FREE

SCRATCH

No. 10 Spring/Summer 2006

The Future is Now!!
You Can Combat Climate Change

Weird new gadgets
David Suzuki's Story
Win his book

PLUS...
- travel tales and tips
- surviving in the bush
- mega-resort pros and cons

THE TECHNOLOGY ISSUE

www.scratchonline.ca
FREE

SCRATCH

No. 10 Spring/Summer 2006

The Future is Now!!
Weird new gadgets
David Suzuki's Story
Win his book

You Can Combat Climate Change

PLUS...
- travel tales and tips
- surviving in the bush
- mega-resort pros and cons

THE TECHNOLOGY ISSUE

www.scratchonline.ca
Publisher: Wayne Lundeberg
Managing Editor: Lynne Betts,
scratchmag@shaw.ca
Assistant Editor: Claire Philipson
Contributing Editors: Stacy Donald &
Wayne Lundeberg
Editorial Committee: Sarah Gasparetto, Scott
Borys, April Cuffy, Brian Lawrence, Claire Philipson,
Keya White, Heather Lea, Jillian Eunson, Joe
McDonald, Joe Reiner, Katie Trace, Miranda
Tedesco & Nathan Warner
Artistic Director: Warren Clark
Design & Layout: Imprint Creative Solutions
www.imprintcreativesolutions.com

SCRATCH magazine is sponsored by the
Columbia Basin Trust. It is published for and by
youth aged 15–29 living in the Columbia
Basin region. SCRATCH strives to provide a
forum for youth to exchange ideas,
information and opinions in a thought
provoking, informative and entertaining
style.

www.warning...
The information super-highway
is a pretty amazing resource in
terms of accessing
information, communicating and
all that wonderful stuff. The Internet
can, however, be a risky
place when it comes to
privacy ...

Fact
Some sites place cookies
—small files that collect and store
information — on your hard drive. This can
give them access to your computer’s
Internet Protocol (IP) address; how many
times you’ve visited the site; your username
and password and any letter/number
combination that can be linked to your
personal information.

Ways to protect your privacy in the wild world of the
web: don’t accept cookies; use disposable email
addresses for mailing lists and contests; use a fake name
in chat rooms and forums; never respond to spam;
regularly change your password; read site privacy policies
before entering them.

Tel: 1-800-505-8998
Fax: 250-365-6670
www.scratchonline.ca
Suite 300, 445-13 Avenue
Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1
cbt@cbt.org

For additional copies or
inquiries contact
Columbia Basin Trust.

Printed in Canada. All
Rights Reserved. The
views of individuals or
organizations expressed in
SCRATCH magazine are
not necessarily those of the
Columbia Basin Trust.

Front cover art by: Jaymie
Johnson, 17, Nelson
Back cover art by: Sarah
Gasparetto, 16, Elkford

Photo by
Jasmine
Osiowy, 18,
Cranbrook
| Opinion | 4 | Environment is a State of Mind |
|         | 5 | The real cost of technology |
|         | 28 | What is Invermere becoming? |
|         | 29 | The pros and cons of resort development |
|         | 30 | The lure of transient living |
| Travel  | 7 | The real scoop on Colombia |
|         | 8 | Cuddling lions in Africa |
|         | 9 | Volunteering in India |
| Writing | 10 | Breath |
|         | 10 | November |
|         | 10 | Fish Bones |
| Technology | 11 | Learn to love (or hate) your remote control |
|         | 12 | The new media 101 |
|         | 13 | What will they think of next? |
|         | 14 | The future is now, these toys prove it |
|         | 15 | High-tech trash |
|         | 18 | It's all about high-tech skills & jobs |
|         | 19 | Movie and music-making software |
| Employment | 20 | The ins and outs of finding work |
|         | 21 | Youth employment resources in your area |
|         | 22 | Josh Evin skateboards to work |
|         | 23 | Film teacher makes the grade in Hollywood North (in the Slocan) |
|         | 31 | A survival guide for the transient soul |
| Outdoors | 26 | Stay safe in the bush |
| Environment | 27 | Climates change. Can you? |

**Happy Birthday SCRATCH!** You've made it over the hill and we can't wait to see what's next in our next issue. A big thank you to all the contributors, staff, teachers, and readers, here's to another ten! 

[www.scratchonline.ca](http://www.scratchonline.ca)
Environment is a State of Mind

By Katie Trace, 19, South Slocan

As I walked down my high school hallway yesterday, I stopped to look at the amount of garbage that was left in the hallway. I became seriously disgusted at the fact that there was a garbage can sitting right beside this huge pile of candy wrappers and plastic. As I stopped to pick some of it up, a teacher walked up behind me and thanked me for "using the garbage can." At first I thought about the increase of litter in my own school and soon I found my feelings focused on the lack of worldwide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It became apparent to me that you need only to drive through any major city to realize that not only is the quality of air becoming very poor, but our desensitization to environmental issues is escalating.

Many of us would assume that because we live in the beautiful, pristine Kootenays, this type of pollution wouldn't really affect us. But, in reality, places like Trail and Castlegar are facing major environmental issues of their own. Too often you hear people call the youth of today the 'generation of change,' or the 'leaders of tomorrow.' With these types of names, it is safe to say that our society is putting a lot of pressure on the shoulders of its young citizens. When I look at some of the environmental issues our world is facing, I can't but feel overwhelmed and sometimes depressed. Many youth today either simply don't care or have no idea how to tackle these gigantic issues, so they basically just do nothing.

Another problem is that places like Teck Cominco and Zellstoff Celgar Ltd are the main employers for Trail and Castlegar and if they shut down, these towns would become absolutely devastated. This dilemma makes it very hard for the people of these cities to try and create huge environmental change for the place they call home. I feel that it is very important for my generation to get involved, because if we don't care about the future, who will?

So now that we've identified some of the challenges we are facing, we can begin to look at simple ways to change our everyday lifestyles to benefit the environment. A simple change like purchasing cloth bags that can be reused, would help eliminate not only the amount of garbage in landfills, but also reduce the unnecessary amount of plastic being produced annually. You could also easily help the environment by simply altering your way of transportation. For instance, you could carpool with friends when possible, take the bus, or walk/bike to near destinations.

Although these are only two very common solutions, there are countless ways you can lend a hand to our struggling planet. With all of this and more in mind, remember that lots of simple changes can decrease the size of your ecological footprint. If everybody agreed to make conscious decisions about helping the environment, could you imagine the kind of change we could create? 😊

I feel that it is very important for my generation to get involved, because if we don't care about the future, who will?

And the winners are...
The lucky winner of Anne DeGrace's novel Treading Water is Nicola Carlyle, 18, Cranbrook.
Way to go Nicola!

Other SCRATCH prize winners are:
Colina Silva, 17, Nelson, Joni Morris, 17, Revelstoke; Sasha Fluss, 19, Balfour; and Trisha Thind, 16, Elkford.

www.scratchonline.ca
What price are we paying for technology? This seems an odd question, and certainly one that people don’t regularly think about, especially when we are in the heat of the moment, standing in line at the store to purchase a much-needed device after new technological advancements. But, none the less, it is an important question in today’s society with our fragile ecosystem appearing to be reaching her breaking point in terms of renewable resources and viable technologies.

Therefore, the power is ours to make wise, earth-friendly decisions both when purchasing and disposing of our technological possessions. As illustrated in the Tech Trash article on page 15, there are some healthy and environmentally friendly options to dispose of things such as computers and VCRs that are no longer of use to us. While these disposal methods may not have yet reached the Basin area, they will be here soon, and we must consider other options for our electronic waste. As the world progresses and becomes more environmentally conscious, we must consider the impact of our actions. The environmental consequences of our current practices are severe; many of our current ways of life will not be sustainable in the future. It is up to us to change our habits and make environmentally sound decisions.

Like the motto goes: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Indeed the “3 R’s” are part of a viable path for our current society to contribute to the overall good health of the Earth, as opposed to the detrimental alternative of reckless over-consumption and improper product disposal.

Realistically, we cannot stop the wheels of progress from turning forward, but we can make conscious decisions as to how we personally fit into the technology machine. Whether that involves choosing a more environmentally friendly option (Reduce), donating or properly disposing of an unwanted gadget (Recycle), or simply to opt out of buying unnecessary items in the first place (Reduce), it is important to remember that the power is in our hands. 

Want to know all about Canada's favourite scientist? All you have to do is to be eligible to David Suzuki's autobiography contest. Submit your words or images to the next issue of CRASH Magazine by October 20th, 2006. To enter or call for info: 506-506-8998.
**streeter WHAT technology are you waiting for?**

**By Leah-Rose Traverse, 18 & Michael Brock, 17 from Fernie**

**Shelby Clerihue, 17, Fernie**
I'm waiting for a hidden camera in your car that is recorded via a satellite. If someone steals your car you can see them and where they are going.

**Leanne Teslak, 17, Fernie**
I'm waiting for a vehicle that can drive itself through the use of sensors on the side of the road corresponding with the sensors in your vehicle. Type in where you want to go and it will drive you there fully aware of traffic and other obstacles.

**Michael Traverse, 16, Fernie**
I'm waiting for the human body to become its own mp3 player. I imagine a small chip implanted into the ear which can have music automatically downloaded onto it. It is paused, played, and songs are selected through the brain - whatever song you think about listening to plays into your ear cord, free.

**Spencer Goodman, 17, Sparwood**
I'm waiting for a reverse microwave. Instantly freezes anything from Alaskan salmon to margaritas in 15 seconds! Puts the magic bullet to shame!

---

**Photo by Alisha Kastrukoff, 17, Casdegar**

---

**TOP TEN ALTERNATIVE THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER**

1. Go Sky Diving
2. Volunteer Somewhere
3. Take dance lessons
4. Go to Shambhala
5. Learn an Instrument
6. Go Cliff Jumping
7. Rent a House Boat
8. Do something you are afraid of
9. Tube down a river
10. Go star gazing

www.scratchonline.ca
Mass media has inevitably brought the world closer together; satellites, Internet, television, and all other media mean that we can learn about the world outside, without going outside. There is, however, a problem with these new capabilities, and that is that we don’t get to decide what it is that we see or learn. I am sure you have all heard the saying “no news is good news.” Well, in the case of mass media, that is largely the truth. Because someone else is deciding what we see, and because that person is making money, they are showing us what we want to see, and for some reason, we as humans would rather see tears, bloodshed, and tragedy than beauty, love, and happiness. I am going to use Colombia, South America, as an excellent example of what I mean because I lived there for close to a year.

Now that I have mentioned Colombia, I’m sure you all have certain words or ideas in your minds. Drugs are there, along with terrorists, jungles and guns. But I bet there are a few things that didn’t cross your mind: passion, beaches and cities.

Now, it is unfair for me to berate you without first telling you that only two years ago I held the same prejudices as each one of you. Maybe not as strong as some, but they were there. I grew up in Kaslo, B.C., and went to school with the same kids for 13 years, as many kids in the Columbia Basin do. It was in my graduating year that our school was fortunate enough to have a female exchange student from Colombia. Without going into details, by the time June came around I had promised that I would visit Colombia. I had also, however, stated objections about being kidnapped and dragged off into the jungle, or about being forced to run drugs, and so on.

What I found truly startled me. Colombia is an amazing country, although I must admit our high-speed taxi ride through Bogotá (Colombia’s capital city) on the night of my arrival was a little scary. Still, Colombia’s reputation definitely does not do it justice. Bogotá is a city of approximately seven million inhabitants – quite a change from my childhood home of one thousand – and is filled with restaurants, malls, clubs, churches, theatres, and parks.

I have met foreigners from America, Australia, England, France, others from Canada, and more, and I have yet to meet one who was in a hurry to get home; more commonly they have set up a life here. So if Colombia is so dangerous, why does every foreigner I meet want to stay here? Simple: the danger is minimal, and the people, the history, and the country are absolutely beautiful. A 20-minute drive takes you from the hustle-bustle of a sprawling modern city to a quiet lake surrounded by small farms. Beaches blanket the Caribbean coast, and every region has its own unique culture. This, however, was something that I never saw on the news, something that it is difficult to find on the Internet, something that the media doesn’t have time to tell us.

Now, it’s not that the media is actually lying to us. Those things that they tell us about do happen. Kidnappings, roadblocks, paramilitaries, and drug plantations do exist here in Colombia; however, compared to the number of people who live in this country, the amount of illegal activity is minimal, and the danger is much less than that which is painted by the media.

There are certainly places in the world which are more dangerous than others, but this should not stop you from finding the beauty that is out there. Any city in the world can be dangerous if you’re not careful; however, if we take care and ask the right questions, the trouble can definitely be worth the effort, just as I have found out here in Colombia.
Hi, my name is Kate. I'm 5 foot 7 -ish, blond, blue eyed, I have two hands and two feet. I shiver when it's cold and laugh when something's funny. I am what you would call ordinary. Run of the mill. But I did something extraordinary. I walked with lions in Zimbabwe.

"Walked" is an understatement. I cuddled and rough housed with lion cubs. I fed them, loved them and watched them grow. I pulled their tails, scratched behind their ears, and slipped into another world when I looked into their round, burnt-amber eyes!

Now this is not the usual past-time that you would expect from a normal girl like me. But there I was, sitting in the patchy shade under an acacia bush by the water hole at Antelope Park with a 5 month old lion cub sprawled out on my lap — it was a wild dream come true. A dream that had been so distant, that I would have not dared to think about it even a year before my travels took me the "dark continent" of Africa.

The hard part about traveling in Africa was not the abundance of AIDS victims and orphans or the poverty and residual tension from decades of racism, it was the heartache I felt when leaving the villages that made me feel so welcome. Every place that I traveled to in Africa now has a little place in my heart. This is not to say that I traveled around unaware of the hardships around me. I made sure to read up on all kinds of African culture and history that was not always pretty. I was prepared and safe, and I'm very much alive now to tell the tale.

This is a picture of me and Panduka, a 5 month old lion cub those grandchildren will eventually be born free on the plains in Zambia.

These lions are human imprinted from birth in order to breed them and increase their dwindling population. This was not a petting zoo of any sort, the volunteers (that's me!) were monitored closely by highly qualified guides and the plans for rehabilitation were carefully managed by biologists.

So if Africa speaks to you, or any place for that matter, for Pete's sake listen and go big, go bold, go global!

I didn't really know what I would learn from my travels but if Africa has taught me only one thing ... it is to follow your dreams.
By Carmen Gustafson, 24, Golden

There are two ways to see the world: travelling and experiencing. To experience the world means getting down and dirty with the locals. One excellent way for youth (and anybody) to experience new places and a different way of life is by "WWOOFing".

Willing Workers (or World Wide Opportunities) on Organic Farms is an organization that aims to further the organic farming movement around the world by enabling the fair trade of labour for host accommodation and knowledge. Ideally, a host provides room and board while the WWOOFer is there to provide a helping hand.

For three months last spring, I WWOOFed myself through India, spending about half my time on farms. One was a reforestation project in an international community called Auroville and the other an Amla orchard in Rajasthan. In Rajasthan I had the great fortune to teach English to a class of 9/10 year olds.

WWOOFing allows people who are genuinely interested in sustainable living the opportunity to live it. It can take you to new places that most tourists never see.

WWOOFing should not be used as a means for a cheap holiday. Work days can be long and hard, or there can be little provided to WWOOFers. Life can get really rustic really quickly and often the description of what's available at farms did not quite match the actual situation.

Hosts often put a lot of work into preparing for your arrival and your stay, so a respectful WWOOFer will acknowledge this by arriving on time and staying the planned duration.

If you're interested in WWOOFing, visit www.wwoof.org for more information.

Above: Carmee teaching English to village children near the WWOOF farm in Rajasthan, India. Right: Rajasthan farm child Pooja.
Breathe
By Celina Silva, 17, Nelson

Breath
One big long wave of fresh, crisp O2
Breathe
In
Belly bulges
Ribs expand
Heart rises
Lip cools
Body warms
Energy heightens, expands, renews, conquers
Muscles relax, loosen
Toes spread
Feet settle, ground, root
Torso centres
Spine opens, lengthens, grows
Chest opens, welcomes
Shoulders sink
Arms down
Hand unclenches, holding no more
Fingers spread, feel, reach
Neck
Jaw loosens
Tongue relaxes
Nostrils open, cool
Hair
Brain clears, lets go, no thought
Flesh massages, moves in waves of air
Body tingles, deteriorates, exists no more
Soul floats
Out
Release
Relief
In
Breath
One big long wave of fresh, crisp O2
Breathe

Fish Bones
By Amy Rudkoski, 19, Castlegar

You take a long walk at the beach,
there is a soft blanket of snow on the frozen sand.
You see a set of fish bones,
lying lifelessly on the ground.
You stumble over an old glass Coke bottle
still in one piece.
You return to your frosted car and turn the key,
driving down the vacant winding road.
You go to the grocery store to pick up
marshmallows, a Hershey's bar, and wafer.
You bump into an old man pushing a grocery cart in aisle 6,
he says something to you in Polish,
You don't speak Polish, you say, "Sorry" and move on to aisle 7.
You go home, you make smores and
you get white gunk and melted chocolate all over your face.
You make love for the first time.

NOVEMBER
By Chelsea Sweeney, 16, Castlegar

It was a perfect pure burgundy seemingly thrown aside on the grave
the rose had frozen from the frost
Preserved petal by petal forever saved.

As the Sun warmed a path of light
The tombstone could now be read:
"My only friend who saw my soul,
My love still burning even when I'm dead."

The woman kneeled in the snow
Tears turned to icicles on her face
She touched the stone but not the rose
Sent by God to join her true place

And in her hand clutched a note
Written the minute before he died:
"When I'm gone, I will send you a rose
Red for my love to come to my side."
Sundays during football season are my territory. I’d piss all over them if I could, making sure to avoid dampening the chips or contaminating the salsa, just to leave my mark. There are permanent grooves in the right-most couch-seat where my ass leaves its mark, and a narrow one on the arm-rest that cradles my remote hand. Can’t miss a game, can’t miss a moment, and I love my remote control dearly because it allows me to do this from my grooves. I think there should be a parade for the man who invented the remote (yes, it was a man) and I’d like to be grand marshal, flipping a giant button-filled baton with a foam chair duct taped to my ass as I lead hoards of painted football fanatics, depressed shut-ins, ADD channel sufferers, and headline news addicts down main street to honor Eugene Polley and his vision of a lazier future.

In 1950, Zenith Electronics spawned the first generation of remote controls. They aptly dubbed their product the Lazy Bones and waited for the profits to roll in. Consumers complained (imagine that) about tripping over the cord (no record of lawsuits found). The cabled remote transmitted the signals of volume leveling, power toggling, and tuning to the box set. In response, our hero Eugene invented the first wireless remote for Zenith in 1955. It didn’t operate on infrared lens or radio waves like our modern remotes do, but it was a step in the right direction, and for that step I’d like to take a step of my own, many steps actually. So ready my baton and put the lid back on the salsa, I’ve got a parade to march in...right after the fourth quarter...in all of the games I’m watching.
First, there were cell phones. Then there was email. Once we got used to those, along came podcasting...and blogging...and wikis.

It can be a bit difficult to keep track of Internet-based forms of communication, so here's a primer on a few of them.

**Podcasts**

Simply, a podcast is a digital recording of an audio or video program that can be accessed online, and then downloaded to a personal audio player.

Before you can download the file, you will need to install a podcast program on your computer, which will download an MP3 file when a new installment of the program is uploaded to a Web site. Depending on your computer/operating system, iPodder, iTunes, FireANT and DTV be programs worth checking out.

According to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/podcasting, “Podcasters’ Web sites also may offer direct download of their files, but the subscription feed of automatically delivered new content is what distinguishes a podcast from a simple download or real-time streaming.”

**Blogs**

A blog (short for “Web log”) is a site at which “bloggers” regularly post about items that interest them. In addition to text, they may provide images, links to other Web sites, and audio or video files.

Most of the time, blogs focus on a particular area of interest, for example, one of the characters on ABC-

TV’s Invasion regularly makes blog entries about a supposed alien conspiracy that takes place in his hometown.

More information can be found at blogger.com/start. There, you will be able to set up your own blog, and communicate with other bloggers.

**Social Network Sites**

Two of the most popular networking sites are MySpace (myspace.com) and Friendster (friendster.com). They allow you to create online communities with your friends, and make new ones.

MySpace says it is perfect for singles, matchmakers, families, businesspeople and classmates — anyone who wants to communicate online. MySpace Music allows bands to create Web pages and offer music downloads — a great marketing tool.

Friendster’s site says it is “the best way to stay in touch with your friends and it’s the fastest way to discover the people and things that matter to you most.”

**Wikis**

It’s a strange word, but a cool concept.

According to wiki.org, “Wiki is a piece of server software that allows users to freely create and edit Web page content using any Web browser.” Using simple codes for creating new pages encourages “democratic use of the Web and promotes content composition by nontechnical users.”

The best known wiki is probably Wikipedia, which calls itself is “the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.”

---

**Technology Timeline**

- **500 BCE** The first post office, for government use, is developed in China.
- **305** The first wooden printing presses are invented in China. The symbols are carved on a wooden block.
- **1453** Newspapers appear in Europe.
- **1455** Johannes Gutenberg invents a printing press with metal, movable type, making the mass production of books possible.
- **1560** Camera Obscura - primitive image-making is invented.
To prove that humans are indeed still the top of the food chain, odd little men and women draped in lab-coats and artificial lighting, are bringing you more innovative ways to use your brain and your body less.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Just what'll they think of next?

Computers that interpret your girlfriend's feelings when you call her "ditzy" and home computers. It's called Radio Frequency Identification, or RFID.

Computers try on new make-up for you

RFID is taking over. Customers visiting Japanese drugstore chain Seijo will soon be able to try on makeup without having to actually put it on, thanks to a new RFID-enabled makeup simulator developed by NTT. The customer just has to sit down in front of a terminal, where a video camera snaps pictures of her face. The customer can then just smear makeup on a pad with an embedded RFID reader, which checks the chip in the makeup and automatically applies it to the onscreen image using facial recognition algorithms to avoid, say, applying lipstick to cheeks.

Computers that pick wildflowers for your grandma

A new machine that hooks up to your computer called the Lazy Drinker will eliminate all that tiring shaking and stirring. The gizmo holds up to 16 bottles as well as ice, but you'll need to supply your own CO2 bottle (and PC or Mac, of course.) You connect the Lazy Drinker to your computer and the software handles the rest. You can choose from a list of pre-existing drinks or you can even create your own (but that would be using your brain which would be just silly).

Computers that eliminate the need for human memory, while showing a lover you care

Leave those keys and passwords at home. Couple's are now getting an electronic chip implanted under their skin that grants them access to eachother's front doors.

IS technology keeping us at the top of the food-chain? Or will technology shove us down a rung or two as our brains and bodies turn to mush? Deep thoughts...

By Trisha Elliott, 28, South Slocan

---

**History of Communication**

- **1793** The first long-distance telegraph line is invented.
- **1814** The first photographic image is achieved.
- **1831** The first electric telegraph is invented.
- **1835** Morse code is developed, allowing the transmission of signals through wires.
- **1861** United States starts the Pony Express for mail delivery.
- **1867** The first modern typewriter appears.
- **1876** Thomas Edison patents the mimeograph - an office copying machine. Alexander Graham Bell patents the electric telephone.

[www.scratchonline.ca](http://www.scratchonline.ca)
The Future is Now

By Claire Philipson, 25, Nelson

As technology barrels forward, the amount of tools and toys being invented is astounding. While the gadgets themselves are shrinking, their abilities are assuming mythic proportions — if you can dream it, it can be digitalized...

**Digital Pen** - This snazzy contraption allows you to convert your chicken scratch writing and drawing into digital documents. It looks like a normal pen, but as long as you do your doodling on special digital paper, you can plug it into your computer and voila — your work is suddenly rendered into computer format. All you have to do is take a bit of time to get your pen conditioned to understand the ins and outs of your handwriting.

**Infrared Keyboard** - Why bother to type on a large, physical keyboard when you can get a matchbox size device that projects an infrared image of a keyboard onto whatever flat surface you want? As your fingers hit the ‘keys,’ they break the infrared beams and record the symbols. You can then link it up to your cell phone, laptop or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) via Bluetooth — wireless technology that connects all your digital gadgets.

**i-Think** - Naturally a device in this digital day and age doesn’t just do one thing — this apparatus functions as a traveling case for your iPod, has a pair of cutting-edge speakers and is a re-charger for your MP3 player. It also has a port so that you can busily download tunes and video while it’s docked.

**Pocket PC** - This handy Audovox product pretty much provides you with all tools and toys your heart desires in one portable little package. It’s a palm pilot, a cell phone, a voice recorder, a digital camera, a video camera and an MP3 player. The pocket size paraphernalia comes with a pull-out mini-keyboard and Bluetooth, which means that you can connect it to communicate with all your other bells and whistles.

**Video iPod** - Why get an audio MP3 player when you can get one that also allows you to download video, allowing you to watch TV shows and movies wherever and whenever you want? Visit iTunes to download all that ‘must-see’ stuff and then cart it around with you and tune in whenever you want.

**Scribe Drive** - This CD-ROM, CD/DVD drive allows you to make CDs and DVDs with professional looking labels. Find the perfect image and label for your mix tapes or home-made videos and put a CD or DVD in the drive upside down and it will etch the label onto the disc. Then, simply turn the disc over and start burning onto your personalized disc.

---

**Technology Timeline**

- **1877** Thomas Edison patents the phonograph - with a wax cylinder as recording medium.
- **1886** George Eastman patents first Kodak roll film camera.
- **1892** Colour photography.
- **1893** The first telephone answering machines.
- **1899** Valdemar Poulsen invents the first magnetic recordings - using magnetized steel tape as recording medium - the foundation for both mass data storage on disk and tape and the music recording industry.
- **1902** Guglielmo Marconi transmits radio signals from Cornwall to Newfoundland - the first radio signal across the Atlantic Ocean.

---

www.scratchonline.ca
What to do with our high-tech trash

Solutions to Canada’s E-Waste Problems

1. As much as possible companies need to start removing toxic chemicals from their products during the production process. This will make the reuse and recycling of electronic products safer, easier and cheaper.

   Ideally, once the toxins have been eliminated from products, the companies creating them should take full life cycle responsibility for these by taking back their goods for reuse, safe recycling or disposal once they have reached the end of their useful life. Some corporations already have take-back programs in place. Visit the Electronics Product Stewardship Canada website (http://www.epsc.ca/r_links.html) for an excellent list of manufacturer’s recycling programs and links to provincial and territorial environmental websites (along with regulations and programs in each).

2. When you are finished with a product that no longer is of use to you but that could be of value to someone else, remember to explore the option of donating it to a charity or school. The Government of Canada’s “Computers for Schools” program is a good place to start your research http://cfs-ope.ic.gc.ca/. When buying a new computer, attempt to purchase one that is going to be easily upgradeable.

3. There are also private companies that would love to take your high-tech trash, often free of charge, and transform it into something useful again. E-Waste Canada (www.ewasteCananda.ca) is one good example. Computers and electronics are demanufactured, recycled or rebuilt into functional computers. For instance, the company sends the glass from the monitors to a smelting factory in New Brunswick where the lead is used to make batteries. The plastic is delivered to Calgary to be made into plastic wood and deckings, and the steal is sent to IPSCO, a corporation with operations spanning the U.S. and Canada, to be made into pipe.

While the problem of e-waste is a challenging one, it is encouraging to see the progress being made at a time when we need a solution more than ever before.

1906 Lee DeForest invents the electronic amplifying tube or triode - this allowed all electronic signals to be amplified improving all electronic communications i.e. telephones and radios.

1910 Thomas Edison demonstrated the first talking motion picture.

1916 The first radios with tuners - allowing for different stations.

1919 First licensed radio station.

1922 Technicolor.

1924 Electric loudspeakers invented.

1925 John Logie Baird transmits the first experimental television signal.


www.scratchonline.ca
Photo by Nicola Carlyle, 18, Cranbrook

Photo by Jasmine Osiowy, 18, Cranbrook
The lush Kootenay countryside evokes images of wildlife, artisans and decidedly rustic things; it's not necessarily where one pictures a cutting edge technological entrepreneur and teacher of all things techy. But, tucked away in the wilds of the Koots, Sharron Swan is just that, and it's a testament to her extensive industry that this kind of merging of lifestyles is possible.

The present and future of the technological trade is mobility, Swan asserts. Wireless gadgets and gear that make where you are virtually inconsequential; Lately it seems that every day heralds some new gadget or way to access video, music and email.

At the forefront of this barrage, Swan says, are blogging, Podcasts and Vidcasts. Blogs – basically online journals – makes a columnist out of everyone and provides businesses with some huge marketing opportunities. Get the art of writing brand name-heavy postings down pat and you've got an inside way of upping your presence on search engines like the almighty Google. Podcasts and Vidcasts which download your favourite radio and TV shows to gadgets like the omnipresent iPod, mean that you can access the entertainment you want, when and where you want it.

Escalating job opportunities and instant entertainment, it would seem that this technology thing is making royalty out of the consumer; all it demands is that you keep up.

If you are a bit rusty with the old computer and its many offshoots, never fear, Swan offers myriad courses through Community Futures and Selkirk College that can get you blogging with the best of them in no time. It would seem that the future is upon us and the workforce needs to develop as quickly as companies like Apple to maintain a foothold in the age of Star Trek. Swan points to the iSight, as the next big thing - glasses that broadcast video and audio. The idea is that you wear the glasses low on your nose and then you can tune in while you're jogging, walking around, and hopefully not driving...

Beam me up! 

---

**Selkirk College Continuing Education Department**

**New Blogging Series Online**

- Introduction to and Advanced Blogging
- Introduction to PodCasting
- Introduction to VidCasting
- Blogging for Business: Marketing
- Blogging for Education
- Marketing your Business PodCasts and VidCasts on iTunes

---

**College of the Rockies**

1-877-469-2867, www.colr.bc.ca

Courses offered online include:

- Advanced Computer Concepts: Presentations
- Internet Research and Communications
- Introductory Computer Concepts: MS Office
- Online Employment Communications
- Strategies for Web Page Design

---

**Technology Timeline**

- 1938 First computer.
- 1948 Long playing record invented - vinyl and played at 33 rpm.
- 1951 Computers are first sold commercially.
- 1958 Chester Carlson invents the photocopier or Xerox machine.
- 1965 8-track tapes come on the scene.
- 1966 The first successful fax machine is invented.
- 1969 ARPANET is launched, establishing the foundations of the internet.
- 1971 The computer floppy disc invented.

The microprocessor invented - considered a computer on a chip.
Master
our own digital ditties
netic (www.cakewalk.com)
Windows XP: $90
• you like beats? grooves?
• icing? Then Kinetic is for you. You
• create some deaf electronic music without any
• sical background. Just select your instrument and
• e, then you are presented with a multitude of
• ic patterns. You can change it up to add your
• style and have your mix ready for the clubs. It
• 100% Roland samples and it sounds amazing.

rageband 3 (www.apple.ca)
OS X: Included with iLife '06 ($89)
rageBand 3 is a recording studio for your Mac. It
is multi-track audio recording, a built-in mixer
a large library of apple loops. This product is
it because it works easily with other Mac
grams. You can add music to your video projects
in iMovie or creating a podcast and publishing it
the Internet using iWeb and iTunes. All which are
so of iLife '06.

ase SE 3 Music Creating &
duction System (www.steinberg.net)
owns XP/Mac OS X: $150
n recording a demo of your band to composing
own songs, Cubase SE 3 is packed with a wide
for tools for music creation. It includes multi-
recording, mixing, automation, editing for
O and MIDI. It also includes a stack of virtual
aments and effects. It is an entry-level
ation into the world of professional music
ction.

DIY Movies
By Claire Philipson, 25, Nelson

Final Cut Pro
Mac, $999
This product is hailed as the crème de la crème of
editing software. If you want to run with the big
leagues, this professional caliber editing software is the
way to go. Apple keeps coming out with new versions
(you can buy upgrades) and Final Cut Pro 5 delivers
powerful and precise editing tools that work with
virtually any format. This version offers up heaps of
creative control through real-time multistream effects
architecture, multichannel editing tools, advanced color
correction and intuitive integration with other Apple
professional video and audio applications.

Adobe Premiere
PC, $500 (there are many deals to be found on the internet, but as
always with the wily information highway, be cautious.)
Adobe Premiere is touted as the best all-around
midrange editing program for Windows. It allows you
to create video for DVD, videotape, and the Web,
works with DV, offers tight integration with other
Adobe tools, and allows you to export in multiple
formats and output your video production to DVD.

Flash Animation
Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, $

The newest version of the most widely used animation
software, Flash Professional 8 has added features
focused on expressiveness, quality, video, and mobile
authoring. New features include Filters and blend
modes, easing control for animation, enhanced stroke
properties (caps and joins), object-based drawing mode,
and run-time bitmap caching. @

1963 The internet protocol,
which set the stage for the
internet as we know and love it
today.
1989 American government
releases control of internet and
WWW is born - making
communication at light-speed.
1993 DVD.
2001 Podcasts.
2004

Source:
http://inventors.about.com/
library/inventors/bl_history
_of_communication.htm
On the move, just passing through, or maybe looking for a place to land?

Whether you are new to town or travelling, if you are thinking about looking for work here are some tips to make getting the job easier.

- **Get a local contact number and address.** Employees will want to get in touch with you easily and see that you are committed to staying in the area. Some career or employment centres will let you use their number for messages, or you can get a voicemail account through Telus by calling 310-2255. If you have a friend in the area that you can trust, ask them if you can use their phone # as a message #.

- **Make a good first impression.** A professional appearance, appropriate clothing and good manners are all important. Get connected through a local thrift store! Some will even offer work trade opportunities and can point you in the right direction to get connected with other services. Most recreation centres have a special rate for showers and may be able to offer a place for you to wash up and get ready to connect with employers.

- **Pack smart.** If you know you will be looking for work, make sure to bring your SIN number and identification, some work clothes and a copy of your resume on disk or in your email. Most towns will have a career/employment centre where you can print and copy it for free.

- **Think outside the box.** For short-term work, look for opportunities like fruit picking, farm labour, construction and landscaping that may need people on short notice and for short time frames. Ask at a local employment or career centre for possibilities you might not have thought about. You might consider WWOOFing (willing workers on organic farms - www.wwoof.ca) or other opportunities that allow you to work for room and board. Some communities may even have casual work programs and temp agencies. Ask around and use your resources.

---

**Top 10 Personality Traits Employees Look For**

1. Honesty and integrity
2. Flexibility and adaptability
3. Good work ethic and willing to work hard
4. Responsibility and reliability
5. Loyalty
6. Positive attitude, energy and motivation
7. Professionalism
8. Self-confidence
9. Self-motivation
10. Willingness to learn

---

Thanks to the employment counselors at the Nelson & District Youth Centre (Youth Employment Resource Centre) for pulling this information together.
Get connected to employment resources in your community!

The Columbia Basin is packed with some amazing employment services right at your fingertips. Access the career or employment centre nearest you and get pointed in the right direction to be successful in your job search. Here's just a sample of what is offered in our own backyard!

**Invermere**

**Trail**
Career Development Services Trail: 250-364-1104

**Kaslo**
Economic Development Office: 250-353-7353

**Golden**

**Revelstoke**
Revelstoke Community Career Centre: 250-837-3429
Revelstoke Community Futures Development Corporation: 250-837-5345, www.revelstokeecc.bc.ca/rcdc/

**Valemount**
Kootenay Region Métis Association: 1-800-521-5119, (250) 566-4601
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council: 250-489-2464, www.kktc.bc.ca
Lower Columbia River All First Nations: 250-304-2246

---

**photo by Yannick Neufeld-Cumming, 16, Nelson**

[Scratchonline.ca](http://Scratchonline.ca)
As far as careers go, Nelson's Josh Evin has it pretty dialed. The 25-year-old Dukhobor turned his passion and panache for skateboarding into his life's work.

Evin has been ripping around skate parks in gravity-defying ways for the past 17 years, when he won the Slam City Jam competition in Vancouver in 2001. He industry realized that this kid from the Kootenays had the proverbial 'it' in droves. Fast forward to today, and Evin is sponsored by Premium Skateboards out of Montreal, Bones Wheels, Independent, West 49 Skateshop and is designing two pairs of pro-model shoes for gear giants Powershoes for release next year. He continues to call the Kootenays home, but spends a chunk of his time jetting around the globe for competitions, photo shoots, demos and tours.

Evin also seems to have a head that's as firmly rooted in business sense as his body is in the skateboarding he calls "in my heart, in my blood." He formed and now co-owns the company Black Russian, labeled for his lifelong nickname, which designs clothes and hosts skateboard tours, you can check the team out this summer as they ride through the province on their We all Bleed Red Tour.

No matter how bright the nights or big the cities that Evin visits, he still posits good old Kootenay living as providing the things that are really important: "I love the clean environment, trees and freshwater lakes, good people, good energy, family and friends." As he barrels forward on his path his words of wisdom remain: "Respect, keep the Koots roots alive. Know where you're at and where you're going."
practicing your passion

By Claire Philipson,
25, Nelson

Chances are that the next highly touted wave of Canadian filmmakers will include some South Slocan residents, thanks in no small part to teaching dynamo Heather Shippit. The 28 year old Trail native swept into a teaching position at Mt. Sentinel School three years ago and has been guiding her students to accolades and national attention ever since.

In her first year at Mt. Sentinel, Shippit helped a couple of her students in submitting their work to the One Minute Film and Video Festival in Toronto. When two Mt. Sentinel kids were subsequently named on the list of Top 10 Canadian Filmmakers to Watch Out For, the school asked Shippit to set up a film program. Mt. Sentinel students have since taken home the Viewer’s Choice Award and the Best Emerging Artist Award at the One Minute Film and Video Festival, the Best Drama at the Red Carpet Youth Film Festival in Vernon, and one student sold a script to TV heavyweight HBO.

It’s Shippit’s fresh approach to instruction and real-world appeal that has given her students a real foothold in the industry. She calls herself a producer rather than a teacher, saying that her students are already well-versed in the language of filmmaking; “I introduce them to the real world; their assignments are directly linked to festivals. Then the work suddenly has meaning, its not just assignments for me, but demands the quality and caliber of festival standard.” It helps that Shippit’s energy and dedication is boundless and she’s totally devoted to her students; “As a producer you have to be willing to teach outside of the school schedule because that’s how film works.”

In addition to redefining South Slocan as the real Hollywood North, Shippit has been instrumental in setting up Mt. Sentinel’s Project Mexico, which has students traveling to Tijuana to build a house for those in need, over spring break. In addition to being an enthusiastic and encouraging teacher, Shippit also moonlights as a successful playwright and director; “I’m inspired. You’ve got one life; you might as well pack it all in – sleep later!”

“I think that every 7 years a teacher should have to go back into their field - you have to shake it up!” says Mt. Sentinel’s Heather Shippit.

www.scratchonline.ca
HEYYOUTH!

Need Cash?

Got a great project that will benefit local youth?

Are you 15 - 29 years old?

CBT has the cash to help make your idea a reality.

Find out more about CBT’s Youth Grants

www.scratchonline.ca

1-800-505-8998 • sdonald@cbt.org

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

A Legacy for the People

www.scratchonline.ca
SURVIVAL ESSENTIALS: your guide to staying safe in the bush

By Bram Rossman, 23, Invermere

Whether you’re going for the day or for three, the basic essential supplies stay the same. So does the very important step of letting someone know where you’re going and when you expect to return. While some gear and supplies change slightly according to the season (ie: taking clothes that are appropriate for temperatures and weather that you’re likely to encounter), the basics stay the same. The best weather can change rapidly (especially in the mountains) and the fastest, most experienced explorers can be caught off guard by darkness. Preparing for the unexpected is what backcountry trip planning is all about.

Here’s a widely recognized list of survival essentials compiled by North Shore Search and Rescue and the B.C. Federation of Mountain Clubs.

- **Map**
- **Compass** – Even if you’re carrying a GPS, it is essential that you can navigate using a map and compass.
- **Water**
- **Extra Food**
- **Extra Clothes**
- **First-Aid Kit** – The size of the kit will depend on the number of people in your party, the length of the trip, and the remoteness and level of risk you plan to engage in. Remember to restock items in your kit and to check the condition of the contents and any expiration dates.
- **Knife**
- **Headlamp/ Flashlight** – With spare bulbs and batteries.
- **Whistle** – A whistle attracts attention, can be heard over long distances, and is more sustainable than shouting for help. Three blasts is a standard distress signal.
- **Waterproof Matches/Lighter**
- **Firestarter/ Candle Lantern**
- **Large Orange Plastic Bag** – One of the most valuable items on the list. Crawl into the bag to keep warm and dry. The orange colour is highly visible and helps attract attention, particularly from the air.
- **Emergency Space Blanket**

Finally, training and practice is essential for using a map, compass, and first-aid kit, as well as for lighting fires so don’t just assume you can do it — try it out in a safe environment before you find yourself in a dangerous and scary situation.

A pre-made Trip Planning form prepared by the B.C. Provincial Emergency Program (available at www.adventuresmart.ca) provides backcountry enthusiasts a one-stop resource to provide their friends/loved ones with all the information they need to hand over to search and rescue personnel if the need arises to report you missing.

When using the form:
- Fill in all required information.
- Leave a copy with someone you trust.
- Contact that person upon your safe return.

Many search and rescue operations have been launched for individuals who were never actually lost. To help avoid this, experienced groups may add extra time into their trip plan instructions to account for delays. Remember that for the well-equipped party, an extra night out in the backcountry is nothing to fear.

While you’re out in the bush and you’ve got your eyes peeled for the big guns like bears and cougars, don’t forget to keep a bit of your safety headspace reserved for tiny ticks.

Ticks can transmit Lyme disease from small animals and birds to humans.

The symptoms of Lyme disease do not appear in every infected person and therefore make it a difficult disease to diagnose. Indicators of Lyme disease can include: a circular rash which begins at the site of the tick bite after a delay of three days to one month. Patients often also experience symptoms such as: chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, rashes, fatigue, heart palpitations, and neurological symptoms.

Fatalities from Lyme disease are rare. However, undiagnosed Lyme disease may develop into chronic disease that can be difficult to treat.

You can protect yourself from ticks by minimizing exposed skin and wearing insect repellent. You can reduce the risk of infection by removing ticks from your skin and clothing immediately after exposure. After removing ticks, wash the site of attachment with soap and water or a mild disinfectant.

www.scratchonline.ca
We know that global warming is a reality. While it's easy to blame industry and the government, 25% of Canada greenhouse gasses come from households. That means that each one of us can make a difference. Every year, we each create 5-tonnes of greenhouse gasses. The One-Tonne Challenge is for all Canadians to reduce their greenhouse gasses by one-fifth, or one-tonne.

The Liberal Party designed an educational and promotional program called the One Tonne Challenge which intended to educate Canadians about climate change and offer up some concrete ways to reduce their greenhouse gasses by one-fifth, or one tonne.

While the new Conservative government has decided not to continue funding the One Tonne Challenge, it doesn’t mean that we as Canadians should stop trying to make a difference. Perhaps if we as a nation actively put the environment on our priority list, our 'leaders' will follow and re-implement climate change as a Canadian concern.

It's not that hard, just changing the way you get to work or school can conquer the One Tonne Challenge. Switching to biking or walking five days a week cuts your emissions by somewhere in the neighbourhood of half a tonne.

**Transportation**
- Instead of a plane, take the bus on long distance trips.
- Carpool to school or work.
- Bike or take the bus more often.
- During the summer, open the car windows instead of turning on the air conditioning.
- Drive the speed limit to maximize fuel efficiency.

**Making Fewer Purchases**
Greenhouse gases are emitted from the time a product is manufactured to the time it gets to your hands.
- Reuse the blank sides of used paper. When you have to buy paper, buy only recycled paper.
- Don’t buy new sneakers or CD players until the ones you have have bit the dust.
- Instead of purchased birthday gifts, offer housecleaning or babysitting services.
- Buy some of your clothes from used-clothing stores.
- Bring your own bags when you go shopping.

**Eating**
- Buy local produce. If it’s not possible, buy fruits and vegetables that were produced the closest to you.
- Eat more meat-free meals. The process of getting the animal from the farm to your plate takes more energy, land, water and chemicals than the production of vegetables and grains.
- Bring reusable containers when you eat at restaurants for your leftovers or take-out food.

**Energy**
- Turn down the heat or the air-conditioning. The temperature difference can be made up with sweaters or slushies.
- Air-dry your laundry outside. Use a rack indoors during cooler months.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- When you're not using 'stand-by' appliances such as the microwave or CD player, unplug them!

**Water**
Energy is needed to get the water from lakes and rivers, through the treatment process and through your house taps.
- Install a low-flow showerhead in the bathroom. And while you're at it, take shorter showers.

For more information check out co2zilla.ca.
What do you think of when you hear “Invermere”? Like many small towns Invermere is a town where you name everyone you graduate with, don’t give directions by street names by whether it is close to someone’s house or business. When you decide to walk somewhere for exercise someone you know is likely to pull over and ask if you want a ride. Your teachers call by your older sibling’s name and they can remember where they taught your parents.

Town next to you is called “trashy” but is actually just like yours. Local people in the “big city” think funny but seem to up the trend two years. And, the closest mall or McDonald’s is at least an hour away in my 17 years, I’ve seen Invermere go from a diminutive town to one that is rapidly developing into a tourist destination.

Rock, Black Forest Heights Village, and Lakeview schools are recently developed small communities in Invermere where you can build or buy a new home. Each of these small communities is going to be a grocery store and perhaps other services. We’ll see the new townhouse and condo buildings seem to be springing up all over Invermere and Iley. Also, relatively recently there have been new businesses that have developed or expanded such as Tim Hortons, Panache Furniture, Fields, and Horse Coffee. The industrial area of town also has new businesses.

Invermere has a permanent population of 3,140 people. In the summer months the numbers increase at ten times that number as statistics from the suggests. This totals to an amount of 25,000 people. Large numbers of these people are known by the locals as “Gorbies,” who own homes here.

This past summer there were a number of complaints reported about a well-known dog in our town, Whiskey, who has lived and roamed our town for over a decade. Every local knows Whiskey. He quietly does about town doing what he wants. You usually see Whiskey around I.G.A. or on 5th Street. Some Albertans have said that he should be put down because he hangs around the grocery store all summer and could be a danger to young kids. Most people in our town know Whiskey as a gentle, friendly dog and don’t have a problem with him running loose.

Whiskey is part of this town; putting him down because of what people who only live here in the summer, would be a huge disappointment to many people. It would be wrong. It would be like taking an old friend of yours and telling him he has to leave because the newcomers dislike him.

Eventually Invermere will be a town most locals won’t recognize. I wonder how long we will be able to cope with this growth. My Dad, for example, has lived in Invermere his whole life. When he was young he could stand on his front porch and see a house all the way across town. Now he can’t even see past our neighbor’s house. In Invermere I am known as one of the five Jones girls, a fourth generation local; in a city would anyone know who I am?

Nelson Mandela said, “There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.” We would like to be able to recognize our home town in the years when we return. However, I worry that if we want to live here in Invermere after further schooling or in the future, it is highly unlikely we would be able to afford a property. What will Invermere look like when we come back in five years?

If Invermere keeps building and expanding at the rate it is today, it will soon be the next Canmore. I am sure many locals will agree with me that we would rather have Invermere a town than a city, a lake rather than a wave pool, and a bonspiel on the lake rather than The Labatt Briar or The Scott Tournament of Hearts. Developing is inevitable, I just hope we can do it sensibly.
To build or not to build
the real issues around resort development

Scratch reporter Heather Lea, 31 from Revelstoke, is trying to get some answers on the pros and cons of resort development in BC communities. She discussed the issue with two youth politicians – Carmen Gustafson, 24, Golden and Gerry Taft, 23, Invermere, here's what they had to say...

1. What's the best thing about large winter resorts coming to the region?

Carmen: A new resort will offer seasonal employment and bring interesting people into the community.

Gerry: It will help concentrate visitor activity in the backcountry in a specific area, leaving a smaller footprint. Visitors to the resort are contained within 100 km or so versus having a lot of small companies spread out over thousands of kilometres.

2. What's the worst thing about large winter resorts coming to the region?

Carmen: Seasonal employment, a lot of the employment created is not very high paying and does not offer permanent jobs. While this is happening, real estate value increases, which creates a gap with people wanting to move into town who have money and those who can't afford prices.

Gerry: I'd say downloading costs. For example, the provincial and federal governments usually have to take on a lot of costs for upgrading, renovating, new roads, etc. Also, the regional district ends up dealing with issues arising from low income employees, like costs associated with social concerns and transient incomes.

3. What are the top 5 reasons for opposing large winter resorts?

Carmen:

1) If it's a backcountry resort, there is the potential to draw people away from the community, so we lose that community feeling.
2) Wilderness is our greatest asset - we have to be careful not to lose value by building resorts everywhere.
3) There are already a lot of resorts, and the skiers aren't growing along with the resorts. By building more you are just saturating the market and the benefits of a resort are spread thin.
4) Climate change. It is unrealistic to think we'll have epic powder years every year.

Gerry:

1) Increased vacancy in homes. The value of knowing your neighbor is less likely.

2) Increased prices
3) Change in population
4) Lack of quality employment
5) Environmental concerns
6) Conflict in recreation, i.e. hikers and snow mobilers versus downhill skiers

4. What are the top 5 reasons for supporting large winter resorts?

Carmen:

1) If the developer is willing to engage with the community it can be good. For example, sponsoring lift tickets to underprivileged kids or implementing locals' deals.
2) There is definitely positive economic spin-off.
3) It is good to diversify economy; to have different economic drivers and resources.
4) For youth, a resort offers greater chance of employment after high school so they are encouraged to stay in their home-towns.
5) The social scene is better!

Gerry:

1) Concentration of tourism activity
2) Higher quality, more beneficial products and services
3) More exposure and a known reputation for the area.
4) Positive changes in diversity in the community; more people moving here to work.
5) Potential business opportunities for local youth.

www.scratchonline.ca

Photo by Bram Rossman,
23, Invermere
In the process of defining a life for ourselves, it may often seem as though many of our choices are made for us. Thanks to the pressures of Western society, we grow up to believe there is one right way to do things...that we should go to school, find a good job, start a family of our own, and all in that order. Living in communities such as those you find here in the Kootenays, however, can introduce us to a new way of seeing the world; an alternate reality where securing our own quality of life as opposed to satisfying the expectations of others, takes the highest priority in shaping our life’s course.

While the people who choose to live a transient life with no fixed address are as diverse as the places they call home and the passions (i.e. skiing, snowboarding, biking, rafting, hiking, etc.) that keep them there (however temporarily), they share many similarities in terms of the reasons that drew them to living this type of lifestyle. Whether it be a love for experiencing snow and mountains, meeting other like-minded, happy and adventurous people, or escaping the stresses and even boredom of modern city life, essentially there seems to be a need for something different, a desire bound by a sense of adventure to go beyond the ordinary, everyday lives we could live.

Of course, for all of the joys and freedoms a transient life can offer, there are some downsides to consider too, though many, if not all, admit that these are far outweighed by the benefits. At the root of the issue is the difficulty there is in finding meaningful, intellectually stimulating work along with the opportunity for advancement, and also the fact that whatever jobs are available they are often seasonal and low paying.

Additionally, there can be the added stress of not living up to other’s (i.e. family) expectations and the ongoing challenge of maintaining relationships and establishing connections in the community (career and otherwise) when living a life of constant motion. To overcome these different barriers there are a variety of steps that can be taken: having multiple roommates to share the rent, working at more than one job, securing contract work and learning how to be thrifty with the dollars you do have and just a few ways that have worked for those living the transient life today.

But what, in a nutshell, makes it all worthwhile? When it comes right down to it, it’s all about having the freedom to live the type of life you want to live. As a friend of mine, Ang, who
has like so many others has based her life around a sport (skiing) says, “Life isn’t about what you do for a living or how much you earn or how many university degrees you have. What matters is making the time to do the life-affirming things that you love to do, no matter how many people try to tell you that its good not enough. All that really matters is who you are being while you’re doing it, so that, if you were to die tomorrow, you would not look back on your life regretting that you’d never followed your heart and leapt into the unstable, “no easy answer,” untracked slopes of the mountain lifestyle.” And if you’ve experienced a Kootenay powder dream day with some of the other amazing people who share this lifestyle, could you really argue with that? 😊

**Transient living:**

**A Survival Kit**

There are a whole pile of different jobs to satisfy the purse of the transient soul. Summertime brings fruit-picking, tree planting and fire fighting. Winter opens up jobs as lifties and instructors at ski hills. There are guiding and service industry jobs available in pretty much every season.

Life on the road has excitement and stimulation down pat, but there are a few things that the transient soul should stash in their backpack to make life that little bit more homey, comfortable and effortless.

Clean socks can make day 16 without a shower that little bit fresher, if you don’t want the Laundromat to be one of the main staples of your adventure, make sure you’ve got plenty o’ pairs.

Chances are that you are going to have to get some work somewhere along the way, amongst the hoodies and comfy clothes in your pack, make sure you’ve got something presentable for interviews and work.

While cyber cafes are a dime a dozen these days, it’s always helpful to have a nice, crisp stack of resumes on hand.

Duct tape comes in handy at the most random of moments. Its uses are too numerous and too haphazard to list, but you need it.

Depending on how wilderness-oriented you plan on being, nothing says comfort quite so much as a really good sleeping bag and a pillow straight from your bed at ‘home.’

It’s always nice to have some trail mix on hand for those peckish moments when the thought of gas station food just doesn’t cut it and you’re not into throwing down a pile of cash for a restaurant snack. It’s non-perishable and packed full of protein. 😊