



**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS!  
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We are pleased to have donated over \$6000  
to local organizations in 2007.

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#5 Fairmont Village Mall

250.345.6133

## History Bites

Below is an example of the early Fairmont Resort rates list from early in the last century. This charming example of days gone by is courtesy of *The Legacy of Fairmont Hot Springs* by Janet Wilder, actual list provided by Joyce Holland.

**L**OCATED on the main road between Spokane and Calgary via Banff, at the north end of Columbia Lake, the source of the Columbia River. The altitude is 3000, affording a magnificent view of the valley and the lofty Rockies to the east. A delightfully restful place where you can enjoy pleasant surroundings and courteous service.

The natural hot springs supply water to an open-air swimming pool at a temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit and hot baths up to 116 degrees.

Electric Light, Spring water supply. Gasoline and Oil. Groceries, Meats, Milk, Cream and Vegetables supplied by Fairmont Ranch.

<b>WITH MEALS -</b>			
<b>CHALET--</b> Double Room with Bath: per person--	Daily		Weekly
Single Room with Bath: per person--	\$4.00		\$24.50
<b>BUNGALOWS--</b> per person (minimum of two) --	\$4.75		\$27.00
<b>TENT CABINS--</b> per person -----	\$3.50		\$21.00
	\$3.00		\$19.00
<b>WITHOUT MEALS -</b> Rates are from \$1.00 to \$2.50 per night.			
Housekeeping Cabins are from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per night.			
Auto Camp - 50 cents per night; \$3.00 per week.			
	Per Bath	Two Days	Weekly
SWIMMING POOL -----	25c	75c	\$2.50
children -----	15c	50c	\$1.25
SADDLE HORSES -----	\$1.50 for two hours; \$3.00 per day.		



**Custom Wine for  
Christmas Time!**

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Located in the yellow AG Foods building in Invermere

## Fairmont Reads

### Book Babe

In preparation for the film's release this month I chose this first novel by Khaled Hosseini which transports us into an Afghanistan before the Russians, before the Taliban and before 9/11. Granted, Afghanistan has known centuries of violence and turmoil but the author's generation and caste of Afghans knew peace and prosperity; where children lived and played as children without the fear of gunfire, bombs and just plain old unmitigated violence. Hosseini writes from the Sunni perspective, where life was certainly more privileged than his Shi'a counterparts.

This is the backdrop for *The Kite Runner*. A novel that captures the unusual bond between two boys: Amir, a Sunni and member of the ruling Pashtun caste and his ever-faithful Shi'a friend and servant, Hassan, of the Hazara, an impoverished and largely despised caste. The two boys grow up together, having known one another since birth, but live entirely different daily realities. Amir goes off to school everyday while Hassan assists his father in the household's daily chores.

Hassan, a fiercely loyal boy quick to smile, proves many times that he would do anything for Amir, including protect him. When the opportunity for his friend to return this loyalty presents itself, Amir flees. In the wake of this failure, Amir is no longer able to face his friend and the bond is severed.

We get a sense of what it was like under the Soviet occupation as well as the immigrant's existence when Amir and his father escape Afghanistan to safe American shores, settling in San Francisco.

Years later, in his thirties and a successful novelist, Amir is called back to his home country by an old family friend. He is called upon to redeem himself, "a way to be good again." Upon his return he sees the Afghanistan of his youth through new eyes. As Afghan and foreigner. He is still tormented by the events of his youth and finds himself not only confronted by the flood of formidable memories but also the new rule of the Taliban. Amir had been safely ensconced in life in the U.S. when Afghans welcomed the Taliban with open arms, having rid the beleaguered nation of the Soviets. In the years after, the fundamentalist Muslim organization of tyrannical zealots was taking its own toll on the nation's life and spirit. Hosseini provides a gripping tale of a relationship between two very different boys separated by class and racial differences and the love, friendship, conflicts and betrayals that lie within. I felt fortunate and oh-so-grateful on a number of occasions during this read that I was raising my children here.



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To inquire about our luxurious accommodations,  
please visit us in The Fairmont Village Mall.

www.fairmontcreek.ca

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## A Restaurant Review...

### By Always Hungry

My smiling 6 year old asks "Daddy, why did the chicken cross the road?"

"Well Son," I chuckle, "On Tuesday nights it's to get her wings removed and promptly deep-fried at **The Sportsman's Lounge**, that's why". That ended badly, however.

I am pleased to relate to the hungry masses that lately, yours truly and his carnivorous chums have gorged on the wing with unparalleled enthusiasm.

Think about it; the lowly wing has much to admire. Okay, I will allow that individually it is a pathetic sight, but piled high and smothered in BBQ sauce- ooooooh. More dip please. Hey, I've got opposable thumbs, teeth and ten dollars - let me in!! But wait, it gets better, because you cannot possibly do 40 wph (wings per hour) without drinking an ice cold jug of beer!! And where else can you toss your manners in full public view, right at the table and not get crazy looks? On *Wing Nite* you and your friends get to behave like cavemen on a Viking expedition and frankly, it is accepted.

The Sportsman's Lounge makes the whole fat sucking bone choking experience beautifully human and right. All would be perfect except the wings come with the token carrot and celery garnish, forever untouched, doomed to a miserable grave surrounded by the grey bones of the recently consumed.

Whatever. I'll be back even though Christmas lands on a Tuesday, and they better be open.

## Music & Entertainment

### George J. Blisner

Greetings folks and welcome to December, the festive season in the valley. Last month's entertainment scene went out with a bang with the Women's World Cup Races at Panorama, highlighted by the awards ceremony and the Annual Light Up Party in downtown Invermere on the Saturday night.



The main street had the unique party atmosphere that comes with snow covered mountains, outdoor warming fires, light sparkly snow flakes and rosy cheeks. Up to 8000 people enjoyed the party and one of the best fireworks displays this valley has seen.

Congratulations to the organizers. It was a great example of the valley coming together. Who knows how many million people watched this show that the valley put on? Two local musicians who played up at the hill, Franz & Pedro received simultaneous cell calls from opposite ends of Europe to say they were seen on the tube.

'Tis the season for parties and some interesting entertainment will be coming to the valley. At **Strand's Restaurant** in Invermere, Tony is bringing in *The Polyjesters* on the 8th and 9th, a swing, jazzy, and fun group that will have his diners smiling and tapping their toes. **Buds Bar & Lounge** has a rather unique happening this month. On the 17th and 18th they are putting on *A Flair Bartending Seminar* and then on the 19th they are hosting the *Western Canada Flair Bartending Championships* with 1st Prize a cool \$2500. So if you want to see some amazing moves with glasses, bottles and liquids be sure to check it out. Certainly a unique art form. Shelley, at Buds, is also bringing in *BCDC* on the 15th. One of the most entertainingly strong cover bands I've seen. As innovative and crazy as *ACDC*! She is also planning *A New Years Masquerade Ball* with *DJ Lefty* supplying the music.

Moving closer to home, **The Whitehouse Pub**, has their usual *Thursday Karaoke Night* as well as a group coming mid-month to be named later. Also *Mr. Phil C* will be there all through the festive season to warm up your soul with his jolly smile. **The Sportsman's Pub** at Riverside Golf Course has its *Thursday Night Jam* with John Cronin and Friends (John just returned from a month long tour in Austin, Texas so there should be some good stories). Saturdays now feature a new young artist, *Dano*, who mingles his own sound with rocky covers. I would also like to welcome Josh, the new Manager of the Sportsman's. He has already made some changes that have added to the bars ambience and feel. Up at the Lodge, **The Bears Paw Lounge** is featuring *The HatMan*, the 29th and 30th with his rocking guitar and, of course, hats. He will also play New Years in the Ballroom while *Dana Honey* takes over for him in the lounge that night. *The Swillbillies* (ya, they let me play) with their funky drive will be playing two private parties at the Lodge.

**The Hoodoos Lounge and Grill** is booked quite a bit with private parties but the bands that are playing there for these functions are quite diverse. Rory assures me that they will be back in the future to entertain the masses. One such group, *Pulse*, is playing their blues-rock sound for the Hoodoos New Years Eve party.

Well, that's it for December's entertainment scene. I wish you all a Happy and Merry Christmas and please drive safely. If you drink, please **DO NOT DRIVE!**

4 Good music to all and see you in the New Year!

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David Wilson

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