

The Cawing Crow Chronicle

October 2026

Grateful to live, learn, and work in the homelands of the Ktunaxa People.



Upcoming

October is Ktunaxa Appreciation Month

October 9- Aqam Wood Day

October 12- No School

October 19- Ktunaxa Literacy Week

October 23- No school

October 28- Indigenous Leadership Meeting

Parkland Information

Get In Touch

1115 2nd Ave S Cranbrook, V1C 2B4

Phone: (250) 426 - 3327

Fax: (250) 426 - 6334

Email: pms.mailing@sd5.bc.ca



Elders in Residence

Dorothy Ratch
Mel Ratch
Pheb Goulet
Winnie Vitaliano
Joan O'Neil



Indigenous Websites

Communities:

[?aqam](#)

[Tobacco Plains](#)

[?akisqnuk](#)

[Yaqa Nukiy](#)

Games:

[Indigenous Games for Children \(Youth\)](#)

[Creative Spirits](#)

Languages:

[First Voices](#)

[First Voices Kids \(Ktunaxa Songs and Stories\)](#)

[Michif](#)

Museums:

[Glenbow Museum](#)

[Museum of Anthropology](#)



Truth & Reconciliation Walk

September 30th

This years Truth and Reconciliation Walk was well attended, and words from survivors were poignant and moving. We honour residential school survivors, their families, and communities, and remember the children who never returned home.



October is Ktunaxa Appreciation Month

FIRSTVOICES.COM KIDS

Ktunaxa FirstVoices Kids is an online language learning tool for children with different games and puzzles:

<https://www.firstvoices.com/kids/FV/sections/Data/Ktunaxa/Ktunaxa/Ktunaxa>

The following Ktunaxa Greetings and Introductions can be heard in recording:

<https://www.aqamnikschool.com/online-resource-links-for-families>

Kiʔsuʔk wiʔnam- Good Morning

Kaʔkin ʔa·qakʔikʔ- What is your name?

Hu qakʔik____.- My name is____.

Kaʔkin ʔa·qaki·kamʔ- Where are you from?

KTUNAXA LANGUAGE MOBILE APPS

Ktunaxa Language Mobile App for Android Devices:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.firstvoices.ktunaxa&hl=en_CA

Ktunaxa Language Mobile App for Apple Devices:

<https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/ktunaxa/id490447781>

ʔaʔamnik Elementary School

<https://www.aqamnikschool.com/online-resource-links-for-families>

WOOD DAY

October 9, 2026



**If you are interested in attending Wood Day out at ʔaq'am on
Oct. 9, 2026, from 9:30 am – 2:30 pm,
Please see Miss Marie for a permission form.
Lunch Provided**

Ktunaxa Creation Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnMXwq58Q5I>



In ancestral times referred to by the Ktunaxa as the animal world, there were references made many times by the Creator to when there will be ?aqłmaknik (people).

At that time, there was some disturbance caused by a huge sea monster known as Yawu?nik, who killed many of the animals. A council was called by the Chief animal, Nałmuqcin. Nałmuqcin was huge. He was so tall that he had to crawl on his hands and knees, for if he stood up his head would hit the ceiling of the sky.

It was decided that Yawu?nik had to be destroyed. A war party was formed. Yawu?nik plied the Kootenay and Columbia River System including Columbia Lake and Arrow Lakes.

Yawu?nik was sighted in the Columbia Lake near Yaqa·n Nu?kiy and the chase was on. At that time, the Kootenay River and the Columbia Lake were joined. As the chase proceeded, Nałmuqcin gave names to many locations along the Kootenay River, Kootenay Lake, Arrow Lakes and the Columbia River.

Yawu?nik was pursued down the Kootenay River past the Wasa sloughs, now called Wasa, BC. Skinkuε got into trouble here when he fell into the river and had to be rescued by Wasa, (horse-tail).

The chase went by where the St. Mary's River empties into the Kootenay River. ?aqam, where the St. Mary's Reserve is now located, then on down river to Kankak (spring) where Mayuk (weasel) joined the war party. There were animals on both sides of the river as the chase continued, and among the party was a parasite, ?a·kukłakuwum, who had to be carried on the backs of other animals. His name was Çumtus and he was mean and bossy. The other animals grew tired of his nagging and dumped him into the river at a place now known as Yaqał watmitqułitki Çumtus.

Leaving the land of the Eagle, ?a·knuqłam?amakıs and into the land of the woodtick, Çamna ?Amakis, past Wasa?ki (Waldo) then on past the now 49th Parallel and then past Kaxax (Turtle), now underwater, near Rexford, Montana. The chase went on by ?a·ki?yi (jennings) and on by ?aqswaq (libby) then into Skinkuε ?Amakis (the land of Coyote), past ?aqanqmi (Bonners Ferry, Idaho) then northerly past the now international boundary into ?açpu ?amakıs, the land of the Wolverine, past Yaqa·n Nu?kiy (Creston, BC) then up the Kootenay Lake past ?aqasqnuκ, (Kuskannok, BC). The chase went on by ?Akuqłi (Akokli Creek), past Ksanka Creek. The Yawu?nik chose to follow the Kootenay River past ?aqyamłup (Nelson, BC). The chase was now in Miçqaqas ?amakıs (the land of Chickadee).

At Kiksıtuκ, (Castlegar, BC) Yawu?nik went north into the Arrow Lakes, past ?akınka?nuκ (Arrow Rock) where arrows were shot into a crevice in the rock. If the arrow was true, the journey continued, if the mark was missed, beware, danger ahead. The arrow was true and the journey continued past Çalnu?nik (Nakusp) then up past Ktunwakanmituκ Miçqaqas (Revelstoke, BC) where the Columbia River flows into the Arrow Lakes, then up and around The Big Bend then down past ?aknuqłuκ (Golden, BC) past Yaknusu?ki (Briscoe, BC) then on

past Yakyuᑕki. The chase carries on through Kwataᑎuk (Athlmer) then past Kananuk (Windermere, BC) past ʔakiskᑎuk (Windermere Lakes), then back into the Columbia Lake, Yaqa·n Nukiy, (Canal Flats, BC). This completed the cycle of the chase.

Yawuʔnik would once again escape into the Kootenay River and the chase would go on. The chase would go on and on. Every time the war party thought they had Yawuʔnik cornered, Yawuʔnik would escape again.

One day sitting on the river bank observing the chase was a wise old one named Kikum. Kikum told Naᑎmuᑕin, You are wasting your time and energy chasing the monster. Why not use your size and strength and with one sweep of your arm, block the river from flowing into the lake and the next time the monster enters the lake you will have him trapped. Naᑎmuᑕin took the advice of Kikum and did as he was told. The next time Yawunik entered the lake, he was trapped.

Having successfully corralled Yawuʔnik, a decision had to be made as to whom the honor of killing Yawuʔnik would be bestowed upon. The honor was awarded to Yamakpaᑦ (Red-headed Woodpecker).

When Yawuʔnik was killed, he was taken ashore and butchered and distributed among the animals. There remained only the innards and bones. The ribs were scattered throughout the region and now form the Hoo Doos seen throughout the area.

Naᑎmuᑕin then took the white balloon-like organ, known as the swim bladder, and crumbled it into small pieces and scattered it in all directions saying, 'These will be the white race of people'. He then took the black ingredient from the inner side of the backbone, the kidney, and broke it into small pieces and scattered them in all directions declaring, 'These will be the black race'. He then took the orange roe and threw the pieces in all directions saying, 'These will be the yellow race of people'.

Naᑎmuᑕin looked at his bloody hands and reached down for some grass to wipe his hands. He then let the blood fall to the ground saying, 'This will be the red people, they will remain here forever'.

Naᑎmuᑕin, in all the excitement, rose to his feet and stood upright hitting his head on the ceiling of the sky. He knocked himself dead. His feet went northward and is today known as Ya·hiki, in the Yellowhead Pass vicinity. His head is near Yellowstone Park in the State of Montana. His body forms the Rocky Mountains.

The people were now keepers of the land. The spirit animals ascended above and are the guiding spirits of the people.

Read more about the [Ktunaxa Nation here](https://fernienation.com/about-fernienation/ktunaxa-nation/ktunaxa-creation/).

fernienation.com Ktunaxa Creation

<https://fernienation.com/about-fernienation/ktunaxa-nation/ktunaxa-creation/>



ELDER TALKS

Elders will answer questions and help youth navigate life's challenges with integrity, and cultural understanding. Through the 7 Sacred Teachings of Love, Respect, Wisdom, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth.

Who: Elders, Dorothy & Mel Ratch

When: Wednesdays (see dates below)

Time: 1 pm to 2 pm.

Where: The Gathering Place.

Dates:

September 23	October 14	October 28	November 25



Please see Miss Marie If you would like to attend.



Study SPOT



Tuesdays, 3:00 to 4:45pm at Foundry EK
100 12th Ave S, Cranbrook BC

- Free snacks
- Homework help
- Chill vibes
- Connect to tutors

Our peer support team knows that schoolwork or learning something new can feel overwhelming. We wanted to set up a low-key, supportive space to help you find joy and satisfaction in learning and facilitate your academic success!

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For all things to be connected

FOUNDRY
EAST KOOTENAY

Operated by
Kootenai Kinbasket
Child & Family
Service Society

If you have any questions, email
cheyenne.atwood@kkcfss.org!

For all Foundry Upcoming Events, see FOUNDRY binder in the Gathering Place,
Or visit <https://foundrybc.ca/centre/eastkootenay/?tab=calendar-groups>

30 DAYS OF FALL ACTIVITIES

naturalbeachliving.com

1 go on a bike ride	2 have a photo shoot 	3 go bowling	4  visit an apple orchard	5 PAINT PUMPKINS
6 build a bird house 	7 visit a festival	8 eat candy corn	9 make a fall wreath	10 go on a nature walk 
11 jump in a pile of leaves	12 make apple cider	13 watch a fall movie	14 go horse back riding 	15 CREATE A LEAF CRAFT
16  read outdoors	17 roast marsh- mallows	18 make soup	19 have a picnic	20  volunteer
21 BUILD SOMETHING	22 bake cookies	23  find acorns	24 make a no-sew blanket	25 go on a hay ride
26  make trail mix	27 visit an outdoor market	28 go for a walk	29 MAKE SOMETHING WITH PUMPKIN	30 have a bonfire 

**HELLO THERE, WOULD
YOU LIKE TO TALK ABOUT
THE JOYS OF SPOOKY MONTH?**

