

The 2023/2024 season was the first season where musicians toured again in-person, post-covid. The Home Routes Head Office (Leonard and Cathy) did a very good job of providing the Southern Okanagan region with a diversity of musicians and a high level of talent. During the season we had 6 concerts between September and May. Attendance was consistently between 24-30 people with tickets priced at \$20. This generated approximately \$3400 in ticket revenue (not to mention merchandise which was sold at each concert) to the musicians travelling through on the route. (In most of the other communities, ticket prices were at \$25 but I was able to bring understanding to the economic challenges Merritt has had in the last 4 years with natural disasters and the impact the mill shut downs have had. We have managed to keep ticket sales at \$20 again this year).

We are extremely grateful for the support of the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council as 3 of those shows were held at the Art Gallery's program space, with the break time being in the gallery itself, which allowed more exposure to not only the gallery but also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about what the Arts Council provides in the community and programs offered. In addition, the NVCAC also provided coffee and tea, sound equipment and the chairs we needed even if the shows were off-site. Without these supports, as well as the moral support by President Mischelle, Treasurer Barb, sound techs Denise and Amrit, Social Media person Kerstin who included the promotional information in the NVCAC newsletter and on social media, as well as other members of the council (volunteers/artists) who helped set up, trying to keep the Home Routes series going single-handedly would have been extremely overwhelming for me.

Home Routes Merritt is extremely thankful for the support the NVCAC is affording us in the 2024/2025 season as well.

Thank you for all you do to promote arts and culture in our community!

Warmest regards,  
Merritt Home Routes,  
(Sandy Labermeyer)