

opinion

▼ FAITH

Timing of the visit by the 'Wise Men from the East' is a little off

TAYLOR FROM A4

her unclean.

The Magi probably arrived closer to two years after Jesus' birth.

Otherwise, Herod wouldn't have had to massacre every boy in Bethlehem under that age to make sure he got rid of the threat to his throne.

If it happened at all, that is.

Think about it—a caravan of wealthy foreigners shows up in a town of poor people.

The strangers hand out fabulous gifts of gold and rare resins.

Do you suppose Herod's soldiers would have any trouble finding which family they had favoured?

The one with the new Mercedes in the driveway, and their toddler already registered for Harvard Divinity School, of course.

The rest of Jesus' life story would be different too.

With those gifts, his family wouldn't be poor anymore. They would, in fact, be wealthy by comparison with their contemporaries.

No, both the gifts and the givers are clearly symbolic.

Gold, the universal element of worldly wealth. Incense, invoking worship. Myrrh, a precious antiseptic ointment used to delay the decay of corpses.

So the Magi proffered three ideals—material abundance, adulation, and immortality.

Is it a coincidence that those are the same three temptations that the devil supposedly offered Jesus in the wilderness?

Is it a coincidence that Jesus ordered his disciples to take nothing with them when they went out evangelizing?

That he refused to let awestruck audiences appoint him their king?

And that he made no attempt to save his own life when the Romans nailed him on a cross?

From birth to death, the same three threads weave through the tapestry of his life—rejection of material wealth, hero worship, and self preservation.

I don't think the gospel writers were spinning sweet stories; they had a point to make.

The gifts of the Magi—Matthew reminds us—reflected the ideals of an alien culture.

I wonder if, far from glorifying the Magi, Matthew might have been ridiculing them.

*Jim Taylor lives in Lake Country.
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▼ AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Federal government proposes new measures to fight AIS

Several constituents, led by the Okanagan Basin Water Board's "Don't Move a Mussel" campaign, have written to me asking the federal government to move forward with the provinces and territories to ensure our lakes and waterways are protected from aquatic invasive species (AIS).

On Friday, Dec. 5, I was pleased to join a roundtable discussion alongside my colleague MP Dan Albas and other stakeholders, including Tourism Kelowna, at the Kelowna Yacht Club to report that our government, under Fisheries and Oceans Minister Gail Shea, has taken new proposed regulations in place to fight against aquatic invasive species.

The proposed regulations are a result of close consultation with provincial and territorial governments.



Ron Cannan
MP's Report

As required, on Dec. 6 the proposed AIS regulations were published in the Canada Gazette, Part I to allow for a 30-day public comment period. More information can be found at gazette.gc.ca under the Saturday, Dec. 6, edition.

The federal government takes the issue of aquatic invasive species very seriously and is

committed to preventing the introduction, spread and establishment of AIS in Canadian waters.

Ottawa invests more than \$14 million annually to address the issue of aquatic invasive species, thereby fostering healthy, safe and sustainable Canadian waters.

SEE CANNAN A6

CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING

Free Drop-off
at Jack Seaton Park
1950 Camp Road parking lot
in Lake Country

December 26
to January 31

*Please remove all decorations,
tinsel and bags used for transporting the tree.*
For more information call the Waste Reduction Office 250-469-6250

Make Your Home Safe
for Independent LivingHAFI Funds Home Modifications
for Disabled Man

Are you a low-income senior or a person with a disability who wants to live safely and independently in the comfort of your home?

Do you have difficulty performing day-to-day activities?

Does your home need to be adapted to meet your changing needs? If so, you may be eligible for financial assistance under the **Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI)** program.

Find out today if you are eligible and if you meet all of the requirements as a low-income homeowner or as a landlord applying on behalf of an eligible tenant.

To apply or learn more, visit
www.bchousing.org/HAFI

You can also contact BC Housing:
Phone: 604-433-2218
Toll-free: 1-800-257-7756

When Lorie and Walter bought their home in Port Alberni 13 years ago they slowly began renovating the unfinished basement to accommodate Walter's changing needs as his muscular dystrophy advanced.

"The basement was a black hole when we moved in," recalled Walter. "After 12 years of skimping and saving, we made the downstairs completely wheelchair accessible, except for the bathroom. It was way too small. I could only stand for about a minute and a half without collapsing in the shower stall and I could no longer pull myself out of the tub in the upstairs' bathroom, even with Lorie's help."

Through funding from BC Housing's Home Adaptations for Independence (HAFI) program, Walter and Lorie were able to work with a contractor to transform the space. A wall was removed to make room for a wheelchair in shower with benches, grab bars were installed, and the vanity and fixtures were relocated.



"I just slide into the shower now," said Walter. "I feel safer and no longer dread trying to wash myself. What was previously a dangerous chore for me is now a welcome treat."

Walter and Lorie hope to spend the rest of their lives in their home.

The HAFI program provides financial assistance to help eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities adapt their homes so they can continue to live independently.

HOME
ADAPTATIONS for
INDEPENDENCE

news

▼ INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

Monitoring regulation changes for invasive mussels applauded

CANNAN FROM A5

The proposed regulations address gaps in the current Canadian regulatory framework by providing a comprehensive set of provisions and authorities that would improve the ability to prevent the intentional or unintentional introduction, respond to species invasions, and manage the spread of AIS, while protecting Canada's aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity.

This will help prevent incurring costs associated with the establishment of invasive species, including impacts on fishing and aquaculture activities, recreation and tourism-related activities, and infrastructure.

These new regulatory provisions would also address enforcement.

While current regulations can be enforced by provincial Enforcement Officers, now Canadian Border Services Agency officers will also have the ability to enforce prohibitions against import at the Canadian border, such as ordering a vessel back to a U.S. washing station before allowing it to enter Canada.

Aquatic invasive species pose a significant and growing threat to British Columbia.

That's why it's so important that we work towards a coordinated and comprehensive approach that will safeguard our lakes, rivers and coastal waters, including Okanagan Lake.

Anna Sears, executive director of the OBWB, has already publicly stated that the proposed rules appear to be just

what the water board was looking for as a response.

Nancy Cameron, with Tourism Kelowna, and Tom Dyas, of the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, have also shared their enthusiastic support.

If you have any comments, I encourage you to participate in the 30 day consultation and look forward to the proposed regulations being put in place.

I am now back working in the riding and would like to remind you that if you need assistance or information related to the federal government, or want to get together for a cup of coffee, do not hesitate to contact my office at 250 470-5075 or by email at ron@cannan.ca.

May you be blessed with a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

Ron Cannan is the Conservative MP for Kelowna-Lake Country.

Check us out online at
lakecountrycalendar.com

▼ CN RAIL LINE BUYOUT

Okanagan Rail Corridor process leaves many questions unanswered

A group of municipalities attempting to purchase the old CN Rail line from Kelowna through Lake Country and to the edge of Vernon should know within the first few months of 2015 whether they have been successful in buying the corridor for \$22 million from CN.

But the ramifications of the purchase on the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB), which claims the land as its own, will likely take much longer before they become clear.

And for me, this saga that dates back all the way to the late 1800s is the biggest story of 2014, not only here in the Okanagan, but it should resonate with all of us who are living on these lands that were first inhabited by First Nations, before European settlers moved in.

Kelowna, Lake Country and the North Okanagan Regional District will combine to raise about \$15 million of the \$22 million that CN wants for the corridor.

According to officials in Kelowna and Lake Country, the rest of the money is set to come from higher lev-



No Boundaries
Kevin Parnell

els of government. The fact that the OKIB land claim has been ignored for so long is what has turned this story from a win-win into something that just doesn't feel right.

Sure, I hope that the corridor is saved and is turned into something great.

CN would have sold it to private parties otherwise. But what does it say about the higher levels of government when they have ignored the OKIB and its claim to the land yet they will step in and throw \$7 million to local municipalities to buy the land from CN?

And what does it say

about our elected officials at the local level that not one of them has stood up and said one thing about the First Nations' story in all of this?

Doesn't anyone have the guts to call a spade a spade?

No, the municipalities have said this isn't their issue. They say it's for higher levels of government to deal with First Nations.

But standing by and watching First Nations get walked on again does not mean there is no blood on your hands.

The group invited the OKIB to the table to take part in the process.

What did they think? The natives wanted to buy their own land back from CN Rail?

No, that was just due diligence by the group so they could say they tried.

When CN was given the land to use as a rail line, it was supposed to be given back to the First Nations when no longer used for a rail line. And now the company is set to profit to the tune of \$22 million.

For over 120 years the Okanagan Indian Band has laid claim to the territory that the CN Rail Line runs through.

In 1877, the federal government designated it as a reserve, only to take it back in 1891 and give it to white ranchers.

Courts have ruled that First Nations do have rights to the land.

Lake Country Mayor James Baker called it a mess then and he calls it a mess now. Meanwhile, OKIB chief Byron Louis and his band have come out in opposition to the deal.

It's time for the governments to deal with this land claim. It's time to right a wrong, not pile on to the list of atrocities and mistreatment of First Nations.

It's time for someone in local government to have an opinion on this other than to say it's the opportunity of a lifetime.

Opportunity of a lifetime? Not for the Okanagan Indian Band. For them, it's just more of the same.

@KP_medial

Survey seeks input on how to create a healthier community in Lake Country

Do you have ideas about the health services in Lake Country?

Do you wish your needs and wants were heard by someone?

If so, the Lake Country Health and Planning Society is giving you the chance to speak up.

The society is looking to create a community health profile for Lake Country to help its citizens better deal with the health care system.

The group is asking for the public's help to create a healthier, happier and more inclusive Lake Country by seeking the opinions of all local citizens to help the society form and prioritize the future health needs in this community.

Residents can voice their opinion by taking the Lake Country Community Needs Assessment survey.

The purpose of the

survey is to collect information from the four wards in Lake Country to gain a better understanding of the current health and wellness of local residents.

The information collected will be used to develop a Lake Country Community Health Profile, used to develop programs to improve the health of the community and its residents.

The survey is online at lakecountryhealth.ca while paper copies can be found at the group's office, 10080 Main St. (behind the police station in the white building).

To access the survey online, visit the website and then hover your mouse over Activities and then click on the Lake Country Health Hub in the drop down menu. The link to the survey is there.

All age groups are welcomed to participate and more than one person per household can and is encouraged to fill out the survey.

Valleyview Dignity Memorial



Aron Meier
Assistant Manager



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SalloumWatts

200-1455 Ellis Street, Kelowna
250-861-5678

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Winfield United Church

3751 Woodsdale Road ♦ 250-766-4458



Sunday Worship
and Children's Church
9:50 a.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Minister: Jim Hannah

THRIFT SHOP OPEN: Tues. - Sat., 10:00 to 2:00
Thrift Shop Phone: 250-766-3387

Winfield Community Church

Sunday Morning Service for All Ages
10:15 a.m.

PASTOR SEAN HARDER

9460 GLENMORE ROAD 250-766-2753
wincom@telus.net

winfieldcommunitychurch.org

To advertise your church services, special religious events & celebrations, please email
sales@lakecountrynews.net or call 250-766-4688

BCSPCA Kelowna Shelter
Speaking for Animals 250-861-7722

Sex: Male
Spayed/Neutered: Yes
Age: Young Adult
Animal ID: 355041



This is Baby, OK - first off - just to be clear - Baby is truly much more handsome than this picture - guess he was just wanting a 'close up'! What a spunky boy he is. He loves life and will play and chase the other dogs you may have visiting just to have fun. Baby also likes being a lap dog so you have the best of both worlds - playful and cuddly. He knows some basic commands and is a well-mannered mature canine. Baby is waiting for your visit so you can both fall in love and he can go to his new, forever home - yours? Please ask the Kelowna SPCA Staff for a private visit with Baby.

kelowna-sPCA@shaw.ca