

The Elkford Focus

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February 2024
Volume 18 Issue 1



Elkford Early Years Launch Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program



Bren Abar reads a story book to her two children Wyatt and Everly, provided free through the DPIL program.

The Elkford Early Years was proud to launch the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in January 2023. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners.

Continued on page 13.



Free Wi-Fi at the library. Select **Public Library - Guest**, password **#Reading101!** (include the exclamation mark).



Chris Buckley

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Elkford Public Library



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Send us an email:
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Website:
<http://elkford.bclibrary.ca>

Find us on Facebook:
Elkford Public Library

Hours:
Tuesday and Wednesday 10:30 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday and Friday 11:30 am - 6:00 pm
Saturday 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm



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Celebrating Griz Days

March 1 – 3

We are proud to be the 2024 Griz Days entertainment sponsor. Enjoy a full weekend of live music and entertainment for all ages to enjoy. For a full schedule of activities and entertainment, visit FernieGrizDays.com



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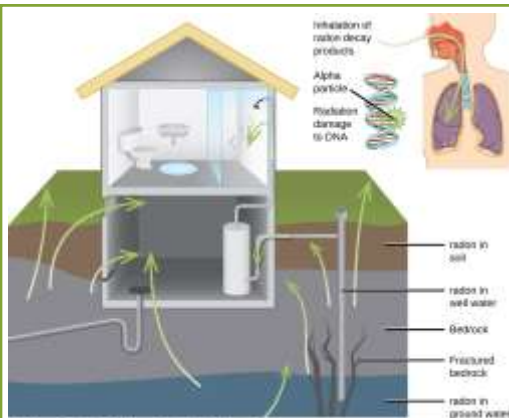


Writing Club



February 15th at 6:30 pm in the library.

We will learn about the romance genre and character building for fiction writing.



Borrow a Radon Detection Kit from the Library

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in Canada and is responsible for as many as 16% of lung cancer deaths.

We have one Corentium Home model radon detector which is about the size of a mobile phone, and has a digital display which produces readings in about an hour. The device needs at least 7 days for highest accuracy. You can borrow it for up to 28 days. The Radon Detection Library Lending Program is provided free through support from Health Canada, the BC Lung Association, Simon Fraser University, and Airthings.

Mayor's Musings

Written by the Mayor of Elkford, Steve Fairbairn

Welcome to the new year, Elkfordians! We've made it through our first cold snap! I've been here long enough that I remember them as being colder: into the negative mid-thirties Celsius during the day and lasting longer (up to two weeks). Long enough to kill off the mountain pine beetles across the province and right here in the Elk Valley.

Fond memories of backcountry excursions on clean, amazingly smoke-like powdered snow and bluebird skies that blazed the most amazing colour of intense blue. The crisp sounds of the snow, of the quiet. Not so anymore, it seems!

Not that I mind the warmer temperatures, or the lack of snow to shovel. Perhaps an easier wintertime life? There is always a silver lining, my friends.

Money, Money, Money (to the Tune of ABBA)

Tax planning season is here, so let's talk about money! Asset management, aging buildings, inflation... even the cost of upgrades to my magic wand are becoming unaffordable. All this info (and more) is available in the agenda package from the January 8, 2024, council meeting. Future meetings will also include the financial and project plans and expenditures in the budgeting process. Of course, I feel it necessary to remind you that the council meetings are open to the public. Learn more about that here: www.elkford.ca/councilmeetings.

Reflecting on the past year, here are some capital projects from 2023. Not all of us have benefited from (or maybe even care about) all of them, but I suspect that at least one of the projects benefited us all universally:

- The Elkford Childcare Centre and Community Hub facility in the former District of Elkford (DoE) office building is now fully operational. This was grant funded to the tune of \$2.5 million.
- The DoE vehicle fleet (not including the new fire truck) was \$1.2 million in budget. The new snow plow has arrived—hence why so little snowfall so far—at \$348,000.
- Downtown Core Utilities Project (which has triggered a surprising amount of developer interest so far) at \$4.85 million, associated water works at \$800,000 and upgrades to the sewer system at a cost of \$2 million.
- Lagoon works upgrades of \$1.26 million.
- Boivin Creek Corridor upgrades (mostly grant funded) were budgeted for a 2-year period at \$469,000, with \$400,918 spent (\$351,750 in grants).

Looking to the new year, the 2024 *proposed* project list is considering sledding hill/soccer field irrigation (\$35,000), Wapiti Ski Hill mountain biking trails (waiting on grant funding), tennis court re-surfacing (\$100,000), a skateboard park (\$150,000), improvements to the vehicle fleet (\$1.1 million), repair and maintenance to facilities including: the Mountain Meadows Golf Club clubhouse, Wapiti Ski Club's lodge and the DoE fire hall, Public Works building, Recreation Centre, Aquatic Centre pool and library complex and more. **Important to note that these are TBD based on financial reports to council over the next few meetings!**

Wildlife-Resistant Bins

We are wild at heart here in Elkford, and nature prevails in our mountain town. Bearing this in mind (pun intended), please respect our wildlife by following Elkford's Animal Responsibility Bylaw and help keep our community in harmony with nature. The DoE now has the resources in place to provide most residents in the forest interface areas of west Natal and Balmer Hill areas with wildlife-resistant garbage bins. Please do your part to abide by the bylaws and help protect local wildlife!

Council still has plans in Elkford's Five-Year Financial Plan (FYFP—more about this later) for the bin replacement program by 2027 so that all residents have wildlife-resistant bins. Questions? Call our awesome Public Works Department at 250.865.4025 or visit www.elkford.ca/publicworks.

Community Grants: Deadlines Approaching!

Are you part of a not-for-profit organization? You may be interested in the Resident Directed (ReDi) Grants that are provided by Columbia Basin Trust. These grants support projects that benefit the broader community and public good. The grants are administered by the Regional District of East Kootenay, and in partnership with local

government councils. Apply now at <https://engage.rdek.bc.ca/redi>. The deadline is 4 p.m. (local time) on February 12, 2024, and late applications will not be accepted. What's the worst that can happen? Even a "no" is better than not trying!

Speaking of funding opportunities for nonprofits: this is also the time to apply for a Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies (aka "Elkford Community Fund") grant. You can apply for up to \$2,000 in grant funding under this program, with a deadline of February 15, 2024 (which will arrive sooner than you think and certainly sooner than warm spring weather!). Here's the link where you can apply: <https://www.cfkrockies.ca/grants/>.

FYFP + Official Community Plan: Opportunities for Public Engagement

Wondering what's going on in Elkford at a local government level? Here are some upcoming dates you might want to mark on the calendar:

- The first presentation of the draft FYFP (it's called a "five-year plan", but it is updated annually) is scheduled for 1 p.m. on January 29 in Council Chambers. The meeting is open to the public and is a great opportunity to find out what's going on at the DoE, as well as to develop an understanding of the things that council is considering spending money and allocating resources to. Did you know that this is only the first step of the annual budget process, and that no formal budget decisions have been made yet? You are invited to check it out, get informed and hear more about how the decision-making process takes place at the council table!
- The second presentation of the draft FYFP is scheduled for February 5 at 1 p.m., also open to the public. Additionally, the draft FYFP is scheduled to be presented to residents in a public Open House format on February 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. in Council Chambers at 744 Fording Drive. Can't make it? The online public engagement period will be from February 13 to March 1, and all of this will be heavily advertised. Lots of opportunities to stay apprised and get involved!
- The Official Community Plan (that's a community's highest-level planning document) progress report update is scheduled for February 12 at 5 p.m. in Council Chambers. You guessed it...that one is also open to the public.



Mayor Steve skiing in Ontario, 8 years old.

The Importance of Turning Bleeder Valves ON

Still reading? Now let's talk about bleeder valves!

Yes, we are somewhat unique as a community in having a need for these things. The history goes back, a long way back, to the glacial lake that was once located here, which resulted in (skipping a lot of details) deep layers of glacial till (sands and cobbles) below us. These materials allow the frost to dive deeply into the ground and—combined with some potentially dubious construction practices in the early 1970s—have resulted in water lines that are buried under roads and driveways being more susceptible to freezing. Since moving water doesn't freeze quite as easily as standing water, many homes need to have a continuous trickle of water running to keep their service lines, well, servicing.

The homeowner is responsible for the costs of repair for any damage to (and thawing out of the) water service into your house. DoE bylaw regulations require that you have a bleeder valve installed in your home, and that this bleeder valve be turned ON from October 31 to May 1 each year. This is something that we advertise heavily every single year (because we do not want you to have an expensive emergency plumbing bill).

Sadly, residents who move from other communities aren't always aware of the need for a bleeder valve—or even what one is—and only learn about this the hard way. Ask me how I know... bleeder valves infamously altered my

own family's first Christmas in Elkford. Ah, we still talk about that one.

We all want to do our part to conserve water, but do NOT be tricked into shutting off your bleeder valves early when temperatures are warming. Warming temperatures often actually drive a frost deeper into the ground, and that ground will remain frozen well into the spring season. It's all just another unique aspect of living in a high-altitude mountain community like Elkford.

Winter in the Wild and Other News

Do I still have your attention? Excellent! I'm delighted to share that our flagship winter family celebration is approaching, that is Winter in the Wild! This year's celebration is happening on Family Day weekend, from February 16 to 18! Let's all cross our fingers and toes for moderate temperatures that weekend.

Finally, I want to remind you that your council is working diligently on healthcare, housing and highway safety on behalf of all who live, work, and play here.

Drive safely, stay warm, enjoy the outdoors and join me in hoping for enough snow to get the ski hill open!

Until next time,

Mayor Steve

Elkford Urban Wildlife Committee

Wildlife in and Around Our Community

Happy February Elkford!

On behalf of the Elkford Urban Wildlife Committee, we will be sharing some information regarding the wildlife in and around our community monthly. As well some fun activities to do with your kids and teach them about the animals who live in the woods.

For more information on wildlife in Canada, you can visit www.wildsafebc.com or www.hww.ca (Hinterland Who's Who). The Facebook page, Elkford Wildlife Sightings, is also updated regularly with animal sightings, educational articles, and webinars.

Watch for information on an exciting event coming this spring!

WILDSAFE RANGERS
Winter ACTIVITY #2

winter wildlife bingo

your mission

This WildSafe Ranger activity is all about getting to know the environment around you. We share our communities with a surprising number of wildlife species, although these animals are often pretty good at hiding! In this month's mission, you will explore one of your local walking trails & look for signs of wildlife activity. As you play a fun game of wildlife bingo, you will start to see that many wildlife species share this space with you and your human neighbours!

fun fact!
Scat is another term we use for wildlife poop!

your mission is to head out to your favourite walking trail or park and keep your eyes peeled for signs of wildlife activity (e.g.: tracks, scat) and important habitat features (e.g.: food, water and shelter). Once you find something on the bingo card, you can check it off by answering the question in the square. keep going until you get a "bingo!" (3 in a row up and down, across, or diagonal).

what you will need:

- Bingo card • Pencil
- Clipboard or something hard to write on
- An adventure partner (a parent or friend)

optional:

- Binoculars • Bird Book
- Animal Tracking guide (you could use the WildSafe Ranger Wildlife Identification Guide from January!)

Safety first! Be sure to bring a trusted adventure partner with you (parents are great for this!). Dress for the weather and always stay close to the marked trail!



WILDSAFE RANGERS

winter wildlife bingo

WildSafe Ranger Name: _____

Home Town: _____ Date: _____

B	I	N	G	O
A tree cavity or hole. What animal might use this for shelter?	Bear claw marks on a tree. Why do you think this bear climbed the tree?	A deer track. Draw it.	Something a song bird might eat. What is it?	A flying bird. Identify the bird or describe it.
A duck. What was this duck doing? (resting, feeding, ect..)	A rabbit track. Draw it.	Animal scat. Can you guess what animal this came from?	A bird's nest. Name one bird that lives here all winter.	Something a coyote might eat. What is it?
A bird call or song. Identify the bird or describe the song.	A chewed twig or branch. What animal might have been chewing on this?	FREE	A mystery animal track. Draw it.	Water (creek, river or pond). Name an animal that might come to this water to drink.
A dog or coyote track. Draw it.	Human track. Name one activity people do in this park.	A beaver chewed tree stump. Name one reason beavers cut down trees.	A feather. Draw or describe it.	Fresh signs of digging. Why might an animal dig here?
A pinecone. Name an animal that might eat these seeds.	Something a deer might eat What is it?	A squirrel. Name an animal that might hunt a squirrel.	A good hiding place. What sort of animal might rest here?	An animal burrow or hole. Name an animal that might use this burrow.

What else did you see today? Record one more wildlife sighting or sign of wildlife activity here.

*When you're done, take a photo or scan this page and submit it to bc@wildsafebc.com (ask a parent to help!)

Elkford Public Library



Blind Date with a Book



Every February at the Library

Don't choose a book by its cover! Come in and take a chance.
You never know if a relationship will blossom with a new author or genre.

For three weeks you may choose from a variety of books wrapped in plain brown paper with only a hint of the book inside. Choose one, read all or part of the book you chose, and return your bookmark for entry into our prize draw.



See our events calendar at

<http://elkford.bc.libraries.coop/calendar/>

for details about events and programs.

Join our Writing Boot Camp challenge in March!

Want to write a novel, novella, short stories, or just get practice writing? Join our writing boot camp! This event will take place over the month of March, with weekly goals and weekly prizes. Enter to win prizes by completing the weekly goals. You do not need to participate in writing club to join our boot camp!

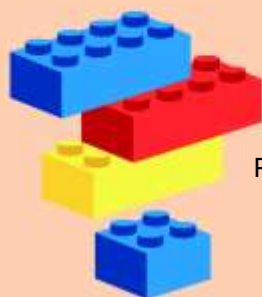
Registration required. Please register at the library, over the phone at **250-865-2912**, or over email at info@elkfordlibrary.org.

Open to youth (secondary school) and adults.

WRITING BOOT CAMP

Writing Club

LEGO Day at the Library



**February 16th
2 to 4 pm**

Please note that supervision is not provided; adults are responsible for supervising their children.

Book Club

Join us at our next meeting!

Books are available at the library approximately four weeks before the meeting date.



**February 22nd
at 6:30 pm**

Firekeeper's Daughter
by Angeline Boulley

Elkford Public Library Digitization Station

Photo Printing Rates

4 × 6"	\$1.50
5 × 7"	\$2.00
8 × 10"	\$4.00
8.5 × 11"	\$6.00



Photo Digitization Options

Digitize photos, negatives, and slides for free.

High resolution scanner and film to digital converter available.

Thank you to the Columbia Basin Trust, Teck, and the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies for funding our digitization station.



TECH FRIDAYS AT THE LIBRARY

Need tech help?

Bring your device and your questions!



February 9th & 23rd from 1 to 5 pm

create day

WINTER IN THE WILD

Saturday February 17th, 2024
12:30 to 4:30 pm

Join the library this Winter in the Wild for a fun afternoon of crafting and LEGO building at the multipurpose room in the Pool/Library Complex. Colouring sheets, LEGO, and craft supplies will be available to use on a first come, first served basis. Let your imagination run wild! All ages welcome. Please note that supervision is not provided, and adults are responsible for supervising their children.




Introducing the 2024 Elkford New Year Baby:
KNOX ATREUS OSHANYK

Born to parents Hannah Oshanyk & Jake Rogers on January 12, 2024 at 6lbs 15oz. Interestingly, Jake was also the New Year Baby in 1998! Congratulations to the new family on their beautiful arrival!

The Elkford Early Years would like to thank the following businesses/persons for their contributions to the baby basket:

The Bath Shack	Brynn Thompson - BABS Crochet
Legacy Ford - Elkford	Mountain Echoes Doula - Steph Walkley
Mountain Top Beauty	Wanda Thompson
GelMoment - Kenzie Karwandy	Mountainview Massage
Elk River Crossing Car Wash	Katherine Russell Glass Art
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Shirley Dennuse - Balloons	Bearspaw Contracting Inc.
Precision Arc Industries	Joy Segovia Photography
District of Elkford	SMS Equipment
Elkford Dental Centre	Rocky Mountain Radiator
Stellar Vista Credit Union	Curious Cubs Daycare
CBAL	Christal Klassen - REMAX
Shawna Bryant	Rhonda Miller
Annette Sheppard	Elkford ESSO
Elkford Small Engine & Repairs	Elkford Early Years



Continued from front page.



In the time the program has been running in Elkford over 1000 books have been mailed to 100 Elkford children at no cost to the families. This number is about half of the eligible participants of Elkford.

If you would like to register your child for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, go to www.imaginationlibrary.com or reach out to Katlin Bégin at elkfordecld@gmail.com for assistance.

The annual cost per child is \$47 for 12 books. If you would like to donate to help sponsor this program, and ensure it continues in our community, reach out to Katlin at elkfordecld@gmail.com for more information.

- submitted by Kenzie Karwandy

LawMatters

A Courthouse Libraries BC Program

The library website's home page has several links to legal information.

Try using Clicklaw to understand your legal rights and begin the path to solve legal problems.

Elkford Skating Club Presents:

SPACE SPECTACULAR

Friday, March 8th, 2024

&

Saturday, March 9th, 2024

Elkford Arena

Doors open at 6:30pm

Show begins at 7:00pm

2 & Under – Free
Child (3-5) – 4\$
Student (6-17) – \$6
Adult – \$8
Family – \$20



**Elkford
Skating Club**



ESS Celtics Senior Boys Volleyball Provincials 2023



The Elkford Secondary Senior Boys Volleyball Team represented the Kootenays in North Vancouver at the BC School Sports Provincial Volleyball Championship November 30th to December 2nd, 2023.

The team had an amazing showing kicking off the tournament placing second in pool play. Unfortunately, they lost the crossover game against the #3 ranked Credo Christian School from Langley sending them to the consolation side of the bracket. They continued to prove they deserved to be there with two more wins against 10th ranked Duncan Christian and 7th ranked Huston Christian before losing to 11th ranked Bulkley Valley Christian in a phenomenal 2 set 28-26, 29-27 battle having them finish the tournament with a 10th place overall placing and a most sportsman like team tournament nomination.

The team would like to once again thank all their supporters that helped get them to Provincials to represent the Kootenays and experience big city living for a few days.

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Elkford Lions Club
Up the Valley Construction
The District of Elkford
Mountain View Massage



With extreme gratitude the 2023 ESS Senior Boys Volleyball Team, Coach Darrin Cook, Nicholas Gagnon, Brendan Arthur, Brayden Smith, Declan Cook, Ayden Wells, Eddie Chamberlain, Nathan Newlove, Thorsten Haviland, and Ronan Cook.

Follow us on Facebook at "ESS Athletics" for live streams, information and updates.

- submitted by Jennifer Gernon-Cook

Winter in PE at Elkford Secondary School



Place based learning is at the heart of the physical education program at Elkford Secondary School. This enriched program works to support the interests of students as well as exploring and introducing students to new local active living activity opportunities within their community's landscape. The goal is to not just have students be active within the "classroom" (gymnasium), but also to learn how to be active within their community.

With these varied activities, adventures and experiences, students are able to test their grit, resilience, decision making, and courage; as well as develop their physical strength and knowledge of local healthy living activities. Students are creating confidence in themselves, knowledge, and an ability to try new and difficult things.





This focus of place-based learning, moving outside the classroom and supporting the development of active healthy future citizens would not be possible without the gracious support of the Elkford community.

This winter has seen an upswing of individuals hearing the call for support and stepping in. Kelsey Hills and Tony Heather saw that PE students were interested in boxing, they immediately purchased a whole new boxing set up, so students could learn about and experience the fitness of boxing.

The PE 8 class was short a chaperone for an epic cross country ski adventure, and two wonderful humans (Colleen and Frank Trosso) heard the call and volunteered immediately to break trail and support the students in the back of the pack (these two went far and beyond expectations).

Financial support from The United Steel Workers, Lions Club, Sparwood Elk Valley Thrift Shop, Bearspaw Contracting, ESS PAC have all graciously helped the program grow and allow PE students these opportunities to be as inclusive and low cost/no cost as possible.

Stepping outside of the immediate community, Fernie Alpine Resort, and Arq Climbing gym (Cranbrook) have both wildly reduced costs so students can try these lifelong recreational pursuits. Avalanche Canada even sent an instructor out to Elkford and introduced avalanche safety in the back country, for all PE students at no cost. This diverse support that students are receiving from this amazing community, is allowing this PE program to grow and support students in an array of ways.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see students grow in strength and confidence as well as try activities they would not have otherwise considered. It has been heartwarming to see and feel the support from the Elkford community in the enrichment of learning and experiences for their local students and future healthy Canadian citizens. Great hustle everyone and thank you.

- submitted by Andrew Gulyas





It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we announce the passing of Gail Cartier of Elkford, BC. She passed on January 6th 2024. Gail passed away with the love of her life by her side her husband Lyle. She has been courageously battling cancer for the last two years. Sadly the cancer brought her to Heaven too early. She is predeceased by her father Patrick and her brother David. She leaves behind her loving husband Lyle, her beautiful children Danny, Ryan, Jen, and her grandson Dax. She also leaves behind her wonderful sister Karen and her mom Betty. She will be dearly missed by many family members and close friends.

Gail never stopped smiling and was always such a positive light. She loved all the people that touched her life and always talked about the experiences she got to enjoy in her lifetime. She enjoyed so much, some of which were travelling, baking, and any and all crafts she could find. She was so talented in all that she did.

Her favourite time of year was always Christmas when all the family is together, the house meticulously decorated, and fresh baked goodies placed out with care. We are so grateful that she got to enjoy her favourite time of year one last time.

The celebration of life will be a private ceremony with only close family members and friends present. We will announce at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the East Kootenay Regional Hospital (EKFH.ca) in place.

Both Lyle and Gail were always so appreciative of the wonderful care she received by her medical team, emergency responders, and general care providers that always made sure she had the best care.

Sourdough 101

Join us for four Mondays and learn how to make sourdough bread at this library program! Space is limited so register early. Some supplies included.



February 12 & 26. March 4 & 11 at 6:30 Pm

Call 250-865-2912 or email info@elkfordlibrary.org to register.

Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies Granting Season 2024



We've made it through the holiday season, and now it's granting season! We're excited to launch our 2024 grant application process.

CFKR welcomes applications from eligible non-profit organizations from January 1st to February 15th, 2024. Interested non-profits are invited to visit www.cfkrockies.ca/grants/ to review and download CFKR's 2024 grant application guidelines and fillable pdf application form.

To be eligible to apply, an organization must be a CRA qualified donee, such as a registered charity, or, if the organization is not a qualified donee, enter into an agency agreement with a qualified donee. Grant applications need to clearly demonstrate a direct, positive benefit to local residents.

Most CFKR annual grants range from a few hundred dollars up to \$2,000 and support local non-profits in making our communities even better places to live, work, and play.

For all the details, please see our press release:

<https://www.cfkrockies.ca/community-foundation-of-the-kootenay-rockies-2023-grant-application-process-now-open/>

...And check out some of the photos from our 2023 grants!



In 2023 CFKR granted a wide range of community projects and programs. As part of the Elkford Community Fund (left photo) Elkford Search and Rescue Board received furniture for their community meeting room: \$1178.46 and the Elkford Public Library received a Photo Printer: \$1400.00. Also, the Elkford Lions Club—Neighbours Helping Neighbours: \$1000.00 and Wildsight—Eco-Stewards: \$500.00 were among last season's grant recipients.

- submitted by Vera Rees



Mortgages

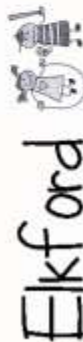
Back country, meadow or on the riverbend. Choose a mortgage made for the mountains.

Get a flexible mortgage, with expert advice from someone who understands why you choose to live here.

Bank like you live here.



www.StellerVista.com



Elkford Early Years

Diggin' in for our most precious resource.

Elkford Community Resource Numbers

POLICE 911
AMBULANCE 911
BCNurseLine 1-866-215-4700
POISON CONTROL 911 or
1-800-461-9911

RMES 250-865-4625
Recreation Centre 250-865-4010
Aquatic Centre 250-865-4012
Public Library 250-865-2912

Playgroups

**All located in the Alliance Church
unless otherwise
specified on calendar.**

Mondays Mornings Out 9:30-11:30

Wednesdays Parent-Tot Funtimes

9:30-11:00

Fridays Baby and Me (24 weeks and under)

9:30-10:15

Saturdays Healthy Start 9:30-11:30

If you would like the Kid's Calendar

emailed to you or you have any

information you would like included or

updated in this calendar please contact:

Kenzie Karwandy at

kenzie.bau.21@gmail.com



KID'S COMMUNITY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR KIDS AGES 0-12

All programs, meetings, and events are subject to change. Please contact the individuals on the back for confirmation of times and details.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Parent Tot Times 9:30-11:30 Family Swim 10:12-12 Family Swim 12:45-3 Public Swim 3-5	Parent Tot Swim 12-2 Family Swim 2-4 Lego @ The Library 2-4 Public Swim 4:30-7	No School RMES Parent Tot Swim 12-2 Family Swim 2-4 Lego @ The Library 2-4 Public Swim 4:30-7	3 Parent Tot Swim 9:30-12 Public Swim 1-4 Public Skating 6-8
4 Parent Tot Swim 9-11:30 Family Swim 12-2:30 Public Swim 2:30-4:30	5 Mornings Out, Car Seat Info Session 9:30-11:30 Early Years Meeting 11:30	6 Family Swim 10:30-12:00 Family Swim 12:30-3:30	7 Parent Tot Times 9:30-11:30 Family Swim 10:12-12 Family Swim 12:45-3 Public Swim 3-5	8 Family Swim 10:30-12 Family Swim 3-5 Public Swim 5:30-8	9 Baby & Me 10:30-12 Family Swim 11:30-1 Public Swim 1:30-3:30 Family Swim 3:30-5 Public Swim 5:30-8 Public Skating 6-8	10 Healthy Start 9:30-11:30 Public Swim 12-4:30
11 Parent Tot Swim 9-11:30 Family Swim 12-2:30 Public Swim 2:30-4:30	12 Play In The K @ RMES (please preregister) 9:30-11:30 Parent & Tot Skating 12:30-2:30	13 Family Swim 10:30-12:00 Family Swim 12:30-3:30	14 Parent Tot Times 9:30-11:30 Parent & Tot Skating 10-12 Family Swim 10:30-12 Public Swim 5:30-8	15 Family Swim 10:30-12 Family Swim 3-5 Public Swim 5:30-8	16 No School RMES Winter In The Wild Baby & Me 10:30-12 Family Swim 11:30-1 Public Swim 1:30-3:30 Family Swim 3:30-5 Public Swim 5:30-8 Public Skating 6-8	17 Winter In The Wild Public Swim 12-4:30 Winter Snow Ball 1-3 Public Skating 6-8
18 Winter In The Wild Parent Tot Swim 9-11:30 Family Swim 12-2:30 Public Skating 1-3	19 No School RMES Family Day Star—No Playgroup	20 Family Swim 10:30-12:00 Family Swim 12:30-3:30	21 Parent Tot Times 9:30-11:30 Parent & Tot Skating 10-12 Family Swim 10:30-12 Public Swim 5:30-8	22 Family Swim 10:30-12 Family Swim 3-5 Public Swim 5:30-8	23 Baby & Me 10:30-12 Family Swim 11:30-1 Public Swim 1:30-3:30 Lego @ the Library 2-4 Family Swim 3:30-5 Public Swim 5:30-8	24 Healthy Start 9:30-11:30 Public Swim 12-4:30
25 Parent Tot Swim 9-11:30 Family Swim 12-2:30 Public Swim 2:30-4:30	26 Mornings Out 9:30-11:30 Parent & Tot Skating 12:30-2:30	27 Family Swim 10:30-12:00 Family Swim 12:30-3:30	28 Parent Tot Times 9:30-11:30 Family Swim 10:30-12 Public Swim 5:30-8	29 Family Swim 10:30-12 Family Swim 3-5 Public Swim 5:30-8		

Sponsors and Partners:



TURN OVER FOR MORE
DETAILED INFOR-
MATION

Elkford Early Years Committee is an assembly of individuals and interested groups working together to address the importance of the first 6 years of a child's life. Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:00pm at the Elkford Community Conference Centre
Contact: elkfordcccd@gmail.com or
www.elkfordearlyyears.com



RMES PAC is a council open to all parents and/or guardians of students of Rocky Mountain Elementary School.
Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month from 6-8pm
Contact: RMES PAC Chair ~ rmespac@yahoo.ca
Phone: 250-865-4341



Mornings Out is a free drop-in program for children 0-6 and their parents / caregivers.
Located at the Rec Centre Banquet Hall
Contact: elkfordcccd@gmail.com



Baby and Me Group
A weekly program for caregivers and parents to experience and share rhymes, songs, stories and baby topic discussions. For children 2 and under.
Located in the hall above the arena.
Contact: elkfordcccd@gmail.com



Elkford Healthy Start is a free drop-in program for parents and children 0-5yrs. Everyone welcome and parent participation is required!
Located at the Rec Centre Banquet Hall
Contact: elkfordcccd@gmail.com



Elkford Leisure Service Department
Contact: recreation@elkford.ca
Phone: 250-865-4010
Visit www.elkford.ca or call for more program information.

To register for programs, please stop by the Elkford Community Conference Centre, Monday - Saturday from 9:00am - 5:00pm. All programs are on a first come first serve basis. They accept cash, debit, Visa MasterCard and cheque. To avoid disappointment, please register early. Low registrations one week prior to the class start date could result in the class being cancelled.



Elkford Aquatic Centre
Phone: 250-865-4012
Swimming Lessons are created based on interest. Please leave your name, phone number and level you wish to take with the pool. Visit the web site for the complete public swim schedule ~ www.elkford.ca



Elkford Playschool
750 Fording Drive
Contact: Kim Bauer ~ ewt@telus.net
Phone: 250-433-1863 EWTF: 250-865-2031



COVID Screening
If you are experiencing COVID symptoms and would like a rapid test they are available for free at the Elkford IDA Pharmacy or at the Elkford Medical Clinic. Please call 250-865-2215 to pick yours up.



If you would like your COVID-19 Vaccination call to register! 1-833-828-2323

RESOURCE NUMBERS:

Elkford Medical Clinic	250-865-2215
Elkford Health Care Centre	250-865-2247
Public Health Nurse Elkford	1-800-644-6144 or
Spar.	1-250-425-2064
BCNurseline 24hrs	1-866-215-4700
Mental Health	1-800-661-0329 or
Addiction Services	1-250-425-4564
	1-800-644-6144 or
	1-250-423-4423
Ministry of Human Resources	1-866-866-0800
Ministry for Children & Family Development	1-800-667-5623
BCAA Car Seat Information	1-877-247-5551
CCRR	1-800-661-2445
East Kootenay Crisis Line	1-800-667-8407
East Kootenay Friends of Children	1-866-564-2217
Elk Valley Safe Homes	250-946-6004
Elk Valley Victim Assistance	250-425-0499 or
	250-423-7500
Elkford Women's Task Force	250-865-2031
Infant Development Program	1-877-999-2543
Elk Valley Preschool Speech-Language Program	250-430-7026
Family Support Institute	1-800-441-5403
Feminine Counselling	250-423-2608
PEACE	250-433-6353
Sexual Abuse Intervention	250-423-5311
CB Family Resource Society	250-430-1136
Women's Resource Centre	250-423-4687
Child and Youth Mental Health Outreach	250-423-0817

EKKids.ca is a website that was created as a resource for parents and children in the East Kootenays. The links take you to our community pages where you'll find information about the Early Childhood Development (ECD) teams for each community, along with resources, ways to get involved, and a community calendar which tells you what is going on in that community on a given day.

Coming Events

Blind Date with a Book starts February 1st at the library. See page 10 for details.

Tech Fridays at the library. Bring your devices and questions on February 9th and 23rd from 1 to 5 pm.

Sourdough 101 starts February 12th at 6:30 pm at the library. Registration required. See page 18.

Writing Club at the library February 15th at 6:30 pm.

LEGO Day at the Library February 16th from 2 to 4 pm. Please note we do not provide supervision for this program.

Winter in the Wild February 16th - 18th.

Create Day February 17th from 12:30 to 4:30 pm in the multipurpose room beside the library. See page 12 for details.

Family Day February 19th.

Book Club at the library February 22nd at 6:30 pm. See page 11 for details.

Elkford Public Library Board Meeting at the library on February 27th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

Mountain Meadows Golf Clubhouse Home Routes Concert Dates: Thursday, March 7th: Lynne Hanson, Friday, April 5th: Kitty & the Rooster, Saturday, May 11th: Kalya Rakel & Dan Gurman.

Elkford Figure Skating Ice Show - Space Spectacular. March 8th and 9th doors open at 6:30 pm and show starts at 7:00 pm. See page 14 for details.

Share your pictures of Elkford events in the Focus

We'd love to see photos and news about sports teams, school events, happenings or celebrations on these pages.

Email to



Did we mention that classified ads are free?
Short descriptive ads,
no more than 50 words.

If you wish to add a picture, then we charge you our regular ad rates (see below).

Advertising Rates per month effective January 1, 2017

	<u>Black & White</u>	<u>Colour</u>
Business Card	\$ 7.00	\$12.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$30.00
Half Page	\$20.00	\$45.00
Full Page	\$25.00	\$80.00

Not Quite Classified Ads

Elkford Trails Alliance

Group snowshoe and fatbike rides throughout the Winter and Spring, follow the Elkford Trails Alliance on FB or IG for dates and times. Snowshoe rental available for members.

Full-day Art Camps for ages 8-12 offered on February 2nd and 16th, March 1st, 18th and 20th. Find all the info at www.katherinerussell.ca

Passport and ID photos call Katherine on 250-665-8005.

Elkford Food Bank

If you need assistance from the Food Bank, or you know somebody who does, please call **250-910-7088** and leave a message along with a return number. Your call will be returned at the earliest opportunity.

Elkford Search and Rescue

Practices held first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at 222 Alpine Way. Everyone welcome to attend. Please contact elkfordsearchandrescue@gmail.com for current information.

Elkford Lions Club

Come join us - everyone welcome. Contact us at elkfordlions@gmail.com for current information.

Any Lengths Group AA meetings

For current information contact Betty-Ann S. 250-433-6510

**Thank you for saving resources!
Pass this paper on for
more people to enjoy!**

Elk Valley Hospice
250-423-4453 Ext. 309

Elk Valley Safe Homes
Women's Shelter & Helpline
250-946-6004

Elkford Women's Task Force
250-865-2031

Kids Count Too
Kids Counselling
250-433-6353

Elk Valley Critical Incident Response Team
Critical Incident Emergency Contact
250-423-4226

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Elkford Focus is the 20th of each month. Please email your classified ads to info@elkfordlibrary.org and put classified ads in the subject line. If you are sending us a coming event, please put coming event in the subject line.



APPLY NOW FOR 2024 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Registered non-profit organizations in Elkford can now apply for the 2024 Financial Assistance Grants! Applications are due by **February 29, 2024**.

Find the 2024 application form, application guidelines and policy on our website at elkford.ca/2024financialassistancegrants. You may also visit us at 744 Fording Drive to request printed copies.

As authorized under the Community Charter, the District of Elkford supports the enhancement of the community by providing financial assistance to non-profit groups and organizations that enhance the quality of life in Elkford or promote the community when travelling to events away from Elkford.

Prior to applying, please review the District of Elkford's Financial Assistance Grant Application Guidelines and the Financial Assistance Policy.

For more information, contact the Financial Services Department at **250.865.4000** or finance@elkford.ca.

PET LICENCE RENEWALS

Pet licence renewal invoices are in the mail! The dog/cat pet licence fee is \$50 annually for an unsterilized licence and \$20 for a spayed/neutered licence.

Are you a new pet owner? You must purchase a licence for your dog or cat. Please bring the certificate of spaying/neutering for first time registration. The due date for all pet licence fees is **February 29, 2024**. For pet licences, a late fee of \$20 applies after February 29, 2024.

WINTER PARKING BYLAW

All District of Elkford facilities are closed on **Monday, February 19** for Family Day, a statutory holiday. We will reopen on **Tuesday, February 20**.

BLEEDER VALVES: ON

A friendly reminder to all residents to turn **ON** the bleeder valves in your residences from **October 31 to May 1**. This important bylaw is in place to prevent your pipes from freezing and cracking in colder temperatures.

KEEP KIDS OFF OF ROADSIDE SNOWBANKS

Every time it snows, Public Works operators work to cut back snow banks and snow piles to widen our roadways. **Please ensure that children do not play in snow berms or on snow piles along roads.**

Operators don't have x-ray vision: they are unable to see tunnels carved in the snow and cannot always see children who are playing on snow banks. Additionally, tunneling in snow piles is very dangerous in itself, often resulting in fatalities when snow forts collapse.

Please play it safe! Kids (and kids at heart) can always safely toboggan and play in the snow at the toboggan hill that is piled high beside the District Office and running into the soccer field. When dark falls, the hill is lit up for some quintessential winter fun!

CLOSED FOR FAMILY DAY

All District of Elkford facilities are closed on **Monday, February 19** for Family Day, a statutory holiday. We will reopen on **Tuesday, February 20**.

February 16 to 18 Winter in the Wild

This upcoming Family Day Weekend, from **February 16 to 18**, Elkford is the place to be to celebrate Winter in the Wild!

Stay tuned: the event line-up and official event brochure are coming soon!

NEW POOL SCHEDULE • SWIM LESSONS

Dive into fresh winter programming at the Elkford Aquatic Centre! The **Winter 2024** pool schedule, upcoming swim lessons and pool programs are now on the website.

Visit www.elkford.ca/pool! For more info, or to register, contact the Aquatic Centre at **250.865.4012**, pool@elkford.ca or visit **816C Michel Road**.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **FEBRUARY 12** **6 P.M.**
- **FEBRUARY 26** **6 P.M.**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place in Council Chambers at 744 Fording Drive.

For regular council meetings, electronic attendance is welcome. Visit <http://zoom.us/join> and enter the meeting ID: **250 865 4000**, then click join and wait for the host to let you into the meeting.