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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022



Long-time Canmore residents Ania Vozna, Maria Nazarenko and Liza Kanishcheva hope to raise awareness for Ukraine after Russia invaded their home country in February.

GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

Local Ukrainians offer support, help for homeland

GREG COLGAN

BOW VALLEY – There are nights when Maria Nazarenko and Ania Vozna aren't sure if their family and friends in Ukraine are alive or not.

The sporadic ability to connect with loved ones since the Russian invasion has led to sleepless nights wondering if there will be a next conversation with those they know in Ukraine.

"When it started, I thought it was a nightmare. We couldn't sleep. We were just together, reading the news, hearing of the bombings, artillery shelling. ... I'm waiting for my mom to text me 'I'm alive.' That was my two weeks

of hell," said Nazarenko, who has lived in Canada for the past 11 years.

"I tried not to sleep because I was afraid I would miss if Russians took over my city because they started destroying communication towers. ... My mom was so scared they would capture our city. Part of me was so scared they'd keep bombing until they destroyed everything and everyone. You just pray your family isn't killed."

Nazarenko and her long-time friend Vozna have had to watch the events taking place in Ukraine from the safety of Canmore roughly 8,500 kilometres and nine time zones away.

When they can speak with people in their homeland,

it provides a sense of relief, but the unknowing of what is happening and how it is impacting those they know, remains a struggle.

"Every day we don't know what's going to happen to our regions. This war, it goes on and people keep dying. They don't deserve this and I want people to know what's going on," Nazarenko said.

For Vozna, who has spent the last two years in Canmore, working in the community in the summers while attending university in the school year, it has been difficult to remain in touch.

SUPPORT

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Banff Mineral Springs Hospital Community Board UPDATE TO THE COMMUNITY

Thank you for Lifting Us Up!



Margie Smith

A heartfelt thank you to our community for the resilience and the ability to rise to keep our community safe over the past year. The kindness of our community during these challenging times has been front and centre of all the challenges we have overcome and the ones that lay ahead. The pandemic has had a significant impact on our community but what has become apparent is a collaboration between services is stronger. The team at the hospital has felt the support from the community throughout this journey. It is much appreciated as it allows us to focus on our mission of providing the best care to our residents and visitors. Thank you so much.



Sisters of St. Martha Service Award

Glenn Matthews, an occupational therapist, has been recognized for the 2021 Sisters of St. Martha Service Award. Glenn's respectful approach to patient care is reflected in his warm, gracious, and inviting communication style. His genuine concern and interest in patient lives is often spoken of by family members and his colleagues. He adjusts his care to patients' values and beliefs, inspiring hope, and healing in their care. Glenn understands that music is healing, so he comes in after hours to play music for the residents of St. Martha. Please join us in congratulating Glenn on receiving this peer-based award.

Darin Ladouceur



It was with great sadness that board member Darin Ladouceur passed away unexpectedly on May 9, 2021. While serving a short term as a board member, Darin was a large influence on those who knew him. He was instrumental in bringing an Indigenous voice to the board table and his generosity to our community was significant. Darin is sadly missed.

Looking back, looking forward... a message from the Community Board

In 2021 board remained steadfast in bringing community healthcare concerns to the attention of the Banff community, Town of Banff administration and councillors, Covenant Health leadership and Covenant Health Council of Chairs.

In November/December 2021, the Board engaged in a community/stakeholder consultation to hear from local residents about their experiences, especially after the unprecedented challenges encountered through the pandemic. Through these conversations, our goal was to gain perspective on current, new and growing needs/health needs of the residents of Banff and the broader Bow Valley area. Several areas of opportunity were identified including:

- Mental health and addiction services
- Building a sense of community amongst sectors to allow for coordinated action
- Accessibility of services & communication of available services
- Fostering an inclusive and inviting health care system
- Affordability including for housing
- Seniors health
- Palliative care

Many of the challenges and needs voiced are complex and requires a collaborative approach to solutions. Stakeholders agreed that there is an opportunity to share and work more closely together so that we can have a collective impact on the community. Where appropriate, these areas will also be incorporated into long-range service planning for the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital and the Community Board.

Topping the Charts -

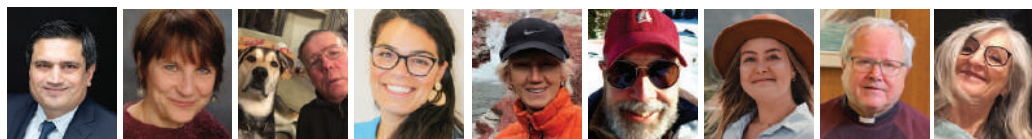
This summer a successful Banff 50/50 lottery reached the top achievement total for Covenant Foundation at \$9,640.00.



St. Martha's Virtual Reality Initiative

Through your generous community donations, the following projects have been funded:

- Compassionate Support Fund
- Long Term Care Outdoor Enhancement
- Emergency Department: Waiting Room and Triage Area Renovation
- Palliative Care Room Renovation
- St. Martha's Virtual Reality Initiative
- Banff Meals on Wheels (2 yrs)
- Spiritual Care – Labyrinth



Dr. Shakil Amin, Lori Bayne, Ted Christensen, Monica Dominguez, Chris MacDonald, Hugh Pettigrew, Kaylee Ram, Fr. Dan Stevenot, Karen Thomas

The Banff Mineral Springs Hospital became part of Covenant Health, one of Canada's largest Catholic healthcare providers, in 2008. Covenant Health is a strong partner in Alberta's integrated health system leading a broad range of healthcare services in hospitals, healthcare centres and seniors' care facilities in urban and rural communities.

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CLIMBING ON UP

Jean-Francois Côté scales the upper falls at Johnston Canyon Saturday (March 26). GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

Communication with families in Ukraine difficult

SUPPORT

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With communication lines being a primary military target, the ability to connect with her family has been difficult at the best of times.

With calls lasting a few minutes to mere seconds, it's largely waiting for the next call to hear if they're safe.

One 40-minute call gave a brief glimpse of hope, but often Vozna has to follow via social media. On one occasion, she learned the area in which her mom lived had been bombed and had to wait two long hours to learn she was safe.

"I never felt anything like this before because you just don't know. Two hours later my mom wrote me she was alive. Every day has been the same for every region attacked by Russia," Vozna said.

"It's absolutely heartbreaking because they worked their whole lives to be able to afford to move there."

Vozna said the heat and electricity were knocked out early, leaving her parents living in the basement of their home for safety and using a cast-iron stove for heat.

Her parents had planned to leave, but the Russian army entered their village and used it as an artillery location to shell Ukrainian targets.

"Most of the village is now destroyed because if you shoot someone, they shoot you back. They are still able to move around a little bit, but the Russians are there. They come and go," she said.

While Vozna's family remain in Ukraine, Nazarenko's mother joined her in Canmore last Friday (March 25) after fleeing the country and making her way through Europe to Canada. She left at the behest and begging of Nazarenko, crossing only with her passport and some money.

"That was the small relief in my life that one person is safe. The rest of my family is still hiding from bombings," Nazarenko said.

"To leave everything behind is really painful. It's really hard to start from zero and to think what is going to happen to your land, your house. ... It's very hard to know your mom is being bombed."

Liza Kanishcheva, who has lived in Canmore for five years and now works at the Juniper Hotel in Banff, grew up in Kharkiv. Her father lived in Belgorod, Russia, and her mother in Sumy when the war began.

She remembers talking to her parents on Feb. 14 as the chances of an invasion grew each day. It wasn't until the war began on Feb. 24 and she was at work that the reality of what was happening hit her.

She talked with her family in Belgorod, who were convinced by Russian propaganda that it was Ukrainians attacking Ukrainians and Russia wasn't involved.

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SUPPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

"It was a really difficult situation," Kanishcheva said.

"There's no way to save Ukraine if Russian people will be on (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's side."

As the conflict continued, Kanishcheva followed along as the war drew closer to her home.

She debated returning to Ukraine to help in any way possible, but after a friend in Vinnytsia in western Ukraine talked her out of it, she looked at other ways to help.

After convincing her parents to leave Ukraine, they landed at the Calgary International Airport March 7.

Kanishcheva organized a GoFundMe account to raise money for necessary supplies such as medical equipment, emergency blankets, flashlights and warm clothing.

"They said 'we don't need money. We need radios, medical equipment, we can't do anything with money right now'. ... I just need to get the stuff to ship to Ukraine," she said. "The only thing that really kept me going was to organize this charity and not focusing on the news."

Through a friend of a friend, Kanishcheva organized humanitarian aid through a transport company in Toronto that is shipping it for free, with most of the funds coming from Bow Valley residents.

"It was a blessing. I'm so blessed to be part of this community," she said. "The Bow Valley has been so supportive and helpful. Seeing this support was really what kept me going. I could not have been able to buy all the humanitarian aid without their support."

Other groups such as Canmore Food and Friends have done fundraisers, while the Rotary Club of Canmore is working with Rotary International to collect donations to help people fleeing the conflict.

A group will also hold a rally for Ukraine Thursday (March 31) at noon at the Canmore Civic Centre, which includes a walk down Main Street to raise awareness.

Both Vozna and Nazarenko are from Russian-speaking regions in eastern Ukraine - Vozna from the Kharkiv and Nazarenko from Sumy - with both cities immediately being on the frontlines and of strategic importance.

The initial conflict began after the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, also known as the Maidan Revolution.

Russia invaded eastern Ukraine provinces in the Donbas region and annexed Crimea in the Black Sea in 2014.

In recent days, Russia has said it will scale down its military offensive as Ukraine's army has held firm against the invasion and casualties have mounted in the largely mechanized war.

Since its outbreak, upwards of 30,000 people have been killed and up to four million have been displaced, according to the United Nations.

Ukraine has seen some of the most intense conflicts in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The country was on the frontlines of the First World War, but the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended the conflict between Germany and Russia, brought little relief.

The Ukrainian War of Independence, the Russian Civil War, the Soviet-Ukrainian War and the Polish-Ukrainian War saw continuous conflicts in the region.

The Holodomor genocide by the Soviet Union on Ukraine led to millions dying in the 1930s, while the outbreak of the Second World War had Ukraine on the frontline from 1941-44.

The German occupation and significant battles in Kyiv, Kharkiv, the Dnieper River and Korsun-Cherkasy had millions live and die in the most brutal battles in military history.

But while Vozna and Nazarenko have had their lives flipped upside down, they realize life continues in the Bow Valley.

"My life changed in one hour. Anything of concern to me, it disappeared," Nazarenko said.

"I had to think about just the existence of everyone I loved. I went to take my dog to the dog park and heard them talking about their daily lives - that doesn't exist for me anymore. I want to think one day I'll be worried about intersections like every other person in Canmore, but now none of it matters.

"It doesn't mean it doesn't matter for others, but things come into perspective. I hope life will return and I can be upset with everyone else about an intersection. ... War is the worst thing and I never thought it'd come into my life. We always lived in peace."

Vozna and Nazarenko had friends in Ukraine call to comfort them, knowing the difficulty in waiting to know if people they love are safe. The two have also returned to work, while Vozna also continues her research for university.

"People will call to comfort me because they say it's harder for me. My friend will say 'we have so much melted snow and I don't have to do dishes'. Their spirit is strong how they help each other," Vozna said.

The coming weeks will see if the war will scale down, as reports show the Russian military has had several setbacks and taken significant casualties, or if the war will continue.

For Ukrainians in the Bow Valley, the desire is a return to peace.

"People are hoping it will end and hopefully it will come to be peaceful," Nazarenko said.

"My country deserves that."

For information on donating to Ukraine, visit the following sites:

- <https://linktr.ee/RazomForUkraine>
- <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-ukrainians-now-humanitarian-aid>
- <https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/news/chair-ukrainian-studies-university-ottawa-resources-support-ukraine>



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Tribunal hearings highlight defeated amendments, scale of development

GREG COLGAN

CANMORE – Proposed amendments during second reading and timelines and phasing for commercial and residential development took a pivotal role in the Land and Property Rights Tribunal between Three Sisters Mountain Properties Limited and the Town of Canmore.

The hearing shifted from the Smith Creek area structure plan (ASP) to the Three Sisters Village ASP, as Three Sisters Mountain Properties Limited (TSMVPL) argued its consistency met the requirement of the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) 1992 decision and the Town had made an error in voting down the plan.

Of key importance for both sides was the phasing of the development, specifically the Town of Canmore wanting commercial first and TSMVPL wanting residential to aid in the expenses of developing commercial.

Chris Ollenberger, the director of strategy and development for TSMVPL, told the tribunal during his rebuttal testimony that the amount of work that went into the ASP showed a comprehensive plan forward.

He also said the phasing considered “a lot of technical aspects and over thousands of pages of reports went into developing the phasing plan.”

“The amount of work and homework we’ve put into that set of plans was enormous, probably the most amount of work I’ve ever seen in 20 years of development for an area structure plan,” Ollenberger said. “I would not say it’s typical for a tab of \$11.5 million. It’s extensive. It’s probably the most heavily studied area structure plan in all the iterations that I would be aware of for a municipality in Alberta.”

In giving testimony, Lauren Miller, the Town of Canmore’s manager of planning and development, said the Town’s planning department and TSMVPL were unable to agree on the phasing aspect when developing the plan, and ultimately left it in council’s hands to decide what was best.

A staff report presented the phasing as proposed by TSMVPL, but it was significantly altered by council with 22 amendments during second reading.

“If we could get the footprint of the 2004 (Resort Centre) ASP, but some of the good amendments around affordable housing and phasing that we were able to achieve as part of this ASP, it could be closer to something council would support because the main concern was the scale, how big it was and not disputing the desire or need for commercial development or affordable housing, but how much of that?”

Miller said the plan submitted by TSMVPL “didn’t feel like the NRCB decision was speaking to this proportion of residential development” and “it doesn’t meet the Town’s needs in a 2022 context”.

The amendments led to TSMVPL requesting a workshop with Town staff, which took place May 14, 2021. Miller said the catalyst of the meeting was phasing and the two parties attempted to work on certain aspects of council’s amendments, but they fell short of being able to agree.

Ollenberger told the tribunal TSMVPL examined the amendments, but wasn’t convinced it was possible to make everything work.

“The scale and scope of amendments was almost rewriting the entire plan. It’s hard to say the amended plan works because as the Town said they don’t know. They didn’t provide any studies,” he said. “Do we spend \$5 million to prove it won’t work when we spent \$11.5 million on one that does? There’s not a lot of payoff there. We want to stick with the plan we’re comfortable with, that’s aligned with the NRCB decision, aligned with our vision.”

Ollenberger also said the amendments lacked the professional level of input that the Village ASP worked to achieve over several years of work.

“If development was that easy, everybody would do it

and you would only need \$30 in photocopiers to do it. It actually took \$11.5 million and several years of study,” he said. “It would also be contingent on what are the other amendments, there’s a long list of concerns that council only gave administration a small box to play in. It wasn’t an open free-for-all to bring up all of your concerns.”

Ollenberger called the Village ASP a “base camp” that would provide visitors recreation and resort amenities, but also a location people could stay to explore areas such as neighbouring Banff National Park and Kananaskis Country.

He noted tourism was a “strong theme” throughout the NRCB decision and that it would provide a significant tax base for Town of Canmore coffers due to the commercial zoning.

The Village centre would serve as the “heart of the project”, he said, with hotels and residential units around it.

And while the Town of Canmore requested a focus on building commercial development first, Ollenberger said residential is required to help fund a project’s development and provide customers for commercial businesses.

He highlighted there needs to be a level of “rooftops before retail”, adding that without it, a commercial area would be on an “island” or “oasis” without a residential customer base.

“To build development, you need finance. No major hotel is going to say plunk me in the middle of nowhere,” he said, adding a “sea of hotel rooms” was also unlikely to work, with commercial properties first wanting to have a base to draw from.

Jessica Karpat, principal planner for QuantumPlace Developments, said the commercial aspect of the Village ASP would also see it brought on as quickly as possible.

However, she said resort destinations such as Blue Mountain in Ontario, Whistler in British Columbia and Mont-Tremblant in Quebec all started with residential, which helped fund the commercial development.

“You can’t support development without some critical mass,” she said. “If you look at any of the resorts ... it would’ve undergone the residential phases at the early residential stages first and then they created that village area that was one of the later phases of development.”

“These are the fundamentals of how these developments get built.”

Throughout cross-examination of Karpat, the Town’s lawyer Kelsey Becker Brooks hammered at the council amendment made during second reading that swapped the tourist accommodation designation with visitor accommodation.

“The motion that council, and was unanimous, was to replace tourist home with visitor accommodation. That was council’s express decision.”

Miller said tourist homes were considered a residential use from the Town’s perspective, but that TSMVPL held a different viewpoint.

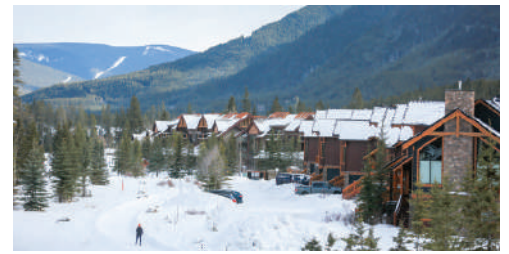
While the designation brings in a commercial tax base, Miller said it was challenging to enforce whether they were being used as tourist or residential homes.

Ollenberger said the Village ASP was better than the 2004 Resort Centre ASP, largely because it was 10 per cent of housing for Canmore Community Housing’s inventory compared to the 0.33 hectares (0.88 acres) in the 2004 plan.

“At a high level, the 2020 Village area structure plan is a notably and materially better deal for the Town ... which results in many more units than would’ve occurred in 2004 Resort Centre area structure plan,” he said.

The Town of Canmore’s senior planner, Alaric Fish, took issue with that in his testimony, saying: “I don’t understand how they arrived at that conclusion” in reference to there being more commercial in the Village ASP and that tourist homes were “pure residential”.

He said the Town understood residential would be



Houses on Armstrong Place in Three Sisters Mountain Village.

RMO FILE PHOTO

needed to help build commercial areas, but that in TSMVPL lands they’ve seen almost only residential development.

“While we want to see residential and commercial and we understand the need for them to go hand and hand, but they’re not going hand and hand. The residential is dramatical outpacing the commercial development,” said Fish.

In rebuttal evidence, Ollenberger said while commercial and residential go lockstep with one another, it’s not meant to be a one-to-one ratio.

“You don’t build one house and one retail store. ... You actually need a number of roofs to provide enough customer base for one retail. ... You don’t build a grocery store with five houses next to it. You actually need enough rooftops to provide viability for the scale of commercial,” he said.

Ollenberger stressed the Gateway commercial property has been going through stages with the Town for the last two years, adding the commercial needs assessment states it won’t be until 2031 that it reaches the residential capacity needed to sustain the Gateway.

In his testimony, Fish said a major sticking point with the Town was the scale of the development and concern about the “impacts on the broader community”.

He said the Town understood development would eventually happen, but the NRCB decision also gave the community benefits such as recreation and a larger commercial tax base.

“We’re keen to see these realized at some point. ... We haven’t seen the recreation amenities to the degree the NRCB anticipated them. As long as we get the recreation amenities that are proposed in the ASP, I think it’s a great possibility, we just have to make sure they’re fully realized as proposed.”

Fish highlighted the limited land supply available for development in Canmore and the need to get anything constructed on the remaining land right.

“I do worry about the long-term future of Canmore. ... We’re surrounded by provincial parks,” he said. “There is no way we can continue to grow in an unlimited fashion, so when we bump up against the edge of our development potential there are going to be even greater challenges for the development pressures Canmore is going to be under.”

The defeat of the two ASPs has led to litigation in recent months.

TSMVPL filed a civil lawsuit late in 2021 seeking \$161 million from the Town, while Thunderstone Quarries also launched a civil lawsuit against the Town for \$63.5 million.

TSMVPL has also filed judicial review on both ASPs, but there’s no timeline for either to be heard.

None of the legal claims have been tested in court.

The tribunal will decide on both hearings after the conclusion of the Three Sisters Village hearing. While a Section 619 appeal directs a decision be made within 30 days, both sides agreed to allow the tribunal more time if needed.

Either side can appeal the final decision. The hearing on the Smith Creek ASP wrapped up March 9.

Researchers use innovative techniques to study endangered black swifts

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – Desperate times call for desperate measures.

With little known about the rare black swift, Parks Canada researchers are testing innovative ways to help protect this endangered species, including scouring through poop to find out exactly what these birds are eating.

“These guys are in danger, but they are really, really cryptic and hard to study,” said Barb Johnston, the species at risk biologist overseeing the black swift project in Banff National Park.

“We’re kind of stepping outside the box and using some unusual techniques to try and shed light on the basic biology of the species because there’s not a whole lot known about them.”

A critical nesting area for the endangered black swift is found along the cliffs of Johnston Canyon, one of the most visited tourist hotspots in Banff National Park, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors a year.

Researchers are using thermal imaging cameras to locate and monitor nests, time-lapse remote cameras to reveal bird activity patterns and temperature and humidity sensors to help understand this species’ micro-climate needs.

This summer, researchers will use DNA metabarcoding of fecal remains of birds to learn about their diet.

“It’s a diet analysis. We’re trying to find out what these guys are eating,” said Johnston.

“It’s a really unique opportunity to do some of this research because most sites where they nest are so inaccessible, but Johnston Canyon is actually accessible.”

Five active black swift nests were confirmed in Johnston Canyon in 2021 – the highest number of active nests recorded in Johnston Canyon since 2004.

In 2020, three nesting pairs were spotted in the canyon, while only one or two active nests were recorded between 2005 and 2019.

While the increase in nesting pairs is a positive sign for the black swift population, it is still below historical numbers of up to 12 active nests in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The black swift nesting colony in Johnston Canyon was initially discovered in 1919 and was the first confirmed inland nesting site in North America.

The bird is recognized by its black plumage, long and pointed wings and unique notched tail.

“Although we know the population has declined really dramatically in the last few decades by half, there’s no consensus on what the cause of that decline is,” said Johnston.

While causes of the decline are not fully understood, scientists suspect it is in part related to changes in food supply that may be occurring at one or more points in the black swift’s life cycle.

Black swifts, like with many other birds, specialize on a diet of flying insects, and airborne pollutants have been killing off insects.

“Airborne pollutants are just generally reducing the amount of aerial insect food out there,” said Johnston, noting many other species that rely on insects are also not faring well.

“This is in general, across the board, creatures that are dependent on insects, and insect numbers are going down because of chemicals that we’re using,” she added.

“If they rely on this as food and the amount of it’s going down, then it’s probably affecting the population.”

Black swifts also may be sensitive to climate change, probably because waterfall nesting sites are likely to be impacted by decreased snowpack and glacial melt.

However, Johnston said climate change can also lead to what is called a temporal mismatch between the timing of things in a species’ life cycle.

“For these guys, it would be a mismatch in the timing when these bugs are available and when they most need them in their life cycle,” she said.

“That’s around when they’re laying an egg and

they’re really energy needy, or when they’re provisioning the chicks,” she added.

“If there’s going to be a mismatch from when there’s a lot of food and when they need that food, again there’s going to be a population decline and we’ve seen that in other species.”

The Canadian Wildlife Service research scientists did a study on the diet of black swifts approximately 40 years ago.

Banff researchers thought they could follow up on that now by collecting bird poop, which is the only real way of finding out what black swifts here are eating specifically.

“If we can find out what they are eating now, it will be interesting to compare that to what they were eating before the decline in population and we can see if there is a difference,” said Johnston.

Researchers will look at the bird poop microscopically, and look for exoskeletons.

“We can look at those exoskeletons in their feces and see what type of bugs they’re eating,” said Johnston.

“Are they ants versus beetles? We can see what’s the size, how many and what general kind of bugs are they eating.”

New technology means researchers can also use DNA meta-barcoding, which basically means DNA is extracted from poop.

“In that soup of DNA, there’s little segments of different species...” said Johnston, noting it can be compared to hundreds of thousands of species in a DNA database.

“In one sweep we can see all the different species that they’re eating. It doesn’t tell us how much and it doesn’t tell us what size class, but it will tell us what species they’re eating.”

Parks Canada has experimented with other innovative techniques to monitor the black swifts of Johnston Canyon.

Researchers have already had success locating nesting birds with non-intrusive thermal imaging cameras – which are also used to detect wildfires or make sure prescribed burns are out.

Johnston said black swifts are hard to detect because they nest in cold, dark places.

“We thought if these guys are warmer than their ambient surroundings, it should pop out in these cameras and we discovered that is the case,” she said.

“When you look at a cold cliff wall, you can see the outline of a bird or a nestling sitting there, so that’s now the main way we are able to say if a nesting area is active.”

Time-lapse cameras, which are also considered non-intrusive, are also used to keep an eye on the birds.

Researchers have set the cameras to take pictures every hour.

“We can find out when the adults are coming and going, when do they arrive back in the spring, when do they lay an egg, when does the baby leave in the fall,” said Johnston.

“It also tells us how often the adults are coming and going to provision the young guys with food and how that may change over the season.”

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated the black swift as endangered in 2015 and the species became federally protected under the Species At Risk Act in 2019 as populations plummeted by more than 50 per cent over the past 40 years.

Although little is known about the biology of the black swift, it’s believed the species mates for life and lives upwards of 16 years of age.

Black swifts also only lay one egg a season and have a lengthy seven-week rearing period, with chicks not fledging until near the end of September.

The nesting duties are shared by the parents, with both the male and female trading off shifts during the incubation period.

It wasn’t until 2012 that it was first discovered that black swifts fly to South America to winter.



The black swift is an endangered species in Canada.

PARKS CANADA PHOTO

Several birds from Colorado were tagged with tracking devices, which indicated their wintering grounds were in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. There was also a reported sighting of a black swift in Tambopata, Peru, in 2012.

However, COSEWIC indicates there is no information on whether black swifts that breed in Canada winter in the same region. Canada is home to about 80 per cent of the North American population. “Indeed, the wintering area of birds from different breeding areas in North America remains to be determined,” according to the group’s status report on black swifts.

Johnston said the birds, which have fidelity to their nesting sites, are expected to return to Johnston Canyon in May.

“They are down in the Amazon, and they will fly back in spring, and that’s a really critical time for them,” said Johnston, noting the nesting period is one of the most sensitive times for birds.

“They are looking for suitable nest sites and they are looking for places where they’re not going to be disturbed and where it’s safe from predators.”

Johnston said Parks Canada is excited to see what happens this spring given last year was the highest number of active nests and successful fledglings since 2004.

“That’s a long time,” she said. “We’re hopeful that maybe that path that they’ve started on with this trend of an increase that will continue and maybe we will see more individuals come back this spring.”

To make sure the endangered black swifts have space and security to nest and raise young, Parks Canada will implement the annual formal closure of off-trail use at Johnston Canyon from May 1-Nov. 15.

Officials say visitors can help with conservation efforts of the black swift by staying on the dedicated trail and obeying the closure.

“This is a rare bird and we have literally a handful of known nests in the province, in fact in the country,” said Johnston.

“Despite the fact it’s a place we all really like to go, it’s important to know this is a pretty unique place and if we disturb the nests, it’s not like we have somewhere else nearby they can go to.”

The recovery strategy for the black swift is still being finalized, with Environment and Climate Change Canada taking the lead.

The document will outline threats to the species as well as actions that need to be taken to save the black swift.

“It will also define the critical habitat for these guys and Johnston Canyon would be one of those critical habitats,” said Johnston.

The only other known black swift nesting site in Banff National Park was discovered in 2020 in the backcountry in the Egypt Lake region.

Confirming nest sites can be challenging, particularly as adult birds often visit nest sites only late in the evening. There are thought to be fewer nesting pairs last year in that location, with a maximum count of five in the 2020 year and two in 2021, though that is inconclusive.

“These guys are so secretive and so fascinating,” said Johnston.

Grassi Lakes, Goat Creek day-use areas closed for 2022 season for infrastructure improvements

GREG COLGAN

CANMORE – A more than \$4 million infrastructure project will see Grassi Lakes and Goat Creek day-use areas closed for the summer to undertake much needed upgrades for trails, parking and public transit.

The province announced the project Friday (March 25) with the intent to help ease parking congestion, improve safety and help with outdoor recreation.

While it means the work will see popular trails and climbing areas such as Ha Ling Trail, Grassi Lakes Trail and climbing area, East End of Rundle route and climbing area and Riders of Rohan Mountain Bike Trail closed, the aim will see the region improved for visitors in years to come.

Jason Nixon, the province's Minister of Environment and Parks, said money from the Kananaskis Conservation Pass – which collected \$12 million last year – is being used to finance the work.

“The entire Kananaskis Conservation Pass is being invested into Kananaskis,” he said. “In fact, significantly more than what the Kananaskis Conservation Pass is being invested inside Kananaskis.”

The work will see the area closed the rest of the year because of construction that will see the Grassi Lakes main lot and Goat Creek lot expanded, two bridges replaced on Goat Creek Trail, refurbish parts of Grassi Lakes trail and formalize the Grassi Lakes overflow parking lot.

Rachel Ludwig, Tourism Canmore Kananaskis chief executive officer, said the reinvestment of revenue from the conservation pass is promising to see, especially with it helping tourism-based infrastructure.

“Tourism is the largest sector of the Canmore economy. It reaches all corners of our community,” she said. “It brings \$345 million in revenue annually and supports 4,000 jobs in our small community. A strong visitor economy creates opportunities that would not be possible without tourism.”

She noted while popular trails will be closed as the work is underway, visitor staff will help people find additional spots in Kananaskis Country.

In addition to the project, the Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park will expand by 610 acres to increase the size of Kananaskis Country.

The land is the Wyocan expansion area that's on the southwest side of the valley and the Silvertip expansion area on the northeast side of the valley.

“It's a parcel of land that's been surrounded by park for a number of years that the province recently purchased and is being brought into the park through order in council,” said Michael Roycroft, the director of Kananaskis Region. “It's always been the plan to bring it into the park, but it provides further protection for animals going through in the wildlife



Motorists search for parking places at the Grassi Lakes trailhead in July, 2021.

RMO FILE PHOTO

corridor and ensures that land won't be developed in the future.”

The Wyocan area is near the undeveloped golf course that's owned by Three Sisters Mountain Village (TSMV). Roycroft said they're continuing to work with TSMV and the Canmore Area Mountain Bike Alliance to resolve issues of trespassing on the privately-owned TSMV land that had been encountered last year.

Nixon said the land expansion is to help improve the conservation area and won't have an impact on existing access for recreation.

While Nixon stressed that all money from the Kananaskis Conservation pass is being returned to assist Kananaskis Country, it hasn't been without public skepticism.

Much of the controversy in regards to the Kananaskis Conservation Pass has come from the lack of transparency. Though the province has made investments in the region and highlighted how much is spent, it's not entirely clear how much is from the pass and how much is from the government's tax base.

Marlin Schmidt, the NDP's environment critic and the MLA for the Edmonton-Gold Bar riding, said the government needs to be more transparent with the pass.

“I think the onus is really on the government to

continue to show people what they're getting for the money that they're paying to go to Kananaskis Country,” he said. “Because from everything that I've heard from people who have been there, they don't see the value that they're getting from the money that they're being asked to pay.”

Schmidt noted how if there's going to be a fee – one the NDP opposed – a full value needs to be on display.

“In my view, if you wanted to charge a fee, you would provide transparency, but not only that, you'd also have set your goals. These are the things we want to accomplish by charging the fee and so they set the fee accordingly and they didn't do that. They just came up with a random number and then have been dishing out grants with no goal in mind, no process in place for dishing out those grants.”

Nixon said prior to the conservation pass, about 65 to 70 per cent of Kananaskis Country was subsidized by taxes. However, since the pass was released, it has shifted to 60 per cent user fees and 40 per cent from taxes, which is more in line with other areas of the province with a user fee.

The conservation pass is also expected to bring in \$15 million this year, he said.

IMPROVEMENTS

CONTINUED ON PAGE A9



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IMPROVEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A8

Nixon listed off a slew of investments for Kananaskis Country totalling more than \$20 million such as \$3.5 million for 30 new seasonal workers, \$1.5 million for six new conservation officers, about \$1 million for the bus for Grassi Lakes and roughly \$17.5 million for the Canmore Nordic Centre.

However, he stopped short of committing to releasing specifically where each dollar is going, other than to say it is reinvested in Kananaskis Country. He noted the Alberta budget outlines where the money goes, but the provincial budget doesn't have a specific section for the Kananaskis Conservation pass.

The 2022 budget saw Alberta Environment and Parks receive \$604 million – an increase of \$105 million from the previous budget – but Parks were allocated \$75 million. The 2020-21 budget for Parks was \$76 million and rose to \$81 million last year.

In an Oct. 18, 2021 announcement on the Kananaskis Conservation Pass at the Canmore Nordic Centre, Nixon also said the pass “supported the hiring of 20 new conservation officers”.

A subsequent March 18 media release announced that the “hiring and training of these new conservation officers was made possible by revenues from the Kananaskis Conservation pass.”

Nixon said people were “reading a little too much into that one sentence” and that the number of conservation officers in the province have increased by a third, with the Kananaskis Conservation pass only paying for the six officers for Kananaskis Country.

“It's 100 per cent by Alberta law by the treasury board in processes that are in place with Alberta finance to be invested back inside Kananaskis.”

What's being done

- Expand and formalize the Grassi Lakes main parking lot
- Refurbish portions of the Grassi Lakes Trail
- Formalize the Grassi Lakes overflow parking lot
- Provide a road crossing and trail connection between the overflow and main lots
- Provide separation and washroom facilities between the climber's lot and the Smith Dorrien Trail
- Expand and formalize the main Goat Creek parking lot
- Replace two bridges on Goat Creek Trail

Trail closures include:

- Grassi Lakes Trail
- Junkyard Trail
- Ha Ling Trail
- Miner's Peak Trail
- Goat Creek Trail
- East End of Rundle Route
- Reclaimer Mountain Bike Trail
- Riders of Rohan Mountain Bike Trail
- Access to High Rockies Trail from Goat Creek

Climbing area closures include:

- Grassi Lakes Climbing Area
- Ha Ling Climbing Area
- East End of Rundle Climbing Area

Estimated number of visits to Kananaskis Country

- 2015: 3,597,678
- 2016: 3,706,633
- 2017: 3,733,772
- 2018: 3,793,782
- 2019: 4,111,942
- 2020: 5,412,443
- 2021: 5,015,423

Town of Banff

information

Earth Day community cleanup

Join the Town of Banff and Parks Canada for a community cleanup April 25-28. We'll provide you with the necessary tools and an area to clean around your neighbourhood or in the national park. Household compost bins will also be available at the toolkit pick-up and drop-off. Register as an individual or as a group at banff.ca/Events.

Register for Emergency Alerts

Register for Emergency Alerts with the Town of Banff's new notification system. Get notifications about flooding, wildfire, train derailment, sudden road closures and more. Download the Voyent Alert! app, sign up for text or email alerts, or register for a call to your phone. Sign up at banff.ca/Alerts.

30 is the new 40

Banff has lowered the speed limit town-wide to 30 km/h, except where posted for slower speeds, such as the 200 block of Bear Street. The change makes it safer for everyone. Details: banff.ca/30kmh.

Spring street sweeping

Town crews will be sweeping driving lanes, curbs, and any unoccupied parking zones for the next few weeks. If the weather cooperates, residential streets will be swept next. Keep an eye out for signs, and visit banff.ca/Alerts to sign up for future street alerts.

Motoring Munchkins

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join other Banff families for a fun morning of indoor unstructured free play at the Banff Elementary School. With supervision, kids 1 – 5 will be able to play with others and use the Town's play equipment. This program is free for Banff residents with a valid membership. Learn more at banff.ca/Motoring.

Meetings

Governance and Finance Committee:

Monday, April 11, 9 a.m.

Council: Monday, April 11, 2 p.m.

View the live meeting at banff.ca/Live.

Visit banff.ca/AgendaCentre or subscribe to meeting agendas at banff.ca/Notify.

Spring and Summer Programs

Registration opens April 1

The Town of Banff has a wide range of classes, courses, and drop-in sessions for a variety of ages and skill levels. Programs include outdoor pursuits, art, and more! To find all available courses, and to learn more, visit banff.ca/Classes or call 403.762.1235.

Learn to Curl

Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

The Fenlands Banff Recreation Centre Join the Banff Curling Club at The Fenlands for an introduction to the sport of curling. Learn how to throw rocks and sweep. All equipment and some instruction provided. For more information, and to register, visit banffcurlingclub.ca.

Register for Homegrown Art Show

Each spring Banff Town Hall hosts the work of artists from throughout the Bow Valley. This community exhibition is aimed at helping young, new and emerging artists share and celebrate their work with the community. Deadline to register is April 11. To register, visit banff.ca/Homegrown.



Deadline
April 11

Into the Wild spring break camp (K – 5) April 4 – 14, 12 – 5: 45 p.m.

Into the Wild spring break day camps will feature unique activities such as Indigenous-led tours, shelter-building and nature walks with a local interpretive guide. Plus afternoon snacks, plenty of singing, crafting, and story-telling. For more information, regular programming, and program fees, visit banff.ca/IntoTheWild.

Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Wednesdays, April 27, May 4, 11, 18 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Prepare yourself and your preschooler for the transition into kindergarten with this free, in-person, four week program. Banff and Canmore sessions are available. Visit banff.ca/FamilyResourceNetwork for more information on the Banff sessions. Registration is required.

Be Kind. Be Safe.

Be respectful to others as we all have different levels of comfort with the easing of restrictions.

Learn where to get vaccinated and stay up-to-date on the latest COVID information at banff.ca/Covid.



Banff.ca • Banff Town Hall • 110 Bear Street
Monday – Friday • 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • 403.762.1200



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Banff Town



Spring and Summer Program Registration Now Open!

The Town of Banff has a wide range of classes, courses and drop-in sessions for a variety of ages and skill levels running from April 1 – September 30. Classes and courses that require registration are open for online or in-person registration starting on April 1 at 8 a.m.

Registered Courses

Outdoor Pursuits: Guided Hikes, Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Standup Paddleboarding, Scrambling, Via Ferrata and more.

Adult and Family Learning: First Aid, Bear Aware, Swim to Survive, Art and more.

Try Its: Golf, Lacrosse, Into The Wild Nature Play, Mountain Biking, Standup Paddleboarding and more.

Banff residents be ready to register on April 1, visit banff.ca/Register and sign up for an online account. If you already have an online account, visit banff.ca/Register and check your login information is up-to-date. Speciality course registration opens for non-residents 10 days prior to the course start date pending availability.

Drop-In Sessions

Children and Youth: Kid Zone, Summer Get Out, Rise and Shine, Shiny, Basketball, Indoor Skateboarding and more.

16+: Shiny, Roller Skating, Skateboarding, Pickleball, Basketball, Pilates, Soccer, Yin Yoga and more.

Events

Bike Month, Recreation and Parks Day, Movie under the Stars, Homegrown Art Show and more.

Register Online
at banff.ca/classes

For more information, contact recreation@banff.ca or call 403.762.1235



Canmore Coun. and chair of the Bow Valley Regional Transit Services Commission Joanna McCallum speaks at an announcement at Silvertip Golf Course on Friday (March 25). The announcement provided just under \$1 million in funding for a Roam transit bus and more than \$4 million in infrastructure repairs and improvements in the Grassi Lakes and Goat Creek day-use areas. GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

New Grassi Lakes, Nordic Centre bus route to begin in 2024

GREG COLGAN

CANMORE – Nearly \$1 million from the provincial government will help fund a free transit route to provide service to the Canmore Nordic Centre and Grassi Lakes day-use areas by 2024.

The funding partnership between the Town of Canmore, the Alberta government and the Bow Valley Regional Transit Service Commission (BVRTSC) will run for three years. It will allow time to see the success of the route, especially with the area it serves popular to both locals and visitors.

Joanna McCallum, a Town of Canmore councillor and chair of the BVRTSC, said the Town and the commission are “very excited” for the partnership, particularly in its potential to increase free transit options and reduce congestion.

She noted how important the project is in further managing congestion, providing affordable options to transit and reducing the impact on the environment.

“We know there is no practical way to build adequate parking to accommodate the volume of visitors who love to access these special sites,” she said.

“By adding a new local transit route with hourly service to these areas between the May long weekend to mid-September, we can provide an attractive alternative for people who may normally choose to drive in a private vehicle.”

Minister of Environment and Parks Jason Nixon said the money for the bus is coming from the province’s Kananaskis Conservation Pass, which brought in about \$12 million in its first

year of existence. He said the money will help with the bus cost, but also create transit stops, operations and help with necessary infrastructure.

“The goal is to create a transportation option to get into the park to one of the busiest areas of Kananaskis and do that in a way that can give people access to the park without having to park as much,” he said.

“One of our big goals is to try and alleviate some of the congestion that we see in Kananaskis. ... One of the big things we’re hearing from users of the park is limited parking options and some of the congestion, so our hope is with this transit option with the Town of Canmore we’ll be able to give people access to Kananaskis without them having to park in that tight environment.”

The province is chipping in \$994,000 to help cover costs for the electric bus and costs associated with the route. The bus was purchased for \$1.05 million and the annual operating costs for the route is \$183,000, with a 50/50 split shared between the Town of Canmore and Alberta Environment and Parks at \$91,500 each.

The purchase of the bus came from \$700,000 through GreenTRIP funding, while the province added the remaining \$350,000.

An additional \$360,000 was budgeted for nine new bus stops for the seasonal route, signage and improvements to up to eight existing stops. The province will add \$320,000 for that and the remaining \$40,000 will come from GreenTRIP funding.



Nearly \$1 million from the provincial government will help fund a free transit route to provide service to the Canmore Nordic Centre and Grassi Lakes day-use areas by 2024. ROAM TRANSIT PHOTO

NEW BUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A10

The additional funding from the province will leave the Town of Canmore on the hook for \$275,000 in operational costs spread over the three-year period once the bus begins running.

Martin Bean, Roam transit's chief administrative officer, said with the bus beginning in 2024, it gives time to create the necessary infrastructure such as stops, ensure there are no delays in receiving the bus and develop the route. It also allows construction in the area of Grassi Lakes and Goat Creek day-use areas to be completed this year to help with parking congestion and enhance recreation opportunities.

Nixon said work is expected to begin in early April and will cost more than \$4 million.

Rachel Ludwig, the chief executive officer of Tourism Canmore Kananaskis, said the extra route for popular spots will aid in giving visitors additional travel options instead of just relying on a personal vehicle.

"It's an important step and aligns well with our

vision of a sustainable tourism economy. Extending free transit will make access to some of our most popular spots more easy for locals and visitors alike."

The bus will stop at Grassi Lakes, the Canmore Nordic Centre, Bow Valley Trail and Quarry Lake, so it's connected with both the local and regional routes.

The line will run from the May long weekend to the third week in September, but Bean said depending on weather, it could be extended to the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

"The success of the route will be determined by the ridership and the lower number of cars in the area," he said. "My thought is it will be very successful because the demand's there and more people are connecting to transit."

The announcement is another in a big week for regional transit options.

On March 22, the BVRTSC and Parks Canada signed a five-year \$12.9 million agreement. It will help purchase three new electric buses that will aid in the goal to reduce car use and emissions.

It's expected by the summer of 2023, Roam will have about 30 per cent of its fleet – 10 of 32 buses – be electric, making it one of the higher transit services with electric buses by percentage in Canada.

The deal will also help look at new routes, improve others and assist with operational costs.

The new bus for the route has been in the works for more than a year, with Canmore council approving its funding for the new route in March 2021.

The Town's Integrated Parking Management Plan that was approved in 2018 prioritizes free public transit to help ease congestion.

Michael Roycroft, the regional director of the Kananaskis Region, said with the Grassi Lakes day-use area being upgraded this summer and other necessary infrastructure improved, it will aid in transit options in the region.

"We anticipate and certainly hope that if it proves successful that it becomes a template for possible future transit solutions and options for the broader Kananaskis Country into the future."

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A Bolivian park ranger and a young journalist from Hong Kong risk their lives to go undercover and investigate a new, deadly jaguar trade that's sweeping South America. Along the way, they grapple with questions of empathy, responsibility and bridging a cultural gap to prevent the jaguar trade from spiraling out of control.



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filmfest.banffcentre.ca



From the film *Tigre Gente*

Physician shortage a new challenge for Bow Valley

CRAIG BAIRD

BOW VALLEY – For the first time in at least two decades, the Bow Valley area is dealing with a physician shortage and housing appears to be the main culprit.

The Bow Valley Primary Care Network (PCN) released a statement Monday (March 28) advising residents that due to doctors leaving the area, no physicians are accepting new patients.

“It hasn’t been an issue for us in the past, but housing is making it tough,” said Kathryn Wright, the communications specialist for Bow Valley PCN. “There are doctors who have been invited to stay long-term, but they describe their housing as insecure and they can’t commit.”

As doctors leave, it puts extra pressure on the remaining doctors, who then deal with heavier workloads and an increased risk of burnout. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made this problem worse.

“We have exceptional doctors here and they are taxed,” Wright said. “It has been a tough couple of years, and they are at their limits because no one is accepting new patients.”

The increased workload is being felt throughout Alberta by doctors who are seeing more patients as other doctors leave the province.

“You are seeing a workforce that is becoming scarcer, and as physicians leave, there is more work put on the remaining physicians, with heavier workloads and more burnout,” said Dr. Michelle Warren, Alberta Medical Association (AMA) president. “It begins to snowball.”

According to the AMA, the number of retiring doctors has doubled in the past two years alone.

“We have a lot of older physicians out there that historically don’t retire until they are older but once you start feeling exhausted or overwhelmed, it makes sense to think of retirement,” Dr. Warren said.

The problem of housing shortages for doctors is not unique to the Bow Valley area. Throughout Alberta, housing is a problem for many communities looking to recruit doctors.

“It is not unique to the area. It is something that is facing all of Alberta now. Rural Alberta, but also urban,” Dr. Warren said. “We are seeing simi-

lar shortages in cities that historically haven’t had issues like that.”

While keeping doctors can be a challenge, recruiting new doctors to the area presents its own set of issues. Doctors are highly sought after not just provincially, but nationally and internationally. This competition can make it hard for many places to bring in new doctors to fill the holes left by doctors who have left the community.

“Any physician who is looking around, has many opportunities to work pretty much anywhere that they want to go,” Dr. Warren said. “We need to, as a province and communities, recognize that fact. We are competing for a very skilled workforce that has a lot of options.”

The Bow Valley PCN is looking for ways to hasten recruitment in the area and make the community more liv-

“It hasn’t been an issue for us in the past, but housing is making it tough. There are doctors who have been invited to stay long-term, but they describe their housing as insecure and they can’t commit.”

KATHRYN WRIGHT
Communications Specialist
for Bow Valley Primary Care
Network

able and appealing to healthcare professionals. The PCN board is currently working with other community organizations to help relieve the crunch being created by the lack of physicians in the area.

Other communities in Alberta have been down this same road, and according to Dr. Warren, it comes down where a doctor feels the best place is for their family.

“When they are done schooling, they are going to look to their families as to where they want to live and that is going to be a driving force. That is going to determine if you get a physician who stays for a year, five years or longer.”

The provincial physician crunch is something that the Friends of Medicare has also been looking at, and hoping the provincial government will get more engaged in.

“The government needs to lead the way and think how we are going to retain and recruit new doctors,” said Chris Galloway, executive director of Friends of Medicare. “They need to work with the AMA and students to figure out a plan for retention improvement overall.”

Residents can also help keep physicians in communities, while encouraging others to move to the area by providing a sense of belonging for doctors and their families.

“That sense of commitment to the community. That these are my people, this is my hospital,” Dr. Warren said.

SHORTAGE

CONTINUED ON PAGE A13



Bow Valley doctors aren't accepting new patients but emergency care can be found at the Canmore General Hospital.

RMO FILE PHOTO

SHORTAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

“Once physicians are disengaged and feel that they are just there for a job, you have lost the battle.”

It can also come down to making sure that doctors are not feeling overwhelmed within their own clinics in the Bow Valley. This includes being prepared, cancelling if you need to, not being a no-show and prioritizing your health concerns.

“If a person has a serious health concern, that is the first thing you should talk about,” Wright

said. “If you have a long list of concerns, be upfront with your doctor so you can discuss making other appointments.”

Residents who live in the Bow Valley and maintain a home in Calgary or Edmonton can also help by switching to a doctor in the larger urban centres.

“That is really important for people who aren't able to drive to the city to have a family doctor,” Wright said. “We are hoping people will be a good neighbour and find a doctor where they are not tak-

ing a resource from someone here who doesn't really have another choice.”

Walk-in appointments can still be booked with a physician at the Banff Alpine Medical Clinic or the Ridgeview Medical Clinic by calling ahead. While clinics are not accepting new patients, they are offering appointments for single-issue visits.

For residents who need emergency care, they are encouraged to visit the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital or the Canmore General Hospital.



2022 Season Programs

This summer, step onto the greens of The Fairmont Banff Springs Golf Course and see for yourself why it is often named among Canada's top courses.

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Independent investigator to examine future council code of conduct allegations

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – The Town of Banff plans to hire an independent expert to investigate future complaints against elected officials.

At a governance and finance committee meeting on Monday (March 28), administration was directed to seek a request for proposals to obtain services from a third-party individual or company experienced in mediation and complaint adjudication to carry out the duties of investigator.

During more than two hours of debate and discussion on the issue, Councillor Chip Olver said she wants to see complaints against elected officials go to a third-party investigator, which is in line with the Town of Canmore's model.

"I believe it's appropriate to go to an investigator first and not to have a complaint about the code of conduct for elected officials go through an administrator or go through council," said Coun. Olver, who is Banff's longest serving councillor, having been elected in 1994.

"It separates administration completely from the process and council completely from the process and goes to a professional who is guided by their own code of ethics and their own code of conduct. I think those are important things in terms of confidence in the process."

Banff's council code of conduct bylaw has been in place for about a year-and-a-half.

During that time, one formal conflict of interest complaint was levelled against former town councillor Peter Poole in July 2021 for his involvement in discussions on the area redevelopment plan for the train station lands and proposed aerial gondola from the townsite to Mount Norquay.

Poole is the owner of a local nearby

hotel on the lower slopes of Mount Norquay.

Council made various decisions relating to this complaint by Mount Norquay owner and Liricon partner Adam Waterous, but ultimately unanimously dismissed the complaint in its entirety because there were insufficient grounds for the matter to be investigated.

Prior to the council code of conduct coming into effect, allegations were levelled against former mayor Karen Sorensen.

Although she had previously publicly declared a conflict of interest, the allegations were related to her husband Carsten Sorensen's company, which had been one of the brokers providing a benefits package to the Town of Banff since 2005. She was also director and co-owner.

However, the RCMP and an investigation by an independent investigator contracted by the Town of Banff cleared Sorensen, who is now a Canadian senator, of any wrongdoing. The allegations were made by residents Jamie MacVicar and Barry Kelly.

Following the two investigations into Poole and Sorensen, council highlighted a need for further clarity around investigation and other processes related to allegations of misconduct by elected officials.

In addition, Kelly, one of the complainants against Sorensen who is a long-time resident and former high-ranking RCMP officer, called for greater accountability and asked council to create a public ethics committee.

Last September, council directed administration to explore the merits of an independent ethics committee, an ethics commissioner or a request for Banff's inclusion in the provincial ombudsman's oversight.

Administration did not recommend an ethics committee or an ethics



Banff town council.

GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

commissioner at this time, arguing both options require significant additional investigation.

Mayor Corrie DiManno said council has experienced the pros and cons of two different investigative systems based on the two formal complaints since 2020.

But she said she is interested in trying the independent investigator approach, noting council can change

direction in future if needed.

"The part that's most appealing is it just takes council out of the process and puts it into a realm of this professional having expertise in this area," said Mayor DiManno, adding she is, however, wary of the potential costs.

"I do like the idea if we're trying to get the most unbiased result here, and

CONDUCT

CONTINUED ON PAGE A15



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CONDUCT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A14

if we're talking about things being fair and transparent, I think completely taking it out of council's hands is a way that we could achieve those goals."

There is no specific budget for an independent investigator at this time, but it's anticipated it would be funded through council's general legal budget.

"As reference, for the 2020 complaint, the investigative costs, including the investigator's fees, were \$12,550," said Libbey McDougall, the Town of Banff's municipal clerk.

During Monday's governance and finance committee meeting, Kelly said an independent investigator was not an option in the original motion.

Kelly said he did not agree with this as an ethics solution.

"I think council is fully aware of the hourly rate of an investigator/mediator," he said in a letter to council. "It is prohibitive and should only be considered as the final option at the end of a complex complaint."

Kelly argued an ethics committee made up of public members was a better way to go.

"With the ability to register an anonymous complaint to an independent committee with its majority being public members, you will see an increase of various kinds of ethics complaints," he said.

"This will improve transparency and will also improve the communities level of trust in the local political process."

Kelly said the simplicity of an unpaid ethics committee made up of Banff residents allows for a relatively quick start-up once administration lays the groundwork.

"We are dealing with an advisory committee that receives, reviews and conducts a cursory investigation on all incoming ethics complaints – anonymous or otherwise," he said.

"Once the intake process is completed the committee meets and agrees on a course of action and forwards it to council as necessary... council makes the final call on any complaint."

Councillors Hugh Pettigrew, Ted Christensen and Kaylee Ram supported the hiring of an independent investigator as an interim solution, allowing time for the option of an ethics committee to be considered.

They wanted administration to return at 2023 service review later this year with information on costs, required staff, terms of reference and funding sources to create an independent ethics committee. However, they failed to get support from the other four members of council.

Coun. Grant Canning said there could still be perceptions of bias of members of a public committee, noting Banff is a small town.

"I think there will always be a perception of bias one way or the other, depending on the decision and the discussion," he said.

"Giving this to an independent investigator professional who is trained in this is as independent as we could possibly manage."

Councillors Pettigrew and Christensen also lost their argument for council to have a say or vote in choosing the independent investigator to be put on retainer.

"This is not to gain control over what the investigator will choose, but it's to separate the influence that administration has on council and is sometimes seen as an imbalance in the community," said Coun. Christensen. "I think that council and the community need to have a voice in choosing who is investigating council complaints."

Meanwhile, Town of Banff administration will continue discussions with Alberta's Office of the Ombudsman about including the Town of Banff within its jurisdiction.

Since 2018, the provincial ombudsman has had authority to investigate municipalities on matters of administration, not policy decisions made by elected officials. However, it currently does not legally apply to Banff because of the incorporation agreement with the federal government.

Town of Canmore

Community Information



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Meetings

Upcoming Committee Meetings

April 5 Regular Council Meeting 9 a.m.

April 19 Committee of the Whole 1 p.m.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

April 11 Cultural Advisory Committee 6:30 p.m.

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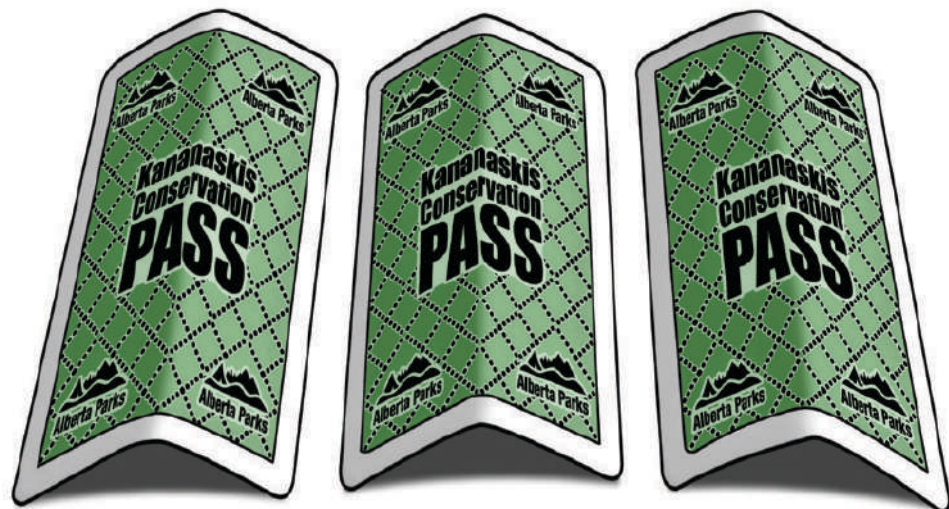
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FOLLOW THE MONEY



EDITORIAL

Albertans deserve to know how pass money is being spent

The use of public money should always come with transparency on where it is coming from and how it is being spent.

In the case of the Kananaskis Conservation Pass, the United Conservative Party has been happy to show the money being spent in Kananaskis Country but stopped short of providing information on where the roughly \$12 million from the pass is going.

The UCPs have had many opportunities to outline how each dollar from the pass is being spent, but have chosen not to reveal where it is shifted to in Kananaskis Country.

Though there was controversy surrounding the fee when it was announced, many Alberta residents have stated they are happy to pay a fee if all the money is returned to Kananaskis Country and how it is spent.

The province is estimating about \$15 million will be collected in 2022, showing people are willing to pay to visit Kananaskis Country.

But the lack of transparency has left far too many questions unanswered and the UCP has been unwilling – or unable – to provide those answers.

In recent months, the UCP has happily organized and shown up for media conferences to dole out cash, but when it comes to showing their math, no answers have been provided.

Money has been committed to what serves as one of the most popular areas in the province with numerous provincial parks. With more than five million visitors a year for both 2020 and 2021, people have taken every opportunity to get to many spots.

The UCP has committed about \$26 million for spending in Kananaskis Country. The bulk of it will go to the Canmore Nordic Centre, but there will also be six new conservation officers and an increase in regional transit beginning in 2024.

However, on two occasions the UCPs have stated the training and hiring for 20 new conservation officers came from the pass, but only six are being directed to Kananaskis. While there have been many chances to

clarify, none has yet to come.

A further \$994,000 will go towards the seasonal Grassi Lakes Road transit route that is estimated to start in 2024.

Much needed infrastructure repairs at more than \$4 million are also coming to the Grassi Lakes and Goat Creek day-use areas that will leave both popular spots closed for the 2022 season.

The Grassi Lakes bus has incredible promise in offering free transit for people to get to the Canmore Nordic Centre, Quarry Lake and Grassi Lakes to ease the level of congestion and provide affordable transit.

Anyone who's driven through Highway 742 on the way to Grassi Lakes and Goat Creek day-use area will likely be thankful for the savings they'll see in not having to get their vehicle realigned or shocks replaced after each trip over the pothole marked paths.

The work will also increase parking for those choosing to drive to do trails such as Ha Ling Trail, Grassi Lakes Trail, Goat Creek Trail and Riders of Rohan Mountain Bike Trail.

The infrastructure repairs will aid visitors, but as the conservation and environmental community has noted if it's called a conservation pass what is it doing for conservation?

At this moment, not much – and it is something that needs to be addressed in future years.

In the latest provincial budget, Alberta Environment and Parks was earmarked \$604 million, which is a jump of \$105 million from 2021. However, Parks was only given \$75 million after receiving \$76 million in 2020 and \$81 million in 2021.

Alberta Environment and Parks should have a higher standard and level of respect in providing information to the people providing the cash flow. Anything short is unacceptable and a failure of provincial leadership.

Albertans deserve to know where their money is being spent.

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VOX POPULI

The Kananaskis pass at work

Editor:

It's long past time to stop calling the Kananaskis "Conservation Pass" a conservation pass. It isn't. It's a hiking and bicycling fee, and it's not being invested in conservation.

The government doubtless chose to call it a conservation pass because focus group testing told them citizens are more willing to pay for conservation than for recreation.

But truth matters, and to suggest money spent on expanding parking lots, subsidizing buses and widening trails is "conservation" is about as honest as calling Jason Nixon, a proponent of coal strip mining and grizzly bear hunting, an "Environment Minister".

The term for this sort of thing is gaslighting, and it's a tactic successfully used by abusers everywhere. Kananaskis Country, and we who care for it, are in this case the ones being abused.

If Alberta's current UCP government were honestly concerned about raising funds for conservation in Kananaskis, Jason Nixon's announcement last week would have sounded a lot different.

Instead of promoting tourism and recreation projects, he might have had something to say about restoring native cutthroat and bull trout, both of which are species now classified as threatened with extirpation in Kananaskis and elsewhere in the Eastern Slopes.

He might have offered up some investment in repairing damaged land. But he didn't.

Some of the biggest conservation challenges in Kananaskis Country are in the McLean Creek public land use zone.

That area is riddled with eroding off-highway vehicle trails and raw muddy hillsides, the results of years of abuse and overuse by motorized users, an unfortunately significant number of whom are thrill-seeking vandals.

After their wheels rip up the vegetation, the exposed soil washes out in rainstorms.

All that lost soil becomes mud that contaminates trout habitat and plugs up the downstream Glenmore reservoir.

The resulting gullies add to the severity of spring flooding by serving as funnels for runoff.

If he were honestly concerned about conservation, Minister Nixon might have told us that the motorized users causing all that damage were no longer

exempt from paying the "conservation pass". Instead of blithely ignoring it, he could have committed some funding to repair at least some of the damage those users cause.

That's the biggest irony about the so-called conservation pass: people who drive heavy, damaging vehicles all over our sensitive headwaters landscape get to do so for free, while those of us who tread lightly have to pay a fee to use our own land.

It isn't a conservation pass; it's a penalty for choosing to walk or bicycle instead of ripping around in motorized toys.

Last week's announcement of improvements to Grassi Lakes, Goat Creek and other popular day-use trail destinations was welcome; those areas are congested and showing signs of wear.

But that kind of recreational maintenance should be a much lower conservation priority than repairing damaged watersheds, restoring species at risk and protecting biodiversity.

Conservation benefits all Albertans and should be funded by all Albertans through our taxation system. Recreational user fees are, arguably, a legitimate way to generate funds to maintain and enhance recreational facilities and mitigate their impacts.

But the continued exemption of motorized users completely perverts that concept; it's simply a slap in the face to the rest of us.

Jason Nixon didn't announce conservation projects last week, and he isn't spending conservation dollars.

Having tried to gaslight us with a mis-labelled recreational user fee that singles out only the lowest-impact recreational users of Kananaskis Country, he now wants us to believe that bigger parking lots and wider trails equate to conservation.

Meanwhile, urgent conservation priorities are being ignored and the users contributing to those problems don't even have to pay.

Alberta needs a real Environment Minister. Kananaskis, and those of us who use it responsibly, need more respect. Apparently, neither of those things are available from our current UCP government.

Kevin Van Tighem,
Banff

Kenney circling the wagons

Editor:

Premier Jason Kenney has been desperately circling his wagons, but will it be enough for him to retain his crown come the leadership review?

Despite his historically low approval ratings and polls showing the majority of Albertans want him out, Kenney still believes he is the man for the job.

He is calling nay-sayers "extremists", "malcontents" and "fringe groups". Traditionally, leadership reviews call for a margin of 60-75 per cent to win the confidence of the party.

But as Kenney says, "traditions are not rules" and 50 per cent + one per cent is good enough for him.

Now that the U.S. has called for a ban on Russian oil, Kenney wants to resurrect a deal that was dead in the water in the Keystone XL pipeline.

He wants President Joe Biden to look north for his oil demands and forget that he is being sued by Alberta for cancelling the said deal.

Without an investor, Kenney has said that "he'd leave the door open" to the possibility of re-investing in the failed pipeline.

Controversy is swirling around the government's decision to lift caps on charter schools and announcing the investment of millions of dollars in them.

The Alberta Teachers Association contends those monies are being cut out of what should be going to public education. Kenney's maddening assertion that this gives parents more choice doesn't mention which parents.

The UCP is amending the Municipal Government Act to allow them to prohibit municipalities from enacting their own public health rules.

Although this has been called an "overreach" as well as setting "a negative

precedent", Kenney said he was "concerned municipalities would base their decisions on politics, not science".

Minister of Energy Sonya Savage announced the province was reinstating the 1974 policy on coal exploration.

This decision didn't come about from the graces of the energy minister but rather was a result of a surging grassroots movement to stop the coal mining push.

Kenney's abysmal record on all things related to the pandemic are further buoyed by his allowing non-vaccinated public servants to return to work.

He has opened the door for hospital and care home staff to work with vulnerable patients/residents by suggesting that vaccines offer "no measurable difference" for transmission.

And in that same vein, seniors are calling for the government to bring back the axed seniors advocate office.

Almost 90 per cent of deaths from COVID were adults over 60 years of age.

Re-enforcing the low priority and value this government has for seniors, take of this statement what you may: "the average age of death from COVID in Alberta is 81 and I'll remind the house that the average life expectancy in Alberta is 82."

To top all of this off, Kenney is going to have his own radio show.

He says that he is "looking forward to hearing directly from Albertans on issues that matter to them". How novel.

No need to mention the newest MLA Brian Jean and the unprecedented numbers registering to vote in the review.

That city will be bursting at the seams.

Marilyn Foxford,
Canmore

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Town of Banff investigates cybersecurity attack

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – A team of cybersecurity experts is investigating a cybersecurity attack on the Town of Banff.

Town of Banff officials say no one has claimed responsibility for the March 19 computer hacking incident, but would not say if anyone had threatened to sell or release data that was accessed as part of any ransom demand.

“At this stage, we would not be providing details about any contact, during the ongoing cybersecurity investigation,” said Jason Darrah, the director of communications for the Town of Banff.

Banff town council was briefed on the March 19 cybersecurity incident affecting the municipality’s computer systems during a closed-door meeting on Monday (March 28).

The cybersecurity experts were in attendance as part of the in-camera briefing.

The team of independent cybersecurity experts with KPMG was hired to assist the municipality in dealing with the matter and the RCMP have been notified.

“We believe that some of our files were accessed, some of the data were accessed; it was very concerning that could include personal information,” said Darrah.

“We don’t have any evidence of any misuse of any individual’s personal information and the investigation is still ongoing.”

Upon learning of the incident on March 19, the Town of Banff took immediate steps to secure its systems and mitigate the impact to data and operations.

The cybersecurity experts are also

helping the municipality’s information technology specialists strengthen security of the municipality’s systems.

The Town of Banff also notified Alberta’s Privacy Commissioner of the incident.

“It’s not required, but out of best practice and of transparency, we alerted them even though we don’t know of any misuse of personal information,” said Darrah.

Darrah said protection of residents and their personal information is a priority for the Town of Banff.

“This is very concerning to learn that it happened and we take it so seriously,” he said.

“Any time that there’s a risk for someone accessing personal information, this is a critical incident that we’re applying a lot of energy to, to make sure our systems are secure.”

Darrah said the Town initially detected “something was affecting our computer systems” on March 19.

“When you have an initial impact, it can either be a corruption or someone from outside trying to get in... there was definitely a cybersecurity attempt to access our information,” he said.

“Our systems immediately took steps to mitigate the impact, which is what they do, and it locks things out.”

Darrah said the Town of Banff retained access to its data and information systems at all times during the incident.

“We never lost access, which is important. It shows the success of our automatic security systems,” he said.

The Town of Banff’s critical systems were completely unaffected, such as those in place for emergency response like the Banff Fire Department.

Infrastructure such as water and sewage were also secured and operating as normal.

“They remained fully operational,” said Darrah.

The cybersecurity incident did interrupt the Town of Banff’s staggered return to in-person work at municipal facilities such as Town Hall and the operations’ building.

This was underway after the province of Alberta lifted the mandatory COVID-19 work-from-home order on March 1.

In addition, some of the Town’s non-essential systems were affected such as webcams, for example.

The system for renewing parking

permits was also temporarily shut down.

“They were taken offline as part of our security. We did temporarily disable some systems just to ensure there was no access to the outside world,” said Darrah.

“We will try and get these things up and running as soon as possible.”

The cybersecurity team has continued to work to make sure the computer systems are secure and to assess exactly what happened.

“The cybersecurity team goes through every single thing that’s on our servers within our Town to detect what was viewed or what was accessed,” said Darrah.

Municipalities can be favoured targets of cybersecurity incidents because their cyber defences aren’t as sophisticated as larger levels of government.

Attackers believe cities and towns may be more willing to pay ransoms than other organizations because of the amount of personal information they hold.

In May last year, the Resort Municipality of Whistler in British Columbia had a cybersecurity event.

As a result, non-essential town services were suspended because email, phone, network services and the website were taken offline.

In-person service at Whistler’s municipal hall was also temporarily suspended.

Also last year, Ontario’s Regional Municipality of Durham, which provides regional services to eight local municipalities north of Lake Ontario including the City of Oshawa, reported it was a victim of a cybersecurity incident

In 2018, two small Ontario towns, Wasaga Beach and Midland, paid ransom demands to reclaim data after anonymous computer hackers held their computer systems hostage for more than two days.

Wasaga Beach paid \$35,000, while Midland did not disclose how much was paid.

In 2016, the University of Calgary paid a demanded \$20,000 after a cyberattack on its computer systems.

In 2018, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation charged two men in Iran as part of an investigation into cyberattacks that targeted the University of Calgary and computer networks in the U.S.



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Town of Banff to show solidarity with Ukraine

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – The Town of Banff plans to show solidarity with war-torn Ukraine under attack from a Russian invasion.

The Town of Banff will place a large ribbon in the blue and yellow colours of the Ukraine flag in front of Town Hall.

Councillor Hugh Pettigrew said the municipality's existing flag policy does not allow the Canadian flag to be flown at half-mast, so he made the suggestion to council of a large ribbon outside Town Hall instead.

"Certainly, we want to show support for the terrible things that are happening over there," he said during a council meeting on Monday (March 28).

For more than a month, Ukraine has been subject to devastating and deadly attacks by Russian forces.

An estimated 3.9 million people have fled Ukraine and are looking to nations around the world, including Canada, for support and for peace. Millions more Ukrainians are displaced inside the war-torn country. In response, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has called on cities and communities across Canada to pledge to step up.

FCM president Joanne Vanderheyden said municipal leaders have expressed solidarity and are finding ways to help, whether working with other orders of government to prepare to welcome refugees, making donations, or rallying citizens to focus support where it is most needed.

She said Canadians and FCM members wishing to support those impacted by the

crisis in Ukraine are encouraged to donate to the Red Cross' Ukraine humanitarian crisis appeal.

"Local governments play a vital role as promoters of peace, prosperity, and democracy for Canadian citizens here at home and across the world," said Vanderheyden in a statement.

Some Banff residents had suggested flying the flag outside Town Hall at half-mast. Banff's flag policy lists specific days and occasions when the Canadian flag can be flown at half-mast. Beyond that, it can be flown at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on any other day as directed by a majority vote or a majority affirmative email survey of council.

"That's pretty much the extent to which the flag policy gives us direction," said Jason Darrah, the director of communications for the Town of Banff.

Darrah said, however, that there is nothing preventing an action as directed by council on adorning Town Hall.

He said existing infrastructure outside Town Hall could be an option if deemed appropriate by a majority of councillors.

"We do have some infrastructure that we would want to contemplate and discuss with our facilities' team," said Darrah.

Mayor Corrie DiManno said Banff's flag policy is quite strict and thanked Coun. Pettigrew for his ribbon idea.

Coun. Pettigrew was glad council supported the move to show solidarity with Ukraine.

The budget for the initiative approved by council is up to \$300 from the budget stabilization fund.



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Higher budget approved for Bear Street public art

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – The budget has been hiked to secure a long-awaited public art piece for the revitalized Bear Street following unsuccessful attempts to commission art considered appropriate for the tourist town.

Banff council has increased the original budget of \$109,000 by another \$38,700 to deal with high inflationary costs over the past two years associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, fees for Indigenous consultation and to pay a fair rate to the artist.

Although there were good responses from many respected artists to both calls over the past two years, Charlene Quantz-Wold, chair of the Community Art Committee, said that the group did not see the Banff community, nor the imagined uses of Bear Street, reflected in any of the proposals.

“This new direction proposes the engagement of a public art curator where we will solicit a shortlist of artists with a body of work that excites us, and begins a dialogue earlier in their creative process where we can represent the values of this project for our community,” she said.

“This is the biggest and most high-profile public art project Banff has engaged in to date, and we want to ensure our financial investment matches the high profile of the location, given it may be housed there for several decades to come.”

Just over \$8,312 has been spent by the committee in pursuing the previous two calls to artists, leaving a balance of \$101,577 in the original budget. Council’s approval of another \$38,700 from the public art reserve gives the committee a new budget of about \$140,000 to work with.

Council transfers \$18,772, or \$2 per resident, every year to the public art capital reserve.

With approval of these additional funds, the expected balance in the unrestricted reserve at the end of the

year will be \$44,133.

Councillor Barb Pelham thanked members of the Community Art Committee for all their hard work.

“I wanted to thank the art committee for following their instinct and not proceeding with a project ... if they didn’t feel that they were the right fit,” she said during a town council meeting on Monday (March 28).

“It took a lot of courage for them to step back and reconsider the approach and I want to commend them for taking that courage and coming up with a new approach that’s going to feel better for the whole town.”

The first call to artists resulted in 26 submissions and the second call saw 49 artists from across Canada apply. In the second call, a shortlist of 10 artists was assembled for jury consideration. The jury then selected four artists to go through a residency process.

In August 2021, each artist visited the Town of Banff individually, with volunteers from the committee hosting artists for a programmed, two-day residency program. The aim of the residency was to provide artists with a deeper perspective of the community and the project. After the residency, artists worked on concept proposals and the creation of a maquette.

A jury, which received presentations from the artists in January 2022, passed along a ranked recommendation of the pieces to the Community Art Committee for consideration. The committee deliberated the jury recommendation in mid-January and sought advice from a professional public art curator.

“After great deliberation, the Community Art Committee determined none of the shortlisted pieces were suitable,” said Emma Sanborn, the development planner for the Town of Banff, who is the committee’s point person at the Town.

After reflecting on the previous processes and based on advice from a third-party review from a professional public art curator, the committee will now move forward with an invitational approach to the Bear Street



Banff council has increased the original budget of \$109,000 by another \$38,700 for new Bear Street public art. RMO FILE PHOTO

public art project.

Sanborn said an invitational approach to commission public art allows an artist shortlist to be built based on experience and knowledge of the artists’ and their practices.

“Ideally this facilitates a more thoughtful and informed process, resulting in a concept that is more directed and responsive to place,” she said.

“Such a process demonstrates a respect for the artists’ work in a non-competitive context and can produce a more successful public art commission.”

Mayor Corrie DiManno also thanked the volunteer committee for its time and energy in securing a public art piece for Bear Street.

“They tried a couple of different techniques here and it’s been good learning, but they want to get it right and it currently doesn’t feel right for them,” she said.

“It’s a very public street, it will be high prominence public art and I really appreciate them wanting to get it right.”

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Elmeligi named NDP choice for Banff-Kananaskis riding

GREG COLGAN

CANMORE – Sarah Elmeligi will be the NDP's candidate for the Banff-Kananaskis riding in the next provincial election.

Elmeligi won the nomination in the riding Sunday (March 27) after 254 votes in a ranked ballot were cast by NDP members in Banff, Bragg Creek, Canmore, Springbank and mail-in ballots.

"My next step is to become MLA. ... This is my first time running for office, so I'm sure I'm on the edge of a lot of learning. ... I know I have a really dedicated constituency association who is going to support me and I know we have a lot of really dedicated volunteers in the Banff-Kananaskis riding," said Elmeligi shortly after receiving the riding's nomination.

"I'm looking forward to working with them to get my name out there and meet more people in the constituency and to let people know what the NDP can do for them."

Elmeligi, a Canmore-based bear biologist and conservation planner, publicly announced her intention to seek the nomination in August.

In the months since, she said she met members of the constituency to learn what was important for them in the riding and province.

She said climate change and concerns on coal mining after the 1976 Loughheed coal policy was rescinded in 2020 were two topics consistently that came up. Elmeligi also noted the changes in the education curriculum, the UCP's handling of the pandemic, healthcare and affordable childcare also were areas of priority.

"This is a very environmentally conscious riding. There's a lot of awareness of environmental issues and wanting to be good stewards to address those issues," said Elmeligi, calling the experience of speaking to constituents "really valuable."

She completed an undergraduate degree in zoology at the University of Alberta, received a master of natural resources and environmental studies from the University of Northern British Columbia and a PhD from Central Queensland University where her research focused on grizzly bear management in the Rocky Mountains.

Elmeligi has also worked for Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta chapter and was a park facility planner for Alberta Environment and Parks in the Kananaskis Region.

Elmeligi has lived and worked in the riding for the past 15 years.

The event featured keynote speaker David Eggen, a longtime NDP MLA and its advanced education critic, as well as MLA Sarah Hoffman, the NDP's education critic.

Former MLA Cameron Westhead also virtually spoke and the Banff-Kananaskis constituency association president Stephen Legault served as the MC.

Mark Tkacz, Gavin McCaffrey and Tanya Foubert also ran for the nomination seat.

The riding is held by the United Conservative Party MLA Miranda Rosin. She defeated Westhead in the 2019



Sarah Elmeligi speaks after being named the NDP's choice for the Banff-Kananaskis riding on Sunday (March 27).

GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

election with 51.23 per cent of the vote to Westhead's 42.11 per cent.

At 15,939 square kilometres, the riding stretches from Lake Louise to the Municipal District of Foothills and also includes the Town of Canmore, Town of Banff, Municipal District of Bighorn, Kananaskis, Rocky View County, the Stoney Nakoda First Nation and the Tsuu T'ina First Nation.

The 2023 provincial election is scheduled for May 29, 2023. However, the UCP intended to hold the leadership review of Premier Jason Kenney April 9 in Red Deer until the UCP board shifted it to a virtual event with mail-in ballots with results available May 18.

The change has led some UCP constituency association presidents to voice discontent on the move, while UCP MLAs Jason Stephan and Peter Guthrie called for Kenney to resign. In April 2021, 17 UCP MLAs – including Rosin – publicly criticized the government for having too strict public health measures to curb the pandemic.

Brian Jean, the former leader of the Wildrose Party, won a by-election earlier in March when he largely ran on a campaign to replace Kenney.

Elmeligi said regardless of when the election is, she'll continue to meet people in the riding to learn what's important for residents.

"It's always nice to meet people one on one and have conversations about what's important to them and what they would like to see their future MLA doing."

"This is a very environmentally conscious riding. There's a lot of awareness of environmental issues and wanting to be good stewards to address those issues."

SARAH ELMELIGI
NDP Candidate for Banff-Kananaskis Riding

YWCA Banff Special Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 21st, 2022 at 6pm

In compliance with section 5.2 and 6.6.5. of the Young Women's Christian Association of Banff (YWCA Banff) Bylaws, the YWCA Board of Directors gives notice of a Special Meeting of the YWCA Membership on **April 21st, 2022, 6:00pm.**

Current YWCA members will receive an invitation to join the meeting via the Zoom platform, on-line or via phone, through an email message.

One borrowing resolution for the Courtyard Project will be presented for information and vote.

Members must attend the meeting via phone or on-line with Zoom to participate in the vote. Members may also vote by proxy.

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SMOOTH RIDE A sleigh full of people makes its way down the path opposite a frozen Lake Louise on Saturday (March 26).
GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO

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By Bill Harder, Palliative and Grief Support Navigator, Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley

Imagine a day where a loved one calls you, or sits you down, to share the news, "I am dying." In that moment, the air may be sucked out of the room, you may miss the next few sentences as those words ring in your ears. It is a body blow that brings a whole range of physical and emotional responses — anger, grief, sadness, anxiety, pain. The diagnosis of a life-limiting illness does not have to feel like the slamming of a door closed on a future. Moments like it, and the days that follow, are where the volunteers and programs of the Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley (PCSBV) can help you, your family, and those close to you.

You are NOT alone.

My job as a palliative and grief support navigator has equipped me with many skills for the supports I provide through the PCSBV. However, it's been my personal and family experience when my wife and I heard the words, "incurable cancer" that has most compelled me to give voice to our human journey through grief, loss, and well-being.

Entering that space with my wife, I was no longer imagining what it was like for her to receive the diagnosis of her illness or for me as a caregiver. I was living it; we were living it.

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One and a half years in, we continue to journey forward, together, supported.

Palliative care is an approach to care for any condition that is incurable — for the patient, their family, loved ones, and caregivers. It is not just for those final days. It is for all the days after hearing those words of a life-limiting diagnosis.

We step into people's lives when they are afraid, vulnerable, grieving, and walk along beside them in such a way that they discover they have the strength for their journey.

Over the past two years, PCSBV has developed community-based programs that support individuals and families from the point of diagnosis onward.

Our trained volunteers can meet with you individually to support you as you explore what you are feeling and needing. Our volunteer grief companions support your navigation of the road ahead as you imagine the possibilities of what is next. From there come the connections to the communities and the resources you are hoping to find and the partners who walk with you — for weeks, months, years to come to create new ways of living.

Our weekly grief support walks connect people in the Bow Valley. Journeying together along similar paths, we share stories and experiences, tears, and laughter . . . helping each other find and build that community of support for clients, caregivers, and loved ones.

And when the time comes, in the actively dying stage, our volunteers and supports the transition to hospice care for the patient and caregivers — emotionally, socially, and spiritually as appropriate.

As we imagine our future, the Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley will continue to provide compassionate programming while actively planning to build our dream: a hospice facility that will provide a quiet, loving, nurturing, supportive second home for patients and their families in their final days, right here in the Bow Valley.

Our 2022-2023 annual theme is "Imagine." We see the idea of Imagine as an invitation to explore possibilities; an invitation to people to create a fabric of community that can support clients and caregivers with new programming like bedside respite care, after-hours nursing care, and connecting isolated elders with a volunteer so they no longer suffer from such heavy loneliness or anxiety.

We invite you to join us, as a volunteer, a donor, a supporter; to partner with us in growing that imagination.

In the days and months ahead, there will be new families that need support as they embark on the same journey my family has — a few simple, yet heart-wrenching words from a doctor, or a change in an ongoing illness. The Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley is here to walk with them on that path. You can connect with us at 403-458-0433 or by email Bill at b.harder@pcsbv.ca.

Bill Harder is the Palliative and Grief Support Navigator with the Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley, a community-focused, volunteer-led, charitable non-profit. PCSBV seeks to improve the palliative experience for individuals and their families who call the Bow Valley home and who are on the journey with a life-limiting illness and grief.

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Work on West Bow River pathway to increase connection, provide active transit options

GREG COLGAN

CANMORE – Work will begin to realign a popular stretch of pathway this year to improve safety and better connect the pathway system in Canmore.

The West Bow River pathway – also known as the Three Sisters pathway – will have work on multiple segments between the Bow River bridge and Van Horne.

Among the plans are to replace the Prospect and Homestead stormwater bridges, realign portions of the pathway and regrade and reconstruct part of the storm wall near the Prospect bridge.

“The West Bow River Pathway project is a key piece of the connectivity of our overall network and it will support the continued improvement of local and other key major connections,” said Trevor Reeder, a project manager in the Town of Canmore’s engineering department at the March 15 committee of the whole meeting.

The work is designed to support the Town’s integrated transportation master plan, which gives improved options for people moving around the community beyond relying on vehicles. It also aligns with the municipality’s commitment to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the integrated transportation plan, the goal is to have 40 per cent of travel done by an active mode by 2030. When the plan was released in 2018, 80 per cent of trips were done by vehicles.

“The active modes network is a crucial variable in supporting our mode shift

targets and enhancing the transportation equity,” Reeder said.

The West Bow River pathway is considered a crucial link between the Three Sisters area and the west side of Canmore.

The project budget is about \$1.5 million, with the bulk of the cost going towards the replacement of the Prospect bridge and Homesteads stormwater bridge. The Prospect bridge – a three-metre wooden bridge built in 1996 – is anticipated to be replaced this summer or fall and the bulk of the pathway work would be completed in 2023.

The budget for paving hasn’t yet been set and would need to be considered in a future capital budget.

Andy Esarte, the Town of Canmore’s manager of engineering, noted the importance of providing as many transit options for residents and visitors as possible to emphasize not just using vehicles to travel.

He said the Town will also work with the Canmore Hotel and Lodging Association and the Canmore Downtown BIA to promote the pathway network to visitors in the community.

“We’ve got great pathways. It’s a matter of providing them with the information and collaborate,” he said.

After housing, the biggest expense for Canadians is transportation. With many families reliant on two vehicles, the added insurance, cost and maintenance costs can add up.

Coun. Joanna McCallum highlighted how with growing costs, owning a second vehicle is a “wealthy pursuit”.

As part of the Town’s efforts to ease



The West Bow River pathway – also known as the Three Sisters pathway – will have work on multiple segments between the Bow River bridge and Van Horne. SUBMITTED PHOTO

affordability issues faced by many residents, an emphasis has been placed on providing additional transit options. The Canmore Roam transit service will increase on both weekdays and Sundays – with the money to do so coming from paid parking revenues.

The Roam local route 5 will split into 5a and 5b on April 4 to help better improve the service on both sides of the Trans-Canada Highway, particularly in the Cougar Creek area.


Statistics show that the regional Banff-Canmore route has seen an uptick in ridership after plummeting at the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic. The local route also surpassed its 2019 ridership

numbers in both January and February and is trending towards record ridership for March and April.


Eight local bus stops will also see concrete improvements and 16 shelters will be added to stops.

Reeder said the West Bow River pathway will be easier to maintain and use throughout the year when completed, while also increasing connectivity in the community.

“The delivery of the project is intended to support our year-round active network, provide people with safe continuous all ages all access and increase the functional capacity of our active facilities and support those mode shift goals,” he said.



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Propane heaters banned on public sidewalk patios

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – Outdoor propane heaters will continue to be banned on sidewalk patios in the public realm of Banff's downtown.

Councillors had earlier voted to explore amending the sidewalk seating policy to allow for heating devices based on feedback from some businesses, but in the end, decided to keep the ban in place.

During a council meeting on Monday (March 28), Councillor Hugh Pettigrew voiced opposition to allowing propane heaters.

"I think it's contrary to our environmental policies and goals," he said.

The policy governing sidewalk seating in Banff stipulates that a sidewalk seating permit application will be refused if it contains heating devices.

Emma Sanborn, a development planner with the Town of Banff, said this area of the policy was relaxed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said business owners relied on sidewalk seating areas in the colder months to support their businesses at a time when health restrictions limited indoor eating opportunities.

"We had business owners on the street that were operating earlier than normal in colder months," she said.

"They were trying to extend their floor space and accommodate visitors in the pandemic, so there was a relaxation over the past couple of years on this topic."

Town of Banff administration maintains allowing propane patio heaters would fly in the face of council's ambitious climate action and environmental agenda, which includes a reduction in community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

"Administration maintains that it would be more congruent with the Banff environmental master plan

to continue to not allow these heating devices in the public realm," said Sanborn.

Instead, the planning and development department recommends options such as patio design and orientation, blankets and seat heaters as more appropriate to provide warmth on outdoor patios in the public realm.

Sanborn said they would also not require municipal oversight or regulation.

"A simple blanket is something we see in other cold outdoor winter cafe areas of the world that embrace outdoor dining," she said.

Longtime Banff resident Gary Doyle wrote council a letter to council outlining his concerns over propane heaters, like the municipal one on Bear Street.

He said propane heaters have no place in a town that is waving the "environmental flag."

"Either you believe in the 'environmental' agenda or you don't. You have to be one or the other," he wrote. Doyle said he was recently walking across the road from the fireplace on Bear Street when he heard a couple of tourists chatting.

"One person said to the other, 'wow, they have money to burn in this town'. Not sure as a taxpayer that this is the type of message I want my town to be sending the world, especially if it is related to fossil fuels burning," he said.

Doyle called on the Town of Banff to remove the Bear Street fireplace and acknowledge it was a mistake.

"People don't mind folks admitting that they made a mistake. We are all just human," he said.

The ban on outdoor heating devices only applies to the public realm and not private spaces.

"Some restaurants have patios on private property that are visible from the public realm," said Sanborn. "The sidewalk seating policy does not apply to these spaces and outdoor heating devices may be used."



Propane heaters will be banned in sidewalk patios in the public realm. RMO FILE PHOTO

Public Notice

Town of
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Development Permits

The following Development Permits for a discretionary use, or for a permitted use with a granted variance, have been approved by the Development Officer and/or Canmore Planning Commission in accordance with the Town of Canmore's Land Use Bylaw:

PL20220014

506 5 Street – Lot 2 Block 82 Plan 1095F

Detached Dwelling – Variance to Waterbody Setback

PL20220011

3 Van Horne – Lot 3 Block 9 Plan 9611299

Detached Dwelling – Variance to Maximum Floor Area Ratio

PL20220057

950 Railway Avenue – Lot 5 Block 3 Plan 0310119

Temporary Business (Garden Center)

PL20210487

Unit 101 512 Bow Valley Trail – Lot 9 Plan 9812945

Signage – Variance to Sign Location and Maximum Sign Area

PL20220062

201 Grassi Place – Lot 58 Block 2 Plan 8210815

Home Occupation - Renewal – Physiotherapy Services

The above-mentioned permits shall not be valid until 21 days from the date the Notice of Decision is displayed on the property. Further information regarding these applications may be obtained from the Planning and Development Department. Any persons wishing to appeal any of the above decisions must do so by filing a "NOTICE OF APPEAL" application obtained from the Development Appeal Board Secretary, Planning & Development Department at sdab@canmore.ca or 902 - 7 Avenue, 403.678.1500.

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 BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTLOOK

SPORTS



The Eagles celebrate a goal against the Springbank Rockies in the championship game as Canmore fans bang on the glass.

JORDAN SMALL RMO PHOTO

U15 Canmore Eagles hold off Springbank Rockies to win provincial championship

JORDAN SMALL

CANMORE – As sticks and gloves were tossed to the ice, the U15 Canmore Eagles celebrated as provincial champions.

The Eagles beat the Springbank Rockies, 6-4, in the 2022 Tier 1 Hockey Alberta championship game on Sunday (March 27) in a hard-fought showdown at the Canmore Recreation Centre.

“I think all the players here will remember that for the rest of their lives,” said Eagles coach Reid Solodan. “It’s something that’s very hard to get to and they did it.”

Eagles Austin Gammon scored twice and had three points, Leo Johnson scored and had two helpers, Raine Kapitza had a goal and assist, and Owen Anderson and

Zaagaa Soler each scored in the victory.

Yuri Tajima added two helpers, and with an assist each were Emmet Long, Easton Milne, and Joshua Brousseau. Goalie Kai Rauhaus made 29 saves in the victory.

“I was thinking, no way we came from a Tier 2 team up into [becoming] provincial champions in Tier 1,” said forward Noah Kimbley-Nicolai.

After knocking off the KC Sabres, 5-3, in the semi-finals earlier Sunday, the final showdown and rematch was set with Springbank, which defeated 3C’s Coyotes in the other semi.

The Eagles scored two power play goals in the first period courtesy of Kapitza and Gammon to take a 2-0 lead at the first break. In the second, at 3-0, the Eagles had the man advantage again and was primed

to deliver a fatal blow to the Rockies. However, a misjudged moment behind the Eagles net led to a giveaway out front and a shorthanded goal for the Rockies.

The Eagles responded with two quick goals from Anderson and Johnson to snag a four-goal lead. But the persistent Rockies weren’t going away quietly, and made it a 5-2 game at the second intermission.

Up three in the third, the tide changed quickly as the Rockies came roaring out of the gates and scored twice and cut the lead down to one.

The Eagles bent, but didn’t break in the third and maintained the one-goal lead until Soler put things on ice with a nail-in-the-coffin goal at just over two minutes on the clock.

“I was just super happy to do it with my friends,” said Soler.



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Scott Gow is retiring from the national biathlon dream after 11 seasons.

CHRISTIAN MANZONI IBU PHOTO

Beijing Games standout Scott Gow retires from biathlon

JORDAN SMALL

CANMORE – He has been a part of some of the biggest moments in Canadian biathlon history, and now, Scott Gow is ending things on a high note.

Following one of the best Olympic performances ever by a Canadian biathlete, the two-time Olympian and world championship medallist has retired after 11 seasons on the senior national team.

“It just feels like it’s time,” said Gow, 31. “I had that foot surgery a little while ago, a couple years now, and it’s pretty good, but it’s always nagging and it’s always kind of bare and bothers me a little bit, so I think that was part of it. I think, also, I do kind of feel like I want to start moving on and go to school and work on and build a ‘real world career,’ outside of sport.”

Feeling fortunate to close out his career favourably, historic moments seemed to grab hold of Gow and go along for the ride throughout the years.

Competing at the PyeongChang and Beijing Games, at the latter Gow put on a shooting and ski spectacle for everyone back home glued to their TV and computer screens at 2 a.m.

On the range, he was in and out like a blur, rapidly gunning down targets and off for another lap on the newly created biathlon course.

Fighting for a podium spot, he was just one shot away from a silver medal in the 20-kilometre individual, shooting 19-for-20 and placing fifth – the best-ever result for a Canadian in individual.

A few days later, the Canadian men’s relay team of Gow, younger brother Christian, Adam Runnalls, and Jules Burnotte finished in sixth place, an Olympic-best result for the men, beating Canada’s previous top record of seventh place at Sochi 2014.

“I think we had potential for a medal, like, we

had a potential all year, but sixth was really good and I think our team was really happy with that,” said Gow.

It’s not the only time Gow’s been part of a relay team that shook things up on the world stage.

At the 2016 world championships, the biggest competition in non-Olympic seasons, the Canadian men’s relay team of Gow, Christian, Nathan Smith and Brendan Green made national biathlon history with a bronze medal performance.

It was Canada’s first and only men’s relay medal at worlds.

Both Gow brothers looked back at that “as an experience of a lifetime,” as 100,000 fans in Oslo, Norway cheered as they were presented with medals.

“That was awesome and it does feel really nice to stand on the podium in an event and to do it at world champs was really special,” said Gow.

At the world cup, Gow shot and skied to a career-best fourth place at a sweet 20-kilometre in Sweden in November 2021. It beat out his previous best world cup result of 10th, at the same venue, about eight months prior.

Gow started biathlon at a young age after discovering the sport during a summer camp at Calgary Olympic Park.

That day, he later found out that Christian also signed up for biathlon and they were both going to give the sport that combines cross-country skiing and target shooting a go.

“At the end of the year when it was official and Scott announced his retirement then it really sunk in,” said Christian.

“It’s an emotional moment because we’ve been doing this together for 20 years and we’ve shared every single part of this journey together, every single milestone, every achievement, every loss. And

we’ve really just done it all together.”

Looking back at a career of memories, the bronze at the worlds is the best memory from a racing standpoint. However, it’s always been the little things that stand out the most.

“There’s always just these small moments that had no big meaning attached to them at all, but that’s what I remember when I think about our career and all the time we got to spend together and just the two of us,” said Christian.

Gow echoed his brother’s statement.

“We do a lot of travelling and training camps together and there’s just a lot of fun things happening over the years, so those are like the best memories. And there’s some good racing memories in there, too, so it’s a good split.”

Gearing up for a very different fall with a lot fewer ski trails and a lot more books, Gow is registered at the University of Calgary for Kinesiology.

“From there, I have to decide – I haven’t figured it out 100 per cent yet, but I’ll probably apply to med school and see if I can get in,” Gow said.

“If not that, I would go to maybe like physiotherapy or work on like strength and conditioning, physiologist kind of stuff, somewhere in that kinesiology realm.”

Although he won’t stop skiing entirely, Gow said he’s looking forward to being a fair-weather skier when conditions are perfect.

“I had a really good career,” said Gow. “I’m really happy with the way it played out and anyone I worked with either as a coach, or a volunteer or even as former teammates, it’s been a pleasure working with everyone and I really enjoyed all my years doing biathlon. I want to thank everyone who’s helped make it such a great experience and for helping me get to the level I was able to get to.”

Canmore national team athletes speak toward the Russia-Ukraine conflict

JORDAN SMALL

BOW VALLEY – It's been more than a month since troops from Russia and Belarus grabbed Ukraine by the neck and shook up the digitally-connected globe.

The destructive and deadly assault has been condemned by world leaders, penalizing Russia with economical, social, and even sporting consequences being taken against the attackers. Sports organizations acted quickly to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes from major competitions such as the International Paralympics Committee, International Biathlon Union, and International Ski Federation (FIS). Planned sporting events in those countries have been cancelled or relocated.

Caught up in it all, many athletes, including those from the Bow Valley, were overseas in Europe and China as the conflict raged.

Throughout March, the *Outlook* asked some local athletes if they wanted to share thoughts or opinions on the bleak international situation, the people and friends involved, or what it's like competing amid a world conflict.

Natalie Wilkie, seven-time Paralympic medallist

"Obviously having this conflict right before the Paralympic Games kicked off was really unfortunate timing and I know it affected a lot of athletes – not just those directly involved. Definitely, tension was high heading into the Paralympic Games. Honestly, I felt really bad for the Russian athletes who were not allowed to compete. I know their country was doing horrible things, but at the same time politics and sport shouldn't mix and these athletes had just worked four years of their life to compete at the biggest event and not being allowed to compete was a pretty big blow for them, so I felt pretty bad about that, but tension was high in the village. It was also a bit of a relief that they weren't there, but again, kind of disappointing.

"I'm also just really happy to see how Ukraine did at the Paralympics. They've always been super strong competitors and I feel up until now I always just viewed them as rivals, as competitors, and just seeing the emotion and the joy and the amazing performances that they put forth, just really hit me hard and the athletes in my category were always some of the first people to come over and say congratulations and give me a high-five and give me a hug, a smile, and I'm just amazed at everything they've been through and the way they've been able to pull through it. I couldn't be happier for how well they did at the Paralympics."

Mark Arendz, 12-time Paralympic medallist

"Just the strength that they (Ukrainian Paralympians) showed to compete and they competed quite well. That's a fantastic example of what it means to be athletes in the toughest of circumstances. They came and competed and did quite well and performed. I was extremely happy to share the podium a couple of times with a good friend of mine, Grygorii Vovchynskyi, and others as well. I think it was very special to be there and be able to compete with them and also support them the best we could."

Brittany Hudak, three-time Paralympic medallist

"It's 2022 and why are some of these issues still prevalent? Like, why does this continue to still happen? Another thing we found interesting was that once the Olympics were over then Russia invaded and it's like

why didn't they wait until after the Paralympics? I have the utmost respect for my Ukraine competitors. The women's team is so strong in our field. They've been our main competitors since day one; the competitors that make us better as athletes and competitors we look up to. We were talking on our Canadian team about how we just really appreciated racing against them and we feel it from them as well.

"It was honestly just so nice across the finish line and see them do well and they found themselves on the podium frequently in Beijing. It's sad when you're not the one on the podium, but we just have that mutual respect with the competitors. They respect us when we beat them and we respect them when they beat us and it's just so hard to know what they were going through and they're still there and still racing and the turmoil going on for them back home is so unfortunate. After all these years, it sounds so cliché to say, but can we actually have world peace? Like, why is war still going on, why does this have to be an issue in today's society? It just makes me really happy they were at the Games and competed and pulled off some outstanding performances. And just be the great individuals we know them to be and hopefully everything is safe for some of them."

Brian McKeever, 20-time Paralympic medallist

"It's hard. It's hard for everybody. I think the separation between sport and politics is a difficult one. I think, on one hand, it's easy to paint on a broad brush and lump people together, but then there's a lot of individuals, and I can tell [until] you can sit down and talk to somebody one-on-one and get real opinions and open and honest conversation, you don't know what they're thinking. It's tough to separate a nation's foreign policy from the potential views of the people who live there – it's not always the same. We saw it in Canada, there's a protest going on all over about mask mandates and freedom and there could easily be counter protests going the other way, so everyone's got an opinion. On one hand, a group of people decides the government is an issue and on the other hand people think they're doing a good job, so separating that out is not easy, but I got friends on all the teams, we've got 20-year relationships with some people, and the reality of what Ukraine is going through right now is unbelievably sad. And talking to the athletes, what they're doing here from Ukraine, is impressive. The medals they've won, the performances some have been able to muster in the face of just crushing, crushing situation.

"One of my buddies here is a guide and we were chatting and he talked with his girlfriend a day ago and she said maybe there's a 50/50 chance of getting out of their city. He said today she is safe, but yesterday she was not. When you hear stories like that, sport kind of takes a back seat. It's hard to separate the feelings of people involved and the fact we're here trying to participate in a sporting event, it's a bit of an existential crisis to be here and try to be excited about racing when we have friends suffering and people are dying. Nobodies winning here."

Jeff Read, alpine national team

"We're in a country (Norway) that borders Russia right now (earlier in March); that makes you a little nervous, but you still feel safe, of course. It was cool to see the impacts; all the little kids at the race had blue and yellow on their cheeks and they had a little Ukraine flag ceremony before every race and the winners all went up with Ukraine armbands on. The support here is huge, and I think that means a lot and, of course, what the Paralympic athletes are having to go through right now, it's a lot. The Russians (and Belarusians) getting sent home, that's pretty crazy, but it's something



Vladimir Udalstov of Russia is congratulated by Brian McKeever of Canada after the men's sprint classic, visually impaired race final at the 2021 World Para Nordic Skiing World Cup at the Canmore Nordic Centre in Dec. 2021. RMO FILE PHOTO

that it's hard to sort of wrap your head around that your home could be getting invaded by your neighbours. In the western world, we don't even think about that. Just thoughts and prayers to all the families and athletes over in Ukraine who aren't able to live their life as usual and wishing all the best health and wellness for everybody and just want this to end and get back to a normal life and hopefully that can happen sooner than later because we all want to celebrate sport together."

Christian Gow, biathlon national team

"It's a crazy situation. It was really bizarre, because we actually came home right after the Olympics, and then like two days later, Russia declared war. Then obviously there's this unknown of OK, are we going to race? I thought maybe the season would be over or whatever, but then business kind of continued on as usual from that standpoint. You could tell it was very much on everyone's minds. Athletes, organizers, everyone. It was definitely a more, like, sombre kind of affair, especially that first week in Finland. I think everyone has a huge amount of outpour and support for the Ukrainian people and I don't think anyone is supporting what is happening there."

Xavier McKeever, cross-country ski national team

"My thoughts are with Ukraine. That is such a tough situation to be in and I can't imagine what it would be like to live there right now, and it's pretty scary, I find. In terms of the whole competition thing, it's interesting because Russia is actually banned from racing in world cups currently, so they're not here. FIS set out a ban on Russian athletes in order to put pressure on Russia in that sense. It's interesting to see all these federations, like, sports federations put sanctions against Russia to not allow them to compete and it's a really interesting environment because, I mean, for here, it seems everything is operating as normal on the circuit. My first weekend, everything is operating as normal, except Russia is not competing."

A Message from Mayor Sean Krausert



Living With Wildlife

With the arrival of warmer weather, we turn our thoughts to spending more time outdoors. With that, we also need to be thinking about wildlife. Living in the Bow Valley means taking extra care to protect animals. Here are some of the things that are top of mind for me, as I consider how to live with wildlife in my day to day.

Off-leash Dogs

Dogs are welcome residents of the Bow Valley, but unrestrained dogs can cause stress for wildlife. Off-leash dogs can trigger aggressive behavior in bears, coyotes, cougars, and elk.

- Use a leash at all times, unless you are at one of Canmore's five off-leash dog parks,
- Never leave dog food unattended, it is an animal attractant.

Managing Waste

Canmore has bear-proof waste bins to protect both humans and wildlife, but they are useless if we fail to put garbage inside securely. Household waste can attract carnivores into town. Even furniture and appliances have food aromas that can attract large animals. Carnivores who learn to find food in town put humans and pets at risk.

- Dispose of garbage, recycling, and compost in the appropriate bin. Learn more at canmore.ca/waste
- The Town of Canmore will pick up large household items for free, please do not leave them sitting beside a garbage bin. You can access this service by calling 403.678.1580.

Fruit Trees

Fruit trees and shrubs have become even more attractive to bears as we've gotten better at removing access to garbage and food waste. When they learn where to get food, they'll continue returning, getting bolder and more aggressive.

- If you have a fruit tree, consider having it replaced with a wildlife-friendly alternative. Learn more about the Town of Canmore's fruit tree replacement program at canmore.ca/wildlifeattractants
- Bears are interested in ripening fruit on trees, fruit needs to be removed from the whole tree.

Bird Feeders

Bird feeders may seem like an innocent addition to your yard, but remember they attract bears, and coyotes. Bird feeders are illegal in Canmore from April 1 to November 30.

- If you have a bird feeder, remove it, and dispose of the birdfeed safely.

Wildlife Corridors

It's important that we stay out of wildlife corridors in order for them to be effective. Let's recreate elsewhere and leave the designated corridors to the animals.

With these in mind, we are promoting a healthy co-existence with wildlife as we share this beautiful valley.

canmore.ca



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN
OUTLOOK



Banff gymnast Leona Gentien will represent Alberta at the 2022 Western Artistic Gymnastics Championships between April 21-23. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Banff gymnast to represent Alberta at western championships

JORDAN SMALL

BOW VALLEY – The pandemic didn't slow down Banff's Leona Gentien as one of the top gymnasts in the province.

Following a shining performance at Western Trials, Gentien is representing Alberta at the Western Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Winnipeg between April 21-23.

"I'm pretty proud of myself after not being able to come into the gym for a bit [due to COVID-19] and just picking myself up after," said Gentien, who competes in Canadian Junior Olympic (JO) Level 9.

It's the first Westerns since 2019, and is the top proving ground for young gymnasts in provinces and territories west of Ontario.

Western Trials was held in Wetaskiwin, near Edmonton, last weekend (March 22-24) with approximately 300 athletes twisting and turning for a chance to advance to the bigger competition.

Gentien won first in bars with a high score of 9.733, and finished sixth in beam, seventh in vault, and was fifth all-around.

"I was a little bit nervous for the competition, obviously, if I would qualify or not, you know, just got to go in confident and believe in yourself," she said.

Originally starting at the defunct Banff gymnastics club six years ago,

Gentien now represents the Canmore Illusions gymnastics club.

Illusions coach, Carley Evans, praised Gentien and said she's been dedicated to the craft and is always improving.

"She's one of those kids who just don't stop working. She's at practice every single day and goes not stop," said Evans.

Before Westerns, however, Gentien is set to compete at the Alberta Provincial Championships in Edmonton, April 12-14. The competition will determine if the Banff gymnast will qualify for nationals in May.

"As long as I do the best as I can, honestly, even if I don't make it ... it's still OK," she said.

Three other members of the Illusions club also competed at Western Trials in the JO Level 8.

Nisha-Jolie Krause finished fourth in bars, Ruby Newsome finished 13th in bars, and Lydia Ridgely finished 10th in bars, ninth in beam, and was 11th all-around.

"The goal for most of them was just being able to attend the trials, especially after not competing for two years with COVID," said Evans.

"Honestly, they really didn't look like they had been off for two years. As their coach, I was shocked at [how well they performed]."

The local club is hosting its 20th Summit Invitational from May 5-8 at the Canmore Recreation Centre.

Canmore Eagles eliminated, 'different experience' for former coach on visitors bench

JORDAN SMALL

CANMORE – The season is over for the Canmore Eagles, but one hometown boy is moving on to the next round.

The Eagles were swept in four games by the powerhouse Brooks Bandits, the top team in the AJHL, in the second round of the AJHL playoffs, with the series scores 7-1; 8-5; 9-2; and 7-1.

“They’re obviously good: No. 1 team in the country, highest scoring team in god knows how long, the history of time, they’ve got defencemen with 110 points, I mean they’re good. They’re very good,” said Andrew Milne, Eagles head coach and general manager.

“Then to take our time into that series and [Cale] Lyons and [Drae] Gardiner played 30 minutes a night for seven games [against the Camrose Kodiaks] with travel – they were just spent. Not having Lane Paddison, not having [Riley] Dekowny for those first two games, not having Kayden Smith, that hurt us a lot. We weren’t deep enough that we could contend with those guys over a course of a series and let alone after playing a hard-fought seven.”

During the series, which ended March 23, a familiar face made the walk to the visitor’s bench twice at the Canmore Recreation Centre.

Brooks Bandits assistant coach Evan McFeeters, who’s from Canmore, said it was a different experience trying to shut down his former club.

For five seasons, McFeeters was an assistant coach and assistant general manager of the Eagles. In 2020, he accepted the coaching role with the Bandits, where he’s been for two seasons.

“It felt so different walking across to the visitor bench after being on the home bench for so many years,” he said. “Seeing a lot of the friends and family and everyone I have relationships with back in the Bow Valley in the building again, and the excitement for playoff hockey in Canmore was great, but it was different not having that hometown support. But everyone back in Canmore, they’ve always been so supportive of me and my aspirations in hockey that I was very happy to be able to play some playoff games in Canmore and re-connect with everybody.”

The second-round matchup between Canmore and Brooks was McFeeters first time on the other side in an Eagles playoff series. McFeeters had experience working with six Eagles still on the team from his tenure

and said Milne is a good friend and mentor.

“At the time, I got to do my job and prepare my team as if they’re any other opponent, but when you step into the Canmore rec centre and you see everybody, you do get that extra bit of juice and motivation because I would love to still be in Canmore, but there was an opportunity here in Brooks that I couldn’t pass up, so it did feel good to move on.”

The Eagles were coming off a huge Game 7 win against the Kodiaks two days prior to starting against Brooks.

The Bandits, which led the AJHL in goals with 371, started ablaze against Canmore, scoring five times in the first period of Game 1.

“We wanted to really set the tone for the whole series in that first period and I think it was mission accomplished. We were able to build and adjust from there,” said McFeeters.

“I think going through Canmore was good for me, personally, and to see everyone, but now we got to focus on moving to the next round and accomplishing what we set out at the start of the season, to do.”

The Bandits play the Okotoks Oilers in the south finals starting April 8.

Eagles named to All AJHL, Rookie teams

Canmore Eagles Andreai Proctor-Ramirez was named to the All-AJHL south division team, and Matthew Malin to the All-Rookie south division team, the league announced this week.

Proctor-Ramirez, 20, who was also named a finalist for goaltender of the year, had a record of 19-23-6 and two shutouts with a 3.79 goals against average and .898 save percentage.

He faced the second most shots in the league (1,477) and made the second most saves (1,326).

With the team this season, Proctor-Ramirez won 13 player of the game awards.

During his first season with the club, Malin, 18, went 4-10-3 with a 3.64 goals against average and .900 save percentage.

In 23 games, Malin faced 742 shots – 120 less than Brooks Bandits goalie Ethan Barwick, who played in 39 games.

He won four player of the game awards.

Both goalies are returning to the Eagles next season.

Players are selected to the teams by the league’s general managers and coaches.



The Canmore Eagles were eliminated from the playoffs by the Brooks Bandits.

JORDAN SMALL RMO PHOTO

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EXPANSION DRAFT The Rundle Women's Hockey League at the final tournament of the 2021-22 season. The all-women's league had its playoffs in Banff on March 12-13, which saw the Vixens defeat the Jill's, 3-2, to win the Rundle Cup. Next season, the league aims to bring in more players and expand to six teams. Anyone interested can email rundlewhl@gmail.com for more information. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Centre d'Expérience Préscolaire et Parascolaire de Canmore



Au nom de tout le monde à SPEF de Canmore, nous tenons à exprimer notre sincère gratitude pour tous vos généreux dons à notre tombola annuelle. Merci beaucoup!



On behalf of everyone at SPEF de Canmore, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for all your generous donations to our Annual Fundraising Raffle this year. Thank you very much!

WESTJET



MARCH 31 TO APRIL 6, 2022

mountainGUIDE →

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTLOOK A33

CANMORE AUTHOR
RELEASES NEW
ROMANCE NOVEL

34

Two ice climbers walk around on the ice about 30 metres off the ground just past Lake Louise on Saturday (March 26).

GREG COLGAN/RMO PHOTO

the bow valley's entertainment and activity guide.

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Dave Gunning

FOLK

Sat. Apr. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Dave Gunning is best defined as a master craftsman. He has diligently sharpened his skills, developing into a poetic storyteller and emotionally convincing singer with few equals.



Lonesome Ace String Band

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Tue. Apr. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The Lonesome Ace Stringband is an old-time band with bluegrass chops that play some righteous folk and country music.



Steve Dawson with Seth Anderson

FOLK

Thu. Apr. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Seven-time Juno Award-winning musician Steve Dawson is joined by Seth Anderson as an opening act in this must-see concert.

Presented by the Canmore Folk Festival ADF.

Canmore author's debut romance novel of NHL all-star calibre

JORDAN SMALL

CANMORE – Picture this: you land a sweet new place to rent in town only to find out later your new roommate is actually a dreamy professional athlete you had a giant crush on as a wishful thinking teenager.

Well, local novelist Fortune Whelan can take you through the rest of the will-they-won't-they story in her debut book, *Stuck With You*, available Tuesday (April 5) online and at Café Books in Canmore.

"It's not a straight up Rom-Com; it's a little bit unassuming," said Whelan, a local librarian.

"You'll read it and you'll laugh out loud and it's one of those books where you're just like, 'should I laugh? Did anyone see me laughing at this?' Truly just being able to find the joy in every day and enjoying life."

Stuck With You surrounds NHL all-star Clark Dorsey, an aloof personality who steps away from the game to spend time with his sick brother in Seattle.

While transitioning out of a high-profile relationship, newly single nurse Leena Lopez, a beautiful and opinionated woman who's caring for the ill Dorsey brother, accepts an invite to move in with her patient.

With Clark now around a lot more, he and Leena suddenly discover the new arrangement in Seattle isn't what they initially thought it would be.

The novel is Whelan's first entry in 'The Dorseys of Conception Bay' series, which has two more editions set to release in 2022 through Tule Publishing Group, out of California.

"I wrote all three books over COVID," said Whelan. "I was at the library and I was laid off. I had E.I. coming in and I was taking care of my kid and I had some time, so it was like the perfect time to sit down and write a book that I wanted to write."

Initially, Whelan pitched the idea as a standalone, but an opportunity came forward to make it a trilogy "and here we are now."

"I always write family stories and how they are in life right now is a product of those relationships affect their personal relationships with people who aren't their family," Whelan said.

Growing up in Calgary with three brothers and a sister, Whelan knows about intricate family dynamics – and with the Flames being the hottest ticket in town, hockey was always very prevalent.

Especially with her hockey-loving father.

Whelan is even one of the stars of YouTube show, *Chippy Chicks*, where five romance authors and hockey fans chat about Canada's favourite sport, romance, and romance on ice.

"I thought I was hockey crazy, but not compared to the other writers in my group," said Whelan.

The story takes place at an ocean-side city, but Whelan added a homage to Canmore.

Leena is bicyclist – she rides one everywhere, in fact – giving a hat tip to the local diehards willing to pedal in rain, shine, and well, it's Canmore, so in negative 20 degrees with fat tires, too.

"Having some time away from [*Stuck With You*] and reading it over again, it's a little bit surreal because I'm like, 'did I write this book?' Like, I know it's me, but I'm little bit surprised how much I enjoyed my book. I don't know if that's a horrible thing to say," Whelan said with a laugh.

Stuck With You will be available online and in hard copies at Café Books, Tuesday (April 5).

Whelan will be signing books at Café Books on Sunday (April 10) from noon to 4 p.m.

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The Bow Valley's Home Page

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BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTLOOK

Roam the Bow Valley this Summer




Roam Transit is currently hiring Public Transit Operators for our Spring/Summer 2022 season! We are looking to welcome customer-service-focused individuals with a passion for communication and positively impacting the local community to the team. Operators will ideally possess a Class 1 or 2 licences, but we are actively accepting applications of those with a Class 5 looking to upgrade.

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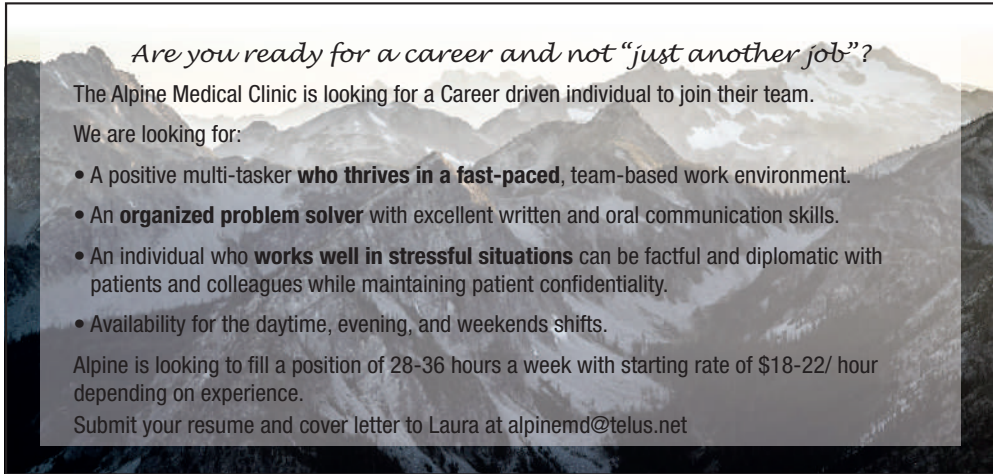
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Alpenglow Community Education Society
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Town of Banff, Box 1260, Banff, AB, T1L 1A1
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Ms. Nadine Dack-Doi
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3220. Misc. Wanted 3220. Misc. Wanted

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Plans are underway to restore the historic 1908 Rutherford House in Banff – the former summer cottage of Alberta’s first premier Alexander Rutherford.

SARAH-JO WASYLKIW RMO PHOTO

Historic summer cottage to be restored to former glory

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – Plans are underway to restore the historic 1908 Rutherford House in Banff – the former summer cottage of Alberta’s first premier Alexander Rutherford.

Bowstrings Heritage Foundation is now the leaseholder of the riverfront cottage at 525 Buffalo Street, which has both cultural and architectural value to Banff.

Heritage preservationists say the cottage with its wrap-around verandah is, remarkably, largely unchanged since Rutherford’s death in 1941.

“It is one of the last remaining examples of early

residential cottages in Banff along the riverfront lots,” said Joel Piecowye, of Shugarmann Architecture and Design, during a March 17 Banff Heritage Corporation meeting.

“The building has fortunately been relatively unaltered over its lifespan, although there has been one small addition done along the southern side... and we’re also proposing removing that addition to bring the cottage back to its original form.”

As part of the design concept to restore the Rutherford cottage to its 1908-era design, Bowstrings Heritage Foundation has also applied to the Town of Banff for a development permit to add another dwelling on the site, to be linked to the heritage home by way

of connector.

“We would add on a little neck to connect it to a small lower-scale new building that would serve as a residence, say for a steward or custodian of the site,” said Peter Poole, president of Bowstrings Heritage Foundation.

The first premier of Alberta, Rutherford commissioned J. Lockett in the spring of 1908 to build a small cottage in Banff overlooking the Bow River.

For Rutherford, the two-storey frame cottage represented a haven far from the constant pressures of government business.

COTTAGE

CONTINUED ON PAGE A42

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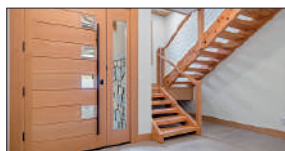
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Historic cottage was completed in 1908

COTTAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A41

Not only was Rutherford Alberta's first premier, he also co-founded the University of Alberta.

Piecowyte said Rutherford was elected and sworn in as the first premier after the leasehold for the riverfront property was acquired in 1905, adding that the cottage was completed in 1908.

"When the cottage was not in use by the Rutherfords, he would provide the cottage for faculty of the newly established University of Alberta so faculty could use the space for education purposes," he said.

"The house itself does have history connected with the University of Alberta."

Part of the plan is to reconstruct the interior house so that it has authentic to the original form as possible.

In addition, the owners are working on energy efficiency plans for the buildings.

"Energy conservation targets for creating carbon neutral or net-zero buildings are becoming more and more of a thing, and they are going to be very difficult to attain with a lot of heritage houses," said Piecowyte.

"What we've done to try to future-proof this house is bring in an energy consultant. He will be trying to work with us to make this a case study where this building will be designed to be a 2050 carbon neutral home."

Included in the plans are improving insulation, along with looking at solar on the new development.

"This will hopefully be the last renovation that this house will need for the next 50 years to 100 years, so when this house is done, the goal is this house will meet all of the energy targets that Canada will need to make the country into a net-zero country," said Piecowyte.

"The only thing that will be needed to make this house completely carbon neutral is eventually for the Alberta government to make the actual grid green, so by using clean energy, since the only thing in this house will need to heat it and keep it powered is electricity."

Roland Charpentier, a member of the Alberta Association of Architects who sits on the Banff Heritage Corporation, congratulated the team on the work being done.

"A lot of things are well done on this project, certainly the addition remains subservient to the historic building," he said.

"You took your cues from the historic building, but you didn't try to replicate them and I think it's a good example of how to do additions."

The goals of Bowstrings Heritage Foundation include the acquisition and restoration of heritage buildings for reuse or new purposes to build community.

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Advertising Feature

Canmore Real Estate and First World Problems

By Victor Henning Partner, Canmore Real Estate Group at Maxwell Capital

Everyone here at the Canmore Real Estate Group is always excited to share our experience and knowledge in this incredible place we live. We are living and working here at a time that is displaying incredible results for our clients. Nothing could make us happier!

Like most of the real estate markets in Canada, we have seen an unprecedented amount of activity in this Market. We have had to use all our skill and experience to get the best results for our Buyers and Sellers.

We have the pleasure of helping may of our clients see their dreams come true often, purchasing second homes and or investment properties. We are always happy to share this amazing place we live with those that see the great lifestyle we have here. We take immense joy in seeing a family that has lived here for years, saved for years and, looked for years to acquire their first home.

Normally in this feature we would be happy to share with you such tips as how to prepare your home for a sale in this market, what to look out for in purchasing revenue producing property, what to do in a multiple offer situation and, other helpful tips and insights.

However today, let us put that aside and think of those who had a home a month ago and today are struggling to escape the perils of war and aggression. Those who left their family home to be destroyed, with only what they could carry. I cannot imagine what they are going through and any attempt to "put myself in their shoes" would be futile.

It makes our day-to-day struggles with owning and living in this magnificent area seem minuscule and one cannot help but want to reach out and ask what we can do. It causes us to reflect on how lucky we are to live and work here.

So.. today we ask you to take a good look the incredible vistas that surround us and think of those who no longer to have a home. Ask yourself "What Can I do to Help?" www.cufoundation.ca

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTLOOK



WINTER HIKE Mark Bishop and Trevor Mitchell walk over the frozen Lake Louise on their way to hike Saturday (March 26).
GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTO



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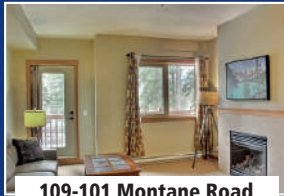


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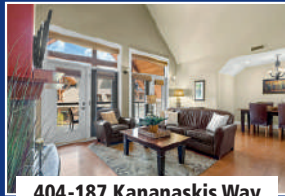
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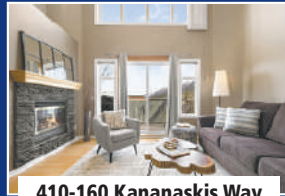
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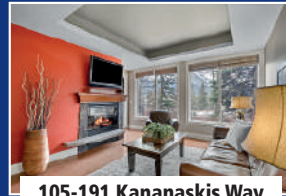
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VIEW ALL LISTINGS



FEATURED LISTINGS



411A Marten St - \$625,000
3 Bed, 1 Bath condo in great location!



#103, 121 Kananaskis Way - \$769,000
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath short term rental suite



316 Squirrel Street- \$2,490,000

Up and down duplex with 4 bedrooms per side, plus 1 bedroom cabin at the rear.



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Associate Broker / Owner
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Brittney Huerlimann
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for lease

NEW: RETAIL UNITS



- 1430 2nd Ave facing Bow Valley Trail
- Two units available
- 1144 sf & 717 sf

743 RAILWAY AVENUE, CANMORE, ALBERTA




- Leasable Area – Approximately 1,524 sf
- Second floor offices
- Elevator and stair access
- Common area washrooms
- Ample surface and underground parking
- Finished as medical professional offices with crawl space storage

SECOND FLOOR OFFICES



- 4496 sf shell
- May be combined with 1788 sf
- Ready for tenant finishing
- Fabulous views
- Surface and underground parking

NEW: 10 BOULDER CRESCENT



- Second floor unit
- Suitable for fitness or office

ASPEN PARK



- 1414 Railway
- Approximately 2100 sf
- Available February
- Open space with washroom
- Ready for tenant improvements
- 14' rear overhead door

for sale

710 - 10TH STREET



- Investment opportunity
- Main floor, approx. 1660 sf
- Tenant occupied

NEW PROPERTY COMING SOON

1 & 2 - 130 BOW MEADOWS



- Over 6600 sf multi-level corner bay
- Approx. 4600 sf grade access
- Over 2000 sf upper with hardwood floors, full kitchen, washrooms

3 COUGAR MOUNTAIN, EXSHAW



- Over 4608 sf bldg. on 3/4 acre lot
- Main level has 5 bays with 14' overhead doors
- 2 bays with 20' ceiling, 2 bays with 18.5' ceiling, 1 bay with 14' ceiling
- Upper levels approximately 600 sf and 500 sf
- Opportunity for further development



PEKA

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FEATURE LISTING



Available March 1st
 This breathtaking and spacious 3 Bedroom FURNISHED Single Family Home is located in the exclusive Prospect Heights community. This neighbourhood is a short stroll away from the Bow River and all downtown amenities. The perfect location for a family! Offering lots of natural light throughout, the home boasts mountain views from every window and the surrounding green space, including a large private backyard. This home is the ultimate getaway in the Mountains!

3 BEDROOM FURNISHED SINGLE FAMILY HOME

Entering the home, you will be greeted by your very own custom built-in foyer with plenty of storage for busy mountain life. On the main level you will find a den/sitting room, dedicated laundry room with storage and sink, as well as a large bonus room; which would offer the perfect space for a gym or studio with lots of room for equipment. The upper level contains the stunning kitchen, dining, and living area. The kitchen offers lots of counterspace and a walk-in pantry. Gain access to the large brand new front deck (work underway soon) from the cozy living room with fireplace and floor-to-ceiling windows. On this level of the home you will also find 2-bedrooms; one currently situated as a potential office space, ideal for working from home or for the kids to do their homework undisturbed. The lower level hosts the final of the 3-bedrooms in the home complete with spacious storage and a sink. The lucky tenant will have access to the beautifully finished double car garage and the large storage shed in the backyard. This home is a must see!!! Book your private showing today.

Booking ID 1711 **\$6000/MO+UT (E, C, T, G) N/S - N/P** Water, Sewer and Garbage are included in the rental rate

RUNDLE HOUSE



100% leased - apply today to be added to the waitlist

RUNDLE HOUSE

FEATURE LISTING



3 BEDROOM FULLY FURNISHED PENTHOUSE

Available May 1st
 Located in the "Prospect" at Silverstar, one of Canmore's finest complexes, this 2202 square foot penthouse is the ultimate luxury Canmore experience. The unit offers elevated and unobstructed panoramic views with large windows and multiple balconies. The finish and furnishings are of the highest standard, consistent with a luxury mountain residence.
 The grand double door entryway is wood paneled with natural stone flooring and opens into the main living and dining areas framed with stone pillars. This leads into the main living space with a floor to ceiling fireplace, plush sofa and seating and large windows which show beautiful mountain views. The living room also includes an ottoman lounge area with separate seating and built-in library shelving. Adjacent to the living area is a complete dining area which seats 8 and benefits from several large windows and high "cabin" style vaulted ceilings. Fully utilizing the high ceiling which can only be found in this floor penthouse. A first dining area overlooks award-winning views and has unobstructed views of the Bow Valley landscape. Serving the living and dining areas is a wet bar with a Sub-Zero wine fridge, granite counter-top and illuminated shelving.
 The generous style kitchen is spacious & features an island with beautiful bar and granite counter-top throughout. It is well furnished with stainless steel appliances - a large Sub-Zero fridge, Dacor gas hob, Dacor oven and warming drawer, Miele built-in espresso machine, QC sub-washer and Panasonic microwave.
 The spacious master bedroom is located off the living space, opposite and privately separated from the other bedrooms. It features a large walk-in closet along with a stunning ensuite including a large walk-in steam shower, double sinks and elevated toilet and bathtub.
 On the opposite side of the penthouse are two double bedrooms or ensuite bedrooms with double sinks, a walk-in closet, and a bathroom with its own private balcony. This room would be perfect for furnishing as a fourth bedroom or guest bedroom or study.
 There is an additional private living area in the form of a family room featuring a leather bar stool, a coffee table and large windows which is surrounded by high windows. The family room has plush seating, a large TV, high vaulted ceilings and a wet bar. At the end of the hallway is a third bathroom featuring one green space with lounge chairs. There is a discrete utility room with Miele washer and dryer. This property includes two heated underground parking stalls & storage area.
 The Silverstar Golf Course is located within a short drive from the complex and has several restaurants, or tenants can enjoy one of many walking trails within its quiet and exclusive neighborhood.

Booking ID 1554
\$5395/MO+UT (E, C, T) N/S - N/P
 W, S, G and Gas are included in the rental rate

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY



3 BEDROOM UNFURNISHED TOWNHOUSE

Banff National Park has a need to reside restriction - please only apply if you will be working within the park boundaries
 Located in Banff, this 3 bedroom unfurnished home is a rare find! This property is a beautiful townhouse located in the quiet and family friendly complex of Valley View. The entry level hosts a large storage/laundry room with washer/dryer and access to the single car garage. Upstairs is the cozy main floor with hardwood flooring and wood fireplace. The kitchen has all stainless steel appliances, along with modern cupboards and countertops. Off the kitchen is the spacious outdoor area which is fenced and has a large patio. The top floor has the master bedroom, closet and an ensuite half bathroom. Down the hall are two additional bedrooms and a full bathroom with a stunning walk-in shower.
 OPTION OF 2-5 YEAR LEASE TERM

Booking ID 1717
\$3500/MO+UT (E, C, T, G) N/S - N/P
 Water, Sewer and Garbage are included in the rental rate

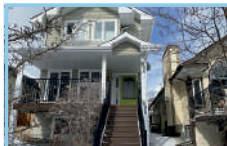
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 Please register interest by visiting www.vuecanmore.com



AVAILABLE APRIL



1 BEDROOM UNFURNISHED LOWER SUITE

This newly renovated, unfurnished one bedroom lower suite with separate entrance is located on the sunny side of Canmore, close to parks and an extensive trail system. This cozy unit hosts a gas fireplace, electric cooktop, fridge and a washer/dryer combo.
 If desired the unit can also be rented partially furnished with a queen bed, couch, love seat, coffee table and bookshelf. 6-month lease term with option to extend

Booking ID 1636B
\$1300/month + 30% for a single - 40% for a couple of electric & gas (shared with upper unit), tenant to pay internet and cable separately
 N/S - N/P
 Water, Sewer and Garbage are included in the rental rate

AVAILABLE MAY



3 BEDROOM FULLY FURNISHED TOWNHOUSE

This fully furnished townhouse located in the quiet neighborhood of Evergreen Circle is the perfect family summer-season rental! There are three spacious bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, along with an additional room (currently furnished as office) that could be used as a fourth bedroom. The upper floor family room has large windows that capture the stunning views of mountain ranges, along with a cozy wood burning fireplace. There is also additional storage in basement and outdoor parking.
 Ideally located only minutes from the Nordic Center, Downtown, Bow River, Quarry Lake, golf courses, and Spray Lakes.
 Lease Term - May 1st - October 31st
 ** no linens included

Booking ID 1637
\$2500/MO+UT (E, C, T, G) N/S - N/P
 W, S & G Are included in the rental rate

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AVAILABLE MAY

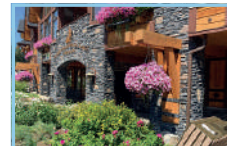


1 BEDROOM FULLY FURNISHED CONDO

This fully furnished condo is conveniently located within walking distance to downtown Canmore, close to local retail shops and restaurants! The unit contains 1 bedroom with ensuite bathroom, a second guest bathroom, 5 appliances, hardwood flooring, gas fireplace, underground parking stall and a balcony with mountain views! Tenants will also have access to the indoor swimming pool with waterslide, indoor/outdoor hot tub and fitness facilities.

Booking ID 1383
\$1695/MO+UT (E, C, T) N/S - N/P
 W, S, G & Gas are included in the rental rate.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE



THREE SISTERS OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Office space available for lease in Three Sisters Mountain Village in Canmore! The Mountaineers Business Centre is home to a great community of professionals! The building also contains two common washrooms onsite, boardrooms available for use (additional charges may apply), a kitchen, and laundry facilities. The Centre offers many high end finishes geared toward professional or medical use. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to rent an office in The Mountaineers Business Centre - book your private showing today by contacting Mark Walker, Broker, at Mark@peka.ca

Booking ID 001
Square Footage: 160
Lease Rate: \$935 CAC included

Please check out our website to see the most up to date rental listings! peka.ca



All rentals are NO SMOKING (N/S) and NO PETS (N/P) unless stated otherwise.

Information deemed accurate (not guaranteed)

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\$748,900

30 Lincoln Park Luxurious Fully Furnished Unit in Stoneridge Mountain Resort

\$739,000

Redevelopment Opportunity on the Edge of Banff National Park

\$649,000

Two Bedroom Apartment in Three Sisters Mountain Village

\$599,000

Vacation Condo in Copperstone Resort

\$450,000

Commercial Space in Centrally Located Mistaya

\$449,000

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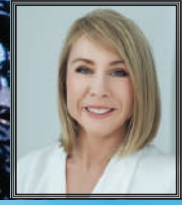
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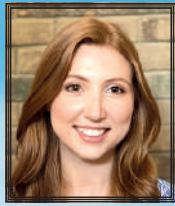
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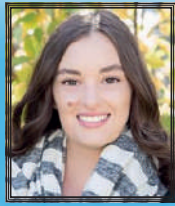
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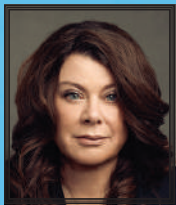
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