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**BOARD
MEETING**

June 11, 2026, 5:30pm
1898 Blair Street
Everyone welcome

A motion to replace the bylaws is being proposed at the board meeting; a copy of these bylaws can be obtained at the Nicola Valley Food Bank.



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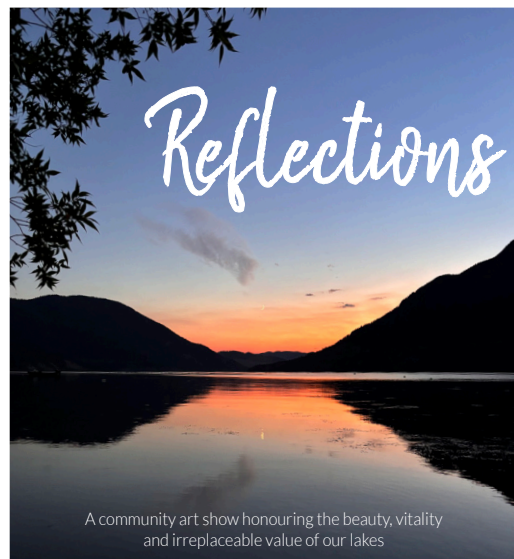
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A community art show honouring the beauty, vitality
and irreplaceable value of our lakes

EXHIBITION May 6 - June 7, 2026 RECEPTION May 14



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



WORLD BEE DAY EDITION - MAY 20, 2026 #4234

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

Tel: (250) 378-5717 Fax: (250) 378-2025 Email: market@uniserve.com

Tree replanting program on Shackan land

Five years after the devastating Lytton Creek fire — which burned for more than a month, ripped through 320 square miles, ignited structures and destroyed millions of trees — signs of tree life are slowly returning to one 909-acre portion of the landscape owned mostly by the Shackan Indian Band.

Not far from the Nicola River, some 400,000 evergreen conifer seedlings now dot the fire-scarred soil. The national nonprofit Tree Canada, in partnership with Cariboo Carbon Solutions, Mastercard's Priceless Planet Coalition and members of the Shackan community, led the restoration project in spring 2025 when they planted a mix of resilient native species — Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and spruce hybrids.

Reforestation projects like this one can accelerate forest regrowth rates by nearly 26%, according to researchers at Northern Arizona University. And they can be essential to recovery in regions where fire killed nearly all the trees and chances of natural recovery are slim.

Before a single seedling went into the ground, Shackan leaders and staff reviewed the planting plan and weighed in on local priorities and concerns, as well as monitoring.

Band members will continue to collect data at the permanent sample plots over the next few years. And growers at Shackan Nursery will be supplying native shrub and tree species to Cariboo Carbon Solutions to be planted throughout the valley in the future.

Rear View MMirror - July 12, 1995 Bon voyage, VINNY!!

PSSST, locals - grab a coffee or something while I bring the tourists up to speed on 'Vinny,' okay?

Vinny's a local burglar, 47 years old, non-violent, bright, humorous. He'd been retired from burgling for almost 5 years when, on April 23 of this year, he fell off the wagon, climbed onto the roof of Black's Pharmacy, slipped through an air duct, and began his adventure. Retirement had obviously made Vinny rusty. He almost broke his leg gaining entry, and he set off the alarm. Knowing the jig was up, Vinny climbed into the codeine cough syrup. A number of bottles later the police showed, Vinny wouldn't come out, so they sic'd the dogs on him.

A day later the courts let him out until his trial. He borrowed \$10. from Mr. Quinn, the pharmacist who owns Black's Drugstore, and carried on.

Six days later, *he did it again!* Black's Pharmacy. Set off the alarm trying to break out! True story. Ask any of the advertisers in this sheet. *Cont'd, over*

What was it like before crowbars were invented? Crows had to drink at home.

Every morning for the past 5 months, I announce I'm going for a jog and then I don't. It's my longest running joke of the year.

Teaching your kids black jack is a great way for them to learn addition. Until their 3rd grade teacher asks "what's 8 + 8?" and they answer "I'm gonna split them".

The swordfish has no natural predators to fear from... ..except the penfish, which is supposed to be even mightier.

Kamloops drug alert

Interior Health is warning about a drug commonly known as DOWN. Samples contain high amounts of medetomidine and fentanyl.

The drug is purple or pink chunks and pebble, being sold as Down, Dope, Tranq, Fentanyl.

It contains Medetomidine (16%) — a very strong non-opioid tranquilizer— much stronger than xylazine (200x) — and Fentanyl (29%).

Medetomidine slows down breathing and heart rate and can make overdoses longer and more complicated. It is potentially dangerous to the heart.

The high amount of fentanyl increases risk of fatal overdose. The combination of fentanyl and medetomidine can lead to significant sedation. Overdose symptoms may last beyond administration of naloxone.

Drug checking is available at ASK Wellness, and Interior Health MHSU, 100-235 Lansdowne, Kamloops, Mon-Thurs 8am-6pm, 250-377-6500.

Community

Wildlife & conservation in Colombia

Nicola Naturalist Society president & local biologist Alan Burger will present highlights of his recent visit. Colombia has the highest biodiversity of any country including almost 2,000 bird species. Along with many photos of wonderful tropical birds and other wildlife, Alan will also discuss conservation initiatives and growing eco-tourism in Colombia. Thurs May 21, 7pm at NVIT lecture theatre. All welcome, membership or donation.

Municipal open house

The City of Merritt, council and staff, invites all members of the public to attend a general Open House on Thursday May 21, 4-7pm at the Civic Centre. Comprehensive information about activities and progress in various segments of operations: water supply & systems, flood mitigation projects, road projects, development and planning projects, firesmart, emergency preparedness, recreation, finance, careers and more.

'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 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 com- *Cont'd, over*

Premier R. B. Bennett Driving Through Opening Day Banner
May 16th 1986

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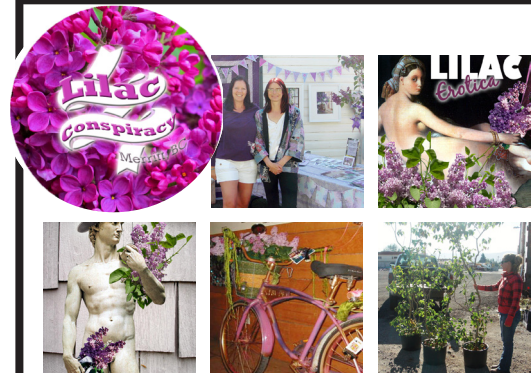
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The Lilac Conspiracy

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:

Boston Bar and Spuzzum Community Engagement Coordinator

Communications Assistant

Cook's Ferry Community Engagement Coordinator

Environment and Regulatory Coordinator

Junior n̓e?k̓épmx Coordinator (smuṭec)

Property Caretaker (Live-In)

Summer Worker - Language Support

Summer Worker - n̓e?k̓épmx Junior Land Guardian (2 Positions Available)

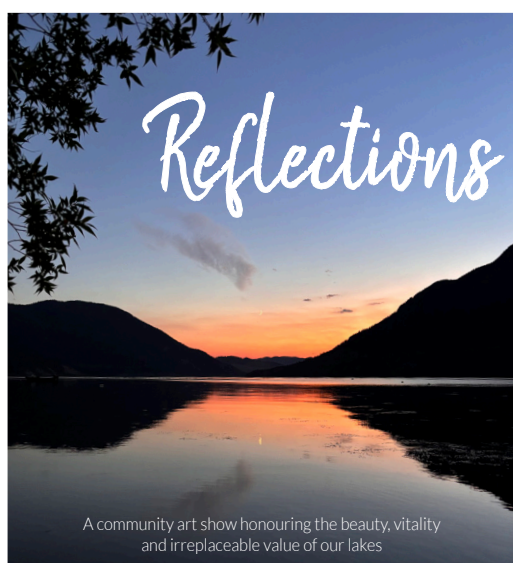
Youth Coordinator

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

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



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 Wight St., Enter beside Kwik Fill Cafe



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

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MERRITT MORNING MARKET

WEDNESDAY EDITION — MAY 20, 2026 #4234
Box 2199, Merritt, BC V1K 1B8 T: (250) 378-5717 F: (250) 378-2025 E: market@uniserve.com

Bon voyage, Vinny

continued

Anyway, Vinny came to court this last Monday (Hey LOCALS! You can come back in now, c'mon!) and after a performance by local legal aid guy, Cliff Thorstenson, Vinny went off happily with 9 months.

You shoulda been there. Thorstenson was positively brilliant! Vinny sat in the prisoner's box, hunched over contritely, his shoulders shaking almost imperceptibly (tears? laughter? I dunno ...) as Cliff carefully picked his way through Vinny's life, plucking a flower here (at age 11 Vinny received a certificate of bravery for rescuing another kid 1 from the river) - stomping some weeds there (Much of Vinny's problems resulted from hyperkinesis as a child, a condition that put him to sleep during school and kept him awake, hyper-active, all night!). I mean, as the lawyer spun out Vinny's tragic fall, broken only by flashes of saintliness, you could feel the gallery wanting to hoist Vinny atop their shoulders or, at least, set up a wave. The sniffing in court was like wind going through venetian blinds. Actual sobs broke out when Thorstenson (Gawd!: What histrionic *genius!*) mentioned that Vinny's shoe-repair shop had, itself, been burglarized! While Vinny was struggling to go straight! How in hell could *anyone* blame him for kicking in Black's and drinking all the cough syrup? I'm going to tell you something that I know you will not believe, and it's this. Cliff Thorstenson, homespun, deferential, pony-tailed WHIP ... turned the Judge, Judge Gordon, into *the church lady!* I looked up at the bench and thought I was having one of those 60s flashbacks - Cliffs heart-wrenching tale had actually transformed the Judge's face into a very likeness of the church lady.

Call me what you will; say it's unconscionable bullshit *but I know what I saw*. In the end Vinny received 9 months jail time, 18 months probation, and he is barred from Canadian rooftops for a period of 1 yr after his release. Cliff Thorstenson received 2 Hollywood offers & a feeler from Stratford.

—Gordon Cockle, Merritt Morning Mirror, #45, July 12, 1995

Community *continued*

munity-wide garage sale. Live music; browse and buy bargain finds, stay for the community atmosphere! Sign up to be a vendor free of charge, limited to 2 spots, contact the TNRD Solid Waste and Recycling Department at 250-377-2596, or recycleright@tnrd.ca

NV Arts Council plein air painting

The plein air painting event led by artists Linda Suzuki and Vanessa Trenholm will be held May 23, 9:30am-3pm, at a secret location at Nicola Lake! You will receive all the art materials required for a Plein Air activity. Please bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket, lunch, appropriate outdoor clothing and sun protection. The two artists will guide you through the process of watercolour painting outdoors. Registration required www.nicolavalleyarts.com/programs/adults/

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

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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PORTABLE washing machine, to use without plumbing, attaches to kitchen sink, brnd nw. \$350. I can deliver to you house. Cecilia 315-0022

WINDOW AC unit. \$50 315-5946

ENERGUIDE freezer, 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

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

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2008 VICTORY Hammer motorcycle, lw miles, cherry/chrome, big tire in back, beautiful cruiser \$7000. Greg 315-7525

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PLEIN AIR EVENT "REFLECTIONS"

Join us at the Art Gallery parking lot at 9:30am for directions to our secret Nicola Lake location.

SATURDAY MAY 23RD 9:30-3PM

Bring a lawn chair or blanket, lunch, water, a portable easel or table, and sun protection.

All art materials provided!

Learn from local artists!

Ages 16+

Free! Register at nicolavalleyarts.com
Info: president@nicolavalleyarts.com

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ROOM for rent, 1 room, sep. bth, util incl \$700, on Hwy 8 315-0109

2-BDRM ground level, near-nw, util. incl, priv. entrnce, own prkng, n/p, May 15 1601 Bann 378-2047

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