



Welcome to our Summer Edition!

(YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS BECAUSE YOU ARE A DEN~S.Y.C. "NEWS" SUBSCRIBER, A MEMBER OR PAST SUPPORTER.)

Thank you for your interest in the youth centre in our community!

NEW DEVELOPMENTS:

The Patio is mostly completed! Thanks to a grant from the Town of Sundre, a successful bottle drive, contributions by Home Hardware, Sundre Forest Products (West Frasier), carpenter Cal at West Horizon Repair & Contracting, and let's not forget our handy volunteer, Dan Sarty! IT LOOKS AMAZING

We have BIKE parking with a locally made bike rack donated by Clear Rush Co and Outkast Oilfield Supplies.AND the patio would not have happened without Sundre Contracting and Mark Crouch who gave the Den a great concrete pad poured last fall. Everyone can't wait to use it this summer!

Speaking of **Summer**.... Oh man, so much planned.

For the next 8 weeks, we welcome Jaydon Braybrook and Keyanna St.Dennis to **the Den team**, who will help staff "drop in" times, lead activities and lots of fun off site trips. These 2 positions are funded by Canada Summer Jobs grant. Everyone wants the Den to be open lots, so you may still see our awesome volunteers, but giving them a bit of a summer break before they gear up for the Fall.

The new Den-SYC **WEBSITE launched** recently and there you'll find schedules and events (Note: some may require registration). Check it out and keep in the LOOP! → www.thedensyc.org

FROM THE CANTEEN:

Cup of Soup *New | Freezies are only 50cents (the long ones!!)

All snacks and drinks remain \$1. And healthier options often available FREE (popcorn, granola bars and apples...) which by the way, the canteen loves donated apples!



FOR MEMBERS:

Congratulations to those youth members who have won some draws, more draws coming! Remember to pop down Tuesday, June 28 for BBQ lunch. (Gr. 7-12) – Schools officially out, grab a summer schedule, hang on the new patio with us...kick off summer! Woot woot

Join the Den at the Sundre parade, Sat. June 25th, we welcome all of you to walk, bike, rollerblade, skateboard with us. Meeting at 9:00 west of the Kings Motel! Let's make some noise and celebrate! (We heard there will be a free pancake breakfast by Friesens, and there will be a pizza party at the Den for all participants afterwards.)

BLOG FROM RUSS – PROGRAMS AND ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Movies Make Everything So Neat and Tidy

So last night I saw probably the best movie to come out, maybe ever! Sequels usually suck! Really. You can't name too many that have been even comparable to the first. But I'll make this exception. Maybe because it brings me back to such a great soundtrack of my youth. Maybe because of the speed and action. Maybe because there was finally a movie that was produced that did not need extreme vulgarity or sexual content or shock factor to actually keep the viewer interested. I know what you're thinking, "Russ, this movie doesn't exist!" Well, I'm here to tell you that this movie that I saw last night was everything I could have asked for. Clean enough to bring my kids to. High flying action. A great story line. Enough nostalgia from the original classic but enough ongoing story line to be a great movie on its own. What movie? The one the only Top Gun Maverick!

Ok, I've pumped it up enough and yes I really did enjoy it for all the above reasons. There was just one thing I didn't love. It hit me at the end when (spoiler alert!) they land the final plane, and everyone is around cheering like mad that Tom Cruise has once again saved the day. The party was on! He was the hero. I didn't even know yet that he was going to get the, daughter approved, girl who appears beside the beautiful, iconic Porsche 911 for the final kiss. "Take My Breathe Away" which was one of the songs missing from the sequel is what everybody was thinking by the end! A Hollywood ending that gave me shivers! So good. But so bad!



Why bad? It's amazing that in about two hours time we can discover all the problems, add more problems, overcome insurmountable obstacles, finally save the day, defeat every bad guy, have everyone cheer for you, get the girl, and drive off in a Porsche! All in two hours!

Meanwhile, life on the ground, outside of Hollywood seems more like an Amber Heard, Johnny Depp trial. Real life happens! Stuff sucks sometimes, especially compared to Hollywood! Problems may take months or years to overcome, not hours! We don't get our dream date at the end! We lose relationships! We drive off in a Honda or take the bus! There's no party! And then we still have to face the next day! Few moments in, real life get to drive our no helmet wearing motorcycle into the sunset! Sometimes it seems that our life just didn't work like it should have and is way more complicated than it should be. Living just doesn't match up to these great feats of Hollywood storytelling.

Even when we know that Hollywood is fake and just a story on paper, we want that!

We compare ourselves to others and so often find that we don't measure up.

It's hard.

So, what do we do?

I'll tell you what has helped me. Just maybe it will help you too. Redefine winning!

Maybe winning isn't having a party for saving the day, because maybe nobody noticed? Maybe saving the day isn't shooting down enemy aircraft and surviving a plane crash but maybe it's supporting a friend in need? Maybe having our problems persist over the course of months can entrench a lesson into us that problems overcome in hours could never have done? What if joy can be found in the small gifts of thankfulness and gratitude instead of the Porsche? Perhaps winning isn't having 100% of young people coming to the youth centre, but maybe a "win" is in the one kid that really needed a safe place or the 50 kids that come throughout the week. Maybe a win is having a place where people can be heard. Maybe a win is having a bad day but finding something to be thankful for. Maybe a win is finding a comfortability in knowing that a problem may persist and that it's ok.

So, when you go watch a great movie, I hope that you can enjoy the story, the soundtrack and all the drama but also that you can celebrate your moments and enjoy the process of working out your own story...