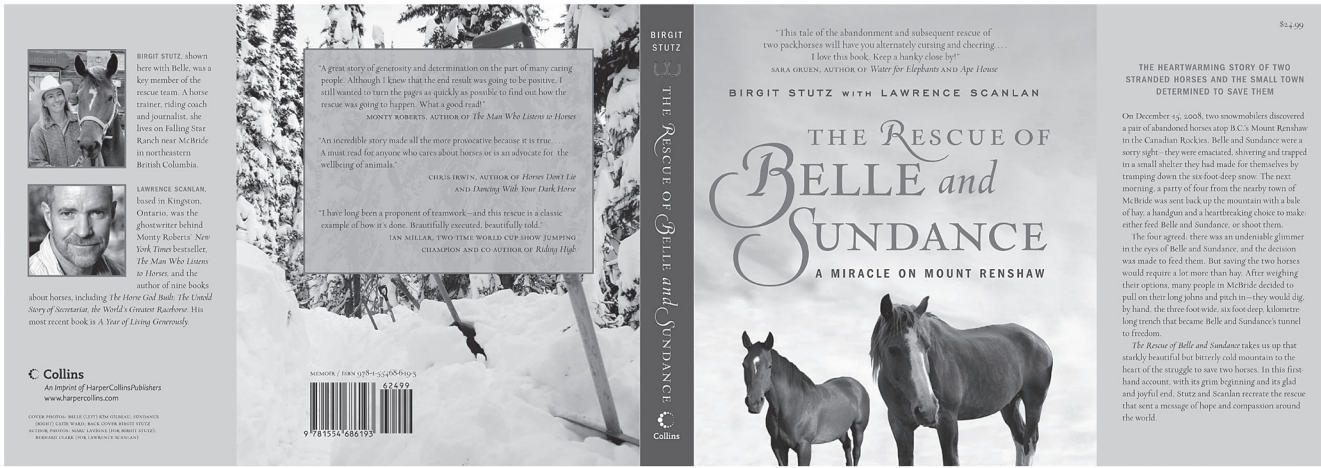


» COMMUNITY

Local author releases book on horse rescue



The official sleeve design for local author, Birgit Stutz's soon to be released book on the famous rescue operation of Belle and Sundance in December of 2008. The film rights have also been optioned, so watch for a movie to be in the works.

JOSHUA ESTABROOKS
EDITOR@THEVALLEYSSENTINEL.COM

Local resident, and journalist, Birgit Stutz, released her very first book this week. The book, which gives a first hand account of the internationally famous story of the rescue of two horses from the Renshaw in December of 2008, was published by Harper Collins, and will be available for purchase on November 16.

Stutz said she was first contacted by a literary agent three days after the successful rescue of the horses, but thought it was a joke. "It's a good thing I didn't throw out the e-mail. My husband Mark checked into it and said it is the largest agency in Canada, so I should get back to them. I did."

That fateful phone call began a two year long process of proposals, manuscripts, rewrites and interviews, said Stutz, who was teamed up with professional writer, Lawrence Scanlan to assist her in writing her very first book. "It's a lot different than writing stories for a newspaper," she said. "The story is told from my perspective, covering the whole ordeal as it happened and talking to the people involved."

Scanlan made a number of visits to the Valley to help gather material, said Stutz, and she kept in

touch with her agent and the publishing company through what seemed like a million teleconferences. "There was a lot of back and forth. They were all really good at answering my questions about every part of the process."

The 208-page book was endorsed by a number of icons in the industry, including Ian Miller (Two time world cup show jumping champion), Chris Irwin (author of *Horses Don't Lie*), Monty Roberts (author of *The Man Who Listens to Horses*) and Sara Gruen (author of *Water for Elephants and Ape House*).

Stutz said she would never have believed that she would be writing a book about the horse rescue when she went out that fateful morning with a bale of hay and a handgun to decide whether to feed the trapped, dying horses or shoot them. "I am still amazed at how this all evolved. From the sadness and helplessness that we felt when we found out about these two horses, and wanting to help and not knowing how, to this. It's beyond anything I could ever have imagined. Just the media coverage, how it took off, was just crazy. I still get e-mails and letters about the horse rescue and it's been two years. The story is still alive, and I am privileged to have been able to re-

cord this story forever." The story is a tale of community, more than anything, said Stutz, and how you can accomplish anything by working together. "It's about the community rallying for a common cause. That's why the book isn't just for people who like horses, it is for animal lovers in general but also people who want to read a good story about a compassionate community and how you can accomplish big things by just working towards a common goal."

Stutz thanks everyone who shared their stories with her, as without them, the book would not have come to be. "I'm just excited to see it in its physical form." The film rights of the book have also been optioned by Big Coat Productions, a Gemini award winning production company out of Toronto, which means they have a period of time to try to develop the story into a movie.

The book will be available locally, at the McBride Visitor Information Centre, The McBride Trading Company and the Farm Store, in McBride, The Gathering Tree in Valemount, Bearfoot-in-the-Park in Jasper, and the Dunster General Store. It will also be available through Chapters and Amazon as well, but Stutz hopes that

residents of the Valley will choose to support her local distributors first.

Stutz will be holding book readings/signings throughout November and December. So far the dates are: Valemount Secondary School Book Fair, November 14 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., McBride Trading Company, November 26 from 1:00 – 3:00 and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., and The Gathering Tree in Valemount, December 3 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sappho's song: Come Together

O Canada, God Save the Queen
This land is my land from sea to sea
America, home of the brave, land of the free
Deutschland uber alles, was ist das, our battle cry
Jerusalem, kingdom of heaven
Islamabad, why don't we know why

chorus:
If we all come together we can do it
Fighting against one another we can't
If we all come together we can realize our dreams
Come together now that's what that means

New York City, Los Angeles
Wall Street, Hollywood, Huntington Beach
Radio City, Broadway, Movies, Network T.V.
Lady Gaga, Paparazzi
I Kissed a Girl, Madonna's Fantasies
Gay, Straight
Twilight's True Blood Vampire Diaries

chorus: If we all come together

Bridge: Yeah somewhere's always over that rainbow
rainbows, flowers, children happy children
pot of gold girls, boys, toys, joys untold

O Lesbos, my sweet Mytilene
My home is where my heart has always been
Sicily, my time in exile, with my dreams
Atlas, last chance Atlantis
I can almost see your crystal shores
If we just go with the flow, ride with the tide
We can reach true love forevermore

chorus: If we all come together

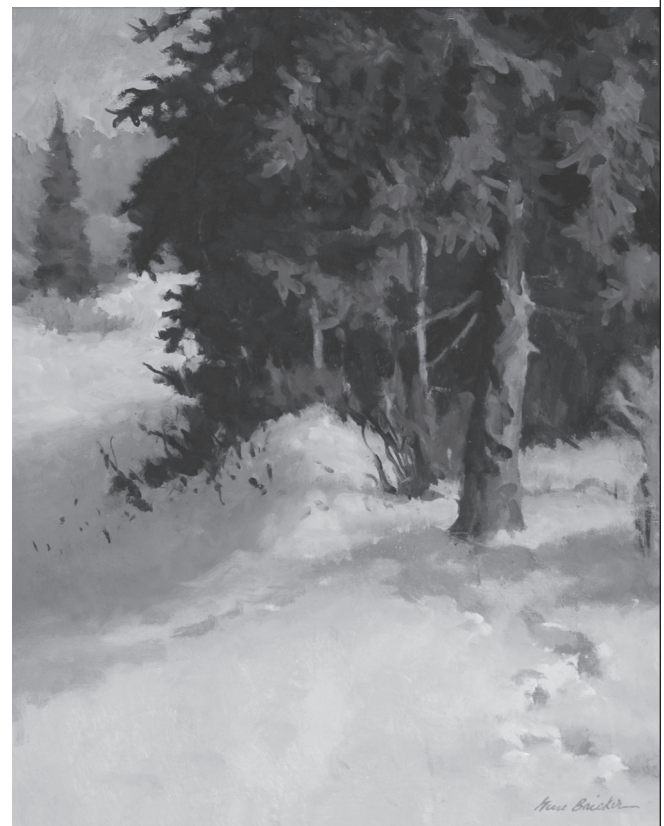
A Northern Season Recent Paintings by Gene Bricker

Organized & circulated by Two Rivers Gallery

**McBride Valley
Museum
& Archives**

241 Dominion Street
McBride
November 3 – 30
2010

**Opening Reception
& Guided Tour
of the Exhibition:
Wed, Nov 3: 7 p.m.**



Gene Bricker, *Winter Solitude*, 2009. Oil paint on canvas.

For more information please contact
McBride Valley Museum & Archives at
250-569-2503



Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Scott's INN
RESTAURANT HOT TUB INDOOR POOL

Quiet Quality Comfort FOR LESS!

Licensed family restaurant • Home cooked meals
FREE Wireless Internet • FREE Continental breakfast
Close to casino, hospital, shopping and arena
551 - 11th Ave. & Columbia St. Downtown Kamloops

TOLL FREE 1.800.665.3343

www.scottsinn.kamloops.com • email:scottsinn@kamloops.com

ROOMS
\$69⁹⁵
Plus Taxes

PLUS
Free Continental Breakfast
or 10% OFF Full Breakfast
7 - 10 am

1 Queen Bed, Single/DBL occupancy. Must present coupon.
Coupon expires March 15, 2011