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## A.G.M.

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Project of the Merritt Dance Society



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# MERRITT MORNING MARKET

WEEKEND EDITION — FEBRUARY 19, 2016 #2828

News, opinion, community events & classifieds since 1996! Box 2199 Merritt, BC V1K 1B8  
T (250)378-5717 F (250)378-2025 [market@uniserve.com](http://market@uniserve.com) [merrittmorningmarket.wordpress.com](http://merrittmorningmarket.wordpress.com)



## Eileen Aljam

Sept. 5, 1955 - Jan. 8, 2016

It is with great sadness that we regret to announce the sudden death of Eileen Aljam, on January 8, 2016 in Merritt, BC.

After a short battle with cancer, Eileen passed away leaving behind her partner David, daughters Tracey, Manie, Dion, Jackie and son Tyson, many grandchildren, her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, cousins and many friends.

Eileen had worked at the Coldwater School for over 30 years as a teacher's assistant. Many students from her early years have grown to become parents themselves and their children are now students themselves that she has taught in school. She was a hairdresser at Freedom Designs for over 3 years, many years ago. A renowned caterer, she had a passion for cooking and baking for people, especially for her family. To this day, there are companies still calling for her to cater.

She is dearly missed by many. Forever in our hearts.

## Community

### Tea & sweets

NV Women's Institute will celebrate the birth of their founder, Adelaide Hoodless. Feb. 20, 1:30-3pm at the Merritt Senior Citizen's Hall. Tea & sweets \$4.

### Fish & Game Club trophy awards night

March 5th. Entries: big game; fish: trout, coarse, ladies & juniors entries; best archery; photo contest: local scenery, wildlife, open categories. Deadline to enter is Feb 20. Drop off entries at Ponderosa Sports, Gun Fishin', call 378-4904.

### Community Choir - spring session

Collettville School, Birch St. entrance, 7pm. Wide variety of music chosen for this session. New members most welcome, especially tenor and bass voices. FMI Ellen 378-9899 or Barb 378-2678.

### Baillie House AGM

The Nicola Valley Heritage Society will hold its annual general meeting on Wed., Feb 24, 5pm at the Baillie property. Everyone welcome. FMI 378-0349

### Dance your Heart Out: Heart & Stroke fundraiser

Enjoy happy and healthy hearts at the Merritt Seniors Centre on Thurs. Feb. 25, 9:30-11:30am. 3 tickets for \$5. Refreshments, silent auction, door prizes, dance fun & games for ALL ages. Bring a friend or two and come Dance your Heart out! FMI Jane 378-5259 or Coral 378-5240.

### Green Tourism webinars

The 2nd of 3 webinars hosted by Green Tourism Canada and TOTA. The next webinars are: Feb. 25 *How to Attract More Guests by Connecting with Their Values*; and Mar. 17, *Getting Started With Green Tourism*. 10-11am each day, Community Boardroom, first floor of City Hall, no cost to attend, pls RSVP [wgeorge@merritt.ca](mailto:wgeorge@merritt.ca)

### 3rd annual Law enforcement charity hockey challenge

This event is in support of BC Children's Hospital. Raffle items can be viewed at the final 2 Cents home games, Feb. 26 & 27! Tickets are available for 2 special draws: signed Carey Price jersey (tickets \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5), and Stoney Lake Lodge for 2 people for 2 evenings (tickets \$5 ea. or 5 for \$20). For tickets, call Vida (250)457-1525.

### Indoor Mini Golf Classic

Rotary Club of Merritt Sunrise will hold its 18th Annual Indoor Mini Golf Classic on Saturday Feb 27, 4:30-11:30pm at the Civic Centre, still only \$120 per team of 4. Indoor golf, Casino, long putt, dinner, dancing, prizes, raffle. Prizes for best costumes. FMI & tickets, call Sue 315-8040 or Sonny at City Furniture 315-2332.

**When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.**

- What's the definition of a will? (Come on, it's a dead giveaway!)
- A backwards poet writes inverse.
- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- If a clock is hungry does it go back four seconds?
- The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.

**SALES • FEBRUARY 20**

**Baillie House** TUES-SAT, 10am-4pm. Ongoing garage sale.

**2276 McGoran Place., SAT, 10am-2pm.**

## Merritt population growth est. at 1.9%

Merritt is listed via BC Stats as one of the fastest growing communities in B.C., according to the 2015 *Municipal Population Estimates*, released last month.

Merritt's population growth is estimated to have risen from 7469 in 2014 to 7610 in 2015, a 1.9% increase making it "the second fastest growing community in the Thompson Nicola region. Sun Peaks had the largest population increase at 4.9% from 2014 to 2015."

Kamloops' modest 0.6% population increase translates into 541 people, whereas Merritt's 1.9% works out to 141 people. And Sun Peaks' huge increase amounts to 22 people, as the municipality's population rose from 448 to 470.

Of the only 3 other cities in BC that have 7000-something people like Merritt, Castlegar's population rose by 144 people for a similar increase to ours, 1.8%. The others — Revelstoke & Trail — both lost up to 20 people.

Will George, City of Merritt's new Manager of Business and Economic Development commented "It is great to see we have had a steady population growth over the last few years, not many communities can say that.

"Population growth is a key factor while attracting businesses and investment to the area. Continued population growth over consecutive years has positive effects throughout the community. New residents offer a wide array of skills and fresh ideas into developing the region."

Over the years, Merritt's population has fluctuated: in 1981 it was 6110; 1986 it was 6189; 1991 it was 6898; 1996 it was 7631. Then it plummeted in 2001 down to 7088 (round the time Weyerhaeuser closed), and in 2006 down to 6998 - based on censuses. It began inching back up: 7195 in 2011; 7236 in 2012; 7327 in 2013; 7469 in 2014; and 7610 in 2015, based on BC Stats population estimates.

## Coldwater Ave. closures

Coldwater Avenue, from Voght to Garcia, will be temporarily closed on Sunday, Feb. 21 & Wednesday, Feb. 24, from Noon to 4pm on both days.

Traffic delays will be minimal with single lane alternating traffic for training purposes.

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Nicola Valley Community Arts Council



## 10th Annual Community Arts Show

COME SEE WHAT OUR COMMUNITY  
HAS BEEN MAKING

SHOW February 5 - 27, 2016  
OPEN Wednesday - Saturday  
noon-6pm

For more info, contact Kathi: 250 378-6515, [klassicalart7@hotmail.com](mailto:klassicalart7@hotmail.com)

 Courthouse Art Gallery  
1840 Nicola Ave., Merritt, BC  
250 378 6515 [www.merrittcouncil.com](http://www.merrittcouncil.com)  
[NicolaValleyArtsCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:NicolaValleyArtsCouncil@gmail.com)

