

# abbotsfordtoday

ABBOTSFORD'S NEWS & OPINION MAGAZINE

ISSUE NUMBER 2 | AUGUST 2019

## Bill Vander Zalm

One of the most contentious issues to face the entire Lower Mainland is that of public transit. With the same enthusiasm he brought to the fight to get rid of the HST, Bill Vander Zalm is back to fight for the South Fraser Community Rail project. He spoke to Abbotsford Today about why the project makes sense, and why we can start making passenger rail a reality right now!

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

#### THE TRANSIT DEBATE

Bill Vander Zalm thinks rail is a great idea for the Valley, but you need all the facts to make a decision for yourself. We break it down into a simple to digest format so you can understand the choices, the costs and how it will effect your travel in the Valley.

#### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Looking for a comedy show, live music, or are you ready to think outside the box and see a Broadway-style musical right here in Abbotsford? We have the inside scoop on where you can find great entertainment right here in our city.

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# Abbotsford Today in print, and online, with great podcasts!

*As you read the articles in this print edition, don't forget to check out the full podcasts we also post online. This issue, we visited former Premier Bill Vander Zalm at his home, for an in-depth look at his political history and why he is joining the fight to see passenger rail come to the Fraser Valley.*

## So many issues and so little time!

Many people think that the news cycle in the summer is slow. The truth is that just because you are on vacation doesn't mean things stop happening. This summer is no different.

We go in-depth in this edition of **Abbotsford Today** by attempting to dissect the story surrounding the movement in support of passenger rail in the Fraser Valley. There are a number of groups supporting the proposal to bring the **Inter Urban Community Rail** line back up to modern safety standards, and back into service.

However, it doesn't look like very many politicians want this to happen. Notably, the Mayor of Abbotsford, Henry Braun. Translink is also not a fan. Why? That is a very good question and we attempt to provide some answers... and some food for thought.

On a lighter note, **Deanne Ratzlaff**, a local Abbotsford performing artist is about to tour with a show, La Vie en Rose, which will come to both Abbotsford and Chilliwack, but will then travel to London and Paris for performances. She tells her story here, and in a full podcast available on our web site at [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca).

After the great feedback we received about our Kids Summer Program Guide in our last issue, we thought we would also partner our story about Deanne with a **Live Entertainment Guide**. Looking for music, comedy, or live theatre? We've done the leg work and put all the resources, locations and hot spots around town in one place. Check it out and if we've missed a great entertainment resource, please let us know by dropping us a note to the Editor at [editor@abbotsfordtoday.ca](mailto:editor@abbotsfordtoday.ca) or send us a message on Twitter at [@abbotsfordtoday](https://twitter.com/abbotsfordtoday).

In addition to the articles in this edition of **Abbotsford Today**, news items around Abbotsford include the Vye Road Overpass funding...did you know this was supposed to be built more than a dozen years ago? It's also time for Agrifair, the Abbotsford Air Show, and the campaigns are starting to heat up for the Federal election in **October**.

In our next 2 editions, we'll be focusing on the **Federal Election Candidates**, the issues facing our country, and we'll make the case for why you should care... and why you should vote! Thanks for reading Abbotsford!

**The Editor**

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### LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

*When you see this symbol, there is a full podcast on the same topic available on our web site at [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca). Look for the podcasts list on the home page.*



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# Bill Vander Zalm

In our recent conversation with former Premier Bill Vander Zalm, we spoke about his history in politics and his time as Minister of Transport. He's back in the media again speaking in support of the South Fraser Community Rail Project. At 85, he sees this issue as important to the long term success of British Columbia as he did with the battle over the HST. We summarize our conversation below, but you can listen to the entire podcast on our web site at [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca).

Bill Vanderzalm may be 85 years old, but don't let that fool you. His personality is an undeniable force to be reckoned with. At the outset of our conversation, he downplays his decision to get into politics. His successes came quickly. First, elected as a Surrey Councillor, then Mayor, then MLA where he was asked to run the Ministry of Social Services. For those of you who were around in the 70's and 80's, you will appreciate just how differently things were when it came to welfare, and other social assistance. Bill controversially said that he was ready to "give them a shovel" if people on welfare refused to work. His "off the cuff" remark became a calling card for years to come.

His success in running that Ministry resulted in Bill Bennett tapping him for another problem area, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Transit. His time in that position saw him conceive of, and forward the idea for elevated rail in the downtown core. That proposal later became the Expo Line of the Skytrain system.

During our conversation, Bill carefully moves through history, not because he has trouble remembering, but the exact opposite. He is self-editing to insure that his re-telling is concise. He gets to the facts and puts together a narrative of his time in politics that is a pleasure to listen to. We gave him no warning of what we wanted to talk about, so this guided tour through BC politics is spontaneous, and entertaining.

We then arrived at a pivotal time in his career in 1986. Bill is elected the Premier of the Province of British Columbia. Two events relevant to the South Fraser Community Rail Project happened at this time. The first was

the launching of Skytrain, and the second was a meeting with BC Hydro. The first would set the stage for transit spending for decades to come. As for the second event, in that meeting, BC Hydro wanted to get out of the rail business that was operating on the Inter Urban Rail line. So, Bill Vander Zalm's government negotiated and signed an agreement with CP Rail giving them a 21 year use of the line. CP would manage the line, but the agreement reserved all rights to use of the line for passengers. That agreement was renewed and remains in place today.

A key element of that agreement is that CP Rail also becomes responsible for twining any part of the track that comes in conflict with its freight business in order to allow passenger rail to exist at the same time. That portion of the agreement between the Province of BC and CP Rail means that the 7 mile stretch of track that people call a "headache" is no headache at all. In fact, the resolution is in black and white, and we can thank Bill Vander Zalm for insuring our rights, as both citizens and passengers, to the Inter Urban Rail Line.

However, Bill knows that political wills can change. He saw opposition to repealing the HST and got involved in that fight. He was successful, and the HST is no more. Now he wants us to know how important it is for us to insure the long term development of the lower mainland by making sure we can move people up and down the Fraser Valley.



## LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

Listen to Bill make his case for the South Fraser Community Rail Project at [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca) and read more about the topic in this issue.

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## FUNK'S RETURN TO CLEARBROOK ROAD.

The Funk family is no stranger to retail in the city of Abbotsford. The family's first appearance was Funk's Supermarket in the 1950's, which was once on the corner of South Fraser Way and Clearbrook Road. Arthur Funk, who managed the meat department at Funk's, was instrumental in helping his son Mark branch out into a separate venture some 34 years ago. MTF Mainland Distributors began in Surrey, with Mark and high school friend Todd Friesen back in 1985. Since then, the company has grown and evolved into Big Box Outlet Store. Mark Funk and his siblings Carol and Paul are currently working and have family working in the business and Art Funk, now 82, shows up every morning for a few hours to help tidy up the store before it opens.

Big Box Outlet Store has 11 locations in British Columbia, 2 in Washington and 1 in California. They are the largest discount retail chain of its kind in Western Canada. The key to their success is the long-standing relationships they have with large national retailers in helping them with their reverse logistics product. They also work closely with manufactures and distributors all over North America to find great deals for their customers. Their slogan "Brand Names, Great Deals" is exactly what you will find at all of their locations. Brands like Cuisinart, Martha Stewart, Nike, Lego, Samsung, Kellogg's and hundreds of other brands all at the best prices!

The Funk family business has settled into the largest industrial building in Abbotsford where Big Box Outlet Store has its flagship retail store, Head Office, and Processing & Distribution Center. They occupy the front portion of the building just south of the freeway on Clearbrook Road past the round-a-bout where the giant raspberries are located. Come by and enjoy the great savings, the friendly staff, and experience the family culture that is Big Box Outlet Store.

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# R

# Passenger Rail in the Fraser Valley

*To anyone that drives up and down Highway 1, you know that getting around is becoming harder and harder. It seems that everyone is working on a solution, but they all seem self-serving. Translink is focused on Skytrain, Surrey is focused on its own project, and no one seems to have a word to say about the rest of the Valley. That is, with the exception of those groups supporting passenger rail on the old Inter Urban Community Rail line.*

by Vince Dimanno

Why is transit so hard to figure out in the lower mainland? Every solution we seem to think of is either ineffective, or so costly that the resulting tax or fee headaches just don't seem to make it worth it.

Yes, Skytrain is a gorgeous system, but it is the most expensive transit system ever conceived. Not just the raw dollar figures for the construction, but the act of building it destroys businesses and lives.

Now, there is a case for elevated rail in downtown urban cores. The argument, however, just cannot be translated to the sprawling distances of the Fraser Valley. When you apply the idea of Skytrain out here, you get a plan like the one being worked on in Surrey. This Skytrain project will pass through Green Timbers, destroying old growth forest, it will pass through the Serpentine flats, endangering wildlife and putting Agricultural Land at risk. All for \$3+ billion dollars!

There is an alternative. The Interurban Community Rail line was a fixture of travel for many years. It still exists and we can still convert it for passenger use. In total, there is nearly 100km of rail line connecting Chilliwack to Pattullo Bridge. However, proponents have been trying to forward work on revitalizing this asset for many, many years. It seems to fall on deaf ears. In this article, we are going to explore why.

Let's start by breaking down the facts. We'll give you both sides of the debate, but then we'll also give you our conclusions. You can decide for yourself, but if we are ever going to see a real transit solution for the 2 million people that will live in the Fraser Valley over the next 20 years, we need to put all options on the table.

Options are a good place to start. What are our options:

## 1. Widen Highway 1

Sure, we all have a car and we need to get around so why not widen Highway 1? The problem is that it is no solution at all. Construction of more lanes is so far behind demand, we will never escape the gridlock that builds daily out here in the Valley. The Highway needs to be wider, but it must go hand-in-hand with an alternative to driving a car.

## 2. Wait for Skytrain

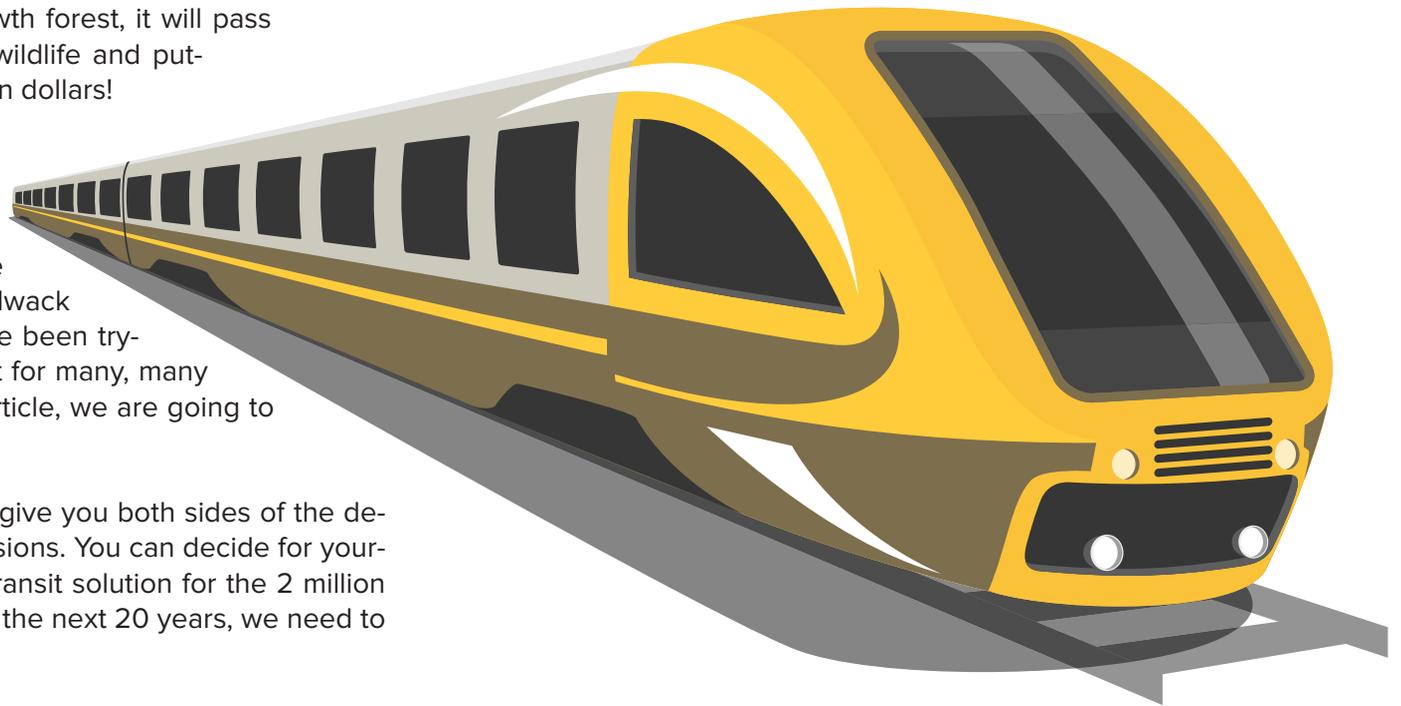
You'll need to put this one in your will. Firstly, we aren't part of the GVRD, and unless we join up with them and start paying them all the taxes and fees they collect, we are NEVER getting Skytrain.

## 3. Express Buses on Highway 1

The solution to traffic issues on Highway 1 is not to put more vehicles on it. If you clear a lane for buses, then you haven't widened the highway at all. If you don't clear a lane, then those buses are stuck in the same traffic as the cars.

## 4. The Inter Urban Community Rail Line

99kms of rail from Surrey to Chilliwack. Upgradeable to passenger standards that will connect the entire Fraser Valley for one-tenth of the cost of the 16kms of Skytrain being considered in Surrey. Isn't this a "no-brainer"? I thought so. Most people think so, except 2 groups... Translink and politicians.



I've really struggled to figure out why this is so. Politicians are always looking for a big win, and Translink really needs a way to undertake a project that is less costly, not more. At least, that is what I think, but that is not the way politicians and Translink think.

in my research, I read many reports, press releases and studies. I then tried to boil it down to an easy-to-digest list of facts. I've put that into a list on the next page.

Article Continues on page 7 ●●●

Benefits of the Inter Urban Rail Line	Compared to the Surrey LRT Project
99 kms from Surrey to Chilliwack	16.6 kms of Skytrain limited to Surrey
Total cost of \$1.2 billion	Total cost of \$3 billion
Serves 1.2 million people	Serves 80,000-125,000 people
Connects 16 cities / community centres	4 km will go through Green Timbers and Serpentine “dead zones”
Will form the backbone of a comprehensive public transit system from Chilliwack to West Vancouver	Will connect to Skytrain in Surrey, but not the rest of the Valley.
Access to Abbotsford International Airport with as much as 1 million passengers expected in 2019	Limited tourism potential
Create opportunities for new development resulting in affordable housing opportunities	Will destroy portions of Green Timbers and upset the lives of all those along the route similar to the Cambie Street construction
Improve access to 14 post-secondary institutions	Increased student access limited to Surrey
Provide an alternative to car use in the Valley and reduce the impact our growing population has on the airshed	No reduction in traffic on Hwy 1

**When you see the benefits laid out as in the table above, it seems to make sense. However, I think it is only fair that I show you another table. This one includes all the objections raised by Translink and others. It also includes the response to those objections.**

Objections to the Inter Urban Rail Line	Passenger Rail Supporter Responses
The line is owned by CP and Southern Railway	It is owned by the people of BC as stated in the Master Agreement between the Province of BC, CP Rail and BC Hyrdo, signed in 1988 and renewed in 2009.
The Inter Urban route has been studied 3 times and rejected	We feel those reports are flawed and can produce 2 independent and non-bias reports supporting the Inter Urban Rail line.
There is poor ridership demand	No ridership study has been done, however, the West Coast Express had 2.3 million boardings last year. Extrapolating to the larger population of the Fraser Valley would result in 5.5 million passengers. This claim is unfounded.
Operating cost vs Bus Improvement Alternatives	With no plan to get around highway congestion and no report on actual ridership or operational costs, this statement is also false.
There are conflicts with freight traffic and increasing freight volume	The Master Agreement plainly states that the track is reserved for passenger use and that any requirement to double track for freight use would be at the expense of CP Rail.
Service on the Inter Urban line would be expensive	The Inter Urban line will cost \$12.5 million per kilometer to construct and serve more than 1 million people, while the Surrey Skytrain will cost \$200 million per kilometer and serve about 125,000 people.
The cost of the upgrades on the rail line is far greater than advocates claim.	This is an operational railway maintained under strict BC and National regulations and standards. Most cost would be allocated to stations and crossings.
The inter Urban requires substantial infrastructure investments comparable to building rapid transit along urban arterials.	There is no comparison between \$12.5 million/km and \$200 million/km and has no basis in fact. It is a huge cost savings over Skytrain with greater reach
Long travel times estimates 53 minutes from Langley to Scott Road	Our research shows 90 minutes from Chilliwack to Scott Road resulting in a 30 minute trip from the Langley to Scott Rd portion. This is in line with West Coast Express travel times.



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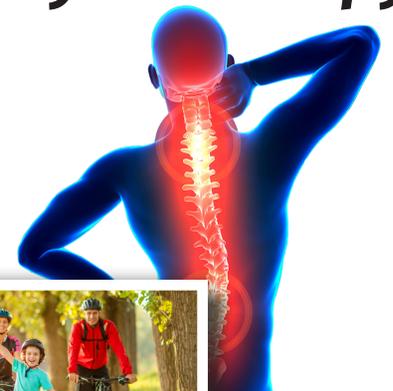
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● ● ● **Article Continued from page 7**

The table of “objections” to the South Fraser Community Rail Project have made up the bulk of the ongoing debate. There are two exceptions. Since proponents of the passenger rail line have become adept at answering these points, and paying for their own independent studies, Translink and politicians have moved on to other areas of contention.

**The one that sticks out is the last point I will deal with in this column.**

Some deny that a Master Agreement exists. **It does.** Further, some deny that the Agreement is in favour of the people of British Columbia. **It is,** and there is no greater proof than to have Bill Vander Zalm, who’s government signed the Agreement, speaking out on behalf of the project.

The same people that have previously denied the Agreement existed are now claiming that there is a 7 mile stretch of track that is classified as “Joint Use”. That 7 mile stretch is claimed to be a blockade to the project because it would just be “too expensive” to twin the tracks.

The Master Agreement states this expense, plainly and clearly, as the responsibility of CP Rail. It is not ambiguous.

Our own Mayor, Henry Braun, misinterprets the contract in favour of CP Rail. He has also stated that it won’t get resolved outside of court. (It should be disclosed that Mayor Braun was previously in the rail business and it is likely CP Rail was a major client. While we undertook no research on the scope of any past relationship, the Mayor is no longer active in the rail industry.)

Why? CP Rail does not deny these aspects of the Agreement. I’m sure they are not happy about it, but they signed that contract in 1988 under no duress. They have since profited from the freight business on that 7 mile stretch of track for 30 years.

**Let’s take a step back for a minute.**

Who cares about that 7 mile stretch? When Translink wanted to build the Canada Line from the airport in Richmond down Cambie street, they didn’t care about cost, about the people who’s lives were being ruined by the construction, or even the fact that it wasn’t a planned route until we were awarded the Winter Olympic Games.

So what’s the big deal here? Sit down with CP Rail and get negotiating. Are you really ready to throw out 99km of hydrogen powered light rail because you can’t overcome 7 miles of track? You will overcome common sense to keep building Skytrain and taxing the people of the GVRD into the poor house. Property Tax, Parking Tax, User Fees, Hydro Levy, increased Development Cost Charges and an 18.5 cents per litre Gas Tax are what it takes to fund Translink and Skytrain. How about undertaking a project where you actually get some bang for our bucks?

Folks, if you think I’m whining about this, it is because we all need to make a lot more noise.

Do you know that the Mayor’s Council for Translink has not yet agreed to hear a presentation from the South Fraser Community Rail Society? Former Premier Bill Vander Zalm would be part of that delegation and they don’t want to hear from him.

Do you know that a former CP Rail executive sits on the Translink Board and considers the interurban line “dealt with”. They have done no proper study, heard from no stakeholder and listened to no presentations. They undertook one survey where they asked people if they wanted Skytrain and they said yes, but they didn’t ask if they would like 99km of community rail system for a fraction of the price of a 16km Skytrain route. Just like the Translink studies...biased!

Did you know that in 2012 every Mayor in the Fraser Valley gave their support to the Inter Urban Community Rail Line? Today, the Mayors of Surrey and Langley support Skytrain. Not a surprise as the proposed Surrey project will touch their communities. Guess who else no longer supports rail? Our Mayor.

Did you know that our Mayor stated that there was no chance for rail in the valley without CP Rail approval...and he did so at a Fraser Valley Regional District Board Meeting? No chance? No hope? Surely not when the Master Agreement is plain that we can build this rail system today!

Mayor Braun says he is focused on the Highway 1 expansion. I wish him luck with that. It will reach us in approximately 2050 and the single extra lane being built will be reserved for HOV traffic. In other words, he believes the solution to our traffic issues is to wait for a lane most will be unable to use.

Our only plan can’t be a single extra lane on Highway 1. Our only plan can’t be to hope we have the money to build Skytrain out to Abbotsford. Our only plan can’t be to sit and wait. The longer we wait, the more expensive any project becomes.

You need to get involved. You must take action and you can’t sit and wait for politicians to do the right thing. Or do you think Translink will make a good choice? Folks, it is too late for that. It is all about “saving face”. From Translink to the Provincial Government, they have all said no to rail for so long, they can’t change their mind now. You have to change it for them.

The rail line is financially viable. The hydrogen powered rail cars are environmentally friendly. The route is great for construction and to insure new development opportunities. The project is well thought out with support from independent studies and the Master Agreement in place with CP Rail. Finally, there is no alternative plan for connecting the Valley. It takes a project this big and the Inter Urban Community Rail Line gives us a head start. Now is the time to fight for it!



**SUPPORT THE SOUTH FRASER COMMUNITY RAIL PROJECT**

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[mayorscouncil@translink.ca](mailto:mayorscouncil@translink.ca)

Send a message to the Translink Board of Directors:  
[board@translink.ca](mailto:board@translink.ca)

Visit the South Fraser Community Rail Society web site:  
<https://southfrasercommunityrail.ca>



**VIEW THE INTER URBAN COMMUNITY RAIL ROUTE MAP**

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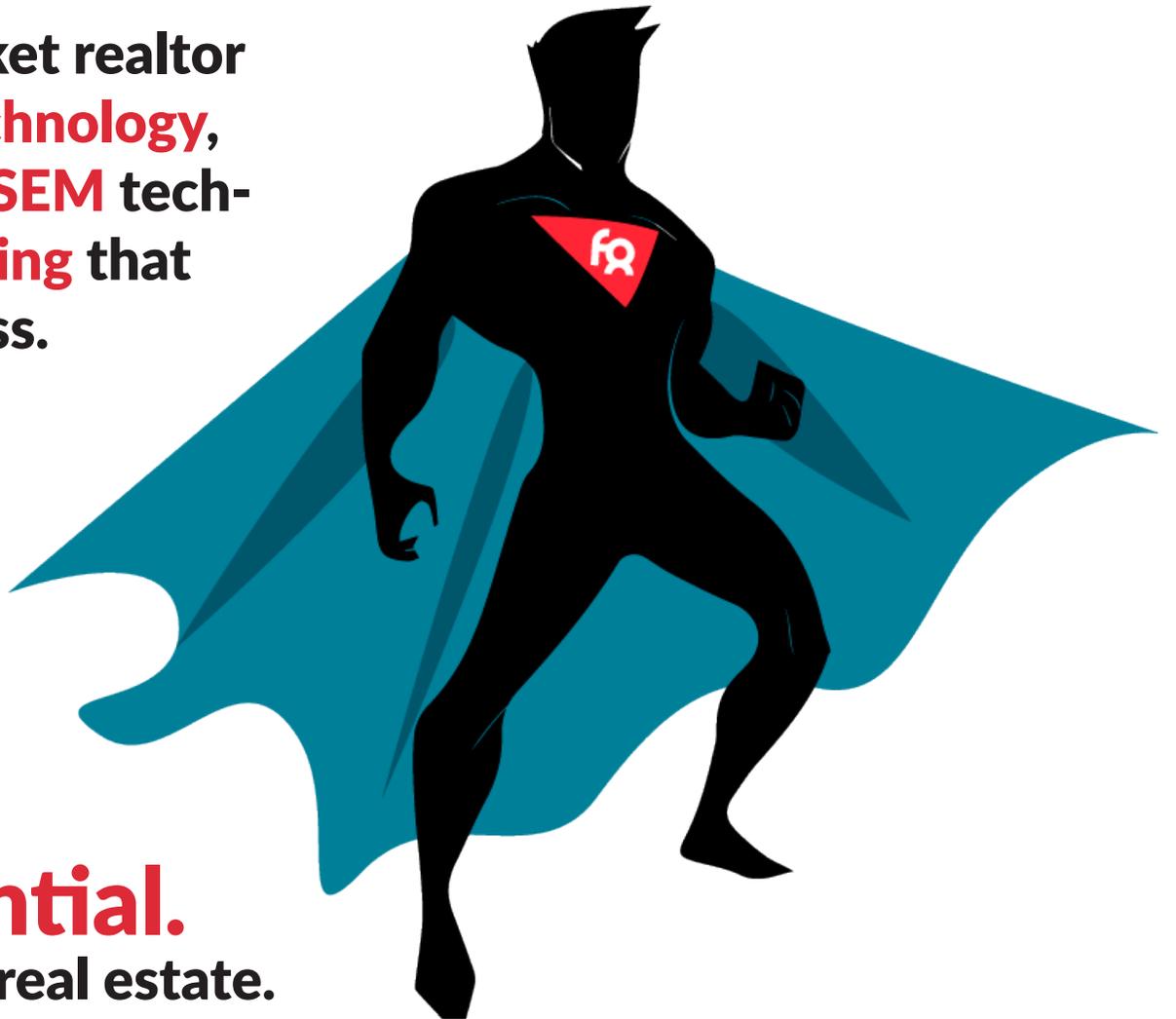


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# Contest!

## Enter to Win Tickets!

Win a pair of tickets to the 8:00pm, September 14th, 2019 performance of La Vie en Rose at the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium!

To enter, follow us on Twitter at: @abbotsfordtoday and send a Tweet with the hashtag #lavieenrose

or, send us an email to: contests@abbotsfordtoday.ca and be sure to make the subject La Vie en Rose and include your contact information!

See [abbotsfordtoday.ca/contest-rules](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca/contest-rules) for Contest Rules.

# Local Performer Deanne Ratzlaff Set to Tour with “La Vie en Rose”

*An enthusiastic performer in many local theatre productions, Deanne Ratzlaff is about to see a dream come true with her first professional gig. Even better, the show will travel to London and Paris for performances early next year. Theatre lovers in the Valley will get their chance to see the production in both Abbotsford and Chilliwack next month!*

La Vie en Rose, the new classically based romantic concert set in Paris, features breathtaking and stirring compositions by some of the most celebrated composers including Elgar, Kreisler, Ravel, and Yezes accompanied by exquisite dancing by Ballet Etoile Canada Principal Dancers and beautiful vocals by Deanne Ratzlaff. The concert brings to the stage a vibrant mix of stunning music and dance making for a truly intimate concert. A classical production that is sure to touch the heart and make for a perfect evening out.

The Abbotsford and Chilliwack engagements of La Vie en Rose come on the heels of the highly successful World Premiere this past February.

We sat down with Deanne to chat about how she got into theatre, her experience with this show and where she hope a career in theatre will take her.

Get tickets for La Vie en Rose for the following local performances:

September 13th, 2019 at 8:00pm  
**Hub International Theatre at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre**

September 14th, 2019 at 8:00pm  
**Matsqui Centennial Auditorium**

Online: [www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca](http://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca)  
Telephone: 604.391.7469  
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Online: [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)  
In Person: 32315 South Fraser Way



### LISTEN TO THE PODCAST

Deanne joined us for a podcast to share details of how she got started in theatre and how you can see her in La Vie en Rose. Visit [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca) to listen now!



# Abbotsford's Live Entertainment Guide

*Discover a new place for adventure right here in Abbotsford with our live entertainment guide. We've put together a list of all the places and events around town that you can see live music, theatre, comedy and much more!*



## Live Music

From pubs to clubs and everything in between, check out all the places for live music around the city of Abbotsford.

PERFORMER	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	WEB SITE/TICKETS
Zach Kleisinger	Field House Brewing	Thursday, August 15, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/15/zach-kleisinger">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/15/zach-kleisinger</a>
Mill Lake Music Concert Series	Mill Lake Park	Saturday, August 17, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="https://secure.latest.facebook.com/events/372932549996954/">https://secure.latest.facebook.com/events/372932549996954/</a>
Michael Fabro	Field House Brewing	Tuesday, August 6, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/6/27/michael-fabro-5bwt2-Intww">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/6/27/michael-fabro-5bwt2-Intww</a>
Ryan McAllister and Friends	Single Tree Winery	Friday, August 23, 2019 6:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/12/ryan-mcallister-5x6n7">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/12/ryan-mcallister-5x6n7</a>
Linda Szentes and Jazz Links	House of James 2743 Emerson Street	Saturday, August 10, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/10/linda-szentes-and-jazz-links">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/10/linda-szentes-and-jazz-links</a>
Thistle Dew	Mill Lake Park	Saturday, August 17, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/17/thistle-dew">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/17/thistle-dew</a>
Ashley Pater	Abbotsford Flea Market	Sunday, August 18, 2019 10:00am – 2:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/18/ashley-pater">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/18/ashley-pater</a>
Evan Kennedy	Field House Brewing	Thursday, August 22, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/22/evan-kennedy">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/22/evan-kennedy</a>
Jesse Stewart	Carport Manor 33800 McDougall Ave	Tuesday, August 13, 2019 9:00pm – 11:59pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/13/jesse-stewart">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/13/jesse-stewart</a>
InnerWild	Mill Lake Park	Saturday, August 24, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	n/a
Symphony in the Park	Mill Lake Park	Friday August 16, 2019 7:00pm - 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/16/symphony-in-the-park">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/16/symphony-in-the-park</a>

## Live Music Continued

PERFORMER	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	WEB SITE/TICKETS
S+L Live Music Wednesdays ft. Jada Klein	S+L Kitchen & Bar	Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/17/sl-live-music-wednesdays-ft-jada-klein-nnrxp">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/17/sl-live-music-wednesdays-ft-jada-klein-nnrxp</a>
Molten Blues Band	Mill Lake Park	Saturday, August 10, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/10/molten-blues-band">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/10/molten-blues-band</a>
DJ Alex and his “Light Show”	Highway Man Pub	Every Friday	<a href="http://www.highwaymanpubonline.com/entertainment/">http://www.highwaymanpubonline.com/entertainment/</a>
Weird Al Yankovic	Abbotsford Centre	August 22, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
Casting Crowns	Abbotsford Centre	September 29, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
Shinedown feat. Papa Roach	Abbotsford Centre	October 16, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
Dallas Smith & Dean Brody	Abbotsford Centre	October 26, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
Rascal Flats	Abbotsford Centre	November 1, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
For King & Country	Abbotsford Centre	November 2, 2019	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
We Will Rock You	Abbotsford Centre	January 4, 2020	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca</a>
Live Music	Chances Playtime Abbotsford	Every Friday and Saturday 8pm onwards	<a href="http://www.playtimegaming.ca/index.php?page=abbotsford">http://www.playtimegaming.ca/index.php?page=abbotsford</a>
The Scary Lizards	The Dewdney Pub - 8793 River Road South, Dewdney B.C	August 10, 2019	<a href="https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events">https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events</a>
Sunday Legendary Blues Jam	The Dewdney Pub - 8793 River Road South, Dewdney B.C	August 11, 2019 and every Sunday	<a href="https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events">https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events</a>
Arsen Shomakhov	The Dewdney Pub - 8793 River Road South, Dewdney B.C	August 17, 2019	<a href="https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events">https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events</a>
SwitchCraft	The Dewdney Pub - 8793 River Road South, Dewdney B.C	August 24, 2019	<a href="https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events">https://www.churchoftheblues.ca/weekly-events</a>
Friday Night Jam Sessions - Fraser Valley Blues Society	Eagles Hall - 33868 Essen- dene	Every Friday Sept to June	<a href="http://www.fraservalleybluessociety.com/live-music/">http://www.fraservalleybluessociety.com/live-music/</a>
Jonathan Cottrill	Clik Coffee Bistro 1910 North Parallel Road	Every Wednesday from 2pm to 4pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/10/jonathan-cottrill-f2fbe-22dwh-3n6f8-pzzrs-fy24t">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/7/10/jonathan-cottrill-f2fbe-22dwh-3n6f8-pzzrs-fy24t</a>

## Live Music Continued

PERFORMER	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	WEB SITE/TICKETS
Elijah Beingessner	Field House Brewing	Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/27/elijah-beingessner">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/27/elijah-beingessner</a>
Loans, Our Chemistry, Casinos, Villain Villain	Replay Boardshop 2485 West Railway Street	Saturday, August 24, 2019 7:00pm – 11:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/24/loans-our-chemistry-casinos-villain-villain">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/24/loans-our-chemistry-casinos-villain-villain</a>
Cale Stanage	Field House Brewing	Thursday, Sept 5, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/5/cale-stanage">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/5/cale-stanage</a>
Kyler Pierce	Field House Brewing	Thursday, Sept 26, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/4/4/kyler-pierce-7y8wy-cwk3h-slx5g-5sma8-5hke3-zephe">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/4/4/kyler-pierce-7y8wy-cwk3h-slx5g-5sma8-5hke3-zephe</a>
Gurdas Maan Live In Concert	Abbotsford Centre	Saturday, Sept 21, 2019 6:00pm	<a href="https://do604.com/events/2019/9/21/gurdas-maan-live-in-concert">https://do604.com/events/2019/9/21/gurdas-maan-live-in-concert</a>
Cassidy Waring and Sam Balson	Field House Brewing	Thursday, Sept 19, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/19/cassidy-wareing-and-sam-balson">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/19/cassidy-wareing-and-sam-balson</a>
Shaun Rawlins & Tyler Bartfai	Field House Brewing	Thursday, Sept 12, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/12/shaun-rawlins-amp-tyler-bartfai">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/9/12/shaun-rawlins-amp-tyler-bartfai</a>
The Hallowed Catharsis, No Faith In Fortune + Guests	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Saturday, August 10, 2019 Doors at 7pm	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/the-hallowed-catharsis-no-faith-in-fortune-guests/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/the-hallowed-catharsis-no-faith-in-fortune-guests/</a>
Qristina & Quinn Bachand	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Wed, August 14th, 2019 Doors at 7:30pm	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/qristina-quinn-bachand-at-the-railyard/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/qristina-quinn-bachand-at-the-railyard/</a>
Brandon Isaak Trio	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Saturday, Sept 07th, 2019	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/brandon-isaak-trio/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/brandon-isaak-trio/</a>
Big Eli B	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Saturday, Sept 21st, 2019	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/big-eli-b-at-the-railyard/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/big-eli-b-at-the-railyard/</a>
Dealers Choice	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Saturday, October 05, 2019 Doors at 7pm	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/dealers-choice-at-the-railyard/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/dealers-choice-at-the-railyard/</a>
Ken McCoy – Stories and Songs	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Saturday, October 12th, 2019 Doors at 7pm	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/ken-mccoy-stories-and-songs/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/ken-mccoy-stories-and-songs/</a>
The New Customs	The Railyard 33121 N. Railway Ave , Mission	Friday, November 01, 2019 Doors at 7pm	<a href="https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/the-new-customs-at-the-railyard/">https://seawestentertainment.com/httpdocs/store/the-new-customs-at-the-railyard/</a>
Western Jaguar	Mill Lake Park	Saturday August 31, 2019 7:00pm – 9:00pm	<a href="http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/31/western-jaguar">http://www.dogdaysentertainment.com/list-of-events/2019/8/31/western-jaguar</a>

**Live Theatre - Next Page**

# Live Theatre

World class local community theatre, and touring shows that visit us right here in our hometown, there is an abundance of entertainment under the bright lights!



PERFORMANCE	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	WEB SITE/TICKETS
A Wrinkle in Time	Abbotsford Arts Centre	November 8 - 16, 2019	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/a-wrinkle-in-time">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/a-wrinkle-in-time</a>
Tempting Providence	Abbotsford Community Arts Addition	Jan 24 - Feb 8, 2020	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/tempting-providence">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/tempting-providence</a>
The Secret Garden	Abbotsford Arts Centre	March 27 - April 4, 2020	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/the-secret-garden">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/the-secret-garden</a>
Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery	Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	May 15 - 23, 2020	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/baskerville">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/baskerville</a>
Abby Theatre Fest	Yale Secondary School Theatre	October 2 – 5, 2019	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/shows/20192020-season">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/shows/20192020-season</a>
Christmas Presence	Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	December 21, 2019 8:00 PM	<a href="http://www.gallery7theatre.com/shows/20192020-season">http://www.gallery7theatre.com/shows/20192020-season</a>
Panic Squad and Friends	Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	March 6, 2020 @ 7:30 PM	<a href="https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=101856">https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=101856</a>
Forever Plaid	Community Arts Addition, 2329 Crescent Way, Abbotsford	October 10 - 12 and 17 - 19, 2019	<a href="https://www.fraservalleystage.com/">https://www.fraservalleystage.com/</a>
A Broadway Musical featuring the music of ABBA	Abbotsford Arts Centre	February 19 - 22 and 27 - 29, 2020	<a href="https://www.fraservalleystage.com/">https://www.fraservalleystage.com/</a>
The Grinch Project 3.0	Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	Friday, Dec 13 at 7:00 pm Saturday, Dec 14 at 1:00 pm	<a href="https://abbotsfordchildrenstheatre.org/">https://abbotsfordchildrenstheatre.org/</a>
The Drag Show	The Stage 32998 1st Ave, Mission	September 14, 2019	<a href="https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/the-drag-show-september-14-2019/">https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/the-drag-show-september-14-2019/</a>
Hocus, Pocus, Corpus	The Stage 32998 1st Ave, Mission	September 21, 2019	<a href="https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/hocus-pocus-corpus/">https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/hocus-pocus-corpus/</a>
Totally Tubular Tease	The Stage 32998 1st Ave, Mission	September 28, 2019	<a href="https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/totally-tubular-tease/">https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/totally-tubular-tease/</a>
Mischief Managed: Harry Potter Burlesque	The Stage 32998 1st Ave, Mission	November 23, 2019	<a href="https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/mischief-managed-harry-potter-burlesque/">https://springsgroup.ca/the-stage/events/mischief-managed-harry-potter-burlesque/</a>
Paw Patrol Live! The Great Pirate Adventure	Abbotsford Centre	January 22, 2020 - 2:00 PM	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca/event/paw-patrol-live!-the-great-pirate-adventure/88/">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca/event/paw-patrol-live!-the-great-pirate-adventure/88/</a>



# Live Comedy

Local standup, touring comedians, and marquee acts all come to the city of Abbotsford. Don't miss a single show!

PERFORMANCE	LOCATION	SCHEDULE	WEB SITE/TICKETS
Jane Stanton, Garrett Clark, Ryan Fried	Yuk Yuk's Abbotsford	August 9 & 10, 2019 8pm	<a href="https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford">https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford</a>
Sunee Dhaliwal, Ed Hill, Dusty Searcy	Yuk Yuk's Abbotsford	August 16 & 17, 2019 8pm	<a href="https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford">https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford</a>
Damonde Tschritter, Chris Gaskin, Lori Ferguson-Ford	Yuk Yuk's Abbotsford	August 23 & 24, 2019 8pm	<a href="https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford">https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford</a>
Andrew Packer, Jon Gagnon, Richie Bell	Yuk Yuk's Abbotsford	August 30 & 31, 2019 8pm	<a href="https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford">https://www.yukyuks.com/abbotsford</a>
Family Feud	Townhall Pub	August 15, 2019	<a href="https://www.jrghospitality.ca/events/?location=townhall-abbotsford">https://www.jrghospitality.ca/events/?location=townhall-abbotsford</a>
Superheroes Trivia	Townhall Pub	August 22, 2019	<a href="https://www.jrghospitality.ca/events/?location=townhall-abbotsford">https://www.jrghospitality.ca/events/?location=townhall-abbotsford</a>
Cheech & Chong O Cannabis Tour	Abbotsford Centre	October 10, 2019 - 8:00 PM	<a href="https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca/event/cheech-%26-chong-o-cannabis-tour/68/">https://www.abbotsfordcentre.ca/event/cheech-%26-chong-o-cannabis-tour/68/</a>



# Manufactured Authoritativeness and Contrived Objectivity

*It seems that everyone is an expert. Sure, we all have opinions, but when those opinions start to be taken as fact, it can be misleading. In the age of social media, the instant crowning of “pundits” and political bias supported by accusations of “fake news”, examination of what is fact and what is opinion is more important than ever.*

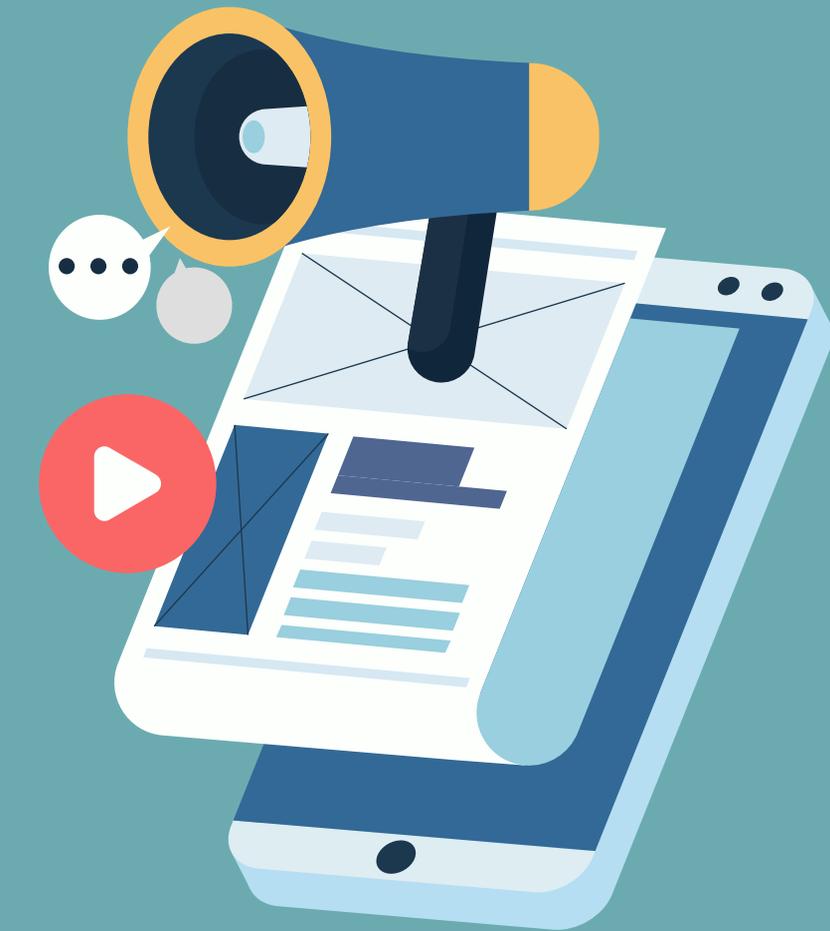
By James R. Coggins

I have noticed a disturbing trend in modern news media, particularly television news. It is a tendency to engage in something I would call “manufactured authoritativeness” or “contrived objectivity.” What I mean is the increasing use of statements such as the following in news stories.

Many news reports start with a statement such as “There is outrage over...” A careful analysis of the rest of the report often reveals that the “outrage” is mainly being expressed by the reporter or news anchor. This suggests that the reporter or news anchor is telling listeners to prejudge an event before they even hear what that event is. The reporter or news anchor is saying that the listeners should feel outrage over whatever it is that has happened. Of course, this means that the reporter or news anchor is not so much reporting the news as shaping and even making the news.

To be fair, reporters and news anchors might not be aware that they are doing this. They might simply assume that their own ideas are so obviously right that everyone—or at least “all right-thinking people”—will agree with them and be outraged.

Another often used statement in news reports is “There is a scandal...” “Scandal” is a vague word. It suggests that something very terrible has been done, so obviously terrible that it should be condemned outright without further thought or investigation. In fact, “scandal” implies that public opinion has already passed judgement on whatever has been done and so the details no longer matter. Those involved in a scandal have no recourse. Judgement has already been passed, the details don’t matter, and so there is no way for them to defend themselves. And yet the reporter and news anchor remain above reproach. They have not accused those involved of



committing any specific crime or immoral action. They have simply reported a “scandal,” that there is a vague feeling among the public that something wrong has been done.

A similar term often used by news reporters and anchors is “controversial”—a person or an action or an idea is labelled “controversial.” This doesn’t actually really mean much of anything. If someone else is opposed to a person, action, or idea, then, by definition, there is a controversy. “Controversy” is defined in the dictionary as “a discussion marked by the expression of opposing views”—from Latin words meaning “turned against.” By that definition, it is hard to imagine a person, action or idea that is not controversial. However, by labelling one person, action, or idea “controversial,” the reporter or news anchor is implying that the “controversy” is the fault of the person, action, or idea so labelled. Strangely, the opposing people, actions, and ideas are not labelled “controversial” even though the first person, action, or idea is opposed to them. The reporter or news anchor is telling listeners which people, actions, and ideas are wrong. And, of course, this means that the reporters and news anchors, their actions, and their ideas are right.

Sometimes news reporters and anchors are more straightforward. They say, “There is growing opposition to...” To prove it, they have done “investigative

• • • **Article Continued from page 17**

reporting,” gone looking, and found somebody who is opposed to whatever the story is about. By “growing,” what the reporter or news anchor really means is that he or she is using his or her position to try to increase the opposition.

Another frequently used phrase is “There is great anticipation/excitement for Joe Flibbertymus’s new album/movie/book/song/TV show.” What the reporter or news anchor really means is, “I have great excitement/anticipation for Joe Flibbertymus’s new work.”

Something similar happens when the news reports that someone or something is “being praised.” Indeed that person or thing is being praised—by the reporter or news anchor.

Finally, there is the phrase, “There is a lot of media buzz about...” Reporters and news anchors report this as if “the media” was something different from them. They are really reporting about themselves. If they were honest, they would say, “We in the media are buzzing about...”

One of the reasons I have noticed all of this is that my ideas are often different from those of many reporters and news anchors. Listening to the news

reports, I realize that I am not outraged, I am not opposed, but I am controversial. And I have never heard of Joe Flibbertymus.

It all reminds me of some words of wisdom spoken by that great Canadian philosopher Red Green, who said that things were better in the past: “In the old days, Walter Cronkite told us what happened. He didn’t tell us what to think about it.”

Personally, I was inoculated against such nonsense a long time ago. When I was in university, a fellow student (cynical, opportunistic, or manipulative, take your pick) explained how to work the academic system: “If you want to state something for which you have no evidence, just cite anonymous sources. Say ‘Research indicates...’ or ‘Studies show...’ or ‘Statistics demonstrate...’ If you say it with enough confidence and conviction, few people will question what you say, no matter how dubious your assertion.”

I guess many reporters and news anchors went to the same school. It is not a school I would recommend.



*James R. Coggins (www.coggins.ca) is a writer, editor and historian from Abbotsford, BC*

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# What's Online!

Stories, articles, columns and your letters appear online every single day. Visit often and enjoy all the content, including the items noted below!



## Podcasts

In addition to the podcasts that accompany the stories in print, we are regularly releasing interviews with guests, solo opinion pieces and general interest podcasts. Visit [abbotsfordtoday.ca](http://abbotsfordtoday.ca) and click on the Podcasts link.



## Entertainment

Find out what is going on in Abbotsford from entertainment at the Abbotsford Centre, to theatrical performances all across the Valley. Stay tuned for musical guests that will join us for a Podcast and watch for our future live streaming of events around the city.



## News

Get the in-depth facts on the stories in the news that effect your life. We cut through the headlines get to the real issues, in print, online, by podcast and live stream.



## Personalities

In our first 6 issues, we have 17 personalities from around Abbotsford ready to tell you their story. Read about local politics from the inside, find out what daily life with epilepsy is like, and discover the good work being done by local charities and service groups. Local newsmakers will be featured on the cover of our print editions and in the podcasts we post online!

# Next Issue

Our next issue is already in production and we've got lots of great articles ready for you. We dig deep into the issues that you need to know more about, including:



## Mystery Podcast Guest!

It was pretty exciting to have a mystery guest this month so we're going to do it again. However, this time we'll give you a hint. It is the Federal Election in October and so we'll be featuring a candidate running for office. Is there someone you'd like to hear from? Let us know!



## Federal Election - Part One

In our next issue, we'll examine the issues and stories behind the parties and the candidates in the upcoming Federal Election. This feature will carry over in to our October issue.



## Abbotsford Police

We promised a story on the policing and crime in Abbotsford, but we ran out of space this month. Watch for it in our next issue!



## Back to School

Really? It's that time again already? We have a back to school guide to help you survive the hectic rush to get them ready and get the kids back to school!

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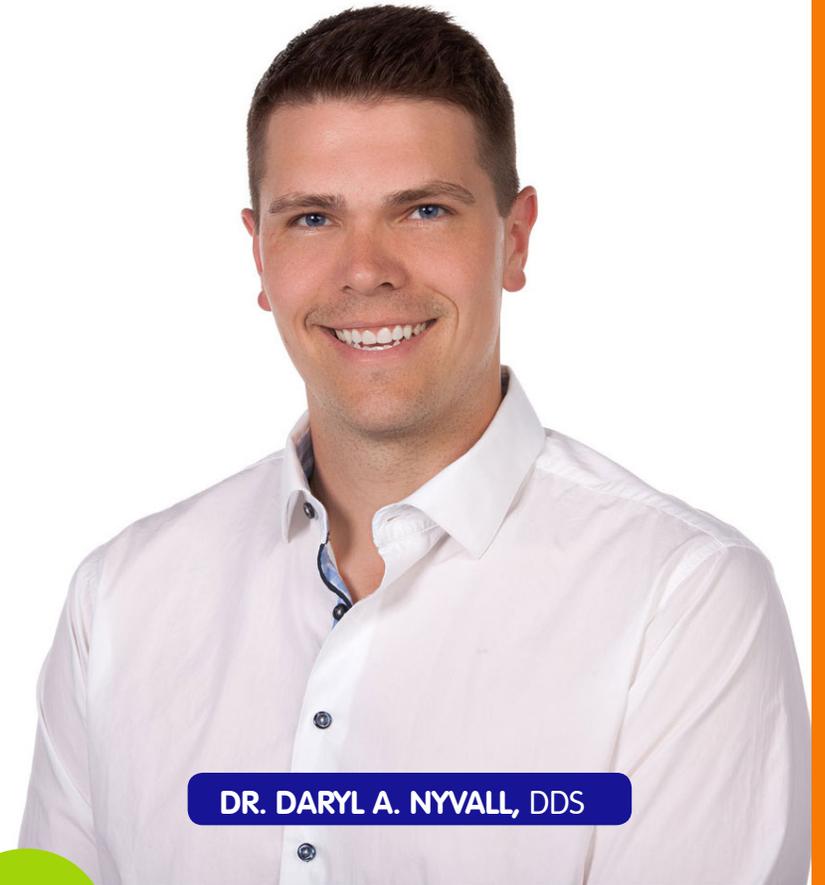


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