The Valley VOICE
Free!
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"Your independently-owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

Basin residents ask CBT board to improve communications

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust board went into its 10th Anniversary Symposium in Cranbrook July 8-10 looking for some very specific direction from Basin residents on the Trust's many programs and activities. What it came out with was a clear message that it had left the people behind.

Although the board tried to bring the approximately 250 residents in attendance up to speed on its programs through Powerpoint presentations, resident after resident approached the mic to say that it was very difficult to catch up on it all in a weekend when the last symposium was in 1997.

While acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the board, and also that communication was a huge challenge for any organization, residents clearly identified communication as the number one priority for the board, followed closely by accountability and transparency.

Many felt that accountability had shifted to the government and away from the people, and chalked that up to the changes the Liberal government made to the board's structure as a result of Core Review. Many expressed concern that the board was straying from the Management Plan by focusing too much on economic and not enough on social benefits for the region. The suggestion many made was for the board to focus on communication and policy setting rather than on day-to-day operations.

Nelson/Creston MLA Corky Evans spoke as an 'elder' of the CBT, as he was involved in creating the Trust. He said that what the Trust was going through at this stage in its development was entirely normal — but different because it was being done publicly. He warned of the danger of the directors' direct involvement in spending, granting and investment decisions, and advocated for the board to set policy for staff, volunteers and delivery agents to follow.

One of the things the board wanted residents' input on was the Option Agreement, which gives CBTE (the subsidiary that deals with the power assets) the option to purchase the assets of the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC). Having just gone through public meetings where CBT was considering selling the power assets to BC Hydro, some residents felt the board was doing a 180° turn in wanting to buy them. However, it turns out that the Option Agreement has been around since 2001. Exercising the agreement would, in the long term, double CBT's income from the power projects. Immediately, however, it would double CBT's liability, which it shares equally with CPC at the moment.

A resolution was made from the floor on Sunday "that the CBT board, in partnership with the Regional Districts and the K'tunaxa Tribal Council, facilitate an independent review of the Option Agreement and report back to the Basin residents before any decision is made."

A vote showed clearly that residents were in support of this — not one person voted against it. The board brought the resolution to the AGM immediately after the symposium on Sunday, and it was passed.

By way of explanation for the "long period of drought of information from the board," board Vice Chair Garry Merckel said, "We got lost in the Core Review and the consideration of the sale of the power assets to BC Hydro."

This led to discussion on the relationship between the government and CBT. During the November 2004 public meetings around the sale of the power assets to BC Hydro, most residents were made aware that the CBT wanted independence from the government. The upshot of this at the symposium was the need to define 'independence.' Symposium Chair Bruce Fraser summarized residents' questions on this: "Is independence about benefits? Is it about autonomy and control of the money? Control of the water? Is it about the credibility of the people in the Basin?"

In their concluding remarks, both Merckel and board Chair Josh Smienk showed that they had heard the residents. Holding up a binder with the results of all the symposia before, Smienk described it and the Columbia Basin Management Plan as "incredibly important documents" and said that an independent organization would compile the 2005 Symposium report, to be added to the binder. He apologized for the lack of communication, saying the board had been "incredibly tied up." He encouraged residents to "keep us honest, working in the direction you've given us, keep us accountable. The board will take this very seriously."

CBT's relationship with government

- CBT is a crown corporation because its assets are on the government's books.
- Unlike other crown corporations, it was created by an Act of legislation.
- CBT Act contains service plans and measurements for accountability.
- Since the Liberal government's Core Review process, which resulted in the Columbia Basin Trust Amendment Act, the CBT has had to report just like any other crown corporation. Trying to make its regional priorities fit with government's priorities has taken a lot of the board's time.
- CBT Amendment Act drops number of board members from 18 to 12. All board members are appointed by the Province under the Act, whereas only 1/3 were government appointed previously.

Option Agreement

- Original expiry date was July 31 - extended to November 30.
- Gives the CBTE the option to purchase the assets of the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC).
- CPC, along with its staff, becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of the CBT.
- Agreement provides for vendor financing - the government would loan CBTE the money to purchase the shares of CPC.
- Payments on the loan until 2020 would be 50% of the income from the power projects, the same as CPC's share now. CBT would still be receiving its 50%.
- After 2020, CBTE would have to pay at least the interest on the remaining principal and would have to pay off the loan in 2030.
- CPC board chair Lee Downey, at the CBT Symposium, advised residents to ask themselves: Do you want to stay in the power business? Do you want ownership of the power assets? If so, favour the Option Agreement. Do you want to protect the income stream? If so, negotiate for a higher percentage of the power income.
- CBT board will report back to Basin residents with results of an independent review of the Agreement before any decision is made.

The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) is putting together a teaching kit for a water stewardship education program for all schools in the Columbia Basin for the fall. The highlight of the kit is this three-dimensional model of the Basin, made by Silverton's own "Dr. Glue," a.k.a. Michael Dorsey. Judy Gadicke of Osprey Educational Consulting Services, which is developing all other materials, spoke about the project at the CBT Symposium. This model and the one Dorsey did of the Brilliant Expansion Project were on display at the symposium.

Long John the pirate remonstrates with his willful niece, Silver, in the ALYS Drama School's production "Silver."

John & Bay Herrmann's garden in Hills was one of the stops on the Slocan Lake Garden Tour, July 10.

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Slocan Riverwatch well underway

by Moe Lyons

SLOCAN VALLEY—Summer on the river will be much less messy and a whole lot safer this year, and you can be a part of it.

An active group now calling itself "Riverwatch" is inviting you to join them to raise consciousness about safety issues and litter problems on the Slocan River. At a meeting on Wednesday, July 13, the group approved a logo design and poster campaign to encourage people to "Keep our river alive ~ Keep yourself alive!"

Watch for the posters, designed and produced on a volunteer basis by Sonya Parfiniuk, soon be at all commercial and recreational outlets in the lower Slocan Valley. The initial run of signs will depict the river's surface, and then the snags and garbage that lie underneath, with the question: "Do you know what's under the surface?" The next posters will have a description of some of the hazards of running the river, with a colour code: green for safe, blue for be careful, black for dangerous.

Don Munro, Regional District Area H Director, has arranged for three bear-proof garbage cans to be placed along the river at Passmore, Crescent Valley and probably Slocan Park. He will approach Area I about getting another disposal unit for Shoreacres. Ben Legebokoff is negotiating yet another garbage extraction site, a wharf to be placed near Slocan Park, where people will be able to drop their litter off without even having to get out of the river.

The Rec Commission is arranging to have 100 mesh bags created for a trial run. These will be purchased outright or returned as part of the deposit system for tubes, which will be rented this year by the Spokes bike repair and collectibles shop in downtown Slocan Park.

Some concerns were expressed that the sale of these bags would encourage drunkenness on the river. The general feeling of the meeting was that their main function would be to keep garbage of all kinds out of the river, especially plastic bags, cans and bottles. "As far as drunkenness goes," said meeting moderator Derek Murphy, "the RCMP have informed us that they are watching the river very closely for people drinking excessively, and they want to put this message across loud and clear. People need to realize they're watching."

Plans are also underway for the construction of kiosks with large maps of the river. The map committee is negotiating with Columbia Power Corporation for help with these big displays, as CPC has expressed an interest in drawing attention to the fish enhancement structures the corporation recently placed in the river.

These maps and other signage will be placed at access/launching points, and will eventually be colour-coded for danger. The maps will indicate kilometrage, Mile 0 being Shoreacres, and will correspond to signs placed all along the river. Legebokoff was given the go-ahead by the meeting to purchase the kilometrage signs, and various Search and Rescue persons agreed to place them.

The Riverwatch idea, an exciting citizen-driven initiative, is going full speed ahead, accomplishing vast amounts in a very short period of time. Of course, lots of volunteer energy is needed, both to get the message out and to help with construction and ongoing maintenance. If you love our river and want to help, call the Rec Commission at 226-0008 and Craig will be delighted to sign you up.

NDP proposes Pine Beetle committee

submitted

The NDP has put forward a proposal for government that will allow the Legislative Assembly to examine the economic impacts of the pine beetle epidemic and develop a comprehensive strategy for aid and economic development, said Opposition House Leader Mike Farnworth on July 14.

"With a new legislative session about to begin, the NDP Opposition Caucus is proposing the creation of a special committee of the Legislative Assembly to examine the economic issues associated with the epidemic," said Farnworth. "The committee would empower MLAs from both sides to collect and bring forward community perspectives and ideas to properly inform the development of a workable strategic plan."

NDP Forests and Range critic Bob Simpson identified the urgent need for the committee.

"In recent weeks, it has become clear that the federal government is not prepared to sign an aid package for communities impacted by the epidemic because the BC government has not produced a comprehensive plan," said Simpson. "To date, the province has not been able to put forward a long-term strategy that adequately addresses the economic impact on forest-dependent communities.

"BC needs a workable strategic plan for Interior and Northern communities that considers silviculture, forest health and economic development and diversification in place as soon as possible," said Simpson. "A special committee will serve as a valuable tool for British Columbians and provide an excellent venue for policy development away from the partisan environment of the Legislature."

Mike Farnworth and Bob Simpson have written the Forests and Range Minister as well as the Government House Leader asking them for their support to create the committee.

Brochure on invasive weeds comes out in the fall

BC Hydro has contributed $8,000 to the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) for the production of a brochure as part of a public education program planned by the committee.

"Invasive non-native plants in the area are impacting biodiversity, wildlife habitat and agricultural values," said CKIPC Coordinator, Juliet Craig. "By raising awareness about these species, we can help prevent their further introduction and spread. We are very pleased to have BC Hydro's support for the development of a brochure that will help the public identify local weeds."

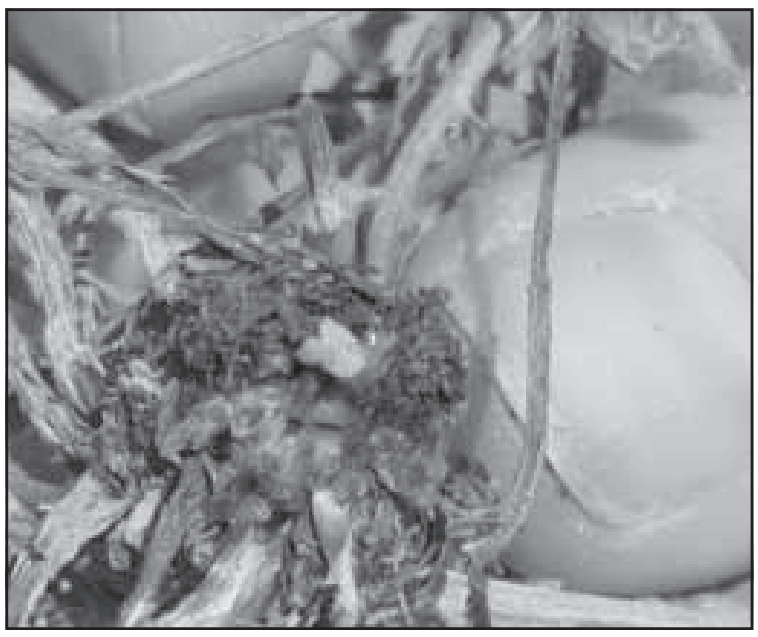

PHOTO CREDIT: BC HYDRO

The larva in the centre of the photo is Cyphocleonus achates, a root-attacking weevil. It feeds only on the knapweed plant, weakening its ability to store nutrients and water, and exposing the root to fungal attack. It is one of several methods used to control the spread of invasive non-native weeds in the region.

The brochure is under development and will feature 10 of the most common invasive plants in the region. The brochure will be ready by fall 2005 and at least 10,000 copies will be printed.

"We are always looking for effective ways to manage problem plants and protect the environment," said BC Hydro Environmental Technical specialist, Dean den Biesen. "We co-operate in provincial noxious weed control programs that use specialized insects that selectively feed on the reproductive and rooting systems of plants such as Diffuse and Spotted knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, and Hound's-tongue."

BC Hydro's goal is to create sustainable communities of low-growing native plants that require minimal maintenance in order to continue to provide electricity to BC residents safely, reliably and cost-effectively. For more information on the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, contact Juliet Craig at 250 352-1160. For more information on BC Hydro's vegetation management program contact Dean den Biesen at 250 365-4563, or visit www.bchydro.com/safety.

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- The Chamber wants to act as a co-ordinating body for local groups' efforts.
- Any ideas for a fall event to make the Garlic Festival part of a bigger valley splash?

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YRB responds to complaints about road maintenance

by Jan McMurray

After hearing complaints about the shape of some of our roads, *The Valley Voice* contacted YRB, the area's road maintenance contractor.

Highway 31A from New Denver to Kaslo, a very popular road for a scenic drive, especially among motorcyclists, had loose gravel on it during the Canada Day long weekend. Some motorcyclists reported that the loose gravel made riding on the road very dangerous.

Bob Kinnear, Road Superintendent, New Denver, explained that the loose gravel was part of the spray patching done to seal alligator cracks in the road. This patching involves a mixture of oil and very fine gravel, like pea gravel, which sets within a half hour. Any loose bits left over should clear the road naturally within a couple of days, Kinnear said. Kinnear, a motorcyclist himself, says he follows the speed limit and has no problem whatsoever on Highway 31A.

YRB General Manager Kevin Higgins described the Retallack to Kaslo section of Highway 31A as "probably one of the worst sections of highway in the area from a surface point of view." He says it is on the list for resurfacing and hopes it will be done "in the next few years."

Some Fauquier residents blamed the early July flooding of homes on a drainage problem with a ditch on Spruce Street. Higgins says this ditch and culvert system "needs a good review." On the day the homes flooded, there was intense rain. Higgins says the culverts were flowing to capacity, so no matter what the condition of the ditch, the system could not handle the volume of water. He admitted that the ditch has been overgrown over the last couple of years. "We are looking at it with the Ministry to see if there's a way to increase the capacity of the system."

Yet another complaint has been that the weeds are so tall at the sides of the road that visibility is reduced — a concern especially when watching for deer. To make matters worse, this season's weather has provided ideal growing conditions. Higgins explained that there is a requirement to cut the vegetation once a year on most of the roadsides in the area. The mowing equipment moves around the area starting in mid-May, and it takes road crews until the end of August to complete. The Arrow Lakes area will be done by the end of July, Higgins said, but it will be into August before the Slocan Valley and Kaslo area are done.

Lenora Trenaman, DPAC president, recognizes Bev Hosker Motivational Award winner Paula Neglia at a recent meeting.

Local parent wins provincial award

submitted

Paula Neglia, a parent with two sons attending WE Graham school in Slocan, was awarded the Bev Hosker Motivational Award from the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC). This award was established in 2004 to honour Hosker, a former BCCPAC board member and advocate for parents and students in BC's public education system. The award is given to a parent who is newly involved in his or her Parent Advisory Council (PAC) or District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC).

Paula has brought a spark of life to the PAC that the group hadn't seen in a while. Parent participation was low, and Paula succeeded in interesting parents in PAC activities and issues to a greater degree than anyone thought possible. Right away, Paula volunteered to be the DPAC representative, a position that had been vacant for a number of years.

She serves on the School Planning Council (SPC), volunteers in the primary classroom, and organizes school-wide events. She has almost daily informal contact with teachers, and relays their ideas and concerns to the PAC, at the same time injecting her own energy and creativity into realizing those ideas and resolving concerns. Above all, Paula inspires others. Said a fellow PAC member, "She approaches every problem as a challenge to be met. Her creativity, energy, and optimism are boundless and irresistible."

She cares deeply about community and school interaction, and is working on plans for mentoring, "grandfriends," and exposing students to the exciting possibilities of the larger world through outdoor education.

Lenora Trenaman, President of the Kootenay Lake DPAC, had the honor of accepting the Bev Hosker Motivational Award on Paula's behalf at the BCCPAC's spring conference and AGM in May of this year. Paula was recognized at DPAC's final meeting of this school year, and was officially presented her award at the WE Graham awards day on June 29.

RDCK promotes reusable shopping bags

by Jan McMurray

Many of the stores in our communities have joined the RDCK's One Bag at a Time reusable shopping bag event. The program sends the message to shop with bags that are not plastic.

During the entire month of July, customers shopping with reusable bags at participating stores will have a chance to win prizes, including Bazura Bags, vinyl bags made locally by Pigeon Toe Designs in Kaslo, gift certificates, gift baskets, T-shirts, hardware and summer toys and more.

This event fits in with the RDCK's commitment to minimize waste. "Both the recent Trash to Treasure event and this one are ways to draw people's attention to waste reduction," said Ron Mickel of the RDCK.

Plastic bags may cost less, but they place a heavy burden on the environment. They are derived from high density polyethylene, made from petroleum products. Although they are recyclable, it is estimated that only 0.6% of all plastic bags are returned for recycling. High density polyethylene bags are not bio-degradable and are the most common wind-borne item found around landfills. Plastic bags litter ditches, waterways, lakes and parks and they are dangerous to wildlife.

Mickel also said that plastic bags are very costly to retailers and that the RDCK was happy to get them a good price on canvas bags. Ten of the approximately 50 participating stores are carrying quality canvas bags at $3.50 apiece.

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Stoked and Glazed is an eclectic showcase of the work of Slocan Valley Potters: Robin Dupont, Lance Hall, Michelle Lemire, Lisa Martin and Pamela Nagley Stevenson, with guest potter Susanne Ashmore of Wasa, BC and guest painter Tsuneko Kokubo of Silverton, BC. We welcome all to our first annual show and sale, a great celebration of diverse and spirited Kootenay artists. Admission is free. Demonstrations of pottery making techniques will also be held at scheduled times both Saturday and Sunday on the porch of the Slocan Park Hall beside the Coop. See you there! Bring a friend!

SAVE MOUNTAIN CARIBOU
Join the research camp and expedition to bring public awareness to the destruction of the Mountain Caribou.
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Join us today!
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(Workshops start in mid July).
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250-354-4482 tomprior@telus.net

Voices from the Valleys

Pavilion residents enjoy concert

Once again I am writing to your paper to tell your readers that on June 26, we had the Slocan Valley Band at 2 pm, held on the Pavilion verandah. The music was out of this world. There were about 30 of the Pavilion residents that attended, as well as visitors, and we all had a snack. Some of the residents played along with the band with percussion instruments the band supplied. We all really enjoyed it.

Ann Mott
New Denver

ATV club members enjoy area

Recently the Revelstoke ATV Club spent five days in Slocan on a club ATV outing. We all stayed at the Springer Creek Campground where we were very well received. The facilities were excellent as was the hospitiality throughout the community.

We toured several areas including the Bannock Creek road, the road over the summit to the Arrow Lakes and to the Little Tim Mine area. Many of the members are planning return trips — there are many more areas we want to explore.

A note of interest: 20 members spent in excess of $1400 in Slocan over the five days they stayed in the village. This included camping fees, fuel for both quads and vehicles and food. We hope this illustrates the benefits of motorized recreation in this area and that it may help in the ongoing negotiations towards the sharing of all trails to both motorized and non-motorized users.

We will be back!

Ron LaRoy
Tom Dickson
Ed Jaatteenmaki
Revelstoke ATV Club

Hwy 31A far from dead

In reply to Doc Spanner's editorial of July 6, l would like to give my opinion to his "road unsafe for motorcycle traffic" article. l have ridden many miles on my vintage Honda Goldwing on roads of varying conditions. Some were smooth and well paved while others no more than old logging roads. ln all cases l rode with a combination of due care and attention along with my riding skill. Yes l've had some close calls, but most caused by my own personal misjudgement.

Admittedly Hwy 31A could be in better repair in some areas, but in my humble opinion it is far from "dead." As is the case with many of today's motor vehicle operators, some motorcyclists skill levels are not nearly as proficient as they should be. ln any case those motorcycle operators who would find the road between Kaslo and New Denver unfit might want to consider adding a side car or just sticking to driving their cars.

And Doc! Maybe you might want to rent a copy of the foreign film "Motorcycle Diaries" if you really want to see bad road conditions. Come on! Riding a motorcycle is supposed to be an adventure with unknown weather and road conditions affecting your trip.

M. Zimmerman
Kaslo

Favours alternate energy as focus for CBT

If wealth is money (energy) circulating and passing through many hands in the local communities, then the Columbia Basin Trust Fund (CBT) which has made $27.5 million flow through our basin region in the last ten years, has great potential as a wealth sharing vehicle.

What I heard at the Cranbrook CBT symposium on July 8 to 10 is that it is time to decide which vehicles or structures can take us into a future of well-being for all our residents. What do we want?

As I understand it, CBT and the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) are both crown corporations and under provincial government control. How can we make sure this power generating capacity and money flow serve us best, and are under local and regional control? I personally favour the creation of a social enterprise (a hybrid business model) owned by the residents where the considerable assets (including capital and skills both practical and managerial) of CPC are put to work to research and develop micro-region alternate energy sources so that "self-reliance" rather than "independence" is the goal on an individual, community and regional level.

The main point of the symposium was input from citizens. If you weren't able to be there, send in your contributions to local offices or www.cbt.org. I came away from the symposium very impressed by our collective wisdom.

When we speak our truth, we are empowered to live it. The Columbia Basin Trust Fund is worth the effort!

Laverne Booth
Winlaw

Silversmith Power working to improve penstock

Recently a small washout occurred on the Cody road due partially to a leak on the Silversmith hydro penstock which I maintain. This, together with torrential rain and the installation by Highways of a new ditch on the road without any culverts, caused water to pool up on the inside edge of the road. It spilled over the bank causing a small amount of damage to the edge of the road.

I would like personally to thank Ted Reitmeier for bringing this situation to my attention. By alerting me, we were able to avert a larger washout. I regret that I didn't know about it sooner so that damage could have been averted altogether. I would also like to thank YRB for assisting in repairs to the road.

What a shame that this small incident is being used by a group of people to lobby against us to see the Silversmith powerhouse shut down. Wouldn't it be great if these people could use their time and efforts in a positive, constructive way? I know we would much rather be working on the pipeline than having to deal with the roadblocks they have caused. The amount of extra work it creates for us, and all the time government officials have to spend dealing with these nuisance complaints, is so needless. It's a waste of our time and resources, and a waste of my tax dollars and yours.

My family has worked hard to make Silversmith a viable enterprise and to preserve the historic powerhouse for the enjoyment of future generations. It has been a source of great pride to us that Silversmith obtained "green power" certification for its operation. We are very conscious of environmental and safety concerns and we are replacing the old penstock in a better, safer location with vastly superior pipe. We plan to leave as much of the historic pipeline as possible intact for the enjoyment and education of the public. Our work has been praised by industry colleagues and Ministry officials.

I was born and raised in Sandon. My family has taken an active role in the maintenance of the Cody road and the Silversmith pipeline for over 30 years, and during this time there hasn't been another situation like this. It is soul-destroying that some people are trying so hard to see the plant shut down. If their concern truly is the age of the pipe and its condition rather than a personal grudge against my family, these people should be encouraging us to get the work completed rather than throwing roadblocks in the way. Unfortunately I believe their real objective is to bankrupt us and remove my family from Sandon. What a waste.

Andrew Wright
Sandon

Thrilled to be seizing power in Sandon

It's refreshing to find that after 80 some years of my aimlessly lolly-gagging about, Mr. Wright has determined that my goal in life is "to seek control of Sandon for personal gratification." Whoopee!!! Today Sandon — tomorrow the world.

There is no reason to take up good column inches lathering on in reply to Mr. Wright's many accusations. If anyone is that interested, the Sandon Historical Society has on file all the communication regarding these matters and they are public information.

Without doubt Mr. Wright et al have done a great deal on the Sandon site. But what he overlooks in his list of his accomplishments is the very ready and energetic hours of labour (physical and otherwise) contributed by innumerable volunteers. How sad that many of these devoted and eager people, generally stable and rational types, found that Mr. Wright was impossible to work with and quit the field in disgust. This is again a matter of record, if anyone cares.

Mr. Wright's list of achievements on the Sandon site overlooks the fact that many of his projects remain unfinished or badly thought out to begin with. We have a museum building without water or septic (thus no fire protection); two derelict buildings, part of a grand plan supported by Mr. Wright which are now white elephants; a heritage building, purchased from SHS for one dollar, stands painted 2/3 baby bottom pink and unfinished and has been that way for the past 8 years plus; a hydro plant with an intake pipe in such poor maintenance that seeping water has caused erosion; and land holdings that can only be described as unsightly.

As to the Wrights being persona non grata with the SHS, a clause in the SHS constitution, designed at Mr. Wright's behest several years previous, allowed for removal of membership for those deemed by the members to be not in good standing. Mr. Wright employed the same clause when he removed Mrs. Nancy Anderson from membership in SHS several years ago.

I believe the Society still stands ready to discuss any and all differences in a civilized and non-adversial mode, but since we haven't heard from Mr. Wright (except in the public forum of the letters column), one can only conclude that such a process is not attractive to him.

Lorna Obermayr
New Denver

Hwy 31A almost dead

I enjoyed Doc Spanner's column in the July 6 edition of *The Valley Voice*. After having lived in Kaslo for 57 years (almost) and riding motorcycles for 40, I know what he is saying about Highway 3lA. It is a poor road no matter what you are travelling in, but still a fun and scenic drive. As a YRB employee here in Kaslo I get to see it from another perspective too. My workmates and I get to spend countless hours patching and re-patching holes season after season. We know we will be back in a week, a month or two, to re-do what we have done countless times before. We can only laugh at what we are doing — what a waste of time and tax money. But this is what the Ministry of Transportation wants.

Everyone knows this road was never built properly years ago and that there is no base to it. Yeah, the road is almost dead and we get sent out to put band-aids on it. I heard a rumour a couple of years ago about a big wheel from the Ministry of Transportation driving between New Denver and Kaslo. He was heard to say, "So, what's wrong with this road?" It's too bad somebody from the Ministry doesn't have the jam to tell Victoria that this road is worn out. I wonder what happened to all the tax that was collected from the thousands of loads of logs that were hauled over this road throughout the years. I guess it is probably going to build the road to Whistler.

Apparently you stirred thing up a little with your column, Doc. I heard we may be out on the road soon to fix things up. I'm sure the road will be just fine as soon as we apply another band-aid. Maybe when I win the 649 I will fix the road myself, then you will see a road fit for a motorcycle.

John Allen
Kaslo

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of interest to our readers. All letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number.

We will not publish anonymous letters, nor may you use a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances. We will not knowingly publish any letter which is defamatory or libellous.

Please type your letter, and e-mail it if possible. Many handwritten letters are impossible to read. Any letter may be edited for brevity.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Valley Voice*.

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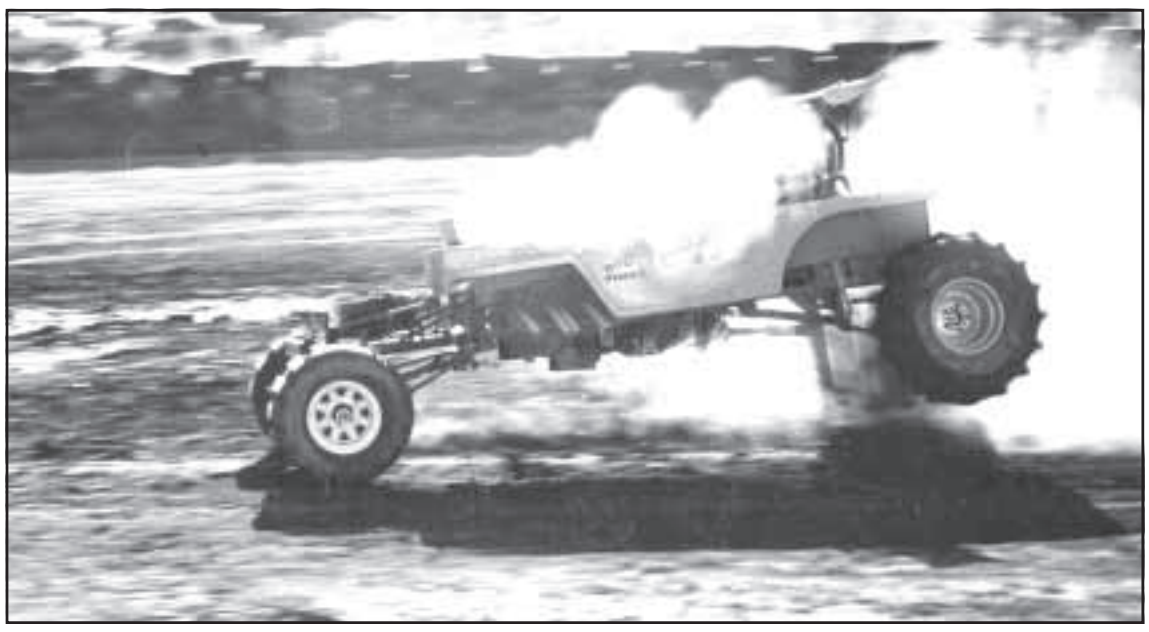
NAKUSP MUD BOGS, JULY 30 - 31



Pure Hell leaves the mud pit in a hurry in a previous year's Mud Bog races.

Mud bog races always draw a crowd

Nakusp's Mud Bog races always draw a huge crowd for the August long weekend, and this year's 14th annual will be no different.

The event entails two afternoons of racing, starting at 1 pm on Saturday and noon on Sunday. Registration is from 10-11 am on Saturday. The entrance fee for a driver and two pit crew is $60. Street vehicles are welcome.

Side by side racing, which was done for the first time at this event last year, was such a hit that it will be done again this year. Last year was also the first time that Nakusp joined the Northwest Mud Racing Association points race circuit, but organizers have decided not to continue with that.

Build, Bail and Sail will have ladies' division this year

On July 31, try your luck — or does it take skill? — in the annual Build, Bail and Sail race, co-ordinated and sponsored by Loma Lumber.

Teams of two build a boat and paddles on the Nakusp beach from 9 am to 12:30 pm, then race their creations at 1 pm. Not only the teams, but also the spectators, have an awful lot of fun at this event.

There are a few changes this year. For one, there will be a ladies' division. Also, the minimum age has dropped from 19 to 15. Scott Lillies from Loma Lumber hopes this will encourage father/son and mother/daughter teams.

To make the race slightly more challenging, teams will build with a maximum of $75 worth of materials from Loma Lumber this year, and no building materials over 10' in length can be used.

The event is absolutely free, with materials provided by Loma. Prizes are sponsored by Skil Bosch Power Tools. For more information, visit www.lomalumber.com.

The Kontiki is a famous Build, Bail & Sail vessel constructed by Earl Frerichs and Leo Franzen.

Fans look forward to Slo-Pitch tournament

It is baseball that brings in and ushers out the August long weekend in Nakusp.

This year marks the 19th annual Slo-Pitch tournament at Kathy Pederson Park. The first game is on Friday night at 6:00 and the championship game is played on Monday afternoonat 3:00. The event typically attracts teams from Calgary, Nelson, Spokane, Kelowna and Creston. Although the competition is tough, the mixed teams and spectators also tend to kick back and have a lot of fun. Bavarian Gardens are open Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Slo-pitch continues to be a big part of Nakusp's August Long Weekend Festivities.

Second Sight

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Let the races...

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Welcome Mud Boggers!

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Pope & Talbot welcomes the Mud Boggers, ball players, classic car owners, the musicians, and all of the spectators. Have a great Long Weekend!

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Build, Bail & Sail Sunday, July 31

Up to $75 free materials to build your boat!

Building begins at 9:00 am; Race begins at 1:00 pm
Ladies Division • New Age Limit: 15-99

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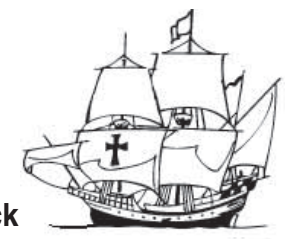
Welcome to Nakusp for the Weekend Mud Bog, July 30 - August 1

Take in the Slo-Pitch Tournament



Try your luck in the Build, Bail and Sail

And of course, there's The Main Event, The Nakusp Mud Bog, just north of town.

Have a GREAT time!

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Silverton council, July 12: Campground policy amended

by Jan McMurray

•The Campground Policy was re-visited, after some concerns about reservations arose on the July 1st weekend. Reservations can only be made by large groups occupying up to half of the campground, not by individuals. Some individuals did not understand why some sites were marked "Reserved" when they could not make reservations. Council deleted the part of the policy that stated that the reserving organization was to co-ordinate with the campground attendants. Instead, the reserving organization will make arrangements through the Village office. Also, all references to the overflow campground were deleted, and a note added to refer to the Overflow Campground Policy for overflow camping. The overflow policy will be dealt with at a later date. Mayor Wiseman explained that there were problems because the Village was trying to accommodate large groups, and that the policy may have to be changed to "first come, first served."

•Acting on a suggestion from the campground attendants, council decided to increase fees for lakeshore campsites to $15 per night, effective July 15. All other campsites remain at $10.

•During public and press time, Kathy Provan asked some questions about the blocked reservations at the campground. She wanted to know if the fee increase would affect blocked bookings and wondered how many sites constituted half of the campground when the number of sites changed at times from 16 to 18. Mayor Wiseman said that the fee increase would also apply to blocked bookings, but that any bookings already made for the season would be grandfathered. He said that half the campground was either 8 or 9 sites, depending on whether there were 16 or 18 sites available. Ron Provan asked if there had been any discussion about installing showers at the campground. Mayor Wiseman said that $40,000-60,000 was needed for the project. He said it would be nice if campground fees could go towards upgrading the site instead of into general revenue, and the same for the Memorial Hall, but that with such a small tax base, most of the Village's resources had to go into the water system and fire department.

•Minutes of a special meeting held July 3 to deal with CBT Community Initiatives funding applications and a request for a grant in aid from the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society were adopted. Mayor Wiseman excused himself from the July 3 meeting and appointed Councillor Laktin as chair. Councillor Huether was absent. Council recommended to the RDCK that CBT funding be disbursed as follows: Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society ($200); Slocan District Chamber of Commerce ($200); Silverton Historical Society ($200); Lucerne Association for Community Education ($200). The remaining $40 will be carried forward to the 2006 CBT Community Initiatives funding program.

Also at the July 3 meeting, council granted the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society's request for a grant-in-aid of $200 towards a bursary for local students and of $400 in rent relief for the use of Memorial Hall. The Society will be paying $400 for the week's rental of the hall.

•Ken Butler attended as a delegation to ask permission to use the Silverton ball park in August during a Frontier Adventure Racing event. Council granted the request. The race involves teams of four travelling by foot, bike and canoe from Kaslo to Nelson. The ball park in Silverton will be used as a transition area, where all racers will pass through.

•Acting Fire Chief Ron Provan reported that July 1st celebrations were a resounding success. Mayor Wiseman agreed and thanked the July 1st Committee and volunteers.

•Councillor Dorsey suggested that the Village have preliminary talks with New Denver about bus stops for the new RDCK transit service, to be in place this fall. Acting Administrator Junko Ida will contact New Denver on this.

•Ida reported that she had costed benches at $100 each and was still researching the cost of plaques. So far, there have been three requests to sponsor benches. Ida said it would be nice to have six more.

•Council granted the Valhalla Choir Society's request for a grant-in-aid worth $90 for the use of the Memorial Hall for practice on December 12 and 14. The rental fee will be paid for the night of the concert, December 16.

•Accounts payable of $28,489.46 were approved. Of this, $7,222.50 was for BDO Dunwoody for the 2004 audited financial statement. Ida reported that this figure was in line with last year's.

New Denver Council, July 12: Open Burning Policy passed

New Denver Council held one of its most interesting council meetings in months last Tuesday. Unfortunately the irresponsible reporter that attended lost his notes, so you'll have to deal with his vague recollections of what went on.

It's possible that the reporter had been into the whiskey before attending the meeting as he also loudly heckled Councillor Bunka's plan to turn the Main Street into a pedestrian park. He also spoke out of turn during the mayor's report.

He's very contrite, and we can't fire him, but we strongly recommend that Councillor Bunka goes back to writing these reports.

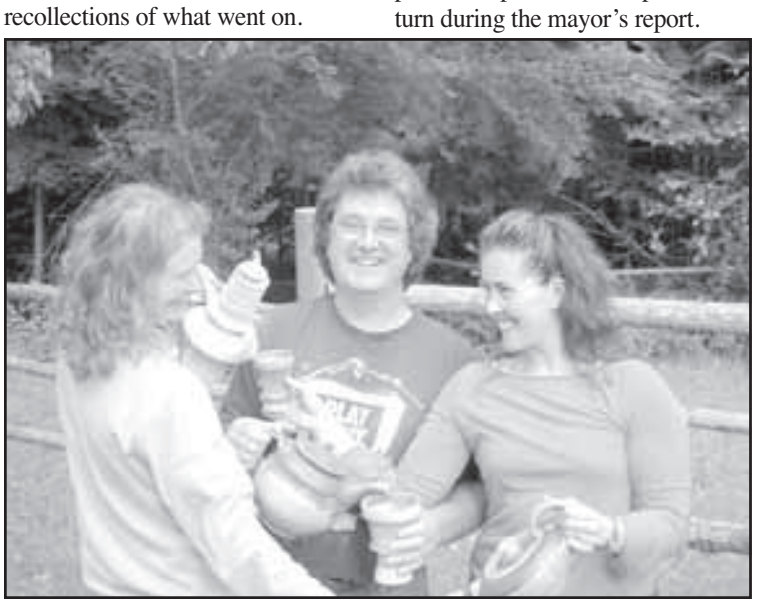
An open burning by-law was passed to restrict the burning of garbage and yard waste within village limits.

Council decided to rent a couple of parking stalls to Raven's Nest Gallery, since that business apparently has so much stock that they need to spill out onto the street to display it all.

Council rejected an offer by Norm Bradshaw to purchase an alleyway adjacent to his property. Mr. Bradshaw and Council disagreed on the method for calculating the property's value.

Councillor Bunka reported that the large fir tree outside the Silvery Slocan Museum was hosting a large colony of carpenter ants, and would have to be removed. The ants apparently threaten the nearby historic structure.

After public/press time, council went into closed session to discuss something that they figure shouldn't be part of the public record. Who can blame them, given the shoddy nature of the reporting?



Don't miss the first annual "Stoked and Glazed" show, featuring five Slocan Valley potters, one guest potter and painter Tsuneko Kokubo at the Slocan Park Hall on the August long weekend, July 30 and 31. Pottery demonstrations will be held both days on the porch.

Raven's Nest Gallery has moved from Silverton to the old Hemp and Co. store in New Denver. The gallery offers custom framing, art supplies, hemp clothing and cosmetics, hammocks, pottery and woodwork. Owners Lee Hammond and Taeko invite us in.

VSSM expands program to 3 weeks

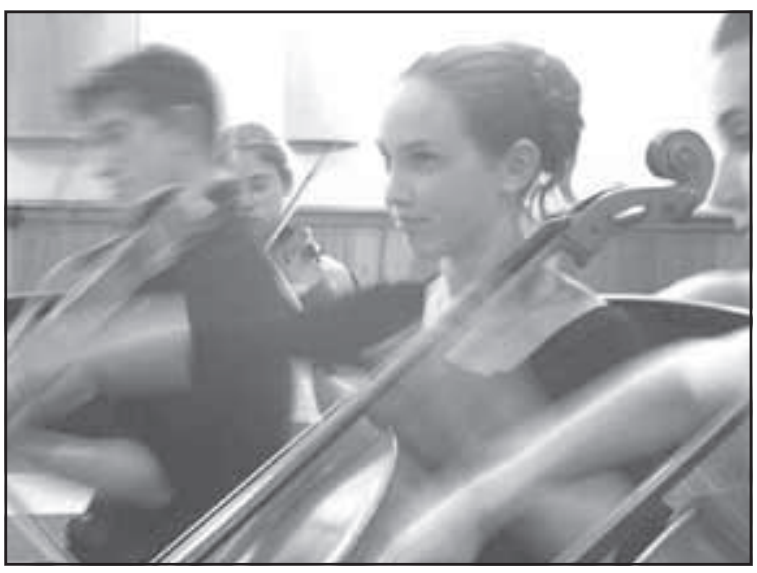
submitted

This summer, the seven-year-old music camp in Silverton has expanded to three weeks of music and fun for young musicians from ages six through secondary school.

VSSM Piano Recital (Note the stack of books used as a footstool.)

Each week will focus on a special program for piano and string students from all over Canada and the US, all under the umbrella of the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society.

In Week One, under the direction of the dynamic mother-daughter team of Daphne and Miranda Hughes, the Valhalla Suzuki Institute (VSI) program runs from Sunday, July 31 through Friday, August 5. The Suzuki approach relies on direct parent involvement in the child's music learning, with parents attending the institute alongside their children. Suzuki students share a body of common repertoire, and will arrive on the first day of the institute able to play many pieces together, making for a very exciting week. Throughout the camp, students will refine their individual playing and work on ensemble skills through choirs, orchestras, group classes and chamber music. The VSI has assembled a fine faculty of professional Suzuki teachers.



VSSM students perform concerts during the annual summer school of music.

Week Two will usher in the Valhalla Summer School of Music. This music camp started it all and has been ongoing for the past seven years. Each year the attendance of this camp has grown from an initial 50 students in 1999 to some 200 students registered for this year. Many kids have been coming every summer. The majority of faculty members have also returned every summer. Additional programs during this week include a Children's Music Program (kids 3-9), Family Choir, Adult Choir, Orchestra Class and a very informative Music Appreciation Class. These classes are open to anyone in the area with spaces still available for those wishing to attend. One-Day Observer Passes and Weekly Observer Passes are also available. Week Two begins Sunday, August 7 and runs through Friday, August 12.

Week Three will be Master Classes for the top student musicians who, in some cases, come for a one-on-one week of honing their musical skills under the guidance of professional musician teachers from all over Canada. This program begins on Monday, August 15 and runs through Friday, August 19.

Several concerts will be scheduled during Week Two, so watch for ads in the next issue of this paper for times and dates. All concerts will be held in the Memorial Hall in Silverton.

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New group forms to address housing crisis in New Denver

A group of concerned citizens is forming the Sustainable Housing Committee to address the issue of affordable housing in the New Denver/Silverton area, and welcomes anyone with an interest to join them.

Committee member Charlene Alexander says that the housing issue affects us all, whether we own a home or not. "The school needs students to receive funding and our hospital is only viable if our population demands the service," she says. "A question we must ask ourselves as citizens is what are the implications of allowing our community to turn into a predominantly recreational village, which empties out over the fall and winter months?"

Alexander says the initiative began when it became apparent that families and community members were leaving the area because of the lack of housing. "Our town cannot afford to lose families and community members. Frankly, we could use a few more, but without homes to rent or affordable permanent housing, what can we offer?" she asks.

Committee members believe that stable long- and short-term housing is essential to keeping a community healthy and sustainable. "A vibrant, diverse community promotes business, cultural awareness, and supports essential services such as the school and hospital," says Alexander.

The group's short-term goal is to encourage homeowners to open up rental accommodation for many residents who need housing immediately.

The committee is meeting July 19 and July 26 at 7 pm in the education room at the Slocan Lake Community Health Centre (hospital in New Denver). Everyone is welcome to attend to take part in intentional planning for the housing needs in the community.

Wireless Bodies at the Silverton Gallery

submitted

Come Thursday, July 28 at 8 pm to the Silverton Gallery to see the 'once in a lifetime' local performance of the Wireless bodies project. Artists Blake Parker (spoken word) and Ruby Truly (electronic media) have been collaborating for several years on an ongoing program of work involving a co-mingling of the acoustic and the visual, part improvised, and part scripted. Earlier work focused on the stream of images passing through the deteriorating mind of a dying ex-security man. That program was invited to perform at Vancouver's Alive at the End festival of performance art in 1999. In this current work, titled Wireless Bodies: Confessions of a Cyborg, they engaged in a unique process of hybrid storytelling that places images, words and music in non-traditional relationships and moves towards the development of a new creative form.

The term "wireless" on its own is immediately connected to "wireless" technology. But before modern technology transformed what was previously "magic" into fact, it was rumour, curse, incantation, and ritual that dominated wireless technology. Thus "wireless bodies" (disembodied bodies) are comprised of the images and messages that fill the air, a fecund mixture of thoughts, ghosts, television images, radio voices, photographs, hypertext messages, archetypal forms, spirits. "Wireless bodies" are bodies that have become separated from their material manifestations.

Crescent Valley Youth Centre up and running

submitted

The Crescent Valley Youth Centre had a very successful Grand Opening on June 25. The Youth Centre is now open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6-10 pm as well as every Friday and Saturday from 7-11pm.

There are many activities to enjoy such as pool, foosball, basketball, TV and DVD, stereo and canteen. A PA system has just been purchased for an "Open Mic Night" every Thursday evening, with a Karaoke machine soon to follow. A special "Movie Under the Stars" is scheduled for July 30. The film will be shown outdoors on the side of the building, so bring a lawn chair and blanket. The movie will be from 9:30-11:30 pm approximately.

The Youth Centre is located in the former Selkirk College building beside the Crescent Valley Community Hall. If you are interested in volunteering some time, contributing some talent, becoming a member of the Crescent Valley Youth Centre Society or making a donation, please call 359-8288.

Dance Camp offered in New Denver

submitted

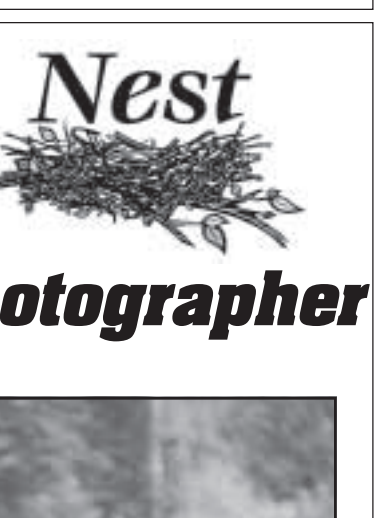
Come to the Slocan Lake Dance Camp in New Denver this summer and you'll be a few steps closer to your fantasy of dancing with the stars.

From August 19-22, the Slocan Lake Dance Club, with the co-operation of the Kootenay DanceBeat Club, is offering a chance to learn eight dances in the Smooth, Swing, Country and Latin genres.

Drop-in evening classes are in the works plus dance demonstrations and live music. Singles are welcome and will be placed on a list until a same level partner registers.

Here's a chance to dance on the new floor at the Bosun Hall, sleep under the starts plus enjoy the mountains and the lake in this beautiful little village

For further information and to register, visit www.dancingbeat.org or call 358-2448.



Update from South Slocan chapter of KLH Auxiliary

submitted

The South Slocan chapter of the Kootenay Lake Hospital Auxiliary had its last meeting before breaking for the summer on June 9. It was held at the home of Elaine Woods, with the theme of an English High Tea garden party.

The chapter decided to donate $1500 to the KLH Foundation "Breath of Spring" campaign to raise money for a colonoscope.

The $250 South Slocan Chapter scholarship has been changed to a bursary to be presented to a Selkirk College student, preferably from this area, who is continuing in the third year of the nursing program. the bursary will be presented in February.

Plans for the fall raffle are underway with a quilt as first prize and five other donated prizes. Tickets will go on sale September 1.

Members were reminded of the area conference in Grand Forks on September 15. Registration forms will be completed and returned to Grand Forks by September 15.

A delicious lunch was served in the garden. The next meeting will be September 8 at the home of Freda Dowes. New members are welcome. For information, phone 359-7864.

Circle of Habondia Lending Society co-ordinator Michelle Cole and board members Laverne Booth and Sylvie Legace receive a $10,000 Columbia Basin Trust grant from Doug Switzer, CBT representative. The funding will go into the group's micro loan fund. The Society lends money to women in the Slocan Valley, Nelson and Castlegar area. For an application form or to find out how to start a lending circle, call 226-6788.

THE VILLAGE OF SILVERTON
ANNUAL REPORT

The Village of Silverton residents are invited to submit, in writing a statement of objectives that they would like to recommend to Council for consideration in preparation of the 2005 Annual Report.

- Objectives are a statement of results or outcomes that the Village hopes to achieve.
- Objectives being recommended to Council should be realistic and meaningful to the community.

Submission Deadline: July 29, 2005
Mail or submit to:
The Village of Silverton, 421 Lake Avenue,
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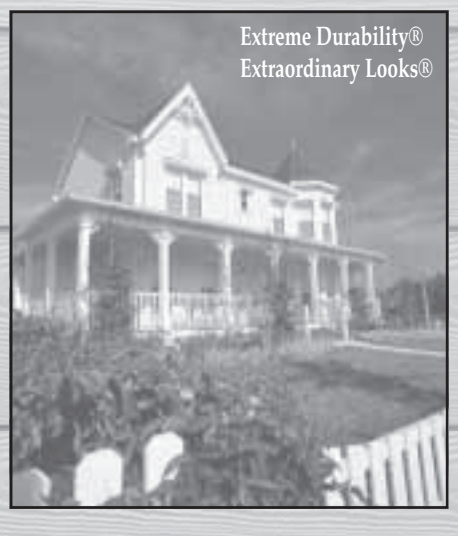

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Sandon Times

Slocan City Logger Sports draws competitors from around the world

Canadian Championship Butcher Block: 1st: Peter Colliver of Chase, BC & Jack Brown-John of Williams Lake, BC. 2nd: Dave McLeod of Campbell River, BC & John Gossow of Wooroolin, Australia. 3rd: Terry Basco of Campbell River & John Walker of Williams Lake.

Open Single Buck: 1st: Jack Brown-John. 2nd: Norm Goudie of Sooke, BC. 3rd: Peter Colliver.

Open Underhand Chop: 1st: John Gossow. 2nd: Peter Colliver. 3rd: John Walker.

Open Tree Climb: 1st: Dave McLeod. 2nd: Anders Dahlberg of Slocan City.

Open Axe Throw: 1st: Darren Dean of Campbell River. 2nd:Jack Brown-John. 3rd: Brad Laughlin of Lake Cowichan, BC.

Open Birling: 1st: Derek Pouchnik of Viola, Idaho. 2nd: Brenda Pouchnik of Viola, Idaho. 3rd: Mason Bischoff of Celista, BC.

Open Hot Saw: 1st: Bill Bischoff of Celista, BC. 2nd: Karl Bischoff of Celista, BC. 3rd: Dave McLeod.

Open Springboard: 1st: Jack Brown-John. 2nd: John Gossow. 3rd: Dave McLeod

Stihl Challenge: 1st: Peter Colliver. 2nd: John Walker. 3rd: Nick Trace of Slocan City.

Intermediate Obstacle Pole: 1st: Gerald Gagne of Cranbrook, BC. 2nd: Terry Basso of Campbell River. 3rd: Helmer Mussell of Chilliwack, BC.

Intermediate Choker Race: 1st: Mason Bishoff of Celista. 2nd: Darren Dean of Campbell River. 3rd: Ralph Kussauer of Courtney, BC.

Intermediate Double Buck: 1st: Dan Marvin of Libby, Montana & Brian Robson of Columbia Falls, Montana. 2nd: Bill Bischoff & John Gossow. 3rd: Kevin Hull & Robert Groce of Elk, Washington.

Ladies' Axe Throw: 1st: Sarah Mooney of Ucluelet, BC. 2nd: Brenda Pouchnik. 3rd: Wendy Parks of Redding, California.

Ladies' Dot Split: 1st: Kathy Groce of Elk, WA. 2nd: Tyann McFall of Valleyford, WA. 3rd: April Rainey of Libby, Montana.

Jack & Jill: Brenda & Derek Pouchnik. 2nd: Brad & Sandy Laughlin. 3rd: Dave McLeod & Anita Jezowski of Nanaimo, BC.

Novice Obstacle Pole: 1st: Mason Bischoff. 2nd: Kevin Hull. 3rd: Ben Bischoff

Crowd favourites, Anita Jezowski and Stephanie Ferguson placed seventh in a field of mostly male competitors in the Intermediate Double Buck competion at Slocan City's annual Logger Sports Day, July 9.

The Hot Saw competition draws competitors from as far as Wooroolin, Australia.

Bill Bischoff demonstrates his legendary prowess in the open springboard competition.

Ben Bishoff continues the family tradition of competing in Logger Sports. In this photo, he's a contestant in the Novice Obstacle Pole competition.

Anders Dahlberg of Slocan placed 2nd in the Open Tree Climb.

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2nd annual Nakusp Music Fest another dazzler

Once again, the Nakusp Music Fest was extremely well done. Only in its second year, this festival became an instant success last year and it's no wonder why.

The line-up of bands this year was enticing and sufficiently eclectic, the vendor area was well worth a visit and there were lots of fun things for the kids to do. There was parking and accommodation for all, the grounds were secure and emergency services were on site.

The festival's focus is music from the 80s and 90s. This year's headliners were Loverboy, Kim Mitchell, 54*40 and Chilliwack. Also performing at the festival were country music bands Barney Bentall & the Legendary Hearts, the Corb Lund Band and Driveway; a Queen cover band from Germany called MerQury; Christine Evans, a 14-year-old award winning singer/songwriter; dance band Skavenjah; Moses Mayes, a funk-fusion 7-piece band; that popular 80s band, The Northern Pikes; and rock bands Superbeing, Ten Ways from Sunday, Supertonic, Freeflow and Winston.

Among the children's entertainers was Harvest & David, an extraordinary juggling duo that incorporated stilt-walking, unicycling and magic into their amazing show. Mat Duffus performed his folk songs in the kidz zone. The portable climbing wall and face painting were other activities for the kids, and clowns and balloon artists roamed the grounds.

Vendor Village was bigger this year, with lots of beautiful wares for sale and tons of great food.

Festival organizers and volunteers deserve a standing ovation for their professional performance in putting on this top-notch event in our area.

Chilliwack played all of their familiar hits on Sunday night to an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

Canadian rock icon Kim Mitchell and his band were the last to perform — a fine way to end a fine festival.

Christine Evans, just 14 years old, has been writing songs and singing since she was 7 years old. She has won an Island Music Award and has produced a CD, "Take Me Home."

54*40 rocked thecrowd on Saturda night, playing lots of familiar songs as well as many from their new CD 'Yes to Everything.'

MerQury , described as "the world' best Queen tribute band," were special guests from Germany at the festival. The put on a great show late Saturday afternoon. Montreal born Johnny Zatylny, pictured here, changed costumes several times.

Nakusp council, July 14: Hot springs rates increase

by Jan McMurray

•Council ratified the Hot Springs board motions increasing rates at the pool and the campground. A package of 20 swim passes for $100 per adult and $90 per senior was designed for local citizens, explained Cowan. Otherwise, rates will be for a single swim, adults ($7.50); students and seniors ($6.50) and family ($23); and for a daily swim, adults ($11); students and seniors ($9); family ($32); extra youth ($5). The campground rate was raised to $22 per day. The staff report states that these rate increases can generate up to $100,000 in extra revenue annually to cover future maintenance costs, and brings the fees more in line with those of other facilities.

•Representatives from the Nakusp Public Library board attended as a delegation to request approximately $58,500 towards the library expansion project. Total cost of the project is approximately $197,000. The group asked for help with capital costs to improve the historical Centennial building, which is owned by the Village. Specifically, they asked for $15,000 for a structural upgrade to the beams that support the first floor, $25,000 to upgrade the electrical system and $18,500 for flooring. They reported that they had $40,000 in savings, a $20,000 CBT grant from the recent vote, a donation of materials from BC Hydro, up to $60,000 in an HRSDC grant and possible matching funds of $20,000 from CBT's Community Development Initiative. They were not successful with one grant application of $25,000, but they had other grant applications pending. Council encouraged the board to approach the RDCK, as the library is a regional facility, and to come back to council if they were still short after all decisions had been made on their grant applications. Mayor Cowan said that at the time the space was made available to the library, it was understood that the Village was making a significant contribution with the building and that the library board would look at other sources of funding for its expansion project.

•Councillor Hamling reported on the recent CBT Symposium, which she said was very different from all previous symposiums, describing it as "disappointing." She said that people clearly stated their concerns about the lack of communication, transparency and accountability of the board; the role of the board moving away from policy making towards a hands-on working role; and a turn towards higher return investments instead of investment in the Basin. She moved and council passed a resolution that will circulate to all local governments in the Basin to encourage the CBT board to invest in the Basin, to remain a policy making board and to not participate on the investment committee.

•In his report, Mayor Cowan thanked Highways Manager Bruce Lintott and the ferry corporation for arranging a late sailing at Galena Bay on Sunday night to accommodate Music Fest goers. He also thanked Willi Jahnke and all Music Fest volunteers for organizing the festival, recognizing Jahnke's invaluable expertise.

He also reported that the Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association had met with Land and Water BC twice in the past month. They have been working on sources of funding and on setting the criteria for the business case to sell lakefront crown land to fund a fixed link at Galena Bay.

•On the relocation of the recycling bins, Councillor Dahlen reported that the West Waste Committee had made a resolution to pave the current site, and it would go before the RDCK board on July 23. She said the fence would be repaired when the new shed was being put in at the landfill site; both jobs will be done by the same contractor.

•Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff reported that the drainage problem at 1st Avenue and 4th Street had been fixed. Residents from this area attended the last council meeting to ask that something be done about the problem, which had caused flooding in their basements.

•Councillor Curran reported that the Nakusp and Area Development Board had signed a trail contract with seven youth, providing employment until November.

•Beach cleanup will be contracted out to Serwa Contracting at a cost of about $3500, to be funded from Park & Rec underspends. This used to be done annually, but has not been done for 3-4 years. Staff does not have the appropriate equipment to do the job.

•The new collective agreement between the Village and CUPE was ratified.

•For its annual event on the August long weekend, the Nakusp Mud Racing Association requested a waiver of the sewage dumping fee, permission for its signs to be placed on "Welcome to Nakusp" signs and a letter of support of the event and beer garden. Council granted the requests.

•The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society requested a $200 grant-in-aid to help with the local student bursary available for its summer music program. Council will send a letter thanking the Society for its work, and explaining that the Village does not give grants-in-aid.

•Mayor Cowan and Dahlen as Regional District Director will attend the Union of BC Municipalities convention.

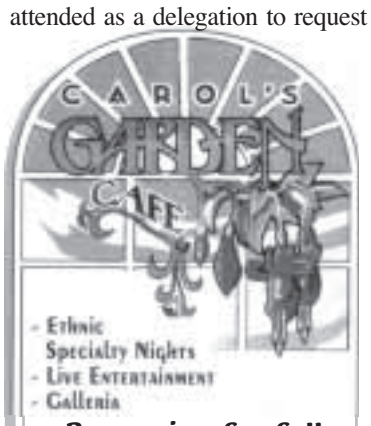
•In response to a letter signed by four residents, council directed staff to research the cost and feasibility of speed bumps for the area on Broadway between the cemetery and cenotaph.

•A resident filed a complaint about the July 1st beer garden, saying there was drinking and driving, and speeding while children were on the street. Both Councillor Curran and Mayor Cowan said the problem was that they did not have the right people working the beer garden. Council passed a motion to require that beer garden supervisors be demonstrated by the committee organizing the event.

•The Village will send a letter in requesting a public inquiry into the investigation of the Air India Bombings.

•The Okanagan Indian Band wrote to UBCM, requesting funding to hold a meeting with the Village of Nakusp and three other meetings with other local governments. Staff will investigate claims in this area with the other local governments and UBCM.

•Superintendent Jason Chernoff and CAO Mahoney will decide on one or two staff to attend "The Ultimate Supervisor" training seminar.



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Tables available
Jam sessions 2nd and last Friday
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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation
will be held at
7 pm on Monday, Aug 29, 2005 in the Hospital Cafeteria.
Elections will be held to fill Director positions: 3 for 3 years, 1 for 2 years & 1 for 1 year.
In order to vote at the Annual General Meeting, new members need to obtain their $1 card from a director or at the hospital desk before July 29, 2005
For further information, write to Box 284, Nakusp or call 265-3515.

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We now offer deluxe lakeview accomodations in downtown Nakusp at Casa Mandala Guest House.
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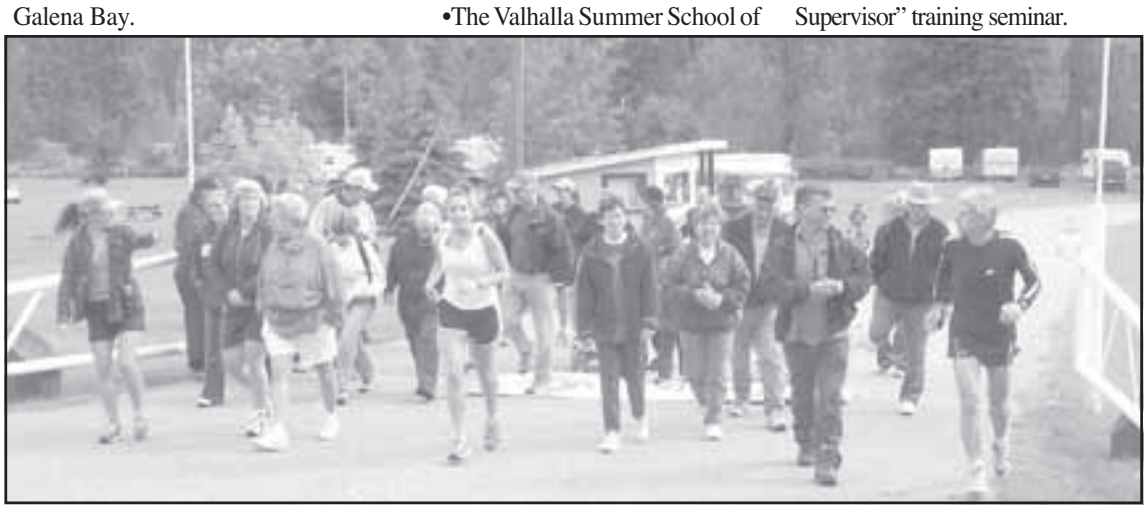

The 9th annual Walk/Run for Fun around Summit Lake, organized by Three Islands Resort, raised $710 for the Arrow Lakes Hospital this year. On July 10, 32 people came out to walk or run the 10 kms around the lake. Organizer Irene Poznikoff said she really appreciated the participation of people from all over the area this time — from Nakusp, Burton, Winlaw, South Slocan.

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Free Delivery Service To Edgewood
Nakusp Peoples Pharmacy now offers FREE delivery of prescriptions and over the counter medications to the **Edgewood Red Cross** every Wednesday.
To ensure prompt delivery, please call the pharmacy to order your refill prescriptions or over the counter medications by the preceding Monday
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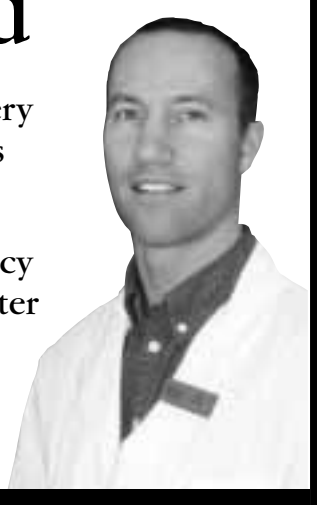
Pharmacist & Owner

PEOPLES PHARMACY **265-2228**
88 Broadway Street
Nakusp
email: pdm321rx@pdmstores.com
Store Hours: Mon - Fri: 9 am - 5:30 pm

Cheryl White, Manager of Canadian Mountain Holidays, presented Karen Hamling, Treasurer of The Nakusp and Area Community Foundation with a cheque for $5000 to establish the CMH environmental fund. The NACF now has $8000 towards the second round of raising $25,000 for matching funds from CBT and the Vancouver Foundation.

Kaslo Jazz Fest features Jesse Cook and many more

submitted

Big mountains, small town, floating stage, great line-up — these are the things that keep bringing people back to the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival on the August long weekend.

This year's 14th annual, July 29-31, features Jesse Cook, Canada's hottest Rumba-Flamenco guitarist and one of Narada record label's top selling artists. His music is always an exotic and diverse fusion of cultures and rhythms. Ernie Watts, a two-time Grammy Award winner, is one of the top jazz saxophone players on the music scene. In a diverse career that has spanned more than 30 years, he has been featured on more than 500 recordings by artists ranging from Cannonball Adderley to Frank Zappa, always exhibiting his unforgettable trademark sound. Paul Peress, last year's surprise knockout, has been asked to return with his trio. Stellar blues composer and producer Colin Linden will also be presented on the main stage, as well as Laila Biali, La Candela, Sekoya, and Rabnett 5.

Jesse Cook is among the artists featured at this year's Jazzfest.

As usual, the festival starts Friday night with free entertainment in the downtown area. Join in the festive atmosphere and practice your salsa moves to the incredible rhythms of La Candela. On Saturday, pack your blanket and sunscreen and come on down to the festival site. In between acts, turn your attention upstage near the Bavarian Gardens, where there will be eight bands each day. Performing upstage will be Ellen McIlwaine, the Tuques, Paul & Laura Landsberg, Lazy Poker, My Attourney Bernie, Playmor Dixie, and Flora Ware. Swim or paddle around the stage, or wander throughout the grassy park to enjoy the variety of craft and food vendors that grace the site.

The cliffs and embankments around the park provide excellent acoustics, so you're always within earshot of fantastic music. After the festival, the music continues with four Kaslo venues presenting Jazz, Blues, and R&B till the wee hours of the morning.

Tickets available at Eddy Music, Pack Rat Annie's, 353-7548, or www.kaslojazzfest.com.

Kaslo council, July 12: 2004 Annual Report presented

by Jill Braley

•Mayor Douglas presented the 2004 Annual Report, calling for questions or comments from council and the public. No questions have been asked to date. The report is available at the municipal office.

•Council received correspondence from the Kaslo & District Public Library regarding repairs, health and safety issues, and the lease. The letter was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee, and Public Works was directed to do the minor repair of doors and windows. The library is concerned about the rear fire exit, where tobacco smoke fumes enter and where debris and dried leaves accumulate, creating a potential fire hazard. The fire chief has suggested that the entrance be extended and finished with a metal door. Mayor Douglas said that these changes did not coincide with the restoration plans for the building, and pointed out that the restoration work could take care of some of the library's concerns.

•Silvio Lettrari, president of the Kaslo Trailblazer Society, asked for 20-25 dumptruck loads of gravel from the Village's airport gravel pit, to be used for the Kaslo River Trail located on Village property. The gravel is needed to fill, grade and pack the new trail. The trucking would be arranged through Stan Baker Contracting at no expense to the Village. Council referred the request to the Public Works Foreman for action.

•Council received correspondence regarding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual conference. Mayor Douglas advised council to let UBCM know which ministers they would like to meet with on which subjects. There was some discussion on which councillors would attend. Mayor Douglas said that over half of the $5,000 travel budget had already been expensed, so if several council members wished to attend, they might be going largely at their own expense. CAO Sawyer corrected a statement she made at the last meeting. She clarified that the Mayor was attending UBCM as Regional District Director, at the RDCK's expense.

•Doug Stuckless wrote to council requesting to purchase a business licence to operate horse and buggy rides for the downtown Kaslo area starting in August and running into September. He also asked about any concerns or regulations relating to this. Mayor Douglas said CAO Sawyer had contacted Victoria for a copy of its Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, and Douglas pointed out some difficulties: parking, places to pick up/discharge passengers, regulations regarding cleanup of the streets and possible limits on where they can operate. This matter, which would require a new bylaw, was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee for recommendation to council.

•Mike Liska wrote to council, expressing interest in building a hangar at the Kaslo Airport. Liska will be invited to meet with the Administration & Finance Committee when he is in Kaslo in mid-July.

•The municipality will make an inquiry of Land and Water BC regarding the availability of parcels on the south side of Kaslo River for a free crown grant of land.

•FortisBC wrote to council regarding the proposed construction of a power line to the marina. The letter was referred to the Public Works Foreman for approval. •Council received an email from Gillian Sanders, Kaslo's Bear Smart co-ordinator, outlining the programs budget for 2005. Council voted to await a statement of revenue and expenditures before paying out the $2,500 municipal grant to the organization.

•The Kaslo Jazz Society Etc. Society approached the Village for approval of a beer garden licence application for July 30-31 in Kaslo Bay Park. Council granted the approval, subject to RCMP ratification. Councillor Holland declared a potential conflict of interest and excused himself for this item.

•Increasing the Village Hall annual maintenance budget will be referred to 2006 budget deliberations.

•The municipality will ask the RDCK to put the specified area taxation survey letter on hold. Mayor Douglas was opposed, stating that the Village does not have the authority to do this.

•CAO Rae Sawyer advised that Luke Crawford, William Plant and Dan Wyker, who were all candidates in the January byelection, are disqualified from being nominated for, elected to or holding office until after the next general local election because they failed to file campaign disclosure statements by May 15. Sawyer advised council on June 7 that if campaign disclosure forms had been filed along with the late filing fee of $500 on or before June 14, these candidates could have avoided disqualification.

•Sawyer was appointed chief election officer for the general local government election this coming November. No deputy election officer had yet been appointed.

•Council granted a request from Ken Butler and Frontier Adventure Racing to close Front Street between 3rd and 4th Streets on August 19 from 8 pm to midnight for an Eco Adventure Race. The race starts at midnight in front of the Moyie and ends on August 21 in Nelson. It includes trekking, biking, canoeing and climbing from Kaslo, through Sandon, New Denver, Silverton, and Slocan to Nelson.

•Administration was directed to make inquiries of Meadow Creek Cedar regarding the potential sale of the mill.

•Accounts Payable were approved in the amount of $192,710. $9,630 was paid to Berg Naqvi Lehmann, the Village's accountants, for interim billing for the 2004 audit. Administration was directed to look into a repair bill of $378.99 to repair the village weed eater.

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"Mexican, Salads,
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ICE CREAM (INCLUDING SUGARLESS)
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SANDWICHES, SALAD, SOUP, WAFFLES
Stop in and see the Kaslo Mining & Logging Museum in the basement, too.

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See you there!!
To our valued customers, friends and staff, we invite you to come and help us celebrate fifty-five years on Kootenay Lake for the Jones family. Your loyalty and support has been the driving force behind our continued success in the Region. We look forward to many more years of providing you with the highest quality of service in BC.
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CAMPGROUNDS

• Kaslo Municipal Campground (250) 353-7315 or rbdlang@netidea.com
May 1-Sept 30. Serviced ($19) Unserviced sites ($14) Water and power hook-ups, fire pits, picnic tables, restrooms and hot showers. Downtown location, close to park, beach, playgrgound, SS Moyie infocentre and great shopping! Pets on leash welcome.

• Centennial Campground
On the lake in New Denver, 44 sites, 8 with electricity & water hook-up, sani-dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.

• Silverton Municipal Campground
A wooded, lakeside campground in the village, open May 15 to Oct. 15, washrooms (no shower), fire pits, picnic tables, 15 unserviced sites, firewood available. Convenient access to swimming , day park, tennis court, ball field, grocery store.

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023
65 sites, full/semi hook-ups, tenting, boat launch, paddle boats & canoes, pets welcome, children's playground, firewood, fishing, confectionery, sani-station, showers, laundry facilities, large gazebo with BBQ pits.

• Springer Creek RV Park & Campground (250) 355-2266
Open mid-May to Sept. 30. Located at 1020 Giffin Rd., Slocan. Turn right immediately off of Highway 6 entrance to Village of Slocan. Full hook-ups, partial hook-ups, tenting sites, sani-dump, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

HOT SPRINGS

• Halcyon Hot Springs •(250) 265-3554 •1-888-689-4699 •Fax (250) 265-3887
www.halcyon-hotsprings.com e-mail: info@halcyon-hotsprings.com Halcyon Spa opens June 2005. Always fresh, natural, mineral hot springs with own lake shore comfortable chalets, cabins, full RV hook-up, camping, Bistro-Restaurant, historical chapel, bodywork, horseback riding, tours and much more... Have some happy Halcyon days!!! Big swimming pool now open!

• Nakusp Hot Springs (250) 483-7591
We're open year round. Summer hours: 9:30 am - 10 pm daily. Powered campsites. Snack bar. Water replenished daily. *"We always have a warm spot here for you."*

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

• William Hunter Cabins (250) 358-2844 www.williamhuntercabins.com
Three hand-crafted log cabins in the heart of Silverton. Each cabin contains two self-contained suites with pine furniture. Views of the Valhallas, close to lake, beautiful gardens and wonderful berry picking. 303 Lake Ave.

• Silverton Heritage Country Inn (250) 358-7929
Visit the world-famous Silverton Heritage Country Inn, located on Slocan Lake since 1897. Offering three lakeview patios, complimentary continental breakfast, a fully-licensed pub with eight beers on tap and a gourmet dining room. We feature a Saturday night and a Sunday morning buffet, and a 2-for-1 Steak Dinner every Friday evening. Open 7 days a week.

• Selkirk Inn Ph: 1-800-661-8007 / (250) 265-3666 Fax: (250) 265-4799
210-6th Ave. West, Nakusp, BC www.selkirkinn-nakusp.com email: selkinn@columbiacable.net
Located in the heart of Nakusp, we are close to the Nakusp Hot Springs, Halcyon Hot Springs, the Nakusp Golf Course, and only a short walk from the shores of Upper Arrow Lake. All 39 deluxe rooms have a TV, phone and fridge. 30 units with air conditioning, some units with kitchenettes, wheelchair accessible unit available, small pets allowed.

• Valhalla Inn (250) 258-2228 www.valhallainn.biz
Clean, comfortable, spacious rooms, suites and kitchen units with phone, TV and private bath. Motorcycler and ATV packages. Group rates. Outdoor dining, great food and neighbourhood pub.

• Lakefront Cottages Ph: (250) 358-2415 oldhamslakefrontcottages.com
Weekly rentals: 2 or 3 bedroom fully furnished cottages by the lake in a quiet corner of New Denver. Great for friends or relatives staying a week or more.

ADVENTURE TOURS

• Columbia Kayaking (250) 358-2211 1-888KAYAK10
eco@kootenays.com website: www.eco.kootenays.com
Tours, Sales & Rentals. Hourly, full or half-day rates. "An Authorized Seaward Kayak Dealer."

• Rocky Tour Adventures (250) 358-2228 www.rockytour.com
Experience the fabulous Kootenay back country on a guided ATV Tour. Explore old ghost towns and enjoy spectacular scenery. Full and half-day rides. All-inclusive packages including tour, room and meals are available. Call to reserve, 358-2228.

• Blue Alpine Touring bluealpine@netidea.com (250) 358-2260
Shuttle service. Soft Adventure. Half day to multi day hikes in Valhalla & Kokanee Glacier Parks.

BED & BREAKFASTS

• Mistaya Country Inn Ph/Fax (250) 358-7787
A secluded lodge on 90 acres with five guestrooms, comfortable lounge with fireplace, beautiful views, home cooking, outside firepits, walking trails, 10 k south of Silverton.

• Sweet Dreams Guesthouse & Licenced Dining Phone (250) 358-2415 Fax 358-2556 www.newdenverbc.com / sweetdreams@newdenverbc.com
B&B in historic building by the lake. Licenced dining & patio by reservation. Ethnic style meals.

Arica Gardens B&B and Andino Artesania Gift Shop (250) 226-7688 www.aricagardens.com
A luxurious timberframe home in Winlaw in the Slocan Valley with two rooms with private balconies and beautiful views. The gift shop features a huge selection of ceramic dinnerware from Chile, South American arts & crafts.

MUSEUMS

• Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre (250) 358-7920 www.slocanlake.com/sandon
Open 10:00 to 5:00. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy. 31A in historic silver mining ghost town. Collections of stunning photographs and fascinating artifacts including the famous "two story mousetrap." Admission: 18 & over, $3.00 •12-17 yrs. $2.00 • Under 12, free.

• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288
The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the WWII internment story. Located in *The Orchard* in New Denver, open 7-days-a-week 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

• Arrow Lakes Historical Society Ph/Fax: (250) 265-0110 265-3323
e-mail: alhs@columbiacable.net Location: 92B - 7th Avenue NW (BC Hydro building). Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 3:00. Archives and publications. Best source for area history and family research.

• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201
The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of Main Street, restored to circa 1900. Opening May 25, 10 am to 4:30 pm Wednesday through Saturday until the end of August. Special tours welcome. Please call 358-2201, 358-2478 or 358-2656 for further information. **A MUST SEE MUSEUM WITH DAILY TREASURE HUNTS FOR CHILDREN!** Hope we see you there.

Take a day trip to Carol's

Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood is the answer for people looking for a unique place to go in an out-of-the-way locale.

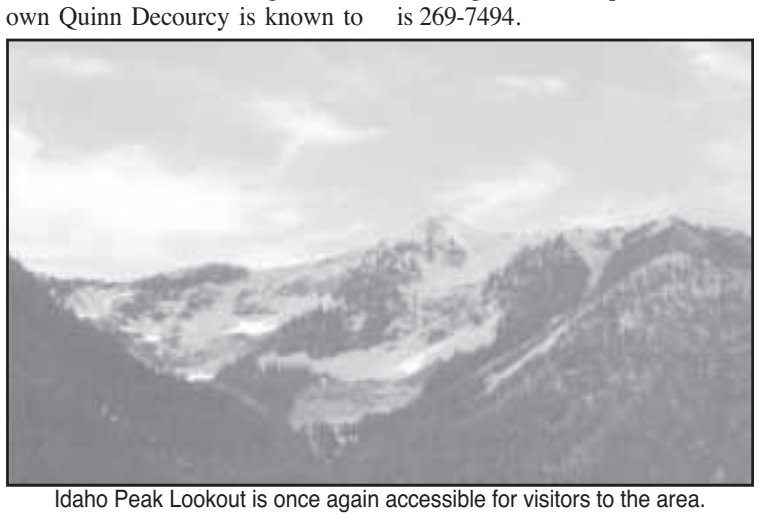
At Carol's there is an old world feeling. Outdoors, seated on the covered deck or in the courtyard in the sunshine, guests are surrounded by colourful flowers and climbing vines. Owner Carol Stroshein grows all her own herbs and spices, and makes her own salsas and jams.

To this quaint, 60-seat cafe come musicians, some local and some from afar. Carol brings in some surprisingly good music. Earlier this month, she featured Carrie Horachek out of Saskatoon, and Edgewood's own Quinn Decourcy is known to play there from time to time. Jam sessions happen every second and last Friday.

The restaurant puts on ethnic specialty nights and brings in guest chefs once a month. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Carol's has a full menu and is fully licenced.

Every Sunday, from noon to 2 pm, Carol hosts a flea market, where she sells her jams and jellies, as well as a line of frozen food products, including perogies and enchiladas.

To get to Carol's, take Hwy 6 South from Nakusp through Burton and Fauquier. Take the ferry at Fauquier and turn left off the highway into Edgewood. The phone number is 269-7494.


Idaho Peak Lookout is once again accessible for visitors to the area.

GOLF COURSES

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,
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9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$16.00**/9-holes, **$25.00**/18-holes,
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• May Day Open, Sat. May. 21: $15 members/$25.00 non-members
• YRB (private) Sat. June 11 • $15.00 • Legion Tournament, June 12
• Johnny Tier, Sat. June 18: $15.00 • Junior Two Ball, TBA
• Ladies' Fun, TBA • Club Championship, June 25-26: $15.00
• Cancer Research, Sat. July 9: $20.00
• Club Open, Sat. Aug. 14: $40.00 members / $50 non-members*
• Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 10: $10.00
• Club Closing, Sat. Sept. 25: $15.00.
(* fee includes dinner)

• Valley View Golf Club,
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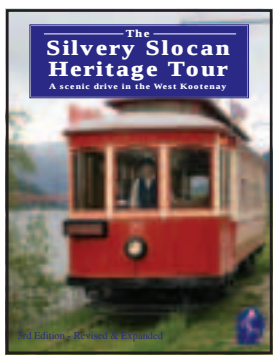

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Views and opinions from the top

Last week I had relatives from Toronto visiting and among the many delightful little Kootenay outings we did, Idaho Lookout was well up the list of must-sees. it seemed sorta early to me and I was anxious about the road being bad, but they gave me that "gotta-go-now" look, so I prepared the van for occupancy. The party was composed of two teen nephews, my sister and her husband, and my rather ancient father...

It all went just fine. The road is in good condition right from Sandon on up, and was firm and not rutted despite all that rain in June. Only at the second last switchback were we stopped by a hard snowbank that oughta be gone by now. My dad made it to the top parking lot and part-way along the trail and the rest of us got to the lookout for photos and all, then came back via the Alamo trail and parking lot to wake up the old guy back at my van. The flowers (and flies) were not at their peak yet, but the early blooms were excellent and deserve an early visit anyhow.

I was most pleased to see new notices suggesting that the Forest Service will resume some level of upkeep again at these sites after years of neglect and negligible budgeting. The road and trail are in nice shape anyhow after all the efforts by local individuals, so let's hope that conditions further improve with the Ministry on side.

In a few more weeks I'll do an evening drive to the top to do a sunset hike over to Selkirk Peak, just east from the upper lot, then van camp at the Alamo parking lot to get a nice sunrise start to the day. Genuine sunrises from the horizon are quite fantastic, but only available in the Kootenays from the top of a high enough east aspect.

While not overly ambitious myself, I do support the concept of free enterprise and feel that this should come into play for the welfare of the Idaho Lookout building itself. The hike to this spot is not that hard, but I remember when I worked on the local fire crew in the '80s and did some maintenance to the lookout that it was a real treat for folks to go up into the upper room and see the lookout guy and his little kingdom in there. Lookout men are pretty much a thing of the past, but I think there should still be public access to the building and upper deck, and if the place were opened as a privately run seasonal snack bar and tiny store, then maybe someone could make a buck and this great building could once again serve some purpose. Could be pretty fun to live up there for three months and run it as a daytime cantina...

In regards to another recreational feature altogether, Doug Roberts from Kaslo told me that he led a group of visiting cyclists from Summit Lake to Three Forks on the old rail grade last Wednesday. While the Galena section of the route is of course excellent, the rail grade from Summit down nearly to Hills is suffering more water and brush each year. They made it through okay and this is still a swell ride to do, but it sure shows how any trail will fall into disrepair when people don't know about it or are discouraged from using it for whatever reason.

Then on another front, I've been out on the lake a ton already this season, and even the fishing folks are having great luck. There's generally little real boat traffic out there even though the campground is often full and the local marina in New Denver is fully booked with a waiting list for moorage. Last week I had my kayak out in big rolling waves midday and except for another kayak and a canoe, the waves were all ours. Slocan is such a wonderful lake, but will always be unpredictable and unforgiving.

Lastly, I just have to take issue with the manner of the good Doc Spanner and say that the Kaslo highway is not dead and it is as delightful a ride as ever. I toured to Kaslo for lunch on Thursday on my 500 Magna cruiser and had the best ride. There is a speed limit to keep in mind, as well as the usual deer, rocks, leaves and some grit on the road. Aging outlaws on their Harleys and young heroes on their sport bikes all need to stay tuned to the road, but I think the idea could be to admire the scenery and not fixate on the asphalt simply because you gotta go so fast.

Summer in the small town Kootenays...from mountaintop to valley bottom and lake, it's here to enjoy and savour and even share with people who like being here.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital near Nakusp and lives in New Denver. 265-4331/358-2133.

Doc Spanner compares two-stroke and four-stroke engines

I have been getting lots of exercise lately cutting up my firewood for the winter. I know I am a bit late and as a consequence, end up chain sawing and splitting in the hottest part of the year.

The two-stroke engine that is on all chainsaws is rather a brilliant device that has the ability to be powerful and light at the same time. As a basic primer, most combustion engines fall either into the four-stroke or two-stroke variety. The four-stroke, (found in automobiles and many motorcycles), makes power on only one of its four strokes, is heavier and much more complicated mechanically. The basic difference that most operators notice is that you don't have to mix the oil with the fuel, and it's quieter and delivers more power at lower RPMs. In contrast, the two-stroke engine has no exhaust and intake valves, camshafts and the like and makes power on every second stroke of the piston. This makes it a handy device on chainsaws where high power and light weight are definite attributes. Added to the advantage of the two-stroke engine, chainsaws incorporate a special type of carburetor that replaces the conventional fuel bowl, float and needle valve with a simple diaphragm pump so the engine can be run in almost any position, unlike the conventional carburetor that must be kept in a near vertical position. This allows the operator to use the saw from different angles and positions — a very handy feature.

If you were to take a two-stroke engine apart, you would notice that it doesn't contain very many parts. You might be fooled into believing that its design is simple and its maintenance straightforward. This attitude would be a mistake as two-stroke engines are notorious for incorporating unforgiving tolerances coupled with the use of sophisticated materials and complex design of oiling, intake and exhaust systems. Two strokes look simple, but their complexity lies in the detail.

If these types of engines are so much more powerful for their weight than four strokes, why don't we use them for many more applications? The simple answer is that they are inefficient from an energy standpoint. They use much more petrol and oil that any other type of engine and create a lot of exhaust noise on top of this. Most of this excess oil and gas simply gets squirted out of the exhaust pipes in an unburned state, so two strokes have a deserved reputation for pollution. On top of this they like to produce their power in a narrow RPM band, which doesn't really matter in a chainsaw, but is a big disadvantage in most vehicles. Various design features have been tried over the years such as variable exhaust timing and tuned exhaust pipes, but these in no way correct this basic flaw of the two stroke and as a result, their application has been limited to machines where the benefit of their power to weight advantage makes them suitable.

Clearcut Cause: A Book That Defies Stereotypes

by Art Joyce

Steve Anderson, a director of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, has just published his first novel, and its theme couldn't be more timely for the Kootenays.

Clearcut Cause is a tautly written story that deftly avoids the temptation to cast characters in stereotype, in the often polarized, highly emotional issue of logging. In the best tradition of storytelling, Anderson seldom speaks disparagingly of his characters, but lets the reader make up his or her own mind. The author's familiarity with the Kootenay landscape will be comfortable territory for readers who love the rivers, peaks and valleys of these mountains.

The story takes place in an ecologically sensitive valley bordering the provincial park in Keen Creek, near Kaslo. Bob 'The Beaver' Farnham, a second generation logger with the sensitivity of a charging bull, decides to blockade the blockaders on his logging road, creating a tense standoff. What the environmentalists don't know is that he has secretly sent a cutting crew into the valley to begin harvesting while the two parties trade insults.

That Anderson has experience dealing with both sides of the issue becomes clear in the well-rounded backgrounds of both loggers and environmentalists. Aside from The Beaver, these are all likeable people, sincerely motivated either by a passion for protecting the earth or honestly providing for their families. Melinda, the deeply conflicted wife of one of the loggers working for Farnham, vividly illustrates the devil's bargain industrial civilization creates for its citizens and the hard choices they must face.

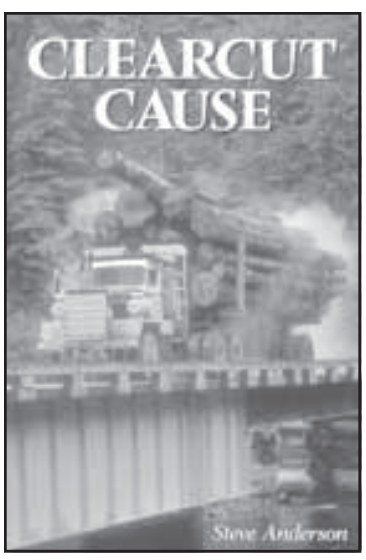
Kelly Tarashoff, the university-educated young spokesperson for the blockaders, comes from a pacifist Doukhobor family. Her commitment to non-violent confrontation for the sake of the environmentalist cause keeps the lid on a potentially explosive situation — for awhile.

Even here, Anderson neatly sidesteps easy clichés in the tense, page-turning buildup to the final confrontation. The tragic event that causes the standoff to finally unravel is totally unexpected yet wholly believable. And an object lesson in the human cost of all such confrontations.

Anderson, a teacher for some 20 years at JV Humphries high school, has lived in the Kootenays since 1972. He worked in construction, logging and treeplanting prior to his teaching career and spent time living in Sandon and on Red Mountain Road in Silverton. The book was conceived around the theme of mutual understanding. "I'm not into pointing fingers—it's history that got us here. If you make the assumption the other person is stupid, then you're starting from the wrong place. If we don't learn to talk to each other, we'll all lose in the end."

Although the characters and events in the novel are fictitious, Anderson was careful to render historical details accurately. He hopes to use the novel as a friendly introduction for students to the often contentious issues of forestry.

No matter what side of the logging issue you stand on, *Clearcut Cause* is a novel that is bound to broaden your understanding. The book deserves wide reading, especially here in the Kootenays.



Steve Anderson's new book is available at better retailers throughout the West Kootenay

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CARD OF THANKS

A MEMORIAL RECEPTION was held for the late **Tad Mori** at the Slocan Lake Golf Course on July 7, 2005. Sincere thanks to Dawn Lindstein and all the helpers, to Joan Law for the Bud Vases. Special thanks to Gayle Swanson & ladies for preparing the refreshments. Tad's family would like to express our deep appreciation to everyone.

DESTINATION SILVERTON thanks everyone who helped and participated to create a truly successful Solstice celebration and fund raising event. Special thanks for the wonderful donations of items, services, desserts, hotdogs, petting zoo, and fabulous musical performances.

IRENE POZNIKOFF from Three Islands Resort would like to thank all business sponsors and all those who participated in the annual Walk/Run for Fun around Summit Lake in support of Arrow Lakes Hospital. THANK YOU Overwaitea Nakusp, Hwy 6 Service, Nakusp Esso, Carson's Corner, Paddywagon, Blue Jay Sports and Marina, People's Pharmacy Nakusp, Shaggyz Hair Care, The Hut, Nakusp Home Hardware, Cut-Rite Meats, Touch of Fashion, NAPA, Isamu's Restaurant, Wood Fire Pizza, Sunflower Clothing, Nakusp General Store, What's Brewing on Broadway, Bon Marche Dollar Dollar Store, Second Sight, Kuskanax Lodge, Broadway Deli, Nick's Place, Arrow Lakes Theatre, Marvin's Small Motor Repair, Picardo's, Prima Materia, Forever with Flowers, Alley Health and Fitness, Gypsy Hollow, Alva Ritchie - Avon, Leland Hotel, Arrow Lakes News, My Aunt's Place (New Denver), Home Hardware (New Denver), Mountainberry Foods (New Denver), Silverton Building Supplies, Apple Tree Sandwich Shop (New Denver), Ann's Natural Foods (New Denver), The Valley Voice, Irene's Beauty Salon, KSCU South Slocan, Glade Esso, Three Islands Resort, Biznet Castlegar, USCC Kootenay Ladies Cultural Endeavors Community, Four Seasons Greenhouse Nursery (Winlaw), Winlaw, Mini-Mart, Crafts Untld., Maple Leaf Store (Crescent Valley), Colin and Kathy Sherbinin (KC Drilling), Castlegar BMH Holdings, Surgenor Accounting, Playmor Flowers, Downtown Shell (Castlegar), Teresa and Dan McCrea (Edmonton).

COMING EVENTS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND... New Denver Quilt Guild presents Fabric Inspirations II at the Hidden Garden Gallery, July 27 - August 1, 10 am-4 pm. Many handcrafted items will be available for sale.

"CHAKRA EXPRESSIONS": Toning & Intuitive Painting workshop, Saturday, July 30 (7-10pm) in Silverton. Soulgarden provides private sessions & workshops involving creativity, art and healing. Contact Sue Mistretta, M.A. @ 358-2177.

Valley Voice Business Classifieds start at $10.00

COMING EVENTS

BLAKE PARKER, RUBY TRULY @ Silverton Gallery. WIRELESS BODIES: CONFESSIONS OF A CYBORG. Spoken word, covert cartoons, performance art. Thursday, July 28, 2005. 8:00 pm.

NEW PERSPECTIVE GALLERY presents its latest show 'dem(ouse)graphics' featuring fourteen Emily Carr grads, photography, sculpture, ceramics, print-making and more....show runs July 16 to August 27, Wed-Sat 12-4:30. 226-7117 or info@newperspectivegallery.com.

FLEA MARKET Sat. July 30 at 10:00 am Silverton Gallery Lawn. Spaces $10 - Info 358-2760.

HANDS ON FOR THE ARTS 2005 Exposition & Silent Auction: Arts, Music, Adventure Experiences, Services, in support of VSSM Programs August 7 - 11, Villa Dome Quixote. To donate, please phone Barb 358-7765, by July 25.

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OBITUARY

BARROW, Victoria Yuriko (nee Obayashi) It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved "Vicky" on Saturday, June 25, 2005 - loving wife of 53 years to Bill, our mom, grandmother, sister, aunty, friend. Vicky died after a valiant battle with cancer - her cheerfulness and strength undaunted during her 2 1/2 year illness. Vicky is predeceased by her parents Fusajiro and Toyo Obayashi, siblings Fusao, Sally, Kon, Misa and Toki. She is survived by her loving husband Bill, sons Robin and Grant (Robin Lee), daughter Hollis (Howard), cherished grandchildren Kyla (Clayton) and Brenin, siblings Rose (Nishimura), Robbie, Sue (Yoshida), and in-laws Harry, Wendy, Victor, Marlene, Charlotte and treasured nieces and nephews.

Vicky was born in Vancouver on September 8, 1930 and raised in Kitsilano until her family's relocation to New Denver in 1942. After the war, she made Nakusp her home where she married and raised her family.

Vicky's was a life of giving and during her tough days she continued to naturally share her extraordinary sense of humour and unforgettable laugh. Our loss is great but "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" there is a new shade of color - indescribable and incredibly beautiful. She will live in our hearts forever.

A memorial service in honour of her life will be held in Nakusp on Saturday, July 23rd at the Robertson United Church at 1:00 p.m. Reception to follow at the Nakusp Seniors Hall.

A special thank you to Amy Svenson (niece) who was an incredible caregiver to Mom. We are grateful to Dr. Colin McNeill, who took such great care of Mom at her "home away from home".

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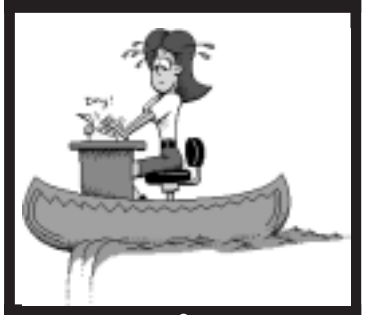

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New business specializes in solar and micro hydro systems

submitted

More alternative energy systems are coming to the Kootenays via Sustainable Living Technologies, a new business started by Jennifer Stephenson.

Jennifer specializes in solar and micro hydro technologies, and also supplies other off-grid products like composting toilets and on-demand propane hot water heaters. Her own cabin in the off-grid community of Deer Park on the Lower Arrow Lake was her training ground.

"I learn by doing," says Jennifer. "I bought a used solar system from friends who had bought it on impulse and ended up shifting their dream. They didn't have any idea what components they had, so I had to research everything and put it all together."

She was surprised to find a lack of expertise in the Kootenays. Gillian Brown, who used to sell solar products out of her Kootenay Woodstove store in Taghum, is now based in Vernon and spends only a few weeks near Kaslo every summer. Harold Lunnar of Nova Independent Resources, who has designed and delivered off-grid solutions for twenty years, works out of Kelowna.

"They were both critical to the success of my installation," says Jennifer. "Harold gave me all the bits and pieces I needed and instructed me how to put them together. Gillian came out on an emergency service call when I had some 'adventures' with the wiring. Luckily, both of them are willing to support my new business by providing me with expertise and with products."

After the success of that experience, it seemed natural to Jennifer to get into the business. With an MBA and twelve years experience designing and configuring complex technical systems for IBM, she is no stranger to technology or to business.

"The neural pathways in my mind for this sort of work are already developed," she says. "And it feels good to be in a business that supports the planet. Rising fuel prices are generating lots of exciting new products that can help people reduce costs, especially in the areas of solar heat and hot water.

"I believe a natural outcome of taking responsibility for ourselves is an urge to manage our own power on a physical level too. In the future, sustainable housing could well be a necessity and my vision is to help build that into our community."

A bonzai demonstration was part of the Slocan Lake Garden Tour.

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Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake launched

submitted

On June 22, some 50 citizens of the Kaslo area gathered at the Langham Cultural Centre to celebrate the establishment of the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society (CFNKLS). Officially registered in January of this year, CFNKLS is busy building its own endowment fund as well as administering grants from the McKinnon Family Fund established in 2003 by the late Tom McKinnon of Kaslo.

Ian McKinnon presents a cheque to Vicky Richardson of the Kaslo Public Library at the launch of the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake at the Langham on June 22..

Both these endowment funds operate under the wing of the Osprey Community Foundation in Nelson, but the benefits from those funds are to be used exclusively for the communities of Kaslo and Area D. With matching grants over the next two years from the Vancouver Foundation and Columbia Basin Trust, the combined assets of the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake and the McKinnon Family fund will be in the neighborhood of $275,000. The earned interest from those two funds will be used to benefit a variety of charitable organizations in the North Kootenay Lake Communities.

Ian McKinnon, on behalf of the McKinnon Family fund, presented cheques to the Kaslo Public Library ($935), and to the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo ($1870) for recreational activities for the residents. A $935 bursary was presented to JV Humphries graduate Shawn McConnel, who plans to enter the woodworking program at BCIT in September.

The inaugural general meeting elected its first board of directors which includes Chairman David Stewart, Vice-chair John Cathro, Secretary Ann MacNab and Treasurer Paul Hunter. Other directors are Sean Kubara, Dirk Pidcock, Carolyn Schramm, and Patrick Mallett.

A social hour followed the meeting with desserts supplied by the Silver Spoon Cafe and music provided by guitarist Angello Sammartino.

To find out more about the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake contact David Stewart at 250-366-4623.

Nelson artist and local quilters at the Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

Glyn Humphries, Nelson resident and a newcomer to the gallery, will exhibit his watercolours, mixed media and photographic images at his show entitled, "Summer Celebration" from July 20-25.

Of his work, which has been exhibited widely in the West Kootenays, Glyn says, "Magnifying the natural world with a closer eye, I am able to create unique and colourful interpretations that are almost abstract resulting in ambiguous and exciting images."

Glyn will host an opening reception on Friday, July 22 from 7-9 pm. Singer songwriter Kasia Juno, also from Nelson, will perform in the garden. Kasia, who is on a debut tour of the Kootenays, will be accompanied by Simon de la Salle on acoustic bass. Kasia, who has opened for Veda Hillie and Dee Daniels, sings in the gypsy-folk groove.

Then from July 27-August 1, Fabric Inspirations II, sponsored by New Denver Quilt Guild, will be at the Hidden Garden. This year's show will include quilts for sale and other handmade fabric items made by quilt members Diane Andrews, Gerry Buchanan, Norma Crawford, Carol Hedema, Gail Heibert, Chris Hildebrand, Barb Lahner, Joan Law, Leslie Mikkelsonk Amy Mori, Norma Nunn, Jill Roberts, Ruby Robson, Louise Scheerschmidt and Rowena Wilson.

This beautiful hand-stitched child's quilt was New Denver Quilting Guild's main project this past year and will be for sale at the show, July 27-August 1 at the Hidden Garden Gallery.