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LAST DAY IS TOMORROW!

JUST A LOCAL PAINTER

EXHIBITION April 8- May 2, 2026
ARTIST RECEPTION April 10

COME VISIT THE GALLERY AT THE NICOLA VALLEY ARTS CENTRE

the Arts Council
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council

HOURS: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm
2051 VOGHT ST., ENTER BESIDE KEKULI CAFE

2026



50th Annual
Walk for Peace, Social Justice, and the Environment

Music, speakers, children's activities
Please bring a lawn chair if you can
Now more than ever!

10am-12:30pm
Walk starts at noon
Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
Kamloops Farmers' Market
Stuart Wood School, 200 block of St Paul

Please consider walking, riding, or taking public transportation.
Hosted by the Kamloops Coalition for Peace, Social Justice, and the Environment.

MERRITT INFORMATION CENTER @ BAILLIE HOUSE

We are HIRING
Summer Students

OPEN POSITIONS:
Two Summer Students
35 Hours/week
May 1- August 28

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OR DROP OFF AT:
2202 Voght St.

To be eligible you must be between the ages of 18 and 30
Closing Date: May 15



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MAY DAY EDITION - MAY 1, 2026 #4227
News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
Tel: (250) 378-5717 Fax: (250) 378-2025 Email: market@uniserve.com

Construction between exits 286 & 290

Bridge construction will impact traffic on the Coq between exits 286 Coldwater Interchange and 290 Nicola Interchange over the next six months. According to an alert from Drive BC, construction will reduce traffic to one lane in each direction from May 1 until Oct. 31. Speed will be reduced to 50 km/h across the 4.1 km stretch. Construction is expected daily from 7am-5pm.

May 3-9, 2026 Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness Week takes place from May 3-9, 2026. It's an opportunity to understand risks and take steps to prepare for emergencies like floods or wildfires.

BC Emergency Alert system TEST

A test of the BC Emergency Alert system will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 1:55pm. BC Emergency Alerts are broadcast on TV, radio, and cell phones to provide urgent, life-saving information during emergencies.

Officials request that you do not call 9-1-1 for information about the test. Using 9-1-1 for non-emergency calls could delay help for people in crisis.

Following the test, an online survey will be available to capture your feedback and help determine the reach of the BC Emergency Alert system. Link to the survey from www.emergencyinfbc.gov.bc.ca/

TNRD Emergency Notice on Voyent Alert

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District will be issuing a test emergency notice through Voyent Alert on Thursday, May 7, at 10:30am — for TNRD Electoral Areas only. To learn more and register, download the free Voyent Alert app or visit: tnrd.ca/voyent

'Coldwater Stories' community site walk

The City of Merritt Flood Mitigation team will host the *Coldwater Stories Community Site Walk* on Friday, May 22, 10am-1pm, starts at the parking lot across from Claybanks RV park.

It is a chance to walk the Coldwater corridor, see progress firsthand, learn about current flood mitigation projects, and ask questions directly with the team. Parking is available across from Claybanks RV Park.

And... the day before — Thurs. May 21, 4-8pm at the Civic Centre — those who attend the City of Merritt's Open House will be able to catch the premiere of Episode 1 of *Coldwater Stories*, the new docu-series showcasing the journey of the Coldwater Corridor River Recovery.

The multi-year project by Vandello Productions, was announced in February. The docu-series will follow Merritt's journey from recovery to long-term mitigation, sharing real voices, real progress, and the work underway along the Coldwater corridor to protect our community.

Did you hear the one where Pavlov's dog meets Schroedinger's cat?
It rings a bell, I may or may not know it.

Imagine you're in a room, no windows or doors, no way out. You have no weapons, no great skills. No holes in the floor or ceiling. There are several hungry adult large tigers in the room with you. What should you do? Stop Imagining.

They say time flies when you're having fun, but also time's fun when you're chasing flies!

Where do math teachers go on vacation?
Times Square.

SALES - MAY 2 & 3

1 1951 Greaves Ave., SAT & SUN 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Huge Garage Sale Featuring tools, household items, and various unique finds.

2 Tumbleweed Playschool, 2975 Clapperton Ave., SAT 9am-1pm. Garage Sale & open house

UPCOMING Fall Fair Bldg., 319 Lindley Creek Rd, May 16-17 Sat 9-2, Sun 10-2. First Giant Fall Fair Garage Sale of the season. Donations can be dropped off on during sales.

Community Nicola Naturalist - Tour of the flood restoration park in Merritt

The 2021 flood devastated large areas in Merritt. To mitigate future threats the city is working with local First Nations to restore a large tract at the junction of the Nicola and Coldwater rivers. Join Dr. Tom Willms, an instructor in Environmental Resource Technology at NVIT and an advisor to this project to find out more about this innovative and important project. For paid-up members. On Sat, May 2, meet at 9am at the Civic Centre parking lot.

Ballet Kelowna's "Cikilax"m: Controlled Burn"

Ballet Kelowna presents the world premiere of *Cikilax*™: *Controlled Burn*. The two-act narrative contemporary ballet will be on stage at the Kelowna Community Theatre May 1 & 2, For tickets and info, visit balletkelowna.ca

LNIB MMIWG2S Awareness Walk

Tuesday, May 5, 10:30am, from Shulus Hall to Shulus Arbour. Light lunch will be provided.

MMIWG2s+ Awareness Walk

CNA, along with Ken Tem, Conayt, Interior Community Services, Scwemx Child & Family and Nlakapamux Health, will hold an awareness & memorial walk on Tuesday, May 5th, starting at 12noon, from the Citxw (the old Courthouse), 1840 Nicola Ave. Hot dog and chips lunch provided afterwards.

TNRD's One Book One Community

One Book One Community is back May 6-11. Author Marion McKinnon Crook will be visiting the Merritt Library Wednesday, May 6, 6-7:30pm. She will share vivid stories of life as a nurse in the Cariboo-Chilcotin from her memoir *Always Pack a Candle*. Ages: 18+

RCMP Musical Ride tickets

NV Rodeo Association will host the Musical Ride on Wed. Aug 26 at the Rodeo Grounds. Tickets will be available online at www.nicolavalleyrodeo.com beginning May 1, 2026, and at the gate on August 26 — adults \$15, children ages 6-15 \$10, children under 6 free.

NV Farmers Market gearing up

Nicola Valley Farmers Market is gearing up for their 2026 season. The first Saturday of the season will be May 9. 9:30am-1:00pm, and then open every Saturday (weather permitting) until October 10th. Interested applicants should begin the process at www.nicolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

TNRD trunk sale

TNRD will host a trunk sale event in Spirit Square on May 24, 2026, 10am – 1pm. Sell, swap, or donate items from your home in a community-wide garage sale. Feature live music; come to browse and buy bargain finds, stay for the community atmosphere! Residents can sign up to be a vendor free of charge, limited to 2 spots, early registration encouraged. To register as a vendor, use the online form by clicking here, or contact the TNRD Solid Waste and Recycling Department at 250-377-2596, or recycleright@tnrd.ca

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Lilac Conspiracy



The Lilac Conspiracy was formed in 2003, in Merritt. The group, primarily resident artists, designers, educators & publishers, wanted to increase the awareness of the heritage lilac bushes which are abundant in the Nicola Valley. These were brought west by settlers, and planted when Europeans first came to the valley, from the mid-1800s to 1911 when Merritt was incorporated as a city. The heritage lilacs consist primarily of the common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), dark purple, and double white varieties.

Over the years, the Lilac Conspiracy has provided lilac slips from heritage plants, by donation, as an incentive to propagate them & continue the old stocks in the community.

Lilac Festivals in Merritt
The first lilac festival was held in 2004, in mid-May when the lilacs were bursting with colour & fragrance in Merritt. It was an art & music event in a heritage warehouse in the downtown area — a huge success with a Bohemian style. The event appealed to those who love the flowers & enjoy art. Festivals were held each year until 2008, but 'lilac awareness' has continued to be promoted through art posters during lilac time.

The Merritt Lilac Project
The Merritt Lilac Project began in 2005 with Bill Vander Zalm donating well-started 4'-5' lilac trees to the citizens of Merritt. Since that time, more than 5,000 lilacs have been planted in our community, thanks to his generosity. With this gift, the variety of lilac trees is greatly enhanced, extending the blooming season by at least 2 weeks. The bushes are young still, but continue thrive in our climate. They are an investment that will mature in the years to come!

