



**WORKING TOGETHER**



**LONE BUTTE ROCKS:** The drive-in at Lone Butte on July 11 will be next to the community hall, and offer room for 50 cars. A blow-up movie screen, brought in by a Surrey company, will be at the far end of the field, in front of the trees.

# COVID spurs two drive-ins

A fascinating spinoff from the pandemic is that not one, but two drive-in movie theatres are cropping up in the Cariboo.

At Interlakes, Boondocks Restaurant owner Sandi Sillito had to shift to takeout only, so used her extra time to recreate her fond childhood memory of a drive-in.

With materials and labour donated by the community, the drive-in has been running family films, by donation, on Friday and Saturday nights since May.

Twenty kilometres away, the Lone Butte Horse Lake Community Association is planning a free pop-up drive-in theatre in place of its annual celebration on July 11.

“Lone Butte Rocks” will be fund-



“Shrek” was playing last weekend at the Interlakes drive-in.

ed through gaming grants, says volunteer Heidi Meier, and is a fun event for all ages, while respecting the social distancing required by health authorities.

“Onward” starts at dusk, around 9:30 p.m. There is still room to sign up for a parking spot by calling 250-706-1476 or via the community association’s Facebook page.

## Change the new norm

In addition to changing the rest of the world, the pandemic has changed how my offices in Kamloops, 100 Mile House and Ottawa operate.

We quickly evolved from asking constituents whether they had travelled recently or had a cough, to halting in-person meetings, setting up home offices and holding daily staff Zoom meetings.

But our work didn’t stop; in fact, the volume of requests for help became extraordinary.

Our first wave was frantic pleas from people stuck in foreign countries trying to get home. Repatriating hundreds of travelers took round-the-clock efforts with countless calls to Global Affairs and CBSA.

The next wave was people who had lost their jobs wondering if they were eligible for EI or the newly-created CERB.

Then Service Canada closed its doors to the public, so more people turned to us for help.

Business support programs were launched, plus top-ups for parents, the disabled and seniors. Change became the norm.

And now, as businesses begin to reopen, so are we, by appointment, with modifications for everyone’s health and safety.