

MONTH OF **FriAM** CELEBRATION & CARE!

Friday

December 6
ALL MONTH

FriAM

THIS SEASON
SANTA CALLS ONE
AND ALL TO PITCH
IN AND BE THE
LIGHT IN YOUR
COMMUNITIES



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17th

▼ TO-DO'S ■ Online: FriAM.ca ▶ 1st & 3rd Fridays ▶ Dec. 6, 2024 • No. 1358 • FREE

Festivities
Art & Film
Concerts
Theatre
Sports 4.5



Plenty to do for
New Year's Eve

CHILDREN'S FUN PARTY!
Saturday, Dec. 7th
Solstice Outdoor Event
4-8, Saturday, Dec. 21st
Bonfire, caroling, rides, music...

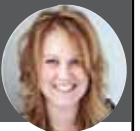


CRAFT FAIR
Dec. 13 & 14

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Business Excellence awards

■ Chamber of Commerce honours extraordinary achievement

- **Business of the year:** Richochet Brewing ▶
- **Community Spirit:** DeMille's Farm Market
- **Health/ Wellness:** Meridian Integrative
- **Hospitality:** Ecotreats
- **Member of Year:** Garret Pristie Real Estate
- **Non Profit:** S.A.C.L.
- **Personal Services Industry:** Fern & Co
- **Retail Business:** Skookum Bike & Ski
- **Recreation/ Entertainment:** Folk Music Society
- **Tech & Manufacturing:** 4AG Robotics
- **Trades:** Integrity Roofing
- **Professional services:** Trilogy Solutions ▼



> Pictured above are winners of the Chamber of Commerce Business of the year award, Marc & Meaghan Zaichkowsky – the owner/ operating couple behind the new downtown hotspot Ricochet Brewing Taphouse at Ross & Hudson.

> On right is the all-woman team of Trilogy Solutions, awarded for Professional Services Business of the Year. Left to right are Taryn Garrett, Simone Muirhead, Jenna Robbins (founder), Bailee Robertson, Courtney Rudin and Angela Inskip. Missing - Megan Daniels. The nine-year-old company supports 350 clients with services such as SEO, social media marketing and web design. ■



> The only snow to be found on parade day downtown was on the Larch Hills Nordic float.

FRIDAY AM
NO. 1358

December All Month
EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lorne Reimer
250.833-1141
fridayam@shaw.ca

DROP-OFFS
Hucul Printing 471 - 5th St SW
DEADLINES
Tuesday Noon
CIRCULATION
All Month (1st Fri) 4,500
Mid-Month (3rd Fri) 3,200
FriAM.ca: Worldwide

■ 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.

The annual Christmas Gift-Wrapping fundraiser by Shuswap Lake Health-Care Auxiliary will run from Dec. 18th to 24th (noon to 5, most days) at Piccadilly in front of Best Buy.

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| Back pain | Acid reflux |
| Birth trauma | Stress disorders |
| Chronic sinusitis | Improve posture |
| Incontinence | And more...! |

ELKS HALL SALMON ARM PRESENTS
Christmas Dinner & Live Music
Celebrate the holiday season with an unforgettable evening with
Cat Wells Blues Band

Dec. 13

- Doors at 6pm
- Dinner at 5:30pm
- Music at 7pm

- LIVE MUSIC
- DINNER BUFFET
- LICENSED BAR
- DANCE FLOOR

\$32.50 Dinner & Live Music

MAKE THIS YOUR CHRISTMAS STAFF PARTY!
Purchase Tickets at www.showpass.com/cat-wells-christmas
Elks Hall 3690 30 Street NE, Salmon Arm

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Richard's Pick of the Week
2023 Kia Sportage LX 4dr
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Sit and Sleep Gallery
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 1701-10th ave SW (beside Buckerfields)



> The above google map image shows how it used to be at the 97B & 97A junction when vehicles would turn on to a passing lane toward Salmon Arm. Now with the Bruhn bridge project detour in place, the start of this lane has been changed to a turning lane for southbound traffic turning onto 97A towards Sicamous. Many motorists are turning onto this lane out of habit and say the change needs to be marked with posts instead of just lines that get covered by snow and sand. ■ See bonus pages for more at FriAM.ca

RCMP 'chronicles' a must-read

It used to be a challenge to gather news details from the RCMP detachment. Now it appears we have an extraordinary budding writer serving on our local force. The "Chronicles" that Cst. Andrew Hodges submitted for November are as colourful and interesting as an Ed McBain police novel. There's a bit of everything in it, ranging from hilarious to serious and disturbing.

The hilarious includes his account of officers "reining in the situation" of a runaway horse in one "neigh"bourhood, or a suspect on the run doing his best impression of an Olympic sprinter, ending up with handcuffs as a medal.

The seriously disturbing is a call involving racist remarks and vague threats against a newly moved-in neighbour.

This is a must-read that I posted verbatim on my Facebook page as well as in the bonus page section of this edition at **FriAM.ca** ■

MOLEHILLS
 Lorne Reimer



Merry Christmas
 from the Mall at Piccadilly

Santa's WINTER WONDERLAND
 DECEMBER 1-24

FAMILY OR GROUP SELFIES
 SELFIE CONTEST DECEMBER 1-24*

SANTA VISITS & PHOTOS 11AM-3PM
 FRIDAYS - DECEMBER 6+13+20
 SATURDAYS - DECEMBER 7+14+21

PET PHOTO DAY
 SATURDAY DECEMBER 14
 (BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)



> Local Theatre and this school district lost two great ones. Gone too soon are Courtenay Dobbie, former Caravan Farm Theatre and Studio 58 artistic director, and Lyle Chapman, principal of Eagle River Secondary. Over a thousand attended his celebration of life on Nov. 30. ■




This Season's Must-Haves!

| | | |
|---|--|--|
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| YETI  | EMU  | SLIPPERS  |

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Children's Christmas Party
 Saturday December 7th 11- 3 pm
 Salmon Arm Library

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 11am -3pm | Ongoing Activities: Christmas Crafts Station Jingle Jams - Family Sing Along |
| 11:30am | Library Family Story time |
| 12:00pm | Jingles the Elf - Roving Games* |
| 1:30pm | Jingle Jams - Family Sing Along |
| 2:00pm | Jingles the Elf caroling with Bert & The Revelers |
| 2:30pm | Christmas Story time - LASS |

*Find Jingles in the Mall and join in fun Christmas games and activities!

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Festivities

- > **Winery & Cidery Open Houses** - See page 5 schedule
- > **Yuletide Village** - noon -8:30, Dec. 6 & 10-1, Dec.7, Salmar Classic. Photos, Santa Mix n' Mingle, photos, Food & beverage, holiday stations, cartoons, *The Grinch*, 6:30
- > **Sicamous lightup** - 5:30, Dec. 7
- > **CPKC Holiday Train** - Dec. 17 (5:15 Sicamous; 6:00 Canoe; 8:00 Downtown; 9:30 Notch Hill) Music by Magic! & Sofia Camara
- > **Centenoka** - Storytime with Santa, 10-11 am, Dec. 10, 17; photos Dec. 7, 13, 14, 21, 22. / P.16
- > **Piccadilly** - Craft Fair, 13th, 14th • Children's fun party, 7th • Solstice Outdoor event, 4-8, 21st bonfire, caroling, rides, music...
- > **Christmas Day** - Dec. 25 & **New Year's Eve**, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Parties, below
- > **Polar dip** - Canoe Bh., Jan. 1

Arts

- > **Off the Wall Auction & Dance Party** - Art Gallery. Off wall exhibit from Nov. 16 to Dec. 14
- > **Cardiff Miller Art Warehouse** - 11-5, Sat, Sun, Enderby, former Ashley store. New exhibits.
- > **Atelier Gallery** - Featuring artist Barry Games. 321 Hudson
- > **Courtyard Gallery** - Enderby. Little Treasures, ongoing.
- > **Holiday Christmas sales** - remaining sales listed on page 5

Concerts

- > **Skating show** - 6 pm, Dec. 13, Rogers Centre
- > **SA Jazz club** - Shows at 7, by donation at Nexus at First.
 - **Joe Auty-Campbell Ryga Neosoul Quintet**, Dec. 12
 - **Blowin Session**, Dec. 19 *Lakeside Manor, 7 pm, 3rd Tues.*
- > **Coffeehouse circuit**
 - Grindrod & Celista, 1st Fri
 - Carlin, 1st Sat • Gleneden, 3rd Sat
 - Sunnybrae, 2nd Sat
 - SA Elks Hall, 4th Fri. (new)
 - Enderby Sr. Centre, 3rd Fri
 - Gleneden, 3rd Sat
 - Eagle Bay, 4th Sat (Jan.)
 - Shuswap Writers, 4th Fri
- Next in Jan., First Community
- > **Shuswap Singers** - 2 pm, Dec. 14 and 15, Nexus at First.
- > **Community Band** - 7 pm, Dec. 6 & 2 pm Dec. 7, Nexus at 1st.
- > **Shuswap Men's Chorus** - 'Making Spirits Brighter', with Adam Tryczynski on Cello, 7:30, Dec. 4, Nexus at 1st. \$20 Shuswap Clothing & Pink Cherry.
- > **Kenny Hess** - A Coun-

live & dance

- > **Canooligans**, Canoe • Liz Blair Project, Dec. 17
- Hip Replacements for New Year's Eve. ▶▶
- > **Christmas Sweater Singalong**, 7 pm, Dec. 13 & 14, Marionette / P. 6 ad
- > **Gleneden** • Kenny Hess Country Christmas, Dec. 8
- > **Copper Island Pub** • Jams with Blind Bay Blues Band, Tuesdays.
- > **SUS Underground** (Ranchero) - Live music Dec. 14 and Jan. 11
- > **New Year's Eve Bash** - featuring Majesty R&B dance band, Song Sparrow Hall. Tickets will go fast at shuswapcelebrate.ca
- > **Roaring 20s New Year's Eve** Shuswap Lake Estates
- > **SA Legion** • New Year's Party with Barn Boys • Jam on Dec. 6.

- try Christmas, 6 pm, Dec. 8, Gleneden. Hall fundraiser.
- > **Cat Wells Band /dinner** - Dec. 13, Elks Hall. / Ad P.2
- > **Shuswap Carol** - 7 pm, Dec. 14, Song Sparrow. Winter concert & food bank fundraiser. local acts. \$20; under 18 \$10
- > **School concerts** - Bastion, 12:30, Dec. 11
- Carlin, 6 pm, Dec. 18
- Hillcrest, 1 & 6:30, Dec. 18, 19
- North Canoe, 6 pm, Dec. 5
- Ranchero, 6 pm, Dec. 12
- Silver Creek, 6 pm, Dec. 17
- Sorrento, 5:30, Dec. 19
- South Broadview, 12:45, Dec. 10
- King's Christian, 1:30, Dec. 19
- > **Catherine MacLellan** - daughter of writer of Snowbird and Put your hand in the hand, Jan. 30, Song Sparrow Hall.
- > **Sue Foley** - Mar. 11, Song Sparrow Hall. rootsandblues.ca
- > **Christmas with KSO** - Dec. 13-15 at Sagebrush, Kamloops • Music of Who & Led Zeppelin, Jan. 10, 11. Next Salmon Arm concert, Feb. 9
- > **Candlelight services** - Check neighbourhood churches

Theatre

- > **Auditions** - For *Halfway There*, 7 pm, Dec. 5 or 6, Shuswap Theatre. Rehearsals start Jan. 2, opens Feb. 21. One man, 38-45, three women, 40s to early 50s, and mid-30s.
- > **A Christmas Carol Reading** - 1:30, 7:30, Dec. 14 and 1:30, Dec. 15, Shuswap Theatre. Staged, dramatic reading with lighting, sound effects, costume pieces. Pay-what-you-choose at Choose Refill or brushfire.com.
- > **Sleighride Christmas Carol** - on the hour from 4 to 8 pm, Dec. 3 to Jan. 5, Caravan Farm Theatre. caravanfarmtheatre.com
- > **Mean Girls Jr.** - Jan. 14-18, SAS Musical Theatre.

Sports

- > **Silverbacks**
- HOME:**
- 7 pm, Dec. 6 vs. Cranbrook
- 6 pm, Dec. 7 vs. Brooks
- 4 pm, Dec. 29 vs. Vernon
- 6 pm, Jan. 11 vs. Blackfalds
- 6 pm, Jan. 25 vs. Okotoks
- 7 pm, Jan. 31 vs. Brooks
- AWAY:** Cranbrook, Dec. 13;
- Brooks, Dec. 14; Vernon, Dec. 28;
- Brooks, Jan. 1; Blackfalds, Jan. 3;
- Okotoks, Jan. 4; Penticton, Jan.10
- > **Curling** -
- **2 on 2 Funspiel**, Dec. 26
- **Family Fun Day**, Jan. 1
- ☐ SportSpot - P. 21

at the movies

- > **SALMAR GRAND** • *salmartheatre.com*
 - **Dec. 6 to 12 films**
 - **Wicked**. 1:20 Sat, Sun; 6:20 nightly. The enduring musical on the back story of the two contrasting witches of Oz makes it to the big screen. Glinda the Good and the so-called Wicked Witch of the West (PG viol)
 - **Moana 2**. 2:00 Sat- Sun; 6:40 nightly. Moana and Maui reunited on a voyage over Oceania. (G)
 - **Red One**. 1:45 Sat, Sun.; 6:50 nightly. After Santa - Code Name: RED ONE - is kidnapped, the North Pole Head of Security (Dwayne Johnson) must team up with infamous bounty hunter (Chris Evans) in a globe-trotting, action-packed mission to save Christmas. (PG violence)
 - **Gladiator II**. 1:30 Sat., Sun; 6:30 nightly.
- The epic saga of power, intrigue and vengeance continues in Ancient Rome. (14A freq. violence)
- > **Dinner and a Movie**, Dec. 4, 11 18. Eat at a participating restaurant and receive a movie ticket. Co-hosted by Salmon Arm downtown.



- > **SALMAR CLASSIC**
- **Shuswap Film Society** • *shuswapfilm.net*
- **The Tasting** (La Dégustation) (France) 5 pm, Dec. 7. A wine store owner and aficionado is told by doctor to quit the wine or die. Then he falls in love with a kind midwife who cooks for her elderly mom and a group of homeless folks. (PG)
- *Watch for new season beginning early January.*
- **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour**, Dec. 13, 14. Fundraiser for Shuswap Search & Rescue. 250-938-0908. Epic films.
- **LIVE from N.Y. MET OPERA**
- **Aida**, 9:30 am, Jan. 25. Ethiopian Princess torn between love and country.
- **Holiday movies** -
- **The Grinch**, 6:30, Dec. 6. Free movie.



city lights

- ▶ **vernion** • *ticket seller.ca*
- Creekside (C)* • *Perform. Arts (P)*
- Nutcracker**, Mission Dance Co., Dec. 7 (P)
- Holiday Variety Show, Dec. 7. (C)
- Hill & Janelle**, Vernon Jazz Club, Dec. 8
- Okanagan Vocal Harmony**, Dec. 8 (C)
- Rocky Mountain High Christmas** - songs of John Denver, Dec. 8 (P)
- Charlie & Chocolate Factory**, Dec. 10, 14, 17
- Andrew Allen Christmas show**, Dec. 14 (P)
- Ceol na hEireann** (Celtic), Dec. 15 (C)
- Reve Noel**, Dec. 15, twice (P)
- Dancing Winter Wonderland**, Dec. 16, 17 (P)
- 5 Golden Hoops** (Dallas Arcand), Dec. 21 (C)
- OSO: Messiah**, Dec. 22 (P)
- Legendary Lake Monsters NYE Party**, Dec. 31
- ▶ **Penticton**
- **Globetrotters**, Jan. 28
- **BTO, April Wine, Head Pins**, April 4
- ▶ **Vancouver**
- **Taylor Swift**, Dec. 6-8 •
- **Canucks**, Dec. 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28
- **SVNS VAN**, Feb. 21-23, BC Place

Write on! so long

IHAVE BIG NEWS, dear readers. After writing this column for 22 or 23 years (lost track), this is the last one you'll see from me. I remember the day that Lorne asked me if I'd like to write a column for the 'All Month' edition of *Friday AM*. He suggested I could cover local authors and any events to do with writing.

At the time I'd just moved in with my mom, Marion McCracken (now deceased), to help her after she'd suffered a series of mini strokes.

I had closed my bookstore, Reflections, and was writing my first memoir at the time, *A Raven in My Heart: reflections of a bookseller*.

To be honest, my confidence wasn't great in the writing arena yet (that took a long time to develop). I wasn't sure if I could write a column, but after submitting the first one about local author Tom Moen (now deceased), I was hooked!

I wish to thank Lorne for the opportunity that I've enjoyed so much. But everything comes to an end at some point. Just as there are cycles in nature there are also cycles in our lives.



MORE BIG NEWS: Shirley DeKolver, Virginia McCausland, Ellie McGaughey and myself have new books published. We'll be in Piccadilly Mall in front of Shuswap Health Foods doing a book signing and sale of our new books from 10 to 2, Saturday, Dec. 7. Drop by and chat with us, have a book signed if you wish, and enjoy the Christmas spirit in the mall that day.

As I say goodbye there's the inevitable ambivalent feelings that letting go conjure up when something that has been a part of my life for that long will be no longer.

SWG's 35th anniversary gathering was a beautiful affair. Present and past members enjoyed each other's company, the cake and other goodies, and the readings. The highlight was when Dorothy Rolin, founding member, was surprised with an engraved glass plaque thanking her for her many years of dedication to SWG. ■

□ *Thank you for your dedication to our writing community, Kay. ~ L.R.*

> *Artist Jordan Perkins will do a live painting at Rhymes with Purple in Piccadilly on Dec. 7, starting 11 am. Entries to win painting for every \$50 spent at the shop. ■*



> The 25th Holiday train is set to roll through the Shuswap on Wednesday, Dec. 17, stopping for shows at four locations. Reggae-fusion band Magic!, and Toronto singer/songwriter Sofia Camara are the featured performers on the BC leg of the journey. Train arrives in Sicamous at 5:15 pm; Canoe 6 pm; Downtown Salmon Arm 8 pm; overnight at Notch Hill 9:30 pm; and the next day in Chase at 2:45 pm



You're Invited

Remaining Holiday Markets

- * **Craft Fair, Mall at Piccadilly**, Dec. 13, 14
- * **Centenoka Craft Market**, Dec. 7, 8.
- * **Eagle Bay** * **Silver Creek**, both 10-2, Dec. 7
- * **Shop-a-Ganza Holiday Hoopla**, Dec. 14, 15, Recreation Centre. 10-2, Live music, vendors
- * **Enderby Market**, Fridays to Dec. 13
- * **Mayfair Farm Christmas Market**, 9-3 to Dec. 13. 2200 20th SE. Baking, workshops, vendors
- * **Farmers Market**, Saturday Mornings, Ross St..
- * **Santa's Yul tide Village**, 12- 8:30, Dec. 6 & 10-1, Dec. 7, Salmar Classic. Photos, cartoons, vendors, Holiday stations, Mix n' Mingle, vendors. Movie 6:30
- * **Malakwa & Mara**, Dec. 7

Winery & Cider Open Houses

- * **Shuswap Cider Co.**, 12-5, Dec. 7. / P.16 ad
- * **Northyards Cider Co.**
- * **Open Houses**, Dec. 7 & 8 at Larch Hills, Celista, Waterside, Marionette, Recline Ridge, Sunnybrae. Check FB or websites for details.
- * **Christmas Sweater Singalong**, 7 pm, Dec. 13 & 14, Marionette Winery. Featuring Colin Easthope & James Carlon Smith. \$10 Tix

More holiday season events

- > **Repair Cafe**, 10:30- 3, Dec. 7, Shuswap

- Makerspace on Shuswap St. / P. 6 ad,
- > **SA Historical Society Christmas Social**, 2 pm, Dec. 8, SA Legion Hall, featuring a presentation on the Elgood family of Silver Creek.
- > **Peace n' Pizza**, 5:30, Dec. 20. First Community. (3rd Fridays, by donation). Building Humanity through story-telling and listening.
- > **Health-Care Auxiliary**, 1:30, 3rd Tuesdays at the hospital's board room.
- > **Food Action Society** - Home Herbalism 101, 1 pm Dec. 8, Buckerfields with speaker Emily Pilon
- > **Staying Positive in a Conflicted World** -from a Baha'i Perspective , 1-2 pm, Dec. 14, Piccadillyl (across from office). 250-804-8657.
- > **SA council**, 2:30, Nov. 25.
- > **CSRD**, 9:30, Nov. 14. > **SD83**, 6 pm, Nov. 19
- > **Free Lunches**, 11 to 1, Wednesdays, First Community on Okanagan Ave.
- > **Meditation Midweek Downtown** - 7-8 pm, Thursdays, 450 Okanagan, (off 4th St. SE).
- > **Garden Club**, 7 pm, 4th Tues, Fifth Ave.
- > **She Wolf Women's Empowerment summit**, Jan. 11 2025, Splatsin Centre. eventbrite.com
- > **SA Toastmasters**, 7 pm, Thursdays, 5th Ave Centre. Lorraine 514-898-1776.
- > **Robbie Burns Dinner**, Jan. 23, 5th Ave. 55+ Centre. Tix \$30 at Centre office

Festival

The 25th Shuswap Music Festival will be run April 7 to May 2. Young musicians in piano, strings, voice, choral and band are invited to register online from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31. Register online at [www. ShuswapFestival.com](http://www.ShuswapFestival.com) ■

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Christmas dinners for the community

As I go out on a limb and veer away from this column's normal editorial, I refer to the French root word *restaurer* which - in its simplest form - means "to provide food for".

With Christmas fast approaching we find ourselves bustling about looking for trees, finding the perfect gifts and shopping for food - lots of food - to make the best holiday meal for our friends, family and loved ones.

At the end of all the wrapping and unwrapping is the "unspoken given" of being able to sit down to a festive dinner with all the trimmings and eating until you lie in a blissful food coma on the couch watching your favorite Christmas movie on TV.

That "unspoken given" looks very different for those who are considered to be, what Jane Harding, Chair of the Board for First Community calls, the vulnerable.

This year Jane and her team, with the help of a big chunk of funding from the Rotary clubs and partnering with the Catholic church, along with Sorrento Centre that is cooking all the turkeys, is providing a free Christmas meal on Christmas day in the United Church located at 450 Okanagan Ave. Volunteers along with some Rotary



FOODIE'S SCOOP
Frances Simpson

members will be doing the cooking, serv-

ing and cleaning up for what is expected to be a very large turnout.

If you wish to attend you can either get a ticket from a Rotary member and take your meal away or be there at noon to sit down and enjoy a festive dinner surrounded by what Jane calls, neighbors.

This kind of endeavour is not new to Jane as every week for the last year, on a Wednesday a free lunch is offered to the vulnerable or any other neighbor that wants a good wholesome meal. At its inception the attendance was around 40 people but has grown to over 100.

Volunteers are definitely needed and with the average cost per meal that is cooked in their commercial kitchen, being around \$5 there is no doubt extra funding is needed as Rotary and churches can only provide so much as more people in Salmon Arm become more and more vulnerable.

If you wish to volunteer, contact the United Church at 250-832-3860 or if you wish to make a donation either drop by the church or send an e-transfer earmarked "Community lunch" to office@firstcommunity.ca

As the saying goes: "there is no such thing as a free lunch". I believe in this case, that's a matter of perspective.

Frances writes each month on the people and food that make up the Shuswap restaurant scene.

Details on dine-in & take-out Christmas dinners:

- * Salmon Arm dine-in Christmas dinners, 1 pm, Dec. 25 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and First United Church. Reservation required before Dec. 19. Ph. 250-804-8375.
- * Take out dinners - Salmon Arm or Sorrento. 11 to noon, Dec. 25. If you prefer take-out or delivery meals you will need a free ticket from Second Harvest Food Bank, 10 to 6, Wednesdays, or Sorrento, call 250-675-2421.
- * Sorrento Dine-in Christmas dinner, 1 pm at Sorrento Centre. Take out dinners can be ordered. Reservation required before Dec. 19. Call 250-675-2421
- * For more information, call/text Kimberly at 250-804-8375.

Affordable Housing

Iwrote on the issue of affordable housing or should I say unaffordable housing in BC several years ago. It seems to be a topic that never goes away and if we are honest why would it when governments have done very little to address it.

Back when I wrote my initial article, the Junior Bean Counter asked me: "What does affordable housing actually mean and how will governments try to make housing affordable?". It is a conversation that the two of us recently had again.

Like before, I explained to him how so many people throw the idea of "affordable housing" around without seriously thinking what it is they are talking about. For a lot of people, they mean they want the government to subsidize housing.

"But the government has no money other than what they take from us in taxes and fees" he exclaimed.

"Exactly! The government doesn't have a money tree." I affirmed. "As you can see, it is much more complicated than a simple campaign promise or cliché."

"But if we are talking about trying to reduce the cost of buying/building a house then we have to look at supply and demand along with the actual costs that go into building a home and developing of a lot", I continued.

The extra "stuff" that is now required by the building code and cost of insurance and licensing for contractors have added an incredible amount of extra costs to building a home that did not exist in the past. Throw onto that numerous items that engineers must now sign off on or environmental reports that must be prepared and you can see how tens of thousands have been added before an ounce of concrete is poured.

There's also cost of land, though affected partially by supply and demand, is also affected by the costs to develop the land including the development cost charges and other fees the City of Salmon Arm or CSRD charges. Often local government will download the cost of upgrading existing streets and other infrastructure onto someone trying to develop a lot.

"So how can we make those cost go down then?" he asked.



MALL ARKEY
Daron Mayes



REPAIR CAFE

DECEMBER 7TH 10:00 - 3:00

AT THE SHUSWAP MAKERSPACE
220 SHUSWAP ST. NE SALMON ARM

~ TOSS IT? NO WAY! ~

DO YOU HAVE A SMALL APPLIANCE, LAMP, OR EVEN A CLOTHING ITEM THAT NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED?
BRING IT TO THE MAKERSPACE ON DECEMBER 7TH
AND SEE IF OUR VOLUNTEERS CAN GET IT FIXED!

ALL REPAIRS ARE BY DONATION

Advertise in the paper read cover to cover

■ Continued next page

READING ROOM

by Larissa Image, Reference librarian, SA Branch

A great time to enjoy books

Each December, the library nerd in me enjoys tallying up the books I've read over the year, reflecting on my most meaningful reads, and setting a new reading goal for myself. It began as a light-hearted challenge with a good friend and reading buddy, in our post-high-school era when we scattered across long distances; we used Goodreads to track our reads, keep tabs on each other's progress, and discuss our most- and least-favourites.

Once upon a time, I regularly hit 200 plus books per year, but this season of life is a bit slower - fewer novels, more picture books, chapter books and children's novels. While the most wonderful aspect is the exploration of new stories, a reading challenge motivates me to find time in a busy world to delve into good books. It is my very favourite New Year's resolution - I highly recommend giving it a try yourself! (And please share your favourite reads with us too!)

We have a few special December programs upcoming:

- **Children's holiday party** and storytime, 11:30, Sat Dec 7.
- **Rolo**, the therapy dog who has been faithfully visiting the library each Saturday for years, will be semi-retiring! Come wish him well (and his human, Rachel!) at his last weekly session of Paws 4 Stories, 10:30 am, Dec 14.
- **Holiday Origami Workshop** (ages 9-12), 11:30 am, Sat. Dec (please register in advance!)
- **Children's Winter Choir** will performing, 3:45, Dec 11. All are welcome to come listen!

For other things to do in 2025, we have several new programs at the Salmon Arm Library:

- **Mahjong**, 1 pm, Thursdays
- **Struggling with housing?** Meet CMHA's Housing Outreach Coordinator on Saturdays at 1pm
- **Need accountability for your resolutions?** Join the Goals Group, 3:30, Tuesdays, and the Goal-Setting Workshop, 6 pm, Jan 21.
- **Drum your cares away at a Drumming Workshop**, 2:30, Jan 13 plus monthly **Drum Circle**, 2:30, Jan 27.
- **Play games en français!** Hosted by Canadian Parents for French (Shuswap Chapter), join Soirée de jeux, 6 pm, Friday Jan 31. No French skills necessary - there will be cheat sheets!

We will be closed for the holidays! Our last open day will be Sat., Dec 21, then will open again, Thursday, Jan. 2. Bookdrops will remain closed for the duration - keep those books at home until we're open! (Please do not leave outside the library door.) You can have up to 100 items checked out on your library card, so make sure you don't run out of reading materials over the break. You can also borrow ebooks, eAudiobooks, and magazines through our Libby app over the break (ask us how!).

We all wish a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!



South Shuswap Library Branch

- **CHILDREN PROGRAMS - Stay & Play** ... Puzzles, board games, LEGO, KEVA planks and colouring available • **Mother Goose with Rebecca**. songs, rhymes, fingerplays, 10:15 am, Fridays.
- **ADULT PROGRAMS - Blind Bay Garden Club, 10:15, 2nd Tuesdays**, featuring seed library • **Page Turners Book Club**, 1 pm, 1st Thursdays. Registration required, 250-675-4818. • **Knitting Circle**, 10:15 am, drop-in 1st/3rd Fridays • **Herb Club**. Discuss local foraging scene, 10:15 am, 1st Saturdays. • **Writer's Nook**, 1-3, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays • **Readers' Theatre**, 1-3, 1st/3rd Tuesdays • **Guided Meditation Circle**, 9:30 am, Nov. 5, 19, Dec. 3, 17. • **Card Making** (materials provided), noon for adults and 2:30 for age 11 plus, Nov. 2. Registration required. • **Cyber Seniors** computer one-on-one tutoring (250-463-4555) ■

Month of musical celebrations

December presents us a variety of music to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season.

We have a veritable 'smorgasbord' of beautiful music from our local *amateur** musicians - everything from choral to band to jazz.

(* *Amateur* from the French word "one who admires or is devoted to something", derived from Latin "amare" "to love")

Check out the events page in this *All Month Friday AM* where you will find something for everyone. We have an incredible musical community.

If you happen to be in Kamloops before Christmas, you may want to take in one of the KSO concerts at the Sagebrush. Check out: kamloopssymphony.com. Also, on offer by the KSO on Jan 10 and 11 is a special concert titled "The Who & Led Zeppelin".

CLASSICAL VIBE



Gabriele Klein

We look forward to the next Salmon Arm Sundays concert on February 9 when the KSO and conductor Dina Gilbert will be back with a program that includes Mendelssohn's 'Scottish Symphony', and the Innu soprano, Elisabeth St-Gelais singing Wagner's "Wendensdonck Lieder."

The next The Met: HD Live opera will be on Jan. 25 featuring the grandest of grand operas, Verdi's 'Aida'. You will not want to miss this powerful love triangle set in ancient Egypt. This new production features a stellar cast.

If you need ideas for Christmas gifts, look no further than tickets to the KSO concert Feb. 9, the opera 'Aida' Jan. 25 or any of the remaining operas this season.

Best wishes for the holidays and for a musically rewarding 2025!

☐ *Gabrielle reviews each month.*

Housing

Continued from page 6.

"Well, barring ripping a hundred pages out of the building code and local government agreeing to reduce what they charge for development, it isn't very likely those costs will change. It is more likely these costs go up. Never mind the cost of wood, drywall, electrical, plumbing and all the labour that goes into it

"So, cost of housing isn't going to change? I guess I'll be living with you and Mom for quite some time then, eh?" the Junior Bean Counter concluded.



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* GIC rates as of Dec. 3, 2024, subject to change without notice. Certain minimums and conditions may apply



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Daron Mayes, BBA, CPA, CA, CFP Investment Funds Advisor

Christmas is for birding

There are fun events for bird and nature lovers this holiday season. Unfortunately, one of the events has already sailed by. The Shuswap Naturalist Club's monthly meeting Dec. 3 featured John and Marcia Woods sharing their birding adventures in Newfoundland this past Spring.

The other two events are in the great outdoors, and coming up fast.

The Christmas Bird Count for Kids with Molly Cooperman and John and Marcia Woods happens this Sunday, Dec. 8. Children and parents are invited to meet at 1 pm at the Raven Trailhead on the Foreshore, east of the wharf (small parking lot with outhouse). The event, co-hosted by Nature Kids BC, involves a slow-paced walk on established paths and trails.

Children, along with their parents, will spend a fun few hours identifying and counting birds along the Foreshore. Contact Molly Cooperman (salmonarm@naturekidsbc.ca or 778-231-2515) for more information. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. This event is not suitable for dogs.

The official Christmas Bird Count takes place on the following Sunday, Dec. 15 from 8 am to 3 pm. Participants will explore many areas within a 15 kilometre radius of the Highway 1 and 30th Street East.

Birders of all abilities are welcome to join this free event. Visit shuswapnaturalist.ca for more details and to be added to a team.

This event is not suitable for dogs. Around 3:30 everyone is invited to meet at the United Church (upstairs) to share results and Christmas treats. Members and non-members are more welcome. ■

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- Ensure the hub can continue to offer impactful services
- Support the growth and sustainability of our local food processing industry

To take the survey go to bit.ly/foodhubsalmonarmsurvey or scan the QR code. Thank you for your support.

To learn more about Zest Commercial Food Hub, visit zestfoodhub.ca

Enter the draw to win one of two gift baskets valued at \$160 each or two tickets to the upcoming BCHL All Stars Game in Salmon Arm.

Survey deadline: December 15, 2024

'325 Alex': Episode 30

Serial Story by Shawn L. Bird

In episode 29, Shirley checks Cougar the tawny cat's camera and learns that Nic from the cafe has been grudgingly delivering boxes to 325 Alex and leaving them wherever to get back to work.

Henry was walking along Alex Street when he saw the woman. He was sure that she was the one Susanne had been talking about. How many statue-esque super-model type folks wandered through downtown Salmon Arm?

She crossed the street and went into the Wild Water Clothing store.

Henry sat on the green spiral stairs beside the store and waited.

Thirty minutes later, when she came out of the store carrying two bags, he rose from the step and stuck out his hand as if to shake hers, "Hello there, I'm Henry Block."

She looked at his outstretched hand, glanced down at her two bag laden hands, shook her head, and walked away without saying a word.

"Hrmpf," grunted Henry. "She's definitely not from around here." He followed at what he hoped was a discreet distance, but when she popped out of the bookstore scowling, he froze.

"Why are you following me?" she demanded.

"I'm just going...um...to the stationary store," he said, waving up the block.

"Look, Harry Brock, I'm not stupid. Just tell me what you want." Her glare made him feel about the size of a hydrant.

Henry swallowed. He'd imagined a sane conversation. He didn't know how to respond to a banshee in attack mode. Finally he blurted, "How do you know Nic?"

She smirked and flipped her hair. "Jealous?"

He tried again. "You seem to be new to the area. I've known Nic a while. I was just wondering..."

Her mouth was smiling, but her eyes were not.

Henry re-started, "So, I thought I'd introduce myself. I'm Henry. I live at 325 Alex."

She raised both eyebrows.

Henry swallowed again and squeaked, "Who are you?"

She flipped her hair again and her chest rose dramatically and she enunciated each word as if she were a queen addressing her peasantry, "I...am...Desdemona Moreno."

She waited, as if expecting he to recognize the name.

"Oh," he said, suddenly making the connection.

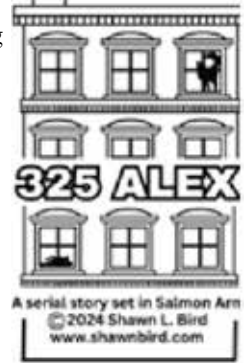
"Any relation to Mr. Moreno who lived at #402"

"My uncle," said Desdemona. "I have inherited his apartment following his recent death."

"That's great. Awesome," gulped Henry. "I mean, my condolences. Welcome to the neighbourhood, Desdemona Moreno." He took a deep breath and added, "We'd really like to talk to you."

■ Go to FriAM.ca > Dec. All Month for Episode 30

■ Final episode in the Dec. Mid-Month, Dec. 20!!



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Friday, December 6, 12 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturday, December 7, 10 AM - 1 PM

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- The Grinch - movie Dec. 6 @ 6:30PM
- Santa Mix 'n Mingle
- Holiday Stations
- Food & Beverage Vendors

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Holiday MARKET

December 7,
10 AM - 2 PM
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These are available for purchase at the **Downtown Salmon Arm office**, and from **RE-Market Etc**, 160 Hudson Ave NE or by emailing: info@salmonarmdowntown.com



Get Elved!

SASCU

The **SASCU** Elf will be making random appearances downtown starting November 30, spreading the holiday cheer and **\$5 downtown dollars**.

DOWNTOWN SALMON ARM

DETAILS: www.salmonarmdowntown.com or www.facebook.com/DowntownSalmonArm

Stand up for Canada

I do not usually write about things that smack of politics or government policy, but sometimes get aroused and feel the need to speak up.

I was watching Andrew Chang on CBC's *About that*

talk about border issues and tariffs. Apparently, Donald Trump and his cronies have been declaring war on our "porous Canadian border" for allowing aliens, drugs, guns etc. To be pouring into the US.

I am sick and tired of Canadians always saying "I'm sorry" for just about anything we do. I know it is part of our culture to be polite, but enough already. First of all, nothing, and I mean nothing, crosses the Canadian border into the US. Everything entering the US crosses the US border and it is they who allow it. It is not Canadians' responsibility to keep things out of the US.

Anything entering Canada by air, land, water or dog team is Canada's responsibility. We don't seem to realize that there are two borders. The border between Canada and the US is both the US northern border and Canada's southern border. Between Mexico and the US is the US southern border and the Mexican northern border.

Trump has a habit of blaming others for his problems and suggesting that it is Canada and Mexico to blame for his immigration and drug problems. He recently told us that he had a nice conversation with Claudia Steinbaum, president of Mexico, and she agreed to do something about the immigration problem. In reality she told him off good and proper and reminded him that border issues were his problem and that 75 per cent of the guns in Mexico came from the US and the drugs are in the US because the American drug dealers import them and the American consumers want them.

Don't mess with Claudia.

The next issue is concern over tariffs. Once again, Mr. Trump seems to think that he is going to raise billions and billions by placing tariffs on all goods entering the US from Canada, Mexico, China and who knows where else. I have exported enough goods into the US over the years to know who will be paying the tariffs. A 25 per cent tariff added to the price of a product crossing the border would be paid by the US consumer, one way or another.

This probably will hurt the Canadian producer as our products may become unsaleable. The downside for all this is that Canada will impose tariffs as well and we are then into a trade war that no one can win.

Presently, as I write this column, Prime Minister Trudeau is in Mar a lago, I suppose pandering to Mr. Trump's threats and pleading with him. Canadians are tough and do not need to apologize to anyone about who we are and what we are about. Canadians will stand behind our Prime Minister at times like this if he is tough and stands firm regarding our way of life and our business interests.

I greatly admire Claudia Steinbaum for her courage to stand up for Mexico and their hard working people.

This is my two cents – no apologies. ■

□ *Ed Campbell keeps himself quite busy in his retirement, and has many tales to tell over the years.*

MY TWO
CENTS



Ed Campbell



> Work progresses on the stabilization and widening project on Lakeshore Drive.

Unnecessary damage

As a frequent visitor to Pileated Woods Park in Salmon Arm, I was interested to see the work done to remove 200 so-called danger trees, after the park was reopened.

Most of trees removed were Douglas Fir, which had become damaged by the Fir bark beetle. I found the work done to be careless and inferior, with not much care taken to preserve other native species. The removal of trees at the top of the park is especially careless. A machine had obviously rolled in, mowing down everything in its path. A lovely young specimen of Pin Cherry (*Prunus emarginata*) I have been observing for several years is now gone, along with other native species, and this area is now a sea of mud and logging debris.

If left in this condition, next Spring will see a host of invasive species taking hold there. What plans are there to re-vegetate the areas destroyed with native species? An area that is a carpet of Arnica in Spring is also now covered by the remains of fallen trees and debris.

I have kept a record of what native plants are blooming during different seasons. The most common tree there is the invasive Norway Maple. I realize that removing this species would be difficult and would do more damage than good, but it is still important to make sure that BC native species are preserved as they provide important food, habitat and shelter for native animal and bird species.

In these days of man-made climate disruption we humans have a duty to restore as many native species as possible to our natural environment. I sincerely hope that you will fulfil this expectation. **Joan Chadwick, Salmon Arm**

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City FIXINGS

> While marvelling at the work on stabilizing and widening Lakeshore Drive, I was equally impressed by efforts to stabilize the outhouse. It would be a fool's errand indeed to think of knocking it over the precipice.



> **BRAVO** to the gentleman who saw me drop three \$20 bills in the Askew's parking lot, then picked it up and went up to me to return it. I would have liked to have spoken to his young son who witnessed the whole incident from their car to tell him how proud to be of his father and to always remember this act of honesty and kindness. My thanks, again to that gentleman.

~ Tom Crowley

> **BRAVO** to all the nurses and doctors at Shuswap Lake General Hospital. We have one of the finest around. I have been in and out of the hospital since May of 2024 and cannot give these people enough credit. They are one of the best and work so hard to make our lives a little better. Bless them all.

~ Ellen Hammer

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Food, glorious good - a local success story

As I shared last month, my column will, for the next while, focus on telling the stories of important organizations in their own words.



NOTES FROM THE MARGIN

Louise Wallace Richmond

Close out 2024 this month also marks the third anniversary of ZEST, our local commercial food hub. It is part of the BC Food Hub Network.

With 13 food hubs across the province, ours is providing important opportunities for new and emerging food and beverage entrepreneurs and is a vital source of shared kitchen space and equipment for the community at large.

You're invited to complete a survey to help shape its future.

See advertisement on page 6

Zest Commercial Food Hub in Salmon Arm is excited to announce the launch of a comprehensive market analysis survey as part of its efforts to update its business plan. This initiative aims to gather timely and relevant data to support local food entrepreneurs and ensure the continued success of the organization.

Zest is a commercial food processing space, where local food businesses come together to produce their products, share expertise, and grow their operations. By eliminating the need to purchase cost-prohibitive food processing equipment, Zest in-

cubates new businesses and supports the expansion of existing ones. This collaborative model connects local resources, fosters mentorship opportunities, and strengthens the regional food system.

Participation in the market analysis survey is an opportunity for local food producers and the broader community to contribute valuable insights that will guide the future direction of Zest Commercial Food Hub.

The data collected will enable Zest to tailor its services, infrastructure, and resources to better serve entrepreneurs, foster economic growth, and create opportunities that drive sustainable, locally-focused food production.

As a thank-you to survey participants, Zest is offering a chance to win one of two incredible prize packs, each valued at \$160 or 2 tickets to the BCHL All Stars Game in Salmon Arm.

The survey is open from now to December 15. Community members can participate by visiting bit.ly/foodhubsalmonarmsurvey.

For more on ZEST please visit zestfoodhub.ca.

Louise Wallace-Richmond is a Salmon Arm councillor and regular contributor to the All Month issue.

Friday AM enjoys throwing ideas out there. Here's a proposal by local resident Steve Cogbill for a multi-level parkade on the old 7-Eleven site:

■ **Strategic Location:** Multi-level parking garage on former 7-Eleven lot, leveraging its prime position on Hwy. 1 for convenient access to downtown and nearby attractions.

■ **Capacity & Accessibility:** to accommodate 200-280 vehicles with designated spaces for employees, visitors and extended parking, featuring mobile payment options and real-time availability displays for user convenience.

■ **Economic Impact:** Revenue potential of \$1,511,680 annually through hourly and monthly parking, commercial leasing, EV charging stations, rooftop utilization, advertising, and event parking.

■ **Community-Centric features:** Designed to enhance the downtown experience with free evening parking, large-scale murals by local artists, secure bike lockers, and security cameras on all levels.

■ **Supporting Growth:** Addresses city's increasing parking demands, fueled by a 9.7 per cent population growth from 2016 to 2021.



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○ For more information and an application, find SACP at salmonarmcitizenspatrol.ca or Facebook

Friday AM now comes out on the 1st & 3rd Fridays

All Month: **SALMON**
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WEATHER SYNOPSIS



High zero, low zero, chance of snow Friday. Possible flurries Sat & Sun. High +4 to -3.

Normal: 0C to -5C
Extremes unavailable
Sunrise 7:42 • Sunset 3:53

Past Temps, Nov. 13 to Dec. 3

By weatherman Nick Parsons
 SW Gleneden, 458 m (119 m above lake):

| DATE | HIGH | LOW | PRECIP. |
|---------|------|-----|-------------|
| Nov. 13 | +7 | +5 | 9/16" rn. |
| Nov. 14 | +7 | +5 | 5/16" rn. |
| Nov. 15 | +6 | +1 | |
| Nov. 16 | +1 | -2 | 11/16 rn/sn |
| Nov. 17 | +3 | +1 | |
| Nov. 18 | +4 | -5 | |
| Nov. 19 | 0 | -5 | Trace sn. |

| DATE | HIGH | LOW | PRECIP. |
|---------|------|-----|--------------------------|
| Nov. 20 | +3 | +1 | |
| Nov. 21 | +4 | +1 | |
| Nov. 22 | +3 | +1 | 1/8" rn. |
| Nov. 23 | +5 | +1 | |
| Nov. 24 | +3 | +2 | 2" sn |
| Nov. 25 | 0 | -2 | |
| Nov. 26 | +1 | -5 | |
| Nov. 27 | +1 | -2 | |
| Nov. 28 | +1 | -1 | |
| Nov. 29 | +2 | -2 | |
| Nov. 30 | +2 | -2 | 1" snow equiv. 1/8" rain |
| Dec. 1 | +3 | -2 | |
| Dec. 2 | +1 | -3 | |
| Dec. 3 | +2 | -1 | |

■ NICK'S NOTES:
 Lake 29" higher than Dec. 1/23
November: Total rainfall 3 5/8"
 Mean av. high: 4.5 C
 Mean av. low: +1 C More/ 14

PASSAGES

LEGACY LIVES ON
shuswaphospitalfoundation.org
shuswapfoundation.ca

Bowers Funeral Service
bowersfuneralservice.com
Candlelight ceremony, 3 pm, Dec. 8

- ❖ Lyle Douglas Chapman November 14, 2024, at age 52
- ❖ Ronald 'Rosco' Crooks November 13, 2024, at age 86
- ❖ Francis Hagel November 24, 2024, at age 80
 2 pm, Dec. 5, Bowers
- ❖ Lesley Hallett November 23, 2024
- ❖ Janice Marie Isaac November 6, 2024, at age 81
- ❖ Cheree Kehler November 9, 2024, at age 75
- ❖ Evelyn Ruth Lamb November 4, 2024, at age 94
- ❖ Ernest 'Ernie' Morgan November 27, 2024, at age 74
- ❖ James Jim Nickles November 9, 2024, at age 60
- ❖ Erik Olson November 2, 2024, at age 89
- ❖ Diane Mary Perozak November 13, 2024, at age 74
- ❖ Roy Henry Prevost November 14, 2024, at age 73
- ❖ Edra Genevieve Querin November 23, 2024, at age 83
- ❖ Laura 'Louise' Taylor November 8, 2024, at age 74
- ❖ Valerie Teresa White November 15, 2024, at age 71
- ❖ Elaine Woods November 18, 2024, at age 83

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- ❖ Bettie Kathleen Baxter November 14, 2024, at age 94
 - ❖ Ethel Norma Clarke December 2, 2024, at age 95
 - ❖ Tyler James Conklin November 20, 2024, at age 41
 - ❖ George Wayne Dimion November 30, 2024, at age 68

- ❖ Robert Authur Duell November 15, 2024, at age 78
- ❖ Barry Russel Gildersleve November 6, 2024, at age 74
- ❖ Judy Lorraine Graham November 24, 2024, at age 68
- ❖ Thomas Andrew Grier November 15, 2024, at age 79
- ❖ Marleen Winnifred Ferguson November 9, 2024, at age 82
- ❖ Justin Maxwell Hart November 7, 2024, at age 82
- ❖ Terry Oneil Linn November 8, 2024, at age 71
- ❖ Brandy Lee Martin November 15, 2024, at age 36
- ❖ Bernard Jean Mayer November 7, 2024, at age 81
- ❖ James Dawson Morgan November 28, 2024, at age 93
- ❖ Sharon Ruth Peterson November 10, 2024, at age 77
- ❖ Gerald Radcliffe November 27, 2024, at age 76
- ❖ Norman Carl Reimer November 18, 2024, at age 82
- ❖ Virginia Gertude Smith November 25, 2024, at age 85
- ❖ Rhonda Jane Thompson November 28, 2024, at age 62
- ❖ Sharron Anne Tisdale November 24, 2024, at age 83
- ❖ Courtney Dobbie November 22, 2024, at age 46
- ❖ Dennis Mohle November 9, 2024 at age 94
- ❖ Arthur Frommer, 95, travel guide writer. \$5 a day series
- ❖ Alice Brock, 'Alice's Restaurant'
- ❖ Jim Abrahams, 80, 'Airplane!', 'Naked Gun', 'Hot Shots'
- ❖ Hal Lindsey, 95. Wrote 'Late

SPORT SPOT



> **Salmon Arm Skating Club** earned 15 medals at the Okanagan Interclub competition in Kamloops, a podium sweep for Star 5 Artistic with many personal bests. Pictured above are medal winners Alora Christensen, Brooke Inglis, Bethany Henrie, Shayna Fowler, Zoe Shields, Letitia Wigglesworth and Sarah Hucul. Watch the skaters perform at their show, **6 pm, Dec. 13 at Rogers Centre.**

■ RESULTS: Star 7 Artistic: Letitia Wigglesworth-1st; Shayna Fowler -1st; Bethany Henrie-3rd ■ Star 5 Freeskat*: Shayna Fowler-2nd ■ Star 5 elem: Bethany Henrie 5th • Artistic Star 5: Zoe Shields-1st; Sarah Hucul-2nd; Brooke Inglis-2nd; Alora Christensen-3rd; Hazel Skotnitsky-6th ■ Star 4 Freeskat: Alora Christensen-1st; Zoe Shields -2nd; Sarah Hucul-3rd; Hazel Skotnitsky-4th; Brooke Inglis-5th; Izabella Markham -6th; Letitia Wigglesworth -7th ■ Star 4 elem.: Brooke Inglis -3rd; Izabella Markham-4th; Hazel Skotnitsky-5th; Letitia Wigglesworth-6th ■ Star 3 Freeskat: Summer Wagtaff-Br; Alyvia Duford -Sl; Greer Paetsch- Br; Sophia Mitchell-Sl; Sophia Chapman-Bronze; Alyssa Hucul -Sl ■ Star 3 elem.: Sophia Mitchell-sl; Greer Paetsch-Sl; Alyssa Hucul -Sl ■ Showcase 3: Sarah Hucul- 1st; Letitia Wigglesworth- 2nd ■ Creative improv 3: Letitia Wigglesworth-1st ■ Star 2 Freeskat: Deaghlán Cahill -Br; Cassie Hotte-Sl; Darby Duford-Br; Alya Hutchinson-Br; Reese Osmundson- Sl; Celeste Walker-Br; Amalya Buikema -Br.; Katelyn Brook- Sl ■ Star 2 elem: Cassie Hotte - Sl; Ayla Hutchinson -Sl; Reese Osmundson-Sl ■ Star 1 elem: Britton Hutchinson-Sl; Brocklyn Daniels-Sl; Kateri Mujcin -Sl; Mila Davidon-Br. ■ Creative improv 1: Cassi Hotte - Sl; Sophia Chapman - Gd.

□□□
 > **SILVERBACKS:** 16 W, 5 L, 3 OTL, 35 pts. (Penticton 38, Brooks 36)
November scores: Oct. 4: SA 4, Vernon 0 • Oct. 5: SA 4, Okotoks 2 • Nov. 1: SA 3, Vernon 0 • Nov. 2: SA 3, Blackfalds 2 • Nov. 8: SA 5, Sherwood Pk 2 • Nov. 9: Penticton 5, SA 2 • Nov. 13: SA 6, Sherwood Pk 3 • Nov. 15: SA 8, Spruce Grove 6 • Nov. 16: SA 5, Blackfalds 2 • Nov. 22: SA 2, Penticton 1 • Nov. 24: Vernon 3, SA 2 • Nov. 29 SA 3, Spruce Grove 0 • Nov. 30: Trail 4, SA 1 •
November games: See page 4

- ○ ○
- > **Sicamous Eagles home** - Dec. 6, Dec. 13, 14, 21, Jan. 11.
- > **Curling** - 2 on 2 Funspiel, Dec. 26 • Family Fun Day, Jan. 1.
- > **Carpet Bowling** - Try Free, 1:30 to 4, Wednesdays, Canoe Srs
- > **Minor Hockey** - U18 T2, Dec. 13-15, 20-22 • U13 Rec. Jan.3-5
- > **Tennis**, book at clubsparks.ca.
- > **Larch Hills** - General meeting, 7:30, Dec. 10, Rec. Centre; Santa Cruz, 10 am, Dec. 15; Lantern Ski, 5:30, Dec. 28 • skilarchhills.ca

New Year's Eve



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Growing local is the key to food security

By Nick Parsons

Potatoes, for me, are a staple diet in any form - *a meal without cannot be*. I have not seen potatoes as cheap as this Fall - at 50 cents a pound and lower. 20 years ago, potatoes retailed \$1 to \$1.25 a pound. I put apples in near the same category.

I do not see vegetables to be expensive either. The expense is in dairy, eggs and meat - especially beef.

If prices are found to be high and unmanageable, it is not to the benefit of the growers. There are others in the marketing and distribution business skimming the best profits. Farmers and horticulturalists supply all our basic food needs at ever rising growing costs, but it is the retailers garnering the better profits.

With the excellent farmland and plentiful lake water in the Shuswap and Okanagan, we should grow much more locally and not be so reliant on the Lower Mainland and US.

The upcoming tariff threat from the Trump administration could increase produce costs across the board.

There should be serious talks on this on all government levels. Food security is the basics of all our well being.

Another topic which cuts deep is the proposed release of over 100 acres of fertile flat land on the SW fringe of Salmon Arm by the Agricultural Land Commission for future development. This is an environmental crime.

The land could grow over \$3 million worth of vegetables annually. Our food security - not today, tomorrow or next year - but one day, will be in peril. It is said that without growth we cannot survive. This is not true as inevitably growth is unsustainable.

We have one world, one Earth.
Mankind must wake up.



I have devised a practical way to determine the precipitation value of snowfall when converted to rain. Using a round six inch diameter, nine inch tall flat bottomed tin container that is water tight with a sharp top edge, the snowfall over 24 hours caught is then melted down giving a true water depth using a wooden ruler.

For example:- a six inch snowfall, depending on temperature at snowfall time, could give a precipitation value of as much as one inch of rain if the snow fell at +2 C. A 6" snowfall at -10C may give a precipitation value of as little as a quarter to half an inch.

If winds and blowing snow factor in, nothing is accurate. It's a guessing game. I am giving this a whirl with the Canadian Weather Forecasters' promise of a heavier snowfall season coming up than recent winters. □

□ Nick Parsons is a retired farmer and farm contractor in both UK and Canada, and weather reporter for Friday AM

Hand drying showdown post-pandemic

Personally, I don't like the 'stick your hands in here and dry them with blowing hot air hand dryers' in public areas.

At first, I thought they were good, obviously, so I resigned myself. After all, we don't have to touch anything, so they are more 'sanitary'. Right? Well, not necessarily so.

A friend asked me my opinion on them the other day, so did some reading. Here's what I learned.

Imagine hand drying as more than just a mundane bathroom routine. It's actually a complex intersection of technology, health, human experience and global considerations.

Then there's the psychological side. We all have preferences. Some feel paper towels are more "clean" - there's something satisfying about physically removing moisture. Others love the high-tech feel of a sleek air dryer. These preferences aren't just trivial - they impact how people perceive cleanliness and feel about public spaces.

The pandemic has been a game-changer. Suddenly, everyone became hyper-aware of hand hygiene. This global experience has sparked incredible innovations. Researchers are now looking at hand drying methods through an entirely new lens - investigating viral transmission, exploring touch-free technologies, and rethinking what "clean" really means.

The public discussion is mostly about air vs. paper for drying our hands in a public washroom. Personal preferences aside, here are some facts.

Microbial Transmission and Hygiene

■ **Paper Towels:** The Hygienic Hero. Paper towels are the



DESIGN DILEMMAS
Linda Erlam

gold standard for hand drying from a public health perspective. **Here's why:**

- **Mechanical Removal:** Unlike air dryers, paper towels physically remove microbes through the wiping action.
- **Barrier Protection:** You can use them to turn off faucets or open doors, reducing cross-contamination.
- **Immediate Disposal:** Potential pathogens are instantly removed from the environment. Citation: Huang et al. (2012) in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings found that paper towels significantly reduce bacterial counts compared to air dryers.
- **Hot Air Dryers:** The Problematic Alternative. These seemingly convenient devices are actually microbial menaces:

- **Bacterial Dispersal:** High-speed air can spread bacteria up to 3-6 feet from the device.
- **Incomplete Drying:** Moisture left on hands increases bacterial transfer.
- **Aerosolization:** They can blow bathroom bacteria around the space.

Citation: Kimmitt & Knowlton (2020) in the Journal of Hospital Infection demonstrated the significant bacterial spread from air dryers.

Economic Considerations

- **Paper Towels:** Lower initial installation costs, continuous expense for purchasing and restocking, labor costs for maintenance, waste disposal.
- **Hot Air Dryers:** A long-term Saver - Higher upfront installation cost, minimal ongoing material expenses, reduced

labor for restocking, lower long-term operational costs. Citation: Green & Thompson (2018) found that air dryers can provide 50-70% cost savings over five years.

Environmental and Practical Implications

- **Paper Towels:** Significant waste generation; Deforestation concerns; Immediate waste disposal
- **Air Dryers:** Lower environmental waste; Energy consumption; Longer drying time

The World Health Organization (2019) emphasized that complete hand drying is crucial in reducing microbial transmission, regardless of the method used. From a public health standpoint, paper towels edge out air dryers. The ability to physically remove microbes, create barriers, and immediately dispose of potential pathogens makes them superior.

The most critical factor is thorough hand washing followed by complete hand drying. Whether it's paper towels or air dryers, the user must make sure their hands are completely dry at the end of the cleaning cycle.

While air dryers might be more economical in the long run, the public health benefits of paper towels are compelling. In healthcare settings, high-traffic areas, and environments where infection control is paramount, paper towels should be the preferred method.

The bottom line? Clean hands save lives, and how you dry them matters more than you might think.. ■

□ If you have design issues, or a suggestion for a future column, email linda@designsewlutions.ca or designsewlutions.ca

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WORD SEARCH > A Christmas Carol

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 E N T T Q X D I Z T X
 T S R P T I M M S U F
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> Dickens, Christmas, Carol, Ebenezer Scrooge, Cratchit, Tiny Tim, Fezziwig, Fred, Martha, Jacob, Marley, Ghost, Past, Present, Yet to come, Emily, Peter, Belle, Fan, Portly Gentlemen, Twisty Turny, Lime Street, London, Camden Town, St. Dunstan, Money Lender, festive shuswap, theatre, dramatic, reading (See page 4)

HIDDEN GEMS

THIS QUOTE SPACE HOSTED BY
 Hidden Gems Bookstore, 331 Alexander
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- > "Music is the closest thing we have to a time machine."
- > "Happy people don't tear others down. Secure people celebrate others' success. Peaceful people spread calm, not chaos; confident people uplift, not criticize."
- > "We are like books. Most people only see our covers, the minority read only the introduction, many people believe the critics. Few will know our content." ~ *Emile Zola*
- > "The highest result of education is tolerance." ~ *Helen Keller*

FUNNY BONE

> *What things are cute when dogs them, but highly annoying when people do:*
 Snooping through your things. Living in your house rent free. Chewing loudly with mouths open. Borrowing clothes without asking. Always wanting to share my meal. Disagree on directions. Not covering mouth when sneezing. Tooting. Eating with mouth open. Talking during the movie. Drooling. Snoring. Begging for food. Being an unemployed freeloader. Breathing obnoxiously. Skinny dipping. Wrestling. Stealing your favourite spot every time you stand up. Invading your personal space. Making a big mess everywhere. Staying in bed all morning. Walking in on you in the bathroom.
 > I'm pretty sure my neighbour stole my gate. Why don't you confront him? I'm afraid he'll take offence.



POP QUIZ

- > How old was Irene Ryan when she began her role as Granny in the *Beverly Hillbillies*?
- > How old was Gary Coleman at the end of *Diff'rent Strokes* series?



< Irene Ryan, 60
 < Gary Coleman 17

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PICTURE THIS

A kindergarten class dropped seeds into a sidewalk crack to see what happens.



This upside down mural is right side up in the water's reflection. Images off Facebook

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All Month: SALMON
Mid Month: ARM

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FriAM.ca

Blog Post

All Month SALMON
MidMonth ARM

AM

FROM FACEBOOK DAILY POSTINGS

RCMP CHRONICLES

Often it has been a challenge to gather news details from the RCMP. Now it appears we have an extraordinary budding writer serving on our local force. The "Chronicles" that Cst. Andrew Hodges submitted for November are as colourful and interesting as an Ed McBain police novel. There's a bit of everything in it, ranging from hilarious to serious and disturbing. Here it is over the next two pages, presented verbatim:

At 6 am Nov. 13, a woman reported there was a man banging on her window and asking to use a phone. While police were on the way, the woman updated police that the man was hiding and then returned to bang on her window more. Police arrived and located the man running away from the area, who was then in a full panic and reported that he had just witnessed another man get murdered at a business down the road.

Police then attended the business and located the "murdered" man sleeping in a tent on the property, but was otherwise alive and well. The murdered man advised police that he heard the other man running around screaming. Police returned to the first man, who reported he had seen multiple people get murdered over the past three days. It was clear to police the man was experiencing a mental health crisis, he was apprehended and transported to a local hospital.

□ □ □

A complainant on Canoe Beach Drive reported a very intoxicated man wandering the area, barely able to walk, and was concerned the man was unable to care for himself. Police attended and located the intoxicated man, who confirmed he had been drinking. The man was provided a ride home to his parent's house, but once there refused to go inside and began wander-

ing towards the highway. The man was arrested for being drunk in public and was provided a ride to the detachment cells to sober up.

□ □ □

At 10 am, November 16 a woman reported her horse had been spooked and ran away. Salmon Arm RCMP received multiple updates from callers reporting seeing a horse in the neighbourhood around 20th Ave NE. Police located the horse and were able to hold onto it for a short while, until it decided to run away again. Police followed the horse as it trotted down 30th St NE where it was eventually corralled into a parking lot. Attending members were able to rein in the situation, and assisted the owner by distracting the horse with some food while it was haltered. The thankful owner then walked the horse to a nearby friends residence to wait for their horse trailer.

□ □ □

Salmon Arm RCMP received a report from a complainant stating an unknown neighbour came over and began shouting racist comments at him. The complainant explained he had just moved in that day, and captured video of the incident which was provided to police. The video showed the unprovoked 35-year-old neighbour shouting racist remarks, and vague threats at the complainant. The complainant wished to have the neighbour spoken with at that point in the investigation. Police attempted to speak with the neighbour, but the 35-year-old man's wife denied that he was home, despite police observing a man that appeared to be hiding in the window. Police followed up the next day and located the 35-year-old man.

□ continued next page

WINTER CONCERT

local musicians,
storytellers &
singer-songwriters

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14

SONG SPARROW HALL

FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

RCMP's Chronicles for November

☐ continued from previous page

The man's reasons for his actions did not match what was portrayed in the video that was provided to police. Police cautioned him that his actions could constitute a criminal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, and he could face a criminal charge if there was another incident. The complainant was advised of police action and encouraged to call police if there were any further issues, and a criminal charge could be pursued against the neighbour.

☐ ☐ ☐

On November 23 on Lakeshore Dr SW: At 1:45am a complainant reported a fight outside a local pub. Police attended and could hear yelling around the building, then observed a 33-year-old man on top of a 36-year-old man, with the man on the bottom screaming as if he'd been injured. The 33-year-old attempted his best Olympic sprinter impression and ran away as soon as he saw police. The officer pursued on foot, advising the man he was under arrest for assault. The man's sprint turned into a stumble, he tripped and fell, allowing the officer to speak with him and attempt to de-escalate the man. Instead the 33-year-old stood up, faced the officer with clenched fists, stated **** you, and appeared to be preparing to fight the officer. The officer presented his taser, but the man continued to disobey police commands.

The man was tasered and formally arrested. Turns out

the only medal he won was a pair of shiny handcuffs. Police returned to the 36-year-old who was yelling and screaming and subsequently arrested for causing a disturbance. Both men were lodged in cells over night. There were no injuries, and the fight was eventually deemed consensual after speaking with both men.

☐ ☐ ☐

Auto Rd SE: At 10:30pm a Salmon Arm RCMP member in an unmarked police vehicle was driving to a call for service on Auto Rd SE. A black Honda Prelude with its high beams on caught up and was following closely behind the police vehicle. The Prelude turned its high beams off, and police observed one of the head lights was burnt out. The Prelude turns its high beams on again and began following the police vehicle even closer. The officer allowed the Prelude the pass, then initiated a traffic stop. The 18-year-old N driver advised he was on his way to the same area police were heading. The officer could smell alcohol and a near empty bottle of rum was on the passenger side floor. Police conducted a breath demand, and the driver blew a fail. The driver accepted his right to second test and again blew a fail. The 18-year-old then accused police of ****ing me over, while police explained to the young man that he was the one that choose to drive impaired. The man's vehicle was impounded for 30 days, and he was prohibited from driving for 90 days.

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> There are two kinds of people in the world today. Those who can spot AI right away, and those who think this is a spectacular depiction of the Statue of Liberty right across the water from Central Park.

walk with Les

(December 3)



> I have to say, I was equally amazed by the efforts to stabilize the outhouse on top of Lakeshore Drive. It would be a fool's errand indeed to think of knocking it over the cliff.



This afternoon's walk with Les was a fun adventure of sorts, and probably took us to a place where we shouldn't.

But, hey, I'm a small city reporter and needed to check out the work on the Lakeshore Drive stabilization and widening project, and Les was only too happy to go along for the ride.

The work done so far (see photo on left) is impressive indeed, but there's plenty of work and raising up the bank left.

Since there was no one on the job today, we walked the makeshift road built for the trucks hauling the aggregate.

Being that I am only 72, I walked all the way to the top of the steep slope leaving Les to act as lookout in case the City came by to give us a stern lecture.

There's Les pictured at the bottom of the slope

Walk with Les (Nov. 26)

You'll never guess the choice for this afternoon's hike - The Smart Centres/WalMart parking lot. I instructed Les to keep looking right as we walked this periphery pathway. Wild, pristine and early winter gorgeous. Look to the left and it's suburban scenery at its banal - big prefab stores, acres of parking, shipping containers and folks - each and everyone of them - in a great big hurry. A study in contrast. It's the best kept secret about this westside shopping area. Nature sits in all its splendour, on the parking lot edge. Remember that when the hectic downside of Christmas bugs your living soul.





eh?/em!

Blog Post

Next print issue
Dec. 6

Friday SALMON
All Month ARM

Nov. 22, 2024 • 1st posting of day • FriAM.ca

‘Ender-be’ Hill..

THIS IS URGENT!

There was a horrible head-on Monday that took the lives of a pick-up driver and his two dogs. That was the result of the driver being on the wrong lane of a four-lane stretch in the Blind Bay area.

Now there’s the desperate potential for a horrible head-on on Enderby Hill, due to the ongoing detour in place during the Bruhn Bridge project.

Highways switched the northbound passing lane on the hill to a southbound turning lane for turning onto the 97A detour to Sicamous.

If it has not already been done, it absolutely needs be marked better than it is now because someone is going to use that lane for passing, out of habit.

Three thousand trucks a day pass through Salmon Arm. Now many of these trucks will be packed onto this detour during times of blasting.

This is urgent, fellow citizens and out-of-area travellers!

They’ve switched the passing lane up Enderby Hill to a second downhill lane now. This needs to be marked better than simple lines on the road!

From Barry Siebenga who started Big Steel Box and who has lived in this area for 60 years:

The other day on the way back from Vernon, I turned at the new light at the bottom of Baird Hill, and as I began to accelerate the hill, out of habit, I pulled into the passing lane and stomped on it... then I realized that it is no longer a passing lane, it’s actually a second lane on the downhill side coming into the traffic light.

The problem is, that now with a little bit of sand and snow on the road, the markings are almost invisible, and there’s going to be a head on there!

I’ve driven the northbound passing lane as a habit from 50 years driving that hill!

When you turn south onto 30th at the new lights by Walmart and for the first hundred feet or so there are a little plastic pylons in the center of the road. I’m imagining something like that for the first few hundred feet going up Baird hill (Enderby Hill)could prevent an accident.

FriAM

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Blog Post

Next print issue
Dec. 6

Friday SALMON
All Month ARM

Nov. 20, 2024 • 1st posting of day • FriAM.ca

There are many park system trails and linear link trails in the Shuswap and Salmon Arm to enjoy for short hikes or half days walks. And then there are these four SUPER TRAILS, listed below. These trails all in the realm of reality, if not already nearly completed. Such an incredible outdoor paradise that surrounds us!

WE HAVE TRAILS - and.. wait for it - WE HAVE SUPER TRAILS!



WEST BAY CONNECTOR TRAIL Above, extension of boardwalk, west

Sicamous to US border

Yes, that is the ultimate goal! Work is well underway on the Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail (SNORT for short?)

Sicamous to Salmon Arm

Yes, that is the reality of the existing Larch Hills Traverse

Canoe to Pierre's Point

The West Bay trail (see left) is now in the planning. Add Raven to Canoe to make it truly amazing

Haney Park to Foreshore

Foreshore trails and Little Mtn./Turner Creek/McGuire lake trails already in place. Link to Haney all that's left



'325 Alex': Episode 31 of 32

Serial Story by Shawn L. Bird

Henry had had to beg Susanne to even consider sitting down with Nic, and once she'd agreed, Nic claimed he didn't want to be with Desdemona and Susanne in the same room.

Eventually, however, they all agreed to meet like grown-ups over a piece of pie.

They sat at a table for four in the corner, Desdemona and Nic on one side, Henry and Susanne on the other.

Chris, Mabel, and Dimity tagged along and sat at a neighbouring table with their own pie. It was exam time at Okanagan College. Mabel assured them pie was excellent brainfood.



Henry introduced Desdemona as the new resident of #402.

"So what you're saying," said Susanne incredulously, "is that Mr. Moreno was okay? Even with all that blood loss, he survived?"

Desdemona nodded, "You know what they say about head wounds bleeding horrendously. Uncle Juan got a few good gashes, but a hundred stitches later, he was as good as new."

Susanne shook her head. "For the last five years I thought he was dead when I found him, five years ago."

"Nope," said Desdemona, cutting a forkful of cherry pie smothered in coconut cream topping. "You probably saved him by calling for an ambulance." She raised the fork of pie in a toast. "On behalf of the Moreno family, we thank you."

"But what happened?" asked Dimity, who had a blueberry stained tongue.

"Uncle Juan came to recover with us in Vancouver, and then he decided to stay a little longer and then that became a littler longer. I think he planned to return eventually, but he was hit by a bus at Hasting and Main and that was the end of him." She crossed herself and added, "May he rest in peace."

"So if you inherited #402, does that mean you inherited the building?" asked Chris. "I thought we were all paying rent."

Desdemona shrugged, "I only know I own #402. I don't know anything about the rest of the building."

"I have to go back to work," said Nic. "Is everyone all right now?" He looked directly at Susanne.

Henry coughed.

Susanne sighed. "If you mean will I hire a hitman to take you down for breaking my heart, no. I do have other friends." She smiled at the others around the table. "But Desdemona, you have to tell us. What is with all the recording equipment in your apartment?"

Desdemona laughed, "I think this is when I have to apologize for testing the sound system with that creepy laugh track. That was poor manners." The others looked relieved.

"Anyway," she continued, "I have a Youtube channel with over a million followers. I provide beauty tips. Speaking of, did you know there's an amazing clean cosmetic entrepreneur here in Salmon Arm? Missy was even on Dragon's Den!"

☐ *Read Episode 30 on page 8 of this edition*

☐ *Read Final Episode 32 in the Dec. Mid-Month, Dec. 20*



I did my good deed for the day and it took no more effort than helping an old gal cross the freeway. The Shuswap Everything Friendly page, which I am back in as a member, recently mourned the loss of Charles (Chuck) McKenzie who faithfully posted a joke or cartoon to start each and every morning for years. When I read how members suggested carrying on his tradition, I jumped in with a call-out for volunteer "Morning CHUCKle'ers". I asked folks to simply post, 'Count me in' and then I'd gather the names and assign each a day through December. It took less than a day to fill up the month! Well done! Nice to see neighbours with a sense of humour. I may even steal some of the jokes for Friday AM



> Except for the backdrop of condo towers, Coquitlam's Lafarge Lake looks remarkably like Salmon Arm's McGuire Lake. The lake is a stunning attraction during the holiday season for the annual Lights of Lafarge, attracting thousands each night. Pictured on centre right is my daughter Angela's family. She celebrated her 40th birthday this past weekend. The image on the bottom right shows another spectacular light display - returning to the Shuswap at sunset.



SINGER'S MOM:

“If that’s your key than who cares”

You read so much about parents supporting their kids to reach great success in fields like sports and business, but not so much about parents of rock musicians.

Growing up in the 60s in Winnipeg, there was a well known celebrity mom named Rassy Ragland who was part of a local TV quiz show called “20 Questions”. It was kind of like “Front Page Challenge” or “What’s my Line”.

Rassy was incredibly proud of her rock musician son. I remember when he played in a local band. My friends and I would be on our bikes watching this band unload their instruments at Norberry Community Club from a hearse.. Anyway, three of the band members eventually headed to the US and recruited two Americans to form a new band. The group cut an amazing first album that received a lot of airplay in the US.

Rassy was so supportive that she went on a local radio station, and introduced and reviewed each of the 12 tracks. Her son wrote nearly half the songs, but only sang lead on a handful of them. I was blown away how much this mom knew about the band’s music.

Even in the early years around Winnipeg, people would criticize her son’s unusual voice, but she always stood up for him. “Everybody said he couldn’t sing except me,” said Rassy. “I told him it’s an inter-



esting key but if that’s your key than who cares.”

Rassy passed away in 1990, but she and her son always remained close through the years as he continued to gain international fame. Yes, Rassy Ragland Young, a single mom for much of her kids’ growing up in my hometown, played a key role in raising one of the most important songwriters and musicians of our time - Neil Young who turned 78 last week. Rassy is pictured in the middle. Photo and quote from Wpg. Free Press



Remember when the Beatles got the trend started with big arena concerts? Pretty much the only props they had was a platform so people could see Ringo and his drums at the back. This photo shows the assemblage of semis and cranes at Toronto’s Rogers Centre for the recent Taylor Swift shows.



Shuswap, but it was in the news that trucks are already in Vancouver. How could that be with the last Toronto show on Saturday? Obviously, there’s more than one fleet.

I was thinking there’s going to be one impressive convoy of trucks driving through the

No expense spared for this mother of all travelling shows