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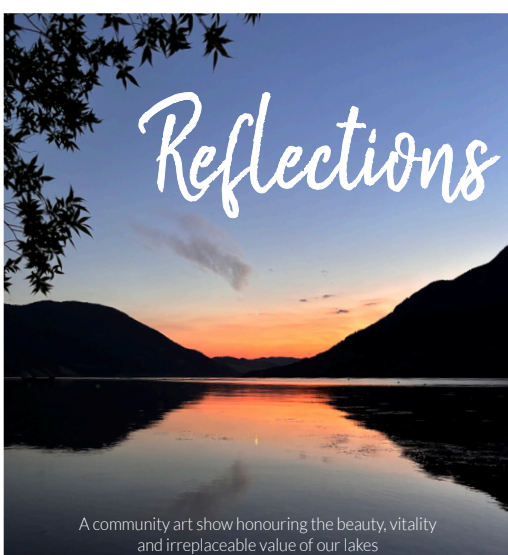
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Reflections

A community art show honouring the beauty, vitality and irreplaceable value of our lakes

EXHIBITION May 6 - June 7, 2026 RECEPTION May 14

COME VISIT THE GALLERY AT THE NICOLA VALLEY ARTS CENTRE

HOURS: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm
2051 Voght St., Enter beside Kekul Cafe

the Arts Council
Nicola Valley Community Arts Council

2051 Voght St., Merritt, BC | www.nicolavalleyarts.com | curator@nicolavalleyarts.com | 250-378-6515

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Closing Date: May 15



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Please recycle

MIDWEEK EDITION - MAY 6, 2026 #4229
News, opinion, community events since 1996! Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
Tel: (250) 378-5717 Fax: (250) 378-2025 Email: market@uniserve.com

Record temp high, on heels of record low

Merritt was one of 24 communities to break temperature records last weekend, with many places registering more than 30°C. Merritt's 28.5°C broke the old record for May 3 of 28.2°C from 2016.

And this after this past April 24th's record low of -7.2°C, the coldest temperature in the province that day.

Cat. 2 & 3 open burning prohibitions

Effective at 12:00 noon tomorrow, May 7, Category 2 and 3 open fires will be prohibited throughout the Kamloops Fire Centre to help prevent human-caused wildfires.

This prohibition will remain in effect until 12:00 noon on Oct. 19, or until the orders are otherwise rescinded. Anyone conducting Cat. 2 or Cat. 3 open fires within the Kamloops Fire Centre's jurisdiction must extinguish those fires by May 7 at noon.

These do not include campfires, but do include burn piles, open grass fires, air curtain burners, carbonizers, binary exploding targets, fireworks, burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description except campfires, and controlled air incinerators.

Coquihalla Hwy's 40th anniversary

May 16th will be the 40th anniversary of phase 1 of the Coquihalla Highway, 130 km between Hope & Merritt.

Design began with exploration of the proposed route in 1973, followed by an official survey in 1978 when the first construction contract was let.

Accelerated design and construction began in the spring of 1984 in preparation for Expo 86 in Vancouver. To be sure the project was completed on time, more than 10,000 people were needed to fill all of the jobs. More than 1,000 pieces of heavy equipment worked non-stop every day during the summer of 1985 to get it done.

The second phase connected Merritt with Kamloops (completed in 1987), and the third phase, the Coquihalla Connector which linked Merritt to Peachland and the Okanagan (opened in 1990).

Almost \$845 million in tolls were collected in the 22 years between the opening of the highway and when tolls stopped being collected in 2008. It originally cost \$848 million to build in three phases. By then, more than 29 million passenger vehicles had passed through the toll booths.

Accusations of millions of dollars in cost overruns initially surfaced after the first phase of the proj- *Continued, over*

The Password A man is having trouble changing his password, so he calls IT to see what's going on. IT asks him what the password is he's trying to use and the guy says, "Mickey-MinnieGoofyDonaldDaisyPlutoDaffyWashingtonMLK" Confused, the IT person asks him why he chose that password. The guy responds, "You told me it had to have seven characters, a capital, and a symbol."

The little old woman who lived in a shoe wasn't the sole owner - there were strings attached.
Those who throw dirt are sure to lose ground.

A prisoner's favorite punctuation mark is the period. It marks the end of his sentence.



John Robert Paul
A Celebration of Life will be held at Crossroads Community Church, on Friday, May 8, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Always Pack a Candle

The library system's *One Book One Community* is back May 6-11. Author Marion McKinnon Crook will be visiting the Merritt Library today, 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+

Community 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.

TNRD Emergency Notice, Voyent Alert

TNRD 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: tnr.ca/voyent

NV Farmers Market opens this weekend for the season

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

'Coldwater Stories' community 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.

The day before the walk — Thurs. May 21, 4-8pm at the Civic Centre — those who attend the *Continued, over*

Nicola Valley Museum & Archives
Come & visit!



Nicola Valley Museum & Archives

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Open Tuesday - Saturday
10am-5pm
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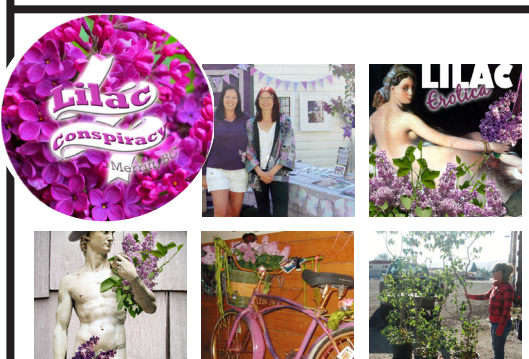


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Lilac Conspiracy

The 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!

Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly

We are pleased to announce that we have more job opportunities to join the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly. Please visit our website to view the following job postings available:

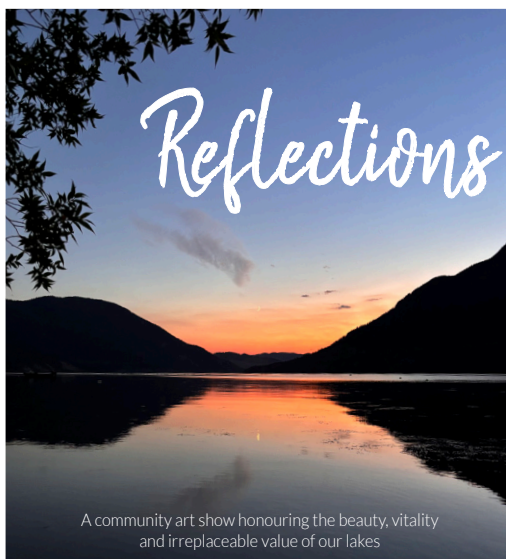
- CNA - Boston Bar and Spuzzum Community
- CNA - Cook's Ferry Community Engagement Coordinator
- CNA - Engagement Specialist
- CNA - Junior nte?kémx Coordinator (smuteč)
- CNA - nte?kémx Land Guardian (Valley)
- CNA - Property Caretaker (Live-In)
- CNA - Summer Worker - Communications & Engagement Clerk
- CNA - Summer Worker - ?eskntwex™ Event Planning Assistant
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- CNA - Summer Worker - General Clerk
- CNA - Summer Worker - IT Support
- CNA - Summer Worker - Language Support
- CNA - Summer Worker - nte?kémx Junior Land Guardian
- CNA - Youth Coordinator

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit their cover letter and resume to:
Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly
Email: HR@cna-trust.ca
In-Person: 2025 Granite Ave, Merritt, BC

We offer competitive wages, benefits, pension, internal training, and professional development to support the right candidate. We believe in initiative, respect and community values. If you have some of these qualities and believe you would be of value to our organization, then we want to hear from you!



Follow the link: https://employment.cna-trust.ca/job-postings_join_our_team.htm



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MERRITT MORNING MARKET

WEDNESDAY EDITION — MAY 6, 2026 #4229

Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8 T: (250) 378-5717 F: (250) 378-2025 E: market@uniserve.com

Coq turns 40 *continued*

ect, from Hope to Merritt, was completed in 1986. The first two phases of the project were originally budgeted at \$250 million, but ended up costing more than \$400 million, according to archived reports at the time.

The route included construction of eight avalanche dams, 19 containment basins, two water diversion trenches, three sets of avalanche benches, and the massive Great Bear Snowshed, to protect the highway and travellers. The construction also included 38 bridge and overpass structures.

According to the Ministry of Transportation, the route starts at sea level in Hope and gains 1 kilometre in elevation over a 50-kilometre stretch.

Of course, flooding and washouts associated with the November 2021 rain damaged more than 20 sites along 130 km of the Coquihalla between Hope and Merritt. This included 7 bridges where spans completely collapsed or were heavily damaged. Major repairs, necessary to bring the Coquihalla Highway back to 4-lane capacity, were done at Bottletop Bridges, 50 km south of Merritt; Juliet Bridges, 3 km south of Bottletop; Jessica Bridges, 48 km south of Juliet, the Othello washout area 10 km east of Hope.

Currently, the highway transports approximately 70% of total goods moving between the Lower Mainland and the B.C. Interior — and onward — equating to roughly \$183 million in trucked goods per day, or nearly \$67 billion annually, according to BC's Ministry of Transportation.

Sources: transcanadahighway.com, tranbc.ca, www.cbc.ca

Community *continued*

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.

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

Shipping container survey

The City of Merritt is now reviewing their shipping container bylaw and exploring how they are used on private property. Part of this process involves public input to help shape future regulations — and they want to hear your views on temporary and/or long-term usage of shipping containers on residential land within the City. The deadline to complete the survey is May 31, available at www.merritt.ca/containers/ or FMI contact planning@merritt.ca

CLASSIFIED ADS

PERSONAL

TO THE LADY LOOKING FOR YARN at my garage sale on Saturday, I have some Buffalo yarn if she's interested. Phone me @ 250-378-8838

WTD: someone to mow lawn on reg. basis, must have lwn lawnmower 378-7435

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP MOVE STUFF TO DUMP. Have truck & man-power? 378-2047

POTTERY BY DIANE. One of a kind hand crafted pottery on sale at Creative Co., Some commissions possible email diane.wandler@yahoo.ca Next firing on of May, so send me your special ideas. What would u like me to make?

LOST: keychain with change purse. Navy blue arrowhead beadwork w/ lanyard, Ford key & PO key, ID in change purse (status card & care card), between Post office & Black's on Nov 24. Please, just need ID back. 525-0406

NA MEETINGS are held each Tues & Thurs 7pm at the United Church, 1899 Quilchena Ave.

ALANON (for friends & families of alcoholics) every Monday @ 6pm Trinity United Church Hall

ELKS EVENTS: Every Wednesday Bingo, doors open 11am, ends 3pm. Every Friday Nite Bingo, doors open 4pm, ends 10pm. 1701 Coldwater Ave.

AA MEETINGS Wed., Fri., Sat. At 7pm, Mon. Noon at Trinity United Church, 1899 Quilchena Ave.

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ENERGUIDE freeacer, approx 70cf \$50 315-5115

ELECTRIC stove/range, glass top, convection oven, black \$325. Kenmore refrigerator, wrks gd \$125 378-1680

FRIGIDAIR stove, 2 yrs old \$250obo. Vitara fridge, 10 mos. old \$400obo. Amana washer & dryer, 4 yrs old \$300/pr obo 280-0543

DEEP FRYER still in box \$25 378-5008

MICROWAVE new 1200W family size Panasonic Genius \$150 378-5394

FREEZER, smaller approx. 2'x4'. Calvin 778-586-8362

COUNTERTOP dishwasher, hardly used, 3 yrs old \$300 250-289-4759

FOR SALE - AUTOMOTIVE

4 SUMMER tires P265-65R17, gd shape \$400. QuickGrip winter tire chains 2G2229, brnd nw \$65. 315-5115

SET OF 15" tires, 205/70R15, very gd shape \$100 315-8087

SET OF 4 TIRES, gd rims, 245-17 winters for Ford \$400. Calvin 778-586-8362

ALUM. dry box combination tonneau cover for full size pickup truck with 6 ft. box. \$450obo. 315-2080

4 MAG 15" rim & centre caps for Ford Ranger, all gd shape 315-7771

4 MICHELIN A/T tires 275-65-R18, tires were take offs, lk nw \$400 280-0769

FOR SALE - PETS / LIVESTOCK

FREE PUPPY, Red heeler dad, blue heeler mom 778 661 0917

FEMALE kitten, ready to go to gd home 280-4763

PYRANEES/GERMAN Shepherd x Border collie mix puppies Raised outdoors, lots of handling. Will make fantastic family pets and yard alert systems \$300. First shots. Ready to go, call/text 280-3536.

30-GAL. fish tank, LED lights, 2-in-1 filter pump, bubble pump, gravel, ornaments, fish net, hand-held cleaner for glass \$250 315-3981

6 FT HINGED plastic dog ramp (astro turf lined for traction) \$95. Large well built dog house (insulated, aluminum roof, wavy-edged cedar siding) \$150 firm. Large Petmate portable plastic dog kennel \$135. Earl 378-5038

MUSKOVY & Cayuga ducks 378-4476

2 MALE kittens to grt homes 250-682-2012

FOR SALE - MISCELLANEOUS

PLANTS FOR SALE, Tomatoes - Beefsteak, Cherry. Squash- Zucchini, Kobacha, Butternut & Cooking Pumpkin. \$1.50 and up. Goji Berry \$3-5. Limited 280-0779

FREE CAMPING FIREWOOD. Large willow rounds. Needs splitting. Bring a maul. 250 936 9356

ADJUSTABLE electric single hospital Bed \$50. Head, knees and height all variable. 378-7442

WALL MOUNT bathroom sink, white. Goose neck kitchen tap. 2 black wall sconces.(battery operated) 280-0005

WEDDING DRESS size 16. Grad dress size 14 (red). 378-8838

FOR SALE/TRADE: feverfew plants (good for headaches), catnip plants (good for insomnia), tarragon plant, baby clove currant bushes, raspberry canes, Italian prune plum, heritage blue plum, Green-gauge plum baby trees, hollyhock for transplanting. 250-378-2410 Leave message.

WINDOWS GALORE, frames, various sizes 378-2832

5-FT RUBBER plant \$40 378-5008

HEAD mount cougar rug, offrs. 378-5038

4 cork boards, 4'x6', exc cond. 280-0543

PR LADIES Hunter boots, madder purple, sz 7, gd cond \$50. 378-1843 aft 5pm

UNPASTEURIZED raw honey: \$40 for 8 cups, \$20 for 4 cups, \$10 for 2 cups, \$5 for 1 cup. 378-4947

GRANNY'S House Quilting & Retreat has sewing notions from Pat's Patches 378-3734

FOR SALE - FURNITURE

ANTIQUE dresser on wheels. Antique dressing tbl w/ chair. Like new loveseat 378-0838

3-PC SOFA set 378-4392

SMALL BLACK patio set \$60 280-4763

BUNK bd & mattresses, nw cond/used vry little \$400 315-5115

BRAND NEW 8 inch foam mattress from Wayfair \$200. 380-0005

CREAM-col. leather loveseat & chair \$150 778-834-3148, leparker1751@gmail.com

VINTAGE Half Canopy single bed. frame \$75 378-6787

DOUBLE BED with box spring, frame, stands and set of sheets, gd condition just no room \$125obo. 4 bar stools, like new \$125 all 4 obo. Pedestal sink \$40. Rocking chair \$40. 2 swivel rocking chairs, light rose in colour, very nice looking \$375obo. 378-7333

FOR SALE - ELECTRONICS/SOFTWARE

4 - TV'S 48", 41", and 2 32-inch. Phone for price 378-7333

SIRIUS RADIO w/ access., nw cond \$100 378-9169

FOR SALE - RECREATIONAL

SHAKESPEAR Wandertrol. 606 electric outboard motor with 12v battery and battery box \$75 378-6787

2002 ADVENTURER Camper 8' (can close tailgate) f/s, bathroom sink & toilet, hot water tank, furnace. No leaks. Lots of storage. 1,700 lbs \$6000 378-6475

OLDER CAMPER \$3,500. All appliances in working order. 9 ft Columbia River. Text 250-315-7190

2002 26FT. 5TH whl trailer, Corsair Excella, full slide, 2 mounted solar panels, very clean, excellent shape. \$9800obo. 378-6970. Two way hitch negotiable.

CANVAS heavy bag with stand & gloves \$300. Kids' quad, needs some work \$100. Motorbike 2007 CRS 450, needs work \$1500280-4595

NORCO mountain bike. Comes with kickstand and rear carrier \$30. 936-8484

9.9HP & 2HP outboard motor \$150/both. 5th whl kingpin tripod \$50. Alum. boat motor \$200. Left-hand golf club set w/ bag, cart & access. \$150. Free: golf stand for 2 bags & access. 778-834-3148, leparker1751@gmail.com

FREE: RV portable waste tank. 778-834-3148, leparker1751@gmail.com

FOR SALE - TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

HUSQ. lawn trlr & seeder, \$75 315-5115

HVY DUTY trck mps \$75. Quad rmps \$75 778-834-3148, leparker1751@gmail.com

2 METAL GATES, 6'9 by 4' high, No hardware \$200. 936-8982

220 VOLT construction heaters, built in thermostat, 2 avail. \$50 each 378-8802

EARLY 1950s tractor/front end loader, offers 378-7124

DELTA 10" table saw with roll around kit, like new condition \$450. 378-6787

WANTED/WANTED TO BUY

LOOKING FOR FREE fixer upper bikes and power wheels. Don't take to dump bring them to me. 936-8982

RECORDS, hockey cards, hunting knives, Johnny Cash memorabilia. Tom 778-288-4095

JIGSAW puzzles, 550pcs 378-5546



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- April 9th
- April 23th
- May 7th
- May 21st
- June 4th

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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



Connect and Play with the MERRITT PICKLEBALL CLUB!

Open play for all skill levels and a perfect way to stay active and make new friends. Call John (604)841-8911 • Gian (250)315-3376 for more info or merrittpickleballclub@gmail.com

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CHECK OUT OUR FEATURE PHOTO EVERY ISSUE, ONLINE



I PAY CASH for broken or no longer used gold/silver jewellery, coins etc. Also looking for old lighters & hunting or pckt knives. Call/txt Helena 778 538 9063

2BDRM 1-bath mobile home for lease, Low Nic. Fncd yrd, cntrl air, gas furn., May 15, pets considered, refs req'd, \$1650 + util . Call/text 604-534-1401

3-BDRM townhse, 2-bth. 1-bdrm suite, avail. immed. 378-4392

WANTED: RENTAL May 1. Artisan/Gardener (Retiree) & well mannered Bdr Collie ISO tidy, smoke free, peaceable, long term cabin/trailer/suite in or near Merritt. Refs avail. Roslyn skylark island@gmail.com

WAREHOUSE/SHOP for lease in Low Nic, 1000 ft.² with 500 ft.² mezzanine, 12 x 12 overhd dr, radiant heat & bthrm, gated compound. Call /text 604-534-1401

ROOM FOR RENT in private home. Hydro, internet & parking included. Shared kitchen, bath & laundry. Senior or single working person \$650/month, ref required. 280-0779

4-BDRM HOUSE, 2-bath, avail. immed. 378-4392

2-BDRM suite, 1-bath, n/p, n/s, 778-639-0244

FOR RENT

ROOM FOR FREE fixer upper bikes and power wheels. Don't take to dump bring them to me. 936-8982

RECORDS, hockey cards, hunting knives, Johnny Cash memorabilia. Tom 778-288-4095

JIGSAW puzzles, 550pcs 378-5546