Get Published

GET PAID

There are two deadlines annually for submissions:
Spring Issue = JANUARY 1  Fall Issue = JULY 1

PHOTO COLLECTIONS

**High Resolution**
- Collections must be three photos
- Minimum 300 dpi resolution at 8” wide.
- File name must be photo name.

$60 per collection.
$100 if one of the collection photos is chosen for the cover.

**Camera Phone**
- Collections must be three photos of any resolution.
- File name must be photo name.
- Not eligible for the cover.

$60 per collection.

POETRY  Limited to 30 lines $20

**Pics in Print**
Look at a photo and put that image into poetry.

**A Message From the Universe**
Today you realize the universe is sending you a message.
Put that message into poetry.

**Ode in Poem**
Write a lyric poem that celebrates a person, place, thing or idea.

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FICTIONAL PROSE  Limited to 500 words $30

**Conversations Overheard**
Have you heard something interesting or bizarre lately?
Take that one-liner that you overheard and turn it into a short story. Provide the one-liner and the location where you overheard it.

**Postcards to Me**
Write a postcard to yourself from the perspective of (a) future you, (b) a current emotion or (c) a past life.

**People vs. Machine**
Write a story about a relationship between a person and a machine; be sure to use dialogue.

ARTICLES  Limited to 500 words $40  Limited to 1,000 words $80

**Basin Snapshot**
Write about a place in the Columbia Basin that you love, that you go to, that you hide in, that you can’t wait to get back to. Wherever it is, it must exist and the piece should describe the space and how you feel when you are there.

**Shout It Out**
What are the issues you are thinking and talking about? Shout it out, provide some insight, provide some solutions and get the conversation started!

**The Moment**
Write about the moment that everything changed.

**Your Stuff**
You can also submit articles that address topics you are passionate about or events and projects you are participating in.

CONSENT FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION.

CBT.ORG/SCRATCH
THE USUAL

5. EDITORIAL //MICHELLE D’ENTREMONT
   Be sure to read right up to the last page.

6. HOROSCOPES
   Your passion is a strength.

7. QUIZ
   What’s ahead for you this summer?

8. iCANDY
   New and noteworthy on the interweb.

FEATURED

10. ME INC.
    Make money your way.

12. YOUTH ACTION GRANTS
    Youth-led action with positive outcomes.

14. NOT A BAA-D WAY TO MAKE SOME MONEY
    The young people are energetic and keen on expanding their view of the business world.

INSPIRED

18. VISUALS
    JOY JOHNSON//KIMBERLEY
    CRYSTAL UNGER//NAKUSP
    JUSTIN ARNDT//NELSON
    ISAAC GRAY//NELSON
    MADDY DROUGHT-WELCH//WARFIELD
    DUSTIN LALIK//NELSON
    RACHELLE PREMAC//KOOTENAY BAY
    ALISHA DYCK//CRESTON
    BETHANY ARNDT//NELSON
    DANIKA RIED//CRANBROOK

42. POETRY/PROSE
    THE BENCH //LIAM PENTLAND
    YOU HAVE ACHIEVED YOUR GOAL //JOSEPH RAYMOND
    THE ATTIC //KATE PREFONTAINE
    SOME DAYS YOU GET ENOUGH //LEVI GERLIB
    I WANTED YOU TO LOVE ME SO MUCH //GEMMA REMPLE
    INVISIBLE THREAD //BRYN BAMBER
    A GLASS HALF FULL //KANO MAJOR
    ODE TO DOG //JESSICA LINDON
    RESPECTING OPINIONS //JOHN POPOWICH
    LOOK UP //NASHYRA COLLET

COVER IMAGE
STEELER//CRYSTAL UNGER//NAKUSP
See the rest of Crystal’s photo collection "Natural Summer Light" on page 22.
Submissions are selected by a Youth Editorial Committee; if your group is interested in forming the next Editorial Committee, email scratch@cbt.org.
I was excited to see some new writers submit their work for this issue. The poetry and prose are really inspiring, so be sure to read right up to the last page.

We celebrate youth this issue by featuring some amazing youth action that has taken place around the Basin through the Trust’s Youth Action Grants, plus we learn of a great loan program supporting 4H youth in the East Kootenay.

This issue, the photo collections take us on a journey to discover the seasons, the East Coast and the fabulous nature here in the Basin, and even across the Atlantic Ocean to Prague. The Cranbrook, CBK Youth Advisory Committee formed this issue’s editorial committee, and we had a lot of fun. If you’re part of a group that would like to form the next issue’s editorial committee, let me know!

SCRATCH was created by the young people of the Basin as a way to connect, and continues to celebrate the voice of youth. So get going, get published and get paid.

Enjoy Issue #24!

MICHELLE d’ENTREMONT
BASIN YOUTH LIAISON

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**Top 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I Will Take to a Mountaintop</th>
<th>Things I Will Not Take to a Mountaintop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A pan flute</td>
<td>A piano (as majestic as that may be).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Onions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera</td>
<td>An abacus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>Monopoly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A backpack</td>
<td>Negativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A phone</td>
<td>Thoughts of school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear spray</td>
<td>A credit card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks</td>
<td>Weights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tub of hummus</td>
<td>Tub of bacon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted by Issue #24 Editorial Committee from Cranbrook
ARIES: Take advantage of your energy and courage by leading friends on a hike. Don’t let your impulsive side take over and put you at risk—be sure to plan for a safe adventure.

TAURUS: You are reliable and strong, so volunteer at a summer festival to develop some planning skills and have some fun. Be wary of your stubborn side and be open to working with others and their ideas.

GEMINI: Tap into your inquisitiveness and work on your patience by trying geocaching. This activity will help combat the restlessness that sometimes sets in.

CANCER: Your loyalty and strong attachment to your family make a summer camping trip with your family a great idea. Work on controlling your emotional outbursts and indecisiveness through the process.

LEO: Your big-heartedness and energetic nature would make you a great candidate to volunteer with seniors. Be sure to keep active to combat the lazy days of summer.

VIRGO: Put yourself out there and do something out of your comfort zone, like taking an art class that helps you step away from being a perfectionist. Your patience will be beneficial.

LIBRA: Take advantage of your summer independence, but make a plan to put your cheerful social nature to good use. Don’t let your indecisiveness get the better of you.

SCORPIO: Your passion is a strength, so start a summer journal to get that passion into words. This will help you get in touch with your emotions since you rarely let them surface.

SAGITTARIUS: Your intellectualism and excellent communication skills make you a great candidate to write for a local newspaper or start a blog. Watch your sharp tongue while still being honest and direct.

CAPRICORN: You are loyal and calm, so consider volunteering at an animal rescue centre—but be aware you need to learn to take direction.

AQUARIUS: You love experimenting with new ideas and concepts, and since creativity flows through your veins, try a few different types of art this summer. Work on your commitment issues by sticking with it until the end of summer.

PISCES: Take advantage of your love for art by learning a new form of art to focus on this summer. Don’t let your mood swings or inflexibility lead you off course.
What’s ahead for you this summer?

A. How would your friends describe you?
   1. Shy and quiet
   2. Artistic and creative
   3. Easygoing
   4. Outgoing
   5. Thrill-seeking

B. How much time do you spend outdoors?
   1. I’ll leave the outdoors to the animals.
   2. I enjoy the occasional source of vitamin D.
   3. I venture out as much as I enjoy the comforts of home.
   4. I love the outdoors.
   5. I basically live outdoors.

C. What type of movie would you prefer to watch?
   1. Documentary
   2. Romance
   3. Comedy
   4. Horror
   5. Action

D. Do you have a take-charge personality, or do you prefer to stay in the background?
   1. I am basically wallpaper.
   2. I’m generally happy to hang back and let somebody else take the lead.
   3. I sometimes like to take charge.
   4. I like to lead but I don’t need to be the leader all of the time.
   5. I am basically the leader of everything.

E. You never leave your house without:
   1. A good book to read
   2. Your sketchbook
   3. Your binoculars—you never know when you might see something interesting
   4. Your gym bag
   5. You don’t bring anything—you just wait for whatever life brings you

F. You’re walking home one day and see an abandoned building with a “Do not enter” sign. What do you do?
   1. I keep walking by the house as fast as I can because it gives me the chills.
   2. I’m busy thinking about the art show tonight, so I keep on going.
   3. I’m intrigued enough to stop and think about it, but I eventually keep going on my way.
   4. I’m curious and cautiously enter to check it out.
   5. I run in to check out the house—anything with a “Do not enter” sign has to be good.

Add your points:
1 = 1 Point
2 = 2 Points
3 = 3 Points
4 = 4 Points
5 = 5 Points

6–10 Points = TRANQUILITY
Your summer will see many days near the water with a good book. You prefer to take it easy and relax. You’ll be a soothing and calm influence on others.

11–15 Points = CREATIVITY
Your summer will take you to many events that will be engaging and creative. You’d be a great candidate for a sandcastle competition.

16–20 Points = NATURE
Find a good pair of hiking shoes because your summer will take you out into nature. You’ll have a great mix of spectacular scenery and enjoying the flowers.

21–25 Points = ADVENTURE
You’ll get to experience adventure while learning lots and making new friends.

26–30 Points = ACTION
This summer you’ll be the ultimate thrill-seeker. Stay safe and get in shape.
birp.fm
Each month, BIRP compiles new music that is free to stream or download. It also includes a blog devoted to new music, which helps promote independent bands and gives listeners a chance to hear something new.

stohke.com
Stohke is an action sports network that connects athletes, companies and fans around the world. Its mission is to organize the action sports community in a way that makes it more accessible and useful.

narrative.ly
Narratively is a community of talented storytellers who are devoted to uncovering and sharing in-depth local stories with a universal appeal. It avoids breaking news and focuses exclusively on untold, human-interest stories with rich, intricate narratives that get at the heart of a place and its people.
**More Than 1,000,000,000 Coded**

**Codecademy.com**
Codecademy helps people learn to code interactively, for free. Its community has created tens of thousands of courses and, at this point, more than a billion lines of code have been submitted to Codecademy.

**Support When You Need It**

**YouthinBC.com**
YouthinBC.com is an online crisis chat service where youth can chat one on one with a trained volunteer. It connects youth with support, plus offers information and resources on youth-related issues, including providing a list of other organizations and websites where youth can get help.

**Evidence-Based Awareness**

**Youth.AnxietyBC.com**
AnxietyBC provides information on anxiety. It is run by the Anxiety Disorder Association of British Columbia, which works to increase awareness about anxiety disorders, promote education and increase access to evidence-based resources and treatments.
Choosing a career…
getting that first job…
making a bit of extra money…

it can all be overwhelming.

How about running your own business instead? Starting your own business lets you focus on something that
interests you—perhaps you can try to make the world a better place, or can offer the world a product or service that's
new and exciting. It can give you the freedom to do work you like, to be in charge of you own time and to make
money.

There are lots of different kinds of businesses, and it doesn’t have to be expensive, complicated or even full time.

There are young entrepreneurs in the Columbia Basin selling clothing lines online, running photography businesses,
doing independent graphic design work and more.

But how do you decide what kind of business
might be of interest to you?

How do you start a business?

Good news!

There’s a free workshop touring the Basin called Me Inc. It
tells you what it’s like being an entrepreneur, offers things to think
about before starting a business and explains how to get help. Plus
you’ll discuss various business ideas and trends you can take
advantage of while creating your own plan.

Me Inc. workshops are being offered in your community—or you can
request a workshop for your school or youth group. Me Inc. is delivered
by the Basin Business Advisors Program (BBA). For more information,
visit cbt.org/bba.
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**Ups & Downs**

**of being an entrepreneur**

**Ups**
- freedom, independence,
- creativity, self direction,
- making a difference.

**Downs**
- on call 24 – 7, responsibility,
- may end up working a lot more hours than normal job during start-up.
YOUTH ACTION

GRANTS

~ if you are ~
12–19 YEARS OLD

~ you can apply for a grant ~
of up to $3,000

to be used for a YOUTH-LED ACTION
with POSITIVE OUTCOMES
DEADLINES ARE THE FIRST
OF EVERY MONTH

MICHELLE
CBT YOUTH LIAISON

call 1.800.505.8998
e-mail CBTYOUTH@CBT.ORG
text 250.608.1482

CBT.ORG/YAG
CREATIVE BLENDZ, CASTLEGAR

ACTION: A new event at the Kootenay Festival that showcased four young graffiti artists creating live masterpieces while a DJ played on. The goal was to enlighten and educate all generations about the value of youth art and culture.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: A youth-empowering event that drew hundreds of spectators and that demonstrated that youth culture is valuable, promoted unique forms of art and bridged gaps between generations.

4YBY TEEN SPACE, CRESTON

ACTION: Turn a storage room at the Creston and District Public Library into a teen-designed space. This action created a welcoming space with furniture, computers and refreshments.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: A vibrant, safe and accessible space for teens to meet and socialize. The project was also a chance for teens to be seen by the community as the responsible, independent, respectful and creative members they are.

MEET, EAT & SEW, KRESTOVA

ACTION: The Mt. Sentinel Interact Club prepared lunch and gathered at the Doukhobor Cultural Interpretive Society Hall with local Doukhobor women to learn how to create blankets.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: The youth not only reinforced bonds with their community's heritage but learned how to properly prepare borscht for the group and learned the traditional methods of sewing through this intergenerational luncheon and sewing session.

STARLIGHT DRIVE-IN, CRANBROOK

ACTION: An outdoor, drive-in movie night with concessions and games that allowed students to make a positive choice by attending an alcohol and drug-free event. The night had youth in cars listening to the movie through their car stereos, or sitting outside and listening on speakers.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: A fun, successful alcohol and drug-free event. It supported relationship building between youth, RCMP and many community groups in Cranbrook.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE, KIMBERLEY

ACTION: The Kimberley Youth Steering Committee presented an inspirational talk by Tom Ristimaki called “Choose Your Own Adventure: An intro to self-directed experiential education” at the Centre 64 Arts Theatre.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: Presented by a former Selkirk Secondary graduate, the event inspired youth about what they could do, learn or become, and was the first event led by the Youth Steering Committee.

TAKE IT ON MUSIC VIDEO, NELSON

ACTION: A music video produced by and featuring Nelson youth that inspires young people to take action.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES: Youth were given meaningful roles in the music video production, and the video inspires young people to take action on issues that are important to them. Visit takeitonnow.com
No, this isn’t some bizarre babysitting job. Trent is one of the many who have taken advantage of the 4-H Loans Program, run by Community Futures East Kootenay, which helps them purchase marketable livestock: swine, sheep or beef. The youth raise and show their animals until it’s time to sell them at auction—and then hopefully make a profit!

Trent has had three loans: the first two for pigs and the most recent for a sheep he named Lamborghini. With his profits, he has purchased a scooter and is now saving for a quad.

“I was excited to go get my first loan. Doing the business plan was not hard and it felt good paying the loan back and making some money,” he said. “I decided to get a sheep this time because they’re soft and cute, and I chose Lamborghini because of his qualities. His ears were perky, he had a good stance and length and he seemed happy.”

Trent is caring for Lamborghini at his home, where his family also has pigs, other sheep and bees. He says he has not only learned lots from 4-H about picking and caring for livestock, but has had fun making new friends.

“The Community Futures staff and board really enjoy supporting the 4-H program because the young people are energetic and keen on expanding their view of the business world,” said Keri Sanderman, Investment Fund Manager, Community Futures East Kootenay. “We have had many repeat clients, which I truly think shows the success of the program.”
HOW DO I GET A LOAN?

The 4-H Loans Program has been running for four years and is on track to making 2014 its biggest year yet. It is available for club members in good standing from the Wasa and District 4-H Club, the South Country Craft and Critters 4-H Club and the Cranbrook 4-H Multi-Club.

Youth interested in a loan must develop a business plan with a detailed budget for raising the animals (including items like feed, vet bills and halters). They must sign a note promising to pay back the loan, plus must get the signature of a parent and their 4-H club leader.

Successful applicants can receive up to $300 for swine, $250 for sheep and $1,500 for beef. They can apply for more than one loan at the same up, up to a maximum of $2,000. The loan is interest free as long as the recipient pays it back before a specific date.

The program is run by Community Futures East Kootenay, a non-profit organization that strives to create sustainable communities by promoting local, community-based economic development.

WHAT’S 4-H?

Running since 1913, 4-H is one of Canada’s longest-running youth organizations. Youth between the ages of eight and twenty-one, from all over Canada, participate in 4-H clubs, enrolling in projects and learning under the guidance of volunteer leaders.

Members share knowledge, build friendships and participate in district, regional and provincial programs. They pledge “Head, Heart, Hands and Health” to club, community and country, and follow the motto “Learn to do by doing.”

Members participate in animal projects such as purchasing, caring for and selling animals. They learn how to manage livestock; identify breeds and select quality animals; make good management decisions related to feed, care, health and equipment; and market their animals.
ALL THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN

JOY JOHNSON
Kimberley

FOREST OF CONTRAST // JOY JOHNSON // KIMBERLEY
ALL THE COLOURS OF AUTUMN

VIVID REFLECTIONS // JOY JOHNSON // KIMBERLEY
BE AWARE OF THE LIGHT.
Think about where your light is coming from and how it interacts with your subject.

TAKE SOME VERTICAL PHOTOS.
Your camera is pretty easy to turn on its side; make sure to experiment with all of your framing options.

MOVE OUT OF THE BULLSEYE.
Frame your subject in an interesting way that engages the viewer.

FOCUS, FOCUS, FOCUS.
Don’t let your camera tell you what should be in focus; tell your camera what should be in focus.

AUTOMATIC SETTINGS ARE FOR AUTOMATIC PEOPLE.
Use your manual settings and don’t let your camera boss you around. Get to know all of the functions and what they are for. Watch some tutorials and read some books. A camera is just a tool; you need to be the artist.

SHOOT, SHOOT, SHOOT. AND THEN SHOOT A COUPLE MORE.
Luckily you don’t have to pay for film, so take advantage of it. Even if you are shooting film, don’t be a cheapskate.

ALWAYS MAXIMIZE YOUR SETTINGS.
Set your camera to maximum quality, sharpness and file size for all photos. Make the most of your camera’s abilities; if you want low-res images, use your phone. Remember that you need to have a resolution of 300 dpi for proper print reproduction.
LAST LIGHT HOUSE // ISAAC GRAY // NELSON

WAITING DORY // ISAAC GRAY // NELSON
NELSON AFTER DARK

SILENT NIGHT // DUSTIN LALIK // NELSON

GYRO AURA // DUSTIN LALIK // NELSON
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SUBTLE COMMUNITIES IN NATURE

ECO MACRO // RACHELLE PREMACK // KOOTENAY BAY
BLACK AND WHITE ABROAD

DANIKA RIED
Cranbrook
YOU HAVE ACHIEVED YOUR GOAL

JOSEPH RAYMOND // KIMBERLEY

It has been a hard time
You have swum in tomato juice
Danced across a stranger’s sheets
Found the lost treasure hidden under your bed
You sailed a brig in the bathtub
Lived in a grey box
In an Indian temple
Been given chocolates
From your 2nd grade English teacher.
You’ve gone fishing with friends
Flying with enemies
You did time in jail
And at home
You failed grade 9
But passed grade 10
You read until 12 a.m.
And slept until 2.
You skinny dipped with Barb Cronzie
The girl from next door
You were the high lord of hangovers
The best man at a wedding
The CEO of a company
That sold sand to Egypt
You’re the peacekeeper
The rule breaker
The drug smoker
The nerd guitarist
The rhythmless drummer
You had the world at your feet
And the cardboard throne in your living room

THE ATTIC

KATE PREFONTAINE // KIMBERLEY

Scrawled words on a yellow parchment letter
Linked in a messy fashion
It was on top of its twins, uniform
A single key
Delicately carved from campfire smoke and old memories
Displaying itself on the pages.
Hints of rust clutter its surface
Flaking off onto the rickety table beneath.
The chain connected to the key dangles off the side
Like a fishing line over a lake

The window is opened
Making the parchment dance
Covering the key on the old table
A man reaches for this key chipped nails and calloused hands
Coal from the mines bathes him
Stains him
The man doesn’t mind
Swatting the parchment away
He grasps the key
Gently in rough hands
As if he doesn’t want to break it
Trudging away to the attic to get lost in his father’s adventures

THE BENCH

LIAM PENTLAND // KIMBERLEY

Chaos sits on a bench next to Humanity
Chaos puts his hand on the back of the bench and gazes in her eyes
She looks away
Chaos listens to Humanity as she sighs and looks into the stars, which illuminate all unanswered questions
Chaos tilts his head to gaze upon the stars, as she chokes out her worries, triumphs, dreams and mistakes through a saddened throat
Chaos isn’t listening
In the fractured silence, Chaos gives simple frail comforting remarks, and tells her; “It’s going to be just fine.”
Chaos rests his scared hand on Humanity’s shoulder, and they sit on the creaking wooden bench for decades
Chaos’s eyes glisten like those of a viper she crumbles and accepts his frail support, and grips his other hand with her own
Chaos changes his facial expression to sympathy as her overcast eyes meet his, and he knows what comes next
Chaos leads Humanity off the wise bench, hand in hand,
Humanity shivers closer glad to have a friend to lean on, when left in the dark alone
Chaos leads her into the once glowing night as rain clouds drift over.

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SOME DAYS YOU GET ENOUGH
LEVI GERLIB/KIMBERLEY
Some days you get enough
Some days not.
Some days you’re so tired that
A flock of pigs, flies through trees.

The colours more vibrant
The sounds more violent
everything screaming “SLEEP!!”

Shhhhhhh

The quiet night arrives,
The gentle lullaby of rain,
Dreams.

Your body enters floating
down the warm stream of
unconsciousness.
You open your eyes
To a world of white,
a blank canvas.
Sometimes your brain does the painting:
a grassy field on a beautiful summer day,
A family picnic
Everyone smiling,
A wondrous tree
White fruit sweet beyond compare.

Sometimes those paintings are a wilted
forest,
a thick fog, a beast without shape chasing you
Until you have no strength
Its hot saliva is burning your flesh.

Then you wake.
The raging thunder,
your body drenched in sweat
And you think
how cruel sleep was
To leave you like that.

I WANTED YOU TO LOVE ME SO MUCH
GEMMA REMPLE/KIMBERLEY
I wanted you to love me so much
that I wrote lists upon lists
on the moon
of things more beautiful than I.

I wanted you to stay so much,
small hands,
that I tore out your roots from my life.
I wanted to be together so much
that I turned you inside out.
I wanted to be something for you so much
that I shattered myself with a tiny hammer
like a child’s piggy bank
just to discover a dead moth and stale air.
I loved you so much
that you pretended you didn’t notice.

We thought the world was impossible
so we sped up the clocks,
sware at each other,
and got a pet pug.
We named him Sweet Potato.

I wanted to apologize so much
that I ripped out the keys of my typewriter
that spelled your name
and erased your address on my map.

But please don’t leave.
I missed you so much
that I cut the string between our tin cans.

INVISIBLE THREAD
BRYN BAMBER/KOOTENAY BAY
I am learning to follow an invisible thread
I am not quite sure where it goes, But I
do know it leads to exactly where I want
to be.

This thread is thin and delicate—like a
spider’s web.

Sometimes I can hear its soft call, Or
smell its sweet scent, But most of all I can
feel it.

When I’ve lost sight of its shimmer, And
gone deaf to its call, I spend my days
stumbling through the dark, Going on a
feeling.

With this thread sometimes backwards is
really forwards, and up is really down, and
I have no idea where it’s taking me until I
get there.

And there’s a part of me that has 27
reasons why I shouldn’t follow the thread.
‘The thread is wrong,’ it says, ‘Backwards is
always backwards. And up is never down.’
And it has all the math to prove it.

It asks, ‘Why would you ever stumble
blindly through the dark when I have a
calculator right here?? And a flashlight.’
Efficiency.
Logically.

And I’ve followed this logical part before,
Punched in the numbers, Figured out the
best route.

And in the end it always seems to take me
the long way while the invisible thread
takes me through the backwards forwards
fast track.

‘Where are we going?’ I ask. ‘This way,’ she
calls softly.

And as I listen carefully and follow the
call, I am slowly learning to walk home.
A GLASS HALF FULL

KANO MAJOR//NELSON
I sit here wondering—
In the stale, familiar air
That I am used to.
And I allow my mind to lurk about
And remind myself of those
Once so innocent eyes.
They behold a glass half full of
mystery and the other half—
I have yet to find out what lingers there.
I often wonder if this ghost of a person is
happy—
Or not.
I will always be here,
Curious and waiting,
Wondering if I’ll ever learn what resides in
the other half of that
Glass.
But for now I’ll just sit around
Patiently.
Hoping that one day that glass
will tip over,
And the blood-warm waters from it will
unleash something strikingly profound,
that will leave me
Slapped silly in the face.

ODE TO DOG

JESSICA LINDON//TRAIL
Handsome and loyal, my best pal till the
end
He doesn’t mind if I sleep in till ten
Doesn’t run when I’m sick and the tissues
pile up
Easy to please if I just fill his bowl up
He doesn’t judge me if I have a second
helping of cake
Always protecting me from the evil
vacuum and rake
There when I’m sad to cuddle and remind
That I’m never alone come rain or come
shine
Happy to wash my face if I have forgotten
Doesn’t hold a grudge if I have been
rotten
He doesn’t tell lies or get green with envy
And he doesn’t mind if my bank account’s
empty
Always excited to see me when I come
home
And over the moon if I have brought him
a bone
His tail is wagging, tongue out—whole
body wiggle!
He never fails to make me giggle.
There are very few people on which I can
rely
But I can face anything if he’s at my side
My only hope is that I repay
The love and the loyalty he shows me
each day
He’s my hiking buddy, my confidant, my
hero and wherever I roam
He’s my safe place, my end of the day—my
thank god I’m home.
RESPECTING OPINIONS

JOHN POPOWICH/FERNIE

Dear John,

You are going to lose it when you learn that this postcard was sent by your future self 17 years later. If you don't believe what I am saying, I have knowledge that our favourite cartoon used to be SpongeBob Squarepants when we were kids, and that we loved to watch video game YouTube videos.

If you believe me now, I have something important to tell you about how you should deal with the conflicts ahead. But first, if you are wondering about your future career, you are doing fine as a video game designer and a YouTube star on video game commentary. As for the rest of your life, you are single but live in a very nice house in the new city of Arc Hill, BC, in the newly united country of North America. This new country was formed when Mexico, Canada and the United States decided to join together as a united country in order to improve relations with each other.

As for current events, the United Nations has decided to take the problem of global warming more seriously, and has decided to look for new resources elsewhere. Also a second Cold War started when the States developed and perfected the rail gun weapon that caused widespread panic with other nations from 2018 to 2022.

The technology of 2031 has come along so nicely. We have wireless headsets that have replaced cell phones and for transportation we have small cars that have been engineered for high speed, while passing all the safety tests. Also we have spaceports that allow people to travel around the world in a matter of minutes through space.

Next I want to tell you an important lesson that involves people's opinions. By 2024 we advanced our space-age technology by at least five centuries; however, not everyone is happy with this news. I have learned that most people have protested against space travel because they either don't know what's out there in space, or because all the time and research should be devoted to solving world problems.

I got into a fight with someone who insulted space travel, until peacekeepers intervened. I decided to go to Tim Horton's to clear my mind, and then I met up with one of the Peace Corps officers who taught me that people will have opinions that others don't agree with, but we still need to respect them. That's when I understood that I shouldn't care about other people's opinions, and that I should respect the opinions of others.

This is why I wrote to you, to tell you that you shouldn't care what other people think about your opinions and to respect their opinions, no matter how much you disagree with them.

Remember this lesson well, and you'll do fine in life.

Sincerely,

John Popowich, from the future
LOOK UP

NASHYRA COLLET//JAFFRAY

I sit at the corner table in my favourite coffee shop, as
the waitress sets down a tray with a tea pot. I pour my tea
before it can steep, and as I lift the pot, I find a postcard
beneath it. It is addressed to me.

Are your eyes green? Or maybe blue? Look up.

I look up, and the shop is empty. I question the waitress,
but she denies writing it.

Walking out of the shop, I look up just in time to see
another card pinned to a pole.

So your eyes are green. What about your hands? Are they
capable of holding another’s? Or are they too comfortable
clasped together?

My heart tells me to play along, and when I reach the
crosswalk, I seize an opportunity.

“Would you like to hold my hand across the street?” I ask
a young boy who stands alone.

He slips his small cold hand into mine, and I smile as he
clutches my side for safety.

Before running off, he hands me another postcard.

Have you forgotten how to sing? A voice like yours could
make any cold spirit feel at home.

I try to recall a moment when I had ever sung to anyone
besides myself. The mystery of it drives me forward.

Stepping onto the subway, I see a lost-looking girl
clutching an overstuffed bag. Her cheeks are tear-stained,
I notice as I sit across from her.

At first, my voice comes out too soft for her to hear,
“…three little birds, sitting on my doorstep…”

I can feel her eyes on me, so I sing a little louder, “…every
little thing, is gonna be alright…”

She gives me a smile before getting off at the next stop.
Out of her bag falls another postcard.

Do you see yet, that you have worth? Look up.

I take my eyes away from the card, and I realize that they
have been leading me here. I get off the train, and let my
feet carry me to the place I was too afraid to go before.

I hadn’t gone to the funeral, so I wandered until I found
her headstone. She would have been 16 this year.

Sitting cross-legged beside her grave, I feel a surge
of emotions wash over me. I can see another postcard
leaning against a flower pot. I stare at it for a while before
my tired hand finally reaches for it.

Would you believe it if I told you, it wasn’t your fault?
Forgive yourself, and look up. I promise it gets better for
us. Your will live a very wonderful life, trust me when I say
this. It may be strange now, but one day this will all make
sense.

For the first time since the car accident, I see the world
through fresh eyes. I unclasp my hands and look up,
feeling the sun on my cheeks, and to my sister, I sing.
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