

**Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Christmas gala of lights contest.**

**Residential**

First Place - Horation and Maria Garcia, 1341 Coalmine  
 Second Place - Jack and Sharon Dennett, 1706 Tower  
 Third Place - Tiffany York, 1664 Second Street

**Business**

First Place - Eric Jacobsen Landscaping  
 Second Place - Connie's Coiffures

A huge thank you to Kimberley Mulla for taking time out of her busy schedule to be our volunteer judge this year!

**NEWS FROM BC ASSESSMENT**

On January 2, 2015, BC Assessment issued a news release regarding 2015 property tax assessments in the Northwest. You can view the entire news release by visiting their website at [www.bcasessment.ca](http://www.bcasessment.ca).

Although the news release indicated that "Most homes in the area are worth more in value compared to last year's assessment roll," the average assessed value for the Village of Telkwa has remained the same as the 2014 Assessment Roll (average assessed value of \$217,000.00). Changes in the total assessment roll for the Village of Telkwa are as follows:

Property Class	2014 Revised Roll	2015 Completed Roll	Change
All Classifications	\$131,031,000	\$131,385,000	0.27%
Residential	\$118,300,000	\$117,426,000	-0.74%
Commercial	\$8,663,000	\$9,253,000	6.80%

The figures are inclusive of changes observed in the market and other variables such as new construction.

Property owners who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2014 or see incorrect information on their notice should contact BC Assessment as indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January.

If a property owner is still concerned about their assessment after speaking to one of the BC Assessment appraisers, they may submit a Notice of Complaint (Appeal) by February 2, for an independent review by a Property Assessment Review Panel.

The Property Assessment Review Panels, independent of BC Assessment, are appointed annually by the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, and typically meet between February 1 and March 15 to hear formal complaints.

The Northwest assessment office is located at 4545 Lazelle Avenue in Terrace. During the month of January, office hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Property owners can contact BC Assessment toll-free at 1-866-825-8322 or online by clicking "CONNECT" at [www.bcasessment.ca](http://www.bcasessment.ca).

**Facts on BC Property Assessments and the 2015 Assessment Roll**

- Total number of properties on the 2015 roll is 1,974,120, an approximate 0.98% increase from 2014.
- Total value of real estate on the 2015 roll is \$1,206,152,088,777 (\$1.2 trillion), a 5.84% increase from 2014.
- Total amount of 'non-market change', including new construction and development: approximately \$18.69 billion, an increase of 6.54% from the 2014 roll of \$17.54 billion.
- In B.C., approx. 87.74% of all properties are classified with some residential (Class 1) component. This equates to over \$912 billion (\$912,653,565,545) of the value on the total provincial roll.
- Over 98% (99.1% in 2014) of property owners typically accept their property assessment without proceeding to a formal, independent review of their assessment.
- Assessments are the estimate of a property's market value as of July 1, 2014 and physical condition as of October 31, 2014. This common valuation date ensures there is an equitable property assessment base for property taxation.
- Changes in property assessments reflect movement in the local real estate market and can vary greatly from property to property. When estimating a property's market value, BC Assessment's professional appraisers analyze current sales in the area, as well as considering other characteristics such as size, age, quality, condition, view and location.
- Real estate sales determine a property's value which is reported annually by BC Assessment. Local governments and other taxing authorities are responsible for property taxation and, after determining their own budget needs this spring, will calculate property tax rates based on the assessment roll for their jurisdiction.
- BC Assessment's assessment roll provides the foundation for local and provincial taxing authorities to raise more than \$6.8 billion in property taxes each year. This revenue funds the many community services provided by local governments around the province, including the public school system.
- BC Assessment's website provides a listing of property assessments and sales to help property owners understand their property's market value and provide comparable sales information. Go to [www.bcasessment.ca](http://www.bcasessment.ca) and click on the valueBC link. For 2015, a new version of e-valueBC provides improved navigation, an interactive map and inclusion of property street-front imagery.
- New for 2015, BC Assessment has updated its Customer Service Standards which include commitments to be open & transparent, fair & accurate, timely & accessible, knowledgeable & respectful, and innovative & collaborative.
- For more information on the 2015 assessment roll and regional and province-wide real estate market trends, please visit [www.bcasessment.ca](http://www.bcasessment.ca) and click on the 2015assessment roll information link.

For more information on what's happening in Telkwa, please go to our website.



[www.telkwa.com](http://www.telkwa.com)

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



#### CHURCH WORSHIP

**Telkwa Christian Reformed Church**

9:15 and 10:30 am

**Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**

Congregation at St. Stephen's Heritage Church (across from the Museum). Sundays 10:00 am.

**Faith Reformed Church of Telkwa**

(846-9710) Regular services Sunday 10 am & 2:30 pm.

## OUT AND ABOUT

**"Get Ready to Rock!"** A drop in playgroup for tots (ages 0-5) and their caregivers. Join us as we explore music, dance, and play! Each week will feature live music! Mondays at 10-11:30am at the Telkwa Christian Reformed Church (across from the One Stop). This program runs for 6 weeks from Jan. 19-Feb. 23 and is generously funded by: Most for Children.

#### New Junior Firefighter Program!

Telkwa Fire Rescue is launching a new program specifically geared to youth, that will give girls and guys aged 14 to 17 fire fighting and medical skills, and experiences in safe training scenarios to practically apply their learning.

The Junior Firefighter program is starting January 20, 2015. The Junior Firefighter program is a hands-on program that gives you a basic introduction to what a firefighter does.

Participants will learn:

- Fire Fighter Safety
- Personal Protection Equipment & Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Rope and Knots
- Ladders, Ventilation
- Fire Hose
- Fire Streams and Appliances
- Water Supplies

You will also have a Canadian Red Cross course on CPR.

If interested please contact Fire Chief Randy Cunningham at 778-210-0264 or [chief@telkwafire.com](mailto:chief@telkwafire.com) or come to our first meeting of the new year on January 20th at 7pm in the main fire hall at 1234 Highway 16 in Telkwa (Across from the gas station).

#### NEW FIRE HALL

Telkwa Firehall 2 is now located at the corner of Cottonwood St. and Pine St., right beside the tennis courts at the BBQ grounds. You might have seen the new Firetruck signs on Coalmine Rd. near Cottonwood St. recently.

There were a number of reasons for the new hall, particularly the fact the old Firehall 2 was within the initial blast radius of a Lac-Mégantic type of train disaster. The move to the new location brings not only the equipment out of the blast area, but also allows our crews to respond safely if such a disaster should happen, so they can coordinate evacuation efforts of the south side of the river.

## TELKWA READING CENTRE

*Contributed by Christine Tessier*

846-9286



"Bittersweet" by Colleen McCullough - a lovely novel that follows four women, two sets of twins, as they pursue a career in nursing. Set at the beginning of the twentieth century, the women have few options open to them as they strive to create careers and carve out lives for themselves as independent ladies. Australia is the setting and we follow Grace, Edda, Tufts and Kitty on their various paths. The novel is a quiet story that looks at the challenges women faced in "a man's world". Perfect for sitting in front of that fireplace as soft snowflakes fall!

The staff of the Telkwa Reading Centre wishes all of you Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year. We encourage you to visit us and indulge in the beauty of reading a good novel. Food for the soul, as they say!

**See you at the Library!**

*A huge Thank You to the BV Kinnettes for all their hard work in putting on this year's community Christmas dinner.*

## TELKWA & DISTRICT SENIORS' SOCIETY

(Young at Heart Club)

*Contributed by Janet McDivitt*

#### Activities for January 2015

Jan. 3, Saturday Pancake Breakfast 8 to 10 am

Jan. 6, Tuesday General Meeting 1 pm

Jan. 7, Wednesday Bingo 7 pm

Mondays - Carpet Bowling - 1 to 3:30 pm

Monday Evenings - Exercise Class 7:30 pm

Wednesdays - Sip & Stitch - 11 am to 4 pm

During January and February there will be only one Bingo night (the first Wednesday of each month).

Seniors Centre phone number: 250-846-9570

Village of Telkwa 1415 Hankin Avenue, PO Box 220, Telkwa, BC, V0J 2X0 Phone: 250-846-5212 Fax: 250-846-5928  
[info@telkwa.com](mailto:info@telkwa.com)

Municipal Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Closed 12:30-1:30 pm  
Closed all Stat Holidays

Maintenance Shop & After Hours  
Emergencies : 250-846-9144  
Bylaw Enforcement: 250-846-5212  
Fire Dept. Emergencies—911

Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Statutory Holidays excluded.  
Members of the public are welcome to attend. The next regular meetings are January 12 and 26 at 7 pm. Agendas may be viewed at the Village Office or on our Website [www.telkwa.com](http://www.telkwa.com)