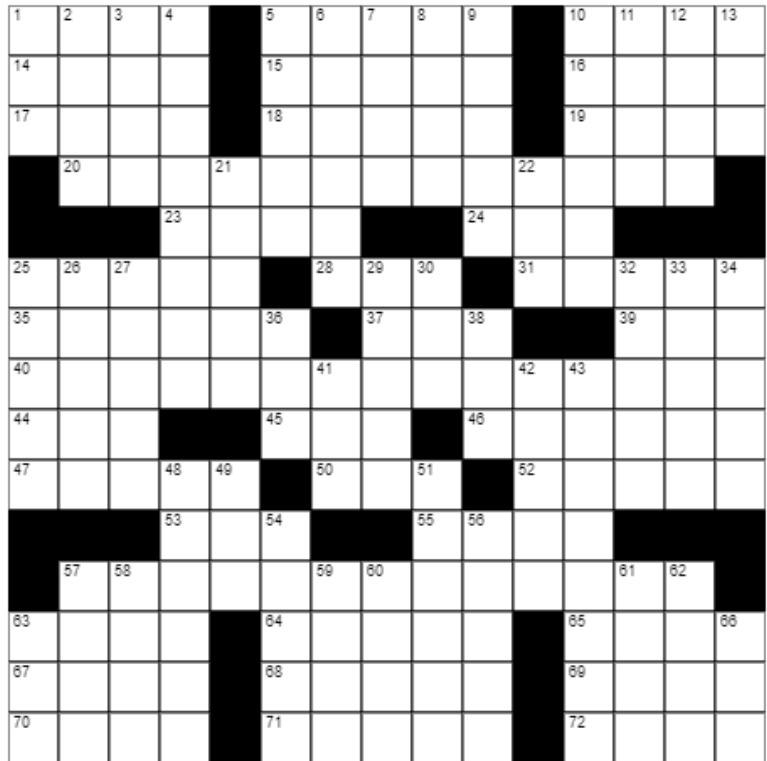
Across

1 - Swedish auto; 5- Debris; 10- Advocate
 orcefully; 14- Apex, pinnacle; 15-
 rchitectural piers; 16- Panamanian baby; 17-
 Designer Cassini; 18- Long Island town; 19-
 Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 20-
 stupid; 23- Evening, informally; 24- Battery
 ize; 25- Enumerate; 28- Word used to
 precede a woman's maiden name; 31- Brief
 idvertisement; 35- Current unit; 37- Guido's
 igh note; 39- Dundee denial; 40- Make
 rban; 44- Self-esteem; 45- It may come after
 ou; 46- Many; 47- Tall and thin; 50- Jackie's
 econd; 52- Each partner; 53- Meal crumb;
 i5- Brief letter, paper money; 57- State in SE
 ustralia; 63- Zoo barrier; 64- Pale; 65- ____
 rst you don't...; 67- 100 centavos; 68-
 apture; 69- WWII battle site; 70- Move
 ideways, killed; 71- Spud; 72- Boris
 odunov, for one;

Down

1 - ____ Paulo; 2- Rights org.; 3- Mass
 itterance; 4- Novice; 5- Singer Bonnie; 6-
 nobserved; 7- ____ never work!; 8- Arrest; 9-
 brown pigment; 10- Fantastic; 11- Control;

12- Midge; 13- Serpentine swimmer; 21- Part of TNT; 22- Prattle; 25- Humped ruminant; 26- Last Greek letter;
 27- Writer Sinclair; 29- Conger catcher; 30- Quarterback Manning; 32- Make one; 33- Sharp-edged instrument;
 34- Brawny; 36- Clean air org.; 38- One ____ time; 41- Man-mouse connector; 42- Prince Valiant's wife; 43-
 long story writer; 48- Show servile deference; 49- Decade divs.; 51- Belong; 54- Brownd sliced bread; 56-
 folder; 57- Christmas song; 58- The life of Riley; 59- Annapolis inst.; 60- Yonder thing; 61- Newts; 62- Room in
 i casa; 63- AWOL pursuers; 66- Rocky hilltop;



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



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

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

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