

the stew

ISSUE 8.04 | APRIL 2017 | FREE

the
ride issue

Featuring
Roger William
Pages 6 & 7

we speak



On the Cover:

No matter your 'ride' of choice, with spring comes the urge to get out and ride – explore, travel, and enjoy!

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My favourite 'rides'

BY CRAIG SMITH

Why do we ride? My thoughts are that we ride most often to get somewhere faster. Even the lazy Sunday drive gets us places faster than if we walked or ran. Is it the adrenaline of moving faster than we are able to go under our own power that drives us to ride things? I don't know, I just like to ride things. Horses, motorcycles, bicycles, roller blades, skates, skis, boats, parachutes, planes, trains and automobiles.

Everything we ride has one thing in common. We ride to travel to other locations. For some people the rides are short and for some the rides are long. I've loved to travel since I was little. When you are the son of an immigrant, your family has already travelled further than most. Years ago, I met a man that was born, grew up, and lived

roughly in a 100 mile circle. He married a girl that was in the same type of situation and once married, the farthest they had ever traveled was Vancouver. Years later, they parted ways and he wasn't sure what to do. I told him to get a passport and a plane ticket and get away. Whether he took my advice or decided on his own, he went and since then he hasn't looked back. Any chance he has to travel now, he takes it.

I have also felt the same way. My first transcontinental overseas trip occurred when I was six weeks old. My Dad wanted to take me back to Scotland to meet the relatives as quickly as he could. Once the smallpox vaccination had been administered (I still have the scar), we were on our way. Fifty years later, I'm still travelling any chance I can get, even just a quick trip to the coast. I can't even imagine the

amount of miles I've put on in my life.

One of my favourite 'rides' is my motorcycle. One thing I always hear from people when they see or hear that I ride is how unsafe they think bikes are. I know after more than thirty years of riding that bikes are as safe or unsafe as the rider is. If you are always pushing the envelope as far as speed or how you operate in traffic, then people are right – it isn't safe. If you ride like I do – following all the rules of the road, always vigilant and anticipating things – then it is a safe, incredibly enjoyable experience.

If you look at the statistics for North America, there are many things far more dangerous to your health than riding. The number one way to die is being shot by a gun, but this may be more of an American stat. Next on the list are preventable medical errors. Number three is sexually transmitted infections. Drug or alcohol abuse and obe-

sity are the next three. Smoking and second hand smoke is near the top, then texting while driving and getting the flu. Rounding out the top twelve is poisons and prescription medication and falling. That list makes riding a motorcycle pretty safe after all, if you ride smart.

A few summers ago, I watched an inexperienced rider get off his bike on the right hand side and told him that was the wrong side of the bike to dismount on, to which I got a look. You always get on and off motorcycles, bicycles and horses on the left side, I told him. For those of you that don't know why, we have to go back more than a couple of thousand years to find the answer. In the days of yore (Is that really a time frame? Evidently it is, I googled it and it means "a time long ago"), it was easier to get on your horse from the left side because your sword was also hanging on your left side. For those of you that will say that that is only the case for right handed people, evidently you forgot that the belief at the time was that being left handed was the sign of the devil. Obviously we no longer wear swords, but because of left-dominated mounting and dismounting, bike manufacturers put things like the kickstand to lean to the left and hot exhaust pipes on the right. For bicycles, the kickstand is on the left, and chains and gears on the right. Technically, there isn't a right or wrong way to mount and dismount these days, but it's a heck of a lot easier to do it from the left side because of the design.

It's now spring, so whether you choose a skateboard, a bike or a horse, it's time to get out and get some riding done.



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Pages 6&7



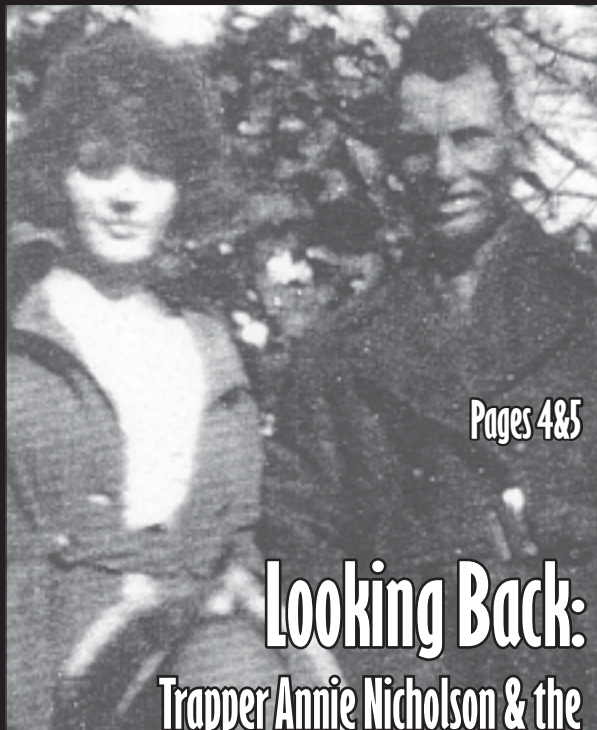
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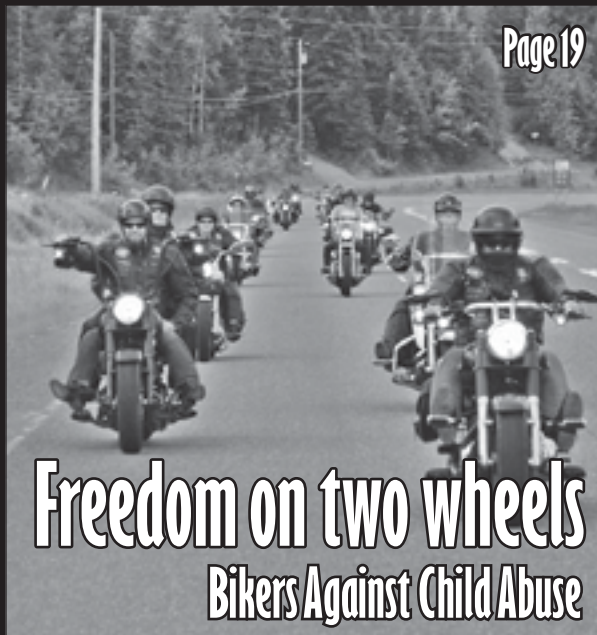


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Looking Back:
Trapper Annie Nicholson & the
Hamm family of West Branch, part 1

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Freedom on two wheels
Bikers Against Child Abuse



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APRIL 19, 1923 ► Annie & Bob Nicholson on their wedding day in Saskatchewan

Trapper Annie Nicholson & the Hamms of West Branch, part I

Looking Back

By Sage Birchwater

It was the spring of 1975 when a friend and I responded to a newspaper advertisement for a trapline in the wilds of the Chilcotin. We were living in Williams Lake at the time and neither of us knew a thing about trapping. Our ambition was to move to the bush and get out of the urban environment we had known all our lives. These were the “back-to-the-land” days after all.

We knew a couple of guys

with a trapline near Tatla Lake who had built a barn and were raising goats there, so we figured a trapline would afford us the chance to get ensconced on the land. So we put our money down and made plans to move to the wilderness.

When I showed a map of this trapping area to a friend working for forestry, his eyes rolled and he pointed to the high concentration of topographic lines. “This is

steep mountain country,” he told me.

So it was. Our trapline lay in one of the wildest parts of British Columbia, some 60km down the West Branch Valley south of Tatla Lake, in the shadow of Mount Waddington, the highest peak in the Coast Mountains. Intrigued by the high mountains, I had secretly wished to visit this country since I was a child growing up on Vancouver Island. Now was my chance.

One of the first people we met in the West Branch Valley was trapper Annie Nicholson. She was a heavy-set woman in her early 70s who had known better days. Her arthritis was getting to her and she was in a lot of pain.

In her prime, she had been a strong and invin-

cible woman, spending weeks alone trapping in the mountains and hacking out a living on the land. Becoming infirm came as a shock to her; she’d led such an independent life.

When we met, Annie lived in a ramshackle lumber-frame house halfway down the valley with her long time friend and business partner, Bern Mullin. They weren’t a married couple but had been inseparable companions for more than forty years. They owned adjacent ranches a couple of kilometres apart and had hayed, irrigated and cultivated their fields together, and run their cattle as a single herd for several decades. They kept their own brands and owned their own stock, and knew each animal by name.

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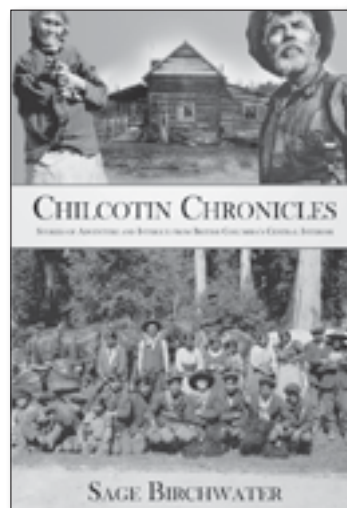
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April 20: Cariboo Art Centre, Williams Lake
Book launch and slide show at 7:00 p.m.

April 27: Books and Company, Quesnel, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

April 27: Quesnel at city council chambers, hosted by Quesnel Museum,
Book launch and slide show 7:00 p.m.

hear



► Annie Nicholson, Bert Hamm and Nellie Frasier

...continued from page 4

Annie took care of the business end of things like dealing with government paperwork and the outside world. Accompanied by her dogs, she'd go to town for the cattle sales and would make marathon shopping excursions into Williams Lake a couple times a year, while Bern was content to remain at home and keep the ranch running smoothly. He rarely ventured out even to Tatla Lake for the weekly mail run and grocery shopping because Annie took care of all that too.

As they got older, they found it more practical to share accommodations in Bern's big lumber frame house he built on Burnt Creek, three or four kilometres past Annie's cozy log cabin where she had lived alone when they were younger.

Annie was sensitive about being "shacked up" with a man she wasn't married to. "What would the neighbours say?" she would fret. But she and Bern occupied opposite corners of Bern's big house, and they each had their own assortment of dogs and personal belongings cordoned off by plywood dividers.

Annie had once owned our trapline, another 30 km down the valley, though she hadn't trapped it for a decade or more. We often consulted her on trapping matters and how to survive in the raw wilderness. She always came up with a gem of wisdom to share.

"Keep track of the time of day," she'd caution. "Get a pocket watch and set it so you know what time it will

get dark. Setting it to the proper time doesn't matter. Just be sure you don't get stuck on the trail at night."

Annie was a single mother of five after her husband, Bob Nicholson, pulled out of the country in 1936 and left them to fend for themselves. Once her children were old enough to stay on their own, Annie would head off down the valley and spend a month or two trapping marten and squirrels to earn a cash income to put food on the table. In those years, trapping was the mainstay of the Chilcotin economy.

When Annie arrived in the Chilcotin with her family from Saskatchewan in 1932, the whole country was in the grip of the Great Depression, and the formidable Harvey Theodor Valleau presided over the West Branch Valley from Bluff Lake to the forks of the Homathko like a glowering thunderhead.

Annie was of hardy Mennonite stock. Her grandparents had emigrated from Odessa in Southern Russia in the late 1870s to escape religious persecution. They found political asylum in Canada in a German-speaking Mennonite reserve in Stanley Township, Manitoba. Her father, David Hamm, was born in Odessa in 1871, but came to Manitoba as a young child. Her mother Sara was born in Stanley Township in 1879.

Sara was in her late teens when she and David got married, and their first two children, Sarah and Lizzy, were born in Manitoba. Then around the turn of the century, they homesteaded in Rosthern, Saskatchewan

AUGUST 2013 ► Annie's old homestead West Branch



► Log Cabin Hotel aka The Ranch, Williams Lake



where they pre-empted a quarter section of land. They were about 20 kilometres from Batoche, where Louis Riel fought his last battle during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Annie and the rest of her siblings were born there.

Annie was born in 1904, the fifth of twelve children. She met her husband, Bob Nicholson, at a dance in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and in 1923 they eloped because Annie's parents didn't approve of their union.

Bob was a rough and tumble American from Oregon who was neither Mennonite nor of German extraction. He had a shady past with several brushes with the law and had spent time in prison. Despite the disapproval of her family, Annie and Bob settled in Rosthern where most of her siblings resided. There she gave birth to five children in quick succession.

When the Great Depression impacted the global economy in 1929, money became scarce and farmers in the prairies couldn't sell their wheat. Compounding this was several years of drought where tillers of the soil were lucky to recover the seed they had planted in spring.

In the fall of 1931, after another crop failure had turned their prairie breadbasket into a dustbowl, Annie's Husband Bob Nicholson, her Brother Johnny Hamm, and her Brother-in-law Charlie Godfrey headed

for British Columbia to look for greener pastures.

In Williams Lake, they ran into Harvey Theodor Valleau at the Log Cabin Hotel. When they told Valleau about the drought and starvation on the prairies, he bragged about his well-watered valley 225km west of there. His boasting struck a chord with the three men from the scorched prairie, and they needed little convincing to follow Valleau into the Chilcotin.

Maybe Valleau genuinely felt sorry for these desperate prairie farmers when he invited them to his coveted paradise. Or there may have been a more nefarious reason for his generosity, born out of feuds he was having with his neighbours James Lee Holt and Leonard Butler. One can only speculate.

Valleau, who couldn't bear another man's smoke across his sky, likely didn't realize the gravity of his



► David Hamm in Rosthern



1916 ► Sara Hamm in Rosthern

actions. The three strangers were only the tip of a very large extended family iceberg that would continue to send more settlers his way once the first ones got established.

It didn't take much convincing for the men to realize they had found the promised land they were looking for. They returned to Saskatchewan to sell their land and bring their families west.

In October of 1932, Bob and Annie Nicholson arrived in Tatla Lake with their five children in a convoy of two vehicles that included Johnny Hamm, Annie's Sister Matilda (Tildy), and her husband Charlie Godfrey. For Valleau, nothing would ever be the same in the West Branch Valley.

...Pick up The Stew next month for the continued story of trapper Annie of West Branch.



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flavour of the month

*"Never ride faster than your guardian angel can fly."
~Author Unknown*



Life and times of Roger William

BY CRAIG SMITH

This month's personality, Roger William, needs very little introduction to anyone that has lived in this area for even a short time. He has had many titles that people have associated him with over the years including Councillor, Director, Doctor and Chief.

Roger is well known for his political career, and has had an interest in politics since he was 16, finally taking the plunge when he was 19, to run for councillor. He

didn't get in. A year later a bi-election happened and Roger was elected for a partial term in 1988. In 1991, he was elected as Chief of the Xenigwet'in band in Nemiah Valley. Roger took a break between 2008-2010 while he was working at TNG (Tsilhqot'in National Government) but became a councillor again in 2010, a CRD Director in 2011 and Chief again in 2013.

As this month's issue is the "Ride" issue, I interviewed Roger with the desire to talk about

his rodeo career. Roger was born outside, in a meadow beside a cabin in Naghataneq, Nemiah Valley. When he said 'outside,' I had to confirm that's what he said – his mom was raking hay and went into labour. He was delivered by relatives, with no doctors, no nurses and no medication. He laughed and said, "It's a good thing it was a very warm August." When Roger was school age, he went to the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School for a couple of years, then was moved to

the residential school in Kamloops, then finished grade school in Williams Lake.

Roger worked the family ranch all his life, until 2008 when he sold all the cattle, due to life getting far too busy. He was raised on the family ranch by his Mom, a single parent. On the weekends, Roger started competing in the small local rodeos and discovered he had a talent for two sports. In 1982, he started competing in mountain races, and almost right away he

started winning. For thirty years, the name 'Roger William' was constantly in the top mountain racers. From 1984 to 1999, Roger also competed as a bull rider, and in 1996, earned the title 'best overall bull rider.' In over thirty years of mountain racing, Roger raced 106 times, coming in first place 38 times and named overall champion 26 times.

Roger has now put his rodeo career behind him and is concentrating on other things. His work involving Aboriginal title has earned him an Honorary Doctorate in Law and put him firmly in the

history books.

Roger has had a busy life, but has still found time for family and fun. He began dating his best friend, Shannon in 1993 and married her in 2004. He has four children that he spends all his extra time with, even getting in some riding time with his daughter. He is an avid drummer and singer, and still enjoys most of the sports he played growing up.

At the end of our interview, Roger's parting thought was, "This is an exciting time here in BC as we are making history," and I couldn't agree more.

flavour of the month



MOUNTAIN RACE ►

LAUREEN CARRUTHERS PHOTO
Roger's winning ride, 2010



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Tax time already?



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Here is a checklist of what you need to do your taxes:

T4 slip from your employer if you work outside the home

If you are part of a group benefit plan – you may need to receive a **T4A slip** from either your Union or Employer – this may represent up to 3

benefits that are paid on your behalf but have been legislated to be claimed as Other Taxable Benefits on your income tax return. If these 3 benefits are paid on your behalf – Life Insurance premiums, Accidental Death and Dismemberment premiums and Critical Illness premiums – they must be reported on a T4A and added to your income tax return. In this way, they become a non-taxable payment should you make a claim under these ben-

efits. Your specific Group Benefit Plan will determine whether or not you will receive a T4A form for these benefits and who is responsible for providing them.

RRSP Receipt – March to December, 2016 and the first 60 days of 2017, any contributions made to an RRSP in your name must be claimed on the prior year's tax return. You are permitted to carry contributions forward to a future year if you choose, but they must be claimed on the previous year's return.

T4RSP – if you withdrew any money out of your RRSP accounts, you must report that as RRSP Income and your financial institution will create a receipt for you. If you have withdrawn funds but did not receive a T4RSP receipt, contact your advisor to request one.

Home Buyer's Plan

withdrawal – if you withdrew money from your RRSP account for your first home purchase in the previous year – i.e. 2016 – you must receive a T4RSP for this – you won't be claiming this as RRSP income but you must report it as a Home Buyer's withdrawal on your tax return so that the Government knows why you took the funds out of your RRSP as well as setting up your HBP repayment plan. The same rules apply for any money withdrawn from

RRSP through a Lifelong Learning Plan.

T5 – if you have investments whereby you received interest on the money, you must claim the interest received on your tax return.

TFSA – these are tax exempt – you do not have to report the deposits or the interest received within your TFSA account. Thus: Tax Free Savings Account!

These are the basic pieces of information that you need to do your

taxes. Depending on your employment and other income or deductions from rental houses, donations, etc. you may have more than what has been listed in order to correctly do your income tax return.

Remember – **April 30th, 2017** is the last day to do your taxes for the 2016 tax year. If you are late and owe the government money, you will be penalized an added percentage on your balance due, as well as extra interest.



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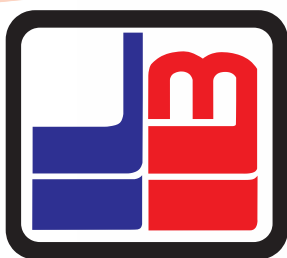


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"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."
~Albert Einstein



Video game design: digital work of art?

BY RICHARD BUTTERS,
ADVENTURE GAMES

Over the past 20 years, video games have begun to shift in purpose and use. Up until 1994, games were not much more than time killers and competitive electronic games. Sure, they had graphics, music, and dialogue, but the target audience was teenage boys with pockets of quarters, or parents with enough disposable income to buy a game system. For this reason, many discounted the medium as anything beyond digitized games – the argument being that if we

don't call chess or basketball art, we also shouldn't call Pong or Madden Football art.

However, the medium of video games is potentially post-modern art and should be viewed through the same critical lens as any other form of art. Even if there is not a game yet that could be considered an epic, the medium is changing faster than all other forms of art and will only continue to do so as technology advances and cultural perception shifts – look at how much games have changed since their inception 60 years ago. Not all

games deserve the title of art or high art. But, to be fair, we also sell terrible paintings and trashy books.

What qualifies a piece or medium to be art? While a complete definition of art will not and cannot be provided here, a search on Google will suggest that art is "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power." While placing video games into those

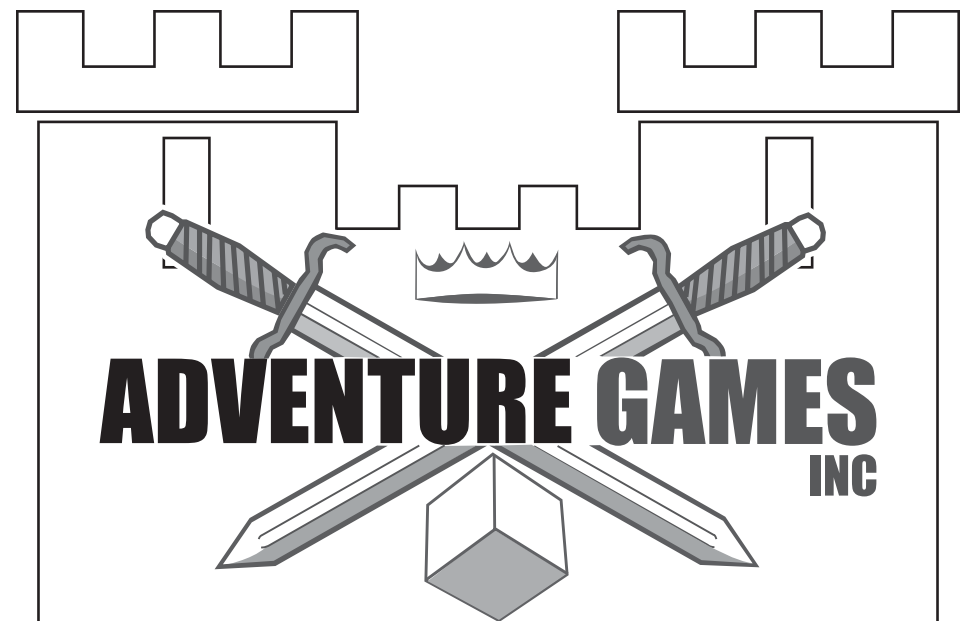
broad guidelines is easy enough that most people would probably shrug their shoulders and be willing to say, "That makes sense," it is important to realize that not all games meet this criteria. For instance, there is a

very real divide between designers and artists which at its basic level is craft versus art. Where all games are designed, not all design is art.

Video games are a medium of mediums. Composers create soundtracks and effects, artists create 2D images and 3D models, writers draft story arcs and dialogue, and programmers choreograph all the moving pieces into a seamless world. The art is a hodgepodge of art. The audience/players experience the games in a first person sort of way. They act and react in-game. Quite a few of today's games are rich enough in all of these to send chills down spines, adrenaline through veins, and tears to our eyes. There is no other medium where the audience or person experiencing it empathizes with it so heavily that they use personal pronouns when describing what

they experienced. They are not merely reactionary. No one reads a book or watches a movie and claims that they themselves harpooned Moby Dick or defeated the Soviet boxer in Rocky IV. But when a player talks, they might say something like, "I unlocked the chest and found the treasure," or "I beat the boss, but the princess was in another castle, so I had to keep going."

But simply being immersed in a nice-looking digital field of virtual flowers, or getting a rush from exchanging gunfire between online players does not in itself qualify a game as art. There are plenty of games that never intend to be art. There are video games that intend to suck the player in, chew on their mind, and spit it back out with new experiences. In the end, only you can decide if a game qualifies as art.



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- * Employee discounts or discounts given to specific groups such as, students or seniors.

- * If a displayed price does not match the register price: if advertise-

ments have misprinted the cost of a service, it's more feasible to honor that price than to turn away customers.

- * Final Sale Items and coupon items that are still fully priced and need to be marked down at the register.

As a business owner something to consider is exactly how much freedom and flexibility do you want your employees to have? For price overriding, it is recommended that employers have a hierarchy established on who can authorize price overrides. Also how much allowance should be standard for employee, research suggests about

10-20% is standard. Typically employers authorize managers and senior employees to handle price overrides and ensure there is a senior staff on shift that is available to authorize price overrides. Business owners should be mindful when implementing levels of control on overriding prices, as this can potentially be an opportunity for employees to abuse the privilege and authorize discounts to friends, family and even themselves.

As a business owner and a consumer another related topic that is worth checking into is the "Scanning Code of

Practice" or SCOP. In short, "If the scanned price of a non-price ticketed item (an item with a barcode that doesn't have a price tag stuck to it) is higher than the shelf price or any other displayed price, the customer is entitled to receive the item free, up to a \$10 maximum. When the item has a price tag, the lowest price applies. When identical items are incorrectly priced, the second one will be sold at the correct price" <https://www.consumerprotectionbc.ca/blog/item/252-scanning-code-of-practice-what-you-need-to-know>



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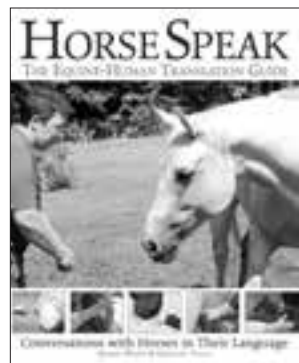
Have a passion for riding horses, motorcycles or bicycles, or just road trips in general? We’ve compiled a short-list of the highest rated, RIDE-related stories and travel guides for all ages!



Motorcycle Journeys Through Atlantic Canada, by Rannis Gillis and Ken Aiken

MOTORCYCLISTS! One of the most popular destinations for North American motorcyclists is Nova Scotia, and its famous Cabot Trail on Cape Breton Island. This travel guide is the complete resource for any two-wheel traveler wanting to visit the high points of beautiful Atlantic Canada, covering all of Nova Scotia, plus the neighboring provinces of Labrador, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and eastern

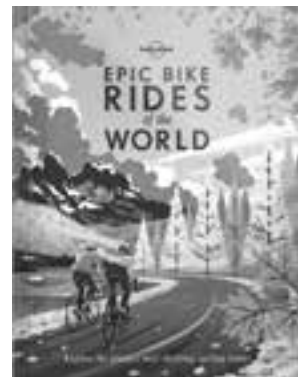
Quebec. Each trip has a detailed route description, easy-to-follow maps, and unique photographs – all brought to life with informed and colorful narration. Local customs, history, tips for rider-friendly restaurants, ideas on unique lodging, comfortable campsites, and information on the border crossing between the US and Canada are included.



Horse Speak: An Equine-Human Translation Guide: Conversations with Horses in Their Language, by Sharon Wilsie

HORSE Speak is not a training method or technique—it is a practical system for “listening” and “talking” to horses in their language, instead of expecting them to comprehend ours. Horse Speak can be used by anyone who works with horses, whether riding instructor, colt

starter, recreational rider, or avid competitor. It promises improved understanding of what a horse is telling you, and provides simple replies you can use to tell him that you “hear” him, you “get it,” and you have ideas you want to share with him, too. Soon the all-too-common misunderstandings that occur between horse and human will evolve into civil discussions with positive and progressive results using these step-by-step templates and instructional color photographs.



Epic Bike Rides of the World, by Lonely Planet

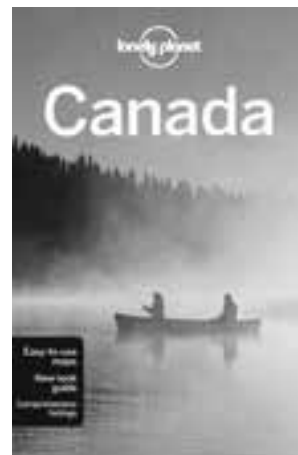
CYCLING GUIDE! Discover 200 of the best places to ride a bicycle in this beautifully illustrated hardback by the world’s leading travel guide publisher. From family-friendly, sightseeing, urban rides to epic adventures off the beaten track. Destinations range from France and Italy, for the world’s great bike races, to the wilds of Mongolia and Patagonia. These journeys will inspire – whether you are an experienced cyclist or just getting started.

Shut Up, Legs! My Wild Ride On and Off

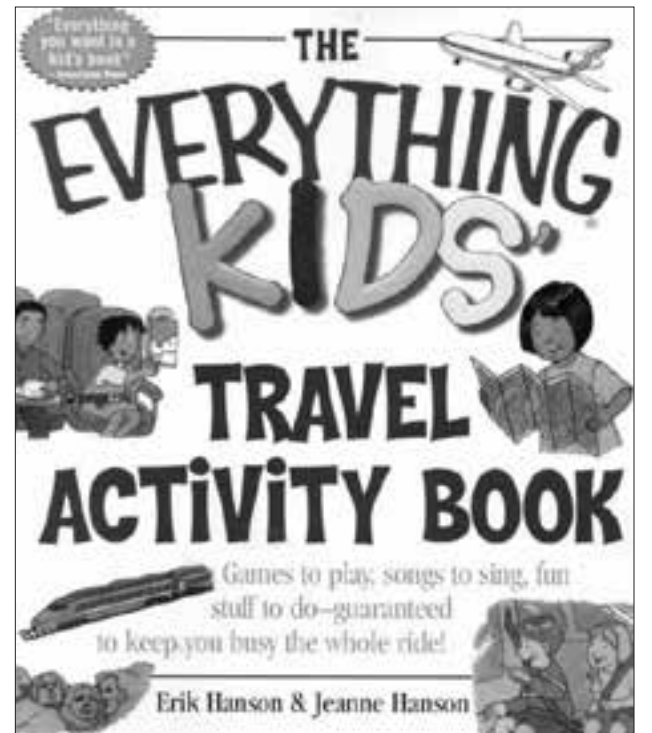


the Bike, by Jens Voigt, James Startt

CYCLING ADVENTURE! Although he won three stages of the Tour De France and wore the yellow jersey twice, Voigt never claimed an overall victory. He became a star because he embodies qualities that go beyond winning and losing: sacrifice, selflessness, reliability, and devotion. European and American crowds were drawn to his aggressive riding style, outgoing nature, and refreshing realness. In *Shut Up, Legs!* (a legendary Jensism), Voigt reflects upon his childhood in East Germany, juggling life as a professional cyclist and a father of six, and how he remained competitive without doping.



Canada Travel Guide, by Lonely Planet
ROAD TRIP GUIDE! Explore the heart of



Canada with inspirational images and recommendations, planning features and top itineraries to help you plan the perfect trip, local secrets and hidden travel gems that will make your trip unique, plus features on national parks, scenic drives, train trips, outdoor activities and wine regions.

The Everything Kids' Travel Activity Book, by Erik A Hanson, Jeanne Hanson

ROAD TRIP ACTIVITIES! Do you love riding on planes, trains, and automobiles but get restless on the way? Packed full of puzzles, activities, quizzes, and games, this book provides hours of nonstop fun that can be done alone or shared with other kids. There’s cool stuff to do, like; create your own postcard, invent a new automobile, or play detective. Learn what makes your foot “go to sleep,” why your sister coughs, or why we

daydream. Draw caricatures, test your memory, and even keep a weather diary. The traveling fun is so endless you’ll never ask “Are we there yet?” again!



Ride the Big Machines Across Canada, by Carmen Mok

ROAD TRIP ADVENTURE! A playful cross-country adventure in which a young boy on a family car trip imagines himself behind the wheel of the big machines he sees through the window as they travel through the provinces and territories. This is both a tribute to Canada from sea to sea and an imagination-sparking celebration of big machines.

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Discover Tofino



Yes, Tofino; the little piece of heaven on Canada's west coast. It is called 'the jewel' of the west coast of Vancouver Island. It has been described as being a stunning beauty with ecological diversity to make it a center and source for all the virtues ascribed to it. Interestingly enough, the population of Tofino is approximately 2,000 residents, made up mostly of wealthy eccentrics and non-conformists. Tofino started out as an ocean resource outpost, then during the 1960s, it became a hippie retreat town.

Tofino is situated on the tip of the Esowista Peninsula at the southern edge of Clayoquot Sound. In spite of its magnificent natural environment, it remains a frontier town – easygoing, outgoing, enterprising, unpretentious and very friendly. The town has the glamour of big city living with the luxury of small town nuances.

The weather is mild enough to grow palm trees, with enough precipitation to make it one of the wettest locations in Canada. During the winter months, snow falls seven days on average. Because the town is not impeded by mountains, it gets its weather from the currents of the Pacific Ocean. The constant warm temperatures of the Pacific Ocean make this beach-dwelling hippie resort town a rival to some of the beach towns of Southern California.

Tofino has become a resort town where city dwellers escape the "hum drum" of city life to enjoy a one stop place filled with escapist activities such as ocean fishing, kayaking, whale watching, bird watching, camping, hiking, storm-watching and First Nations cultural tours.

Speaking of deep ocean fishing, you can go on many fishing excursions with charter outfitters that

are suited for every taste. One can go salmon and steelhead fishing in the waters of Clayoquot Sound. The waters are teaming with rainbow and cutthroat trout species, and some of the outfitters will show you how to smoke your own catch. Wow!

Go for a hike along some of the many well laid out trails, or choose to walk, run, stroll, climb, puddle jump or cycle them! Or how about a bird-watching walk to watch the numerous species of birds along these paths. But be careful – there could be black bear watching you. Tofino is home to many black bear which inhabit the beaches and surrounding areas from early spring through to late fall. In fact, why not go on a bear-watching expedition.

Of course, the whale watching expeditions are always the most popular. You can go on a charter boat to get the grand picture of this experience. You can capture a photo or two of breaching Pacific Gray whales, or Humpback whales. You might encounter bald eagles, mischievous harbour seals, sea lions, sea otters, or if you are lucky, orca whales and porpoises.

In early March, the migration of thousands of grey whales is celebrated with the Pacific Rim Whale Festival on the shores of the Tofino Beaches. Get out your binoculars – this would be an amazing sight to see.

The ocean waves make Tofino an ideal spot for surfers. In fact, Tofino was named the best surf town in North America in Outside Magazine in 2010. The ocean waves roll along approximately 35km of sandy beaches, making surfing a year-round activity. Chesterman Beach (North and South) is the most popular beach to surf the waves, for beginner to seasoned surfers. In South Chesterman, the waves swell from the South and Northwest wind. The North Chesterman receives the winds from the East and Northwest. It has been reported by storm watchers that the waves can

swell to twenty feet.

Tofino has become the stand-up paddle boarding (a derivative of surfing) center of British Columbia. Paddle boarders stand on their boards and use an oversized paddle to navigate the waves and flat water. It is growing in popularity – the latest paddle boarder being my 16 year old granddaughter who is a fan of the surfer waves.

Come out to the many Tofino Festivals. Along with the Pacific Rim whale Festival you can partake in the Tofino Shorebird Festival in the last week of April. The first week of June brings the Tofino Food and Wine Festival featuring British Columbia wines and showcasing the food art of Tofino chefs. The end of August is the Tofino Lantern Festival. Mid-September is the Arts in the Garden event featuring art and music from Tofino and area. The O'Neill Coldwater Surf Classic brings out the surfers for this competition in late October – the first professional surf event in Canada. In November, the Clayoquot Oyster Festival is held for the residents.

There is so much to attract tourists to this wonderful haven. That is why Toni Linde, our Senior Travel Consultant, has put together a Tofino tour June 1 to 7, 2017. This is an amazing and well put together bus trip, tailored and scheduled especially for vibrant seniors. She joins each group on the tour as host and advisor; if you had the good fortune to be on one of Toni's bus tours to the Okanagan wineries, or to Victoria last summer, you will know how much fun they are. The Tofino tour is scheduled for June 1 to 7, 2017, beginning in Williams Lake on the Adventures Charters bus (nothing but the best for us). If you're interested in joining other seniors for tons of fun, please call Toni for the Tofino tour itinerary at ALL-WAYS Travel 250-392-6581. You won't be disappointed!



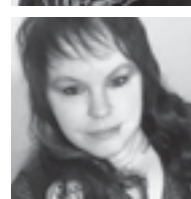
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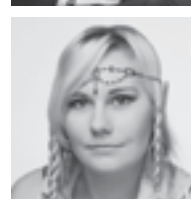
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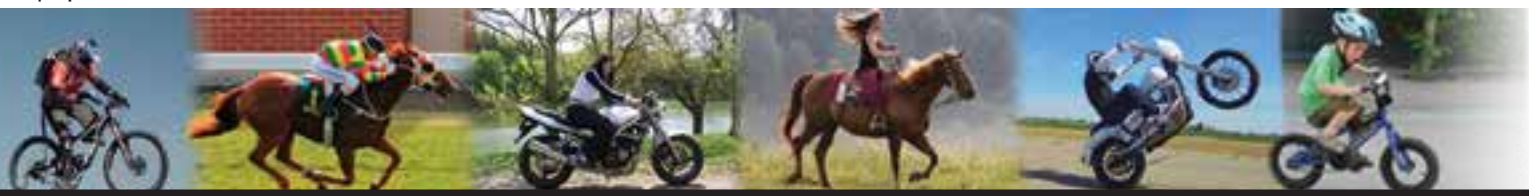
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Play

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

play



WILLIAMS LAKE & AREA

April 1 Fundraiser for Summer Games Gold Medalist Tyleen Scaiano, buffet & silent auction, Laughing Loon 6pm, tickets: Loon \$25

April 1 ITC Warhammer 40,000: 2,000, Adventure Games 10am-6pm

April 1 Ladies Spring Brunch, free brunch, door prizes, games, all ages welcome, 4056 Lakeview Rd, Big Lake, 10am-noon

April 1-2 Bowl for Kids Sake, pirates of the Caribbean theme, info and pre-register: Big Brothers Big Sisters

April 1,8,15,22,29 Public Skate, Saturdays 1-2:30pm, Cariboo Memorial Complex

April 2 Crib Tournament, cash prizes, round

robin format, \$18 includes lunch (served 11:30-12:30), Seniors Activity Ctr 1-4pm

April 2,16 Sunday Draft: Conspiracy 2, Adventure Games 10am-3pm

April 2 Board Game Night: Catan, Adventure Games 6-9pm

April 3 FREE Seniors Bingo & Refreshments, upper level Boitanio Mall 1pm

April 4,11,18,25 Duplicate Bridge Club, everyone welcome, Seniors Activity Centre side door, Tuesdays 7pm

April 5,12,19,26 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps (Rocky Mountain Rangers), age 12-18yrs, 6:15-9pm, Legion lower hall, info: www.3064rmrangcadets.org

April 5,12,19,26 Drop In Hulahoop Workshop, Wednesdays 7pm, Arts Centre 90-4th Ave N

April 6 Garden Club meeting, keynote speakers from Highlands Irrigation and Lake City Landscapes, networking, sharing of expertise and resources, 7pm, Arts Centre 90-4th Ave N, info: 250-392-2769

April 6,13,20,27 Pokemon: TGC Thursday, free to play, Adventure Games 3:45-5:45pm

April 6,13,20,27 55+ Drop In Hockey, Thursdays 10am-11:30, Cariboo Memorial Complex

April 6,13,20,27 Drop In Hockey, Thursdays noon-1pm, Cariboo Memorial Complex

April 6,13,20,27 Cattle & Horse Auction, Thursdays, Stock Yards on Cattle Drive

April 7 Safety Meeting Concert Series, The Pack AD with the Sam Tudor Dream Band, 90-4th Ave N, tickets: Red Shreds

April 7,21 Friday Night Magic: Duel Commander, Adventure Games 5-8pm

April 7-8 Lioness Spring Market, Boitanio Mall upper level 10am-3pm, tables: 250-392-5876

April 7-29 Station House presents; (main gallery) "Lynn Capling and Sandy Wilson: Impact Craters, Sisters and Other Circular Objects," celebrating the night sky, circles in the natural world; and a few aliens; and (upper gallery) "Hellen Kellington: Reflections," 100 Mile House watercolour artist; Station House Gallery, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

April 7,14,21,28 Mall Walking, Fridays 10am-noon, Boitanio Mall

April 7,14,21,28 Friday Night Drop-In Co-Ed Soccer, WL Secondary 7-9pm, info: williamslakesoccer.com

April 8 Magic: Rookie Night, Adventure Games 4-8pm

April 9 Nutrition Walk/Run/Bike, prizes and refreshments at noon, Memorial Complex 11:00am-1pm

April 9 Sunday Draft: Magic: Aether Revolt, Adventure Games 10am-3pm

April 9 Board Game Night: Dead of Winter, Adventure Games 6-9pm

April 12-13 80th Annual Bull Show & Sale, stockyards 1pm, info: www.bclivestock.bc.ca

April 14 Friday Night Magic: Modern, Adventure Games 5-8pm

April 15 WarmaHordes Steam Roller 50pt Dual List Tournament, Adventure Games 10am-4pm

April 16 Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) meeting, public welcome, Big Brothers Big Sisters 200-369 Oliver St. 1pm, info: 778-412-9323

April 16 Board Game Night: Monopoly, Adventure Games 6-9pm

April 17 Good Food Box distribution day, Elks Hall 1-3pm, purchase your box prior to distribution day: \$15/large box 250-392-4118

April 18 TRU Grit Gala, theme "O Canada," cocktails 5pm, dinner 7pm, dancing 9pm, tickets: \$120/ea or \$960/table of 8 from www.tru.ca/williamslake or Ashlee Hyde 250-392-8145

April 18-19 2017 Cariboo Festival: Speech Arts, Evangelical Free Church, info: www.cariboofestival.ca

April 20 WL Writers' Group meets Third Thursday of the month 6pm, Art Centre 90-4th Ave N, info: Linda.levpur@shaw.ca

April 20 Sage Birchwater, local author, book launch & slideshow, Arts Centre 90 4th Ave N, 7pm

April 20-21 2017 Cariboo Festival: Band/Instrumental, St Peters An-

glican Church, info: www.cariboofestival.ca

April 21-23 Annual Indoor Rodeo, rodeo, acts, special guests, bands and dance, Memorial Complex, info/tickets: rodeo office upper level Boitanio Mall, www.wlindoorrodeo.com

April 22 150 Mile Community Flea Market, tables \$10 call 250-392-0728, live music & mobile laser tag, 150 Mile Firehall 10am-3pm

April 22 Handmade in the Cariboo Market, Elks Hall 10am-4pm

April 22-23 Wedding Show & Swap, Curling Rink, Sat 6-9pm, Sun 10am-3pm, proceeds to Daybreak Rotary Starfish Backpack Program, tickets: \$15, info: 250-392-5512

April 22-23 Amonkhet Prerelease Event, Adventure Games, sealed Sat 5-9pm, Sun begins 10am

April 23 Board Game Night: The Game of Thrones, Adventure Games 6-9pm

April 24-25 2017 Cariboo Festival: Vocal/Choral, Evangelical Free Church, info: www.cariboofestival.ca

April 26-28 2017 Cariboo Festival: Piano, Calvary Church, info: www.cariboofestival.ca

April 28 Friday Night Magic: Standard, Adventure Games 5-8pm

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April 28-29 OAPO Bannal Clothing Sale, everyone welcome, Seniors Activity Centre 9am-3pm

April 29 Super Smash Bros. WiiU 1v1, Adventure Games 4-8pm

April 29-30 Jordan Siegmüller Memorial Golf Tournament, Boys & Girls Club student bursary fundraiser, 9:30am, dinner 6pm, party 8pm, register: WL Golf & Tennis Club 250-392-6026 \$80/person or \$320/team

April 30 McDonalds Bike Rodeo, free for children 2-10years to learn about bike safety, Memorial Complex 11am-2pm, info/register: 250-398-7665 recreationerservices@williamslake.ca

April 30 Sunday Draft: Magic: Amonkhet, Adventure Games 10am-3pm

QUESNEL & AREA

April 1 Lions Garage Sale, south end of Maple Park Mall, 9am-2pm

April 1 Made in the North Dinner & Dance, local food, artisans and farm products, live music, Seniors Centre 461 Carson Ave 5:30pm, info: Blue Jay Events \$60

April 3 Autism Parent Group meets 1st Monday of each month, free childcare, 6-8pm, info: erin@cariboo-computers.ca

April 5-8 Correlieu Players 60th Annual Cariboo Review: Into the Woods, tickets: Quesnel Music \$12/adults \$8/seniors & students

April 7 QLA presents virtuoso guitarist Eric Harper, Chuck Mobley Theatre 850 Anderson Dr 7:30pm, adults: \$25/show or \$125/all 6 shows, seniors/youth: \$20/show or \$100/all 6 shows, info/tickets: 250-747-2207 www.qla.ca

April 7-8 Spring Home-Based Business Expo, demos, shopping, workshops, draws, Fri 5-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm, West Park Mall, info: 250-992-6765

April 7-9 Matt O'Flynn Roughstock School, lunch and snacks provide, Alex Fraser Park 102 Northstar Rd 7am-5pm, register: lori.joaquin@bcgeu.ca \$350

April 8 RCMA Open Mic Night "Singing in the April Showers," Occidental 228 Front St

April 8 Community Foundation Gala Evening, games, auctions, food and magic, Seniors Centre 461 Carson Ave 6-11pm, tickets: 250-983-9295 qcf@shaw.ca \$40

April 9 Big Dog Comedy: Sterling Scott & Keon Polee, Billy Barker Showroom, tickets: Quesnel Music

April 14-17 Glenn Stewart Clinic, natural horsemanship, Alex Fraser Park 9am, info: 250-249-5872 quesneldistrictridingclub@gmail.com

April 21-22 Itty Bitty Burlesque Festival, workshops and performances, Occidental, info/tickets: Sasparilla Foxx & Occidental

April 21-23 Riverview 3rd Annual Cupcake Crop, 3-day scrapbooking event, Riverview Elementary 364 Hartley St, Fri 5-10pm, Sat 9am-10pm, Sun 9am-2pm, \$80

April 22-23 Gold Show 2017, panning, demos, door prizes, entertainment, \$3 at the door, Alex Fraser Park, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-2pm, info: cariboominergassociation@hotmail.com

April 22 Annual Seedy Saturday, vendors, demos, workshops and more, CNC at 100 Campus Way, 10am-4pm

April 22 Ducks Unlimited 2017 Banquet & auction, Seniors Centre 5-10pm, tickets: Russ 250-992-3485 \$55

April 26 Super Bingo, proceeds to Rotary Club for local projects, concession, \$1000 jackpot, free draws and last chance, 668 Doherty Dr 7-10pm

April 27 Sage Birchwater, local author, book signing at Books & Co 11am-2pm, book launch with slideshow at council chambers 7pm

April 28 Bowl for Kids Sake, Christmas in April theme, Rev Bowling Lanes 4:30-9pm, info/register: 250-992-7257

April 29 Lions Garage Sale, south end of Maple Park Mall, 9am-2pm

100 MILE HOUSE & AREA

April-May 1 Business Façade Improvement Program, submit application prior to May 1 deadline, property and business owners may be eligible to receive up to 50% reimbursement for the renovation costs to "spruce up" retail and commercial building facades and storefronts in 100 Mile, info: 250-395-2434

April 1,6-8 Performing Arts Society presents Steel Magnolias, April 1 & 8 at 1pm, April 1,6,7,8 at 7pm, Martin Exeter Hall, tickets: \$15 at Didi's & Donex

April 1,8,15,22,29 Meat Draw, Forest Grove Legion Saturdays 4:30-6pm

April 1,8,15,22,29 Alcoholics Anonymous fireside family group, Saturdays United Church 8pm, info: 250-791-1937

April 2,9,16,23,30 Alcoholics Anonymous, Sundays 7:30pm, Health Ctr (hospital rear entrance), 250-791-5286

April 3,10,17,24 Bingo, Mondays, doors 6pm, starts 7pm, super star 8:30pm, Community Hall

April 3,10,17,24 Alanon, Mondays 7pm Health Centre (hospital rear entrance) info: 250-395-2532

April 3,10,17,24 Women's Drop-In Volleyball, Mondays 9:30am, Lone Butte Community Hall

April 4,11,18,25 Alanon Drop-In, Tuesdays 1-2pm, Community Health Ctr (rear of hospital) info: 250-395-7676

April 4,11,18,25 Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesdays United Church 8pm

April 4,11,18,25 HUGS help us get slim, Tuesdays 6:30pm, 6300 N. Green Lake Rd, info: Charlotte 250-456-7504 or Pat 250-456-2491

April 4,11,18,25 Carpet Bowling Club, Tuesdays 1-4pm, Interlakes Hall, info: Kitty 250-593-4780

April 4,11,18,25 Co-Ed Drop-In Volleyball, Tuesdays 7-9pm, Peter Skene Ogden gym, info: Kersti 250-395-1353

April 4,18 Photo Group, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, Bridge Lake School, info: Larry 250-593-4362

April 5,12,19,26 Bingo, g-ball, loonie ball & progressive, Wednesdays, doors 5:45pm, starts 7pm, Lac La Hache Hall

April 6,13,20,27 TOPS Club, take off pounds sensibly, Thursdays 6:30pm, United Church, info: Kirsteen 250-395-3344

April 6,13,20,27 Parkside Indoor Farmers Market, Thursdays 10am-noon, Parkside Art Gallery, vendor space available 250-395-2021

April 6,13,20,27 Royal Canadian Army Cadets, Thursdays 18:30-22:30, 5530 Horse Lk Rd, info: Capt. Kevin Seal 250-395-1181

April 6,13,20,27 Alcoholics Anonymous, Thursdays 7:30pm, 108 Community Centre

April 7,14,21,28 Crib Night, Forest Grove Legion Fridays 8pm

April 8 Ghost Hunt, fundraiser 108 Heritage Site, 8-10pm, \$20

April 9 Mountain Fever Bluegrass All Stars Concert, Martin Exeter Hall 7-10pm, info/tickets: www.mountainfeverbluegrasscamp.ca

April 11 Performing Arts Society "Pitch a Play" evening, bring your script for a play you want to do during our fall 2017 to spring 2018 season, 420 Evergreen Cres, 6:30-8:30pm, info: Village Hair & Nails 110 Birch Ave

April 12 Compassionate Friends, bereaved parents support group, 2nd Wednesday of the month, BJ's Donuts 7:15pm, 250-395-4417

April 15 Paranormal Investigation Adventure, 3 hour haunting hunt takes you deep into the Cariboo's past, 108 Historical Museum, 9pm-midnight, tickets: \$20/tour or \$100/seasons pass, reservations: heritagesite108@gmail.com

April 19 Sage Birchwater, local author, book signing at Nuthatch Books 11am-2pm

April 22 Spring Fling Dance, Arena benefit, live music by "The Way Out", food/drinks, Lac la Hache Hall 6pm-1am, tickets: Race Trac Gas & Hungry Bear

April 25 Cottage Prayer Meeting, every last Tuesday of the month, 6715 Hwy 97 turn left at the blue Travelling Workshop sign, 7:30-8:30pm, info: 250-395-3743

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Upcoming Events by *Events, Etc...*



Wedding Show & Swap

APRIL 22-23, 2017

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(Fashion Show @ 7pm)

Sunday 10am to 3pm

Specialists galore will be present for this event to help make your special day unforgettable.

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Tickets \$15/each, contact Events Etc...

Location: Curling Rink

Proceeds to Daybreak Rotary Starfish Backpack Program



TRU Grit Gala

SAT. APRIL 8, 2017

This year's theme is "O Canada," cocktails 5pm, dinner 7pm, dancing 9pm

Tickets: \$120/ea or \$960/table of 8, available from

www.tru.ca/williamslake or Ashlee Hyde 250-392-8145

Children's Festival

SUN. MAY 28, 2017

Save the date!

If you are interested in having a booth or organizing an activity, visit www.eerp.ca/community or contact us: eventsgrants@eerp.ca or 250-392 5512

Canadian Mental Health Association's

Hootenanny

SAT. JULY 1, 2017

Barn Dance with live music by "One in the Chamber," At the Cariboo Memorial Complex, 8pm to 1am **Tickets:** Early bird tickets \$30/each until May 1, 2017, \$35/each after May 1, 2017. Ticket includes dancing and safe ride (pickup and drop off). We'll pick you up at home between 5 & 7:30pm, drop you off at the Rotary Steak Dinner. After dinner, Boot Scoot Boogie on over to the Complex or we can come get you.



Hauntfest

SAT. OCTOBER 28, 2017

Dinner & dancing, haunted house and a safe ride home!

At the Elk's Hall, doors open @ 6:30 pm

Tickets: Early bird tickets \$40 each, after August 20, 2017 \$50 each.

TICKETS: available online www.eerp.ca/community/event-tickets or contact Betty at **250-392-5512 • eventsgrants@eerp.ca**

Events, Etc... Leave the details to us!
dba *Elegant Event Rentals & Planning Company*

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Social Events by Events Etc...

Anniversaries, birthdays, celebrations, new babies, just because, weddings, and more.

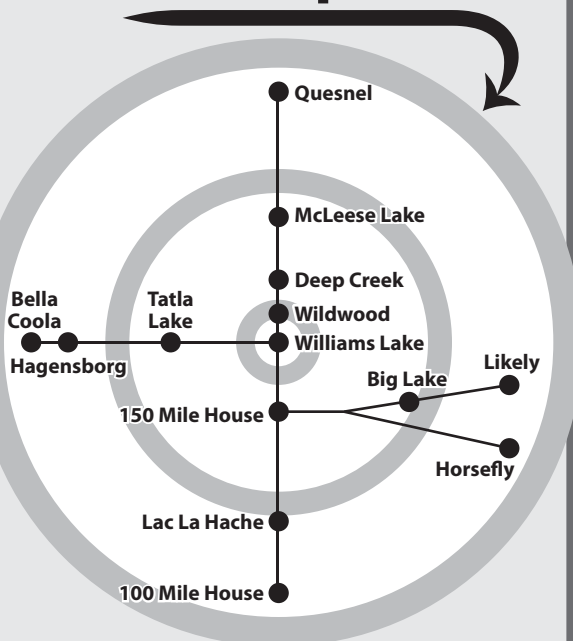
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do



Freedom on two wheels

BY DAN "REV" SMITH,
CENTRAL CARIBOO
TEMP CHAPTER B.A.C.A.

"I have had enough of this frustrating existence... I am getting a mistress! She will either be young, blonde and shapely, OR she will be powerful, have two wheels and be new from the factory. The choice is yours!" My wife of twenty plus years laughed at me and asked one question, "Which of those two options will kill you faster?" After some thought I concluded that the blonde mistress would be considerably more detrimental to my longevity than the new motorcycle I had been fantasizing about for many years, so my new mistress was ordered that day.

I am a motorcycle junkie! After having begged, borrowed, wrecked and wrenched numerous motorcycles over the years, I was wanting a bike that I could ride more than repair. Raising a family of four kids on a simple Pastor's salary did not leave much room for new anything, never mind a new bike that would mainly be enjoyed by me alone. One day, while waiting for the bike to arrive, I asked my wife why she had agreed to the purchase. She responded simply, "Riding is therapy for you. It is time when you can truly be alone with your thoughts and unwind. When you come back from a ride you are more at peace than when you left." As usual,

she was right and I realized that in a busy public life, my biking was a time of peace. Over the years I have come to guard that peace jealously.

In the world of motorcyclists, I am known as a lone wolf rider. I do not like riding with others, wearing colours or having any affiliation connected to my riding. To me riding is an ultimate expression of FREEDOM and it is best experienced ALONE. My motorcycle credo was, "I ride for me and everyone else can stay out of my way."

However, my biking credo was challenged one day when my brother mentioned joining a group of bikers that came together for a very definite purpose. This group was Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.). Their credo was not self-centred but other-focussed. The B.A.C.A. Mission statement reads, "Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of Bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with an established, united organization. We work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are prepared

to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation, and our physical presence. We stand at the ready to shield these children from further abuse. We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner, however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle." I realized that this mission is consistent with how I live my life outside of motorcycling. I began to look into this group and learned that they were beginning the B.A.C.A. Central Cariboo Temp Chapter in Williams Lake.

During the next year I hung out with the group and attended some of their community and social events. I was invited to join them on a ride to the Seattle area to meet up with a few other B.A.C.A. chapters for a fundraising ride. That weekend reawakened a desire for real community, purpose and brotherhood. Meeting up with the Williams Lake crew, we crossed the US Border and were greeted by four members from the North Sound Chapter who escorted us back to join the rest of the group for a BBQ. There I was greeted as family with greetings, hugs, and hearty back slaps. Everyone introduced themselves to me and it felt like a family reunion with family I had never met, but always wanted. Everywhere I went that weekend, the sense of

family, brotherhood and purpose was evident. The weekend was capped with a mass ride with almost one hundred other bikers, for the 100 Mile Ride annual event which raises money and awareness for the work B.A.C.A. does all over the world. As much as I loathed group riding in the past, I really enjoyed the ride.

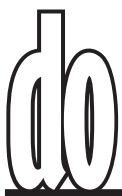
Upon returning home, I came across this quote by Pope John Paul II, "When freedom does not have a purpose, when it does not wish to know anything about the rule of law engraved in the hearts of men and women, when it does not listen to the voice of conscience, it turns against humanity and society." These words struck me... hard. Thinking back on the experience of the B.A.C.A. weekend, I concluded that trading in some of my freedom in order to ride for a purpose with a group of likeminded bikers was a worthwhile endeavour. I applied to join the B.A.C.A. Central Cariboo Temp Chapter in Williams Lake, and today I ride for more than the joy of riding; I ride to empower children who have been abused.

Want to find out more? Williams Lake's Central Cariboo Temp Chapter hosts monthly public meetings; riders and non-riders alike are welcome to join us for these information sessions, held the third Sunday of each month (April 16) at 1pm in the Big Brothers Big Sisters boardroom (#200-369 Oliver Street, Williams Lake). Visit www.bacaworld.org for information about this worldwide organization, or to find a chapter in your area.

Let's ride! We host informal rides and trips throughout the riding season.

Save the date: June 10, 2017 marks the second annual Child Abuse Awareness Ride in Williams Lake, open to all brands of motorcycles. Join us at Oliver Street Bar & Grill at 10:30am for a group ride and barbecue to follow.

Questions? Contact us directly at 778-412-9323 or email secretary@cc-can.bacaworld.org.



"And would you cry if I told you that I lied, and would you say goodbye or would you let it ride?" ~Bachman-Turner Overdrive, Let It Ride



Riding into character

BY SHERYL-LYNN LEWIS,
WL STUDIO THEATRE

One overcast, windy day, three of us drove to the top of Fox Mountain and parked at a barn. There we met Tammy, our instructor, and Duke, a 20 year-old sorrel gelding and a steady horse for beginners. Over the course of an hour or so, two actors and I learned the very basics of riding and caring for horses.

The first task was to brush and comb the shedding horse. Having covered their own coats with his brown hair, the actors cleaned his hooves, then saddled and bridled Duke. A few lessons on how to hold the reins (fold, don't wrap) and we made our way out to the riding ring. The actors took turns walking Duke around the ring and getting the feel of having a horse under them. Then they learned how to mount double, and the ever-level Duke carried

them both around the ring. Back at the barn, Duke was unsaddled and the actors again brushed and cleaned him. A last few scratches and we said goodbye to Duke and gave our thanks to Tammy.

Our adventures with Duke were in preparation for the Studio Theatre's upcoming production of *Mary's Wedding*. One actor plays a prairie farm boy whose love of horses leads him to join the cavalry in World War 1. During the course of the play, both actors ride horses. Duke gave us the chance to feel what a real horse is like so that we can mimic that on stage.

There are many times in the theatre when actors are called upon to portray actions far outside their own realm of experience. There are many thoughts on how to achieve this, and most acting schools have their own methods. One familiar to many people was developed by



Stanislavsky, the first person in Western theatre to suggest actors needed to train more than just their voice and bodies. His goal was to find a way for actors to portray believable, natural people on the stage. It was a change in thinking from "the art of representing" on stage, using standardized postures and gestures to portray emotions and characters, to the "art of experiencing" in which actors' inner thoughts, ideas and experiences justified the actions of the characters they portrayed. This radical change in theatre acting happened during the early 1900's. Incidentally, Stanislavsky was one of the first people to suggest the role of the "direc-

tor" in theatre. Previous to this, the lead actors were responsible for the staging.

"The Method" or "method acting" developed out of Stanislavsky's ideas. The major idea here is that an actor connects the actions required on stage to elements of their own lives. There is an apocryphal story stemming from the filming of *The Marathon Man*. Dustin Hoffman was to film a scene portraying a man who had stayed awake all night. Being a "method" actor, he did indeed stay up all night. When he arrived on the set, his co-star Laurence Olivier asked why he looked so tired. Hoffman explained his approach. Olivier paused

and then said, "Try acting, dear boy... It's much easier."

In a rehearsal at the Studio Theatre, you might hear actors and directors talking about motivation, or what does the character want? What are the obstacles preventing it? How is the actor going to overcome these? And all of this must be based on the lines that the playwright provides. These are now building blocks of character development.

But sometimes, the experience of the character far exceeds that of the actor. It's easy to do research about riding a horse, to go out and experience touching and riding an actual animal. But what about those times when we ask actors to be

a patient in a psychiatric institution, a big game hunter or a nude calendar photographer? That's when the power of imagination and the resources of the internet can mesh to give the actor a way into the role. Others will use the lines in the play to provide the research and reactions they need. A well written play provides that insight.

And sometimes, it's an excuse to go out and make friends with a horse.

An evening of two one-act plays, *Problem Child* by George F. Walker and *Mary's Wedding* by Stephen Massicotte will be on stage **Wednesday to Saturday, May 3rd to 20th.**

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THE STEW MAGAZINE'S Monthly MIX



HOLIDAYS OF THE MONTH

- April 1** . . National Fun Day/ Fun at Work Day
- April 2**International Children's Book Day
- April 2** Tweed Day
- April 6** Sorry Charlie Day
- April 7** No Housework Day
- April 10** National Siblings Day
- April 11** Barbershop Quartet Day
- April 14** International Moment of Laughter Day
- April 15** National That Sucks Day
- April 17** Blah Blah Blah Day
- April 22** National Jelly Bean Day
- April 23** Talk Like Shakespeare Day
- April 26** Hug an Australian Day
- April 27** Babe Ruth Day
- April 30** National Honesty Day

do



Ticket to ride

I've never liked board games. To me, they very much were bored games. I hated waiting for my turn only to take it in seconds then wait another ten minutes for it to come around again, all while listening to my family argue about the rules and who interpreted what was wrong until cousin Jimmy would decide to commit kamikaze, sending the whole board and our armies flying about the room. That was the most

exciting part about the game!

Then I bought a toy store and people flooded in asking for game recommendations and I could do little more than point them to The Game of Life or Yahtzee.

Then one afternoon, a family walked in raving about Ticket to Ride. Of course we carried it, but we were still new to all this and I hadn't taken a copy home yet to learn about it (avoided tak-

ing a copy home?). The parents, along with their three kids, all excitedly explained it to me in one giant burble of words.

You need the best strategy!

It helped with my geography!

Our little brother can play!

Dad flipped the board!

So at least the last bit sounded familiar. I thanked them for their enthusiasm (and purchase of two more editions of the game) and – grudgingly – took a copy home for myself.

Have you heard of the expression 'eating crow'?

I spent a good chunk of my life adamantly being against board games as a form of family fun and entertainment, and here I was into my third round of Ticket to Ride and not willing to put the game away for the night.

My living room now has a coffee table that's

way too large for it, just so I can store all the board games that we've brought home and tried for ourselves so we know what we're selling, all thanks to Ticket to Ride and trying to best my family at building a rail road across different countries and cutting theirs off. It's probably the closest I'll ever get to riding on a train!

Now we're all able to walk someone around our games and be as excited as that family to share our experiences with them. To this day I've never laughed so hard as I have while playing Quelf, but that's a whole different story.

So dig out your old games, dust them off, and give them another go. And while you're at it, pick up some new ones and give them a fair chance. We may be a small town, but we have several excellent game stores here that are all more than willing to give you a hand finding what'll be best for your family.

Oh, and if you have a game-flipper in the family, lay down a tarp first. It makes it much easier finding all those little pieces...

*to eat crow means you have to admit you were proven wrong about something, usually after you've made an arse of yourself.

Spring Fling

\$5

Bag Sale

Bag Sale runs monthly, from the 20th to month end

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The Recycle Bin
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AUCTION

FRI. MAY 5, 2017

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GAMING

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Women's Contact Society Info 250-392-4118

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"When I was in my twenties, it felt like I was riding wild horses, and I was hoping I didn't go over a cliff." ~Chaka Khan



Changes for Tax Filing Season

SUBMITTED BY CANDACE WEATHERBY,
CLEAR VIEW ACCOUNTING

Here are some changes to be aware of for the current tax filing season.

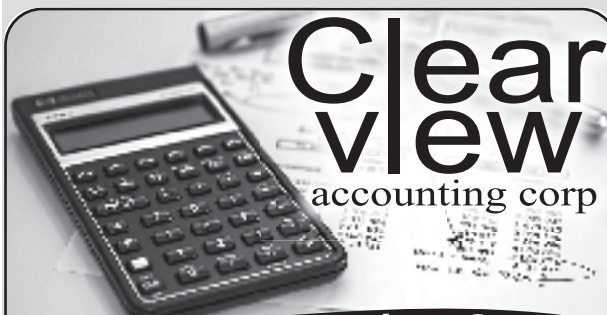
Canada Child Benefit (CCB) – this is a monthly payment made to families who qualify with children that are under the age of 18. The payment is tax free. The CCB replaces the Canada Tax Benefit, National Child Benefit supplement, and the Universal Child Care Benefit.

Northern resident's deduction – Effective July 2016 you may be eligible for a deduction, if you lived on a permanent basis, in a prescribed Northern or intermediate zone for a continuous period of at least six consecutive

months. The basic and additional residency amounts used to calculate the Northern Residents deductions will be increased from \$8.25 to \$11.00 per day for 2016 and later years.

If your child is home schooled, you may be eligible for the **educator school supply tax credit** – educators who are eligible may be able to claim a 15% refundable tax credit based on up to \$1000 of eligible teaching supplies bought during the tax year.

For more of these changes for the 2017 tax filing season and other tips by visiting the Canada Revenue Agency at www.cra-arc.gc.ca/nwsrm/txtpts/2017



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Seniors' activities

BY ERIN DOMENKO

The weather is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, and I am ready for spring. That warm sunshine sure feels great! What a better way to enjoy it than to get outside and get walking.

The Senior Activity Centre offers a **Walking Group on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00am**. The Walking Group meets at Scout Island, The River Valley Trail, Fox Mountain, downtown and other various locations in the area. The group usually walks

for about 2 hours.

There are so many positive benefits to staying active as you age:

*Helps maintain the ability to live independently and reduces the risk of falling and fracturing bones.

*Reduces the risk of dying from coronary heart disease and of developing high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes.

*Can help reduce blood pressure in some people with hypertension.

*Helps people with chronic, disabling conditions improve their stami-

na and muscle strength.

*Reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression and fosters improvements in mood and feelings of well-being.

*Helps maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints.

*Helps control joint swelling and pain associated with arthritis.

Sometimes it may be hard to find the motivation, but it is very rewarding if you do.

If you are interested in joining The Walking Group, or would like to inquire about other groups we have to offer,

please call The Seniors Activity Centre at 250-392-7946.

The Williams Lake O.A.P.O. Branch is hosting their biannual Clothing Sale this month. It will be held at the Williams Lake Seniors Activity Centre Society on Friday, **April 28th** and Saturday, **April 29th** from 9:00am to 3:00pm. This is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

I would also like to invite everyone to check out our Facebook page at *Williams Lake and District Seniors Activity Centre – Better at Home* to stay up to date with current events taking place at the Seniors Activity Centre.

Better at Home VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Williams Lake **Better At Home** offers support services to assist seniors with simple, non-medical day-to-day tasks. Our volunteers provide:

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- Transportation to medical appointments
- Minor home repairs
- Grocery shopping
- Friendly visiting
- Snow shoveling

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United Way
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Email: betterathome-wl@shaw.ca

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*"A man can't ride your back unless it's bent."
~Martin Luther King Jr.*



Out of the Fridge

By Brice O'Neill



Shrimp Linguini

Working in a kitchen is akin sometimes to going to the carnival. When you first get there, it's pretty exciting – the bright lights and the amazing aroma. The rides leave you feeling

breathless and exhilarated, if not a bit overwhelmed. Many restaurants have the kitchen far away from the dining area where the cooks can't see the customers. Despite that, we

can feel the energy building up, as the restaurant fills with patrons.

A couple of times a day, the restaurant fills and the rush is on. Orders start coming in at an increasingly fast pace and the cooks are ready. We ride that wave of energy, slow to start building to a crescendo, and then we slow down. Imagine a diagram of a wave length as it goes up and down. That's what the rush we ride is like, it goes up to a peak then crashes down, then up again as the next rush starts. For adrenaline junkies, it's a wonderful place to be. For those bothered by a high stress

environment, it can be hell. The customers on the other side of the wall experience an illusion intentionally created for their entertainment. Great food, good conversation, visiting with friends. It's meant to be that way. We want our customers to have a wonderful, relaxed experience. The invisible barrier that separates the front from the back of the house is real. Walk through the barrier and you will hit an energy that is like no other. It's an entirely different world at the back of the house, quite literally like a roller coaster ride. Climb on if you dare. Ride the monster if you have

the guts. The weak of heart need not apply.

Let's 'go for a ride' and **make some Shrimp Linguini**. Prepare one package of linguini pasta. In a side skillet, melt 2 tbsp butter mixed with ¼ cup of olive oil. Add a few garlic cloves, one shallot finely diced, and cook until translucent. Next stir in 30-40 large shrimp and cook until they're pink. Remove the shrimp from the skillet and keep them warm. Next pour about ½ cup of white wine into the skillet and bring it to a boil, scraping off the brown bits with a wooden spoon. Add 2 tablespoons of butter and stir in ¼

cup of olive oil into the butter mixture. Bring to a simmer and then add the shrimp and the linguini, tossing until coated. Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with olive oil to serve, and voila; they will think you are a genius! Easy eh?

INGREDIENTS

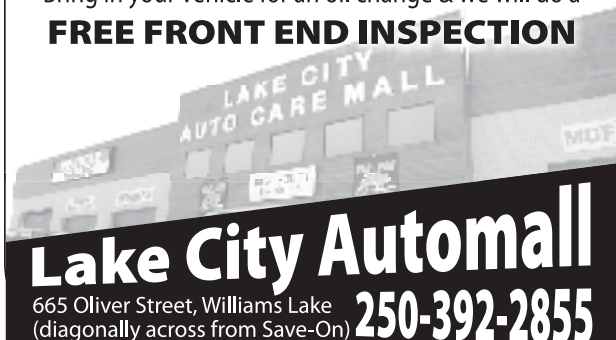
1 pkg linguini
2 tbsp butter
¼ cup of olive oil
fresh garlic
1 shallot
30-40 large shrimp
½ cup white wine
2 tbsp of butter
½ cup olive oil
salt and pepper

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Lesson from Red Riding Hood

Food for Thought
By Rita Corbett



Sometimes we seem stuck in our own personal 'whether' channels – 'whether' to plunge forward with society, or turn back to prime principles of the past. Where will we find ideals to benefit the future? While the values of our 'whether' vanes spin in the wind, a backward look might provide perspective. So, "Over the river and through the woods, to grandmother's house" we go.

It takes a real mind-shift to absorb lessons from those who paid \$24.80 a month rent, were educated in 1-room schools, and walked

uphill both ways to school barefoot in the snow, and well... you fill in a family story.

Recently, I stood at the bedside of a man born in the early 1920s. At age seven, he was left alone to run the farm while his parents looked for work during the great depression. Television? Not a chance! He was busy with the crops and the livestock, baking the family's bread, completing his first grade homeschool assignments, and...

There was no one to whine to, so he didn't. He

just went to work. One day, he jumped down after clearing snow from the roof and landed on an upturned nail. The nail came out the top of his foot, giving him a choice. He could sit there all day, or yank it out himself. After recounting that story, he then laughed at himself because he never learned to text! Which generation is the most crippled – the self-determining one or the media- and government-dependent one?

The old man's list of accomplishments reads like a thick book of fiction. Perhaps a few challenges would actually lead to character development! I wouldn't advocate abandoning the young, but we would gain much by aborting our continuous rescues. Are we crushing society's momentum by making sure everyone is always 'happy'? Poor things!

I'm sitting in a Tim Horton's, on my way home after witnessing the death of that amazing man. A family group opposite me is trying to get their little fellow to quit whining. The bribes are getting bigger and bigger. "Oh, look! This is the best part of the sandwich!" "Wow! These stickers are for you!" And finally, "If you're good, we'll go to the toy store!" No wonder the need for cars, trips, and other enticements escalate as those thoughts mature. "When you settle down you can eat," has vanished. Other methods have disappeared, too. Just then the little boy screams, "I don't want my juice in a glass, I want it in a cup!" Guess who provided! Could he not have done it himself, and cleaned up the spill?

Instead of making sure there's never a battle, might we sometimes allow children to struggle valiantly? Then their successes will bring

happiness! And a different outlook for them and for our country. We debilitate ourselves by going straight to benefits, instead of working, and only sometimes winning. No wonder failure is so sapping. No wonder we whine!

Early versions of *Little Red Riding Hood* had her escaping the big, bad wolf by skill, cunning and wit. The mother in Tim Horton's is now cleaning up what the little boy threw onto the floor. What skill is he learning? He's only two and a half, and already I wouldn't marry him!

What did the wise old ones live by? "Don't let your emotions arrive before you." "Leave the world better than you found it." "Do unto others..." and "Character is who we are in the dark" Plus a zillion other sayings that were never focused on themselves. Long ago, it wasn't about 'comfort zones' or marriages that were 'incompatible'. Life was about integrity. Service.

Persistence. And that 4-letter word – work!

So where do we go from here? A few hours with my senior offered a hint. After all, he built a large medical clinic by himself, without RONA or Home Hardware hanging around. I mean, he started by making the bricks himself, in a hand press – 2 at a time. Right after he finished that day's surgery schedule. He probably didn't learn that at the toy store!

We can pursue shaky new theories, or we can head off to Grandmother's house. It's urgent. Our time is limited. Soon 'is' will change to 'was'. That determined generation, the generation that wasn't raised on TV, that last generation who thought whining was something to be eliminated by training instead of being bribed away, will soon ride off into the sunset. And we will no longer have the opportunity *Little Red Riding Hood* had.

So, goodnight, Dad. I'll see you in a blink... now I'd better go and get to work.

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A horse-lovers' dream

BY DR. STEFANIE
KRUMSIEK, DVM

As spring is on its way, all a horse-loving woman can think of is how quickly she can run her horse around barrels, jump, gait or simply saddle up and go on a trail ride again as the weather gets milder and the ground is not a skating rink anymore.

For myself, riding my horse out on open

range has always been the most desirable thing since childhood (which has been a while). Either alone or with a group of friends, being out in the wild with your four-legged partner is a wonderful experience and nourishing for body and soul. And we are so fortunate here in the Cariboo, with beautiful sceneries, amazing landscapes, wide open mountain ranges,

old windy trails and lots of people who share the same interest and validate it.

Last summer, we had lovely visitors from Germany, dear friends who stayed for three weeks at our ranch in Horsefly. They have been to our neck of the woods multiple times in the past, but we had never managed to do a hiking trip up one of the mountains in the area.

Spontaneously, we decided to hike up Eureka Peak on a cooler day in July when we all could allow ourselves being away from the hay fields. I was early pregnant at that time and constantly tired so I decided to use horsepower to get to the top.

My Icelandic gelding 'Dani' took me up no problem, while everyone else had to walk. Unfortunately, as everyone can imagine, the bugs were just eating us alive, therefore our trip did not last too long, but everybody enjoyed it and I especially was very proud of my horse.

I had never taken him up into the alpine, but I ride him at least three to four times a week on the ranch, doing everything from just trail riding to chasing cows or herding sheep. He loves having something to do; when we are just out on the trail he doesn't necessarily pay



attention and sometimes falls over his own feet because of that. Up on the mountain he was in his element, more than eager to go (probably because of the insect invasion), interested and just fun to ride.

The next day I took him out for a relaxing trail ride together with a friend; Dani was obviously tired but still happy to get out again.

In the past, especially when I was an ambitious teenage rider, I always thought about the next

competition I would go to when riding my horses. Now things have changed; being 'one' with my four-legged partner and enjoying our time together out in the bush has become everything for me.

This time of the year is wonderful for starting the conditioning training again after the winter break, and I am looking forward to more adventures with Dani in this beautiful country we live in.

Happy riding!

Art Gecko

The Gecko Tree Cafe invites you to check out their monthly art show and sale.

Bethany Clarke is still showing her beautiful paintings from **March 1st until April 8th.**

The next artist, showing from **April 11 until**

May 23 is Glen Stanley.

Glen has lived in the Robison Valley since 1943; at 5 years old, he immediately fell in love with the snow-capped mountains and virgin forest and has lived there ever since. Glen's talent comes to us in the form of cedar tree wood

carvings. It is his hope that these pictures may bring joy and relaxation to many people caught up in today's stressful pace.

Contact Beatrix Linde, Gecko Curator (250-440-5759) if you're interested in showing your work.

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Tasty Tidbits

By Paige Knights-Smith

The key

...Continued from March's Stew Magazine

"Who was that?" I whisper out into the room. My hand still clutches the key. I stare at it, willing it to give me answers. "What is going on?"

My heart feels like it is going to beat out of my chest, my whole body is shaking. The dream feels real, the sensation of the wind on my face, and that voice echoing in my ears. I look over to my bedside clock, a Batman Lego clock that my mother got for me for Christmas. Before that I would just use my phone to figure out the time, but it wasn't on my night table where it usually lies.

The clock read 3:32 am, and I lay back down, the pillow feeling flat against the back of my head. My hand searches the rest of my queen sized bed, trying half-heartedly to find my phone. My eyes are

heavy with sleep, and I reluctantly close them again.

"Lucy," his voice is in my ears again, but I am too afraid of the wind's strength to open them and see if he is actually there this time.

"Lucy," arms are around me, holding me close, keeping me safe.

The wind is pounding around us, and I open my eyes to look straight into another pair of blue eyes. I stare into them as his mouth repeats my name again.

"Who are you?" I whisper.

His deep voice is in my ears, and I wonder who he is and why I am dreaming about him. I keep my eyes closed and try to remember something else from my dream. I remember the way the sand felt underneath my feet and the way the wind whipped through my body; and I remember his voice. Whoever he is, his voice resonates within my soul, and I focus on it. My hand grasps the necklace hard.

My feet are in the water, which is warm and calm from the recent wind storm. I wrap my

arms around myself, feeling my fingertips caress my arms.

"Lucy," his voice is in my ears once again.

I want to feel the warmth of his arms around me like I did before, but there was an emptiness surrounding me. I look around, trying to find the blue eyes that haunted me only minutes before.

"Who are you?" I say out loud, hoping for an answer. "What do you want from me?"

The ocean is vast and empty in front of me, the beach is behind me, but I couldn't move onto it. I want to stay in the warm water. It touches my skin and I embrace it with every ounce of my being. I walk alongside the beach, my feet never once leaving the water. I walk for what seems like forever, in silence, the only noise is the crashing of the waves along the shore.

"Lucy," the voice is behind me now, and I spin around quickly almost losing my balance and falling.

Behind me, sitting on a tall black horse, is the man with the voice that wouldn't stop echoing in my ears.

"Who are you?" I ask.

He smiles and extends his hand, "Would you like to ride with me?"

I want to take his outstretched hand, my whole body leaning forward to do so, but something inside me stopped myself.

"I don't know you." I say, staring into his blue eyes.

He smiles. "True." "Are you going to tell me who you are, and what I am doing here?"

"Well that could be a very long story."

I nod, and step forward towards the horse. My hand reaches up and starts stroking its nose. "You understand how corny this all sounds don't you?"

He laughs, "I absolutely do." He reaches up and scratches his neck. "I know this sounds like something out of a romance novel. A stranger riding up to you on a beautiful horse in the

crashing waves of an endless sea."

"On an endless beach," I state, smiling widely. "I hate romance novels."

"Yeah," his arm is now resting on the saddle in front of him. "Me too. To be honest, I am not really sure who came up with this scenario, if it was me, or if it was you. It could be you, considering it's your dream."

"Is it only my dream?" I ask him, still stroking the horse's mane. "Do you live in this so-called dream world?"

"No," he tells me, throwing his leg over and jumping down off the horse. "I'm sleeping somewhere in my own bed."

"Are you going to tell me your name?"

He runs his hand through his short black hair, "I don't know if I am allowed to."

I laugh at him. "What? Is there some kind of rule against it?"

He laughs again, "I'm just kidding. My name is Chris." He puts his hand out in a gesture to shake

mine.

"So, how did you know my name?" I ask him, turning around and begin walking through the small waves.

Chris catches up to me, pulling his horse along behind him. "Honestly, I'm not sure. Came to me in a dream."

We laugh together and continue walking.

"You have a beautiful horse," I say after a few minutes.

"Thanks," he answers. "I found him on the beach."

"Are you trapped here?" I ask.

"I started coming here in my dreams just a few nights ago. Found the horse and started looking for you." Chris explains. "Although I didn't know who exactly I was searching for."

I finger the skeleton key necklace hanging around my neck as we continue walking along the shore. There is a stillness between us.

To be continued...



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"When you're riding, only the race in which you're riding is important." ~Bill Shoemaker



Riding the waves

A SHORT STORY BY
LEIGH SANDERSON

A sudden shift in the wind made me look out.

Without a firm grip on the wheel it came loose in my hands and started spinning – the boat was coming *about*. The three

sails started flapping, I grabbed for the handle as it spun around in order to get things back under control. The strong smell of salty air meant the sea was being churned and a squall was heading our way. I was losing control of the wind in the jib and mizzen; the mainsail was still holding its own. I always get apprehensive when the weather changes so fast. Are we ready for a storm?

Unexpectedly the wind cut into the jib pushing the nose around and filling the mainsail which tilted the boat more than I was comfortable with. My thought was...

"Dad!" I hollered down into the galley where he was no doubt playing cribbage with Doris.

The shift in the boat was enough to have him scramble up on deck. "Look!" I said pointing west. He turned to look and saw the big black sky swallowing up the sun.

"I'll take the helm," he said loud enough for me to hear over the waves hitting the hull. "You get your rain gear on and bring my safety line. Looks like it's going to hit and hit hard." He settled behind the helm and brought the boat around enough to catch more wind. A big grin crept over his face. I knew this was the type of wind and weather

Writers' Showcase

Short Stories by
the Williams Lake
Writer's Group

he liked. Captain Dad liked to challenge what the ocean would hurl at him, unfortunately I hated it!

The waves were coming at us, crashing over the port with masses of water fighting to get through the scuppers, washing the deck with its fury. Doris rushed to release the sheets and let down the mizzen. This was going to be a battle between man and nature's beast! The captain had to get the boat heading into the waves, not have the waves hit us broad side, which would inevitably capsize us.

I scrambled down the ladder to find rain gear and life lines. The boat was tossing me around making it difficult to get my balance. I didn't like this one bit. We were hundreds of miles away from any point of land and I was scared.

I clambered back up on deck with the rain gear. My dad seemed to be fighting the wheel trying to keep enough wind in the sails and bring the nose around to head into the waves. I passed Doris his safety line, which she secured around him. Rain gear would be donned only when things were under control. The waves were reaching higher and crashing down upon us

harder. It was difficult to navigate. And then the nose reached up so high I thought we would go over backwards then *CRASH* the boat headed into another wave, this time head on.

I couldn't get my balance and fell, almost hitting the boom. I could hear my father yelling something, but the roar of the ocean made it impossible to make out his words. I snapped my lifeline on a stanchion as a huge wave came crashing over and washed my legs out from under me. Thank heavens for the lifeline! I regained my balance and got my legs back under, this time one in front of the other like being on a snowboard or a slalom ski. We were in the eye of the storm.

Finally, Captain Dad got the boat under control and it was now hitting the waves just as another was coming at us, but there was more of a rhythm. This was going to be a long ride, but once my legs were in position they would bend as the boat came up from one wave, and straighten as we fell onto the next. My body was getting used to the pulse of the up and down motion and it felt like I was *riding the waves!*

Bucket List

A POEM BY LINDA PURJUE

I would like to ride an elephant
Through jungles thick and green;
High upon his broad grey back,
I would feel like an exotic queen.

I would like to ride a camel,
Two humped, if you please;
Rocking above the golden sands,
I would traverse their dunes with ease.

I would like to ride a reindeer
Beneath glimmering Northern Lights;
I would trot across boreal meadows
And see wondrous Arctic sights.

I would like to ride a wild horse
With neither saddle nor rein;
Like a centaur of old we would be one
As we galloped across the plain.

I would like to ride the rolling seas
In a ship with billowing sails;
I would race the white-winged seagulls
And dance with the singing whales.

I would like to ride a rocket ship
To worlds beyond afar;
I would converse with a different people
Who live beneath a different star.

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"Come along and ride this train, cross the mountains, prairies, reservations, rivers, levees, plains." ~Johnny Cash, Come Along and Ride This Train

Riding the rails

A SHORT STORY BY
ANNE MOUTRAY

No, I'm not a hobo; I've never been a hobo and I don't really plan on becoming one although I think it would be an interesting way of life.

A long time ago when I became a newly certified teacher, I applied, at the end of August, for a teaching position. As a result of the late date the only available spots were Grade Two in Merritt and a one-room school in the miniscule village of Chu Chua located along a rutty track, ten miles out of Barriere. I chose Chu Chua as I had always fancied teaching in a small country school.

The main problem was transportation. As this was my first year of teaching, of course I couldn't afford a car. In those far-off days, if you couldn't pay for a thing, you did without until you could pay for it. There was none of this modern way of paying a bit down, taking possession and paying it off, little by little, for the next sixty-two years.

I really needed to get home to Kamloops for the weekend, and so to save my sanity, my Mother drove out on a Friday afternoon to pick me up and rose at six o'clock on Monday morning to drive me back to my school. What really annoyed us was that we more or less followed the C.N. passenger train which was on its

way to Montreal, passing through Chu Chua where there actually was a station, on its way. It was just that the man who donated the land for the depot forgot to stipulate that the train should stop there.

My Mother presented herself at the ticket window in the station at Kamloops, to ask politely if the train couldn't stop at Chu Chua on Mondays and Fridays to drop off and pick up the teacher.

"Not possible" replied the ticket seller who was probably surprised that anyone would think to make such a bizarre request.

"May I speak to the superintendent then?" asked my Mother.

The superintendent appeared and my Mother repeated her request.

"Absolutely impossible," replied the superintendent. "It would set a precedent," he added, obviously aghast at the very idea.

"Is there anyone else I could talk to, then?" asked my mother, politely.

"Well," said the superintendent with a slight sneer, "You could write to Donald Gordon.

Of course Donald Gordon was at that time president of Canadian National Railways, in Montreal.

My Mother not being a person to take a sneer lightly, went home and wrote to Donald Gordon



being careful to mark the envelope 'personal' so as to by-pass the busy little secretaries.

Of course she couldn't keep quiet about her endeavor so her fine friends, with twinkling eyes, teasingly kept asking if she had heard from Donald Gordon yet. Two weeks later, to my utter amazement, we had a telegram from Montreal, a telegram from Vancouver, a telegram from Kamloops and, would you believe, a telegram from Chu Chua, informing us that the

Transcanada train would now stop at Chu Chua on Friday evenings and Monday mornings to accommodate the teacher.

When my Mother's fine friends next asked her if she had heard from Donald Gordon yet, it was she who had the twinkling eyes as she answered, "Well, as a matter of fact..."

I was a happy person as I climbed aboard the train that first Monday morning while my Mother went home and back to bed. The trip passed

quickly as I dreamed of all the wonderful teaching I would do. Suddenly I could see that we were nearing Chu Chua but the train didn't seem to be slowing down, so naturally I began to get a bit jittery.

"Sit down", said the conductor testily, "the train will stop."

The train didn't stop. I watched in horror as Chu Chua whizzed by and disappeared in the distance. I really don't think that I have ever, before or after, seen anyone move quite

as quickly as that conductor as he lunged for the emergency cord. By the time the train stopped we were a good two miles out of Chu Chua. Someone said trains are not allowed to back up but believe me, this one did. As I climbed down, I felt that I should be giving a royal wave to a waiting crowd but as there wasn't a soul there, I just trudged off and up the dusty road into the village.

God bless Donald Gordon; God bless C.N. Rail.

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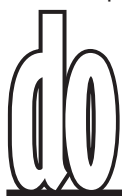
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"I love the man beside me, we love the open road. No phones till Friday, far from the undertow, far from the overload." ~Joni Mitchell, Night Ride Home

Must-watch motorcycle movies



Motorcyclists in the Cariboo spend all winter dreaming about their machines that are in the garage gathering dust.

It's more than just another vehicle to many riders; it's a lifestyle and it represents freedom. They dream about motorcycles, new parts, riding and road trips, even when there's snow on the ground, so what could be better than watching some motorcycle movies!

From underground motorcycle clubs, to freewheeling nomads, to MotoGP, these movies have it all. So sit back with a huge tub of popcorn and get ready for a (vroom vroom) movie marathon!



Harley Davidson & the Marlboro Man, 6.0/10 IMDb (1991)

I am sure the mere mention of the iconic brand 'Harley Davidson' is enough to make you guys sit up and take notice! Yes, it's a Harley Davidson movie through and through with the lead character by the same name, and needless to say

the bike too. Time to watch Harley Davidson ride away on a Harley Davidson! Starring Mickey Rourke, Don Johnson and Chelsea Field.

Hell Ride, 5.1/10 IMDb (2008)

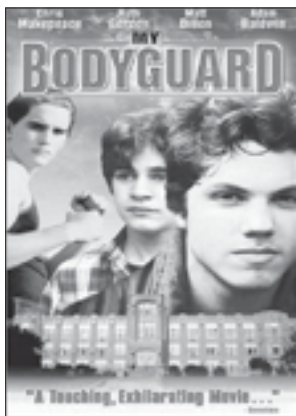
Quentin Tarantino presents *Hell Ride*, starring Larry Bishop, Dennis Hopper & Michael Madsen. This film is a tribute to out-



law biker films of the sixties and seventies. Complete with gang wars, the oh-so-bad-and-sexy-bikers, their lifestyles and hot chicks, this film is for that untamed biker within you!

Wild Hogs, 5.9/10 IMDb (2007)

Tim Allen, John Travolta, Martin Lawrence, and William H. Macy star in this entertaining and comedic look at motorcycle adventure after 40. Here's a group of three men who seek some adventure and spark in their lives. They encounter a New Mexico gang called the Del Fuegos and have what turns out to be the ride of their lives.



My Bodyguard, 7.1/10 IMDb (1980)

This touching, exhilarating movie stars Chris Makepeace, Ruth Gordon, Matt Dillon, and Adam Baldwin. When a boy comes to a new school and gets harassed by a bully, he acquires the services of the school's most feared kid as a bodyguard. The high school boys, one a freshman and the other an emotionally torn boy with a passion for motorcycles, begin building a bike together. Bonds are forged

and lifelong friendships are made over a motorcycle.



Biker Boyz, 4.6/10 IMDb (2003)

If you ever had a childhood dream of racing then you sure can relate to this movie. Laurence Fishburne stars as the kid who became a part of an underground motorcycle club and turned his passion into a profession.



The Motorcycle Diaries, 7.8/10 IMDb (2004)

This larger-than-life book, later made into a movie, is an epic tale of Che Guevara's adventures across South America which initially began on a dilapidated Norton 500. Draw inspiration and take off on an adventure of your own.



The World's Fastest Indian, 7.9/10 IMDb (2005)

Starring Anthony Hopkins, this film is based on New Zealand racer, Burt Munro, who spent years modifying and rebuilding a 1920 Indian Scout Motorcycle. He then takes the

legendary motorcycle to the Utah Bonneville Salt Flats where he's set several land-speed records, of which one remains unbroken to this day.



Why We Ride, 7.7/10 IMDb (2013)

This movie is for that different breed of humans – motorcyclists who love to ride, and who ride for a cause. Discover the true spirit of riders and their passion for motorcycling. The story spans generations of young and old motorcyclists; a must-watch for one and all.



Ghost Rider, 5.2/10 IMDb (2007)

Nicholas Cage plays a famous stunt rider, and boy does this man ride! The best shots in the movie are when Johnny Blaze becomes the indestructible, motorcycle-riding anti-hero known as the 'Ghost Rider'. Watch this movie for the crazy stunts and the gradual transition from stuntman to a burst-into-flames stunt daredevil.



Fastest, 7.8/10 IMDb (2011)

This documentary feature film by Mark Neale is a snapshot of all races of the 2010 MotoGP season, with behind-the-scenes ac-

cess to all sixteen races and appearances from Valentino Rossi, Jorge Lorenzo, Casey Stoner, Ben Spies, Colin Edwards and Marco Simoncelli. The thrilling and terrifying reality of the 2010 season makes for this documentary feature film. MotoGP fans are sure to devour this movie!



Easy Rider, 7.4/10 IMDb (1969)

This movie starring Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper and Jack Nicholson is for those freewheeling hippies who love the roads, and love being on the roads. The protagonists ride a typical California-style chopper and take off toward the East coast to attend the Mardi Gras. The movie highlights their experiences on the journey; right from giving a lift to a stranger, to being arrested by local authorities and being bashed by local goons.



On Any Sunday, 7.9/10 IMDb (1971)

One of the best-loved motorcycle films of all time, this documentary starring Steve McQueen captures the spirit of motorcycling in a way that even non-riders can understand, and deservedly won an Academy Award nomination.

The 2014 sequel, *On Any Sunday: The Next Chapter* is rated 7.2/10 IMDb, and stars Bo Derek and Travis Pastrana.

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X-Word Puzzle

ACROSS

8 Opposite bird in any set of exercises (8)

9 See 11

10 Norse deity seen as Thor's 8? (4)

11, 3, 9 Comically mastered with 'lemon entry', a way to show words ascribed to 26 22ac (10,2,4,6)

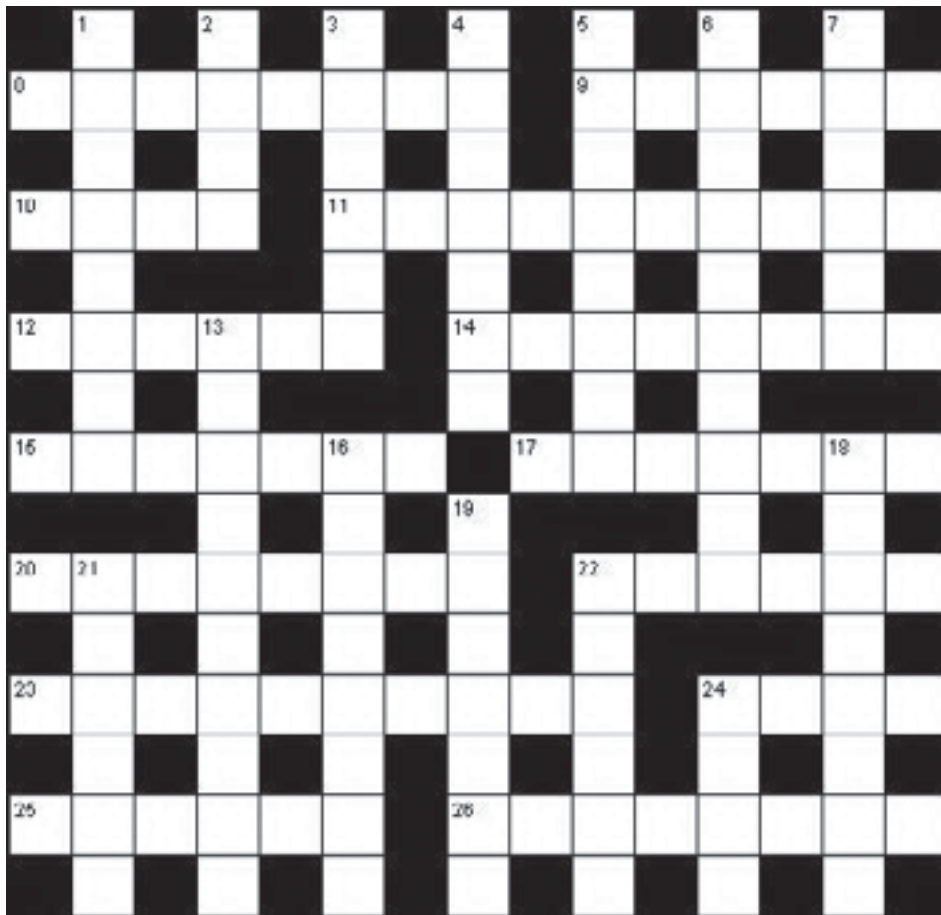
12, 23 Duncan, or the royal novel writer (6,5,5)

14 Familial discrimination tops Mein Kampf? (8)

15 Actor joins company for 26 22ac's solution in the 2 of 24ac (7)

17 Jolly good sum of money (7)

20 Her body clock in the kitchen? (3-5).



22 See 26

23 See 12

24 Stole, pocketing ring (4) (4)

25 Flat type reveals as gay, doing turn about princess (6)

26, 22ac Eye first in seeing

that woman turns key to secure student under house arrest (8,6)

DOWN

1 OK city in depths of ocean, a dark ocean (8)

2 Good seen in evil clue (4)

3 See 11

4 Knowledge lures in female, taken to a hellish place (7)

5 Climber's deep recess for little tent perhaps? (8)

6 Big case: let it stand outside by raised earth (5,5)

7 Dancing chair (6)

13 Courage wins impor-

tant area (10)

16 Pardon me however you may, but say you know 12 23? 26 22ac? 9? 21? 7? 10? (4-4)

18 What does? (8)

19 Affirmation for its leader in great description of Methuselah (7)

21 Try going round ten times, Bondone! (6)

22 Mail on radio: editors listened (6)

24 Fierce lambs went down hill (4)



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