

Have a Great Summer!



Summer Hours 9:30 - 5:30 Daily

#5, Fairmont Village Mall

250.345.6133

## History Bites

William Heap Holland from Manchester, England purchased R.L.T. Galbraith's ranch at Fairmont. By 1911, his friend, Robert Bruce owned the rest of the Galbraith property in the area. Bruce was able to convince Holland of the Fairmont ranch's potential for abundant fruit and cattle and sold all of his holdings to Mr. Holland, save for the site of the hot springs. In 1912, Holland, having purchased more surrounding properties, including what is now the Fairmont airport, owned approximately 1800 acres.

Holland was a millionaire and an eccentric. A large man, he often wore white shorts with a knitted bag on his belt that held crayons, notebook, pipe and tobacco and which he was never without. He wore a solar topee on his head. It was supported by corks ensuring that nothing rested on his head and air could circulate.

It was Mr. Hollands faith in the viability of the climate and soil in the area that motivated his efforts in the following years. With Holland, the future of Fairmont Hot Springs would begin to evolve.

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## DINING OPTIONS

Mountain Flowers Dining Room

Bear's Paw Lounge

Misty Waters Café

Sportsman's Lounge

Atrium Restaurant

Trophy Dining Room



345-6311

## Fairmont Reads

### Book Babe

2005 was a big year for Anderson Cooper. Arguably, the CNN anchor's coverage of January's tsunami and August's Hurricane Katrina is what catapulted him to his current status as a household name. *DISPATCHES FROM THE EDGE*, Cooper's memoir of "war, disasters, and survival," is a look back on the year that solidified his journalistic career - and on the broken past he can't seem to escape.

Cooper tells his story in scattered fragments, jumping from one point of his life to the other in no particular chronological order. His life, it seems, is similarly scattered and unpredictable, from his conflicted childhood as the son of wealthy fashion tycoon Gloria Vanderbilt to the experiences he had reporting on the horrors of genocide and starvation in Niger, Somalia, Burma, Vietnam, Iraq, and later, the hurricane-torn New Orleans.

Subjectivity in the book is obvious, but it is highly personal, never political. Cooper's book does not read as a "call to awareness" about genocide and disaster, but rather, as the title suggests, as a memoir of how his personal struggles affected, and were affected by, his confrontation of these situations. His focus is simply to effectively tell the story of his life: the story of a man with a troubling past who overcame his personal battles by escaping to foreign disasters, and then by being transformed by those he encountered a long the way - victims he often saw as mirrors of his past.

"Dispatches" is a deeply personal memoir, but Cooper's ability to use his objective journalistic skills are still highly evident and engaging. The book is filled with startling quotes, serving as illustrative dialogue for his already image-filled stories. From widowed mothers to savage terrorists to bitter New Orleans policemen, Cooper's ability to gather and convey factual information keeps the reader on edge. This book is not a straight-up education on international wars and disasters, but it serves as more than just an interesting story. *DISPATCHES* works both as a memoir and as a tribute to the victims of the tragedies we tend to forget about when the news moves on to a bigger story.

Highly, highly recommended.

If you have a recommendation for Fairmont Reads or if you have a book you would like to review please let us know: [tcphoto@shaw.ca](mailto:tcphoto@shaw.ca)

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to the Fairmont & District Lions for their kind acknowledgement of the work of The Fairmont Range Gazette.



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## A Restaurant Review...

### By Always Hungry

The truth, as we are taught, is always best. It shall set you free and it will conquer evil. Arm yourself with it and no harm shall ever come to thee. Brilliant thoughts if you need courage to support a broken shield on some old, foggy battlefield. Sadly, dear reader, the truth these days is more complex and less protective, especially if you write for a small-town newspaper.

But enough gin philosophy. The point is that "Always Hungry" will not reveal the truth as it occurred one warm July eve at a local eatery. Yes, the experience was gastronomically gruesome and the reader does deserve all the nasty bits. However, I cannot name or blame the proprietor because the root causes behind the failure I endured go beyond the staff on shift. The problem started years before my last-minute reservation and we all know it this way as a chronic, relentless labor shortage. It comes down to this: the underlying reason behind the foul experience in question is what needs to be "brought up" in this column, not the food itself.

So the next time you venture out for a meal, remind yourself just how hard the valley's restaurant staff (the proud, the few) all work to keep us plump and primed. Increasingly it seems things do go awry and trust me, I share the pain. But be realistic, be honest and above all, be forgiving. Understand the pressures of a staff shortage before you venture out and if the food or service happens to be off then at least now you can appreciate the truth as to why.

## Music & Entertainment

### George J. Blisner

Welcome folks to September and the start of three months (cross your fingers) of beautiful valley weather: clear, sunny and colourful. Now is the time to enjoy the fruits of the valley's harvest; summer's hard work; the joy growing creates (some people still appreciate the bounty

the valley and it's tillers have to offer); along with it's music and entertainment. My favourite (they let me play) is Windermere's Harvest Festival this weekend at Windermere's Community Hall. Great produce, great people, a family atmosphere and a very unique arts and really old crafts exhibition that people are starting to forget. So bring your kids and enjoy. Oh yes, lots of local music too! This past month's entertainment in the valley was quite exhausting for me-I tried to see & do it all. Bad idea. A quick review: Valley Appreciation Days in Invermere. Great food, great music, new friends and great old friends. The 24th Annual Old Timers Hockey Tournament (Y.O.T.S), August long weekend, has donated all proceeds to valley youth groups for the past 24 years. Good job guys. My favourite entertaining band in the world, (yeah, they let me play with them too), McCuaig, authentic "Canadian Bagpipe Rock" for all ages, played at the New Lakeside. Another valley staple, the world renowned Invermere HangGliding Event. Thanks for the memories Dano. Then the next night the same group of entertaining, high energy innovators rocked Fairmont's Hot Spot, **The Hoodoos** and previewed their new cd, *VITA*. Tip: Find this CD and buy it and play it lots. It even has songs about our valley which they love and call home. **The Farside** and **The Whitehouse** shared a rocking blues band (yeah, they let me play, too.), *The Blues Riders*. With two guitarists that wailed like Jimi, a true blues bass player, and Dave, the drummer, a local, who impressed me with his funk. Shelley at **Buds**, brought in several unique acts. Mike, Fraser and Bruce at **Angus McToogles**, along with Marty entertained and made so many people smile. It's sweet to hear a harp in traditional music. The valley just sang out with music, song & spirit. August's music will be just as good. **The Hoodoos Lounge & Grill** is featuring two groups on the long weekend, the 31st and the 1st of September. *Thinking Man*, a local group, where Rory, Mike and Billy will get you rocking; and *Stoned Free*, a group of easterners who have got people moving alot here in the past, will get you airborne. **The Farside** has the very popular *Tuesday night Jam* with *Weird Gal*. Come and sing with the rest. They also have a DJ on Fridays and more entertainment in the makings. The **Sportsman's** at Riverside Golf Course has *Jam night* with *John Cronin & Friends* on Thursdays. John also plays solo on Saturdays now. Come and listen to his guitar gently talk to you. More music is planned for the month at all valley venues so keep an eye out for posters around town. There are always some good entertainment surprises popping up here. My condolences to the Steedman family. Bob was a local who will be missed.

Try & look up *McCuaig* on the internet and check out their original music. Enjoy and good music to all in September. Thanks ladies for the deep hugs, they 4 helped.

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**Don Slobodzian, B.A.**  
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