

Six bonus pages
at FriAM.ca

FRIDAY

March 15, 2024
No. 1333
All Month: Apr. 5

AM

SALMON ARM WEEKEND

MOLEHILLS

Lorne Reimer

Hottest address in town

If you look at the alleyway that comes off Alexander between Weekends Lounge and Shuswap Pie Co., imagine a vacant store with three floors of apartments on top. That is the fictional location of 325 Alex, the home of a 32-episode flash fiction novella by local writer Shawn Bird. It will be serialized in *Friday AM* starting with this edition, and will wrap up just before Christmas.

The residents and the plot events are all fictional, but, be forewarned, those of us who walk up and down the real Alexander will recognize places, events, and the occasional familiar face. I know.

The first episode is on page six. Many weeks will need to continue onto the online pages, so get your devices all fired up to turn the page. This is going to be so much fun to read the goings-ons at 325 Alex. Along with the first episode you can learn more about 325 Alex in the word search, pop quiz (movie prizes!), and a special backgrounder page in the bonus pages of **FriAM.ca**. Enjoy! ■



OTTO

Spring Break • First day of Spring



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BORDER BATTLE

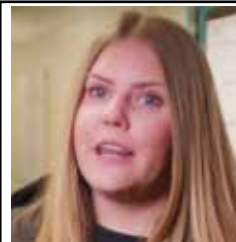
They're calling it the Border Battle for sled hockey supremacy - US vs Canada. Maggie Manning of Salmon Arm is one of the three goalies playing for Team Canada.

After losing the first game to the US on Wednesday in Minot, North Dakota, Canada hopes to bounce back this afternoon for Game 2 at 4 pm PT.

Game 3 takes place Saturday at 1:30 pm PT.

Canada's Men's team also lost the first game in a shutout.

Maggie, along with Lily Brook of Salmon Arm, were recently featured on Season 5 of the All Round Champions TV series. ■



> Enderby is hoping to be voted Hockeyville to help bring back the arena. Rec. coordinator Kaylee Wells encourages everyone to vote on March 29 and 30 at hockeyville website.



> Salmon Arm's Natalie Wilkie wins golds at Para Biathlon Sprint World Championships and Caledonia Nordic/ P.5

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Happy Spring Break!



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Children's Easter Party
March 30
Repair Cafe, April 20
Earth Day Fair, April 22
Aero Modelers, Apr. 25-27



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at the movies

> **SALMAR GRAND** • *salmartheatre.com* • Mar. 15 to 21

Daily matinees during Spring Break starting Saturday

• **Hey, Viktor!** 1:45, 6:50 daily. After 25 years, former child actor Cody Lightning tries to revive his fortunes with a self-produced sequel to *Smoke Signales*. (14A coarse lang)

• **Kung Fu Panda 4.** 2:00, 6:40 daily. A sorceress plans to re-summon all the master villains whom Po has vanquished to the spirit realm. (G)

• **Imaginary.** 1:45, 6:45 daily. A woman returns to her childhood home to discover that the imaginary friend she left behind is very real and unhappy that she abandoned him. (14A)

• **Dune: Part Two.** 1:30, 6:20 daily. Paul Atriedes unites with Chani and the Fremens while seeking revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. (PG)

• **COMING: Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire**, Mar. 29- Apr. 4.

> **SALMAR CLASSIC**

■ **SHUSWAP FILM SOCIETY** • *shuswapfilm.net* •

• **Totem** (Mexico), 5:00, Mar. 16. Film shares intimately a family's moments of joy, angst and sorrow. (PG)

• **American Fiction**, Mar. 23 • **The Taste of Things**, Mar. 30

• **Shayda**, April 6 • **The Braid**, April 13 • **One Life**, April 19 - 21

■ **NY MET OPERA** (Live) • **La Forza del Destino**, 9 am, Mar. 9. ill-fated love, deadly vendettas, and family strife. Upcoming: *La Rondine*, April 20 • *Roméo et Juliette*, April 27.

■ **Shuswap Children's Association FILM FESTIVAL** - Mar. 21-23. Annual fundraiser for Shuswap Children's Association
Mar. 21: *The Lorax*, 10:30; *Happy Feet*, 1:00; *Train your Dragon*, 5:00
Mar. 22: *Kung Fu Panda*, 10:30 • *Despicable Me 1 & 2*, 1:00, 5:00
Mar. 23: *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*, 10:30 • *Shrek*, 1:00

□ See print and online flyers inside this edition



ARM MEDIA
EST. 1997

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Lorne Reimer

250.833-1141

fridayam@shaw.ca

DROP-OFFS

Hucul Printing 471 - 5th St SW

DEADLINES

Wednesday Noon

CIRCULATION

Weekly FriAM: 2,500

(Except final Friday of month)

All Month (1st Fri) 4,500

except Jan. & July

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BLOG POST PAGES
& DIGITAL ISSUE
Go to **FriAM.ca**

■ Go to **FriAM.ca** for Bonus Blog Post Pages!

○ Friday AM acknowledges covering the Shuswap and sharing the lands on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc peoples.

live & dance

> **Old Time Dance**, 6:30, Mar. 22, Silver Creek Hall, featuring band, Recipe for Dirt. \$5

> **Copper Is.**, Electric Jams with Blind Bay Blues Band, Tuesdays.

> **Spring Fling Dance** with Island Fogg, March. 30, Blind Bay Hall

> **SA Legion - The Cher Show**, 8 pm, Mar. 15, featuring Bonnie Kilroe. Musical and comedy tribute.

> **Enderby Legion** - Bob King, Mar. 15 and the Barn Boys, Mar. 16

> **Setters Pub - Hip Replacements**, 8 pm, Mar. 15

> **Social Square Dancing** - 7:30-9:30, Weds, Fifth Ave. Centre

> **Gleneden Hall dance**, 7 pm, April 6. Kick up your heels with Sierra. \$15.

coffeehouse

- Celist & Grindrod, 1st Fri
- Carlin, 1st Sat • Sunnybrae, 2nd Sat
- Gleneden, 3rd Sat
- Silver Creek (none this month - see old time dance, above)
- Enderby, 3rd Fri. (Srs. Centre)
- Writers group, 4th Fri, 2 to 4, 1st Community (4th St. entrance)

FESTIVITIES

□ **SPRING BREAK NOW TO MAR. 30**

> **St. Patrick's day** - Mar. 17 • **Easter weekend**, Mar. 29 to April 1.

> **Spring equinox** - (First day of Spring), 8:06 pm, Mar. 19

> **Children's Film festival** - March 21 to 23, Salmar Classic. See below.

ART

> **Environments for Reading** - Runs to Mar. 23, Art Gallery. Soft sculptured pods for places to read - homage to when gallery was town's library.

> **Cardiff Miller Art Warehouse** - Open 11-5, Sundays. Interactive art exhibits in former Ashley store in Enderby.

> **Courtyard Gallery** - Enderby with Howard Brown & Marc Ferland

> **Shuswap Artist Collective** - hOurspace, 331 4th St. NE

> **Valerie Rogers** - Easter Open Art Studio, 10-4, Mar. 30, 671 60th St. SE

CONCERTS

> **Pellsquepts Springwinds Festival** - 1 pm, Mar. 23, Splatsin Centre, Enderby. Free event Co-hosted by Roots & Blues. Featuring Dallas Arcand, Melawmen Collective, All My Relations Pow Wow Dance Group, Sabina Dennis & Conway Kootnay.

> **Peer Pressure Song Club** - 7:30, Mar. 23, Sunnybrae Hall. Songs from the brink with John Shaver, Steph Clifford and Katie Marti. \$20 at Acorn Music and door.

> **Jazz Club** - 7 pm, 2nd/4th Thur, Nexus at First. By donation.

• **Tom Keenlyside Quartet**, Mar. 14. A foremost Vancouver jazz musician.

• **Sandy Cameron's Shuhorns**, Mar. 28, featuring Nick Dyson.

SONG SPARROW HALL Details at songsparrowhall.ca

> **Sarah Harmer** - West Coast Tour, 7:30, March 18, Juno award winning singer-songwriter. **Sold Out**

> **Shred Kelly & Hyanaes** - 7:30, March 23. A powerhouse band that seamlessly blends elements of alternative, folk, and rock music, leaving audiences in awe.

> **Steve Dawson & the Hooded Mergansers** - 7:30, April 11.

> **Delhi2Dublin** - Dance night, 7:30 pm, April 20. Dance to an awesome mash-up of bhangra, Celtic, dub, reggae and electronics. celebrateshuswap.ca

○○○

> **Be Seein' ya Comedy tour** 7:30, Mar. 21, Salmar Classic.

> **Daniel Champagne** - 7:00, April 3, Carlin Hall.

> **Aura Chamber Choir** - 7:00, April 6, Nexus at First. Bach's Passion according to St. John, featuring tenor Benjamin Butterfield.

> **Shuswap Music Festival** - April 8 to May 3. shuswapfestival.com

> **Roots & Blues** - July 26 to 28. See lineup announcement on next page.

THEATRE

> **Shuswap Geriactors** - 4:30, March 15, 16, Anvil Coffee Collective Cafe. Free.

> **St. Patrick's Day Improv** Laughing Gas Improv Troupe, 7:30, Mar. 16, Shuswap Theatre. Tix at door or Choose Refill.

> **Outside Mullingar** - April 26 to May 11, Shuswap Theatre.

SPORTS

Sport Spot / 5

> **Silverbacks** • Hosting Trail 7 pm, Friday & Cranbrook 6 pm, Sat..

> **Bonspiels** - Firemen's, Mar. 15-17

> **Larch Hills** - 'Hard day's night' Ultra Race, Mar. 16

> **Wild Ride** - Thrash Wrestling, 7:00, Mar. 23, Rec. Centre.

> **55+ BC Games** - Sept., 10 to 14, Salmon Arm. Many volunteers are needed. Go to 55plusgames.org/salmonarm and follow links.

> **Mara/Shuswap River outing** - Shuswap Naturalists checking out early signs of Spring. Meet at Junglemania Parking area, 9 am, Mar. 17. Bring binoculars, scopes and lunch. Waivers available for non-club members for this guided event.



Some of the world's great female superstars claim Canada as their home. Two of among the greatest will be headlining this year's Roots & Blues.

Amanda Marshall and **Sarah McLachlan** are among the performers announced on Monday. There will likely be a few more added before summer, the list below is all confirmed.

McLachlan was set to perform last summer until the fire happened. Marshall just released her first album in 22 years. Her previous album went gold in 15 nations.

pop quiz

> What Canadian female singers have **A and/or M** in their initials? Alanis Morissette, Anne Murray, Alannah Myles, **Amanda Marshall**, **Sarah McLachlan**, Avril Lavigne, Alessia Cara, Joni Mitchell

Amanda Marshall, Sarah McLachlan, Five Alarm Funk, Begonia, Miko Marks, Moontricks, Blue Moon Marquee, Lido Pimienta, Aysanabee, DJ Shub & War Club, Bab L' Bluz, Brandon Isaak & his Saints of Swing, Buen Rostro, Claire Coupland, Crystal Shawanda, Dave Barber, Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio, Heather Gemmell, KRUT, M□ m□ Mihi-rangi & the M□ reikura, Meredith Moon, Rebecca Sichon, Rick Estrin & the Nightcats, Stephen Fearing, Tanika Charles, TEKE::TEKE, Hello Darlins • rootsandblues.ca

you're invited

- > **AI workshop for writers**, 10:30-12:30, Mar. 16, Pine Rm, United Church. (4th St. entrance) \$25 fee. Instructed by graphic artists/writer MD Jackson.
- > **Book launch for *Jonathan & the Sacred Scarab*** by James Bowby, 11-3, Mar. 16, Bookingham. Reading from book, 6:45 to 7:45, Mar. 19, SA library branch.
- > **Pancake Breakfast**, 8:30-10:30, Mar. 16, Canoe Seniors Hall. \$10.
- > **Storytellers** 10 am, 1st Tues, SA library.
- > **Wildfire Mitigation**, 6-8, March 27, City Hall
- > **Reg. council**, 2:30, Mar. 25.
- > **CSRD directors meeting**, 9:30 am, Mar. 21.
- > **Free Income tax program** at Family Centre, 681 Marine Park Dr. In collaboration with Seniors Resource Centre. Run 10 to 2 through March & April.1. No appt. necessary.
- > **Piccadilly Mall events** - Easter party, Mar. 30; Makerspace Repair Cafe, April 20; Earth Day Fair, Apr. 22
- > **Garden Club**, 7 pm, 4th Tues, 5th Ave 50 Plus. \$2
- > **Bingo**, 6:30, Fridays, 50 Plus Activity Centre. Open 5; games at 6:30.
- > **Meditation Midweek Downtown** - 2 Guided meditations and teachings, 7-8 pm, Thursdays, 450 Okanagan Ave SE, (United Church).
- > **Secwepemc Youth job & career fair**, April 9, SAS Sullivan. See workbccentre-salmonarm.ca to showcase your business or organization

Book Signing Jonathan and the Sacred Scarab
11-3, Mar. 16 Book 1
Bookingham by James Bowlby



A reading will take place 6:45 pm, March 19 at Salmon Arm library branch. More on book: jonathansadventures.ca

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- > Shuswap Music Festival, April 8 to May 3.
 - > WOW deadline Mar. 15.
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> **SPORT SPOT**> **SILVERBACKS**

- Mar. 8: SA 1, Cranbrook 0 OT • Mar. 9: SA 2, Canbrook 1
- Penticton 77; West Kelowna 68; (SA 1 • 29 W • 16L • 3 SOL • 61 pts); Vernon 57; Trail 56; Merritt 43, Cranbrook 40; Prince George 31.
- Hosting Trail Friday (7 pm) and Coquitlam Saturday (6 pm)

> **Curling** - Firemen's, Mar. 16-17> **Larch Hills** - Hard Day's Night Ultra Race, Mar. 16.> **Thrash wrestling** - Mar. 23, SASCU Recreation Centre.

> Natalie Wilkie of Salmon Arm and Mark Arendz are 2024 Para Biathlon Sprint World Champions, winning the 7.5km sprint event in Czech Republic. Natalie also tied for gold and won bronze at the Caledonia Nordic in Prince George.

WEATHER SYNOPSIS



> Sunny weekend ahead for start of spring break. Highs to 16, low 4.
Normal: +6 C to -3 C
Extremes since 1991:
+16 1992 • -10: 2020
Sunrise 7:13 • Sunset 5:00

Past Temps, Mar. 6 to 12

By weatherman Nick Parsons

SW Gleneden, 458 m (119 m above lake):

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP.
Mar. 6	-1	-12	
Mar. 7	+3	-10	
Mar. 8	+4	-3	2 1/2" sn.
Mar. 9	+4	-2	
Mar. 10	+8	0	Trace rn.
Mar. 11	+11	0	
Mar. 12	+8	+1	1/8" rn.

PASSAGES

LEGACY LIVES ON
shuswaphospitalfoundation.org
shuswapfoundation.ca

Bowers Funeral Services
bowersfuneralservice.com

- ❖ Joyce Aubert
February 25, 2024, at age 91
1:30, April 6, Deo Lutheran
- ❖ Francine Byron
February 25, 2024, at age 51
4 pm, April 6, Eagle River Secondary

Fischers Funeral Service
fischersfuneralservices.com

- ❖ Fred Attfield
March 2, 2023, at age 91
1:00, Mar. 16, Sorrento Hall

- ❖ Alfreda 'Freda' Bowman
March 4, 2024, at age 90
2 pm, Mar. 23, Kingdom Hall
- ❖ James Richard 'Jim' Hall
March 4, 2024, at age 87
- ❖ Donald Edmund Krebs
October 3, 2023, at age 73
2 pm, Mar. 24, Cornerstone
- ❖ Carol Isabel Wilson
March 6, 2024, at age 83
- ❖ Eric Carmen, 74, rock singer
- ❖ Guy Boutilier, former Alberta MLA and Fort McMurray mayor

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5 years		4.28%	Down 0.09%

* GIC rates as of Mar. 12 2023 subject to change without notice. Certain minimums and conditions may apply



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Ear to the GROUND Going to be fun

Here it is - on the right, the first of 32 episodes of the serialized novella, '325 Alex' by local author Shawn Bird.

If you go to **FriAM.ca** you will find a page listing the fascinating residents who inhabit the apartments of 325 Alex. And if you are one who happens to walk and up down Alexander, you may find a fictional version of yourself in an episode. I know. That happened to me in the second paragraph down. Good grief!

Shawn has sent me all the episodes stretching out to the Dec. 20 issue, but I've promised myself to read only one week at a time, just like you. So if you try to get out of me what happens next, I honestly will not know either.

This is going to be so much fun.



Shuswap Theatre's next play reading happens 7 pm, Mar. 27 with Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. This was the 2013 Tony Award Winner for best play.



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'325 Alex': Episode 1 of 33 City FIXINGS

Artemis gazed from her cat tree in suite 401 of 325 Alex Street. From here, she could see all.

Lorne was walking with a stack of his weekly newspaper, his wheaten-poodle cross Lexi following at his heels. He entered the pie shop.

The apartment door rattled. "Susanne! You won't believe it!"

Artemis ignored it.

Lorne emerged and glanced up. He saw Artemis watching and waved. She appreciated those who knew how to honour the superiority of cats.

Lexi did not look up. Dogs rarely did, unless they were trying to catch a ball.

The apartment door rattled again. Artemis jumped off her perch, hissing.

"Come on, Susanne! Open up! I've got news!"

It was Henry, who lived below them in 301.

He knocked, waited, and then muttered. "Damn. I guess you're not there."

Artemis heard steps in the hall, and then, "Oh! There you are!"

"Hi, Henry. Let me get my groceries in."

Susanne pushed open the door, puffing from the stairs. "The landlord needs to fix that elevator," she said.

Artemis began to weave between her legs, covering Susanne with the scent of belonging.

Susanne stumbled into the kitchen. She set her cloth Askew's bags on the counter and leaned down to pick up the cat. "Silly girl," she murmured into her fur. "What did you want Henry?"

"They've rented #402!"

Susanne blinked. "They can't rent #402. It's unethical."

Apparently they disclosed everything. They're giving him a rent deduction."

"I wouldn't live there for free." She shuddered.

"How long do you think they'll last?"

"A month?"

"Ten bucks says two weeks."

"Deal." They shook.

"Poor sap," said Henry.

Artemis yowled her agreement

□ Watch for Episode 2 the next Friday AM



> These two trucks have sat abandoned for much of this winter near 10th and 10th SW. One of the trucks is parked the wrong direction. The City actively enforces vehicles that are parked over the limit downtown. Perhaps there should be enforcement on busy arterial roads in Salmon Arm.

Bravos & BOOS

Submitted:

> **BRAVO TO** the Rotary Club of Salmon Arm for their 3rd annual donation to Partners in Ethiopia, supporting educational opportunities in Agarfa, Ethiopia. They have opened the door to education for more than 350 low-income and disadvantaged students. Club members have truly made a difference!

Web SITINGS

> <https://hockeyville.kraft-canada.ca/#/landing>
Support Enderby, one of four communities in this year's Hockeyville running. Voting starts 6 am PT, March 29 and ends 2 pm, March 30. The winner will be announced after.

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WORD SEARCH

*Names and places
from 325 Alex*

> Rotary Peace Park, elevator, Artemis, Susanne, Cougar, Demity, Chris, Marcus, Henry, Salmon Arm, crutches, mystery, danger, welder, Mabel, downtown, vacant, landlord, musician, Shirley, stairs, Maggie, boxes, Angelo, couch, Sofia, cafe, cats, Ross, Nic

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A N E U C F H S J I E E E O T
I E L C A F E B O L S P R R Y
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HIDDEN GEMS

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> "That is one good thing about this world... there are always sure to be more springs." ~ *Lucy Maude Montgomery*
> "It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade." ~ *Charles Dickens*
> "Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul." ~ *Luther Burbank*
> "The deep roots never doubt spring will come." ~ *Marty Rubin*
> "There will come a time when the rich own all the media, and it will be impossible to make an informed decision." ~ *Einstein, 1940*

FUNNY BONE

> "The reason Canadians are nice is easily explained. On the sixth full moon, all Canadians gather together beneath the stars to perform a ritual that sucks out all of their mean spiritedness and transfers it into the souls of Canada Geese.
> "I've got maybe two or three more Motown puns left in me. Four tops."
> If you think hiring a professional is expensive, see how much hiring an amateur will cost you."
> He wrote, "Your adorable." I replied back, "No, you're adorable." Now he thinks I like him when all I did was point out his grammatical error.

POP QUIZ

□ This week's Pop Quiz is from the first episode of "325 Alex" and involves two draws for a pair of Salmar movie tickets. Send answers to fridayam@shaw.ca

1. Where does Susanne shop?
2. What is the number of the mysterious vacant suite at 325 Alex?
3. In Greek mythology, what was Artemis the goddess of?



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PICTURE THIS

Salmon Arm museum photo



> Above left: Salmon Arm's Masonic Hall as it looked in 1940; quite different than how it looks now.
> Above right: the richest musician in the world literally penny pinches. Paul McCartney is spotted here making his favoured picks from trains rolling over pennies.

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Friday AM invites you to go to the bonus pages of this edition at **FriAM.ca** for more good content, including letters to the editor.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

SUNDAY, MARCH 17th



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> Happy 100th birthday, Ali Graham! She's still dancing, and I believe, working on her second book. At her birthday bash in Sicomous on Sunday, she advised the 150 gathered there: "Just live one day at a time, do the best that you can, and be good to your neighbours." Ali's autobiography came out a decade ago titled 'Life is what happens'. Pictured with her is daughter Susie Green.

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Friday SALMON
All Month ARM

NEXT FRIDAY AMs
March 22, NO Mar. 29
April All Month, April 5

325 Alex: Hottest address in town

Well, we hope you enjoyed the first episode of 325 Alex by local novelist Shawn Bird. It's on page six in the hard copy section of this week's Friday AM. The episode will always begin there, but, depending on space, will continue on the online bonus page.

Below is a list of the residents of "325 Alex", the fictional apartment building on Alexander Street in downtown Salmon Arm. The residents and the plot events are fictional, but, be forewarned, Salmon Arm residents may recognize places, events, and the occasional familiar face walking into a scene.

Enjoy the next 32 weeks at 325 Alex.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shawn Bird (BA, MEd) is an author, poet, educator and long time resident of the Shuswap.

She is author of several novellas, novels, short stories and poetry collections. Her novella length interconnected noir short story collection *Murdering Mr. Edwards* (Cofin Hop Press April 2018) was nominated for an Arthur Ellis Crime Writers Award. Her YA fantasy series *Grace Awakening* set in Calgary and the Shuswap region of BC was nominated for a Whistler Independent Book Award. She has been represented by Transatlantic Agency in Toronto.

She is available for writing workshops or author visits to schools or adult groups. Shawn is a member of the Shuswap Rotary Club and has been club president twice. and is a former Rotary Youth Exchange Student to Finland.

For more about her writings, go to shawnbird.com, and if you'd like to support her work, check out her Paypal.



A serial story set in Salmon Arm

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www.shawnbird.com

The tenants of 325 Alex

Fictional apartment building on Alexander Street where the alleyway is

Mainfloor: Empty storefront

Apt. 201: The college students - Chris, Mabel, Dimity & Marcus

Apt. 202: Shirley John and her small, stealthy, tawny cat, 'Cougar'

Apt. 301: Henry Block

Apt. 302: dela Cruz family - Angelo, Sofia, & Margarita (Maggie)

Apt. 401 - Susanne Winters & the neighbourhood sentinel and guard tuxedo cat, 'Artemis'

Apt. 402 - the Empty Apartment

Stay tuned for contest quizzes too!



FROM FACEBOOK DAILY POSTINGS

Ramadan Mubarak!

Ramadan began March 12 and ends April 9 or 10. This is an important month for Muslims across the world. People abstain from worldly pleasures, participate in community service acts and consider this period a time of spiritual reflection.



West Bay trail badly needed

Walking the tracks to town is a century old tradition for local Secwepemc folks. I'm not actually sure if walking along the narrow highway shoulder is any safer.

Those are the only options if you don't have a vehicle. Anyway, Mary Thomas, not the legendary Dr. Mary Thomas, but a daughter-in-law of the late Mary with the same name - was walking the tracks recently. An engineer reported seeing her down the tracks and called it in. Police were waiting and fined her \$250.

If you don't know Mary, I'm sure you'd recognize her. She is a small lady who used to work at the employment office and has a heart of gold. I can understand the concerns train engineers must share about people on the tracks.

It's a tough one because the last thing a kind hearted person like Mary needs is a \$250 fine, for doing something Secwepemc folks have been doing since there's been a town to go to.

There have long been plans for a trail to Tappen Bay. It cannot happen too soon, and it would be win-win if CP Rail helps pay for it.

A program to keep and revitalize

I write this as a former B.C. Fire Warden with 42 years of wildland fire fighting experience. In a recent news article there was mention of “reinstating the BC Fire Warden programme”. As there was no supporting information given, I would like to present a short history.

Established over 110 years ago, it was basically auxiliary staff to assist Forest Officers in the many aspects of managing the forests. When I first became a Fire Warden (FW) in 1986 there were about 500 of us throughout the province. Each Warden had two or more able bodied people they could call on, at a moment's notice, to form an initial attack crew. The process at that time was when the Fire Zone received a notice of a fire, they would either dispatch a Forest Service Initial Attack (I.A.) crew or a local Fire Warden that knew the back roads, water sources and terrain. They also know what heavy equipment was registered, certified and ready to go.

They had two-way radios, hand tools, water pumps and hose, first aid training and most importantly, they were trained in proper and safe firefighting methods.

Let me stress the fact that they were coordinated by the local Zone and worked within the larger system. The Fire Warden programme was an asset to the community.

It was cost effective (non-union members and could work for a little as 2 hours) and very efficient. Looking at the big picture, BC had around 1500+ trained and coordinated wildland firefighters ready to respond 24/7 any time of the year. I have responded to fires months after the summer I.A. crew was laid off and before they were back on in the spring.

But all good things must come to an end. Over the past 10 years the programme has been reduced dramatically to where there are only two Patrol Persons left in the Shuswap. They drive around during daylight hours looking for abandon campfires. In some Zones they still perform other duties, but for the now defunct Salmon Arm Zone, there no firefighting Wardens left. In 1986 we had 18. We also had

several highly trained crew bosses and crew members (Emergency Fire Fighters) that could respond to fires.

If you feel the programme is worth revitalizing and modernizing (it is still active), let your Provincial Government know. For those in Salmon Arm that have not seen me on patrol for the past two seasons it is because I was fired in the spring of 2022. Another active Warden was fired last spring.

Jake Jacobson, Salmon

While Gaza starves

While Gaza starves, the U.S. thinks about building a wharf so that aid by slow boat can reach the coast. Air drops have landed in the ocean and on top of Palestinians – killing 5 who managed to survive 5 months of brutal war. There is no place for UNRWA to logically distribute aid, if it should arrive, since Israel has bombed schools, hospitals, distribution centres... What to do? What to do?

How about telling the truth. The current right-wing racist Israeli government WANTS Palestinians to starve to death. The aid trucks are at the borders, ready to go. The entire Gaza strip is 41 kms long by 10 kms wide. There are borders at both ends – one opening to Israel, the other to Egypt. What are the reasons given for aid trucks NOT to enter Gaza? Why, the roads are all bombed up!

Listen, my hometown's main street is 2700 kms long. It's called the Alaska Highway. It took a total of nine months to build a road through game trails, and cross a multitude of rivers through muskeg and mountains with 1940's equipment.

Surely to God, a couple of the thousands of Israel army tanks sitting in Gaza could plow out a bit of land shorter than an airport runway, to allow aid trucks to enter, and feed these people who are now literally starving to death. We must insist on this, or be complicit in the genocide of the Palestinian people.

Juanita Austin, Salmon Arm

eh?/em!

Blog Post

March 8 Friday
AM is now out!

Friday SALMON
All Month ARM

March 8, 2024 • 1st posting of day • FriAM.ca



*I'm going
to return
to take
this photo
at 3:03, so
I can say
"it's Tree
o' Tree"*

MOLEHIL

Lorne Reimer



Great didn't fall through grate

For a few moments late last night I felt like the luckiest guy in all Salmon Arm. It was around 11 pm, and I just stuck some Friday AMs in the door handle of JL Jackson school.

Then as I turned around, my keys slipped out of my hand and landed an inch from a grate. The slats were far enough apart to swallow my entire set of keys into a deep well to who-knows-where.

My imagination went haywire thinking what could have happened and did not.

I left my phone at home. My car was parked by the gate. If my keys dropped into the well, I'd have to walk three kilometres back home for my spare set, then walk back.

Later on, I saw two homeless folks sleeping the cold night in doorways, and realized I really am lucky. My issues are ridiculously small.



> There are still people sleeping outside at night, and seen, early in the early mornings, with all their worldly belongings.



> Work proceeds on Ross Street despite the surprise snow



> Mt. Ida sky captured in all its stunning glory from the valley by Cathy Bartman

walk with Les

This Tuesday's walk with Les Ellenor was a simple one around the City Hall/ South downtown area.

The first stop was at City Hall Square to to examine the emerging shoots.

Then Les told me of his great experience getting his toes clipped at Senior Resource Centre, I booked an appointment for just before the next walk.

We noticed art work on a hydro box, and agreed there's some 'vandalism' that's not bad to look at.

Les then stopped in front of a house on 2nd where he gets his hair cut. He relayed a cool story by his barber Alton Gowen. Alton said after getting rejected for music studies at university he went into a pub for a beer. Someone noticed his sadness, spoke to him, and offered to teach him hair cutting. He said once taught, he will be able to start a business, buy a house and never worry about money. Gowen told Les that if your eyes are open, there is always some person there to help you through.

We ended the walk with Les cutting a branch with instruction to put in water and watch it bloom.



Shuswap Children's Association FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday, March 21, 2024

10:30 am The Lorax Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2012|94 minutes
Twelve-year-old Ted lives in a place virtually devoid of nature; no flowers or trees grow in the town of Thneedville. Ted would very much like to win the heart of Audrey, the girl of his dreams, but to do this, he must find that which she most desires: a Truffula tree. To get it, Ted delves into the story of the Lorax, once the gruff guardian of the forest, and the Once-ler, who let greed overtake his respect for nature.
Starring: Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Danny Devito, Betty White Common Sense Rating: 5+

1:00 pm Happy Feet Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2006|108 minutes
Son of Memphis and Norma, little sweet penguin Mumble has a big problem: he can't sing a single note. In a world where everyone needs a heart song to attract a soul mate, Mumble feels he doesn't belong there. Our hero Mumble is the worst singer in the world, but he can tap dance brilliantly.
Starring: Robin Williams, Elijah Wood, Hugh Jackman Common Sense Rating: 8+

5:00 pm How to Train Your Dragon Animation, Fantasy|PG|2010|98 minutes
Hiccup is a Norse teenager from the island of Berk, where fighting dragons is a way of life. His progressive views and weird sense of humor make him a misfit, despite the fact that his father is chief of the clan. Tossed into dragon-fighting school, he endeavors to prove himself as a true Viking, but when he befriends an injured dragon he names Toothless, he has the chance to plot a new course for his people's future.
Starring: Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler, America Ferrera Common Sense Rating: 7+

Friday, March 22, 2024

10:30 am Kung Fu Panda Animation, Action, Comedy|PG|2008|91 minutes
Po the panda works in his family's noodle shop and dreams of becoming a kung-fu master. His dream becomes a reality when, unexpectedly, he must fulfill an ancient prophecy and study the skills with his idols, the Furious Five. Po needs all the wisdom, strength, and ability he can muster to protect his people from an evil snow leopard.
Starring: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie Common Sense Rating: 6+

1:00 pm Despicable Me Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2010|95 minutes
Supervillain Gru, a man who delights in all things wicked, hatches a plan to steal the moon. Surrounded by an army of little yellow minions and his impenetrable arsenal of weapons and war machines, Gru prepares to vanquish all who stand in his way. However, nothing in his calculations and groundwork has prepared him for his greatest challenge: three adorable orphan girls who want to make him their dad.
Starring: Steve Carrell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand Common Sense Rating: 6+

5:00 pm Despicable Me 2 *Jammie Night* Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2013|98 minutes
More minions and romance make for a sweet and silly sequel. Now that Gru has forsaken a life of crime to raise the girls he's trying to figure out how to provide for his new family. As he struggles, the Anti-Villain League, an organization dedicated to fighting evil, comes calling. They send Gru on a mission to capture the perpetrator of a spectacular heist!
Starring: Steve Carrell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Kristen Wiig Common Sense Rating: 6+

Saturday, March 23, 2024

10:30 am Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2008|99 minutes
Alex, Morty, and other zoo animals find a way to escape from Madagascar when the penguins reassemble a wrecked airplane. The precariously repaired craft stays airborne just long enough to make it to the African continent. There the New Yorkers encounter members of their own species for the first time. Africa proves to be a wild place, but Alex and company wonder if it is better than their Central Park home.
Starring: Chris Rock, Ben Stiller, Jada Pinkett-Smith Common Sense Rating: 6+

1:00 pm Shrek Animation, Adventure, Comedy|PG|2001|93 minutes
Once upon a time, in a faraway swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek whose precious solitude is suddenly shattered by an invasion of annoying fairy tale characters. They were all banished from their kingdom by the evil Lord Farquaad. Determined to save their home -- not to mention his -- Shrek cuts a deal with Farquaad and sets out to rescue Princess Fiona to be Farquaad's bride. Rescuing the Princess may be small compared to her deep, dark secret.
Starring: Mike Meyers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz Common Sense Rating: 6+