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1922 Voght St., walk-ins welcome

THE STYLIST/ BARBER IS IN

Cash or e-transfer only

Art Therapy in Merritt

Art Therapy sessions are now being offered by Jennifer Chemago at The Nicola Valley Arts Centre

Jennifer is a certified Art Therapist
With The Vancouver Art Therapy Institute

For Further Information
Please visit www.arttherapywithjennifer.com
or email Jennifer at
jchemagoarttherapy@gmail.com



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Rediscovered Treasures

Exhibition Jan 7-31, 2026
Bidding opens January 9



Today is the last day for bidding!

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

2051 VOGHT ST.,
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the Arts Council
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

2051 Voght St., Merritt, BC | www.nicolavalleyarts.com | curator@nicolavalleyarts.com | 250-378-4515



MERRITT MORNING MARKET

MIDWEEK EDITION - JANUARY 30, 2026 #4191

News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
Tel: (250) 378-5717 Fax: (250) 378-2025 Email: market@uniserve.com

Mandatory water meter installation not free after Mar 20

Minimum installation cost \$900

The City of Merritt is implementing a water meter program — FREE OF CHARGE to homeowners. There is also no charge for this basic installation. The last day for installations is Friday March 20. After this date, installations will be charged at a minimum cost of \$900.

A grant was obtained from the Province of BC to implement the program. Water meters are proven to promote water conservation, help make utility bills more equitable, and help identify and address leaks in the system.

This is a mandatory program in accordance with Waterworks Bylaw No. 2392, and compliance is required.

The city-appointed contractor Neptune Technology Group will install or upgrade the water meter at every residential property in the city. Even if your home already has a water meter, you still need to book an appointment to update it. **Book while its free: 1-800-667-4387, or online watermeterappt.com**

Congrats, Amber Papou!

Amber Papou has been appointed as the Tourism Industry Association of BC's new CEO, effective February 1st.

Amber brings extensive experience leading organizations across the education and tourism sectors. She has helped lead transformative initiatives, including playing a key leadership role in building Merritt's Country Music Capital of Canada brand and helping establish the Merritt Walk of Stars. Most recently, she served as president and CEO of the Self-Design Learning Foundation.

In her new role, Amber will be responsible for leading the business and strategic priorities of TIABC, with a focus on representing tourism interests across the province and advocating on behalf of the organization's members, stakeholders, partners, as well as Indigenous communities through collaboration and with the guidance of TIABC's Board of Directors.

Paid-on-call firefighters wanted

The City of Merritt has openings for paid-on-call (POC) firefighters. It's an opportunity to support your community, build camaraderie & teamwork with the crew. There is hourly compensation for training and response to emergencies, with lots of technical training opportunities.

You must be at least 19 years old, a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, and live within 12kms of the fire hall at 1799 Nicola Ave. Check out the website for other rprocess equirements.

Applications can be completed on the City's website: <https://www.merritt.ca/firerescue/poc-recruitment/>, requested by email through the Fire Chief, or picked up in person at the fire hall.

swim:

concession cash only, by the Girl Guides. Nicola Valley Aquatic Centre, 1-5pm.

Heritage Week open house

The Nicola Valley Museum and Archives is hosting Heritage Week at the museum, with an open house on Thursday, February 19th from 4pm-7pm. This year's theme is 'Stir The Pot' and it is about celebrating food as a means of culture. There will be displays, refreshments, and old recipes available!

Whatever you do in life, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood...

I have decided to give up tap dancing; it's too dangerous. I fell off and twisted my ankle in the sink.

Always give 100% at work! Monday - 14%, Tuesday: - 26%, Wednesday - 42%, Thursday - 15%, Friday - 3%

Pupil: Please Miss, would you punish someone for something they didn't do? Teacher: No, of course not!! Pupil: Oh good, Because I haven't done my homework!!!

If I had to rate our solar system I'd give it one star

There are 2 words that have opened a lot of doors for me in my life. ... Push and Pull!

Scientists got bored after watching the Earth turn after 24 hours... So they called it a day!

Family Literacy Week winds down

Family Literacy Week wraps up today with Creative Playground & Children's Dance Party, at the NVIT gymnasium, 5:30-7:30pm. Come dance, play some games, create some art, enjoy some snacks, and connect with various community organizations. FMI literacymeritt.com or facebook.com/LMNVS

Community

2026 Thunderbird Rally

Round 1 of the 2026 BC TSD Rally Championship, the rally will be about 850km long, Merritt to Vernon, and back. 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

Winter whirlwind

The Merritt Stock Car Association's 2nd annual winter races event will be held January 31 at the Merritt Speedway, off Hwy 8 at the west end of Shulus. Pit meeting is at 12noon, racing starts at 1pm. \$5 spectator entry. There's an intermission autograph session, spectator fire pits, concession, hot drinks by donation. FMI Facebook.com/merrittspeedway.ca

SD58 'Potential School Closure' mtgs

The final Potential School Closure meeting will be held for the Coldwater Indian Band, Feb 2 5pm, Coldwater School Gym. FMI www.nssd.ca/school-closure-process

Tobogganing Races

Feb. 7th, 2026. Registration forms can be found the Merritt Library & Breathe Bikes or register online @ eventbrite. (\$12 per entry). Early registration includes free lunch. FMI, text Cecilia 250-315-0022 or email gcdyck@hotmail.com

Local Int'l Women's Day nominations

If you have any amazing women in your life that you would like to recognize, please let the NV Int'l Women's Day committee know! Every year on March 8, they celebrate the women in our community who are working hard to create and support positive changes, and a healthy community. Please nominate those women who have positively influenced your life, the lives around you, or the community. The deadline for nominations is February 13, 12noon, email: nvwomeninaction@gmail.com. Include contact info for you and your nominee and the reasons for nominating, 1 per person.

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Unplug and Play

Family Literacy Week

Family Literacy Week

January 24 - 31, 2026

Visit literacymerritt.com for the calendar of events

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Call John (604)841-8911 • Gian (250)315-3376 for more info or merrittpickleballclub@gmail.com

 **THE BAILLIE HOUSE**
EST. 1913
INFORMATION CENTRE

2202 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT BC

Baillie House is looking for more donations!

We are a non-profit organization and the Merritt Info Center. All proceeds go towards the maintenance of the historic Baillie House property (Built in 1913).

We accept household items, small furniture, electronics etc. (No clothes, mattresses, car seats or large furniture)



250-378-0349

