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Available at local businesses in Lantzville and North Nanaimo.

Deadline for listing is 20th of the month.

Community Event Listings are FREE

Email: info@thelog.ca Ph: 250.729.6405 Mail: The Log Box 268, Lantzville, BC, V0R 2H0  
Editor: Chalmers Whitelaw, Graphics Designer: Julie Winkel

"BLOG" them... [www.thelog.ca](http://www.thelog.ca) Visit our website and BLOG the local issues.

# Snow doubt about it ...it's a white Christmas!



Allen Hepples



The Editor


### LANTZVILLE WEATHER

-B. Blood

8:00 pm Dec 20th - LOG deadline. It is minus 5.6 and snowing. It has not been higher than minus 5 all day. This morning's low, and probably the low for 2008, was minus 11.4 celsius. This has been the 7th consecutive day that the daily high has not gone above freezing. And tomorrow is the first day of winter. The low for 2007 was minus 5.8 and there were no days that did not thaw in the afternoon. Everyone is talking about winters gone by and we know that these conditions can occur when the jet stream is off-shore and arctic outflows come to remind us we are part of Canada after all. However, it has been at least 20 years since we have experienced lows like these over this many consecutive days. I know because I have been growing palms, gingers, phormium, dracaenas, figs, fatsia, hibiscus syriacus and Italian cypresses out of doors for that long. The bananas are under deep mulch as are the gunnera but the rest are on their own. It will be interesting to see what has survived by spring. Before the snow started our precipitation was only 23.52 inches for 2008 so it seems likely our total for this year will be well under 30 inches. Last year we had 41 inches, which, interestingly, is Nanaimo's official average. Here are some averages of other locations to compare: Osoyoos 10 inches, Edmonton 18 inches, New York 42, San Francisco 20, London UK 24, Victoria BC 29, Beunos Aires 39 and Sydney Australia 47.5. Snow is converted at a depth ratio of ten to one, which is not always as accurate as melting but quicker.



Leland Road December 20, 2008



## POLAR BEAR SWIM

12 noon  
January 1, 2009  
Location: bottom of Harper Road



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*Happy Holidays Lantzville!*

Again as the year draws to a close, I am reminded how very fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place.

It is my absolute pleasure to continue to serve the community of Lantzville and I thank you for all of your support and referrals.



**Emmanuel Lint,**  
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**JANUARY 2009**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**FEBRUARY**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**Jan 1, 2009 New Years Day**  
**Jan 1, 2009 12 NOON**  
Polar Swim-bottom of Harper Road

**Jan 11 at 2 PM**  
St. Philip's By-The-Sea-Tea & Concert. Dixie Down Beat Jazz Band will be playing a wonder assortment of New Orleans Jazz. Tickets at Black Dog & Good Old Book Exchange or Reserve by

phone 250-390-2278 Tickets \$10 or \$12 at the door

**Fun accapella mixed choir**  
**Jan 13** Tues nites 7-9PM. St Philip's.  
\$8 drop-in or \$25/4 wk series. No singing experience needed. FMI Shirley at 390-1182.

**Feb 14 Valentine's Day**

**Are you a secret singer? Scared to sing? Want to sing?**  
EverybodySings!, led by Shirley Whitelaw and Cyndi Jackelman is a lively, supportive group of people who enjoy singing for its own sake. They enable members to learn a diverse repertoire that includes traditional melodies, folk songs and chants from all over the world, taught and sung in the oral tradition. There are no auditions; no experience or sight-reading is necessary. Just sing! This lively mixed group of all ages invites you to "join the joy" Tuesdays from 7-9 pm at St Philip's Anglican Church. Fees are only \$25 for 4 weeks or \$8 drop-in, \$4 for under-waged.

**The Amalgam-Eighters' Square and Round Dance Club**

**Jan 3 7:15 PM** Amalgam-Eighters Square and Round Dance Club will host their Pie and Ice Cream Dance at Lantzville Community Hall. All Singing Calls with the Wrights.

**Jan 17 7:15 PM** Amalgam-Eighters Square and Round Dance Club will hold their regular dance at Lantzville Community Hall. For information, call Laverne, 250-751-8211

**Feb 7 7:15 PM** Amalgam-Eighters Square and Round Dance Club will host their regular dance at Lantzville Community Hall.

**Feb 21 7:15 PM** Amalgam-Eighters Square and Round Dance Club dance will host their Sweetheart Dance at Lantzville Community Hall. Sweetheart Couple for 2009 will be announced. Cake, berries and ice cream will be served. All singing calls. For information on the above events, call Laverne, 250-751-8211.



Lantzville landmark - bush boat?

**Seaside Community Society**  
-By Julie Hustwick

**Costin Hall activities:**  
Some people need snow to get them into the Christmas spirit, so for those of you in that category, I hope you got your fill of the recent snow fall and Big freeze. Now for the rest of us, I think we would appreciate getting back to normal weather, and see the green grass again, and maybe even some rain.

The Christmas party at Costin Hall on the 7th went well, with a very good attendance. The turkey dinner, pre-

pared by the Guide and Brownie Organization, was outstanding, as usual. The girls served us well, and later entertained us with some enjoyable carolling. Pres. Barb DeJonghe presented the Organization with a cash donation to assist the Guides and Brownies in their many activities around the country.

Carpet bowling will take a Christmas break and resume January 6th, 2009.

Wishing all you members and readers of The Log a very happy and healthy New Year.

**Church Events**

*Trinity United Church*  
6234 Spartan Road, Nanaimo  
Rev. Peggy Jenson  
Ph: 390-2513  
11 AM Sunday Service & Sunday School Program

*St Philip's Anglican Church*  
7113 Lantzville Road, Lantzville  
Ph: 390-3641  
Sunday Services  
8 AM Holy Communion  
10 AM Holy Communion & Sunday School / Music  
**Dec. 14 at 7 PM**  
Candles, Carols and Drama.

*Lantzville Heritage Church*  
10 AM Sunday Worship  
7244 Lantzville Road, Lantzville  
Ph: 390-3679

**Sunday January 4 - 10 AM**  
Our guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Hudson and Sunday School downstairs for the children.

**Friday January 9 - 3 PM**  
Come and help undecorate the church and at 5 PM a pot-luck Perogie supper will be held downstairs in the church hall.

**Sunday January 11 - 10 AM**  
Holy Communion Service and Sunday School.

**Sunday January 18 - 10 AM**  
Worship service and Sunday School.

**Sunday January 25 - 10 AM**  
Worship service and Sunday School.

Coffee and fellowship downstairs after worship. All are welcome.

**Nanaimo Family History Society**  
**General Meeting**  
**Beban Park Social Center**  
**Jan. 19 2009. 7:00 PM**  
Speaker: René Cusson  
Topic: Spanish John - Jacobite and Loyalist.  
Visitors Welcome.

**Marvin Ray Cain**  
March 3, 1943 - November 30, 2008 Marvin Cain, adored husband and father passed away peacefully on Nov 30, 2008. Dearly missed by his wife Bonnie; his children: Brenda (Jim), James (Carla), Jennifer (Mike), Tammy and Buddy. Marvin is survived by 10 grandchildren, 3 siblings: Trudy, Candy and Hank; along with numerous nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held Sunday, December 7, 2008 at the Royal Canadian Legion, in Lantzville, BC. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Parrot Refuge (Coombs, BC) in loving memory of Marvin Cain.

50th ANNIVERSARY Lantzville Legion Branch #257 (1958 - 2008)

Legion News - Isabel McEwan



Special Events:

Tickets are on sale in the lounge now for the following upcoming events:

- a) New Years Eve Dinner & Dance, music by "Moondog"
  - b) 250th Celebration Rabbie Burns Dinner & Dance.
- Be sure to get your tickets early; don't be disappointed. Lantzville Legion has had a very successful year, which has allowed us to help our Youth Groups, Charities and the Community Services.

We encourage you to visit our branch and enjoy the many activities we provide.

Seasons Greetings from Lantzville Legion. At the General Meeting On Monday December 15th. President Cde. Roy Cardinal expressed his thanks to the Executive and members who supported the branch throughout the past year. Elections were also held at this meeting to elect our 2009 Executive.

Incoming Executive are as follows:

President Ken Gourlay; 1st. VP Barry Ostrand; 2nd VP Kim Reid; Secretary Annemarie Smith; Treasurer Lori Skelcher; Members at large; Georgina Rosewall; Staniz Perry; Jean Brown; Liz Breingan; Ron Bowman; Trevor Peters; Ron Jones; Joan McVey. Zone Delegates: Isabel McEwan; Liz Breingan

**Lantzville Legion Branch #257**  
7227 Lantzville Road, Lantzville  
250-390-2841 - Pres. Cde. Roy Cardinal

*Seasons Greetings to all our Members and Guests!*

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: Pool and Bridge  
Wednesday: Darts • Pool • Crib  
Thursday: Open  
Friday: Shuffleboard 7pm  
Sundays: (2nd & 4th). Giant Crib

**Coming Events**

\* New Years Eve Dinner & Dance • Music by "Moondog" Tickets on sale now in the lounge. January 24th, 2009 250th Anniversary Celebration "Rabbie Burns" Dinner & Dance Tickets on sale now in the lounge.

**New Years hours of operation**  
Closed at 5:30 New Years Eve  
Closed New Years Day

Lounge Opens Tuesday - Sunday @ 1pm  
Closed Mondays  
Meat Drows every Saturday 3:30 - 6pm.  
"Mini-Meals" available most Saturdays

Aspengrove School



Lantzville, British Columbia - December 12, 2008

Aspengrove School's 'Make A Difference' Club students spent their Saturday decorating the Pediatric Ward and lobby of the Pain Clinic at NRGH for the holidays for the enjoyment of patients and staff.

-photo courtesy Aspengrove School

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Helen's Kitchen by Susan Crayston



- 2 cans of consommé and water to make 1 quart
- 1 cup white wine
- French bread
- Grated mozzarella cheese

Sauté the onion in the butter. Add flour, salt, pepper, garlic and sugar. Cook over medium heat until the onions are yellow. Add parsley, thyme, consommé, water and wine. Simmer 45 minutes.

Toast French bread and butter it. Place in the bottom of each dish, sprinkle it with cheese; add the soup and then more cheese. Broil until bubbly.

Well, what with the weather and all, I am slower than I would like getting my recipe in. However, here we go. I just thought this sounded tasty and in the winter, nothing is better than a good soup.

FRENCH ONION SOUP

- 4 onions, sliced
- 1 tsp. Each thyme and parsley, chopped
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp flour
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 clove of garlic (I would use a bit more)
- 6 tsp. Sugar

The Progression of Alzheimer's Disease  
Thursday, January 29, 2009  
7 pm to 8 pm (PST)

It's easy to take part!

To register:

- Online go to [www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org), scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Caregivers Can Learn From Home", then follow the links to the Care-ring website.
- By Phone call Care-ring at 1-866-396-2433. After you register, a representative will call a few days before the workshop with details about participating by phone.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease? This free, one-hour telephone workshop from the Alzheimer Society allows you to learn from the comfort of home! Designed for family caregivers, the workshop will help you prepare for the journey with dementia by understanding the way Alzheimer's disease unfolds, and the kinds of symptoms and reactions that are likely to arise.

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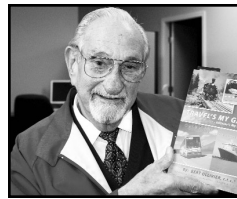


Walker Bell and Daniel Aysals - Grade 6 students at Aspengrove School donated part of their weekend to the Salvation Army's Kettle Campaign. The photo is of the boys (Saturday, Dec. 6th) just outside the new Country Grocer in Chase River.

**ROTARY CLUB OF LANTZVILLE - Bert Ollivier**



'Twas the night before the night before big Santa came to visit my house right while I was writing this column for the January 1st issue of The Lantzville Log. And, what a night it was! Just right for reindeer to park in the snowy driveways of excited kids waiting for dear old Santa to visit the homes of good children. It's been snowing in Lantzville and Nanaimo in huge quantities and should keep coming like Santa will never have seen before. We usually get rain at this time of year. I was hoping the nice old guy would visit me because even though I'm an old guy, I like to think and act like a kid, especially at this time of the year. Gee, I hope he remembers me. Kids, perhaps you'll find out if he did indeed remember me. I promise to let you know in the February 1st issue, so stay tuned!



There was not much to report about Rotary happenings during December. Most important event was when Santa made a pre-Christmas, specially arranged appearance at Costin Hall. Members of Rotary Club of Lantzville were very pleased when Santa accepted the invitation to join them on the morning of Saturday, December 13th. About 100 or more parents and children enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast complete with all the trimmings including, of course, gobs and gobs of maple syrup. The real action came when dear old Santa Claus himself made his pre-Christmas appearance. The squeals of delight were heard all over the neighbourhood from the many kids looking forward to talking in person with the venerable, cuddly, ageless "old" guy! Many whispers could be heard, some faint and some louder when Santa's knee was occupied by good kid after good kid, all sharing their special Christmas wishes with him. Did I actually see an adult lady on his knee once? Yes, I did, but I'll never tell who it was. What happens at a Christmas party stays at a Christmas party! Remember that kids, especially when you get older!

When I reported earlier that not much Rotary business took place in December I wasn't kidding. Our Lantzville Club had only two regular breakfast meetings, December 4 and 11. There was, however, a Christmas dinner meeting and party celebrated and enjoyed at Nanaimo's Grand Hotel on December 2nd. Amiable Jamal Youssef put the evening together. As GM of Dairy Queen in Woodgrove Mall, Jamal is thoroughly experienced in handling food events. Jamal, however, not only arranged the food part of the evening but he set up a comedy routine for the enjoyment of all. Entertainment also included a silent auction, which turned out to be a very important part of the evening. Always helpful Jim Tucker ably assisted Jamal by making sure as many members attended as possible. The silent auction was a good moneymaker for the Rotary coffers. The auction raised \$2,684. More was arbitrarily added to that amount to make a total of \$3,000 which has since been divided into grants of \$750 each for the Salvation Army, Loaves and Fishes, 7-10, and Haven House; all very good charitable causes. The regular Thursday meetings of December 18 and 25 were cancelled; the 18th because of heavy snow and the 25th for obvious reasons!

Many avenues of generous activity continue as the Rotary Club of Lantzville looks forward to serving Lantzville, Nanaimo and other communities in Rotary ways. If any of my vast readership would like information on how to join Rotary, just call Robert Grose at 250-729-0904. Robert is the present membership Chair.

*Bert Ollivier, a CTC emeritus (Certified Travel Counsellor) is a Rotarian, a published journalist and author of this column. He's been in the travel industry non stop, since 1946! His new book "TRAVEL's MY GAME" is available at select book stores and on Bert's website: www.trafford.com/07-0448 or order toll free: 1-888-232-4444.*

**LANTZVILLE FARMING -FOOD AND THE ALR**

*-B Blood*

Ted and Patty Miller raise a small herd of beef cattle and operate a bed and breakfast on their agricultural acreage in Pleasant Valley which straddles Doumont Rd and overlooks Brannen Lake. They also have a large vegetable garden and grow a portion of their own food. They have never applied to have their land removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Jim and Rhonda Dickinson own the largest single piece of ALR land in Lantzville, a 38.9 acre plot, including the dog kennels, on Lantzville Rd. They too have some beef cattle and a vegetable garden.

The Dickinson's have applied, unsuccessfully, to have their land removed from the ALR. It might be expected that these couples would have radically divergent views on the ALR, its purpose and application. What is

surprising is how similar their assessments of the ALR and suburban farming are.

They all agree that the mission of the ALR as envisioned by the province in the mid 70s was correct. B.C. has too many people on too little arable land for food security to be left entirely to chance and market forces. There is also general agreement that once the legislation had defined and identified what was to be agricultural land for perpetuity, government dropped the ball and did nothing more to support a viable economy on these lands. Initially there was the apparent unfairness to farmers in 1974 who found they were condemned to the hard labour and relative poverty of farming while their quicker neighbors, who had sold out for urban development in 1973, were retiring to Palm Springs. Since then, continental and global economies of scale, encouraged by free trade rules, have seen more of the food types that were grown here imported from California and elsewhere as chain food stores bought into agribusiness contracts that provided reliability and lower costs thus reducing demand for local produce and further weakening the viability of small farms.

Government regulation at all levels have also hit farmers in their shrinking pocketbooks. For example, when the province upgraded the health and safety regulations of beef processing, they inadvertently put many of the local abattoirs, who could not afford expenses like separate washrooms and facilities for the government inspectors, out of business. This forced many smaller beef farmers, like the Millers and the Dickinsons, to transport their cattle further and wait longer for processing, sometimes months. A number of small beef farmers on the Island have simply given up. The Millers are still using an abattoir whose owner is fighting the regulations. ...cont next issue



*The Log is running a series of articles on local farmers and the Agricultural Land Reserve. More information may be found on The Log website along with a 'blog' for you to express your views.*

**CARRY ON COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2008

-B. Blood

**INAUGURAL MEETING**

Perhaps it was the parliamentary crisis in Ottawa or the TSEs plunge of 860 points that day or the fact that council was being re-inaugurated after a somewhat ignored election or maybe it was just the late autumnal darkness that induced a touch of gloom in this, the third inaugural meeting of Lantzville's municipal government. The upbeat mayor Colin Haime did his best to lift spirits. The audience included Chief David Bob and two councillors from neighboring Nanoose First Nations. Present also were the families of veteran councillor Brian Dempsey and newly elected councillor Rod Negrave. RCMP constables Martin Kortas and Katie Butler provided a ceremonial presence for the occasion in their dress uniforms.

**SWEARING IN**

Inaugural meetings require the swearing in of the oaths of office. Council consisted largely of the same persons as the outgoing group except for the electoral loss of Susan Crayston and the addition of Rod Negrave. Chief Administrative Officer, Twyla Graff, administered the oaths of office.

**APPOINTMENTS**

It is traditional but not required that the mayor be appointed as Lantzville's representative on the Regional District of Nanaimo board of directors. Council opted for the tradition and also named Councillor Dempsey as the alternative at the RDN when the mayor cannot attend. The regional library board position from Lantzville was assigned to Councillor Denise Haime for three years. Outgoing councillor Susan Crayston had previously held this appointment. Councillor Dempsey was appointed to the three-year term as Lantzville's voting delegate to the Municipal Insurance Association. Councillors Griffey and Parkhurst will be alternates to that board. Councillor Dempsey, was also appointed to the City of Nanaimo Parks Recreation and Culture Commission for a three year term. Councillor Negrave will be the alternate for that position. Lantzville residents use many of the city's facilities and our taxpayers have assisted with grants to the Port Theatre, the Convention Centre and the skateboard park at Schook and Lantzville roads.

**CAKE**

Cake and decaf were provided for the reception that followed in the council chamber.

COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2008

-B. Blood

**KNARSTON CREEK**

The Knarston Creek Working Group, comprised of residents in the neighborhood occasionally troubled by high water during combinations of high tide and heavy creek flows in winter, presented some of their findings to council. Co-Chair Darrell Mayzes described the investigations the group undertook and concluded that the long-standing plan for a culvert down Benwaldun Rd to the beach was still the best option to provide relief from the periodic flooding. The group made further recommendations regarding funding the project. Council's plan was to identify the properties affected by the flooding, create a Local Service Area for these properties, apply for a government grant and meet the shortfall by having these same property owners pay through a number of options much like the sewer servicing is being done. The problem for these residents is that the number of residents is fairly small, and that put to a vote, the high cost per property would possibly cause the initiative to be rejected. Thus they suggested that: the District of Lantzville use some of the gas tax funds that the municipality receives from the province; or that the Local Service Area be enlarged to include the 260 or so properties located in the Knarston Creek watershed; or that the District pay the costs through general revenue as part of future storm water management plans for all of the municipality. Council received the report and will study it.

**PHASE 2 SEWER GOES TO TENDER**

Council voted to proceed to tendering the next phase of Lantzville's sewer servicing based on the reduced number of 208 residential connections and the routing of some collectors via easements through backyards.

Originally the District had identified 320 connections for this phase but the province asked that this be scaled back and awarded a grant of \$3.2 million for a project estimated to cost \$4.8 million for the smaller number of connections instead of the estimated cost of \$6.7million for the 320 connections. District staff had recommended that all public works involved in this project be located on District property which would entail a higher total cost because pumping would be required. Council opted to try for a cheaper gravity system, which will require getting easements through some of the properties served. This will be a test of the old axiom that the best way to keep taxes down is to be good neighbors.

**VARIANCE EASES CATCH 22**

The district has bylaws restricting house heights from ground level. The RDN has bylaws regarding how high your foundation must be from ground level in certain areas such as floodplains and the waterfront. Any normal two-storey house can be squeezed out of any semblance of reasonable design between these requirements. Until adjustments are made to one or both of these bylaws, residents building in these areas must apply to the District for a variance. A property owner on a waterfront lot off Lantzville Road successfully made a case for a variance under these circumstances.


**DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

The above noted position was vacated in February of this year and Chief Admin Officer Twyla Graff assumed the function and title until a new person could be hired. Jedha Holmes, a certified accountant, was sworn in to the position of Deputy Director of Financial Services at this meeting. CAO Graff remains Director of Financial Services.

**New Year's Resolutions:**

1. I will no longer waste my time relieving the past, instead I will spend it worrying about the future.
2. I will not bore my boss by with the same excuse for taking leaves. I will think of some more excuses.

3. I will do less laundry and use more deodorant.
4. I will avoid taking a bath whenever possible and conserve more water.
5. I resolve to work with neglected children -- my own.



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**DISTRICT OF LANTZVILLE  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
2009 GRANT IN AID APPLICATION**



Please be advised that Council of the District of Lantzville will entertain applications for Grants in Aid for the 2009 calendar year. Applications must be completed and submitted to the undersigned no later than Friday, January 30, 2009. Application forms, including guidelines may be obtained from the District of Lantzville Office, 7192 Lantzville Road, or you may download an application from the District of Lantzville's website [www.lantzville.ca](http://www.lantzville.ca).  
Any inquiries – please call the District Office at 250-390-4006 or email: [donna@lantzville.ca](mailto:donna@lantzville.ca)

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**The children are (left to right) David Copley, Jean Anne Copley and John Blood.**  
This 40 lb spring salmon was caught off Myron Rd by George Copley (junior) and Robbie Husband in the early 50s. It was too large to get in the boat so they beached the boat in front of the Copley home and landed the fish onshore.



## Hurford District Girl Guides -By Pia Pedersen

### Happy New Year!

The holiday season this year was very white, much to the delight of our youngest citizens.

The time to relax and celebrate ended so quickly, as it always does. Now we must all return to our usual daily lives. Despite a fun and relaxing holiday break, we missed our Guiding friends and are happy to reconnect in the new year. We have so many exciting plans and our enthusiastic girls can't wait to get started! Our entire district had the honour of helping with the annual Lantzville Seaside Community Christmas dinner held at Costin Hall. Pathfinders came early and set up tables, and then Guides joined them to serve the dinner. After a delicious meal, the younger girls, Brownies and Sparks, joined the older girls in singing Christmas carols for the dinner guests. The girls' voices rang sweetly through the hall and put the whole crowd in the Christmas spirit. Thanks to the LSCS for inviting us.

The Sparks learned and played together with crafts and games and held their own Christmas party. It was very special for the youngsters to meet and perform with the big kids at the LSCS dinner. Those older girls are so cool, something to aspire to! This month they will work on earning their Keeper badges. The Brownies spent much of their time in the fall and winter working on science projects, learning about the world around them and how it works, such as why popcorn pops, what bubbles are, how electricity charges and the planets. The girls also learned how to use a sewing machine and made Christmas ornaments. This month they will work on first aid, household chores and using tools.

Guides also got busy making Christmas crafts. They made Christmas cards that they sent off to Trefoil Guild members (adult members of Girl Guides). Some girls were pleasantly surprised to receive replies from the ladies.

Pathfinders continue to work hard at learning new skills and bettering themselves. As part of the learning process, several girls organized and hosted a Christmas party for the unit. Despite how much work it was for the organizers, everyone enjoyed having time to just visit and have fun! This spring, the girls are looking forward to organizing more parties, some outdoor challenges and camping.

Hurford District held a district wide family skating event on December 27. It was good to get out and stretch the legs after all those goodies and also heartwarming to see the girls and their families enjoying themselves together.

Guides and Brownies are excited to be attending a sleepover at Science World at the beginning of February. This will be a Mid Island Area event for Brownies and Guides.

As a final note this month; Hurford District Girl Guides wishes to extend our most sincere thanks to Teresa Hamilton, who has very graciously served as treasurer for our entire district the last four years. It is a big job and we truly do appreciate all of the effort she has put in. As of this January, Teresa is "hanging up" her books. Thank you, Teresa. We are looking forward to working with a new treasurer soon.

Girl Guides of Canada always need more volunteers, no daughter needed! We provide mentoring and pay for training, so it's an excellent opportunity to have some fun while learning new skills. If you are a university student, credit may be given for volunteering with Girl Guides. Please give us a call if this sounds good to you.

For more information, to register or volunteer, contact Johanna Scott, Commissioner, Hurford District Girl Guides, 250-390-1085. To learn more about Girl Guides, go to [www.bc-girlguides.org](http://www.bc-girlguides.org) or [www.girlguides.ca](http://www.girlguides.ca).



## Lantzville Fire & Rescue Department

**Emergency 911**  
**Non-Emergency 250-390-2811**

Your fire department has come of age and will be producing regular articles in The Log to keep you informed of our activities within the community, to present monthly "Safety Tips", and to provide a forum where you, the public, can have your safety concerns addressed.

The Lantzville Fire Department consists of twenty-three highly motivated volunteers who are on call 24/7 to protect life, property, and the environment. We deal with 1st responder medical aid, traffic accidents, and both structure and wildland interface fire control. Last year we handled 121 separate calls consisting of 70% medical aid, 20% traffic accidents, and 10% fire. Thankfully, there were no fatalities this year.

In addition to these calls, we serve the community in a variety of other ways including Minetown Days, fire-works on Hallowe'en, Muscular Dystrophy fundraising boot drives, a garage sale, Remembrance Day services, various Legion Hall activities, fire hall open house days, school presentations and fire drills, public education, and anything else that deals with the safety concerns in the community of Lantzville.

As you can see, we are a very busy crew and we are in need of new recruits to help fulfill the many

demands on our small organization. We meet every Thursday night at 7 pm for practice and anyone interested in becoming a firefighter, whether male or female, young or old is welcome to attend. We even have a husband and wife team! You will be expected to attend most Thursday night practices, to take call for emergency response, to volunteer for various community activities and to attend some special weekend seminars and live fire training sessions throughout the year. If you think you are up to the challenge, then please come to the fire hall on Thursday nights. Become involved and enjoy the camaraderie. As an incentive, you will be paid a small stipend annually based on the number of practices and call-outs attended.

We look forward to seeing you down at the hall and to reading your suggestions or comments. Please address these to [lfd@live.ca](mailto:lfd@live.ca)

### Safety Tip

**Chimney Fires:** Ensure that the wood you are burning is dry (it should not bubble or hiss when burning). You should have your chimney inspected twice per year. Also, don't dampen down the fire too much or too often without burning a hot fire to minimize the creosote build-up in your chimney. Call 911 quickly if your chimney begins to roar. Your house and your life are at risk!

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas.

*Author Unknown*

**LIFESTYLE** by Emmanuel Lint

**I resolve to open a TFSA**



And if you need to withdraw some RRSP dollars for emergency use, you'll pay a tax penalty. A TFSA will allow you to have tax-free emergency funds on hand and you can later move your tax-free TFSA funds into your RRSP when your income is higher and the RRSP deduction is more valuable.

It's coming up to the time of year for making resolutions and a good one for almost anybody looking for financial security - and some solid tax breaks, too - is to open a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA).

TFSA's will become available to Canadians in the 2009 taxation year. This new tax-free option is a flexible, general-purpose savings vehicle into which you can make an annual non-deductible contribution (up to \$5,000 per adult in 2009) that will grow without incurring taxation.

Withdrawals can be made at any time for any purpose and are also exempt from taxation. Unused contribution room can be carried forward indefinitely and any amounts withdrawn in a year will be added back to your contribution room for the following year.

Here are just a few ways that you can put a TFSA to the best use for you:

- ◆ A source of emergency funds The rule of thumb is to set aside an emergency fund equal to three months of your after-tax income. A TFSA gives you an easily accessible source of tax-free emergency money that can be paid back to your TFSA without penalty once the 'emergency' is over.
- ◆ An addition to your RRSP If you are in a lower tax bracket, you may have a small amount of RRSP contribution room that will not deliver much of a tax benefit.

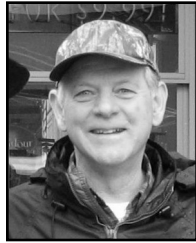
- ◆ Saving for a home Under the Home Buyers Plan (HBP) you can withdraw money from your RRSP for a down payment - but there is a \$20,000 limit on withdrawals, a fixed repayment schedule and strict eligibility requirements, including meeting the definition of 'first-time home buyer'. Alternatively, you can choose to save for a home through your TFSA and still enjoy the tax-free benefits without the restrictions of a HBP.
- ◆ Saving to start a business A TFSA can be a tax-effective way to save the initial equity required to start a business. And unlike RRSPs, a TFSA can be used for security when obtaining bank financing.

There are plenty of other TFSA strategies that could work for you. Your professional advisor can help you make the best choices for your situation.

*This column is provided by Emmanuel Lint from Investors Group. It is presented as a general source of information only and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell investments, nor is it intended to provide professional advice including, without limitation, investment, financial, legal, accounting or tax advice.*

**A VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE** - by Lloyd Erickson

**TALK TO THE ANIMALS**



Our farm animals know my routine well. After all, they taught me. One evening recently, when I went to feed the sheep, one of the ewes was standing in the stall. This is more than a mere nuisance because the sheep inevitably try to push past me to find the mother lode of sheep feed in the barn, or they just about knock me over in their enthusiasm to get at their dish. So I asked her to get out of the way, using the time-proven expletive: "hoosha, hoosha". The ewe dutifully left the barn and let me close the door.

I don't know why but many animals seem to know that a loud "hoosha hoosha" means "get out of the way". I have seen it work with sheep, with horses, and with cows. No, I was not brandishing a big stick at the time.

The first time I heard the words being used was about 30 years ago in the central Cariboo. We were driving down a very rural road and a herd of steers blocked the way. My friend rolled down his window and shouted "hoosha, hoosha". And he banged the side of the truck. "That's the way we do it back home," he said, by way of explanation. And the steers did move. They did so on their own time.... but they did get out of the way.

There are lots of examples of communicating with our pets. My cat has a particular "meow" she uses when she's hungry. If I tell her "Go away. You are just a cat", she will stop bothering me for a while. At least a minute, anyway. But if I ignore her totally, she will keep bugging me until I feed her. Who has got who trained? Our terrier in particular listens to everything we say. She particularly likes to go for car rides, and is tuned into clues when we are getting ready to go out.

Invariably she is waiting at the door. But, if we don't want to take her we just tell her "No, you are not coming today" and the dog goes and lies down in her bed. In obvious disappointment I might add.

Birds are particularly interactive, I expect because they are very vocal themselves. We have a parakeet that seems to like being talked to, and listens tentatively when I whistle. It can imitate a wolf whistle perfectly and uses a whistle when it wants some attention. People really respond to this bird and try to get him to talk. Invariably, people will say things that they want the bird to repeat back. They will say "Hello, Tango, hello Tango." Now I will mention that Tango is a very intelligent bird. I wonder if people consider what Tango thinks when they try to get him to respond? Is he going to repeat some of the funny things they want him to say? He's probably thinking "If that person sticks his finger in my cage I'll bite him." If you talked to him like he is intelligent he might respond. If you ask him his name, he just might say "Hello, my name is Tango." If he says nothing, maybe he is just telling us that we are not treating him with enough respect!

I have heard quite a few people use the "hoosha, hoosha" command when calling to animals to get them to move. I had the feeling that this was a very common expression. So I tried looking in the dictionary. No luck. I guess the expression doesn't hit the New York Times frequently enough to be considered a new word. Maybe the people I heard using the expression all came from the same community. Then I Googled "hoosha hoosha" to see if it exists anywhere, elsewhere. I won't tell you what the internet says, not because I can't, but because it would take so long. The Google browser got 5010 hits!

We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential.  
-Ellen Goodman

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A happy New Year! Grant that I  
May bring no tear to any eye  
When this New Year in time shall end  
Let it be said I've played the friend,  
Have lived and loved and labored here,  
And made of it a happy year.  
-Edgar Guest

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Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
-Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850

Youth is when you're allowed to stay  
up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age  
is when you're forced to.  
-Bill Vaughn

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**LIFE ALONG THE TIDE LINE** -Bradley Wolvergreen Thomas

Another Fall is ending and Winter knocks at the door. I like the beach in the winter, the snow can put a calm on the beach like no other time of the year. Sure the winter brings storms, but the calms can be just as invigorating. Standing on the point, holding my ground



as an ocean storm shoots icy spray into my face the energy is too much to absorb effectively. However, standing on the same point while it is snowing, on a slack tide, without wind is probably the easiest opportunity for anyone to experience being truly "In the moment". Something author Annie Dillard would have called "Petting the puppy", a moment in which the observer truly becomes able to transcend time, losing all awareness of thought, in a state of pure being; the observer at one with their environment. At that moment I hear every snowflake striking the surface of the entire Strait of Georgia. I sense the smell of the snow in the air, the sight of it everywhere, the sound of it hitting the water, the feeling of it on my cheeks and nose, the taste of the flake melting on my tongue. There, then, everything, all, forever; all in the moment, as long as it lasts. Instantaneously forever, then done.

My Mother tells a story about carrying a piece of ice off the local beach here, up to our old neighbor Dorothy Cameron. They put it in a plate, on her table and just looked at it. The seaweed suspended in the sheet of ice had the effect of the most amazing stained glass that they could imagine. The ice changed the wavelength of the light and colours of the seaweed, allowing them to truly see it in a different light. The reds showed out

against a background collage of browns and greens in a fashion that was simply stunning. Dorothy sat and drank her tea with a friend, and the two of them watched their stained glass melt. Kind of cool because glass is not a solid, but a slow moving liquid anyways.

I love showing Australians pictures of surfing in Canada. They can't believe that we paddle out with such thick wet suits on and, not to mention gloves, booties, and hoods with visor brims built right in. For a while I had a picture of two of us out at a break, having a competition of who could get the most snow piled on the top of his head while we sat floating on our surfboards waiting on waves between sets. One of us had over an inch and a half, because he hadn't ducked his head while he rode waves. The Aussies couldn't believe that the surf was worth that much effort, then I remind them that we are Canuckle Heads and then they understand.

Now I have been trying to keep up with the snow in the driveway, and I can ride my sleigh all the way down my street to the beach. The Municipality road crews have been doing a marvelous job with keeping our road plowed, and this is the most snow that I have ever seen here. Seems ironic that the beach is the easiest way to get around Lantzville, and my new "Greatest Sleigh in the World" sleigh is a converted Sportyak plastic eight-foot rowboat. The Old-timers around town can tell you about way back when they used to take horse sleighs out onto Nanoose Bay when it froze over with ice. But this is enough of this weather for me.

See you at the beach; it is here all year long.

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