

Kettle River Echo

Trails to the Boundary Society
3990 Hwy 3, Rock Creek, B.C., V0H 1Y0

Distributed to: Bridesville, Rock Creek,
Midway, Greenwood, Westbridge, and Beaverdell

News Items & Ads: echoeditor@trails-to-the-boundary.com

Contributions for the next newsletter are asked to be submitted no later than the 15th of the month.



SAVE THE DATE
4th Annual
BIRD DAY
March 22, 2025
@ Riverside Centre
Doors open at 10:00 am
Presentations begin at
10:30 am

*New year - a new chapter,
new verse, or just the same
old story? Ultimately we
write it. The choice is ours.*

Find Me



10 luxuries in life

1. Time
2. Health
3. Security
4. Good sleep
5. Inner peace
6. Financial stability
7. Unconditional love
8. Being able to travel
9. The freedom of choice
10. Meaningful connections

4-H Canada Member's Forum 2024 Written by Carly Fraser & Sarah Kelly

Sarah K and I are both senior members of the Boundary "C" 4-H club here in Rock Creek. Back in July, we were notified by 4-H British Columbia that we were selected to attend and represent 4-H BC at the 2024 4-H Canada National Member's Forum in Oakville Ontario. Sarah and I both accepted this opportunity and spent November 2-7 in Oakville attending the conference, participating in workshops and mentorship sessions, touring the university of Guelph, and spending a day at the Agricultural Winter Fair. Sarah and I were a part of the BC delegation but 4-H members from 9 of the provinces were also in attendance, and we had a great week learning about their experiences with 4-H and how the program varies from province to province.

On our first full day in Oakville, we had conferences in the morning and time in the afternoon to go out and explore the town. There was a festival happening in the town centre where there was singing in dancing. In good old 4-H fashion some of the members began line dancing and the locals loved it and were curious about the 4-H program. That night we began our 'Purpose Projects'; a project that we would be working on all week to try and find our purposes and passions.

We woke up bright and early the next morning and headed to the University of Guelph dairy and beef research barns for a guided tour. We learned about some of the research that takes place at the facilities from current students at the university. After the barn tours we headed to the main campus and had a tour of some of the buildings. We also did some interactive activities such as tasting ice cream in a food science lab and using lab techniques in a plant lab. We finished our day in Guelph by doing a Kahoot with the University of Guelph collegiate 4-H club.

The next day we braved Toronto public transit and headed to the Agricultural Royal Winter Fair. We spent the morning in mentorship sessions with numerous agriculture industry workers from around Ontario and spent time in small groups talking with them. The members had the afternoon off and had time to spend walking around the vendor booths and watching livestock shows at the fair. We finished the day in an AgCareers session and learned about different agriculture careers in Canada. All of the members had such a fun day at the Royal Winter Fair and it was the highlight of our trip.

On the last full day in Ontario, we attended a session from CN and had more time to work on our purpose projects. Later that evening we had a banquet where we each presented our projects to the group and learned a bit more about each member before all heading home the next day. We finished the night with a dance and final goodbyes to all of the friends we made over the week.

Our week was packed full of fun experiences, learning opportunities, and making new 4-H friends from around Canada. 4-H BC and 4-H Canada provided us with such a valuable experience and its one that we were so glad to be a part of.



The Messy River Series



Embracing the Beauty of the Messy River

As we embark on this vibrant journey, each month, through our upcoming series on “The Messy River,” it’s important to understand why we affectionately refer to our local waterways as messy rivers. At first glance, the term may seem unflattering, conjuring images of clutter and disarray. However, this perception couldn’t be further from the truth!

Messy rivers, often characterized by their coarse woody debris and diverse habitat features, play a critical role in supporting the ecological richness of our local environment. The tangled branches and submerged logs that dot these waterways are not mere obstacles; they serve as vital components of a healthy river ecosystem. These natural structures provide habitats for a variety of fish, amphibians, and invertebrates, creating bustling communities within these waters.

Throughout the year, we will delve deeper into the reasons why these seemingly chaotic river designs are beneficial to our ecosystems. We’ll explore how woody debris contributes to water quality, prevents erosion, and supports biodiversity. Each column will highlight different aspects of the messy river concept, offering information and insights from local biologists; interviews with experts; and stories from those who live and work along these riverbanks.

Join us on this exploration of our messy rivers and discover the intricate connections that make these ecosystems vital to our environment. Through the lens of nature, we aim to foster a deeper appreciation for the messy beauty that supports life both above and below the water's surface.

**Main River WI
87th Annual**

Valentine's Day Lunch & Quilt Show

Friday, February 14th from 10 am to 2 pm
at the Westbridge Hall in Westbridge

Many amazing quilts on display
made by talented local quilters

Join us for a beautiful lunch, raffle, prizes
and a silent auction!

Admission \$15 per person

** If you want to have your
quilt displayed at the show,
contact Lynne McKillican
at the Westbridge Thrift Shop



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RDKB BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

(December 11, 2024 Board meeting)

GRANTS-IN-AID DISTRIBUTED FOR AREA E/WEST BOUNDARY

- Beaverdell Community Club – hot lunch program: \$450

(January 15, 2025 Board meeting)

GRANTS-IN-AID DISTRIBUTED FOR AREA E/WEST BOUNDARY

- Rock Creek Community Medical Society – annual community social event: \$300
- Parkview Manor Operating – colour printer: \$2,000
- Kettle River Food Share – match Christmas donations: \$968.90

Delegation: Boundary Community Ventures Assn

Project Update & 2024 Annual Report

The Boundary Food Hub is finalizing its website and will soon issue a Request for Proposals for building construction. Partners are collaborating on the Grow and Connect distribution platform, and surveys have informed business planning. The building will include rental space to cover operating costs, facilities for commercial food processing investment, and storage for food and reefer trailers. The Hub supports local producers by connecting them with markets, retailers, restaurants, and institutions and will host a workshop to help farmers' market vendors upscale. Plans also include exploring a meat industry model, addressing food security and recovery, and enhancing community resiliency during emergencies.

Request to Apply for Grant (UBCM Community Resiliency Investment FireSmart)

The RDKB Board approved staff to submit an application for the UBCM 2025 CRI FireSmart Community Funding & Supports grant.

Replacement of Electric Vehicle

The RDKB Board approved staff to pursue a two-year lease option of a Hyundai Ionic5 AWD

Next Board meeting: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

This is a portion of the RDKB Board Highlights. To subscribe directly to the full RDKB Board Highlights: <https://jointheconversation.rdkb.com/board-highlights>

Connecting Land, Water, and Communities
The Ripple Effect

Mark Your Calendar
May 1 & 2, 2025
 A forum addressing watershed resilience in the Boundary Region and Kettle River Watershed
Grand Forks, BC

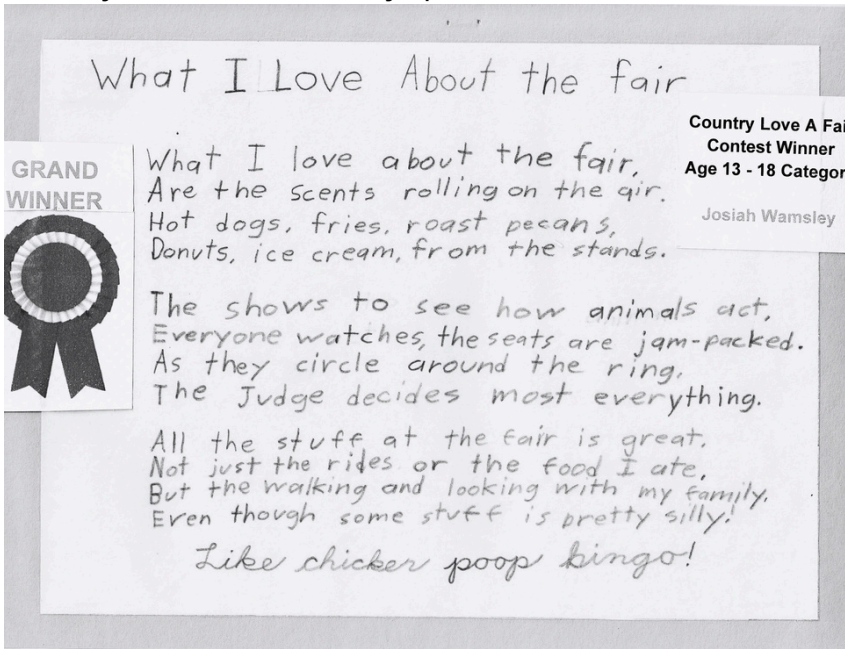
more details

kettleriver.ca for more information
 Registrations opens January 2025

ROCK CREEK FALL FAIR'S 2024 WRITING CONTEST WINNER

This is the winning entry in the 13-18 year old category that was also chosen as the Grand Winner from all category winners.

The winning submission was from Justin Josiah Wamsley, who was part of the opening ceremonies and declared the "2024 Country Love A Fair" officially open.



Boundary "C" 4-H Club Kicks Off Another New Year

By: Adaline Molloy Club Reporter

The Boundary "C" 4-H club is excited to begin its 2025 season! We just had our first meeting of 2025 where we did nominations for seats on our members board of directors. This gives kids an opportunity to have a say in how the club is run and is a great way to utilize and build on their leadership skills. This year we also have two new divisions that have been added to our club. Kids now have the opportunity to choose from a variety of divisions including beef, sheep, dog, horse, sewing and photography. Registrations for these divisions are open until January 30 and can be found on the 4-H British Columbia website. We are all excited see what this new year will bring!

West Boundary
Family Connections

Rock Creek Medical Centre
 Every Friday 9:30 – 11:00

September to June



freepik.com

A free play group for families with at least one child aged 0-6.

A healthy snack will be provided.
 Registration is not required for this program

For any further information please email:
 mary-ann.dennis@bfiss.org

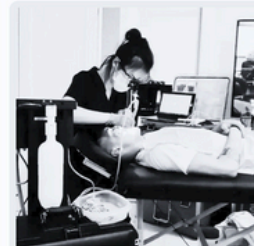


This program is presented by Boundary Family Services and funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada

Boundary Family Services
 info@bfiss.org
 www.boundaryfamily.org



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SUDOKU

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FREEMAN'S

COUNTRY SUPPLY

Hwy 3 Rock Creek 250-446-2899

ARE YOU WISHING IT WAS
SPRING?



While it's too cold to plant, it's perfect to plan. We already have a great inventory of new seeds from West Coast Seeds, some of which benefit from being started indoors soon. Stop by Freeman's Country Supply for inspiration and to pick up a complimentary 2025 gardening guide!



West Coast Seeds

BEWARE SHARP OBJECTS!

Many years ago a man decided it was time to introduce his young son to an authentic pirate. So they walked along the local docks past all the sloops moored there until they saw a swarthy gent that looked every ounce a pirate.

"Excuse me", said the man. "I notice that you have a black eye patch, a peg leg and a hook for a hand. Are you a real pirate?"

"You bet I am", answered the pirate proudly.

"Well, could you tell my son how you lost your leg?"

"You bet", answered the pirate. "Years ago I fell overboard in rough seas and before I could be pulled aboard a giant shark nipped my leg clean off. Well, I had our doc carve me a wooden peg leg that I've worn for over 25 years now".

"Wow!" Said the man. "And can you tell us how you lost your hand?"

"Sure", said the pirate proudly. "It was during a broadside by a British frigate and a cannon ball just cut it off as neat as could be. Again 'ol doc fashioned me this swell iron hook that I been using ever since".

"Amazing! And how did you lose your eye?"

"That was really a damn shame", continued the pirate. "One day I glanced up at the yard-arm and damned if a sea gull didn't s#*t right in my eye".

"And that blinded you", asked the man skeptically?

"No", answered the pirate. "But it was me first day with the hook".

Good news!!

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy has once again facilitated technology support for West Boundary residents.

Sessions will be held at Riverside Centre from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Thursdays, beginning February 6 for the months of February and March.

This is a drop-in service. Bring your devices and questions.

ROCK CREEK COMMUNITY MEDICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

You are invited to support the Rock Creek Community Medical Society for a Variety of Activities and Projects

- Acquisition of Service Items such as Walkers, Crutches, etc.
 - Purchase of medical equipment
 - Paving/sealing the parking lot

Donations can be Made as Follows

- By cheque – Mail cheque to Rock Creek Community Medical Society at P.O. Box 170, Rock Creek, BC V0H 1Y0
- E-Transfer – The transfer would be to the Rock Creek Community Medical Society by sending it to
 - Drop it off (cheque or cash) at the Medical Centre between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Mondays through Fridays

Note: All donations are eligible for a tax deductible receipt.
For a 2024 receipt, donation must be received by Dec. 31, 2024. Any donation received on or after Jan. 1, 2025 will receive a tax deductible receipt for 2025.

Thank you for choosing to donate to the Medical Society.

For further information please contact:
Harald Zinner at 250-446-2517



CABBAGE
SELECT EARLY WINNINGSTADT.
CHOU
CHOISI, HÂTIF DE
WINNINGSTADT

Come and join us at the community
"SEEDY SATURDAY"

March 8
from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm.
This will take place at the Midway Community Garden. Bring seeds that you want to exchange and any plants. Come take a peek at the garden and what it provides for the community.
See you there.

STEELE, BRIGGS' SEEDS

Westbridge History By: Vic Boychuk

In 1897, a temporary free ferry was installed at James Creek (also known as West Fork or West Kettle River) and operated until winter. In 1898 the government at first decided to build a permanent ferry then they changed their minds and decided not to build. After much coaxing they again decided to build the ferry. The new ferry was flimsy and the men who built it were not paid. At one time the ferry was washed down the river to the mouth of James Creek. In 1899 the ferry was reinforced so it could withstand the high water. In the spring of 1900, the nearly completed bridge floated away. It was replaced in the fall. The final product was considered unsatisfactory.

In 1899 two small villages of Bridgeport and Westbridge existed near the mouth of James River. No mention of where Bridgeport was. Westbridge was comprised of a few log cabins, a general store, and a log hotel. The post office opened in 1900 about half a mile above the bridge. By 1901 the little hamlet grew into a dozen houses, a hotel, store/post office, blacksmith, and Deputy Mining Recorder office. The mining office closed the next year.

In 1899, a wagon road was built northward from Rock Creek. The road continued three miles up the West Kettle. In 1902, a stage route from Midway was extended to Beaverdell. The next year, the whole road was upgraded to Carmi, providing an all-weather route.

In 1907, the place was described as half town, half mining camp, and central to the lumber industry. In 1908 the hotel was expanded. The Kettle Valley Railroad (CPR) arrived in Westbridge in spring of 1911 and Rhone that fall. In the late 1910's, the road was extended about 9 miles upriver to Christian Valley. The name was derived from the school, (opened in 1916), which honored Joseph and Alice Christian.

By early 1913, the station was erected and construction trains were running beyond Carmi.

In 1921, the first school opened about one mile up the West Fork. Later, the second one opened just up the main river but was then moved to about 4 miles further up,

before closing in 1932-33. After a few years the second school reopened, then in the mid 1940's merged with the first in a new facility built in Westbridge. The school was closed in the early 1950s. Although the hotel did not operate beyond the mid-1940s, the building still stood for many years before it was demolished. In 1953-54, the bridge was re-decked. In 1956, the remaining miles of highway from Rock Creek were widened, gravelled, and paved.

In 1957, fire destroyed one of the sawmills. In 1959, the community received telephone service. Electricity was introduced to the area in 1961. The former community hall was replaced with a new one in 1967, and in the mid 1990's the school closed (this time for good). The abandoned store remained until it was destroyed by fire in 2005. The Post Office closed on July 6, 2006. A retail postal outlet opened on Oct. 4, 2007, but closed temporarily on Oct. 2010 while Canada Post was looking for a postmaster. The office closed permanently in Sept. 2011 (couldn't find a postmaster).

In 2005 the TV movie "Mindless Love" was shot in Westbridge.

In 1900, the promoters of the former Canyon City built a 21-mile wagon road north up the Kettle River from Westbridge. Despite the absence of a producing mine or settlements, the government provided a \$4,500 subsidy. Canyon City never did amount to anything.

Today Rhone is known for its Trans Canada Trail Rest Stop, built by longtime resident Paul Lautard. It includes a shelter, picnic tables, replica caboose, and cenotaph.

Taurus was originally called Bull Creek. Gorman West operated a seasonal hotel from 1901. West upgraded the hunting and fishing resort in 1905. During this era, the locality was also known as Gorman West. He remained proprietor until 1912. To avoid confusion with the station at Bull River, The CPR renamed the stop as Taurus (Latin for bull), which was first mentioned in June 1915. In 1930, the creek was officially renamed as Taurus Creek.

IN MEMORY ~ DENNIS WAYNE LOCK OCTOBER 23, 1950 – DECEMBER 29, 2024



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dennis Wayne Lock on December 29, 2024, at the age of 74. He peacefully passed away at Hardy View Lodge in Grand Forks, BC. Dennis was a very caring and devoted father, brother, and friend. He will be forever missed by his family and all who knew him.

Dennis is survived by his daughter Tracy Nicole Lynn Lock, grandson Matteus Mackie, brothers Bill, Art (Audrey), George (Bonnie), Terry (Nancy), Leonard (Milena) and numerous nieces and nephews. Dennis was predeceased by his father in March 1957, mother in 2024, and nephew Arlis in June 2000.

Dennis was born in Fort St. John, BC, moved to Kelowna, then eventually resided in Tofield, Alberta where he worked at the Alberta Hospital for 33 years as a master locksmith. Dennis was very devoted to his job and treated everyone with kindness and compassion. He retired to Rock Creek, BC in 2016. Dennis was very active in the local community and fall fair. He was always there helping those in need.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the Rock Creek Fairgrounds (3880 Kettle Valley Rd. S.).

Those we love can never be more than a thought apart, for as long as there is memory they'll live on in our heart.

NEWS FROM THE ROCK CREEK COMMUNITY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Sunday, January 12th saw a positive and enthusiastic group of people gather in the basement of the Rock Creek Clinic for a Meet and Greet event sponsored by the Rock Creek Community Medical Society.

The gathering had 37 people from across our area and including a very supportive and dedicated group from Grand Forks. The Boundary Individual and Family Services sent a contingent of their employees ranging from supervisors, Child and Youth Care workers, Seniors Care workers, Mental Health specialists and Legal advisors. These people work in Grand Forks but are also available at the Clinic to see people in the Rock Creek and surrounding areas on specified days. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a short summary of the services they provide. A list of these people including their schedules and services will be published in forthcoming issues of the Echo.

President Harold Zinner gave a very informative summary of the happenings regarding the Clinic in 2024, including introductions of the Directors and Executive of the Society. He spoke of the projects completed, thanked those in the community who donated to help make this happen. An extension to the building was successfully completed this past year and we look forward to a large and very important commitment to having the parking lot repaired and rejuvenated with a seal coat process that would emulate paving but at a lower cost. Essential medical equipment was also purchased. Anyone wishing to donate to the Society is more than appreciated.

Harald spoke about the importance of membership in the Society, which is only \$5. For grant applications it is essential that we have as strong a membership base as possible. Membership does not demand attendance at meetings (however you would be warmly welcomed if you came!) A timetable of upcoming meetings will also be published in the Echo.

Our Nurse Practitioners, Amanda Crockett and Jennifer Crockett, took time out of their busy schedule to be in attendance and were welcomed enthusiastically by the attendees. There was much conversation about the vitality and strength of the Clinic and our Society and what a difference that makes to our local community. Our Medical Office assistants, Taira and Vivien also attended and were applauded for their friendly, helpful and welcoming manner. We also welcomed Sharen Gibbs, Regional Director who has been most generous and supportive of the Society and clinic.

Afterwards tea, coffee and juice were served as well as treats and a lovely cake. Everyone connected and chatted renewing old relationships and building new ones. All in all, it was a very successful and productive meeting with much positivity and enthusiasm. Thank you to all who attended as well as our dedicated Executive and Directors.

RCMS Invites Your Ideas

Rock Creek Medical Society would like to let everyone know of the meeting dates in the upcoming months and would like to invite anyone who is interested to come to the meetings. There are many groups who use our clinic and we could use help and suggestions in the running of it.

Please note the following meeting dates and put them on your calendar

- January 30 @ 6 pm
- February 20 @ 6 pm
- April 3 @ 6 pm
- May 1 (tentative) @ 6 pm
- June 19 (AGM tentative) @ 6 pm

Come join us to make a better society to help cover all our needs in the community.

If you would like more information you can contact Bonnie @ 250-528-0185



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CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF RDKB HOMESMART

As RDKB HomeSmart reaches its first anniversary, the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary is celebrating the free program's success in supporting homeowners across the region. Since its launch in January 2024, RDKB HomeSmart has built strong, positive relationships with participants, collaborated with many local programs, and recently launched a first-of-its-kind guidance document.

RDKB HomeSmart was created to simplify the home retrofit process for residents by offering personalized guidance, support with hiring professional contractors and energy advisors and resources for navigating rebates and loans. Funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, FortisBC, and RDKB, and managed by RDKB's HomeSmart team, the program has quickly gained momentum, with over 200 residents participating in its first year.

"Our community has embraced the RDKB HomeSmart program, reflecting a shared commitment to building an energy efficient and resilient future, which is great to see," says Andy Morel, Chair of the RDKB Board.

One of the most popular improvements this past year has been upgrading windows and doors, a choice that appeals to residents looking to boost both comfort and efficiency. Freya Phillips, RDKB's Senior Energy Specialist, noted the enthusiastic participation from the community: "Residents have responded so positively to the program's simplicity and ease. RDKB HomeSmart has provided a clear pathway to meaningful home improvements, and it's exciting to see the positive impact it's making in our community. The first year of the program has shown encouraging results and we look forward to continually improving the program to supporting even more residents in the future."

Feedback from participants has been highly positive, with residents praising the program's personalized support and clear guidance. Raven

Atherton, RDKB's Retrofit Program Coordinator, shared: "The highlight of this first year has been speaking with the residents of the Kootenay Boundary who are eager to learn about available retrofit options and are open to new approaches for implementing them. It's been gratifying to see participants successfully start and complete their projects, big or small. Our team is there at every step, ensuring they feel supported and have access to the available benefits.

One participating resident said, "Thanks to RDKB HomeSmart, I now have a solid plan for improving my home's efficiency and reducing our energy costs. The support I received—from discussing options to finding the right rebates—has been invaluable." Another noted the convenience, adding, "The guidance from RDKB staff made all the difference; I felt equipped with the right knowledge and confident throughout the entire process."

Freya Phillips commented, "Our residents are at the heart of RDKB HomeSmart. It's incredibly rewarding to see the program's positive impact on homes in our region and to know we're building a more resilient, climate-ready community."

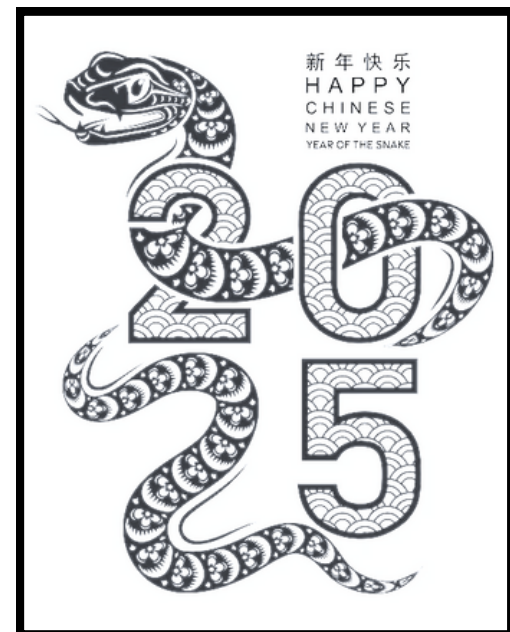
Residents interested in learning more about RDKB HomeSmart and exploring energy-efficient and resilient upgrades for their homes are encouraged to reach out to the team via phone at 250.368.0284 or by email at homesmart@rdkb.com. They are also encouraged to head to <https://homesmart.rdkb.com/> to explore RDKB's new HomeSmart Guide and enter the 'Read to Win' RDKB HomeSmart Challenge for their chance to get their hands on a pre- and post- EnerGuide Assessment Prize worth approximately \$1,000.

About RDKB HomeSmart The RDKB HomeSmart program, launched in January 2024, provides a free, personalized service designed to guide residents in the Kootenay Boundary region towards energy-efficient, climate-resilient home improvements. By simplifying the process and

connecting residents with rebates, assessments, and local contractors, RDKB HomeSmart promotes long-term sustainability and energy savings across the region.



Raven Atherton, RDKB's Retrofit Program Coordinator. RDKB HomeSmart has helped over 200 program participants during its first year



JUST CHAT: “MY FATHER AND HIS LOVE” BY LIZ BRYAN

In primary school I was told I had the worst writing in the class. It was just scribble, the teacher said. My penmanship didn't even deserve a D, and my essays were returned as unreadable. I finally realized that I was writing too fast, but if I slowed down, I sometimes forgot what I was trying to say.

When I finally mastered my pencil (we were not allowed pen and ink until high school), teachers said that my stories were good, and I went on to make writing my career, encouraged by my father/ who was a journalist on a London newspaper. He wrote articles at night, when he came home. From our bedroom, my sisters and I could hear the clicks and dings of his old typewriter as we slipped into sleep.

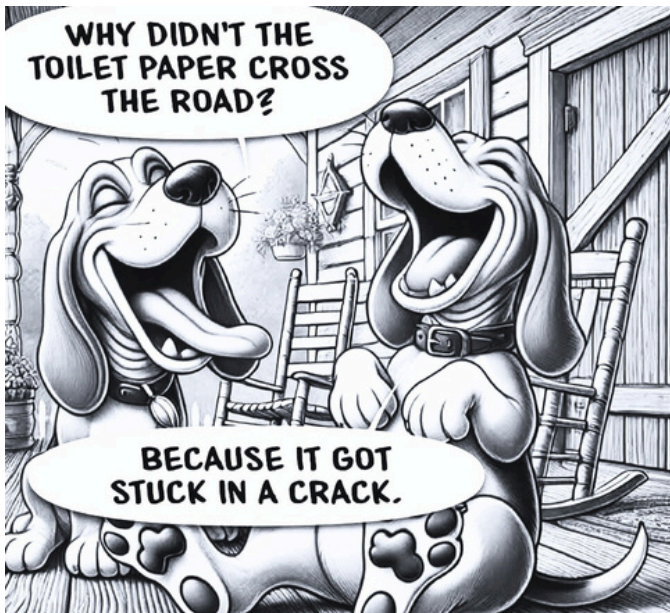
He loved Shakespeare, knew all the great speeches by heart and often shouted them out in the street as he went walking, getting very strange looks from passersby. If I was with him, I lagged behind and looked the other way, though secretly I admired his memory. “Once more unto the breach dear friends” was a favourite of his but I cringed at the “English dead” bit. I liked “We are such stuff as dreams are made of” but not the ending: “Our little lives are ended with a sleep” because he said that Shakespeare was talking, not about sleep but about death, which was something we all had to face, one day. I could never believe that. It was heady stuff, for a kid.

I really really liked “If music be the food of love” and also Hamlet’s “To be or not to be”. He recited this soliloquy quietly as if to himself, as if thinking about every word, and afterwards he often had to take off his specs and dab his eyes. Tears flowed easily for him (as they do for me —a strange inheritance).

Anyway, I grew to love Shakespeare, too. My father was born in Warwick, only a short bus ride away from Stratford-on-Avon where the Bard was born. Visits to our grandparents nearly always included a tour of the sacred sites, Shakespeare’s birthplace, his high school, the home of his wife, Anne Hathaway, the church where he was buried. And, if we were good, we would have a cream tea in a little shop by the old town gates.

I think Shakespeare was in my father’s blood and some of it leaked into me. I have read most of his plays and seen many of them on stage or in movies, and sometimes I, too, break out into “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” or “All the world’s a stage and all the men and women in it merely players”. But only at home, and no shouting.

Some days when I am typing away with my two or three fingers (I never learned to type properly) I look up at the page and see mostly gibberish. I was going too fast, getting it down while it was fresh in my mind. I have to redo it all— but when I try to go more slowly, trying to remember what I wrote before, it doesn't seem as good as the first, fast, excited, version. My fingers and my memory are not what they used to be.



**BOUNDARY CURLING CLUB
BUZZES WITH BONSPIEL
AND QUILT RAFFLE ACTION!**

Boundary District Curling Club is a busy hub.

This year, we have several things coming up.

We have our Open Bonspiel Feb 28 - Mar 2, with a maximum 16 teams.

We have been busy fundraising for our much-needed roof replacement and are pleased to announce our raffle for a beautiful handmade quilt donated by Julie Lindquist. Tickets are on sale from Jan. 15th to Mar. 1st for \$10 each and can be purchased at:

- Freeman's Farm supply
- Shear Jeanneous
- Keg & Kettle
- Boundary District Curling club bar or
- from any member.

We would like to congratulate one of our new members, Don Frank of Christian Valley. He was the winner of the Father Christmas figure made by Louise Bayles that was raffled off as a roof fundraiser.



JOIN THE CLUB!

Welcome to Boundary 'C' 4-H

Our 78th Year in Rock Creek, BC



4-H is for
ALL Kids
Ages 9-19



Beef

New Members Welcome!



Dog

4-H BC builds life and career skills, develops agricultural awareness, while inspiring, educating, and supporting youth through hands-on learning.



Sheep



Sewing



Photography



Horse

Registration OPEN Now!

TO REGISTER

Visit www.4-hbconline.ca/login

Select Boundary 'C' for Club

or

Email

boundary4hclub@outlook.com

\$100 New Member Registration Fee Then ONLY \$20 Yearly



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Serving the West Boundary Since 2004

2024 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT BY NORMA HOWES

Our count is very informal. The last 7 days of the year from sun-up Dec 25 to sun-down on Dec 31 is our recording time frame. Participants may observe and record every day or when convenient. However, only the highest count of any species on any day is recorded. Our counting area includes all of West Boundary ranging from Eholt west all the way to Anarchist Mountain and north to Carni.

The 39th Annual Christmas Bird count was lower than usual. With only 19 counters, down from our usual 23, and 48 species recorded, the lowest in ages but could be because we have fewer counters, A total of 1750 individual birds counted. The numbers usually fluctuate between a high of 2000 to 1600 over the last few years, mostly depending on if we get the large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings or Snow Buntings. The Dark-eyed Junco count was down with only 47, last year was 76 but most years were much higher. One Say's Phoebe was recorded.

Noticeably this year there were no ducks or geese counted, just one American Dipper, and 3 Belted Kingfishers.

This year there were 65 Hungarian/Gray Partridge recorded, much higher than other years.

The California Quail numbers were down from other years, with 167

compared to 284 from last year. But the Wild Turkey numbers were up to 98 this year, last year there were only 55.

We only had 13 Eurasian Collared Doves and no Mourning Doves.

We did have a lot of Hawks recorded this year. But Bald Eagle numbers were down to 18, from our usual 20 to 40, most years.

Four Great Horned Owls were heard hooting. They are very vocal as its mating season now. The Woodpeckers and Jays were lower than most years. The Red-breasted Nuthatches were around, but only 3 White-breasted Nuthatches were recorded and no Pygmy ones. There were lots of American Gold Finch but lower numbers of the House Finch and only a few Cassin's Finch.

Missing this year were the Robins and Grosbeaks. There were a few Sparrows and only one Cedar Waxwing were recorded. Twenty Snow Buntings were recorded in the Beaverdell area.

The big numbers were the Northern Pygmy Owl, with 9 sighted all across the Boundary from Greenwood to Myers Creek.

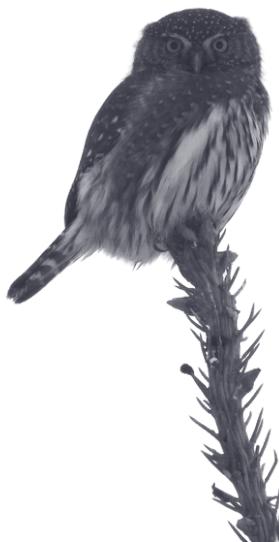
So, our feature bird is the Northern Pygmy Owl, the smallest of the owls, being only 6.75" long and weighing

about 2.5 oz. They have a long tail and false eyes on the back of their heads. Their range is BC and parts of southern Alberta. They are a ferocious hunter and will hunt during the day and eat rodents and song birds. They are known for catching their prey if they find extra food; like hanging the prey on thorns as Shrikes are famous for doing. Local sighting to note: I noticed one eating a House Finch so that's probably why my House Finch numbers were so low. It stayed around most of the week. I have heard lots of reports on them. One is feasting on mice in a Quail pen. It is catching lots and stockpiling them on its roost in the pen. There are so many mice it's staying around and not bothering the Quail which are bigger than it is.

Thank you to all the counters. Great job. If anyone wants to join the count let me know. We are low on counters. Call me at 250-446-2518 or drop in to Riverside Visitors Centre on a Friday afternoon for a chat and I will assign you an area.

We are busy planning our 4th annual Bird Day for March 22@ Riverside with Barb Stewart talking about birds and the environment and Norma Howes will do a photo journal of her year photographing /observing a Great Horned Owl family. Plus 10 lessons bird watching can teach you.by Pat Henley. Thank you again to everyone for participating.

2024 Christmas Bird Count for the West Boundary



California Quail	167	Belted Kingfisher	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	3
Ring Neck Pheasant	2	Downy Woodpecker	23	American Dipper	1
Ruffed Grouse	4	Hairy Woodpecker	19	European Starling	9
Hungarian/Gray Partridge	65	Pileated Woodpecker	2	Townsend Solitaire	3
Wild Turkey	98	Northern Flicker	31	Cedar Waxwing	1
Rock Dove(pigeon)	4	Merlin (Pigeon Hawk)	1	House/English Sparrow	36
Eurasian Collared Dove	13	Northern Shrike	2	House Finch	112
Great Blue heron	1	Canada Jay (Gray)	12	Cassin's Finch	4
Golden Eagle	1	Steller's Jay	23	Pine Siskin	320
Northern Harrier Hawk	1	Black-Billed magpie	35	American Goldfinch	80
Sharp Shinned Hawk	2	Clark's Nutcracker	15	Snow Bunting	20
Coopers Hawk	2	American Crow	76	Dark Eyed Junco	47
Bald Eagle	18	Common Raven	147	Song Sparrow	16
Red-tailed Hawk	9	Black capped Chickadee	144	Says Phoebe	1
Rough-legged hawk	1	Mountain Chickadee	119		
Great Horned Owl	4	Chestnut Backed Chickadee	6		
Northern Pygmy Owl	8	Red-breasted Nuthatch	39		

Northern Pygmy Owl

19 Participants

48 Species

1750 Individual Birds

4-H OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOUNDARY KIDS

Hello parents and guardians,

Borderline 4-H club had an amazing year with over 30 members in 2024 and we are ready to do it again! Our program empowers youth to develop essential life skills through hands-on projects, community service, and leadership experiences. Whether your child is passionate about agriculture, science or the arts, 4-H offers a supportive environment to explore their interests and make lifelong friends. They will gain confidence, learn valuable skills, and contribute to our community while having fun. Join us before January 31!!!

This year we will be offering the following projects:

- o Cloverbuds (6-9 years old)
- o Small Engines*
- o Arts and Craft*
- o Photography*
- o Outdoor Living*
- o Horse*

*(10 years of age before December 31, 2025 to 19 years of age)

Borderline 4-H Club



CANADA

4-H British Columbia

Cloverbuds

- 4-H BC Cloverbud members are boys and girls aged 6 - 9 years old. They must have reached their 6th birthday and have not reached their 9th birthday by January 1st. The Cloverbud units are fun filled activities that explore future projects of 4-H.
- Unit 1 will explore Outdoor Living, Beef, Honeybee, Horticulture, Safety at Home, Poultry and Sheep projects.
- Meetings are every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at West Boundary Elementary School from 4-5:30pm. We will have a Spring- and Summer break and come back in the fall for more fun activities.

Small Engine Project

- Members learn the operation of two-cycle and four-cycle engines and how to maintain and repair small engines. A study of carburetor operation, ignitions and engine overhaul is included.
- Small engine members meet every Thursday from 4-6pm in Rock Creek.

Arts and Craft Project

- The craft project gives members an opportunity to express themselves creatively. Basic principles of crafts are studied. Members are required to complete three articles in each unit using a different craft technique for each. The actual project is of their choice and is limited only by imagination.
- Craft members meet biweekly on Mondays from 3:30-5:30pm in Rock Creek. Access to late bus going from Rock Creek to Beaverdell.

Photography Project

- Members will learn to take attractive and interesting photos that show good composition, sharp detail and good use of light. The photography project can progress in four units to advanced skills in the future.
- Photography members meet biweekly on Mondays from 3:30-5:30pm in Rock Creek. Access to late bus going from Rock Creek to Beaverdell.

Outdoor Living Project

- Outdoor Living is a fun and adventurous project. Kids that love to explore the outdoors, love to tinker and build things, don't mind getting their clothes dirty and wonder about nature are in the right group here. Members will learn basic principles of first aid and survival skills, preparing a meal on a tin can stove, and how to use a compass are some of the objectives in the Outdoor Living project.
- Members meet biweekly in Greenwood/Midway and go on some field study opportunities on a few weekends.

Horse Project

- Unit A allows interested horse lovers to explore and learn about horses and join the club without owning a horse. Unit 1 and up is a progression requiring a horse. If you don't have your own horse yet, we do have leasing options available to help parents explore horse ownership responsibilities.
- In-classroom sessions starting in January learning about safety around horses, nutrition, husbandry, diseases and prevention, tack and its maintenance, breeds, markings and conformation. Starting in Spring we will meet for lessons on the horse and do some trail rides as well.
- Meetings are biweekly on Thursdays from 4-5:30pm until Spring break. Horse lessons will start in late March/early April biweekly on Sundays from 2-4pm.

How do I sign up my child?

- Go to <https://4-hbconline.ca/login>
- Create an account and fill out the registration. If you have any questions, contact us and we will be happy to help!

Contact:

- Email: borderline4hclub@gmail.com
- Phone: 250-449-5168
- Facebook page: Borderline 4-H Club (<https://www.facebook.com/share/1R8stg3U9h/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>)




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WBSHS WANTS YOU!

The West Boundary Senior Housing Society is holding its AGM on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025 at 1:30 pm at Parkview Manor, 670 Ninth Avenue in Midway. Society membership is only \$10 annually, and we are also looking for new board members to join our team. If you are interested in seniors and seniors' housing in our area, please consider attending the AGM and/or joining the board. For more information contact Judy at 250-445-6352.

SENIORS BEING SEEN

Upcoming Sessions...



Thurs. January 23rd - 1:30 pm
TBA

Thurs. January, 30th - 1:30 pm
TBA

Thurs. February 6th - 1:30 pm

"Benefits of Learning Something New, and Perhaps Stepping-Out-of-My-Comfort-Zone-At-My-Age," Rather than just attending his gigs or waiting up while he's concertizing, this septugenarian now accompanies her jazz musician husband, playing brush snare drum on THEIR gigs. Or, "How to stick out our Senior necks, maybe grow some new brain cells, meet new friends and have fun by LEARNING something NEW (regardless or whether you become rich 'n famous, the joy is in the journey!) Meet the players, become inspired to rub some of those brain cells together and maybe raise the bar a bit, and oh H&#%, just share the fun!

Thurs. February 13th - 1:30 pm

Tarie Ann Frazier - "'Doula' is Greek for 'Helper,' Part I - Gentle Introduction." There are "bucket lists" and there are "bucket lists." One involves very practical tasks such as down-sizing, setting up a will, finalizing burial plans, etc., etc., The other, often sadly neglects, or avoids, tasks involving the more intimate issues of end of life., will death be frightening; will I leave unresolved personal conflict; what has my life meant, even if I didn't accomplish everything I meant/wanted to; how to access appropriate medical support; who will be with me when I die; what have I forgotten; and,,,??? Tarie Ann Frazier, of Death Doula Network International presents "Part I - A Gentle Introduction," to help us begin thinking about both the practical and very intimate end-of-life tasks. Her primary role is to respectfully assist clients define and implement their own life-stage of dying in the ways they wish - what that uniquely means as individuals, "Part II" will be presented on February 13th, at 1:30 pm.

Thurs. February 20th - 1:30 pm

"Part II - 'Doula is Greek for Helper' "

Come and join us for lively presentations, socializing and great locally-catered refreshments. Our free-of-charge programmes with refreshments are Thursdays at 1:30 pm at Riverside Centre, 3990 Hwy 3, Rock Creek, BC.

For additional information, please contact Programme Coordinator - Shelly Garrison at shellygarrison1@gmail.com 250-442-2415 or check our monthly schedule online at West Boundary Connect.

Westbridge Recreation Society is having their AGM on Monday February 10 at 1 pm at Westbridge Hall. There are openings for board positions and a maintenance person. Everyone welcome!

DO YOU WANNA DANCE?

THE FIRST BRIDESVILLE COMMUNITY CLUB FAMILY DANCE OF 2025 WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 FROM 7-9PM.

NEW SONGS AND DIFFERENT DANCES WILL BE INTRODUCED THIS SPRING, SO GET YOUR DANCING SHOES POLISHED UP AND MARK YOUR CALENDARS



“Denim and Flannel...Fabrics of Our History”

Submitted by: Dean Corbett, President
Rock Creek and Boundary Fair Association

Each year our RCBFA members vote on a theme for the upcoming fall fair. Last year we had a contest for suggested themes and two stood out. We chose Country Love a Fair for 2024, and the 2025 theme will be “Denim and Flannel... Fabrics of Our History”. Now what is an old guy with no sewing skills nor much stylish shopping experience going to say about that? Well, it happens that I know a few things about denim and have worn my fair share of denim and flannel over the years.

The fabric Serge d’Nimes was developed in the 1600’s in Nimes, France; eventually “de Nimes” was Anglicized shortened to “denim”. In 1860 the Levi Strauss Company wanted to make a more pliable and softer work pant than the rough, tough fabric they originally used, so they incorporated denim into their weave. These days, over 2.2 billion pairs of blue jeans are sold each year!

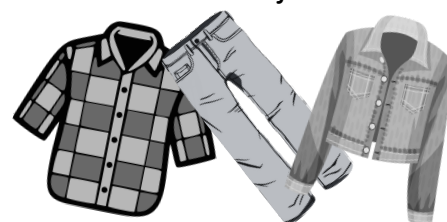
I’ve been wearing jeans (pants, shirts, and jackets) for 65+ years and hope to continue to do so for the next 30+ years. I find them warmish in winter, coolish in summer, fairly rip resistant (watch out for barbed wire fences!) and depending on the cut, pretty comfy. I don’t like stretchy or narrow legged pants as they are way too constricting for active use. My current favourites are Rustlers which are about \$25 a pair... or \$22.50 when you can get them on the seniors’ day sale at a store in Osoyoos.

My first blue jeans were hand-me-downs from my two older brothers and were purchased by Mom at the JC Penny Department Store in Bellingham, Washington. We’d go there from Surrey each fall for back-to-school shopping. If my brothers were rough on theirs or had a slow growth year, I’d get new ones. Most of those pants had the flannel part of our 2025 theme built right in as they were lined with the plaid, fuzzy fabric. We’d wear them folded up at the cuffs (growth insurance!) so had to empty them each evening before going inside... our favourite play area (but not Mom’s) was an old gravel pit across the road from our home. Living at the coast it rained a lot, and we didn’t use umbrellas or have raincoats, so our lined jeans were often very heavy from the showers encountered going to and from school and during breaks. Occasional falls or pushes into the nearby creek or gravel pit ponds made for soggy slogging going home and a mild tongue lashing from Mom. My future wife, Glenda wore a denim shirt on one of our first “dates”, so denim has a special place in my heart and memory.

Plaid flannel shirts and flannelette sheets are my favourites in spring, fall and winter. Lately, I’ve been able to find flannel lined jeans at Costco. Each time I put them on or slip between the flannelette sheets these days, I am reminded of these two important fabrics of my past, present and future.

How about you? Are you a denim devotee? A flannel fan? Make sure you have a denim and flannel outfit for next year’s fall fair. Maybe dressing up a scarecrow in our theme fabrics would be good family fun and rewarding, as the prizes are great for the best in category.

2025 is going to be another great fair! Be sure you are decked out for it. If you want break in some new jeans or flannel shirts, we have plenty of volunteer work bees and opportunities to do so.



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And every day, you find a reason to say,
“Yes, it is a beautiful day.”
And every night, you find a reason to say,
“Yes, it was a beautiful day.”
Then one day,
You’ll look back and easily say,
“Yes...it was a beautiful life.”

-Doe Zantamata

Crossword

Across

- 1. A shot might indicate it
- 6. Mental faculties
- 10. First of all?
- 14. Perennial last-place finisher
- 15. Object of worship
- 16. Country singer McEntire
- 17. University of Maine locale
- 18. Captain of the Nautilus
- 19. Words of reassurance
- 20. Present from Zsa Zsa?
- 23. Horatian creation
- 24. "Planet of the ___"
- 25. Board game feature
- 27. Subside
- 30. Easily duped sorts
- 32. Part of Orion's belt
- 33. X-ray vision can't penetrate it
- 35. Baby powder
- 37. Chopin composition
- 40. Count of jazz
- 42. Neither companion
- 43. South Pacific island
- 44. Where Kings beat the Heat?
- 45. "___! In The Name Of Love"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22		23	
			24					25			26			
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53	54					55		56			57			
58				59				60				61	62	63
64			65		66						67			
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

Down

- 1. Wade through mud
- 2. Actress Spelling
- 3. Beginning
- 4. Fashion designer Oscar de la ___
- 5. Boy Scout groups
- 6. Plane dimensions
- 7. Birth of a notion?
- 8. Chambers in the catacombs
- 9. Single-masted vessels
- 10. Shipping magnate Onassis
- 11. Hearsay about an evil spirit?
- 12. Dwelling
- 13. "The butcher, the baker, the candle stick-___"

- 21. Tale of heroism
- 22. Baptisms and the like
- 26. Region of South Africa
- 27. Napoleon's isle of exile
- 28. Bull opposite
- 29. Army general, to his underlings?
- 31. One-armed bandits
- 34. Where Flo worked for Mel
- 36. Pirate ship perch
- 38. Show overaffection
- 39. Steinbeck title direction
- 41. Backs off (with "up")
- 46. Symptom of hunger

- 49. Minute Maid Park players
- 51. "Skoal" and "Here's mud in your eye"
- 53. Modern missive
- 54. Lady of letters
- 55. Distinguishing attribute
- 57. UCLA athlete
- 60. Wanton once-over
- 61. Venus de ___
- 62. Director Preminger
- 63. Take five
- 65. Abolish

Solution on page 2

Winter magic



How do you know when it's too cold for a picnic?

When you chip your tooth on the soup!



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR**MONDAYS**

- **Cribbage** @ Parkview Manor (6:30 pm)
- **Walking:** Meet up at McMynn's (9 am)

TUESDAYS

- **Music Jam** @ Midway Social Centre (1 pm - 3ish) 1st and 3rd Tuesday
- **Greenwood Senior's Thrift Store** open 11 am - 3 pm

WEDNESDAYS

- **Greenwood Seniors Bingo** (1 pm)
- **Walking:** Meet up at McMynn's (9 am)

THURSDAYS

- **Kettle River Horse Club** meetings (7 pm) @ the Riverside Centre in RC (second Thursday of each month)
- **Crafts** @ Midway Social Centre (9 - 11:30 am)
- **Kettle River Art Club** in Greenwood meets on the 1st Thursday of each month. New members and guests welcome! Located in the McArthur Centre, 1375 Veteran's Lane. Meeting times vary. Please email for more details to: info@kettleriverart.org Several Art Markets are planned throughout the year. For a schedule, more information on upcoming markets and vendor applications, please email: markets@kettleriverart.org
- **Greenwood Senior's Thrift Store** open (11 am - 3 pm)
- **Technology Support** @ Riverside Centre (11 am - 1 pm) Feb. & Mar.

FRIDAYS

- **Family Connections** (9:30 am - 11 am) @ Rock Creek Medical Centre
- **Games:** @ Midway Social Centre (12:30 - 3 pm)
- **Walking:** Meet up at McMynn's (9 am)

SATURDAYS

- **Greenwood Senior's Thrift Store** open 11 am - 3 pm (closed Saturdays of a long weekend)
- **Lions Meat Draw & 50/50** from 3-5 pm at Prospector Pub in Rock Creek
- **Walking:** Meet up at McMynn's (9 am)

SUNDAYS

- **"In the Dell Art Zone"** (1-4 pm) @ Beaverdell Community Hall
- **Walking:** Meet up at McMynn's (9 am)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 (1:30 PM) @ RIVERSIDE CENTRE

- **Seniors Being Seen:** TBA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 (7 - 9 PM) @ BRIDESVILLE HALL

- Family Dance

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 (1:30 PM) @ PARKVIEW MANOR

- West Boundary Senior Housing Society AGM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 (1:30 PM) @ RIVERSIDE CENTRE

- **Seniors Being Seen:** TBA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 (6 PM) @ ROCK CREEK MEDICAL CENTRE

- Rock Creek Medical Society meeting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 (1:30 PM) @ RIVERSIDE CENTRE

- **Seniors Being Seen:** "Benefits of Learning Something New, and Perhaps Stepping-Out-of-My-Comfort-Zone-At-My- Age"

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 (1 PM) @ WESTBRIDGE HALL

- Westbridge Recreation Society AGM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 (1:30 PM) @ RIVERSIDE CENTRE

- **Seniors Being Seen:** "Doula is Greek for Helper - Part 1"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (10 AM - 2 PM) @ WESTBRIDGE HALL

- Main River WI Valentine's Day Lunch & Quilt Show

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 (1:30 PM) @ RIVERSIDE CENTRE

- **Seniors Being Seen:** "Doula is Greek for Helper - Part 2"

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