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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday January 27th – Interior Savings

Community Room 6pm

Everyone Welcome

Join us for our 2026 Soccer Season. We are looking for new members to volunteer, various positions include: Board of Directors, Head & Assistant Coaches, Division Reps, Referees, and Registrar.

For more information email us: info@merrityouthsoccer.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MerrittYouthSoccer>

<http://merrityouthsoccer.com/>



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ORTHODOX NEW YEAR EDITION - JAN 14, 2026 #4184

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

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Harold Fox

1933 - 2026

Long-time Merritt resident Harold Fox passed away as peacefully and as gently as he lived. Many will remember him from his years working with his friends at Ska-Lu-La. He loved nature, music, laughing and above all, his creator. All those whose lives were touched by Harold are invited to join in remembering him together at 1.00 pm, Jan. 24, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1505 Sunset St., followed by a tea.

Unplug & play

Family Literacy Week is January 24-31 and focuses on raising awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in literacy-related activities as a family. It's also a great opportunity to take a break from devices and enjoy many health benefits, which inspired the Beem Credit Union *Unplug and Play* Family Literacy Week.

It starts with the January 24th & 25th Merritt Centennials home games sponsored by Beem Credit Union and Literacy Merritt & Nicola Valley Society. Bring a book to donate to the Bright Red Bookshelves Book Drive.

More favourites: *Come Read With Me* at the elementary schools; *Explore Art Literacy* at the art gallery; the *Community Playground*; and *Active Stories* at the dance studio.

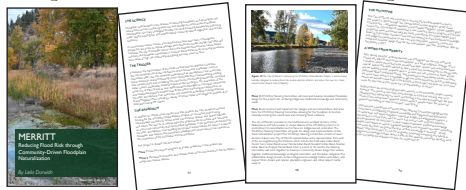
Many of these and other literacy links and resources will be posted online. For more details, visit literacymerritt.com or [facebook.com/LMNVS](https://www.facebook.com/LMNVS).

Merritt project featured in national report

Merritt's STUWI(x) Naturalization Project is featured in the *Cities Adapt with Nature-Based Solutions* national report by the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

Merritt is among the 20 case studies of local leadership across Canada that address the growing opportunities for nature-based solutions. The case studies show a cross-section of the types of nature-based solutions implemented and their alignment with the Sendai Framework's four priority principles: (1) Understanding disaster risk, (2) Strengthening disaster risk governance, (3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and (4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better". The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) is a pioneer in leading and promoting disaster risk reduction research and outreach with community support.

FMI www.iclr.org/citiesadapt/ You can also download the Merritt chapter and the full report from the Merritt Flood Mitigation's facebook page.



Life before computers...

An application was for employment

A program was a TV show

A cursor used profanity

A keyboard was a piano!

A web was a spider's home

Memory was something that you lost with age

And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy, you hoped nobody found out!

Log on was adding wood to a fire

Hard drive was a long trip on the road

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived

A backup happened to your commode!

And a virus was the flu!

Budget open house

The City of Merritt will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, Jan 29 — in the afternoon 12noon-2pm (presentation at 12:30pm) and in the evening 6-8pm (presentation at 6:30pm).

The idea is to learn about the proposed changes to the municipal budget for the coming 5 years. It's an opportunity to get informed, ask questions, and provide feedback on how public funds are allocated to services and projects that impact the community. Whether you have specific concerns or just want to stay informed, they want your input.

Visit various tables and talk directly with City management. Have a beverage, a snack, and a meaningful conversation with your City Council.

Community Indigenous knowledge, Ki?lawna? (Grizzly Bear), seeing the landscape differently

Nicola Naturalist Society presents Ellen Simmons on this fascinating topic. Ellen is an instructor at NVIT in Merritt and is completing her doctorate degree at UBC Okanagan on this topic. She has extensive experience combining Indigenous knowledge and values with western science in a wide range of landscape-management contexts. Thursday Jan 15, 7pm, NVIT lecture Theatre. All welcome, membership or donation.

Grant-in-aid deadline

Grants-in-Aid are provided to non-profit and community groups that provide valuable programs to the community and are unable to raise all their required funding without the City's assistance. They are intended to encourage innovation that supports or contributes to the community and the goals of Council. You can request financial assistance or in-kind use of a City-owned facility. The deadline to submit an application is January 15, and info about how to apply is at: www.merritt.ca/grants-in-aid/

2026 Thunderbird Rally

The Thunderbird is a winter driving adventure, round 1 of the 2026 BC TSD Rally Championship. The rally will be about 850km long, Merritt to Vernon. Roads will be about 40% clear pavement, 60% snow-covered pavement and gravel. Registration starts Friday Jan 20, 7-9pm at Best Western Plus Hotel, rally HQ. First car out is at 10:31am on Saturday, Jan 31. End of day 1, Dinner & Scoring, Vernon at 8:00pm. First car out Sunday at 8:30am, back in Merritt for dinner, scoring & awards presentation. For good observation spots, go to rallybc.ca/archives/2026

Tobogganing Races

This is the 2nd year for this family friendly event — Feb. 7th, 2026. Registration Forms can be found the Merritt Library & Breathebikes MerrittBC or register online @ eventbrite. (\$12 per entry). Early registration includes free lunch. FMI, text Cecilia 250-315-0022 or email gclyck@hotmail.com

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Purple door in alley



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Love to Sing? Join the Community Choir!



Start
your
New Year
on a high
note!

The Community Choir is officially welcoming new and returning members for our upcoming spring season. Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or haven't sung since high school, there is a place for you in our circle. No formal auditions are required — just a love for music and community!

Monday, January 19, at 7:00 PM
Trinity United Church, 1899 Quilchena Ave.
Spring session dues are \$35

For more information, contact Glenda [gotten1@telus.net]

Rediscovered Treasures

Exhibition Jan 7-31, 2026
Bidding opens January 9



Come join us for a heartfelt celebration of art, generosity, and sustainability

Every piece in this collection has been donated by members of our community — each one carrying a story, a memory, and now, a chance for a fresh start

COME VISIT THE GALLERY AT THE NICOLA VALLEY ARTS CENTRE



HOURS:
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Sunday 12-4pm

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