

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a cruise ship's deck. Two white-framed lounge chairs with dark mesh backs are positioned on a light-colored wooden deck, facing away from the camera towards the ocean. A white metal railing with a wooden handrail runs across the middle ground. Beyond the railing, the water is a vibrant turquoise, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. A small, lush green island is visible on the horizon under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

the stew

ISSUE 7.08 | AUGUST 2016 | **FREE**

the
deck issue

Featuring
Bob Sunner
Pages 6 & 7

hear

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On the Cover:

On the deck of a ship, in a deck chair, on a voyage is a great place to spend your summer vacation! Join us in celebrating all kinds of decks in this, the August 'deck' issue of The Stew.

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Fascinated with ships



BY CRAIG SMITH

When it's warm, I find writing my articles for The Stew easier on my sundeck; fresh air, the sound of the birds and bees flying around, the refreshing beverage, and the Cuban cigar I've been anticipating all get my creative juices flowing.

I remember growing up, I always wanted to be a man who was my Dad, crossed with James Bond, as I idolized both. My Dad has a million stories, some you would think are a little far fetched and hard to believe until he backs them up with a photograph. Dad graduated from high school in Scotland, and back then you had two choices after graduation; work in the coal mines or join the military. After a very short career as a miner, Dad joined the Royal Merchant Navy. As my Grandfather had been killed in WW2, I think Dad was a little shy to do actual military service, but in his many years in the Merchant Navy, the only difference between them and the Royal Navy was that they didn't have weapons. The ships Dad was on went to

all the conflicts that the Brits were involved in, and then some. These ships supplied materials to destinations all over the world. During WW1 and WW2, the Merchant Navy moved supplies for the Allied forces, and suffered heavy losses of ships and manpower.

Dad joined in 1955, and during his career, was in every port in the world at one time or another. I grew up listening to the stories of their ships being shot at in the Suez Canal in 1956, when the Egyptians and the Israelis were having their dispute over the canal. Another story about delivering buses to a country in Africa (don't remember which), and his ship couldn't get close to shore because the water was too shallow. The Africans built wooden rafts to float the buses to shore. I think that was one of the pictures that Dad kept, knowing that no one would believe him later. I remember going through his log book when I was young, looking at the places and notes that Dad made of things that happened at each port of call. As with all Navy men of the era, my

dad had tattoos. Back then, they weren't as mainstream as they are now, and that used to be the way you picked out sailors. He got one of his in India from an artist that didn't speak English very well, and 'Scotland the Brave' was 'Scotlan the Brave' when he was finished, but Dad will always remember India.

I wanted my deck references to be about ships, as I've been fascinated with them since I was a kid. I found an article which is entitled *10 Ship's Decks Every Seafarer Should Know* written by the Marine Institute... enjoy.

1. Poop Deck: Originating from the Latin term for a vessel's stern-side – *Puppis* – the poop deck is located on the vessel's stern. The poop deck is basically used by the vessel's commanding superiors to observe the work and navigational proceedings. Technically, it is the deck that forms the roof of a cabin built in the aft part of the superstructure of the ship.

2. Main Deck: As the name suggests, the main deck is the primary deck in any vessel. The main deck however is not the topmost deck in a vessel which is referred to as the weather deck. On sailing warships it is usually the deck below the upper deck.

3. Upper Deck: The deck that covers the hull of the vessel, from its fore to its aft, is the upper deck. It is the topmost deck on a ship. In all vessels, the upper deck is the biggest deck amongst all other decks.

4. Lower Deck: The deck located below the primary or main deck is the lower deck. Generally the lower deck is comprised of more than one deck. It is just next to the lowest, or 'orlop' deck.

5. Promenade Deck: Promenade refers to taking a lazy stroll in a feasible place like a beach

or a park. In a vessel, the promenade deck serves as a place for the voyagers to take a calming and enjoyable walk on the ship, while enjoying the beauty of the oceanic vista. It is generally the area around the superstructure. It can have open railings or can be enclosed in glass.

6. Tween Deck: 'tween' is a colloquial abridging of the word 'between.' In a ship, the tween deck actually means an empty space separating or between (tween) two other decks in the hull of a vessel.

7. Flush Deck: The deck that extends without any constructional breaks from the frontal part of the ship to the aft is referred to as the flush deck. On such decks there is no raised fore-castle or lowered quarterdeck.

8. Weather Deck: A deck that is not roofed and thus is open to the ever-changing weather conditions of the sea is referred to as the weather deck. It is the upper most deck on the ship which is exposed to environment.

9. Bridge Deck: Bridge deck is the deck on which the navigational equipment of the ships is housed. The skipper and the rest of his commanding officers generally are positioned on this deck during the vessel's voyage. It is the room or a platform from which the ship is commanded.

10. Quarter Deck: The deck located near to the chief mast of a vessel on its stern is referred to as the quarter deck. The quarter deck is a part of the upper deck and is inclusive of the poop deck. The quarter deck is generally found on navy ships and accessible only to the most senior naval officers on the vessel. When in port, all the activities of the ship are controlled from the quarter deck.

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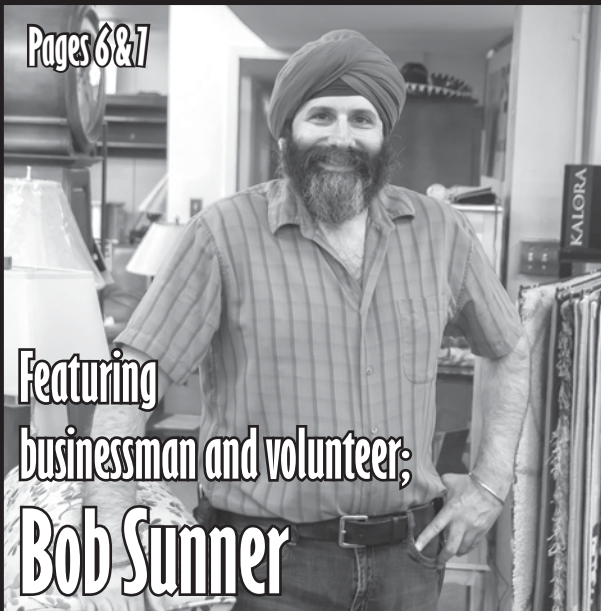
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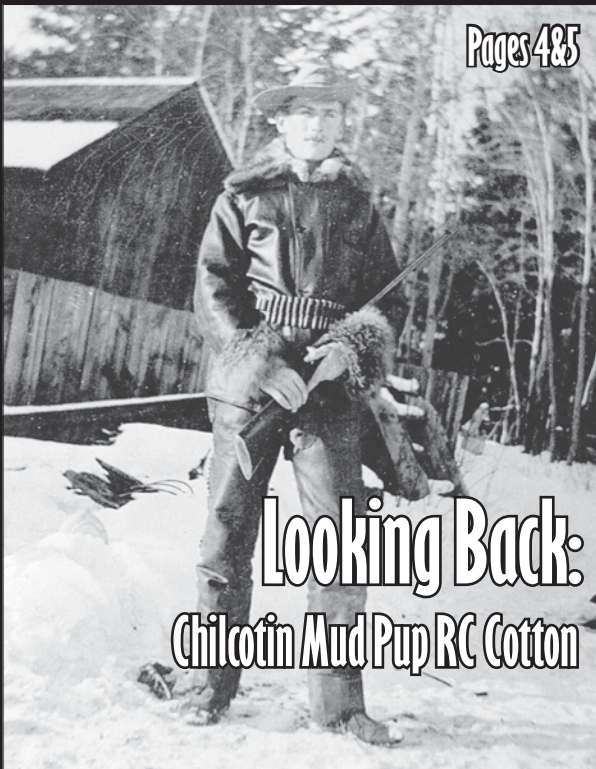
ingredients

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Featuring
businessman and volunteer;
Bob Sunner

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Looking Back:
Chilcotin Mud Pup RC Cotton

Monte Carlo:
gambling and Grand Prix



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Curator's Corner

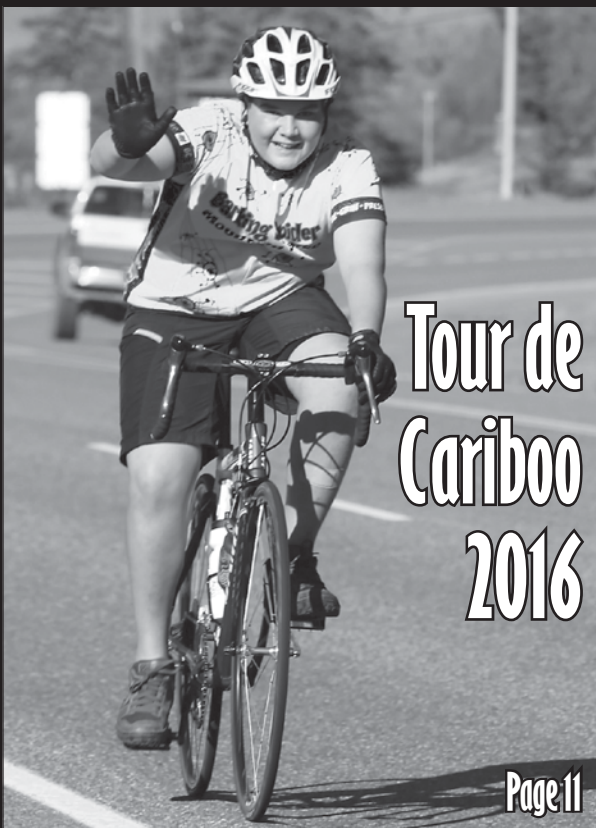
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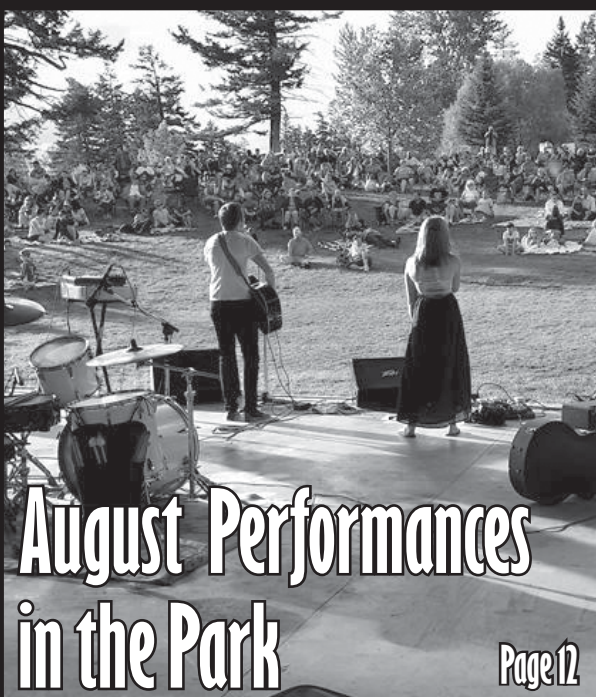
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needs all hands on deck

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**Tour de
Cariboo
2016**

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**August Performances
in the Park**

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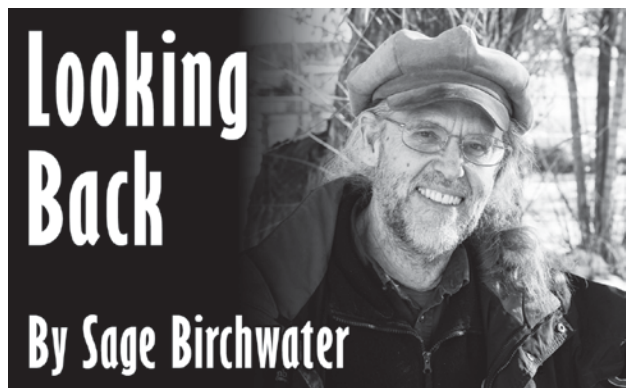
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1899 ► RC Cotton in his riding leather



Looking Back

By Sage Birchwater

Chilcotin Mud Pup RC Cotton

RC (Robert Cecil) Cotton was a “mud pup” who brought elegance, class and forward-thinking to the Cariboo Chilcotin. The 18-year-old eldest son of an English aristocratic family from Hampton Court England was sent to British Columbia in 1897 to work for Mortimer Drummond of Riske Creek.

“Mud pup” was a common term for an agricultural apprentice who paid a farmer or rancher for the opportunity to work for them and learn the ropes of the profession. In RC Cotton’s case, he paid Drummond \$500 for his first year of employment then volunteered to work for free the following summer. He was finally hired on at \$25 per month as a bona fide ranch hand.

When Drummond said he wanted to sell his Riske Creek Ranch in 1899, RC Cotton returned home to

England to visit his family and secure the funds to buy the ranch.

Though RC Cotton was the eldest son of a viscount, he was a nobleman without a title. His great-grandfather, Sir Stapleton-Cotton, was promoted from Baron Combermere to Viscount Combermere in 1827, after a distinguished military and diplomatic career. When he died in 1865, his only son, Wellington Henry Stapleton-Cotton, inherited the title as second Viscount Combermere.

RC Cotton’s father, Robert Wellington Stapleton-Cotton, became third Viscount Combermere upon Wellington Henry’s death in 1891, but unfortunately for RC Cotton that’s where the peerage ended.

His father, Robert Wellington, and mother, Isabel Marian Chetwynd, were both married to other people when they eloped in

1876. Before they had time to get divorces, which at the time was a long and tortuous process, they had two children, Madeline in 1877 and RC in 1878.

Robert and Isabel finally married in 1880, but their two oldest children were illegitimate under Britain’s strict laws of primogeniture where title and inheritance descends to the oldest legitimate son. Their youngest son, Francis Lynch Stapleton-Cotton, born in 1887 and called Peter by the family, became fourth Viscount Combermere when Robert Wellington died in 1898.

Non-inheriting sons like RC Cotton had three choices: they could go into the army, join the religious life, or head off to seek their fortunes in the far reaches of the British Empire.

The Cotton and Drummond families made arrangements to send RC to Canada to work as a Mud

Pup for Mortimer Percy George Douglas Drummond in British Columbia.

It was a pernicious twist of fate beyond his control that deprived RC from becoming a viscount, but he still received a share of the family fortunes. It was possibly an inheritance from his mother’s family that provided him with the \$40,000 necessary to purchase the Riske Creek Ranch from Drummond.

RC Cotton’s endowment gave him an advantage over many settlers trying to eke out an existence in the Chilcotin. He was able to afford household servants, hire ranching staff and invest in significant improvements to his property over the years.

After returning to British Columbia in 1900 and taking over ownership of the ranch, RC Cotton immediately started improving his lot. He pre-empted further land grants for his ranch

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► Cotton House

...continued from page 4

that year, bought stock from Douglas Lake Ranch, and registered his own "W" brand.

Riske Creek Ranch, pre-empted by Ludwig William Riske in 1873 on the west side of the Fraser River upstream from the mouth of the Chilcotin River, became officially known as the Cotton Ranch spelled with an 'e'.

In 1906, Maud Waller, a young woman from Tasmania, arrived in the Cariboo to work as a governess for the six kids of Field Yolland's family in 150 Mile House. Field Yolland came to British Columbia in 1894 as a Church of England priest, then became Chief License Inspector for 150 Mile House and Soda Creek.

It didn't take long for Maud and RC Cotton to become acquainted. They became engaged in 1908 and were married in February, 1909.

The Vancouver Sun newspaper reported a quiet Saturday wedding in St. Paul's Church in Vancouver. "Archdeacon Pentreath united in wedlock Mr. R Cecil Cotton of Chilcotin [sic] to Miss Waller who is well known in the Cariboo, having resided for several months at the 150 Mile House. Mr Skinner, an old 'Caribooite', gave the bride

away and Mr. AHT Chetwynd acted as best man..."

Less than a year later on January 8th, 1910, Maud gave birth to their daughter Sylvia Isabel. She would be the couple's only child. It is said RC rode 40 miles on his saddle horse to 150 Mile House as his wife went into labour to get a doctor to attend the birth.

Shortly after Sylvia was born, 20-year-old Madeline "Queenie" Wheeler from Liverpool was hired as her nanny. Not only did she care for the baby, but she became a close intergenerational family friend. In 1912, Queenie moved to Farwell Canyon on the Chilcotin River to work as a housekeeper for Gordon Farwell. Two years later she married Farwell's partner, Gerald Blenkinsop, an Englishman from Warwickshire. Young Sylvia, known by all as 'Baby' was the flower girl at their wedding.

Like RC Cotton, Farwell was a Mud Pup from a well-to-do English family. He arrived in the Chilcotin from Leicestershire in 1903 to work for Fred Beaumont on the River Ranch. Once he gained sufficient experience as a competent ranch hand, he bought his own place along the Chilcotin River from Louis Vedan.

Farwell Canyon,



► Stapleton-Cotton 1st Viscount Combermere

which now immortalizes Gordon Farwell's name, is called Nagwentled by the Tsilhqot'in. There are ancient pictographs on rocks above the rushing water marking the significance of this site as one of the most important aboriginal dip-net fishing stations in the region.

This tiny plot of fertile ground surrounded by towering hoodoos and crowned by a large sand dune, is one of the most significant microclimates of the Chilcotin. It supports the largest herd of California bighorn sheep in North America, and marks the northern extent of the great arid and semi-arid expanse that stretches up the continent from Mexico. From the earliest days, a bridge was built over the narrow canyon.

In 1912, the Cottons went to England to introduce Maud and Sylvia to RC's family. Peter, the fourth Viscount Combermere, now 25 years old, sailed back with them on the Empress of Britain to visit the ranch and see British Columbia for the first time.

Sylvia's next nanny was an Irish girl, Chris Riley, nicknamed Weenie. Once her term of employment was complete, she too left to take up housekeeping duties for Gordon Farwell. She and Farwell were later married.



► Baby Sylvia

According to Veera Bonner, the two couples called their isolated hide-away 'Happy Valley'. The roads leading out of the canyon on both sides of the river were very narrow and treacherous, and the two wives, Queenie and Weenie, seldom left home.

In 1919, Farwell and Blenkinsop sold their oasis to Gang Ranch and moved to Sugar Cane Jacks Meadow near Big Creek, a much higher and cooler location. The old farm in the canyon remains a significant camping and fish-processing site for Tsilhqot'in and Secwepemc, who still dipnet salmon there.

Like many aristocratic ex-pats, RC Cotton introduced a few old-world customs to his ranch. He raised pheasant and grouse for weekend shoots, and hosted polo matches on his hayfields.

When Williams Lake became a bigger settlement with the coming of the railway in 1919, RC Cotton became a patron of the Williams Lake Stampede and racing judge. His brother Peter, fourth Viscount Combermere, was visiting in 1923 when Jo Flieger won the second mountain race at the Stampede on Grey Eagle, one of RC Cotton's horses.



► Mrs. Cotton & Sylvia

Two years later, Flieger won the fourth Stampede mountain race on Grey Eagle, who died at the ranch in 1928.

The railway provided a means to get RC Cotton's cattle to market in Vancouver. Three or four weeks before the sale, RC and the cowboys would drive 300 or 400 head of cattle from the ranch to the stockyards in Williams Lake.

RC favoured raising Shorthorns, and carried between 1,400 and 1,500 animals on his 14,000-acre spread. For many years, he was president of the Cariboo Cattlemen's Association. Maud had her own herd of Shorthorns and a bull she bought from the Prince of Wales.

A 1937 Vancouver Province newspaper article describes RC Cotton as a man of decided opinion who was hard to convince of anything he was not certain of.

"He is able to say 'no' quicker and more often than any other man in the whole Cariboo," quipped the writer.

RC Cotton was loved and respected by his neighbours and those who worked for him.

"He was called 'Daddy' by everybody, and he treated us all kindly and



1910 ► RC & baby

caring like family," says his granddaughter Carole Hutchinson, who was raised at Cotton Ranch by RC and Maud from birth.

There is one rumour that RC Cotton's biographer, Antoinette Danaher wants to dispel. There was talk around the country that RC Cotton lived with a Toosey woman in the early days, and may have had children with her. Speculation that he might have had a number of children besides Sylvia was fueled by the custom of everyone at nearby Toosey by referring to him as 'Daddy'.

Danaher says she found no evidence of RC Cotton having a "summer wife" as many early settlers did. "In my opinion, he had no illegitimate children because he knew firsthand the pain that illegitimacy can bring."

In 1945, the Cotton Ranch was sold to John Wade of Chilco Ranch, and RC and Maud spent their remaining years at the west end of Williams Lake where they continued to raise a smaller herd of 75 Shorthorns. Maud passed away in 1954, followed by RC two years later.

The fertile flat at the west end of Williams Lake is still referred to as the Cotton Site.

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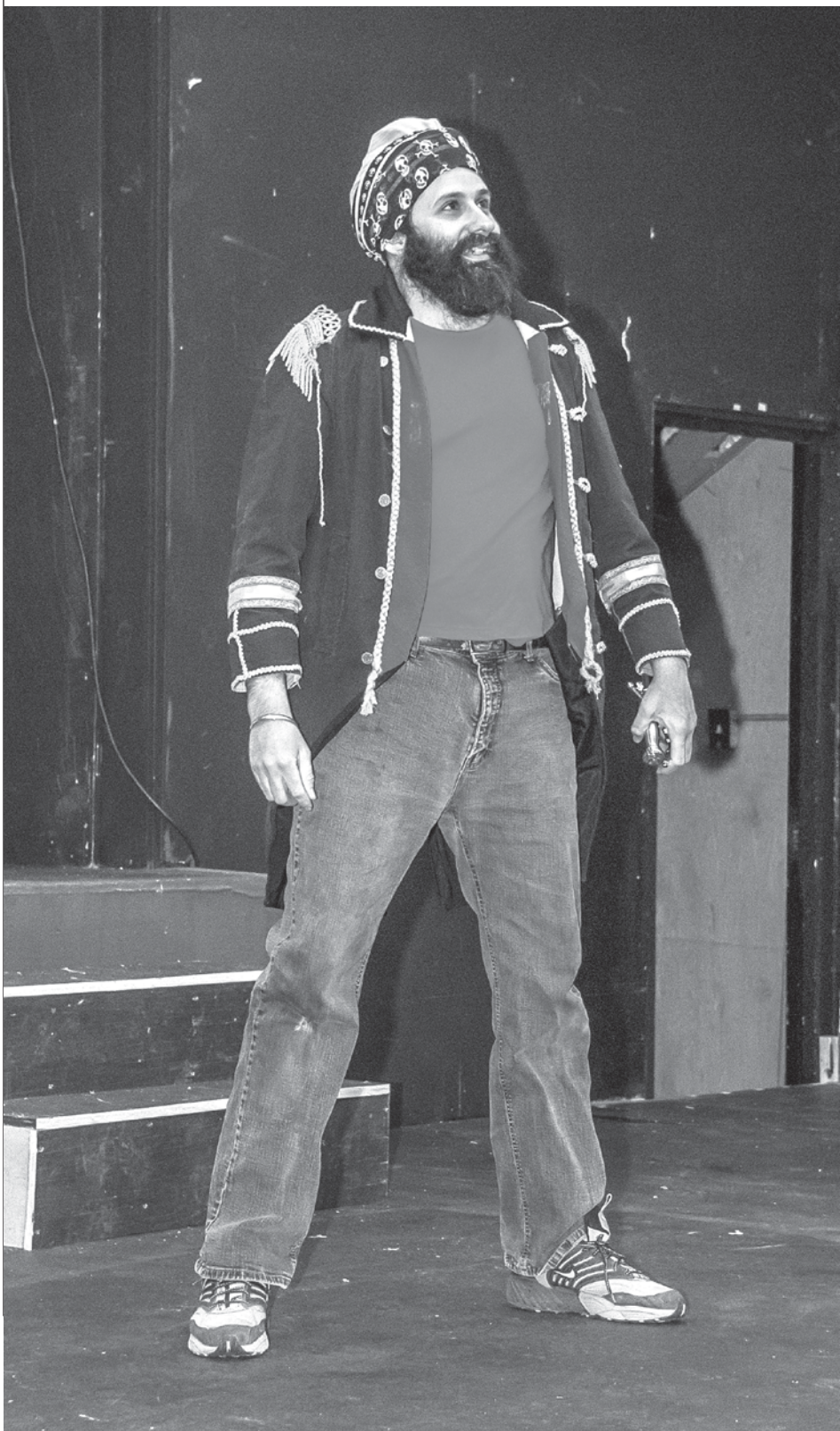
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BOB SUNNER ► CRAIG SMITH PHOTO
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Businessman and volunteer; Bob Sunner

BY CRAIG SMITH

Baldish Sunner Singh – or to anyone who has ever lived in Williams Lake, Bob Sunner – is our feature for this our issue about decks. It's not too far of a stretch, as Bob, in his capacity as a furniture salesman extraordinaire, does sell furniture that you can put on your deck. He also fits well, as some people may remember his brief foray on stage with the Williams Lake Studio Theatre as a pirate captain, where I shared a deck with him as a Cap-

tain of a merchant ship turned cruise ship in the Roy Teed farce called *Har, the Pirate Play*.

Bob was born and raised in Williams Lake, leaving very briefly, for a year working at his father's store in Quesnel, and then to study at UBC for a year, taking courses for Pre-Commerce, then to Kamloops at UCC for a year of Business Admin, then finally to SFU where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

Bob returned to Williams Lake to help run

the family business that Dad had started in 1971, turning down an offer for a career with Revenue Canada. At that time, Laketown Furnishings was situated on Mackenzie Avenue, where the gymnastics club is currently located. His father bought the current building as an investment in the late 80s, and after some renovations, decided to move their furniture store into it in 1993. Once Bob was back and actively working in the store, his Dad slowly retired and has since moved to the Lower

Mainland. According to Bob, he hasn't had a serious holiday since 1994, "In 1993 My Dad said we would discuss holidays when he came back to Williams Lake from Surrey ...he hasn't been back since."

In 2001, his Dad asked if Bob was still living in his house. "I told him yes, and he said 'then you need to buy it,' so I did."

Not only is Bob what I would consider a workaholic, but he is heavily involved in our community. He, again, is on the Executive for the Down-

town Business Improvement Area. He is the current Vice President of the Hospice Association, and was a member of the Seniors' Housing task force. His main volunteer time goes to Community Policing, where for the past 12 years, he has helped with bike patrols, vehicle patrols, walking patrols, directing traffic for special events, the stampede parade, KidSport and grad. Bob says he suffers from a medical condition that makes his hand go up whenever anyone is asking for volunteers – that

is one medical problem I wish more people had.

When Bob is not busy with all his volunteer activities, he can be found on his motorcycle touring around; practicing Budo Taijitsu, a martial art in which he holds a black belt; or working to become a baptized Sikh.

In conclusion, I give you our personality for the month of August, an amazing man that does a lot for our city, and I challenge you to maybe find a few minutes of your month to volunteer as well.

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Home buyer's plan

BY ADELE MCLEARN, CHS

There always seems to be confusion regarding the Home Buyer's Plan when purchasing a house.

The rules are very clear when it comes to Canada Customs and Revenue Services – CCRA:

If you have not owned a piece of property in the last 5 years whereby you received a Property Tax Notice annually, then you are definitely considered a First Home Buyer and may apply to have funds redeemed from an RRSP plan with which to use for your first house purchase. Even if you have already exercised a Home Buyer's Plan withdrawal for a previous house – as long as you have not owned a home in the last

5 years preceding this present withdrawal, you may qualify if all of the other criteria are met.

Any funds that have been deposited within the last 89 days prior to the withdrawal may not be taken out tax free under the Home Buyer's plan. However, any funds that were contributed prior to the last 89 days qualify. You must be especially aware that these rules apply to you if you are purchasing the home on your own.

If you are purchasing a house with a partner, ensure that they also qualify under the above rules. If they have owned a home in the last 5 years and their name is also on the mortgage/ownership of the new house you are

purchasing now, then this also disqualifies you from using your RRSP funds tax free for the house purchase.

The maximum amount of RRSP funds that can be withdrawn tax free is \$25,000 for you and \$25,000 from your partner's RRSP in their name for their Home Buyer's Plan; you cannot combine these funds for one person. And remember, these funds are to be paid back over a 15 year period following the second year in which you purchased your home. (1/15th per year)

Another rule that you must be aware of: if you have lived in the house you plan to purchase for 30 days or more prior to applying for the Home

Buyer's Plan, this excludes you from using your RRSP money tax free under the Home Buyer's Plan. There are situations whereby someone rents a home and lives in the home and then decides to purchase it – this is where this

exemption may come into play.

These are just a few highlights when discussing the Home Buyer's Plan. There are other details that you should be aware of if this is the route you are planning to take.

CCRA is extremely clear on the rules as to who can and cannot use their RRSP funds for their First Home Buyer's plan. If you want to be sure that you have all of the facts, give me a call or contact the CCRA directly at 1-800-959-8281.

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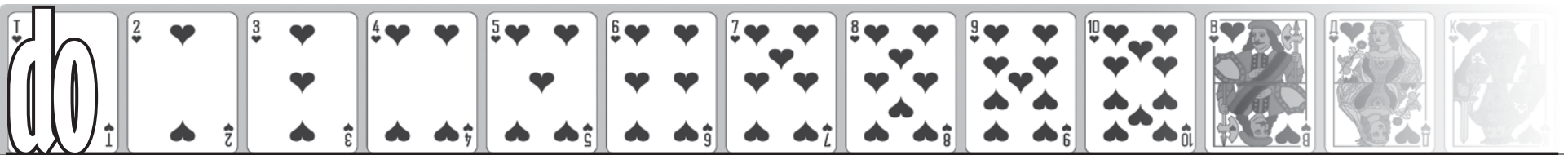
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Tour de Cariboo 2016

BY MELISSA NEWBERRY,
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Every summer you can see bike riders on the roads surrounding Williams Lake. Chances are, they are training for the Tour de Cariboo. This year, riders from around the region will gather on September 10th to participate in the 24th Annual Tour de Cariboo.

Participating in a road

riding event is different for riders of all skill levels. Most riders love to ride our classic 76km route and feel that sense of accomplishment as they cross the finish line and arrive at Gavin Lake. This year, we are offering a 100km route for our more adventurous riders who want that extra challenge. The new route will follow the classic 76km route to the gravel turn off for

Gavin Lake, and 100km riders will continue on the paved road for another 12kms where they will reach a marshalled safe turnaround point, ride 12km back to the gravel turn off, and continue on to Gavin Lake to complete their 100km route. We are so excited to be able to offer this extended route to a new group of more competitive riders.

We are beginning to

make changes to our event to include everyone in our community, so this year we are happy to be able to include riders who are aged 12-18. This update will allow families to participate as relay teams or just allow a child or youth to ride part of the route, or the entire route, while accompanied by an adult. For information and to sign up for the Tour de Cariboo 2016, visit our website at www.bbswlake.com.

The fun does not end here. This year, there

has been a lot happening at Gavin Lake as they construct their new bouldering cave. If you're not sure what that is, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GavinLakeCamp to follow the construction and learn more. Mike Tudor of Gavin Lake said, "We are aiming to have it completed in time for the Tour de Cariboo so we can officially open the cave with a mini, informal bouldering competition featuring exhausted bikers. It won't be too hard,

as we figure we only have time for each competitor to be on the wall for 4 minutes. We are amassing a huge prize package by collecting all the coins we find under mattresses in camp. We have 45 cents so far!"

When the competition is over, everyone will be treated to a mouth-watering dinner followed by the Awards ceremony. We look forward to seeing all our long-term riders and all the new riders at Tour de Cariboo 2016.



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August Performances in the Park

BY ANGELA SOMMER

Great entertainment in Williams Lake's Boitanio Park continues throughout August. Despite the rainy weather in July we have had four well-attended shows. We are tough in the Cariboo! People have brought tents, tarps, umbrellas, rain gear

and the kids played in all those wonderful mud puddles. (Sorry parents, but they were so cute). There is always good food and entertainment, plus the special Downtown Discount Daze organized by the BIA which has select businesses offering 10% discounts every Thursday prior to Per-

formances from 3pm to closing. Performances in the Park continues on August 4, from 6 to 8pm. A children's art corner will entertain the little ones, food vendors will be available with snacks and drinks for the family, and fantastic music will play at the Gwen Ringwood

Theatre in Boitanio Park. You just have to come out and see who is going to be there! August 4 is kick-off night for ArtWalk 2016 – Arty the ArtWalker will join us as our emcee. Perfect Match plays music that is good for the heart and easy on the ear. Our second performer is

Mohamed Assani, a celebrated sitar player who has performed across the globe. You simply can't miss it! August 11 will see Chicken-Like-Birds, a country blues, ragtime and bluegrass band, and Saenger and Thorne with acoustic pop/rock. August 18 features

Winona Wilde with sassy, yet sensitive folk and local favorites. Lucier and Friends with Metis-based country music that makes you want to dance. August 25, closing night will rock out with Run Home Jack's high energy covers and Wayne's Buddy Rose's country/dirt rock played with a pirate smile. We will have Taylor Made Cakes and Sweets and Cody's Bannock as food vendors at all performances. Taylor Made offers sandwiches and pizza as well as cup-cakes and sweets and Cody will fry up mouth-watering bannock. Angela Sommer the event coordinator, and the CCACS are thankful to all our sponsors, supporters, vendors and faithful audiences who are making this event special every summer in Williams Lake. We will see you again in July, 2017.



is a summer-long concert series presented by the **Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society**, with funding from the **Cariboo Regional District** & the **City of Williams Lake**. Every **Thursday at 6pm** at the **Gwen Ringwood Theatre** in **Boitanio Park**

for more information visit **facebook.com/performancesinthepark**

2016 concert schedule

July 7	Williams Lake Fiddlers with Red Monkey Black King & Nathan Lamb-Yorski
July 14	Dirty Mountain with Flannel Roots
July 21	Samson's Delilah with Weathered Arrows
July 28	Barefoot Caravan with Warless
Aug. 4	Perfect Match with Mohammed Assani
Aug. 11	Seanger & Thorne with Chicken Like Birds
Aug. 18	Lucier and Friends with Winona Wilde
Aug. 25	Wayne's Buddy Rose with Run Home Jack

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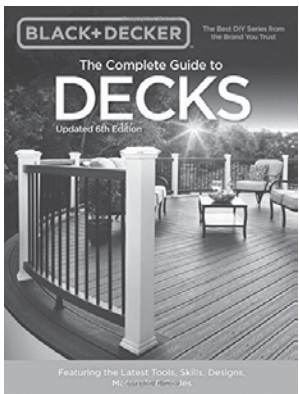


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read

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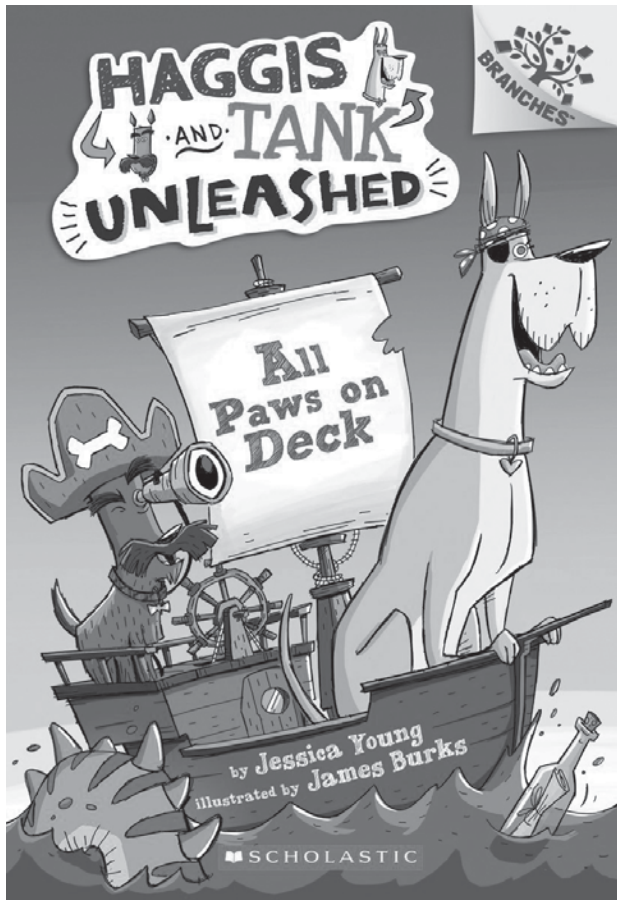
Be inspired by new design and follow the latest codes as you custom build the deck of your dreams!

Architecture, building codes, and design are not static; they change constantly. That's why there's a new edition of the bestselling *Black & Decker: The Complete Guide to Decks*, incorporating updates to national building codes, as well as new developments in building materials and design. Calling attention to composite deck boards and railings, as well as other PVC products made from recycled plastic, the new materials systems featured in this book are environmentally friendly, easy to work with, rot resistant, and very low maintenance.

Black & Decker: The Complete Guide to Decks offers complete step-by-step photos and instructions, so even homeowners with limited DIY experience are assured of a deck that meets their needs. So, don't wait any longer; build the deck of your dreams and start enjoying it!

All Paws on Deck: A Branches Book (Haggis and Tank Unleashed #1), by Jessica Young

This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line called Branches, which is aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-

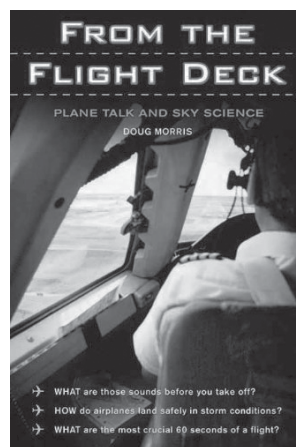


read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina. Branches books help readers grow!

Tank is a clumsy, outgoing Great Dane. Haggis is a dapper and grumpy Scottie dog. In the first book in the series, Haggis and Tank set sail as pirates.

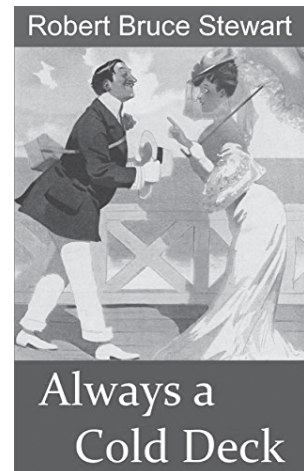
From the Flight Deck: Plane Talk and Sky Science, by Doug Morris

Imagine you're sitting next to a pilot on a flight and he's eager to answer all those nagging questions you have about air travel. Are those bumps and noises normal? Why are some take-offs delayed? What happens if there's a storm? How does this plane stay in



the air, anyway? In *From the Flight Deck: Plane Talk and Sky Science*, pilot, meteorologist, and flight-school instructor Doug Morris lets you take the window seat on a trip around the world, giving you the scoop on everything from take-off to landing. He explains what you see looking out the window, what that window is made of, and how the plane is

kept in rigorous flying condition. Perfect for informing the aviation enthusiast and calming the fearful flier, *From the Flight Deck* tells you everything you want to know about commercial airline travel: the physics of flight, how airplanes work and what they're made of, how pilots are trained, route planning and the importance of the ground crew, turbulence, flying in storms, what the flight crew gets up to on layovers, and much more. With facts, trivia, humour, and illuminating photos throughout, *From the Flight Deck* is the ultimate flight companion.



Always a Cold Deck (A Harry Reese Mystery Book 1), by Robert Bruce Stewart

In July 1900, hapless insurance investigator Harry Reese travels to Buffalo to look into a suspicious fire. But when Harry uncovers a smuggling ring, the case morphs into something more sinister, and he's faced with a new set of questions.

To find the answers, Harry travels to Canada and back in the company of a political boss's conniving stooge and the aforementioned nutty niece. It's a byzantine odyssey, during which Harry can never be sure of anyone's loyalties, least of all those who've hired him. And when it's all over, he finds himself wedded to a new conundrum, which makes what went before pale in comparison.



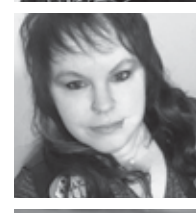
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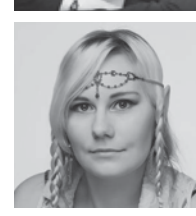
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You, Me and We



Sage Birchwater
Looking Back



Paige Knights-Smith
Tasty Tidbits



Jazmyn Douillard
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Entertaining games for all ages



BY DAWN WALL,
WOMEN'S CONTACT
SOCIETY

Camping is an amazing experience when the weather is sunny and clear. Everybody relaxes and the children can find numerous ways to entertain themselves all day. In weather like this, there is little work to be done and the entertainment is just being outside. The stress of daily life fades away and we get to spend quality time with the members of our family. However, it doesn't always turn out this way.

Often when we decide to do something like go to the lake to camp, the skies will often open up and make the outdoor activities planned, like hikes, rock climbing, and picnics less than enjoyable or practical, even if done under an umbrella. The whirlwind of activity that is children, makes them generally less than enthusiastic or content to stay indoors. The speed in which children develop cabin fever seems to be much faster than adults. So, as it will certainly rain on you at some point during a camping trip

with kids, let's turn this negative into a great family positive.

Our family of five has camped through many storms, with rivers flowing over their banks, thunder and lightning and hail storms. In fact, you name it and we have probably experienced it. Out of these times of cramped quarters, damp clothes, and children looking to us to magically stop the rain, we have developed a survival tool. These experiences which could have made us swear that we would never again go camping, have created

for us, a deep appreciation for the simple activities that don't need to be plugged in or have batteries added. These activities helped develop a family bond that remained long after the camping trip was over.

Instead of being bummed out by the inclement weather, as soon as the rain began they would reach for the decks of cards. Cards are light, easy to pack, and do not take up a lot of room. They do not need to have batteries added or to be plugged in. With the variety of card games

available, or some slight changes in the rules, everyone can take part in the fun. That everyone is able to take part in playing the game is paramount in this being a successful, fun experience.

If you are camping with very young children that are not able to hold the cards or read the numbers on each card, stick to games that do not need these skills. When our children were really young, games consisted of sorting the cards into different piles, by colour (red and black), by suit (heart, spades, diamonds and clubs) or by the number of symbols on the front (when they were starting to learn to count).

As they got older, we played simplified versions of games like Go Fish. The rules were generally the same but the number of cards used was less. We generally started with numbers from 2 to 6, and dealt out four cards to each person. They could easily hold 4 cards at a time. As they got older, we added more cards until we played the traditional game.

The same can be done with War. Take the ace and face cards out of the deck, and play only with the numbers. Play the game as you normally would. You can play this game with children even before they recognise numbers by showing them how to count the symbols on each card.

"Concentration" is always great fun. With re-

ally young children, take out two 2s, two 3s, two 4s and two 5s from a deck of cards to make it easier for them to remember where the pairs are. As the children get older, increase the number of cards until the whole deck is in use. This game can be played where you match up the suits rather than the numbers as well.

"Slap Jack" is a great, rowdy game to play with young children. Shuffle the deck and deal them face down, equally between the people playing. Each player alternates placing a card from the top of his pile into the middle. When a jack face card is played, the first player to slap the piles gets to take all the cards in the pile. This is repeated until one player obtains all the cards and is the winner. If you have lots of people playing, add another deck.

These are just a couple of the games that we developed to play with our children when they were little, but the list is endless. You can modify, simplify and change many card games to fit the age and developmental stages of the children you have camping with you. You can even let your imagination go wild and develop new games of your own (children are great at this).

So don't let the rain quell your enthusiasm for getting out and away with your family. Grab a deck of cards and head out for some fun, adventures and memories!

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2017 call for entry and Gallery news

BY DIANE TOOP, STATION HOUSE GALLERY

It's midsummer and at the Gallery, that means we are receiving proposals for next year's exhibition schedule. We strive to bring diversity and quality to our visitors (approximately 10,000 yearly!) and that happens because of all the magnificent artists who jump on our Calls for Entry – we fully expect this year's submissions to be plentiful and exciting. Our deadline for submissions/proposals is September 30th.

If you've never submitted to us before, we have a great set of notes from our proposal workshop that will give you a better idea of our expectations of what a good gallery proposal is. Feel free to email us at coordinator@stationhousegallery.com and we will ship those to you post haste or, drop in for a hard copy.

The JULY/AUGUST exhibition at the Gallery, Onward and Upward, celebrates our featured artists and that beautiful heritage ranch and home called the Onward. The show displays works by Vivien Cowan, Sonia Cornwall, Dru Hodgson and her daughter, Devereux Hodgson. In our upper gallery we have 8 works by well-known artist, Joseph Plaskett, who was a frequent visitor to our region and who inspired and we are sure, was inspired by, the artists who loved the local landscapes.

This September will bring Judith DesBrisay and her exhibition 'Possibilities' to the Main Gallery. This show is an exploration of the interplay between person and place, a celebration of life. In our Upper Gallery we will be hosting Connor Kenney with his show 'Woman Inside the Man'. Connor's fascinating life-sized human sculptures will fill this space like it has never been filled before.

We are on the lookout for vendors for our annual, month long Christmas market. If you create works that you think would be a great addition to this truly wonderful market please come in and chat or shoot an email off to manager@stationhousegallery.com.

As always, our Gallery Store is full of quality, affordable giftware produced by our local artists and artisans. Check us out!

The Gallery is free of admission, 6 days a week, 10 to 5.

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Historic Train Station at the foot of Oliver Street, Williams Lake



The funny thing about words

SHORT STORY BY
LINDA PURJUE

We were having a nice social time on Gibson's new deck at the summer cabin, when this dude, all decked out in top hat and tails, jumped from the deck of a motorboat that had cruised up to the dock, and swaggered up to the party. He hauled out a deck of cards from

inside his coat, and proceeded to cajole people into playing poker with him. It wasn't long before we realized he was cheating. This really riled up Pete, who took a swing at the dude and decked him. The dude staggered back, tripped over Ned's skateboard, breaking the deck of it, and knocked Annie's tape deck off the deck chair, then flipped over

the rail of the deck and landed on lumber we'd spent an hour decking into a nice neat pile. We were double-decked along the rail watching this ridiculous figure untangle himself from the not-so-neatly decked mound of

wood, and scramble back onto the deck of his boat. He dove below deck, and soon the boat chugged away from our dock. We got on with our party, and had a few laughs about our strange visitor.

Writers' Showcase

Short Stories by
the Williams Lake
Writer's Group

Good thing I have no BBQ

SHORT STORY BY
ANNE MOUTRAY

I wanted a deck. Every respectable home should have a deck. You need one to store your barbeque and your colourful deck chairs. I don't have a barbeque, but never mind. If you have a deck you are able to sit on your deck chair and let the breezes waft through your hair.

Yes indeed, I knew that I just had to have a deck.

I consulted with the builder and explained that I would like to have a roof over the deck, so as to keep my deck chairs and non-existent barbeque dry yet still allow the breezes to waft. Then I thought, "Wouldn't it be nice to have windows all around so that I could use my deck during the win-

ter, and then take them out in the summer to accommodate the wafting breezes?"

However, the builder explained that I wouldn't be able to remove the windows myself; that he would have to come and do it for me. In any case, where would I store those windows during the summer?

So, my deck has a

roof with a sky light and windows all around.

People who don't know any better call my deck a sunroom and exclaim with delight when they see it. Open the windows and the breezes are able to waft all around. Isn't it lucky that I don't have a barbeque?

I love my deck. Everyone should have one.

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Monte Carlo: gambling and Grand Prix

BY SYLVIA RASHBROOK,
ALL-WAYS TRAVEL

For this month's deck-themed issue of The Stew, come travel with me to Monte Carlo, Monaco where you'll find elegant and exclusive decks of gambling cards! We have all heard of Monaco and the beautiful American movie star Grace Kelly, who became Princess Grace after marrying Prince Rainier III. Her legacy remains in Monaco through her children. I am not shy to admit that Princess Grace was my idol when I was growing up.

Monaco, on the extreme eastern edge of the French Riviera, near Italy, has long attracted an upscale crowd of wealthy tourists and gamblers.

Monte Carlo (the capital of Monaco) refers to a Principality of Monaco,

where the infamous Monte Carlo Casino is located. The permanent population of the ward of Monte Carlo is 3,500 people, while the surrounding area houses approximately 15,000 inhabitants. The nearest major city is Nice, France.

Monte Carlo is situated prominently at the base of the Maritime Alps along the French Riviera. At the west end of the Monte Carlo is the world famous Place du Casino, the gambling centre of Monaco where you will find an opulent and extravagant display of wealth. The Hotel de Paris, the Café de Paris and the Salle Garnier (the casino theatre which is the home of the Monte-Carlo Opera House) is located near the Place du Casino.

The Monte Carlo Casino is home to all-sorts of gambling, including

different kinds of roulette, stud poker, blackjack, trente et quarante, craps, baccarat, video poker, and slot machines.

Princess Caroline, an astute business woman, proposed the gambling venture to save her country from bankruptcy due to lack of tax revenue from derelict towns – they refused to pay tax on olive oil and fruit. From this dilemma, a brilliant money-making idea was born; gambling. Originally, the establishment included a spa and bath house where people came as treatment for various diseases. Although the Casino began to make a profit around 1859, Princess Caroline envisioned a gambling establishment on a grander scale. She fired the architects of the former spa and bath house and recruited the famous Francois Blanc to

design and construct the Monte Carlo Casino.

It wasn't until 1863 that Blanc agreed to take over Monaco's gambling business. He quickly used his connections to raise the required funds to construct a massive casino, along with a concert hall located on the side facing the sea. The Casino was transformed by Charles Garnier, a famous architect who designed the Paris Opera House. The gaming rooms and the public areas were designed and expanded by him in later years. Around the early 1880s, Garnier added the Trente-et-Quarante gaming room. According to reviews, "the refined and graceful atmosphere of this Casino is undeniably world class," "to be able to gamble at this Casino, one would be the most blessed people on the face of this

planet," and, "the architecture of the glamorous Belle Epoque building alone is worth the visit."

This amazing Casino has been associated with many movies, in particular with the James Bond movies, including *Never Say Never*, *Golden Eye* and Ian Fleming's first Bond Movie, *Casino Royale*. Disney used the Monte Carlo Casino to film *Cars 2*. Parts of the famous Monaco Grand Prix were filmed in *Montecarlo Gran Casinò* with Italian actors Massimo Baldi, Christian De Sica, and Ezio Greggion.

Some interesting facts about the Casino:

- The citizens of Monaco are forbidden to enter the gaming rooms of the Casino (I wonder why?) and identification is checked at the door to enforce this rule.
- The Casino hosted

the first seven seasons of the European Poker Tour Grand Finals until 2010/2011.

- Aristotle Onassis had a controlling interest in the Casino until he was forced out by Rainier III.
- The class of random sampling algorithms were named – the Monte Carlo methods.
- The route to the Grand Prix is past the casino.
- A common myth was that the ball fell in the black 26 times in a row in one game of roulette in 1913.

Is Monte Carlo on your 'bucket list?' – wouldn't it be nice to visit the museums, the gardens, the seaside, the Grand Prix, and to play with a deck of cards from one of the most beautiful casinos in the world? If that is your wish, we can certainly send you to the Monte Carlo Casino. Come in and see us at All Ways Travel in Williams Lake.

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**Your guide to
where to go and
what to do for
the month of
August**



play

WILLIAMS LAKE & AREA

August 1-31 Station House Gallery: Onward and Upward, a group show dedicated to the legacy of the Onward Ranch with works by Vivian Cowan, Sonia Cornwall, Dru & Devereux Hodgson & Joseph Plaskett

August 1,8,15,22,29 Native Fun Summer Day Camp, Scout Island Nature Centre

August 2,9,16,23,30 Fitness in the park, Boitanio park, 6-7pm

August 3 Gibraltar Mine Tour, Tourism Discovery Centre, call to reserve your spot 250-392-5025

August 3,10,17,24,31 Tales and Trails, Scout Island Nature Centre, 10:30am-12pm

August 4,11,18,25 Performances in Boitanio Park, 6-8pm (see article pg 12)

August 4,12,19,26 Farmers' Market, Boitanio park, 9am-2pm

August 4,11,18,25 Jam night with Busted Remedy, OV pub, 9:30pm

August 4,11,18,25 Just for fun ladies singing group, supported by Women's Contact Society and Angelkeys music studio, Anglican Church, 7:30-9pm

August 4,11,18,25 Pokemon Thursdays, Adventure Games, 3:45pm

August 5 The Big Squeeze fundraiser, Big Brothers Big Sisters, 10am-2pm

August 5-31 ArtWalk, Downtown all day, info: 250-398-5717

August 5,12,19,26 Friday Night Magic, Adventure Games, 5pm

August 6 Plato Island & Marina Musik Fest 2016, for info: 1-888-620-0037

August 6,13,20,27 Warhammer and Tabletop Games, all day, Adventure Games

August 7 Museum 25th Anniversary Celebration and Heritage Festival, Boitanio Park, 12pm

August 7,14,21,28 Sunday Morning Magic and Game Night, Adventure Games, 10am and 6pm

August 7,14,21,28 The Bean Counter presents: Sunday Biscuits, brunch and live music, 10am-2pm

August 8 FREE senior's bingo & refreshments, Boitanio Mall upper level, 1pm

August 11-15 58th Annual 4H Show and Sale, Stockyards, all day

August 12-14 Metis Assoc. 4th Annual Jamboree, McLeese Lake Hall, all day

August 14 Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) meeting, 369 Oliver Street, 1pm, info: 778-412-9323

August 18 Family Street Party, Boys & Girls Club, 5-8pm

August 20 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament, Women's Contact Society, 5pm

August 20 Horsefly Fall Fair, info: lbartsch4@gmail.com

August 26-28 West Coast Amusements, Stampede Grounds, all day

August 27 Memorial Race & Wescar Late Model

Touring Series Regular Points Race, Thunder Mtn Speedway, 5pm

QUESNEL & AREA

August 3,10,17,24,31 Bouchie Lake Country Store Market, 4-7pm

August 3,4 Live Music, The Occidental, 8-10pm

August 4-6 4H Achievement Days, Alex Fraser Park, all day

August 4,11 Guns Gold & Greed, Wells Curling Club, 8pm

August 5 A portrait of Fur and Feathers, Art Gallery, 7-9pm

August 5-7 Mountain Trail Clinic, Pen-Y-Bryn Farm, info/register: 250-991-2463

August 6,13,20,27 Farmers' Market, Helen Dixon Center, 8:30am-1pm

August 7,21 Farmers' Market, Wells, 9am-1pm

August 11,25 RCMA Meeting, The Occidental, 8-10pm

August 12-14 Cariboo lodge No.4 Annual Reunion, Barkerville

August 14 Annual Open House Family Day, Antique Machinery Park, 3055 Dragon Lake Rd, 10am-4pm

August 15-21 Northstar Soccer Camp, Youth soccer building, register: Northstar Church

August 16 Harp Concert, Sunset Theatre, 7-10pm

August 18 West Village Night Market, Baker Creek Park, 5-9pm

August 20, Children Fun Day, Museum, 705 Carson Ave, 10am-12pm

AUGUST'S BIRTHSTONE IS PERIDOT

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August 20 Mid-Autumn Mood Festival, Barkerville, all day

August 23 How to recycle, Bouchie Lake Country Store, 6:30-8pm

August 26 Prospectors Car Club Show n' Shine, Lebourdais Park, 9am-5pm

August 26,27 Live music with Frenzy, The Occidental, 8:30pm-midnight

August 26 Moonrise Film Festival, Sunset Theatre, 10pm

August 27 Mud Bogs, Quesnel Raceway park, 2-5pm

August 27,28 Annual Mud Race and Hill n' Hole, NCMRA, 9pm

100 MILE HOUSE & AREA

August 1-31 Cariboo Artists Guild 36th Annual Fine Art Show, Parkside Art Gallery, Thursdays 5-7pm

August 1,8,15,22,29 Bingo, Community Hall, doors open 6pm, starts 7pm, super star 8:30pm

August 1,8,15,22,29 Alanon, Health Centre (hospital rear entrance), 7:30pm 250-395-2532

August 1,8,15,22,29 Women's drop-in volleyball, Lone Butte Community Hall, 9:30am

August 2,9,16,23,30 Alanon Drop-on, Community Health Centre (hospital rear entrance), 1-2pm info: 250-395-7676

August 2,9,16,23,30 Alcoholics Anonymous, United Church, 8pm

August 2,9,16,23,30 HUGS help us get slim, 6300 N Green Lake Rd, 6:30pm. info: Charlotte 250-456-7504 or Pat 250-456-2491

August 2,9,16,23,30 Carpet Bowling Club, Interlake's Hall, 1-4pm, info: Kitty 250-593-4780

August 2,9,16,23,30 Co-Ed Drop-in Volleyball, Peter Skene Ogden Gym, 7-9pm, info: Kersti 250-395-1353

August 2,24 Photo Group, Bridge Lake School, info: Larry 250-593-4362

August 3, 10,17,24,31 Bingo, g-ball, loonie ball & progressive, Lac La Hache Hall, doors 5:45pm, start 7pm

August 4,11,18,25 Full Contact Stick Fighting, Lac La Hache, info: www.coillmhor.com

August 4,11,18,25 TOPS club, take off pounds sensibly, United Church, 6:30pm, info: Kirsteen 250-395-3344

August 4,11,18,25 Indoor Farmers' Market, Parkside Art Gallery, 10am-noon, vendor info: 250-395-2021

August 4,11,18,25 Royal Canadian Army Cadets, 5530 Horse Lake Road, 18:30-22:30, info: 250-395-1181

August 4,11,18,25 Alcoholics Anonymous, 108 Community Ctr, 7:30pm

August 5,12,19,26 Crib Night, Forest Grove Legion, 8pm

August 5,12,19,26 South Cariboo Farmers, Market, Community Hall, 8:30am-1pm

August 6,13,20,27 Loon Bay Craft Fair, Loon Bay Resort, 10am-3pm

August 6,13,20,27 Music at the lakes, Interlakes Service center, 7-8:30pm

August 6,7 Redneck Olympics, Forest Grove Legion, all day, info: 250-706-4177

August 6,13,20,27 Meat Draw, Forest Grove Legion, 4:30-6pm

August 6,13,20,27 Alcoholics Anonymous Fireside Family Group, United Church, 8pm, info: 250-791-1937

August 7,14,21,28 Alcoholics Anonymous, Heath Centre (hospital rear entrance), 7:30pm, info: 250-791-5286

August 10, Compassionate Friends bereaved parents support group, BJ's donuts, 7:15pm, info: 250-395-4417

August 13 Watch lake/Green Lake Community Assoc. Gymkhana, info: 250-456-7741

August 19-21 Classic Hunter/Jumper Show, Outriders Grounds, info: 250-395-0404

August 19-31 Women in Focus: Shades of Nature, Parkside Art Gallery, www.parksideartgallery.ca

August 26-28 10th Annual Edgefest, live music and camping, 111 Mile Valley, info: 250-791-7303

August 27,28 Garlic Festival, live music and vendors, Lac La Hache, all day

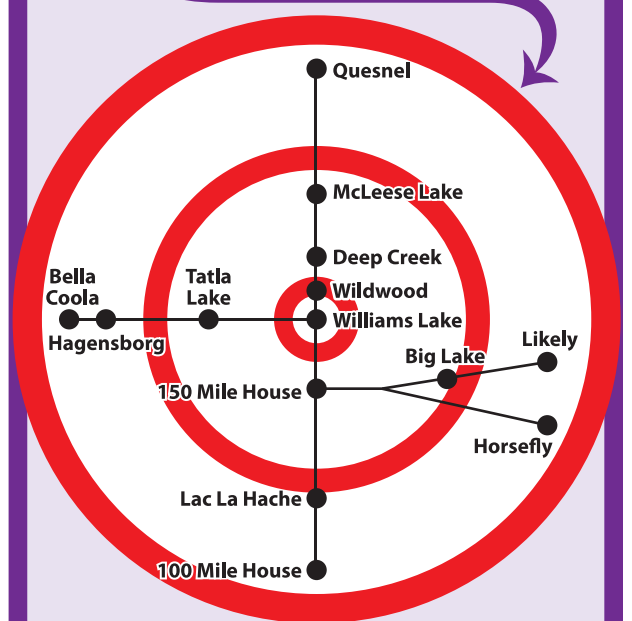
August 30 Cottage Prayer Meeting, 6715 Hwy 97, 7:30-8:30pm, info: 250-395-3743



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KidSport needs all hands on deck



BY DEB & PAT
RADOLLA

The Williams Lake KidSport chapter has been raising funds since 2005 so that all kids in our community, regardless of financial challenges, can play organized sports. Due to increased demand and decreased funding, our chapter needs "all hands on deck." For the first time in chapter history, funding has not kept up with demand. The chapter is reaching out to the community for donations. Businesses, individuals, past recipients and service clubs are being encouraged to help keep the KidSport ship afloat.

KidSport is a national not-for-profit organization that provides

assistance to families in covering sports registration fees for children aged 18 and under. Through a confidential application process, grants to a maximum of \$225 are provided so that kids can play a season of sport. Activities have included figure skating, speed skating, minor hockey, Learn to Skate, swim lessons, competitive swimming, dance, fencing, lacrosse, martial arts, wrestling, gymnastics, soccer, curling, rugby, baseball, fastball, judo, archery and therapeutic riding.

Kids get in the game and learn valuable life skills with participation in sport. In the past eleven years, the local KidSport chapter has dispersed more than

\$135,000 in grants to children in Williams Lake and area, and has processed over 1,100 applications.

In the past, donations have been received from the Canadian Tire JumpStart Program, B.C. Provincial Government, Ryan Schonke Annual Funball Tournament, KidSport Classic, McDonald's Fun Run, Operation Red Nose, B.C. Retired Teachers Association, Lions Club, Lioness Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Oliver and Company, charity golf tournaments, Hyundai, as well

as many individual donors and other sources. Several of these contributors have changed priorities, which has resulted in a significant reduction in our chapter's revenues.

Groups or individuals can donate directly to the Williams Lake KidSport chapter by visiting the KidSport Canada website (www.kidsportcanada.ca) and clicking on the Williams Lake chapter. Your donation is an investment in children and youth in Williams Lake. Get on deck today!

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JULY 19 – AUGUST 27: Liquid Art: Kim Judd

Born in Ottawa, Ontario, Kim moved to Williams Lake at age three. Her family was constantly on the move like roaming gypsies, living in a travel trailer – Kim attributes her love for movement, for change and for new projects to these early childhood memories.

While attending a chocolate seminar in Whistler, Kim learned the discipline of edible art and became fascinated by the transformation from liquid to solid. She discovered techniques that would later cross mediums from chocolate to canvas!

Realizing that painting was not limited to trained artists and wanting to learn more, she took out books from the library and started with the basics – mix a true black, recreate a picture from an upside down newspaper – the self-taught repertoire.

The inspiration for this show comes from her love of semi-precious stones; with natural colours in mind, she has created pieces of liquid art reminiscent of the Earth itself.

Beatrix Linde, Gecko Tree curator, is always looking for artists interested in having their own show and sale. Give her a call today 250-440-5759.



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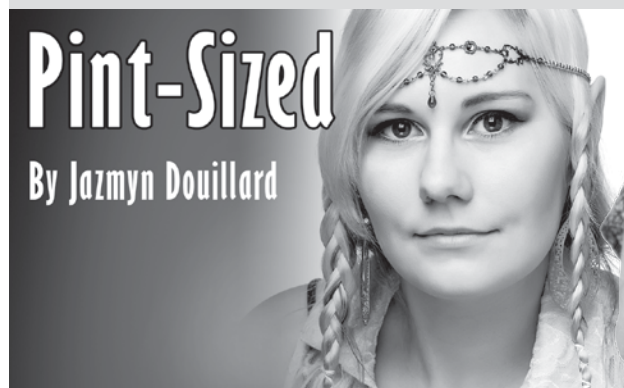


Oma's taking bets

Pets and patio season

Pint-Sized

By Jazmyn Douillard



Like a lot of children, I spent most summers at my Grandparents' house. They had one TV with two channels, a couple of acres of property, a large deck and a big gwarden, so I was a happy kid.

In the evenings, Opa would bring out the crib board or Oma would bring out the playing cards while we sat on the deck. Whenever she learnt a new game, she'd love to teach it to me. I grew up playing things like 3-13, Crazy Eights and King's Corners. That last one would turn into a thorn in my side.

I knew my Oma's eyes were starting to go when we'd play King's Corners. You have to switch back and forth between red and black cards, and she was constantly putting down all black, or mixing them.

Of course, I didn't have the heart to point

out that she was laying down the wrong colour, so she'd inevitably win. I still didn't have the heart to tell her, even after she repeatedly bet me that "loser does the dishes".

It didn't take long though, before I noticed she had no problem grabbing the right coloured pen, book, or whatever else we were working with that was red and black.

Her eyesight issues seemed to only apply with cards... The old biddy was playing me.

The next time my parents and I went to Toys n' Wheels (does anyone else remember Toys n' Wheels in Boitanio?) I found a pair of regular-sized playing cards that were in fun colours; light green and purple.

That weekend Oma suggested we play cards again and I brought out my new deck.

The look on her face was *priceless*.

But I still ended up doing the dishes...

Regardless, the moral of the story is that getting outside and playing cards is fun, just don't make any bets unless you're planning on doing the dishes all summer.

There are endless games out there for 2 to 4 players, and some, like 3-13, are great for even more players if you put two decks of cards together. So instead of playing solitaire on the computer, get the family together and see if anyone knows any games. A quick search online will yield plenty, ranging from super simple (Go Fish!) to more complex.

Of course, these days, when the kids are around and they want to play cards, I just might have inherited a certain issue with my eyes.

BY DR. WADDINGTON,
WILLIAMS LAKE
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Summer is an amazing time of year! It brings on those hot, dry days (and lately a few more thunder showers!), and evenings that stay light for many more hours. I find it brings rejuvenation, as people are outside barbequing, hosting get-togethers on the patio, and enjoying longer days spent outside. Flowers are in full bloom and gardens are teeming with sun-ripened veggies that taste of summer.

Summer is often a fun and exciting time for our pets and animals! The beef cow spends the summer grazing out on the range, likely raising a little one inside of her. Our horses are out in the back field, enjoying the fresh vegetation, anticipating trail riding or

competitive events that come with the season. Most of our smaller critters love this time of year to be outside running around, lounging in the dappled shade, or getting in a few more walks with their owners. It is also a time of year where pets can be more prone to injuries and accidents. Although being out on the deck is a favourite activity, it can pose a risk for animals; they can either jump from heights in their excitement, or accidentally fall off. Fractures, slipped discs within the spine, or even a strain can be very painful and may require a long healing period. Keeping an eye on our pets as they enjoy some patio time is important, as what doesn't seem like a far distance to the grass can be quite substantial, especially for those smaller breeds. This time of year, many people are able to leave their dog or cat out on the deck or in a fenced backyard during the day, but just be cautious and keep an eye out for areas where they may be able to 'escape'. Busy summer roads and wandering pets are not a good combination.

One of the beautiful things about this time of year is that there is so

much new life! Even if that sometimes means things we don't always love – bugs! Bugs cannot only be pesky to us at times, but they can also irritate animals. Mousing and catching critters is a favourite pastime for many pets, but it can also mean taking on a higher load of parasites or worms than normal. It is important to deworm those animals that are outside, as there are many creatures we can't see but can do harm to our pets. Whether we encounter them out hiking in the woods, or they are attracted by the delicious smell from dinner on the patio, insects are around. Have you noticed small bumps or swelling on your animals? Animals can be just as irritated with bug bites or a sting as humans, and also may experience an allergic reaction. If you notice significant swelling, they may be having a reaction which sometimes can be quite severe.

Whether they are our dearest companion, the "fourth" child of the family, or our livelihood, it is important and our responsibility to do our best to keep our animals safe and healthy. Cheers to a wonderful summer!

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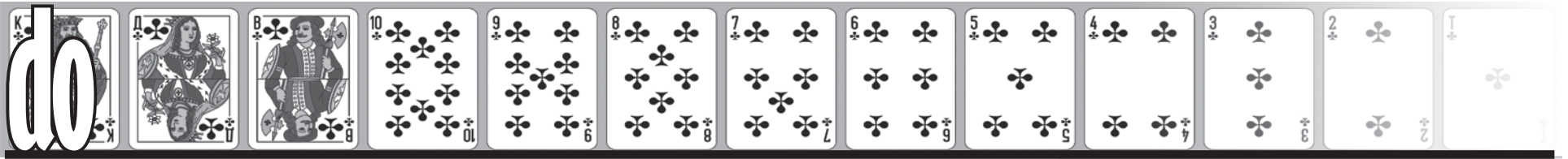
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Distractions in relationships



I watch a lot of HGTV. I love seeing the different ideas for decorating and getting tips on what things you need to watch for when taking care of your home or buying a home. And I love watching house hunters and seeing the different kinds of homes available in different locations. I find all of that very fascinating.

One of the things I have noticed that people tend to focus on, unless they are looking at living in the downtown core of a major city, is having a great outdoor space and deck space. One of the things I love is when there is a nice balcony or deck right off the master bedroom. Having that outdoor space that you can use as a couple and as a family can be quite beneficial. And let's face it, in Canada when we get the weather to be outdoors, it is nice to be able to take advantage of it.

If you have the space set up so that you can go outside, sip on a nice drink and relax, enjoy some con-

versation or some quiet – especially as a couple – you give yourself the space to relax and be connected to each other. If you don't have an area like that outside, try and set up that kind of atmosphere indoors where you are free from distractions.

Getting away from the distractions for a while can be a really important tool to use in maintaining a healthy and happy relationship. We are so connected to our devices and so inundated by the busy-ness of life, sometimes we can let days, weeks, or even months slip by without spending any real, quality, meaningful time just plugging in to each other. When that happens, the foundation of our relationships can slowly start to erode.

That erosion can be directly linked to a lack of communication and a lack of knowing where each party in the relationship is at and what is important to them in their life and in your joint lives together.

You, Me and We

By Gina Mawson



Just like a trickle of water continually flowing under the foundation of a home can take a toll on the stability of the structure, a lack of communication can lead to a lack of intimacy in a relationship, which can ultimately destabilize the relationship.

Maintaining intimacy generally is achieved when both parties have a genuine interest in knowing their partner and what makes them tick. Even more so, it should come from the knowledge that everything worthwhile and valuable takes effort and work to maintain. If you have no idea what your partner thinks and feels about most things, maybe it is time to make more of an investment in the relationship and your partner and get real about what you want out of the relationship, because it's almost a guarantee that you will only get out of a relationship what you put into it.

Most people don't enter into a relationship thinking, "Okay, I'm in it, now I can let things slide and not put any effort in." It is just so easy to let other things in life take top priority and focus because we feel comfortable in the security of our relationship. While feeling that ease and comfort is not necessarily a bad thing, when we allow it to be the excuse we use to focus all of our energy on other things it becomes detrimental.

In order to avoid the pitfall of becoming "too comfortable" it's a good idea to take a moment now and then and take stock of where things are and how much quality time has been devoted to the relationship. Life is busy, but try and make it a point to maintain the strength and the foundation of your relationship, so that you can be comfortable and secure in a meaningful relationship that you have built.

What's on deck at the Salvation Army?

BY TAMARA ROBINSON,
WILLIAMS LAKE SALVATION ARMY

The summer months seem to be flying by! This is particularly troubling because we have been rained out for most of our summer months so far. We are hoping for improved weather in August.

Speaking of August, it's ArtWalk time in Williams Lake! The Salvation Army is thrilled to have a friend of ours, local artist Alfred Wilson, showcasing his masterpieces at the Drop-In Center. Please stop by, have a cup of coffee and meet Alfred, talk about his inspiration and possibly make a purchase. This is Alfred's first art exhibit and he is very excited for this opportunity.

While we were talking about art, I would like to express a special thank you to Danarae Latin from Exposed Expressions Tattoo Studio for launching our very first wood burning class. Many friends were able to partake in this event, making brilliant works of art. Danarae lent us her time and artistic ability; Danarae also graciously donated all the necessary materials for this event which we will enjoy in the years to come.

It's been very busy at the Salvation Army family services this month! We are seeing an increase from last month's statistical report which concluded that 2,663 meals were served, 249 food hampers given to families in need, and over 380 people visited our Drop In Center.

I would like to extend a thank you to Williams Lake and outer community members for their continued support; we cannot do what we do without the help and support of our wonderful community!



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SUBMITTED BY FLORENCE GONYER,
COMMUNITY FUTURES CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN

Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her; but once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game.

~Voltaire (1694-1778)



Have you ever attempted a small business start-up venture and when things did not go according to plan you just gave up because it “was just not in the cards for you” or because “the cards were stacked against you” from the beginning? Some entrepreneurs will stick it out and just play the hand they have been dealt until their ace in the hole doesn’t work out. Other optimistic entrepreneurs think, “If I just play my cards right, I can do this!” Others may just lay all their cards on the table and hope for the best.

Randomly you get those ‘Jack of all Trades,’ who are going to take a shot at it and fingers crossed one of their ideas are bound to work out. Then there are those handful of entrepreneurs that just get lost in the shuffle.

So what’s the deal anyhow? Don’t be a wild card – if you want to be all decked out and ready for business, make a Business Plan. Never play your cards so close to the chest that you don’t get the start-up advice that will give your business a winning hand.

Stuffed burgers on deck



When Sue told me what the theme for this month’s issue, I got pretty excited and said “That’s awesome! During my twenty-ish years in the restaurant business, I’ve sure met my share of them. This is going to be easy to write, the hard part will be choosing just a few – man, I could write an entire book about the ones I’ve met in this industry.” She just kind of stared at me blankly for a moment as I continued, “I’m surprised, Craig and Crista are really going out on a limb here with this theme.” She tilted her head slightly like a dog does as I spoke, then the confused look slipped away as she said to me “Brice, its Decks... with an ‘E’ not an ‘I’ ...you know, like a deck of cards, or the deck attached to our house.” I felt a sudden sadness, as I had already in the 45 seconds this conversation took place, written half my article in my head. Then I remembered a funny story about

a deck.

I got a phone call one morning from my sous chef. “Hey buddy,” she started. “Not sure if I can make it in today, I’m in the hospital. I just got some stitches.” After taking a few seconds to process what she had just told me, I replied, “Oh, ok...are you hurt bad? Where did you get stitches, and how many?” There was a long pause before the answer came. “Uh, ya I’m ok, just a bit shaken up. I uh...fell through my deck at home. I got stitches in my... Uh...butt, not sure how many. Let’s just say, sitting will be a challenge for a while.” I don’t remember exactly how I reacted to this news but it’s a safe bet that I laughed a little bit thinking about someone with stitches in their butt. A couple years later, we still have a few snickers about that conversation.

It is really hard to correlate decks to cooking or life in a restaurant without mentioning the

Out of the Fridge

By Brice O’Neill



obligatory BBQ /eating outside, so here goes. I enjoy eating BBQ food outside on my deck.

There, that is out of the way; once I knew a guy who looked suspiciously like Johnny Fever from the T.V. show *WKRP in Cincinnati* and I always thought it was weird that I never saw them both in the same place at the same time... ANYWAY, he taught me this really cool card trick that makes it seem like he is reading your mind. He really played it up, and had me convinced he was some kind of psychic until I had him do the trick so many times in a row (*and every time he was right, that is my card!*) that either he had to tell me how it was done or I would show him what his spleen looked like. After he taught me how to do that trick, I carried a deck of cards with me everywhere I went in hopes that at some point in my day I could show someone this amazing feat of magic. I still know that trick, and if I have 5 minutes and

a deck of cards I’ll blow your mind with my amazing psychic prowess.

Ever make stuffed burgers? No? Cool, I’ll tell you how to do it because this is the part where I write a recipe. Make your favorite burger mixture – you know, ground beef, seasoning, a couple eggs, some panade (a couple pieces of bread torn and soaked in cream), minced onion – that kind of thing. Make two patties about half as thick as you normally would. Place a cube of your favorite cheese (I like extra old cheddar) that has been in the freezer for 10 or so minutes, right in the middle of one patty then slap the other on top and seal around the cheese. Put them back in the fridge for like a beer or so, then put them on your BBQ until the internal temperature is 177 degrees fahrenheit or better. Put that bad boy on a bun with some mustard and pickles, and get ready for a mouth full of molten cheese and beef bliss. Easy Eh?

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THE STEW MAGAZINE'S Monthly MIX



HOLIDAYS OF THE MONTH

It's Hug Month! That means hug parties will be taking place indoors and outdoors. While you're doing all that hugging you better get your smile on because August is also Smile Month. These are not so weird but...

Is it weird to eat dessert first?

In Western culture dessert is a course that typically comes at the end of a meal, usually consisting of sweet food. But during the month of August dessert lovers everywhere are given the go ahead to eat our desserts first and not feel bad about doing it. That's right August celebrates your sweet tooth on Eat Dessert First Month..

August 5 International Beer Day

On this day beer parties are hosted and drinking games are played in celebration of beer. Believe it or not, beer parties are traditional on this day worldwide.

August 13 Left Handed Day

This is the day we celebrate all left handed people. They say they are artistic and use the left side of the brain.

25 years of preserving history

BY TRENTON HORSLEY, MUSEUM GALLERY ASST. (CANADA SUMMER JOBS) & UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHY STUDENT, UVIC

This year the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is celebrating its 25th anniversary by hosting a heritage festival to commemorate its Silver Jubilee on August the 7th at the museum from 11am-4pm, and in Boitanio Park from 12pm- 5:30pm in Williams Lake. There will be a variety of attractions, such as live music featuring Tiller's Folly, artisan demonstrations, traditional children's games, local food vendors, as well as a commemorative plaque unveiling. While museums are used for preserving history, many don't know the stories of museums themselves, and the history of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is one worth sharing.

The origins of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin go back to 1967 when, as part of the centennial project, a museum was constructed in Williams Lake where the Andre's Electronics building stands today. The Williams Lake Museum and Historical Society was incorporated on June 2, 1987. After being pushed out of the centennial building by the expansion of the tourist bureau, the Museum con-



tinued on with its goal to develop a formal museum in Williams Lake, despite losing its initial location. The Society was given the use of the old health unit building to repurpose into a museum. The Museum officially opened its doors on August 7th, 1991. Since then the Museum has undergone several expansions, such as acquiring the basement floor of the building which at the time was occupied by the Red Cross and the Eastern Star. The basement floor was renovated to be used as another gallery, as well as further storage spaces for artifacts and archival materials. The increasing regional scope of the Museum led it to take on "Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin" as its operating name on February 28th,

1993. On March 23rd, 2016, the Williams Lake Museum and Historical Society changed its name to Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin Society to bring the Society's name in line with the Museum's operating name.

At the time of its conception, the Museum was primarily run with the help of local volunteers; however, in 1995, Pat Skoblaniuk was initially hired as the Museum's part-time manager, later becoming a full-time manager, handling everything from public tours to accepting artifact donations. In August 2015, Pat retired after 20 years as Museum Manager and was replaced by William Adams, the Museum's new Executive Director and Curator.

Since its inception,

the Museum Society has been collecting artifacts that best exemplify the rich cowboy and ranching heritage that the Cariboo Chilcotin holds. In 1999, the Museum joined with the BC Cowboy Heritage Society to become the home of the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame. This greatly increased the number of saddles that were subsequently donated for display, and as a result, saddles are present throughout the main gallery. The Museum has one of the largest, if not the largest working saddle collection in Canada.

There will be an open house on August the 7th at the Museum from 11am to 4pm, to give everyone who wishes, a chance to experience the riveting history of the Cariboo Chilcotin.

MUSEUM OF THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

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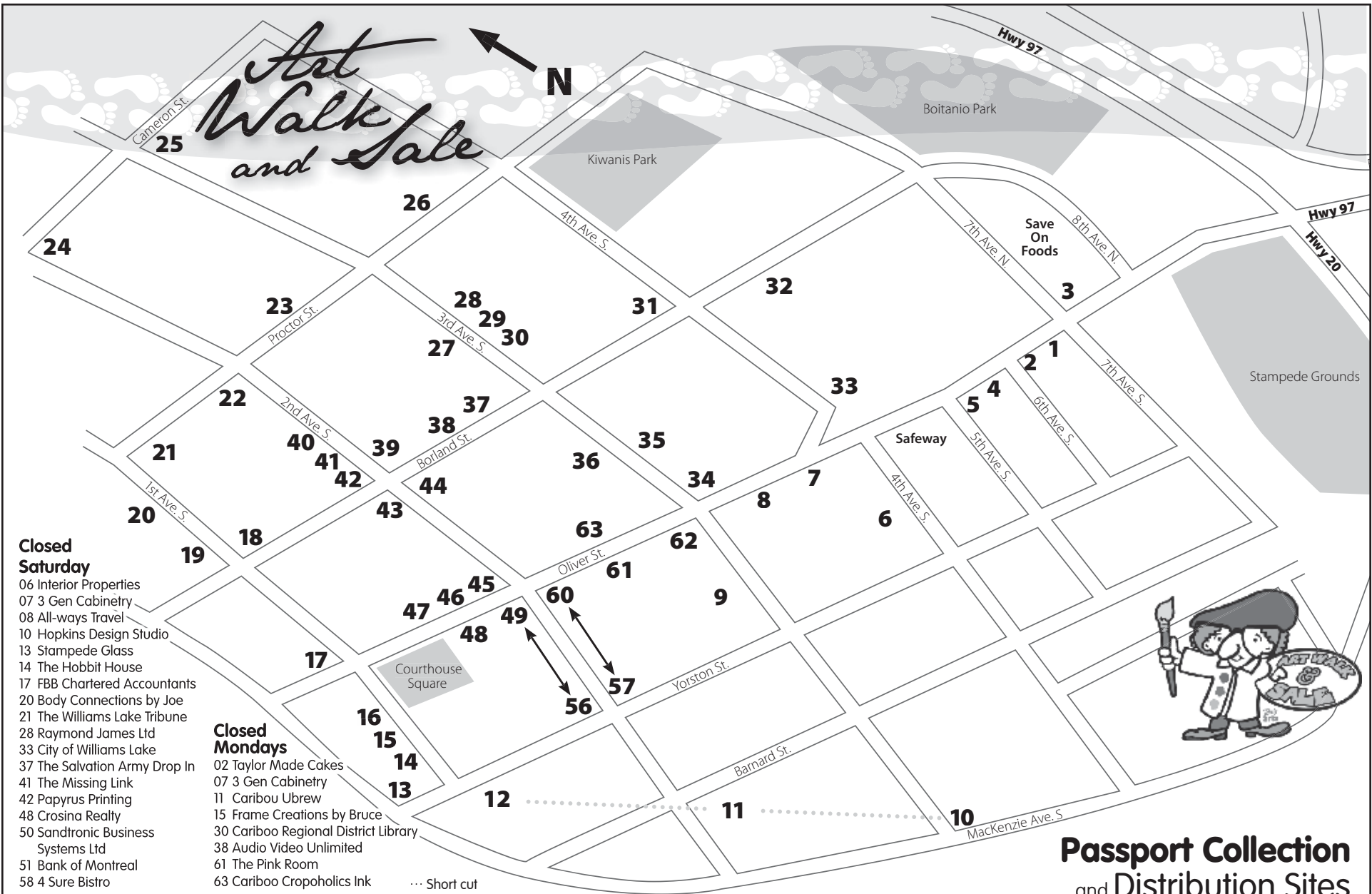
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AUGUST 7th

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ARTIST: Donna Froese</p> <p>5. United Floors
ARTIST: Bobbie Crane</p> <p>6. Interior Properties
ARTIST: Nicole Rouselle</p> <p>7. 3 Gen Cabinetry
ARTIST: Ernest Hall</p> <p>8. All-ways Travel
ARTIST: Maeghan Watkinson</p> <p>9. Re/Max Williams Lake Realty
ARTIST: Neil Pinkett</p> <p>10. Hopkins Design Studio
ARTIST: Debbie Lloyd</p> <p>11. Caribou Ubrew
ARTIST: Christy Richardson</p> <p>12. Lake City Glass
ARTIST: Cheleen Houle</p> <p>13. Stampede Glass
ARTIST: Lynn Bonner</p> <p>14. The Hobbit House
ARTIST: Bill Fell</p> <p>15. Frame Creations by Bruce
ARTIST: Andrew Kiss</p> <p>16. The Realm of Toys
ARTIST: Jazmyn Douillard</p> | <p>17. FBB Chartered Accountants
ARTIST: Sirkka McKerral</p> <p>18. Qtax
ARTIST: Nicola Valley Artists</p> <p>19. Cariboo Dental Clinic
ARTIST: Martine Cyr Vitoratos</p> <p>20. Body Connections by Joe
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ARTIST: Ice Fire Artifacts</p> <p>22. W L Rentals
ARTIST: Helen Kellington</p> <p>23. Rona
ARTIST: Suzie Ambrose</p> <p>24. AboutFace and More
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ARTIST: Diane Lavoie</p> <p>28. Raymond James Ltd
ARTIST: Jane Perry</p> <p>29. The Bean Counter
ARTIST: Brittany Murphy</p> <p>30. Cariboo Regional District Library
ARTIST: Heidi Redl</p> <p>31. Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin
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ARTIST: Lucille Thompson</p> <p>33. City of Williams Lake
ARTIST: Magnell Photography</p> <p>34. IBEAS
ARTIST: Andrea Hughes</p> <p>35. CJ Southwestern Grill
ARTIST: Bloomin on Canvas</p> <p>36. Sta-Well Health Foods
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Your deck... a stage!

BY HELENA MORGAN,
WILLIAMS LAKE
STUDIO THEATRE

When you think of 'decks,' your mind probably heads over to images of barbecues and sipping sweet tea on a swing chair in the warm summer breeze. The last thing you'd associate a deck with would be theatre, right?

Well, it's a little known fact that the stage itself is referred to as the "deck" in stagecraft for one thing, and not to mention the fact that decks have been an integral part of setting and staging in theatre for as long as theatres have even been in existence. In the early days of theatre in ancient Greece, the stage was a large sparse

area with an extravagant cloth backdrop called the *skene*, and the thousands of spectators cramming the amphitheatre would have to make do with using their imaginations to enjoy such works as Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* or Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*. Even during Elizabethan times, Shakespeare preferred more empty sets to

Behind the Curtain



make the use of the stage more flexible for scene changes and what not. But the one contribution his work made to modern day set design was, of course, the balcony – a deck. This upper gallery had a multi-purpose use as a tower, or a bedroom – but none was as famous as the balcony in *Romeo and Juliet*. With this use of multiple levels in his work, Shakespeare was able to add a hint of realism to his plays that mostly required the use of imagination.

After the Italian Renaissance, the most common type of stage used in Western theatre is the *proscenium stage*. This is your classic "picture frame" stage, where the main focal point is a large opening known as the *proscenium arch*. The stage is raised several feet above the first row of seats where the audience sits directly in front of the stage, viewing it through a "fourth wall". Another more eclectic take on the stage would be the "theatre in the round". The

description of this stage is literally explained in the name, where the audience is set around the stage in a 360 degree point of view. While the closeness the audience has to the action produces a sense of involvement and intimacy with the play, it does have its drawbacks. This stage has many restrictions, such as any curtain or backdrops, and obscuring scenery. It also holds special considerations for lighting the actors fully without totally blinding the audience (theatre lights are retina crimping), and it also makes surprise entrances and exits nearly impossible. A "thrust stage" employs the best of both worlds, being a cross between a proscenium and a round stage. The stage "thrusts" out of the proscenium arch into the audience to give that 360 degree feel. While the audience can still view the play from different viewpoints, the proscenium arch still provides the function of a backstage, and cleaner

exits and entrances.

Now that you've had your daily share of learning about the wonderful world of theatre stages, let's chat about the wonders that your deck has in store. If you really think about it, your deck is kind of like a stage. You've worked tirelessly on gathering the supplies and materials, taking it apart and putting it back together, rinse and repeat. You've sworn and spat and cursed at the heavens, why you would take on such an impossible project – those people on Deck Wars made it look so easy and so sexy. But finally, it is finished and you need to show off your impeccable work of art. You invite your friends over for a lovely evening of barbecued meats, an assortment of summer salads and perhaps a wistful game of croquet. And as you gaze on to the summer of fun unfolding in front of your eyes with your cold beverage in your hand, your neighbor Bill pats you on the back and congratulates you for a job well done. Think of you as the director, your guests the actors and audience, and your marvelous summer paradise deck as your new stage. A stage to host a plethora of pleasant memories to be made, and you were the creator of it all.

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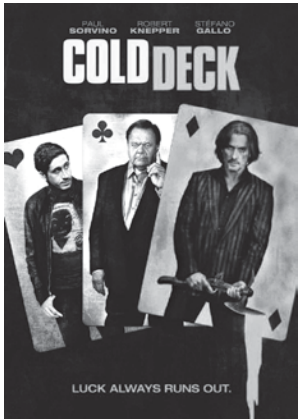


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Be entertained by 'deck' movies



Cold Deck (2015), starring Stéfano Gallo, Paul Sorvino, Robert Knepper

When a poker player hits rock bottom, he enlists his best friend to pull off a high-stakes heist.



Hit the Deck (1955), starring Jane Powell, Tony Martin, Debbie Reynolds

Sailor Danny Xavier Smith and his two friends try to save his sister Susan's virtue. She wants to get a role in the show *Hit the Deck*. After wrecking the producer's hotel suite, they land in the brig.



The Decks Ran Red (1958), starring James Mason, Dorothy Dandridge, Broderick Crawford

A band of dishonest seamen plan a murderous mutiny aboard the S.S. Berwind.

Capt. Edwin Rummill: [Responding to a sarcastic remark made by one of the crew] "Oh, dear. I suppose every ship must have its comic. It's one of the curses of the sea – like rats, and scurvy."



Danny Deckchair (2003), starring Rhys Ifans, Miranda Otto, Justine Clarke

Based on a true story, the tale of a cement truck



driver named Danny, whose long awaited vacation is cancelled thanks to his scheming girlfriend, Trudy. Danny escapes his grim life in suburban Australia and blasts into the skies in a chair tied with helium balloons. A mighty thunderstorm blows him clean off the map, and spits him out far away over the lush green town of Clarence. In this new town, he rockets into the world of Glenda, the town's only parking cop. While the media back home becomes obsessed with the story of his disappearance, Danny gets to reinvent himself in this new town, and in his great adventure, he discovers a true soulmate in Glenda. Fate catches up with him eventually, as Danny's true identity is revealed and Trudy – now a tabloid celebrity – comes to the idyllic town to claim Danny and drag him back to Sydney. Danny, however, is a changed man; he's discovered what it means to be happy and has found a new self-worth.



Flight Deck (1988), starring Roger Parsons, Gregg Southgate, Gary Tritt

This documentary takes a look inside an Aircraft Carrier. There is no single weapon so flexible, so formidable, so capable of projecting power as an aircraft carrier and its Air Wing. Now see and feel what life on and above the Flight Deck is all about with an inside look at: The modern-day carrier Air Wing in action. Breathtaking cockpit views of missions, day and night landings, and the treacherous environment of the deck crews. The staggering logistical requirements and role of the "flat top" and its battle group.

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Sunday Biscuits at the Bean

SUBMITTED BY BRANDON HOFFMAN, CENTRAL CARIBOO ARTS AND CULTURE SOCIETY

The Bean Counter Bistro in Williams Lake is hosting a concert series called Sunday Biscuits. Join us Sundays for brunch and live music from 10am-2pm. Check out the exciting lineup for August:

AUGUST 7 - Sunday Biscuits Episode 5, featuring Blocktreat and Angie Holdahl

Blocktreat is Williams Lake's own Brandon Hoffman. Specially for the Sunday Biscuits session, he will be mellowing things out a bit with two sets of old time and bluegrass mandolin traditionals. Expect a collection of mellow semi-acoustic folk tunes, that may or may not melt gradually into warm, electroacoustic mush; blocktreat.ca. Joining Blocktreat is Chinese harpist extraordinaire, Angie Holdahl.

AUGUST 14 - Sunday Biscuits Episode 6, featuring Slewoff and Troy Forcier

Slewoff is the family band project of Williams Lake's own Ian Rankin with kids Jordan and Kerri. The team will be playing an assortment of original and cover tunes to get your Sunday started off right. Joining Slewoff is Troy Forcier, also gracing us with an assortment of original and cover tunes.

AUGUST 21 - Sunday Biscuits Episode 7, featuring Gypsy Salami and Devon Lee

Gypsy Salami is the incredibly serious folk music project of Kevin and Natassja Honeyman. The two founding members of local favorites Bush Party will be joined by another member of the band Devon Lee. Together and separately, Gypsy Salami and Devon Lee will be playing an assortment of original and cover songs, and with any luck will join forces for a Bush Party tune or two.

AUGUST 28 - Sunday Biscuits Episode 8, featuring The Alkemist and M. Lund

The final installment of the Sunday Biscuit sessions at the Bean! We're very excited to have The Alkemist (aka Jay Afbreken) back in the Cariboo to close out the series. The Alkemist is the psychedelic one-man band outfit who opened this past winter's Safety Meeting series with High Society. Jay's introspective and transcendental tunes will totally captivate you. Joining The Alkemist is a relatively new transplant to the Cariboo, M. Lund! Mr. Lund has been writing music for a few years, and we are very excited to hear what he has planned for us.

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Time's run out

...A short story continued from page 30 of July's Stew

As his father and Joan disappeared from Tommy's sight, he tried not to panic. His eyes fell to the floor and his stomach twisted and turned and he began to feel sick.

"What do I do?"

Tommy said out loud to the empty air.

"Tommy," a quiet voice called out to him.

Tommy listened closely, trying to hear the faint whisper calling his name. He looked around the fireplace. The barrier blocking him from where his father sat was still there, but there was nothing but darkness in front of him. When he turned around, the glow that first drew Tommy was fading, but he could see in the faint light that there was nothing but emptiness where the back of the fireplace should be.

"Tommy," the voice

called again.

"Where are you?" he called back.

Tommy put his arms out in front of him, searching for a wall of some kind, and he anxiously took a step forward, leaving his father behind.

"Tommy," the voice beckoned. "Look."

"Look?" Tommy spoke to the voice. "Look for what?"

"Look," the voice repeated.

As the light faded, Tommy looked in front of him, then looked for walls but found nothing. He began staring at the floor in front of him. The wood was solid underneath his feet and the only thing that Tommy could now see before him was something else completely. A hallway.

A few feet in front of Tommy, something lay face down on the ground. He bent down and

reached for it. A single card lay on the floor. Its size was slightly bigger than a normal deck of cards, but even in the dim light, Tommy could see it clearly. The back of the card had a very intricate design with swirled colours of blue and purple. Four small dragons decorated each corner of the card with a Celtic design in the center of it, pulling the whole design together.

Heat radiated from the card, and Tommy hesitated before picking it up, but before he could turn the card over, he looked ahead and saw another card just a few feet ahead of him. He stood up and although he felt the pull of the cards, he wasn't tempted to turn them over to see what they read. He placed the second card underneath the first, and moved forward. After a few moments of walking down the dim hallway, Tommy spotted one more card on the ground. His gut feeling was that this was the third

and final card he would pick up.

"Tommy," the voice called out, as he picked up his final card and placed it carefully beneath the first two. "Tommy, come."

Something pulled inside him, and Tommy felt the need to walk to wherever the voice was calling from. He continued down the hallway, but thoughts kept racing through his head. Not about where he was headed, but instead what he had left behind. His dad was being manipulated or conned by Joan. How could she be looking younger? Why weren't they trying to leave?

Questions plagued him as a light began to appear in front of him. Just like the receding light that forced his father from his sight, this one began closing in on Tommy. Was he going back into Joan's house? Tommy stepped into the light, momentarily blinded, and he had to put up his arm to shield it from his eyes.

When he could finally

Tasty Tidbits

By Paige Knights-Smith



see again, Tommy saw that he now stood in an alleyway. There were no buildings on either side of him, and the alleyway seemed to stretch in front of him endlessly.

"Tommy," the voice was now behind him.

Tommy spun around, and was finally able to put a face to the voice. There in front of him sat an older woman, with the kindest smile on her mouth. Her long dark hair framed her face, and her eyes stood out as a fierce green. The dark hallway that led him here was gone, and now there was nothing in front of him other than the woman that had called to him. She wrapped her black shawl tighter over her long red dress and beckoned him closer to the table that she sat behind.

"Have a seat, Tommy," she said to him. "And lay your cards in the middle of the table, in the order you picked them up."

Tommy moved forward and sat down in the wire chair, feeling it shift under his weight and obliged her request without question. She smiled again at him and hovered her fingers over the very small deck of cards.

She pointed to the first card, "Flip the Tarot card over." She said quietly.

Tommy flipped the first card over.

"The Ace of Cups reversed. Your past is full of blocked, repressed emotion." She pointed to the second and Tommy turned it over.

"Your present is shown with the Tower," she explained. "There is an upheaval in your life, a sudden change."

Tommy swallowed and thought of his dad and their most recent adventure into Joan's house. He turned over the last card.

The woman smiled at Tommy, "Your future is with the seven of Wands. It will be a challenge, but persevere and you will succeed."

"What does that mean?" Tommy asked. "What does any of this mean? How do I get my dad back?"

The lady stood up and walked over to Tommy, leaning over him and kissing his forehead. She pointed down the long alleyway and whispered into Tommy's ear.

"Fight for your father, Tommy, and you will succeed."

Tommy looked down the endless alleyway and then back to the woman. She was gone, and so was the table with the cards. He took a deep breath and began to walk.

"Persevere, Tommy." Her voice whispered, as the darkness crept up on him.

To be continued...

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Magical decks

BY RICHARD BUTTERS, ADVENTURE GAMES

A Collectible Card Game (CCG), also called a trading card game, first emerged in 1993 and consists of specially designed sets of playing cards. The rudimentary definition requires the game to resemble trading cards in shape and function, be mass-produced for trading or collectability, and it must have rules for strategic game play. The definition of a CCG is further refined as being a card game in which the player uses his own deck with cards primarily sold in random assortments. Acquiring these cards may be done by trading with other players or buying card packs. Successful CCGs typically have upwards

of thousands of unique cards, with the most successful one, *Magic: The Gathering*, having nearly 15,000.

Magic: The Gathering is a trading card game created by Richard Garfield. First published in 1993 by Wizard of the Coast, *Magic* was the first trading card game produced, and it continues to thrive with approximately twenty million players as of 2015. *Magic* can be played by two or more players in various formats, the most common of which uses a deck of 60+ cards, either in person with printed cards, or using a deck of virtual cards through the internet-based *Magic: The Gathering Online*, on a smartphone or tablet. Each game represents a battle between wizards known as “planeswalkers,” who employ spells,

artifacts, and creatures depicted on individual *Magic* cards to defeat their opponents. Although the original concept of the game drew heavily from the motifs of traditional fantasy

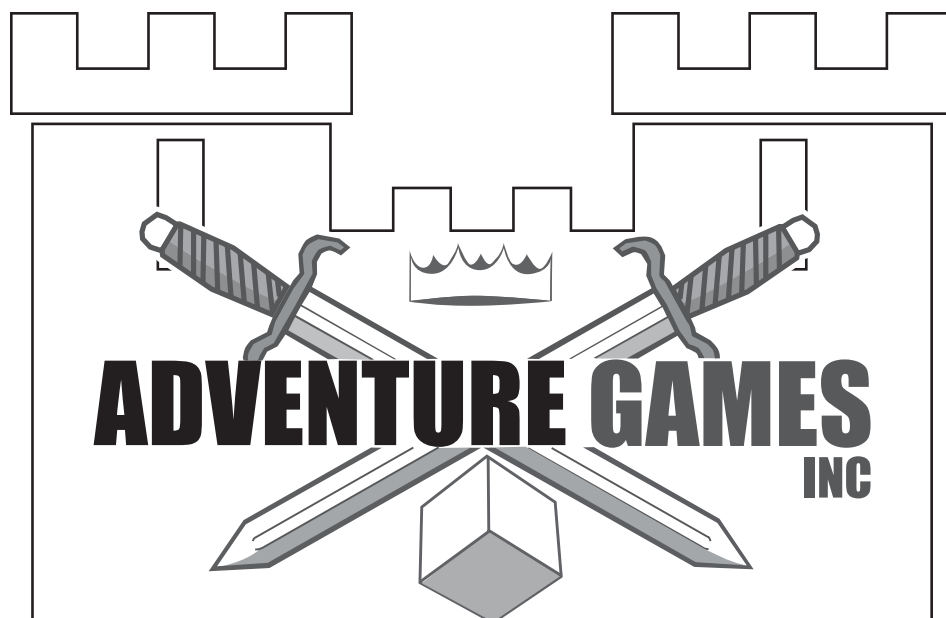
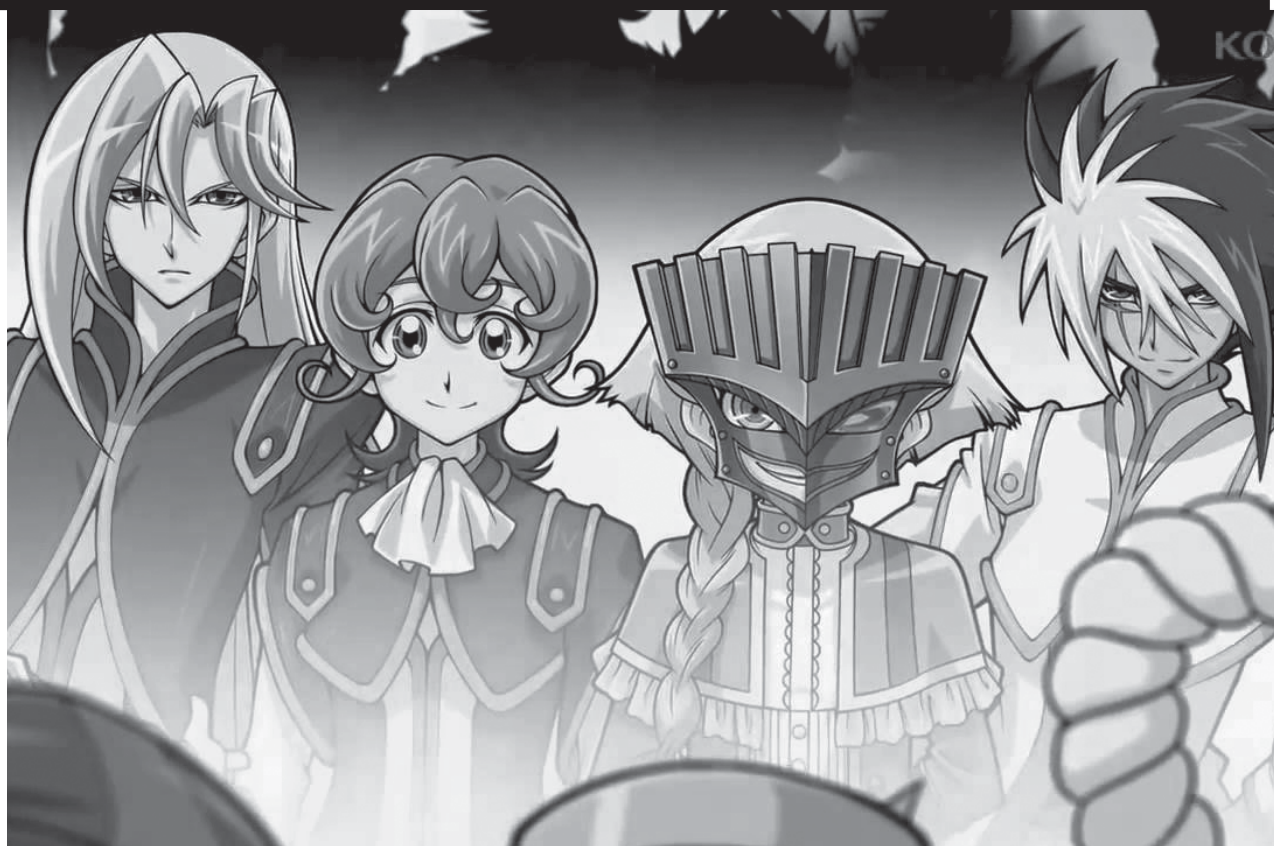
role-playing games such as *Dungeons & Dragons*, the gameplay of *Magic* bears little similarity to pencil and paper adventure games, while having substantially more cards and more complex rules than any other card game. *Magic* was an

immediate success for Wizards of the Coast. Early on, they were even reluctant to advertise the game because they were unable to keep pace with existing demand. Initially *Magic* attracted many *Dungeons & Dragons* players, but the follow-

ing included all types of other people as well. The success of the game quickly led to the creation of similar games by other companies, as well as Wizards of the Coast themselves.

The success of the initial edition prompted a reissue later in 1993, along with expansions to the game. *Arabian Nights* was released as the first expansion in December 1993. New expansions and revisions of the base game (“Core Sets”) have since been released on a regular basis, amounting to four releases a year. By the end of 1994, the game had printed over a billion cards. Until the release of *Mirage* in 1996, expansions were released on an irregular basis. Beginning in 2009, one revision of the core set and a set of three related expansions called a “block” were released every year. This system was revised in 2015, with the Core Set being eliminated and blocks now consisting of two sets, released biannually.

Many CCGs have been made in the last 20 years, such as the hugely popular *Pokemon Trading Card Game*, or *Yu-Gi-Oh!*. They continue to thrive in this more connected world, surging in popularity like never before.



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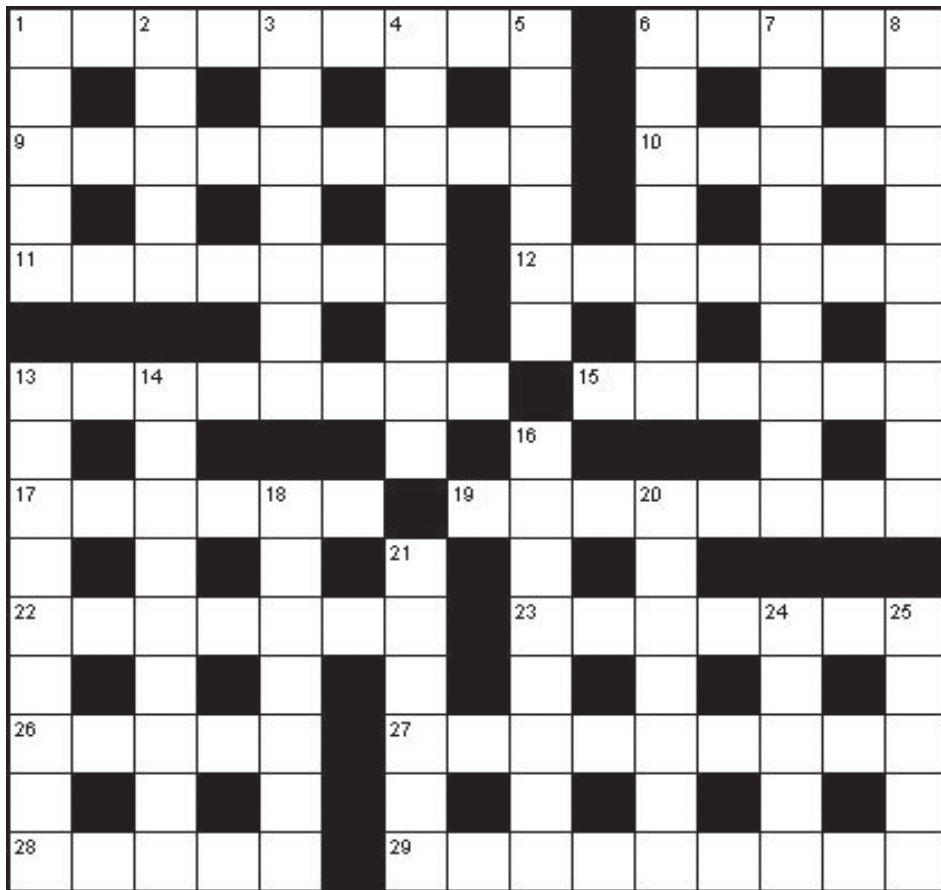


This month's crossword is brought to you by the fine people at Bob Paterson Homes.

X-Word Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Aggressive swimmer identified by scrambled Cuban radar – NATO's first to go (9)
- 6 Copper piece about the length of one's forearm (5)
- 9 Idly swallows new drink, one without flavour (9)
- 10 Bible covered by little Scots cloth (5)
- 11 Get on the right side of man involved with euro disaster (7)
- 12 He doesn't believe he is in a dry environment (7)
- 13 Get cash for old silver (8)
- 15 These days, it is used to hold useful information (6)
- 17 Give up on translating Greene (6)
- 19 Western location where films are made after Morse has been decoded (8)
- 22 Get a little professional help (7)



- 23 English exile capturing island first is seen to make amends (7)
- 26 Fantastic trick produced by worker in

- charge (5)
- 27 Attendants give command to tell tall tales? (9)
- 28 Racecourse has no field, but this grass remains? (5)
- 29 Papers prepared here show Arabs going backwards and in all directions (9)

DOWN

- 1 Person walking in front of a train (5)
- 2 20 thanks one of his followers? (5)
- 3 Vase (a golden one) found to contain speed (7)
- 4 Two foreign articles get older, but not old enough (8)
- 5 Haphazard, no matter what road is taken? (6)
- 6 Civic leader showed off neat home (7)
- 7 Pleases club, provided one is given points (9)
- 8 Handling medication (9)

- 13 "On the Continent" – short answer to "Where do they live?" (9)
- 14 Twisted criminal legally wrong to confront head reporter (9)
- 16 We'd returned after sweet fruit (8)
- 18 University in Indian resort uses revolutionary method of painting (7)
- 20 Eastern politician, monarch or ruler (7)
- 21 Celebrity found in literature, now neglected (6)
- 24 Spanish mate has a game against his French counterpart (5)
- 25 Stops taking top off, and relaxes (5)



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