



# HAPPY EASTER

Easter Sunday lands on the **17<sup>th</sup>** this year and we have the news you've been waiting for:

The IRC will be putting on the Easter Egg Hunt for the kids at **11am** that day!!

If that's not already a good enough reason to come out, **there will also be burgers and hot dogs** for everyone! (\*veggie option available\*)

See you there!

Spring has sprung and our hours at The Edge will be increasing for the warmer months ahead:

**THE EDGE'S Summer HOURS**  
as of April 01, 2022

MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
THURSDAY	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
FRIDAY	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
SATURDAY	CLOSED
SUNDAY	CLOSED

**CLOSED ON ALL STATUTORY HOLIDAYS**

### Candlelight Vigil in Support of Ukraine

To be held at the plaque leading into Donselaar Memorial Park (the ball park) from **7p-8p on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup>**.

If there is a poem, prayer(s), anything you would like to prepare or to simply chime in, you are absolutely welcome to.

*Please bring your own candles.*

We will be remaining outdoors so dress appropriately for the weather and bring something to sit on if needed. We also recommend bringing an umbrella just in case.

### The story of the memorial plaque

The plaque at the entrance to Donselaar Memorial Park is to commemorate the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during WWI. Edgewood was the site of one of the camps. This camp was located where the park is today.

Find attached an article from November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009's issue of the Valley Voice, to learn about this less known piece of Canadian history and the unveiling of the plaque.



Earth day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Did you know that there is a website completely dedicated to Earth Day with lots of helpful information on it?

Check out **earthday.org** to learn more, as well as tune into the Earth Day Live that will be streaming on there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Want to help support Ukraine but not too sure where to start?

Here are a few Canadian organizations you can donate to that are offering relief:

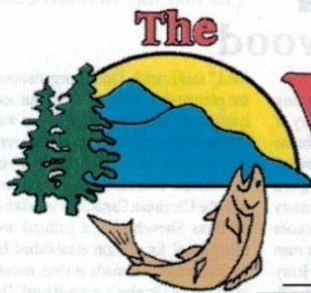
**The Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, UNICEF, Save the Children Canada, UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency), and The Canadian Red Cross** are all great options to help.

Registered charities in Canada perform valuable work in our communities, and Canadians support this work in many ways.

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Free!

# Valley VOICE

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"Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

## Fire destroys historic Woodbury Resort building

by Jan McMurray

A fire at Woodbury Resort on October 29 destroyed the main lodge, one cabin and a trailer, and damaged a three-unit motel building that is still under construction. There was also smoke damage to several trailers. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

Two staff members and some guests were in the building, but got out safely when the smoke alarm went off at about 7 am.

"It was a horrible shock, but we're back to business as usual today," reported resort owner Terry Jones the day after the fire. The resort office has moved up to an office space in the JB's Restaurant and Pub building.

Jones says he plans to build a smaller office building with some staff accommodation to replace the main lodge, and will carry on with finishing up the three-unit motel building. He hopes to have it all done by spring.

Woodbury has no fire protection, but neighbouring emergency services came to assist. Kaslo's

Fire Chief Larry Badry reports that after consulting with Mayor Greg Lay that morning, Kaslo sent out its First Responder truck. RDCK Chair Gary Wright authorized the Balfour fire department to attend with its secondary engine. Badry reports that eight members of the Kaslo department, two First Responders from Ainsworth and four members from the Balfour department responded, as well as the ambulance service and the RCMP.

Jones is very grateful for the response. "I want to thank them for going out of their way and coming and fighting it," he said. "We would have lost the new three-unit motel if they hadn't come."

RCMP reports that the cause of the fire does not seem suspicious. Jones said the only clues he could offer were that the washers and dryers in the building had been recently rebuilt, and a new photocopy machine had been installed. The washers, dryers and photocopier were all located in the south end of the main lodge, where the fire started.

The main lodge was originally two separate buildings, built by the King Solomon Mining Company in 1897. In 1938, Dr. Lester Besecker bought the property and started

adding the middle section to join the two buildings together. He planned to make a sanitarium of it. Jones finished up the middle section when he bought it and opened the resort.

The steel two-storey safe where the King Solomon Mining Company kept the silver from the mines did not burn and remains standing on the property.



A fire at Woodbury Resort on October 29 destroyed the main lodge, one cabin and a trailer, and damaged a three-unit motel building.

## BC Timber Sales helps to resolve water problems at Crescent Valley residence

by Jan McMurray

The water problems that began at a Crescent Valley residence on October 14, caused by the construction of a logging road on Mount Sentinel, continued for a little more than a week. BC Timber Sales stepped up to help resolve the problems, but residents Pam and Mike Malekow still have concerns.

"My water has still not totally cleared up," reported Pam on October 30. "I am still concerned about any long-term damage that may have occurred," commented Mike in a letter to Area H Director Walter Popoff.

The Malekows have a surface, gravity-fed water system and a well. The surface water is piped down to their property for their horses, and the well supplies the water for the household. In mid-October, while road construction was occurring in their watershed, their surface water turned brown and the well water became discoloured. Mike was away working at the time.

On October 16, Al Skakun of BC Timber Sales did a field inspection and informed Pam that some extremely fine clay had been exposed during the work, had gotten through the sediment traps they had built, and into her water system. He told her that more sediment could enter her system during the work, and offered to pay for a filter system.

By October 20, the Malekows' water had stopped flowing altogether – but the basement floor was covered in water. Pam presumed that her hot water tank had been damaged and the

water had drained out of the tank. At this point, BCTS agreed to pay a plumber to replace the hot water tank.

Malekow reports that the plumber was at the house for two days, and she took those days off work without compensation. She says the plumber repaired the pressure tank, replaced the hot water tank, did minor repairs to the sinks and toilets, and installed a filter system – with BCTS picking up the bill.

Malekow says she has to clean the filter every day. "There was a lot of sand at first, but it's getting better now," she said.

BCTS also arranged to have a water tank truck brought to the property to provide clean water for Malekow's horses. Although Malekow appreciates the effort, she says the water in the tank was full of rust. "It was dirtier than the mountain water, so I didn't use it," she said. Instead, she took buckets of well water out to the horses.

Mike came home on the weekend of October 24 and 25. On the 24th, he and Pam hiked up the mountain and did a temporary fix to their surface water line, so the water for the horses is now flowing again. She says the water is "not bad now" but does not feel entirely comfortable with her horses drinking it.

Mike also met with Skakun while he was home on the weekend, and was assured that BCTS will pay for the permanent fix to the water line in the spring.

"I met with Al Skakun (Area Forester) on October 24, 2009 at the

road building site at Mount Sentinel. He showed and explained to me all of the preventive measures that were installed after the damage they had caused was done, in hopes of protection from any further damage. Everything seemed to be in compliance with the proper road building codes, except for a drilling rig that was leaking substantial oil. If this rig remains on the job and starts working, the oil will heat up and there will be substantial leaks into the water. This is unacceptable and it must be removed or fixed," stated Mike in his email to

Director Popoff.

The ministry told us that the preventive measures – rock armouring with underlined geotextile fabric – were part of the construction prescription from the start, not an add-on after the sedimentation problem. "The sedimentation occurred during the excavation and placement of these materials. The plan also recommended installation of silt traps. Seven of these were established in a sequence, which at the time was considered more than adequate. Despite this, extremely fine,

clay-type particles in the soil seeped through the filter traps," reported the ministry.

As for the leaky drilling rig, the ministry stated that the problem with the machine is mostly a case of rain water running over oily hoses. "BCTS has instructed the operator to address the problem and will be following up today [Monday, November 2]. In the meantime, the operator has parked the machine well away from any areas with water and has temporarily placed a tarp under the machine to catch any drops."



This plaque was unveiled at an event in Edgewood on October 24 to commemorate the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during WWI. Edgewood was the site of one of the camps. Our Remembrance Day special feature on page 12 tells the story.

**The Valley Voice is 100% locally owned**

# WWI internment operations remembered in Edgewood

by Jan McMurray

The isolated Arrow Lakes community of Edgewood played a part in a very little known chapter of Canada's history – the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during WWI. An event to commemorate the internment camp in Edgewood was held October 24. Many dignitaries were in attendance, including MP Jim Abbott, MLA Katrine Conroy, MP Inky Mark from Manitoba, and members of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund's endowment council.

Edgewood's internment camp operated from August 19, 1915 to September 23, 1916 and was located

where the Donselaar Memorial Park is today. At the October 24 event, a beautiful plaque to commemorate this unfortunate part of our history was unveiled at the park, followed by a luncheon at the Edgewood Legion hall.

This was the 21st out of 24 internment camp sites to be commemorated. The first plaque was placed in 1994 at Fort Henry, in Kingston, and the last one will be placed in Halifax in 2012. The commemoration of the sites, to remind us to never allow such things to happen again, is an initiative of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA).

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, chairman of the UCCLA, told the forgotten story of Canada's first national internment operations. In the late 1890s, the

Government of Canada was looking for hard working immigrants to come and establish farms on the prairies, and advertised this in Eastern and Central Europe. Many were attracted by the promise of freedom and free land, and came to Canada looking for a better life. Generally, life was good for these people until WWI broke out in August 1914.

Wartime hysteria and racial prejudice came to the fore, and these immigrants were named 'enemy aliens.' This was the first time that the War Measures Act was deployed in Canada. (It was also deployed during the WWII internment of Japanese Canadians and during the FLQ crisis in the 1970s in Quebec.) About 8,500 people were rounded up and placed in 24 internment camps across the country. About 3,000 – mostly Germans and Austrians – considered 'first class' prisoners of war were placed in camps in urban centres. The rest – mostly Ukrainians, but also others from the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Serbs, Croatsians, etc.) and some Turks – were considered 'second class' prisoners and sent to camps in isolated places, where they were forced to do heavy labour for the benefit of their jailers. At the Edgewood camp, detainees built a rock wall and a road.

The internees' wealth was confiscated. While some of their wealth was returned, allowing prisoners to buy things at the canteens established in some internment camps, a portion was retained by the Government of Canada.

Passage of the Wartime Elections Act of 1917 deprived the internees of their right to vote. Although the war ended in 1918, internment operations continued until 1920 and they did not regain their right to vote until 1922.

Luciuk explained that this is not in our history books and is not well known because the Government of Canada destroyed most of the records pertaining

to this period.

In 1978, Luciuk was a young graduate student studying the history of the Ukrainian community in his home town of Kingston, Ontario. Following up on accounts of who was in Kingston in the early years of the last century he came into contact with Nykola Sakaliuk, of Toronto, a Ukrainian man who had been interned in Fort Henry during WWI. This was the first Luciuk had heard of this period of history, and marked the beginning of Luciuk's long journey to uncover the story. Although most of Canada's records on the internment had been destroyed (a note in the archives suggested that the government did not want a compensation claim from the Eastern Europeans), researchers were able to find some of the missing documents in British archives – Canadian bureaucrats had sent copies of their reports to the mother country. Luciuk also looked in local newspapers, and even found a few survivors. All of the latter told him that they did not want compensation – they just wanted the story told.

One of the last survivors, Mary Manko Haskett, died just a few years ago. She was interned with members of her family at the Spirit Lake internment camp in Quebec. She contacted Luciuk after reading an article that he and his colleague, Bohdan Kordan, had published in the *Globe and Mail*. She told him to take on the campaign for memory, not money, urging him to work towards the creation of a symbolic fund that would allow for commemoration and education about the internment operations.

This fund, the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund ([www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca)), was created in May 2008, following several years of intense negotiations. "After a quarter century of lobbying and education, we got an endowment

fund," said Luciuk. During negotiations, the present-day value of the labour and confiscated wealth of the internees was determined to be \$50 million, but the sum settled on for the endowment fund was \$10 million. This amount was deposited with the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, a cultural and educational foundation established by the Parliament of Canada in 1963, named in honour of Ukraine's greatest bard. The interest generated by the endowment fund will be disbursed to any individuals or organizations in Canada who propose projects having to do with Canada's first national internment operations.

Luciuk introduced another champion of this cause – Inky Mark, MP for the Manitoba riding of Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette. "His family paid the Chinese head tax, so he understands what injustice is," said Luciuk. Mark, who has many Ukrainian constituents in his riding, joined the campaign and drafted Private Member's Bill C 311 to recognize what happened during the First World War to the internees and to provide for public commemoration and restitution (the endowment fund). Mark pushed the Bill through parliament, resulting, as he told his audience, in this being the only legislation in Canada dedicated to a particular ethnic community. "I don't think we would have succeeded without the best friend the Ukrainian Canadian community ever had in the House of Commons, and that was Inky Mark," said Luciuk.

Mark said it was an honour to be part of this history and to have had this opportunity to help people. "If we all just could just remember one simple thing – that it's all about helping others the world would be a better place." He, in turn, applauded Dr. Luciuk for his drive and commitment to the Ukrainian Canadian community. "There is a great need to tell this story so we don't make the same mistakes."

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