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& **MERRITT COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Friday, April 5th, 2024
Merritt Civic Centre
7:00 - 8:30pm

and A MEET & GREET AND REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW THE PERFORMANCE

TICKETS \$10 at the door

The evening is sponsored by the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council and the Bob Cokayne Fund

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MIDWEEK EDITION - APRIL 3, 2024 #3943

News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
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Congrats, TNV!

Tourism Nicola Valley has won the 2024 Canada Prestige Awards' *Tourist Information Platform of the Year* award. It's for their blog, where businesses and community members can create content — something that is rare in Canada.

Centennials switch from BCHL to KIJHL

After an "in-depth analysis", the Centennials Board of Directors made the difficult decision to withdraw from the BCHL on Sunday.

"The Board members past and present have worked extremely hard to maintain 51 continuous years of operation in the BCHL but have finally conceded that continuing into the future is no longer viable", said Merritt Centennials Hockey Club President Ken Carruthers.

The same day, the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League announced an expansion franchise for the Centennials, who will replace the Summerland Steam following that franchise's relocation to Williams Lake.

The Cents will move to private ownership, under the leadership of Brad Anstey & Daniel Schofield. They'll retain the name, and continue to play in the NV Memorial Arena, having secured a new 5-year lease agreement for the facility.

The Cents ended the regular season in 6th place, and will play the Salmon Arm Silverbacks (in 3rd place in the regular season) in the playoff series. Their first game is this Fri, April 5, in Salmon Arm.

TMX wraps up

Approx. 185km of pipeline construction is now complete between Black Pines and the Coquihalla Summit. Though that's done, there will still be smaller work crews returning to finish right-of-way cleanup and reclamation.

TMX general contractor, Surerus Murphy Joint Venture has left a lasting impact in the Kamloops and Merritt areas with employee-led community donations totalling more than \$1 million, and by supporting local lemonade stands, responding to wildfires and volunteering with local organizations to make meals for disadvantaged individuals.

TransMtn says they look forward to continuing as good neighbours.

By-election candidate forum tonight

The Merritt & District Chamber of Commerce will host an all-candidates forum this evening, April 3, 5:30-8pm at the Civic Centre. All 4 of the candidates vying for the empty seat on City Council are expected to attend.

The candidates are: Yvette Baxter, MJ Phillips, Peter Coghil and Norma Jean Littleton. Members of the public will have a chance to submit questions for the candidates at the meeting, or in advance by emailing chamberevents@merrittchamber.com

Community

Home Routes: Taylor Ashton, April 4

The Home Routes concert series in partnership with the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council present Taylor Ashton **now on Thursday April 4**, 7pm at the Nicola Valley Arts Centre, next to Kekuli Cafe. FMI taylorashton.com or find him on Spotify. Tickets are \$20, contact Sandy 250-315-7263 or kiforlife@gmail.com

Barb's Used Book & Music Spring Sale

The Kamloops Symphony's semi-annual fundraiser returns to St. Andrew's on the Square, 159 Seymour St., Kamloops from April 6-20. Open 12noon-4pm Sundays, 12noon-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Saturdays. All money raised goes towards the Kamloops Symphony's operating expenses, including concert productions to educational programs.

Open house: 5-year financial plan

The City is ready to submit its final recommended 2024-2028 Financial Plan, to be presented and adopted during the Tuesday, April 9 council meeting. They are now accepting comments from the public until Monday, April 8, 8pm. City staff and council will be available at an Open House on Monday, April 8, from 6pm-8pm at the Civic Centre to provide details on the current financial plan and hear comments from the public.

You can review the proposed budget online and complete the form with comments and concerns — it's at www.merritt.ca/budget/

'One Book, One Community'

The Thompson-Nicola Regional Library announced Michael Christie's national bestseller and award-winning novel *Greenwood* as this year's 'One Book, One Community' shared reading experience that promotes Canadian authors and their stories, provokes discussion, and builds understanding.

Greenwood weaves family history with the timeless beauty of Vancouver Island's old-growth forests, explores complex family dynamics, intergenerational relationships, and the profound impact of tree loss in British Columbia.

Michael Christie will read at select TNRL libraries between May 3 and 7, including an evening event at the Paramount Theatre on Monday, May 6. A writing workshop will be held at the Kamloops Library on Sunday, May 5.

He will be at the Merritt Library on Friday, May 3, 11am-12:30pm. *Greenwood* is available in various reading formats at the library or online by visiting tnrl.ca.

I love the way the Earth rotates. It literally makes my day.

Three Irishmen Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Shamus, were stumbling home late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard. "Come have a look over here," says Paddy, "It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87." "That's nothing," says Sean, "here's one named Patrick O'Toole. It says here that he was 95 when he died." Just then, Shamus yells out, "But here's a fella that died when he was 145 years old!" "What was his name?" asks Paddy. Shamus lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles, from Dublin."

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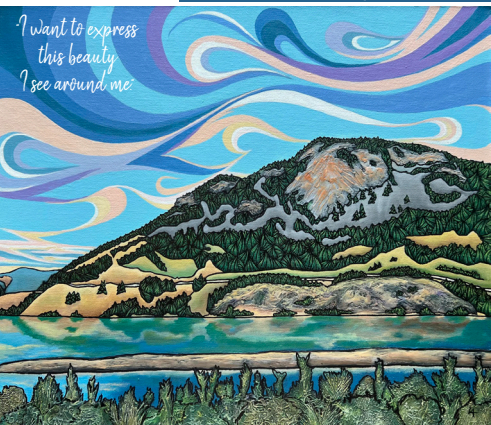


Lilac Watch 2024

lilaconspiracy.wordpress.com

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with Artist *Linda Suzuki*



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Meet & Greet Friday, April 12, 4-7pm

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CITY OF MERRITT
By-Election 2024

Merritt
FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

GENERAL VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the City of Merritt on:

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE | 1950 MAMETTE AVENUE, MERRITT, BC

ADVANCE VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the City of Merritt on:

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE | 1950 MAMETTE AVENUE, MERRITT, BC

Any elector who wishes to vote before April 20, 2024 is eligible to vote at Advance Voting opportunities.
All Advance Voting ballots are counted after voting closes on April 20, 2024.

VOTING BY MAIL is available for qualified electors of the City of Merritt. If you wish to vote by mail, you must obtain an application to receive a mail ballot package. It is your responsibility to ensure that your completed ballot is delivered to the Chief Election Officer no later than 8:00 pm on General Voting Day, Saturday, April 20, 2024, to be counted.

Apply for "Mail Ballot Package"

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION AT MERRITT.CA/ELECTIONS
OR VISIT CITY HALL | 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, BC

Submit Mail Ballot | 8:00 PM | Saturday, April 20, 2024
SUBMIT COMPLETED MAIL BALLOT TO THE CITY OF MERRITT CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

W: MERRITT.CA/ELECTIONS

