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SPRING

2024

# MOYIE LEADER

The Newsletter of The Village of Moyie

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## WHAT DOES THE MOYIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DO FOR YOU?

It's time to renew your 2024 MCA membership. Here's where your membership dollars go and what the MCA provides the community.

1. Working with all levels of government we provide a platform for the Moyie Lake community to "speak with one voice".
2. The MCA provides the mechanism through which various grants are obtained for community infrastructure projects.
3. Oversee the management and maintenance of community owned or leased assets including the Moyie Community Hall, Ellis Park, children's playground and pickleball court.
4. Oversees the restoration and preservation of historical assets such as the High House Museum through the Moyie Historical Committee.
5. Provides space for large outdoor events such as baseball tournaments, BBQs, wedding and celebrations-of-life through the Ellis Park Committee.
6. Provides a community hall for social events, meetings, tai chi, quilting, emergency shelter and other events.
7. Maintains the historic Moyie Cemetery through the Moyie Cemetery Committee.
8. Provides reading materials to the community through the Moyie Library Committee.
9. Organizes adult and children's events through the Social Activities committee.

10. Provides a source for local news and events through the Moyie Leader newsletter and the Moyie website ([www.moyielake.ca](http://www.moyielake.ca)).

11. Provides a mechanism to notify and keep residents informed in the event of local disasters, forest fires and other issues through the Moyie Lake area email list.

2024 memberships are available at a cost of \$20.00 for an individual (one vote) or \$30.00 for a family (two votes) and may be paid by e-transfer to [moyiecommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:moyiecommunityassociation@gmail.com) or by cheque to P.O. Box 133, Moyie, BC.

Please mark your payment "MCA Membership".

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## APRIL 24 MCA GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Special Resolution to form a separate society for the Volunteer Fire Department was passed unanimously. The new society will be known as the Moyie Volunteer Fire Department.
- Steve Rogers gave a report on the proposed new park.

In 2015, when the official Community Plan (OCP) was being discussed, one of the requested items was to have the boat launch at Braunagel Rd and Westside Rd designated as a park.

On further research it was discovered that this area was in fact already designated a park back in 1901.

The RDEK is responsible for the park and they will be doing work such as maps and budgeting. The boat launch area will need work to bring it up to a legal standing. They

will attempt to leave the land as naturel as possible. Ministry of Highways and Rob Gay (RDEK) are involved. There is a search for funding to pay for needed surveying.

There will be signage installed indicating the area is a RDEK park. Docks in the park area may have to be removed. Brush along the foreshore should remain untouched. There is a possibility that washrooms and tables will be installed.

- Paul Jeffery thanked all the volunteers that helped with the cemetery clean-up, with special thanks to Jim Rennie and Jenna Limoges for the extra effort they put in.

A dangerous tree assessment was completed, and seven trees were marked for removal.

The cemetery committee is working on developing a system for marking historical graves and producing a document on the cemetery.

- Bill Sanderman reported that we currently have funds to continue construction of the firehall through June of this year.

A ReDi grant application has been submitted and if approved will provide adequate funding to complete construction.

- Susan Woods affirmed that the goal of the Social Activities Committee is to organize fun events for the community, rather than fundraising.

The SAC committee has several events planned for the upcoming year including a Community BBQ, lawn chair theater, spring dance etc.

- Joan Zirk presented information on the cost of reprinting Moyie Reflections and publishing Forgotten Moyie.

A motion was made and approved for the Historical Committee to work with the publisher of Forgotten Moyie as it will have no cost to the MCA.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 1 – Moyie Volunteer Fire Department Fundraiser. 11:00 a.m. – 8: p.m.
- July 12 - Moyie Movie Night. 8:00 p.m. at Ellis Park
- July 31 – MCA Annual General Meeting. 7:00 p.m. at Moyie Community Hall
- August 25 – Community BBQ and Quilt Draw at MCA hall.

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## MOYIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND RAISER

Mark your calendar with July 1, 2024. That is the day we will be holding our annual fundraiser for the Moyie Volunteer Fire Department. 100% of these funds go to the operating cost of the fire department and are needed to keep our doors open.

This year we will be serving hamburgers or hot dogs with fries and gravy.

The event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and there will be 50/50 draws at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. as well as draws for some great door prizes.

Special thanks to Derek Chauncey for again providing the Lakeside Grill as a venue.

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## MOYIE LAKE QUILTERS

The Moyie Lake quilters would like to send out a HUGE THANK YOU to all the Moyie Lake Area residents that helped support the Christmas Bazaar. Because of all the baking you provided, we had one of our most successful events. We were able to give MCA over \$5,000.00 to help with the increasing expenses.

Again, thank you for your help.

Our next fundraiser will be the Raffle Quilt Draw on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for this year's raffle quilt will be available soon. Keep your eyes open for them.

Contributed by Marilyn Sanderman

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## PICKLEBALL

Interested in playing pickleball? The Moyie pickleball group plays at 9:00 am Mondays and Thursdays on the courts behind the Community Hall starting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For more information contact Jane Hust ([janehust@shaw.ca](mailto:janehust@shaw.ca))

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## BRAIN TEASERS

Can you identify these B.C. towns and cities from the clues given. Answers on page 5.

1. Female Farrier \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fish Appendage \_\_\_\_\_
3. Incinerate an Insect \_\_\_\_\_
4. River Crossing for the Head of the Monastery \_\_\_\_\_
5. Positive Expectation \_\_\_\_\_

6. Horse Carriage \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Blanched Bolder \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Someone Who Makes a Loud High Sounds \_\_\_\_\_
  9. 2000 Pounds of Royalty \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Gritty Saliva \_\_\_\_\_
  11. A Grassy Open Area \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Impressive Cutlery \_\_\_\_\_
  13. Forest Walkway \_\_\_\_\_
  14. Temperamental Harbor \_\_\_\_\_
  15. Cold Slap \_\_\_\_\_
  16. Spy Assignment \_\_\_\_\_
  17. Land Form at River's Mouth \_\_\_\_\_
  18. Powerful Appendage \_\_\_\_\_
  19. Colourful Building Product \_\_\_\_\_
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## HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED...

Are you fascinated with the history of Moyie and the Moyie Lake area and looking for an interesting way to contribute to the community?

The MCA's Historical Committee is in urgent need of new members if it is to continue to operate.

The mission of the Historical Committee is to procure, preserve and maintain artifacts that have shaped the colorful and diverse history of our community so future generations can appreciate the area's heritage.

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The committee oversees the operation of the High House Museum, organizes the preservation of artifacts, applies for operating grants, oversees the publication of the Moyie Reflections history book, and continues to expand the collection.

Interested? Please contact us at [moyiecommunityassociation@gmail.com](mailto:moyiecommunityassociation@gmail.com)

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## MOYIE LAKE BURBOT RECOVERY PROGRAM

British Columbia's fish biologists were at Moyie Lake again this February to catch, tag and release Burbot as part of an egg collection program which supports Burbot recovery in the Kootenay River and Kootenay Lake.

Local Burbot stocks were recognized to be near expiration in the mid 1990's, when fewer than 50 adult fish remained in the Kootenay River. As a result, the Lower Kootenay Burbot Recovery Program was started in 2009.

Under this program fertilized eggs from Moyie Lake were successfully raised at a hatchery in Idaho and released back into Kootenay Lake.

Although unconnected to the Burbot recovery program, a film crew will be on Moyie Lake for underwater footage of Burbot for a freshwater fish documentary during the same time as the egg collection program.

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## WHERE DOES OUR FUNDING COME FROM?

This is a continuation of a series of articles that outline the various grants that help fund our community projects. It's important to note that in most cases, these grants do not fund the MCA's operating costs. As a result, the MCA relies on membership fees, hall rental fees and your support for the annual craft fair and quilt raffle to fund our day-to-day expenses.

## Resident Directed Grants

Resident Directed Grants (ReDi Grants) support projects that benefit the community through community-based decision-making ensuring an opportunity for resident input on projects.

This program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and is delivered through the RDEK. Program funds are distributed annually.

After considering public input and recommendations from the municipalities and Electoral Area Directors, the RDEK Board approved funding for 132 projects amounting to \$1,320,390.34 for 2023/24. This projects included recreation and youth programs, history projects as well as facility and accessibility upgrades.

## Discretionary Grants-in-Aid

The RDEK's Discretionary Grant-in-Aid (DGIA) program awards funding for projects that benefit rural communities within the Electoral Areas.

In general, grants are for meeting community/public rather than private needs. Therefore, grants are only available to registered non-profit organizations.

## British Columbia Community Gaming Grants

The Community Gaming Grants program distributes \$140 million annually from commercial gambling revenues to not-for-profit organizations. Grants support the delivery of ongoing programs and the completion of capital projects that directly benefit communities throughout B.C.

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## ELLIS PARK REPORT

- Signs addressing liability and cleanup/maintenance by users have been purchased and will be posted shortly.
- The footings for the picnic table shelters were excavated and poured in the fall of 2023.
- Construction is scheduled for May (date to be determined)
- All lumber needed was milled by Mark Roger's trees which were donated for the cause.
- More folding tables and wooden chairs are being donated by Cranbrook Masonic Lodge.
- There is a rainfall catchment system set up and up to 400 liters can be held in reserve for cleaning, fire control, concrete mixing, and pets.
- To date there are three weekend bookings for use of the Park this summer.
- Plans are to apply for another grant for continued upgrading, this time from Teck's Legacy Fund.
- The latest pack rat was trapped in November and sent to the happy foraging grounds (in the sky). None took up residence in the building since then.

Contributed by Brian Conrad

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## AROUND THE VALLEY

- Behind every successful community is an extraordinary group of volunteers.

The Moyie Community would like to thank three of our volunteers who are stepping back after several years of service to the community.

Carol McGrath is retiring after serving many years as the MCA's bookkeeper.

Maurice and Kathi Turbide have sold their home here at Moyie and are returning to Calgary. Both Maurice and Kathi have served the community in various capacities over the years.

Thank you for your contribution to the community.

- Congratulations to Gary Matejka on winning the Moyie Ice Fishing Derby with a Ling weighing in at 2.49 kg.

As an interesting side note, this year's fishing derby had an international connection.

Jeab Walker, who is an operating room nurse in the Cranbrook hospital and the wife of local 107.5 FM host Denise Walker, videoed much of the fishing derby and sent it to her family and friends in Thailand. Most have never seen snow and are fascinated by winter happenings in Canada and at Moyie Lake

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## ANSWERS TO BRAIN TEASERS

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Lady Smith  | 2. Salmon Arm   |
| 3. Burnaby     | 4. Abbotsford   |
| 5. Hope        | 6. Surrey       |
| 7. White Rock  | 8. Whistler     |
| 9. Princeton   | 10. Sandspit    |
| 11. Field      | 12. Grand Forks |
| 13. Trail      | 14. Port Moody  |
| 15. Chilliwack | 16. Mission     |
| 17. Delta      | 18. Armstrong   |
| 19. Greenwood  |                 |

## MOYIE'S HISTORY – HOUSES OF JOY

Like all progressive towns of its time, Moyie attracted professionals of all kinds; among them representatives of the world's oldest profession. The first record of this group in Moyie was on July 3, 1898, when it was reported in the Moyie Leader.

*"A Parisian lady named Balance of the wanton variety, who has been living here for some months past, was taken to Fort Steele Wednesday to serve a thirty-day sentence for contempt of court in refusing to appear in court and pay her fine."*

Little more was recorded of the growth of this group in Moyie until a building spree took place in the spring of 1899. It was noted on May 6<sup>th</sup> that..

*"A house 24 x 36 feet in size is being build near the foot of the hill in the north end of town. It will have crimson curtains and a piano and will be occupied by some ladies of the free and easy type."*

This 864-square foot building was perceived as not being able to meet Moyie's pressing needs as, on May 27 of that year, the Leader proclaimed, "The building of another 'house of joy' was commenced this week in the upper end of town.

During this growth phase of the brothels, inevitable social problems appear to have developed. On October 28, 1899, a chronicler described a fracas in the following vivid detail:

*"Last Saturday night there was a general knock down and drag out time in one of the sporting houses in the other end of town, and for a time the premises resembled a veritable slaughter house. A barber, a cook and a section hand were in a regular mix-up and the implements of war consisted of a pair of scissors, a jack knife and a piano stool. But for a time gore flowed freely and the feminine occupants of the house were terror strike. The two principles in the fracas were*

*arrested and lodged in jail until Sunday night, when they flew the coop."*

Five years passed with no spectacular events occurring in these bordellos, until an article appeared September 17, 1904:

*"A sporting house in the north end of town, which was owned by Marie Brown of Fernie and occupied by Annie Johnson, was totally destroyed by fire last Sunday evening."*

It may always be questioned whether or not there was any significance to the fact that the fire occurred on a Sunday.

The Leader's last recorded reference to the houses of joy appeared on April 25, 1905, and described solicitor J.A. Harvey's attempt to place reasonable restrictions and controls on them. It reported that,

*Another order has been issued to the effect that the red-light district is to be confined to that portion of the town up next to the base of the hill, and that the houses down on the flat are not to be any longer used for immoral purposes."*

This order seems to do the trick and there was little mention of this beleaguered group for some years.

Then in 1926 Moyie became a payroll town once more when the new Consolidated Mining and Smelting concentrator was built. A revival in the sporting trade followed. One Minnie May was the resident Madam, bringing in one or two extra ladies on the train from Lethbridge for the payday rush.

One former resident recalls, when she was a small child of five or six, she and her friends longed to be hook ladies when they grew up. They admired these ladies in their fine clothes and fancy carriages, not realizing the houses they came from were usually rough shacks and far from fancy.

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Of the men who worked tin the mines, logging camps and on railway construction, most were young and single. With conditions in the camps and bunkhouses often crowded and uncomfortable, it was inevitable that some would patronize these houses.

The Brothels came with the mine and when the boom years were over, the ladies closed their doors and drifted on. (Source Unknown)

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## 2024 MOYIE RAFFLE QUILT

### “MOONLIGHT OVER MOYIE”

Here is a picture of the 2024 Raffle Quilt which will be raffled off on August 25 at the Community BBQ.

Its title is “Moonlight over Moyie”. Tickets are available from any of the Moyie Lake quilters and at the store. Remember only \$5.00 each and there are only 500 printed.

All proceeds go to the MCA.



## CONTACT US

If you would like to submit articles, ideas or announcements or know someone who would like to be added to our email list, contact us at [sanderman@telus.net](mailto:sanderman@telus.net)