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

Fire protection service may come to Red Mountain Road

by Jan McMurray

An information meeting about fire protection for Red Mountain Road residents was held on August 10 at the Silverton Fire Hall.

Area H Director Don Munro led the meeting. He explained that New Denver, Silverton and Area H were looking at making one fire service area from Rosebery to Red Mountain Road. This area would be serviced by one fire department — an amalgamation of the New Denver and Silverton departments — with the main fire hall in New Denver and the auxiliary hall in Silverton. He explained that before a full public meeting was held on these proposed changes, he wanted to meet with rural residents first to discuss things specific to them.

An RDCK study on the costs of providing the service states that Red Mountain residents would be taxed at $1.40 per $1000 of assessed value. This is the same rate paid by people in the rural area of New Denver's service.

"We're looking for the best fire protection service possible," said Munro. "Insurance is not a concern of the RDCK — fire protection is." He said that most insurance companies would cover properties 8 kms away from a fire hall and some would go to 13 kms away, and recommended that residents check this with their insurance companies.

Munro said that Red Mountain residents would be given an opportunity to vote on whether or not they wanted the service, through a referendum or a petition process. After explaining the difference between the two methods, residents indicated that they would prefer to vote by petition. With the petition, only landowners can vote, whereas anyone who is a registered voter can vote in a referendum. Some of these registered voters may be renters and not the ones who would be taxed. The petition method takes into account assessment values and the distance of the properties to the fire hall. This way, people with lower or higher assessment values and people closer or further away from the hall will not skew the vote. Munro also made it clear that individuals cannot opt out of the service if it is voted in by the majority.

New Denver Mayor Gary Wright pointed out that Red Mountain residents would benefit from already established fire departments and that New Denver would benefit from a larger tax base, as it will need a new fire engine in ten years.

In response to residents' concerns about Red Mountain Rd. accessibility in the winter and its distance from the two villages, Silverton Mayor Tim Wiseman said that the key was community protection rather than protection for a specific structure. "Some service vs. no service is the advantage," he said. "The prime concern is to make sure the fire doesn't spread. You protect your neighbour."

The Slocan Valley Cycling Club and the BC Masters Cycling Association brought cycle racing back to the New Denver area for the 6th year this past weekend. Details on page 6.

Former Silverton Administrator's human rights case dismissed

by Jan McMurray

The Human Rights Tribunal has dismissed the complaint filed against Michael Dorsey, Village of Silverton councillor, by Rhonda Bouillet, former Village of Silverton administrator.

Bouillet originally filed the complaint against both Dorsey and the Village of Silverton, alleging that both parties discriminated against her in employment because of sex. She alleges that Dorsey said, at three council meetings, that she was having a sexual relationship with Silverton Mayor Tim Wiseman. She also says that she resigned as a result of the toxic work environment created by the allegations.

At the beginning of the hearing, Bouillet told presiding tribunal member Kurt Neuenfeldt that she had settled with the Village and that she was not at liberty to discuss the details of the settlement.

Neuenfeldt concluded that although Dorsey probably did make a comment suggesting that the two were having an affair, he made it in an "off-hand and bantering manner, before a small group of people" and only made it once. He found that "the statement retained currency as a result of Ms. Huether [Silverton village councillor and the mayor's sister-in-law] repeating it to Ms. Bouillet, Mayor Wiseman making a reference to the comment in a public manner at a council meeting on October 14 and Ms. Wiseman [the mayor's wife] bringing the matter up a second time at a council meeting on October 28."

Neuenfeldt finds that "the comment, in and of itself, did not impact Ms. Bouillet's employment." He concludes that Dorsey personally did not create a poisoned work environment for Bouillet by making the comment, but rather it was the repetition of the comment by others that exacerbated the impact of the comment on Bouillet's working environment. He found that the comment did not contravene the Human Rights Code and the complaint was not justified.

Bouillet was seeking compensation for wage loss, injury to dignity, embarassment and the health condition the incident caused, and a public apology.

John Everett will not be flipping burgers outside the Gaze n Chat in Silverton during the Raid the North Adventure Race, August 20. Details on page 9.

Valhalla Summer School of Music students practice on the grounds of the Silverton Gallery. The annual event wraps up this week. Details on page 8.

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Glenbank development proposal rejected by Nakusp Council

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp village council turned down a proposal for a subdivision development on Marshall Road at a special meeting on August 4.

Two property owners on Marshall Road were hoping to work together to develop 16 new 1/4 acre lots and build homes on them. Mayor Bill Cowan estimated that this would have generated $30,000 in direct taxation, $7,000 in water and sewer charges, and a healthy injection of cash into the local economy.

About a dozen Glenbank residents opposed to the development attended the public hearing held just before council's special meeting. They said that at the time Glenbank joined the Village, they were promised that lot sizes in that area would be no smaller than one acre and that their rural lifestyle would be preserved.

"Will we have to get rid of our horses and cows with all these neighbours?" asked Betty Fahlman.

David Nixon said that his biggest concern was the "alienation of his land as a farm."

There were also some concerns about recent water drainage problems on some of the neighbouring properties. These problems have started since one of the developers has begun logging on his lot.

Clay Carter, the other developer, attended the hearing and pointed out that housing was needed in Nakusp. "My concern is there are no available building lots in town. If anybody wants to come here, they can't. I thought the proposal wasn't so bad — we would set guidelines, like no trailers. It will put $4 or 5 million into the economy and more tax dollars. A bigger tax base is a good thing if you need more infrastructure."

Village boundaries expanded to include Glenbank in 1992 because the sewage situation there was causing a serious health concern. The solution was to join Nakusp and benefit from its infrastructure. This is the third time since then that Glenbank residents have had to oppose a re-zoning proposal.

When it came time to consider the bylaws to amend the zoning and OCP, Mayor Cowan declared a conflict and interest and excused himself, as he is related to one of the developers. Councillor Janis Dahlen was absent.

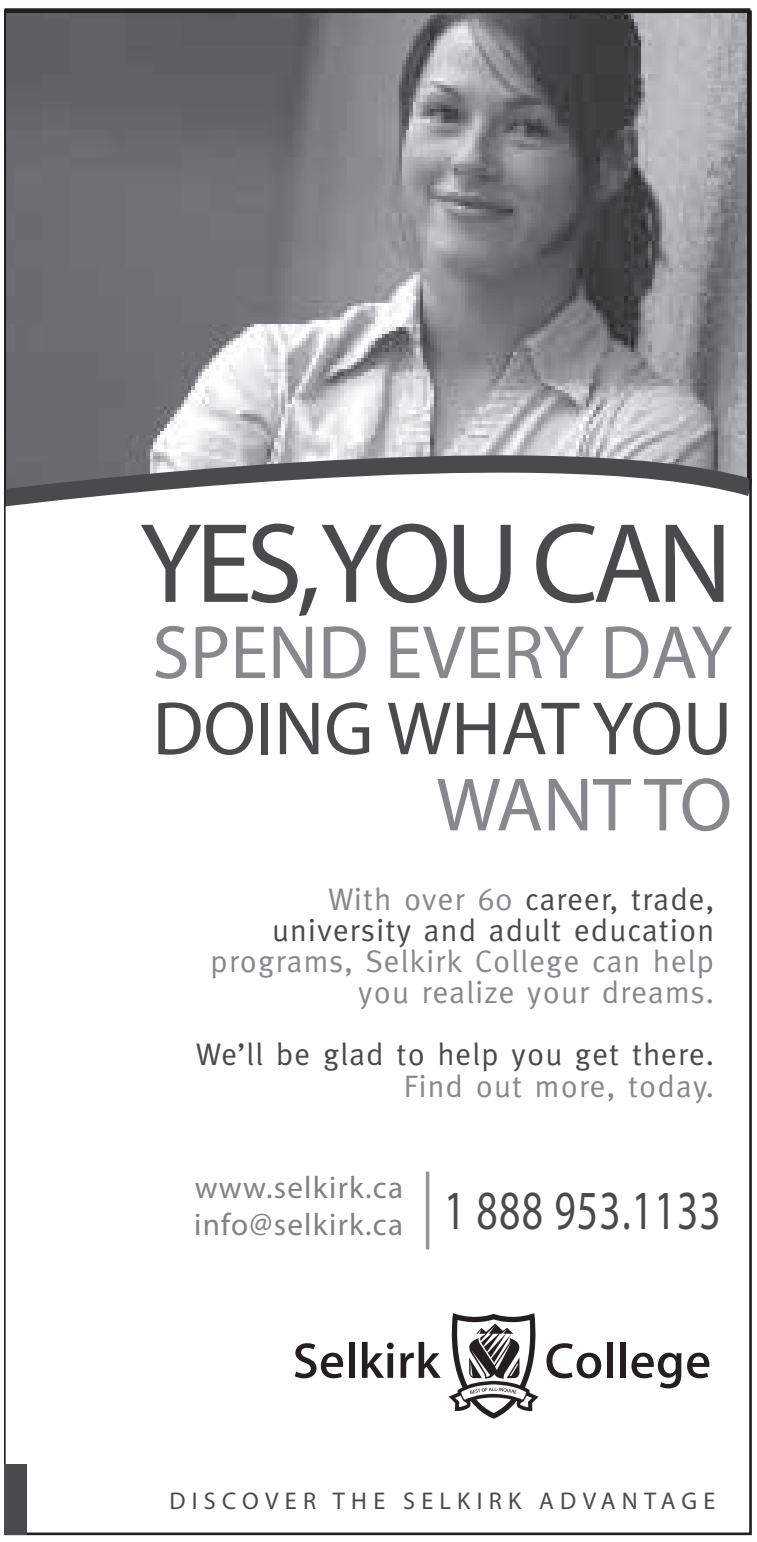
Councillor Karen Hamling explained why she was opposed to the zoning amendment. "I was on council at the time we brought Glenbank in and the only way they would join is if they could keep their rural lifestyle. This is the third time they have come and they have been very diligent."

Councillor Len Heppner said he was also opposed. Councillor Wally Curran said that although he didn't have the history, he was sensitive to the arrangements made and was opposed, "based on the issues of that portion of my community."

Cowan said he was shocked at council's decision. "I find it disheartening that council even voted on it instead of tabling. Then they could have obtained some information so their vote would be made with some knowledge and facts rather than emotion.

"This decision represents $1 million denied to this community," he said. "With new residents would come increased arena use and increased tourism, and it would justify more hospital beds and support seniors housing."

Cowan says he lived in Glenbank at the time of the boundary expansion and he asked then mayor Rosemary Johnson if the Village could guarantee no change to their lifestyle and ensure that lots would remain at one acre for perpetuity. He says that Johnson replied that there was no way anybody could make such a commitment. "Nobody got a promise," he said.



CBT Symposium report released

submitted

The summary report of the CBT Symposium held July 8-10 in Cranbrook has been released and is available at www.cbt.org, any CBT office or by calling 1-800-505-8998.

Board Chair and Interim CEO Josh Smienk describes the report as "a thorough overview of the Symposium's proceedings, which included diverse input from some 240 participants."

Marking CBT's 10-year anniversary, the Symposium was an opportunity for Columbia Basin residents to celebrate the accomplishments and reflect on the lessons of the last decade. It also provided a venue for residents to consider options for the future of CBT and its investment and benefits programs.

"I'm grateful for all the honest public feedback contained in the report," said Smienk.

Independent report gives RDCK high marks

submitted

RDCK employees and directors are "keen to provide high quality services" to the public, says an independent group of management consultants hired by the board to provide the district with its first formal operations and governance review.

Results of the two-month-long review were presented to the board at an all-day workshop held in Nelson on July 22 and made public at its regular meeting on July 23.

"The study was meant to tell us what we are doing right, what we're doing wrong and what we can do better," says board chair Gary Wright.

While complimentary overall, the consultants suggest that the organization is a little old-fashioned and bureaucratic; that the board should spend more time developing and monitoring policy, less time micro-managing.

Wright says, "I think it speaks highly of the directors that 23 recommendations for "immediate consideration" were endorsed the day after the workshop. Some were already underway. They will help our staff develop an efficient team approach to service delivery and help the directors to concentrate on policy. The advice may not be very 'sexy,' but it is very useful."

Among other things, the report points out the need for:

•improvements to the district's budget planning process;

•reorganizing and equipping building inspectors so they can spend more time in the field and less time in the office filling out paperwork;

•staff training to work in project teams;

•establishment of an appropriate staff compensation and benefits plan;

•more than the current one regular staff person to manage the district's information technology systems;

•the board to "simply note" projects it deems required then leave it to the CAO to assign staff and resources to manage activities.

The review was carried out by Gary Young Associates in conjunction with Chartwell Communications (Gordon Howie) and David A. Hughes & Associates.

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Co-generation study a no-go in RDCK

submitted

The RDCK board has turned down a request by Kootenay Boundary Regional District to share at this time the costs of a feasibility study for a co-generation plant intended to incinerate industrial and household waste.

The two districts are already developing plans for a joint composting facility. RDCK directors want to fully explore its costs and benefits before considering other management options.

Highway 31 Traffic Delays
Approximately 70 km north of Kaslo

The Ministry of Transportation advises travellers of delays and single-lane alternating traffic due to road and river bank protection — consisting of rip rap, log debris placement and road gravelling.

Commencing
Tuesday, August 9, 2005
for approximately 3 weeks
Minor delays of up to
20 minutes and single lane alternating traffic
7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

Watch for overhead message signs and allow extra time to reach your destination.

Construction speed zones will be in effect. Watch for flagpersons and help keep our work zones safe.

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Additional Daily Road Information can be obtained from:

- The Ministry of Transportation website at www.gov.bc.ca/tran reference "Road Reports."
- Or by phone: 1-250-881-2929 code 7623 (Road), long distance rates will apply.
- Or from General Road information available 24 hours-a-day at a charge of 75 cents per minute by dialing 1-900-565-4997. To charge to your Mastercard or Visa call 1-800-550-4997.

The Ministry thanks you for planning your travel around this important highway safety project.

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Wed., Aug. 31, 7:00 pm
New Denver, Knox Hall
Saturday, Sept. 10, 7:00 pm
Valhalla Wilderness Society
call 358-2333 for more information

18-year-old local organizes national conference on climate change

From her home in Hills to the Antarctic, Alysia Garmulewicz is passionate about climate change awareness. The 18-year-old organized the first ever Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3) held at Royal Roads University in Victoria July 3-6.

The inspiration for the concept of the conference came from Alysia's Canadian Geographic sponsored Students on Ice trip to the Antarctica in 2003.

"The environment of the Antarctic is so powerful, I really made an emotional connection to how special and important it was. Realizing that it would possibly not be there in the future because of climate change — because of the unsustainable ways elsewhere in the world — was hard to take," she explained. Alysia attributes her ability to develop the concept and organize the conference to her family background and upbringing. That is what really "let me take it and run with it," she said.

There were 75 youth delegates at the conference, from 14-23 years old. Young people who attended with a connection to our area were Alysia's brother Nicholas, Siri Hastings, Kesh Smith, and Amy and Liam Burton. Caitlin Perry was on the YC3 organizing team with Alysia and five other young people. There was also a committee of adult mentors on the team, and Alysia's parents Liza Ireland and Peter Collins were a big part of it.

Hills resident Alysia Garmulewicz and the Honourable Stephan Dion, federal Minister of Environment, at the Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3) in Victoria in July.

A very impressive list of 20-25 speakers and resource people were at the conference, including David Anderson, former federal Minister of Environment, who helped get Kyoto ratified; Stephan Dion, federal Minister of Environment; Guy Dauncey, author; Miali-Elise Coley, Chair of Inuit Circumpolar Youth Conference; Simon Jackson, Spirit Bear Youth Coalition; Henry Hengeveld, Emeritus, sr. science advisor for climate change to Environment Canada; Elizabeth May, Executive Director of Sierra Club of Canada; Morag Carter, Climate Change Program Director, David Suzuki Foundation; and Severn Cullis-Suzuki, David Suzuki's daughter. Alysia's mother, Liza Ireland, spoke with Ken Webster and Diz Glithero on Education for Sustainability.

Youth had a chance to hear these speakers, to break into smaller focus sessions and to do some action planning. Alysia says the action planning sessions were key, as the goal of the conference was to give youth the skills, motivation and support to take a lead on challenging climate change. The youth worked with adult mentors during these sessions. One group decided to lobby the US government to stop the legislation for drilling in the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge. Some others were interested in putting together a youth statement they hope to table at COP 11 (11th Conference of the Parties which have signed the Kyoto Accord). And there were many ideas on outreach and raising awareness through presentations in schools and communities.

"Another important thing with huge long-term impact that came out more than once at the conference was that we can work toward a sustainable society in whatever career we choose," said Alysia. "Because we explored many different aspects of climate change, like economics, politics, technology, education and social justice, we realized that sustainability was applicable to any career."

A documentary of Alysia is in the making, with Discovery Channel, CBC and CTV all interested in airing the finished product. The film will include footage from the Antarctic when Alysia was there in 2003, from New Denver while Alysia is organizing the conference, from the conference itself in Victoria and will follow her to Montreal in December, where she will attend the COP 11 meeting and help co-ordinate youth participation in the Kyoto process. The documentary could be released as early as January.

Alysia is off to Carleton University very soon to begin the Environmental Studies Honours BA program. On her way, she is making a detour to Whitehorse to speak at a youth conference there.

High-speed internet on its way to Silverton

by Jan McMurray

SILVERTON—Larry Lavan of Red Mountain Road and Vince Geisler of Victoria are keen to provide high speed internet to the Silverton area, and are in the process of applying for a $20,000 grant to help set up the service.

On August 9, the two men sought letters of support for the project from New Denver and Silverton councils. New Denver granted the request. Without quorum in Silverton, council will consider the request at its August 23 meeting.

Despite the lack of quorum, Lavan and Geisler demonstrated the system to those present at the Silverton session by video-conferencing with David Holman of In the Air Networks in Kelowna. Holman's company has set up the same system that Lavan and Geisler are working on, and provides the wireless internet service to outlying regions of the Okanagan.

Geisler explained that last year, he was hoping to move to the area. The hang-up was that his wife needs high-speed internet for her work. So, Geisler, a radio technician, got started on setting up the system. Meanwhile, he landed a job in Victoria doing electronics research and development, but he says he will finish installing the system here and is willing to train a local person as a technician.

Geisler has installed two-way radios on a 50' tower on Red Mountain Road and on the top of the liquor store building in New Denver, which is close to Telus' central office and the "point of presence." The signal from New Denver is broadcast to Red Mountain Road, where it will be re-broadcast to homes and businesses in the area. They have installed lightning protection and plan to install an uninterruptable power supply. With the fibre connection, the system should perform 40 times faster than dial-up and 10 times faster than ADSL. However, the downloading speed will vary, depending on how many people are using the system at the same time.

Lavan and Geisler plan to set up a non-profit society called the Red Mountain Internet Society to be the internet service provider. They hope to be able to provide the internet service for $39 per month, which is approximately what Telus charges for ADSL in New Denver. There would be an initial investment cost of about $650 for an antenna and radio unit that must be installed on the customer's property.

"We will charge what it costs us and if there's anything left over at the end of the year, we will make a donation to a community organization," said Geisler.

Everyone living from Red Mountain Road to Rosebery who is interested in the service should call 358-2149. They plan to offer the service to Hills later on. To find out if you are within line of sight of the tower on Red Mountain, look for the red light at night that they have installed on top. People living in New Denver and Rosebery will need binoculars to see the light. Lavan and Geisler are hoping to get radios that will transmit through trees in about two months time. The radios must be installed within 250 feet of the customer's modem.

To help close the "digital divide," the Province partnered with Telus to bring broadband access points or points of presence to the 151 communities still lacking broadband in BC. All of these communities are eligible to apply for a $20,000 grant to help with the costs of the "last mile" infrastructure, which includes all equipment required to connect local buildings to the point of presence.

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chamber@slocanlake.com
Valley Summer
While we are all having a busy summer season, let's keep a couple of things in mind:
- Check the Bulletin Board on slocanlake.com for local info.
- 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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Some things should never go to court...

Some things should never go to court, or any other quasi-judicial body. So it is with the case of Rhonda Bouillet's sexual harassment complaint against the Village of Silverton and Councillor Dorsey. The Human Rights Tribunal, while agreeing with with Bouillet and her supporters that Michael Dorsey probably made a tasteless joke about Bouillet and Mayor Wiseman having an affair, has said that this single incident does not represent a pattern of harassment or a poisoned workplace. The incident was promptly apologized for, and should have been forgotten. The only reason that the story circulated inside the community, impinging on the reputations of both Bouillet and Mayor Wiseman, is because the Mayor, his wife and his sister-in-law (also a Village Councillor) repeated the story at a number of public forums in the Village of Silverton.

God bless them all, they're not bad people, just misguided. Holly Wiseman was a tremendous woman who volunteered her time and expertise to many worthwhile causes in our community, before her tragic and unexpected demise. Heather Huether is a classy lady, who does wonderful work for the Valhalla Summer School of Music. She's a tireless promoter of her community, and one of its most energetic councillors. Mayor Wiseman is a nice guy too, when he's not being all self-righteous.

I have a lot of compassion for Rhonda Bouillet. She did nothing to deserve having her name dragged through the mud. The tribunal points out, quite correctly however, that Michael Dorsey had less to do with the harm to her reputation than did the mayor and his family. She's a sweetie and doesn't have a single malicious bone in her body. For the record, I don't think that anyone believes that she was having an affair with the mayor.

A lot of people have been hurt by this whole proceeding. Linda Thompson and Arlene Yofonoff were forced off Council, because they refused to support the mayor's bid to get rid of Councillor Dorsey. Councillor Dorsey was stripped of all his appointments (including the RDCK, which was mentioned in last issue's editorial). His common-law spouse, Leah Main, was dismissed, without cause, as a Village Administrator. The ratepayers of Silverton have been stuck with thousands of dollars in legal expenses and settlements that could have been easily avoided.

If I were in any way responsible for a debacle of this magnitude and in a position of public trust, I would be honour-bound to resign my position.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

When our things go travelling without us...

The other day, while I was working at my desk, we had a tourist, toting a camera, come in the door. There's nothing unusual about this, many visitors mistake our office for the New Denver Infocentre. He wanted to know if there was a second-hand store in town, so I directed him to the donation store, a few doors up the street from our shop.

He returned, some time later, having done his business at the donation store, and cooled his feet in Slocan Lake. This time he had a more serious problem. He'd left his camera in the donation store, and it was now closed. Was there any way that he could get back into the place to retrieve his possession?

My wife called around, and discovered that Anne Bunka, of Anne's Natural Foods, keeps a key. So we borrow the key and let the poor fellow into the shop.

Surprise, the camera isn't there. So Jim Park, of Vancouver, BC, comes into the office again, this time to buy a classified ad for a lost camera.

It turns out that someone had bought his camera about five minutes after after Mr. Park left the store. The lady at the donation store had a pretty good description of the fellow who bought it, and Mr. Park was able to track his camera to the second-hand shop in Slocan City.

He went down to Slocan, and retrieved the camera, which was missing its strap, and had 10 new photos on it. Still, he was pleased to get it back, and not too disturbed that it had gone on an adventure without him. He's looking forward to developing the film, and discovering where its been.

It's usually my hat that goes on adventures without me. My father returned it to me, recently, after it spent some time at his place in Manitoba. Unfortunately, it never creates a photographic record of its adventures.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

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*.

Voices from the Valleys

Remembering Smokey Smith

Upon hearing of the passing of Ernie "Smokey" Smith V.C., I thought upon the pleasure of meeting him many moons ago when I was a mere 'squadie' (soldier in training). This got me thinking of all the real men and women, from Canada and other countries, who stood tall when their respective nations called upon them, both in modern times and ages past. Many thanks to all of you who look after us, knowing that there are those who will not.

Jamie Rice
Rosebery

In favour of non-motorized trails

"Kill the goose that lays the golden eggs" is the cry of those who would motorize our foot and bike trails. We are told that if we do, business will boom, and we will all be better off.

They would have our tax dollars spent to "upgrade" these trails and maintain them against the resultant environmental degradation. There are already a million miles of our tax built logging roads in BC, most of which interconnect to communities, and are ready to be "shredded" by those "off-road" vehicles.

Those who want to motorize their recreation insist that my walks to hear the birds (and not their motors), see the wild animals (that hide away from noise), and smell the flora and fauna (instead of the exhaust residue that sits in hollows for hours) be considered of no value compared to their perceived "rights" to ruin my enjoyment of nature.

We live in a narrow, rocky trench that echoes each noisy passage through it. Increased noise and more forest removal will decrease the value of real estate here, and that is the most important profit for all of us living here (if we must look to monetary gain).

Eric A. Faulks
Hills

Disappointed with rejection of subdivision proposal

As a long time visitor and former resident who wishes to move back to Nakusp for my retirement years, I am saddened and disappointed by the village council's rejection of my recent proposal to co-develop a small housing subdivision in conjunction with another Nakusp resident.

The 18-lot subdivision proposal (nine lots for each of the two parcels) we were going to co-develop would have generated between $4 and 5 million in development and building costs for the local economy. It would have created some 27 man years worth of employment directly for the construction. It would have enhanced the local tax base by the same $4-5 million on an ongoing basis.

As a builder with over 27 years experience, I would have insured that there have been strict guidelines in place for the subdivision so we could create an attractive residential community which would have been a benefit to the value of the surrounding properties.

The message we got from council was that although there are almost no available building lots within village boundaries, they have no interest in any development to provide additional affordable building lots for local expansion.

It is sad to see, in an area which needs more growth to keep it economically viable, the rejection, out of hand, of a carefully planned low density housing proposal. I sincerely hope that this is an aberration and not the standard policy regarding development or the Village of Nakusp will not survive as an enjoyable, beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Clay Carter
Kelowna

The real cost of careless waste disposal

Household garbage doesn't top my list of expectations for what I hope to experience while hiking in nature, but it sure makes a bear's day! Somebody's careless disposal of household waste nearly cost me dearly hiking near Kaslo recently when I had to convince a bear that I wasn't interested in his find.

As well as being a very careless practice, it is potentially dangerous to leave your waste along logging roads, highways, at the entrance to the dump when it is closed and in other such areas. It could ultimately lead to needless injury for someone you know or care for. The day I had my garbage related bear incident, I turned on the TV and learned that a woman had been mauled by a bear. That could have been me, thanks to someone's thoughtlessness. However, the truth is that the incident was not about a dangerous animal, but a careless human who created an unnecessary problem. Sadly they also have marred that bear's future interactions with others and tainted his future (presuming that he hasn't ingested glass, plastic or something else that precludes any future at all for him).

We are all interrelated. Biologists view bears as indicator species. Their future and ours is inextricably linked. The real danger facing us is actually our carelessness and apathy. This is what creates a lot of preventable situations that too often end in tragedy.

So, if your garbage is too offensive for you, try separating your garbage. Freeze meat scraps until you dispose of them, rinse containers and meat wrappings well and isolate diapers in a sealed container.

If it is a matter of being reluctant to part with a toonie to dispose of your garbage, think about the bigger picture and the true cost of your careless waste disposal practices.

M. Morris
Kaslo

River Power

The Columbia Basin Trust held a ten year anniversary symposium in Cranbrook in July. Two hundred and fifty members of the Columbia Basin public made application and attended the weekend event.

The stated goal of the directors was "Building our collective wisdom and understanding around water and watershed issues in the Columbia Basin."

In 1964 Canada and the US ratified the Columbia River Treaty. Canada agreed to build three storage dams — Duncan, Keelyside and Mica — in the Canadian Columbia Basin.

I went to the symposium to represent Mountain Caribou and other species near extinction because of these reservoirs. Also to address the climatic effect of these and BC Hydro's reservoirs in the interior of BC. Are these bodies of standing water warming up our winters, exasperating insect infestation and causing more forest fires?

It is important that we give future generations a fighting chance to deal with the mounting problems associated with rapid climate change. The CBT and BC Hydro should pool resources and find out how much heat is stored in these reservoirs compared to when they were rivers full of salmon, fertilizing our forest and feeding creation.

It goes without saying that these dams, both hydro and storage, have created huge material gain for the Pacific Northwest. However in 2024 when the Columbia River Treaty comes up for re-negotiation those material gains may pale in light of the climatic cost.

Is it possible to create hydro power without huge storage dams? Let the mighty Columbia flow again and place turbines in the many gorges that embody power. We would kick salmon out of the Salmo river again and return the valley bottoms to forest and field.

This is one Basin resident's aspirations. Can CBT directors and Basin residents get beyond small talk?

Tom Prior
Nelson

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Voices from the Valleys

Kaslo River Trail should be for everyone

Congratulations to the Kaslo Trailblazers. Over the years, as more and more developments sprang up like mushrooms after a rain, many of the old trails in and surrounding the village were lost to public access. Fortunately we still had the river trail. I have walked dogs and ridden horses along this trail for many years. It is always fresh and cool under the trees, even on the hottest days. One beautiful morning we were thrilled to pass within a few feet of a doe with a tiny newborn fawn.

The Trailblazers have done a lot of work. The trail is wide enough in places to accommodate ATVs and possibly wheelchairs. The trail from the Welcome to Kaslo sign on Highway 31A has some switchbacks, and is too steep and narrow to ever be wheelchair accessible. The trail west from this point is a narrow gouge along the hillside, and there are still places where one must scramble over rocks.

The trail on the north side of the river is built on property owned by the Village of Kaslo. Much public money has gone into the project through various grants as well as private donations. What gives the Trailblazers the right now to limit access to this trail? They were not granted any jurisdiction over who many or may not use the trail. The Village gave them permission to build the trail, nothing more. Then there is historical precedent. The pre-existing parts of the trail were perfectly adequate for hiking and riding, and had been used for many years before Trailblazers came along.

One other concern: at the west end of the trail (the old water pipeline) youths have set up a large camp for weekend partying. They have constructed platforms on the ground and high up in the trees. They have moved in tables and chairs and other furnishings. The site is strewn with literally hundreds, if not thousands, of empty liquor, beer bottles and cans. The mess left here is appalling.

Let's all work together so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors and beautiful place we are blessed to live in. PLEASE!

Barbara Douglas
Kaslo

Think for yourself

Karen Turner's letter (The Man behind the Curtain) regarding her loss in the Steele swindle was touchingly insightful, sad and instructive. It is true, she and many other persons in this town were collectively defrauded, not only by Steele's false profit statements but also by a factor that Mrs. Turner was very perceptive and helpful to point out.

She tells us her thinking was disarmed not only by her dreams of becoming rich enough, essentially, to do fine things, help others, live a life without stress, but by the fact that so many of her friends and neighbours, persons she thought were shrewd in money matters, were also participating. Who these other town investors were carried a great deal of weight in persuading her.

Regrettably, this fact cites both the good and bad aspects of living in a small town. Townspeople know each other, if not directly, then by sight and reputation. This brings a certain sweetness to our community but makes for certain dangers. Oftentimes, when an issue of importance arises which is polarizing the town, townspeople, when asked for their position, want first to know, who is for it? Who is against it? The answer shapes their response.

Many a person carrying a petition door to door finds the homeowner no longer listening to what is said, so intent is he or she to scan the names of those who signed. If the "right" people are on it, you'll get the signature. This represents an outlook in which individual thinking is turned off and who's for it substitutes for a searching consideration and individual decision.

This is precisely what led to the tragic losses that have afflicted so many fine people in our community. The fact that this or that person known to be knowledgeable about money or associated with substantive earnings were in it made a large impression. And so one's natural skepticism was lost, carrying everyone involved into substantial loss. When you look at the fact that hundreds in our area were similarly defrauded, one sees the contagion that occurred and how misleading it was to each that so many others were for it.

Mrs. Turner is right, there is a kind of peer pressure even among adults. She tells us it was a kind of belief-pressure that "the greater number of people who believe in something, the more believable it becomes." Even more tellingly, she reminds us of something else we could learn from this tragedy. "I learned long ago not to smell what I was smelling, not to see what I was seeing..." There are many fallacies in which we believe, supported by sheer numbers of believers. Just consider the legions of good people who support the war against Iraq despite irrefutable evidence that they were misled. Oftentimes a majority outlook or action may not be right. Karen Turner left us with much to consider — essentially, one should do one's own thinking and forget "who's for it."

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Response to CBT editorial

I am writing in response to your Aug. 3 editorial, "Throwing the CBT baby out with the bathwater." You are correct in your observation that most of the Columbia Basin Trust's work over the last 10 years has been positive, even if a number of the Trust's investment projects have not succeeded.

Your editorial asks some good questions about the future direction of the Trust. In some cases, answers do already exist, but have perhaps not been effectively communicated to Basin residents in the past. In fact, communication issues were high on the list of items discussed at the Trust's recent symposium, held July 8-10 in Cranbrook. As a result, the CBT Board of Directors has become keenly aware of the need for the Trust to significantly improve its public relations efforts.

A number of other key themes were touched on by Basin residents at the Cranbrook symposium. They include: the need for CBT to build and maintain good relations with its partners; the importance of a strong working relationship with the Columbia Power Corporation; the need to seek formal public input into CBT's proposed option agreement to buy CPC; accountability concerns surrounding CBT's Board of Directors, which has been downsized from 18 to 12 members; a desire to see the Board focus more on broad policymaking and less on day-to-day operations; the need for CBT to organize a public forum specifically on investment issues; and residents' desire to be well-versed on water issues well in advance of any renewal, renegotiation or termination of the Columbia River Treaty.

The Trust has always viewed itself as an agency that does far more than just dole out annual grants. CBT works actively with its program partners on projects of importance to the Columbia Basin. These partners range from arts and culture groups to regional credit unions. The ultimate goal of each of our projects is to achieve greater regional strength and self-sufficiency, whether economic, social, cultural or environmental in nature.

Your editorial ponders whether CBT should exercise its option agreement to purchase its hydro-electric power partner, the Columbia Power Corporation. As stated above, this is a decision that will be placed in the hands of Basin residents, when public input into the matter is sought this fall. Residents will be provided with as much information as possible, to allow them to form their opinions in a clear and accurate way.

In response to another question raised in your editorial, I should add that if CBT ultimately opts to purchase CPC, most of the purchase price will be financed with monies borrowed from private banks at a very low rate of interest. On the other hand, if the option agreement is not exercised, we will not require "a really convincing plan for what we're going to do with the money instead," as suggested in the editorial. Rather, this money will simply not be borrowed, meaning the Trust will not have access to it.

I look forward to working closely with the staff and Board members at the Columbia Basin Trust, and especially with the general public, as we strive to consult and communicate more effectively with those to whom the Trust is ultimately accountable: the people of the Columbia Basin.

Derek Zeisman
CBT Manager of Communications

Trail open to all responsible users

This is a response to the letter from Barbara Douglas of Kaslo, in regard to her letter to the Kaslo Trailblazers. First of all, I regret to say that there was a communication error in what was written in the Valley Voice in the last issue Aug 3,2005. There is no intention to restrict access to the trail to anyone that is responsible about his or her usage, with the exception of motorized vehicles. Excess noise from motorized vehicles like motorbikes and ATVs, and considering the speed at which they can potentially travel, make it a very dangerous situation for any other user, which we want to avoid. There are enormous amounts of trails and roads outside of the Village that can be used by such motorized vehicles; they donít need to use the short stretch along the Kaslo River where the encounter with people taking a walk or jogging is much greater.

The point of restricting horses along the trail was not discussed by the Directors of the Kaslo Trailblazer Society and was put in the paper by only one of the directors that was in charge for the article, and in the future, the information going public will need to be agreed upon by at least two other directors before any news will come from the Trailblazers. The de facto in point is that on the new trail several piles of poop from horses were left and complaints about smell and accidentally stepping into it were received. My opinion is that horses were vital in the pioneer days of 100 years ago and out of respect to this alone they have a right to be included. The problem arises, that in our days, it is not acceptable if the owner neglects to clean up after their pets in urban areas. The smell of horse or dog poop or the inevitable stepping into it is not acceptable in any town anymore. People can walk their dogs along the trail if they clean up after themselves as well as have the dog under their control. The same rule should be apply for horses along the trail, seeing as their excrements are much larger and visible. Mutual respect is key to multi-purpose trails like this, especially in the immediate vicinity of or right in the town, where a range of diverse activity and the amount of traffic is much greater.

Since the trail is in the Village of Kaslo it will eventually be the responsibility of the Village, if they want to put restrictions on the Kaslo River trail, then that is their decision. The Kaslo Trailblazerís mission is to upgrade, make safe, and/or make new trails within the Village and the surrounding area for the people of Kaslo and for potential visitors to enjoy. Since spring we have done exactly this. It is also our intention to include wheel chair accessibility to the new intended bridge at the Old Dam Site so that handicapped people, young and old, can enjoy it.

In regards to the 'One Other Concern' at the end of the letter, the area that the Kaslo Trailblazer Society has agreed with the Village of Kaslo to upgrade is out of the Society's momentary jurisdiction. The trail along the north side of the river goes only as far as where we have planned to put the bridge across the Kaslo River, that is where the trail will continue, on the south side of the river. The trail beyond on the north side will not be worked on because it is too narrow and too dangerous. Anyone venturing onto that trail does so at their own risk, signage will be put up to that effect. Most people prefer go on the new trail up to the Highway (which is a lot saver) and loop back to town. Very few adults venture to the 'Ninja Fort,' (the end of that old trail) where the youths have been having their parties. Maybe it is time to practice some tolerance, and not only look and snoop around to find what the youth have been up to. I am happy to report that since we have started our project, no vandalism has occurred to our equipment or to any part of the trail. If the youths know they have a place and we respect their grounds, then maybe they will respect ours. There needs to be room for everyone. We may not agree on how the youths conduct their gatherings, but if it is in a place where adults don't really go, and they don't hurt anyone maybe we should let them be. Trying to encourage them to clean up after themselves and become responsible adults is what teaching is all about, isn't it?

So in closing, I would like to agree and quote what Barbara Douglas has stated so nicely. "Let's all work together so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors and beautiful place we are blessed to live in. PLEASE!"

Silvio Lettrari
President, Kaslo Trailblazer Society

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A70241

Pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, a Timber Sale licence is being offered for sale.

Closing Date:	September 1, 2005 @ 11:00 AM, BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC
Geographic Location:	Lindsay Lake, located approximately 30 km. west of the Needles ferry landing on Lower Arrow Lake, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District
Estimated Volume:	16,460 cubic metres, more or less
Upset Stumpage Rate:	$26.90 / cubic metre

The upset stumpage rate was determined by the Market Pricing System, and is applicable only to coniferous sawlog grades.

Term:	one (1) year
Estimated Species / Volume:	Lodgepole pine 15,903m^3, Balsam 319 m^3, Larch 131 m^3, Spruce 78 m^3, Douglas-fir 25 m^3, Hemlock 4 m^3

Comments: Harvesting method is clearcut with reserves, utilizing ground-based equipment. The licensee will be required to construct and permanently deactivate approx. 2.1 km of temporary spur roads.

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Enterprise, Category 2

Stumpage rates will be fixed for the duration of the licence term and for the duration of any extension to that term.

This sale has timber processing requirements specified in the timber sale tender package.

This licence is subject to, among other things, new maximum term limits and extension fee and surrender provisions. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the impact of these changes when formulating their bids. Further information on these changes may be found in Advisory Bulletin 06/28/04.

Applications will be accepted by the BC Timber Sales Manager, Kootenay Business Area, 1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6K1 no later than 11:00 AM (Local Time), September 1, 2005.

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A70241.

New Denver Council, August 9: High-speed internet proposal gets support

New Denver Council will support the application of Larry Lavin and Vince Geisler to provide high speed internet access for Silverton, peripheral New Denver and parts of Hills and Rosebery.

The duo proposed a non-profit society to run the service, and are actively seeking directors.

They also spoke about using their website and 800 number and RCMP check to establish a safe rideshare program.

Council authorized the expenditure of $500 towards the installation of additional power outlets in Centennial Park for the Garlic Festival, subject to the Hills Recreation Society authorizing $1000 towards this project.

Councillor Murphy has been working on an Air Quality survey, which will be ready in early September. He also reported that the new float is in Bigelow Bay and seeing lots of use.

Mayor Wright reported that the RDCK is working on an advanced transit system to ease transport to Trail Hospital.

Third reading of the Open Burning Bylaw was rescinded so the size of Category 2 and 3 fires could be clearly described.

Category 2 fires include yard waste not exceeding 1 m in height and 1.5 m in width, and require a permit (but no fee).

Category 3 fires include piles of combustibles over 1 m in height and 1.5 m in diameter, but less than 2 m in height and 3 m in width, and require a permit and a $20 fee.

Final adoption is scheduled for September 13.

Council will donate the use of Knox Hall to the RCMP for their speedwatch program. Mayor Wright has spoken to the RCMP regarding boating safety, as well. They are trying to get a boat on the lake.

Staff will look into complaints of vehicles being stored on Village boulevards.

Council passed a resolution supporting the Village of Nakusp's letter encouraging the CBT to maintain an investment focus in the communities of the basin.

Council set a policy that temporary residences on property within Village limits will be considered after a building permit has been approved and paid for.

Carol Gordon and Carol Weiss will be returning officers for Council elections this fall.

Council approved a development Variance Permit to relax setback for front property line for Peter Roulston.

Council will be extending the swimming area at Centennial Park to keep powerboats away from swimmers.

Tana Lee McPhee performs "CRAZY" at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp
Dress-up Dance Party
Aug. 21, 2005
Bosun Hall, New Denver
8:30 pm $6 at the door

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- Biological Monitoring
- Riparian Planting
- Stream Crossing Assessment

Masters cycle racing returns to New Denver

The Slocan Valley Cycling Club and the BC Masters Cycling Association brought cycle racing back to the New Denver area for the 6th year this past weekend.

26 riders between the ages of 35 and 70 battled on the downtown streets of New Denver in a Criterium (circuit) race and 36 cyclists raced 74kms. from Rosebery to Brouse and back on Sunday.

Local medalists included Jorg Becker of New Denver and Rino diBiasio of Hills.

Visiting cyclists praised the high level of race organization, the hospitality of local people and the beauty and challenge of our cycling area.

Slocan Valley film to premiere at Toronto International Film Festival

submitted

The movie that was written and directed by native New Denverite Aubrey Nealon and filmed on location in New Denver, Silverton and Hills last fall makes its world premiere at the 30th Toronto International Film Festival in the Canada First! program.

A Simple Curve is the story of 27-year-old Caleb. Raised in the majestic Slocan Valley by his hippie draft-dodger parents, he understands his father Jim's reverence for woodworking, soya and geodesic theory, but Jim's relentlessly groovy business decisions have brought them to the brink of ruin. As the junior partner in their carpentry shop, Caleb is powerless to stop the fiscal self sabotage. When Matthew, a wealthy American ex-hippie and an old friend of his parents arrives in the valley, Caleb sees his chance to save the business — provided he can keep Jim distracted long enough. But a small deception leads to colossal betrayal, propelling Caleb to that cherished moment in every young man's life when he must stand up to his father, once and for all.

Born and raised in the Slocan Valley, Nealon is excited and proud to be showing his favourite place to an international audience at one of the world's most important film festivals. While A Simple Curve is Nealon's debut as a feature filmmaker, this is not his first film to appear at the Toronto International Film Festival. The festival presented both his short films, Abe's Manhood (2000) and In Memoriam (2002).

"Canada First! is one of the most important showcases for emerging Canadian talent," says co-producer George Baptist. "It's a rare opportunity for this country's exceptional filmmakers to show off. Toronto is now one of the most important festivals in the world and attracts a huge, influential audience."

Local society plans to join international Voices for Hospice event

submitted

The New Denver Hospice Society is making plans to join the world's largest regular singing event — Voices for Hospice 2005.

Voices for Hospice takes place once very two years and is steadily growing. Events take place in churches, village halls, theaters, concert halls, pubs, clubs, schools and a host of other venues right across the globe. Each event supports a local Hospice Society or palliative care unit and, most importantly, each event allows communities to support their local hospice in a direct way.

This year's event takes place October 8, so mark it on your calendars and join us as we link together worldwide to celebrate all who provide hospice services and all who turn to the hospice movement for help. Watch for more details in September.

Voices for Hospice began in 1988 when Princess Alice Hospice in Esher, England held a concert to raise funds and public awareness. By October 2003, that one performance for one hospice in one country had inspired over 500 simultaneous concerts for over 400 local hospices in over 40 countries.

Locals' Appreciation Night
Fri & Sat. 5 pm til 9 pm

Order any menu item and receive the second for half price.

Also featuring a special on local beer and hi-balls for $3.00

Come and join us for a fun weekend at
The Mountain Greenery
Phone 358-2313 to book your lakeside patio table.

Carol's Corner
Summer Sale!!!
• 20% off summer wear
• Selected children's wear - 1/2 price
Main St., New Denver

Shall we dance?

Get ready for Dr. Fun and Night Crawlers by learning to jive at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp this summer. Devote only one morning and learn a few good moves and look hot on the dance floor this winter.

The Saturday Jive/Swing class is proving most popular, but Day 1 (Smooth Day) is filling up fast too. There is still lots of space in the Country and Latin classes and think of the fun clothes you get to wear for that!

So don't delay, register today at www.dancingbeat.org or 358-2448. Some subsidies are available for childcare. Unpartnered participants go on a waiting list and are matched up first come first serve basis.

The Saturday night social dance will feature a demonstration of Argentine Tango and Sunday night the instructors will demonstrate various other dance styles. Tana Lee McPhee of Silverton will perform "Crazy," a tribute to Patsy Cline and Linda Rondstadt. This music is great for dancing, either waltz, foxtrot, swing or two-step. The show starts at 8:30 pm Sunday and admission is $6 at the door.

Watch for posters around town as special classes and other surprises unfold.

Slocan Lake Dance Camp
Aug. 19- 22, 2005
Bosun Hall, New Denver
Beginner & Intermediate Classes in Smooth, Swing, Country & Latin dance styles
$35 per couple per day
Watch for brochures locally
www.dancingbeat.org or 358-2448

Michael Wiebe of the University of Calgary Ballroom Dance Club is the intermediate instructor at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp in New Denver. An award winning dancer in the American Standard Smooth class, Wiebe comes to the Kootenays several times each year to teach. The Dance Camp runs August 19-22 and offers classes in the Smooth, Swing, Country and Latin styles.

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358-2178

Slocan council, August 10: Boat ramp proposal presented

by Don Currie

•Trevour Shephard of Northstar Environmental Engineering, Kelowna, presented a proposal for a new wharf and boat ramp based on pre-design work done in 2001 by Urban Systems. The original concept was a two-ramp structure, serviced by a central floating dock positioned by pilings. The budget for the project in 2001 was $170,000, including engineering, public tendering and construction.

Shephard cautioned that costs have increased about 30% over the last three years, bringing the 2006 estimate to $214,000. To keep the project within the original $170,000 estimate, the report suggests scaling back to a a single boat ramp, complete with 6' x 20' floating wharf and a tethered log breakwater, and completing the project in stages. Shephard noted that the largest cost item was the cast in place concrete ramps estimated for 2006 at $97,500.

Council queried Shephard about the difference in costs and efficiency of fixed and floating breakwaters. Shephard said the cost of a breakwater had not been determined but a log boom would be adequate to break up large waves from the north. Local logs might be available for a breakwater and floats might be produced locally.

Councillor Madeleine Perriere wanted to know if plans for the boat ramp included facilities for docking a paddlewheeler. Shephard said the boat ramp as presently designed would launch boats up to 28' (8.6 metres) and different pilings would be required for a paddlewheeler. Administrator Eunice Ludlow advised council to ensure that the paddlewheeler project be "married to the boat ramp system."

The consultants proposed a project timetable beginning August 2005 with arranging for all design and government approvals, awarding the contract in January 2006, starting on excavation in February and completing construction by the end of May 2006.

Council asked Shephard to bring to the September council meeting a revised proposal with a list of skills and resources required by the Village to reduce costs.

The Village received a $100,000 contribution toward the project from Canfor in April.

•Fire Chief Tim Hill reported that there were 18 volunteer members on the the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD). They extinguished a fire in a chip pile at Springer Creek Forest Products on August 1. The same day First Responders were called to attend an assault victim prior to arrival of BC Ambulance.

Council discussed the aftermath of the assault. The victim, a Village employee and member of the SVFD, sustained a concussion and broken jaw. Mayor Van Bynen called for full community support for the efforts of the RCMP to manage the incident. He explained that council can present a community impact statement to the court at the time of the assailant's trial.

RCMP Constable Scott Rennie, investigating officer, advised The Valley Voice that Darrin Eggen of Slocan has been charged with assault causing bodily harm and will appear in court in Nakusp on August 30. Pending his court appearance, Eggen was released on his own recognizance.

•In response to concerns about non-compliance with the animal control bylaw, Administrator Eunice Ludlow reported that a bylaw control officer would be on duty from mid-August to mid-September to enforce all bylaws.

•Public Works foreman Jerry Simmons reported that water use had risen to 290,000 gallons per day but sprinkling regulations had not been imposed as "most people are sprinkling at the right times." All dead and dangerous trees have been removed from the ballpark, curling rink and campground and all crosswalks have been repainted. A new four-way stop has been installed at Slocan St. and Giffin Ave. A new water line is being connected into the old line from Springer Creek for watering the ballpark and cemetery. Simmons said staff would soon resume work on upgrading the sidewalk on Harold St. and the construction of two new bus stops.

•Responding to a complaint from Ian Currie about trucks speeding on Slocan St., council recommended participation by volunteers in the Speed Watch training sessions in New Denver. Interested volunteers can contact Cst. Oster at 358-2222.

•A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Doug and Ana Burton for a zoning variance to use a garage facing Giffin St. as an office and retail store for the sale of stoves, chimneys, HVAC accessories and services.

Crescent Valley Youth Centre can be rented

submitted

The Crescent Valley Youth Centre in the former Selkirk College building beside the community hall is available for rent outside of regular youth centre hours.

Book the youth centre for birthday parties, meetings, classes, clubs or special events. Renters can enjoy the slate pool table, foosball, sports equipment, TV and DVD, stereo, board games, kitchen, and for an additional $25, the PA system and Karaoke machine.

The space can be rented seven days a week from 8 am to 5 pm as well as Sundays and Mondays until 11 pm at a rate of $25 per day plus a $25 refundable deposit. These hours may change depending on activities.

Private or public bookings are accepted under the condition that a responsible adult will be present and in charge at all times.

Discount rates will be considered for ongoing or long-term rental agreements.

The youth centre operates Tuesday through Thursday 6-8 pm and Friday and Saturday from 7-11 pm.

Call 359-8288 for more information.

Massive turnout at Poker Float

submitted

The Slocan River was awash with colour and good times on August 7, during the largest poker float ever. Over 250 floaters signed up for this 11th running of the event, which is the brainchild of Craig Lawrence, Recreation Co-ordinator for Slocan Valley Recreation Commission.

Naomi Smedbol - Special award for her department of holidays dress up

"I'm thinking of checking into the Guinness Book. We may just qualify as the largest, non-motorized floating poker game out there," he said with a whimsical grin.

The Best Poker Hand this year was brought in by Nelson's Scott Herrod who came in with a full house — aces over sevens.

The Weikwert family were judged as having the best float and Bob Stokes pulled in the best hat award as he floated the river in his "tutu."

Enjoy a day of just horsin' around

submitted

Everyone is invited to come, either as a spectator or a participant, to the Slocan Valley Outrider Association annual Play Day on Saturday, August 20 starting at 9 am.

This year's event will be exceptional, with grain prizes for all the horses, thanks to Egg-Cetera Feed and Supplies, which organized the donations from Otter Co-op and Sure Crop Feed Suppliers. There will also be "Luck of the Draw" gifts that are both for the "horsy" or "not horsy" person.

Participants show up with HCBC insurance, a horse and $10 entry fee. Others come with a healthy appetite to satisfy at the concession, and smiles, cheers and applaud to support the efforts of all.

The following divisions are planned to include riders of different abilities, young and old: Child/Junior Walk Trot (leadline okay), Child/Junior Any Gait, Adult Walk Trot Ride or Drive, Adult Any Gait. We have a number of exciting games planned, old and new. At intermission there will be improv musical costume entertainment. Participants bring their own music.

The SVOA grounds are in Slocan, past Mountain Valley Service Station, past the cemetery and on the right.

For more information contact Barb Lindsay at 355 2397 or purebarb@hotmail.com

The Slocan Valley Outrider Association holds its annual Play Day, August 20.

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THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN, AND COMPLY WITH, A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT.

All those interested in this position should send a resumé to the Attention of:
The Administrator, Village Office, P.O. Box 50, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0

The closing date for applications August 31, 2005.

Valhalla Summer School of Music draws to a close

The Valhalla Summer School of Music's seventh session is coming to a close after three weeks of top-notch instruction and performance.

This year, the school tacked an extra week on at the beginning, July 31-August 5, for the Valhalla Suzuki Institute. Local mother-daughter Suzuki instructors Daphne and Miranda Hughes organized the week-long music camp, attended by 43 students and with seven instructors.

When asked if they would "piggyback" with VSSM again next year, Daphne replied, "We have to! The students, parents and instructors all want to come back. It was just too successful."

That sounds very familiar. VSSM started seven years ago with 50 students and is now up to around 200. Many of the world class faculty members and accompanists come back year after year and would not want to give up their annual summer gig in Silverton.

August 8-12 was the main week of the summer school, which offers violin, viola, cello, piano and voice instruction. About 175 people from age six through the teens were registered for the program, plus some 25 or so in the adult choir, orchestra and music appreciation classes. There was also a children's program for kids aged 3-9. Many of the students are from the Kootenays, but they also come from as far away as Washington, Montana, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Saskatchewan. A number of the 30-35 instructors and accompanists are also from the area, with some coming from Calgary, Vernon, Kelowna and Vancouver. The third week, August 15-19, consists of Masters classes for the top student musicians.

David McMillan, media co-ordinator for the school, estimates that with the family members of the students and faculty, the music camp brought in about 500 people. To accommodate the influx of visitors, "local people and businesses bend over backwards to co-operate," he said.

There were several concerts featuring VSSM students and faculty at the Silverton Memorial Hall during the second week, and two Suzuki student concerts on August 5.

In addition to the annual Hands on for the Arts Silent Auction this year, there was another very special fundraiser. The school has obtained a Yamaha Grand Piano and has named it the Holly Wiseman memorial piano. To help pay for the magnificent Grand, people can sponsor one of the piano's keys for $20 in memory of Holly, who was a very active VSSM volunteer. The purchase price of the piano is much reduced, thanks to the help of VSSM instructor Jamie Syer, and the World of Music store in Kamloops and Yamaha. The piano was inaugurated at the Faculty Concert of August 8 and will stay at the Silverton Memorial Hall for the community's use.

If you've been drinking Kokanee this August, you might have seen this label on the bottle. Slocan Lake is one of ten BC summer hotspots featured on the back labels of 4 million Kokanee bottles for the month of August.

Arnie Sahlen, VSSM piano teacher, performs on the new Yamaha Grand piano at the faculty jazz concert on August 9. To help VSSM pay for the piano, people can donate to the Holly Wiseman Memorial Fund.

The Valhalla Suzuki Institute students performed at the Silverton Memorial Hall on their last day of summer school, August 12.

Fiona Carnie, violin teacher and conductor of the young children's orchestra, gives this young musician a few pointers in class.

Practising for her recital.

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Lorna and Galen show at the Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

NEW DENVER—Lorna Obermayr, wearing her artist's chapeau once more, presents her exhibition of new paintings entitled Standing in the Land from August 17-22 at the HGG.

Of the show Lorna says, "I haven't painted in some time but for years I've been thinking of how to approach the massive landscapes that surround us here in the valley. Now I'm pleased to present my versions of the beauty and monumentality of our everyday viewscapes."

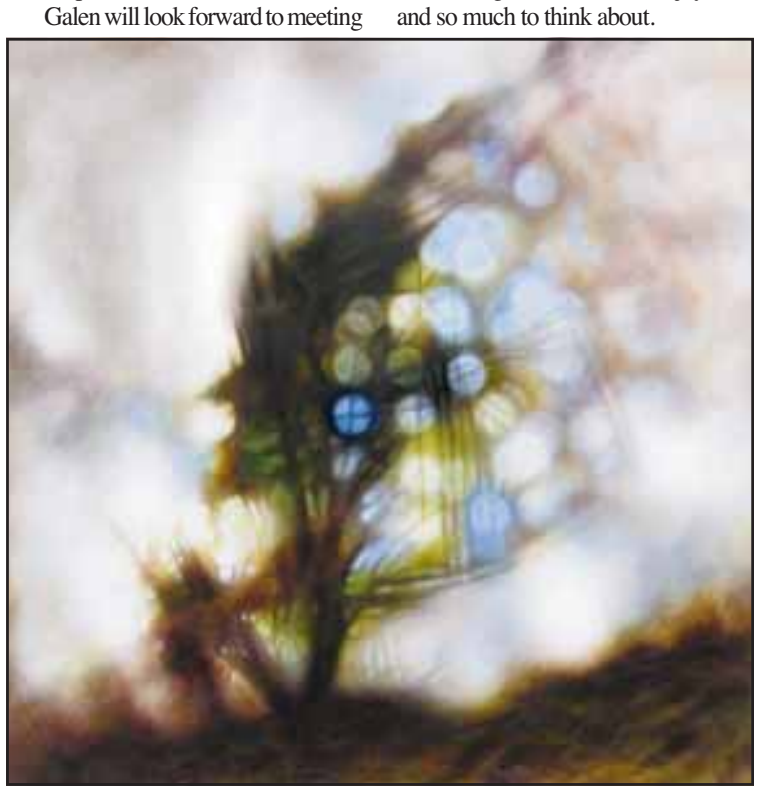
Lorna is pleased to present Ruby Truly and Andrew Rhodes who will entertain at her opening reception on August 17 at 7 pm.

Let's give a big welcome back to Galen Felde, returning to the Hidden Garden after an absence of two years. She will present a show of new paintings entitled Flight and Small Sorrows from August 24 to 29.

"This series explores impermanence and the contradictory nature of our species in a dialogue between dissolving forests and urban landscapes," said the artist.

Galen will look forward to meeting with friends old and new at her opening party on Friday, August 26 at 7 pm. "Osmosis" will play in the garden if the weather is fine, and indoors if not.

Both of these events are partially supported by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance and all are welcome to attend. Let's support our artists who dedicate so much of themselves to their work and give us so much enjoyment and so much to think about.



Galen Felde's exhibit 'Flight and Small Sorrows' is at the Hidden Garden Gallery, (Aug 24-29). This work is called "Unsaid."

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Raid the North extreme racing arrives in the Kootenays, August 19-21

submitted

Frontier Adventure Racing Inc. is excited to announce that this season's western Raid the North Adventure Race — Canada's ultimate adventure race series — arrives in the Kootenays August 19-21.

This year's event will be based in Nelson. The 36-hour, two-day non-stop race will take teams of four through a 125-km course of lake and river paddling, on- and off-trail trekking, mountain biking and rappelling.

Kaslo has been chosen as the start location. Twenty teams of four will gather by the SS Moyie at midnight on Friday, August 19, and head off into the mountains under a nearly full moon. Kaslo businesses are open for midnight madness shopping that night.

The race will go through Silverton on Saturday, August 20. A "Transition Area," where the teams switch from bicycling to canoeing, will be set up at the Dewis ball park in Silverton that day. This is a great place for spectators to gather and wait in anticipation for the teams to come through.

The race will run through until 12 noon on Sunday the 21st, with the finish line located at Nelson's Lakeside Park.

Everyone is invited out to cheer teams on at the start in Kaslo, Transition Area in Silverton or the finish line in Nelson.

In addition to Raid the North, Frontier Adventure Racing will also be holding the Salomon Adventure Challenge — a 5-8 hour adventure race — starting and finishing at Lakeside Park on August 23. It starts at 10 am and will take teams of three through a 30-km course of paddling, mountain biking and trekking. This series is designed to be a fun, yet challenging way to enjoy adventure racing, and a great opportunity for beginners to participate in this growing sport.

Registration is still available for both events at www.raidthenorth.com. Grab a few friends and join us for an unforgettable adventure weekend. Or, come volunteer as CP staff or join our medic team. It's a great way to experience the sport of adventure racing. A strong volunteer team makes these events more enjoyable and memorable for competitors.

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Nakusp council, August 4: Golf Club asks for help and well project goes ahead

•Cheryl Nishida, board director of the Nakusp Centennial Golf Club, attended as a delegation to ask for $15,000 towards the purchase of a new submersible irrigation pump. The pump that was installed in 1982 stopped functioning in July, and is so old that it cannot be rebuilt. Nishida had spoken to Area K Director Paul Peterson, who said an RDCK grant of up to $10,000 would be available if the Village would contribute $15,000. If the Village does not agree to contribute, Peterson could arrange for a $2,000 RDCK grant. There is an August 22 deadline for the RDCK grants. Nishida said that the total cost of the project would be $20-25,000: $10,000 for the new pump plus $10-15,000 to upgrade the system.

Nishida said that the golf club, a non-profit society, did not have the funds to cover such a cost, especially with income down because of rainy weather in the spring and last fall, and the fires in the summer of 2003. She also mentioned that the club lost a pro last year, and bought out his stock at $15,000, which is a common practice.

She also spoke about how important the golf course is to the community, as a place where seniors find companionship, where juniors play and as a draw for tourists.

Nishida described what the golf course is hoping to do to position itself better financially. This is the first year that the society has owned the pro shop and has put into place a bag tag system. The board will recommend an increase in rates and an emergency contingency fund will be set up. The board would like to attract businesspeople as directors and to require that members contribute volunteer hours or money in lieu of those hours.

Council decided to get legal advice on the matter, to be brought forward to a special meeting before the RDCK grant deadline of August 22.

Councillor Karen Hamling said she really sympathized with the golf course, but was not sure if the taxpayers would be happy with their money going towards this. Councillor Wally Curran said that the golf course was a huge factor in tourism and that council should support it. Mayor Bill Cowan suggested that legal information was needed, as the golf course is outside of village boundaries and is a profit making society. "It may mean that instead of looking at it as a grant, we would have to give a loan, with no payment for three or four years," he speculated.

In a telephone interview after the meeting, Area K Director Paul Peterson explained why he put the condition on the larger grant. "I offered the golf course to pay 40% of the cost up to $10,000 in total, the condition being that the Village pay the remaining 60%. That is close to the ratio of where the members live."

•Council gave permission to go ahead with the groundwater well project, although the Village will not hear about the status of its grant application for $200,000 towards the project until October 15.

Last year, the Village contracted WSA Engineering Ltd. to complete an alternate water supply study. A test well drilled near the arena showed that this was the way to go to replace the existing surface water supply. The Village applied for a $200,000 grant to make the test well operational, and to drill a second well and bring it on line. The total cost of this project is $300,000, so the Village has committed $100,000.

For now, Village staff would like to proceed with making the first well operational. The cost of this portion of the project is estimated at $165,000. Correspondence from the engineering company states that getting started on the project will not jeopardize the grant application, but points out that if the Village does not get the grant, it will have to pay $65,000 more than the $100,000 it has committed to the project.

The project must be done by the end of the year to avoid the cost of re-testing the well. Waiting on the grant until October 15 would make it impossible to complete the project in this time frame.

The Village initiated this process because during drought years, the existing surface water supplies are inadequate and because the Ministry of Health has required a higher standard of treatment for surface water.

•The outstanding taxes of $119.36 on an abandoned mobile home, owned by the Estate of Ronald Hill, were written off, as the costs to collect the debt would be greater than the outstanding taxes.

New RCMP officer in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

Constable Owen Wlodarczak is Nakusp's newest RCMP officer.

Wlodarczak, originally from Alberta, comes to us from Kelowna, where he served seven years in General Duty and a little over six years in the Plainclothes Unit. He was on the Serious Crime Unit for his last five years in Kelowna.

Wlodarczak says he was looking for a small town posting and ended up with Nakusp. "Looking back, I think this is the best place out of them all and I am grateful we came here," he says. "My family and I feel very welcome here already!" Owen and his wife have two daughters, 8 and 2 years old.

Policing issues that have been brought to the new officer's attention are vandalism, marihuana grow operations and youth related issues such as drinking. "I think a lot of these things are common in most communities around the province and we will make every effort to deal with them," he said.

As for bike patrol, Wlodarczak likes the idea. "Anything that makes us more visible and promotes a healthy lifestyle is a good thing," he says, adding that the detachment also has a snowmobile and a boat, which he hopes can be used often as well.

Cst. Owen Wlodarczak

Halcyon Hot Springs Resort opens full service spa

by Jan McMurray

Anyone in the area looking to treat themselves at a full service spa need look no further than Halcyon Hot Springs. The Spa at Halcyon, the first full service spa in the area, is now open and offers a very impressive array of services.

There is a choice of five different types of massage (Hawaiian, Swedish, Hot Stone, Aromatherapeutic or Sports), three types of facials (Halcyon Refresher, Deep Cleansing and Ampoules), manicure, pedicure and paraffin treatments, and three Halcyon Signature bath treatments (Mineral Bath "Kur", Thalassobath and Aromatherapy Bath).

"The goal of the spa is to send you back into your daily life with your skin and your spirit refreshed and balanced," says Sabine Burmeister of Halcyon Hot Springs Resort.

Four therapists and two estheticians staff the spa, which has three treatment rooms — one with a large bathtub and a shower with body sprays — and a lobby with manicure and pedicure area.

Products used at the spa are holistic, biodynamic or organic. Some of the product lines are Dr. Hauschka, Outercoast Seaweed and Halcyon's own mud/algae products.

Visit www.halcyon-hotsprings.com/spa for a description of services offered at the spa.

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Kaslo council, August 9: Party property shut down

•CAO Sawyer reported to council that RCMP had drawn her attention to dangerous use of Village-owned property on Kaslo River, adjacent to the New Denver highway. Her written report says the site has been used for large rave-style parties and that the ground is littered with liquor bottles and other debris. She points out that access to the site is very dangerous. RCMP have indicated they will be discussing a different location, preferably on private property, with the identified organizers of these parties. Council voted to dismantle all stuctures on the site, decommission road access and post No Trespassing signs on the property.

•In response to a letter from Natalie Weeks and family asking for a motorboat-free, safe swimming area in Kaslo, council directed administration to begin the process of getting a designated 'off-limits to power boats' area adjacent to the SS Moyie swimming beach. The Planning and Development Committee will look into the designating of non power vessel beaches and the Community Services Committee will discuss the enforcement of safe boating practices with the RCMP. Community Services will also consider 'no dogs' and 'dogs on leash only' signage for village beach areas.

•Council received a letter dated April 29 from Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society President Gusti Callis, asking permission to close the intersection at Front St. and 4th St. on the Friday night of the Jazz Fest from 7-9:30 pm, and to block Front St. just east of 4th St. to set up and remove staging from 3-10:30 pm. Council was apparently unaware of this correspondence until now, and RCMP and emergency staff as well as merchants were not informed in advance. Council decided to ask Society board members to meet with council prior to the festival in future.

•The lease will be signed between the municipality and the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society for one year for $1.

•Kaslo Golf Club was directed to proceed with posting signage and calling a meeting within 30 days. Earl Zilkie was authorized to act as the municipality's agent on matters concerning building a new clubhouse.

•The liquor store parking signage will be changed to reflect deliveries every day, at the expense of the Liquor Control Board.

•The Chamber of Commerce will be advised to contact the Ministry of Transportation on its concern about Coffee Creek traffic interruptions.

•The lease with the Kaslo & District Arena Association will be renewed for a five-year term at an annual cost of $1000.

•The Schumachers' request for removal of cottonwoods on the beach was referred to the Public Works Committee.

•Correspondence regarding tourism funding available was referred to the Planning and Development Committee.

•In response to an email from the Columbia Basin Watershed Network regarding its website, administration will register as the Village of Kaslo contact.

•The Village proclaimed October 5 as World Teachers' Day and expressed appreciation to the teachers.

•CAO Rae Sawyer will draft an amendment to Beer Garden License 1016 to include a requirement for proof of $2,000,000 liability insurance coverage, with the Village of Kaslo as an additional named insured.

•A special meeting will be held in September to review the airport development plan.

•The Village will advise Doug Stuckless that it cannot accommodate his request for permission to operate horse and buggy rides in downtown Kaslo.

•A motion coming out of a Planning and Development Committee meeting was carried, that Public Works go ahead with the Village's proposed waterfront trail project.

•Barry Rempel, Village representative on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, will attend the next council meeting as a delegation.

•$41,572 was approved for payment.

The Langham shows Obermayr and Ward

submitted

The Langham Gallery presents two new art exhibits and invites everyone to the opening reception Friday August 19, 7-9pm.

Bible Studies by Lorna Obermayr of New Denver consists of 19 lino cuts accompanied by short poems based on Old Testament stories. These works are a satirical, feminine reading of the bible stories. The exhibition has been touring and although viewer discretion is advised, the reaction to the work has been laughter rather than outrage.

Birds, Songs and Throat Patterns by Nichol Ward of Kaslo features the ceramic creations of this popular emerging artist. The show focuses on the different birds in the area through her own birdseye view and through her primitive fired clay works.

This artwork will be on display until September 25. Regular gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, 1-4 pm. Call 353-2661 for more information or visit www.thelangham.ca.

"Mary does not choose to become Mother of God," a woodcut by Lorna Obermayr

Kaslo Youth Theatre Company performs first play

submitted

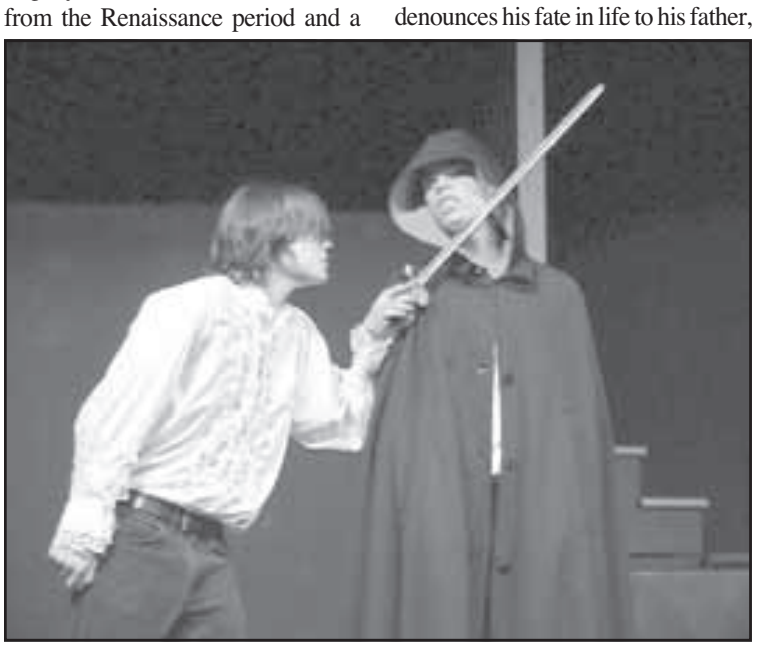
The first Kaslo Youth Theatre Company production "Dove in Death," written and directed by Kaslo youth Travis Pangburn, premiered July 27 at the Lighthouse Theatre.

A large crowd was entertained by this exciting musical, with original songs and script, depicting the tragedy of forbidden love. Costumes from the Renaissance period and a castle/dungeon backdrop set the stage for this unforgettable story of conflict between poor villagers and the underworld of the vampire kingdom.

In the opening scene, Kastro's wife Naiome (played by Leone Stanway) succumbs to a mysterious death which begins a tragic chain of events. Nelepsi, the vampire prince (played by Travis Pangburn) denounces his fate in life to his father, the vampire king Pelesit (played by Mark Lafortune), who wishes his son would embrace the life bestowed upon him. The young maiden Rose (Simone Bueler), finds the true love she is searching for in Nelepsi. As the play ended in true Romeo and Juliet fashion with the death scene of forbidden love, Nelepsi sang "Dove in Death" to a standing ovation.

In the play's cast were also three vampire gods (Margie Smith, Derek Van Deursen, and Thomas Van Deursen), Rose's parents, Juliana (Lila Taylor) and Montaro (Alex Pangburn), and her brother Kastro, (played by Thomas Van Deursen). Comic relief was provided by Rose's nanny, played by Jayce McKenzie. A chorus sang melodic background harmonies throughout the play.

The Kaslo Youth Theatre Company would like to thank the Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK, JVH School and custodians, Kul Niijar of Kaslo Cable, Shirley McLim and the Phoenix Theatre Co, Kaslo Building Supplies, Glen and Colleen Tilley, Dave Anderson, Kendal Cooper, Ronnie Carmen, and all others who contributed to this production.



Kastro threatens Pelesit, the Vampire King, in a scene from "Dove in Death."

Janet Pearson performs Jewel in Kaslo

submitted

After a highly successful run on Bowen Island last year, Janet Pearson will be returning to the stage to perform Joan MacLeod's one-woman show, Jewel, in Kaslo. Directed by Gemini-winning filmmaker Peg Campbell, Jewel follows Marjorie Clifford's emotional journey through anger, grief and acceptance of her husband's death.

"I think for every actor there is a role that we believe is 'our role' — the one that resonates with us the most," says Pearson. "When I was given the script for Jewel, I knew right away that I had found my character."

Janet Pearson will be performing Jewel at the Langham Theatre in Kaslo.

Pearson describes how she and director Peg Campbell delved into the world of Marjorie Clifford. They took a trip to Northern Alberta, the land Marjorie married into, giving up university dreams to become an oil driller's wife, to live without running water or electricity, to new dreams of farming. This is where her hopes for personal strength were eventually abandoned for the overwhelming desire to live in a mobile home.

Pearson also met Jan Furst, a 90-year-old Bowenite, who was on the royal commission that investigated the disaster of the Ocean Ranger, the off-shore drilling platform that went down off of Newfoundland in a 1982 storm, killing all 84 men aboard. Marjorie's husband had been one of those men, having abandoned land in a last-ditch attempt to make the payments on their farm and trailer.

"Jan lent me bound reports detailing exactly what happened that night. I read, horrified, about a platform covered in ice and tilted over 15 degrees in a sea of 50' waves," related Pearson.

Janet Pearson will be performing Jewel at the Langham Theatre in Kaslo on August 27 at 8 pm.

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• Centennial Campground
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• Silverton Municipal Campground
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• 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.

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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
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• Rocky Tour Adventures (250) 358-2228 www.rockytour.com
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• Blue Alpine Touring bluealpine@netidea.com (250) 358-2260
Shuttle to Idaho Peak 9 am & 2 pm. Reservations at New Denver Tourist InfoCentre 358-2719

BED & BREAKFASTS

• Mistaya Country Inn Ph/Fax (250) 358-7787
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• 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.

New touring company launched

by Jan McMurray

SILVERTON—People can go up Idaho Peak worry-free again, thanks to Blue Alpine Touring's shuttle service.

The company's 4-wheel-drive van takes seven passengers and offers the service from the New Denver Tourist InfoCentre twice daily, at 9 am and 2 pm. Reservations through the InfoCentre (358-2719) are required.

Alex Masun and Stephanie Griffiths, a young couple that has been living in Silverton on and off for a year now, started up Blue Alpine Touring this summer. They are starting out with just the shuttle service, but have big plans for the future.

They would like to offer guided hiking and canoe trips, canoe lessons, rock climbing clinics and mountain skills training. They would also like to partner with local accommodators and restaurants to put together complete packages for visitors, and with other local adventure tourism operators to expand on what they offer. Their vision is to provide all season recreation in the area.

Masun has five years' experience teaching rock climbing and mountaineering. He has worked with Outward Bound in Pemberton, Venture Challenge in Keremeos and with the Royal Canadian Army Cadets in Thunder Bay. He has an Honours degree in Outdoor Recreation Parks and Tourism from Lakehead University, and has advanced first aid certifications. He works part-time as a paramedic for BC Ambulance.

Masun says his focus is on education. "What I do is a bit different from guiding," he explains. "It is experiential education, where participants learn things and apply them on the trips. I provide education to give people the skills to overcome natural challenges."

Griffiths is handling the marketing, promotion and communications end of the business. She has a degree in English, and has taken many courses in the Public Relations program at the University of Victoria. As a volunteer and member of the Canadian Public Relations Society, she has experience in promoting and co-ordinating events.

Alex Masun and Stephanie Griffiths

GOLF COURSES

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,
New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$16.00**/9-holes, **$25.00**/18-holes,
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Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
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2004 TOURNAMENTS: Club Opening, Sun. May 1: $15.00
• 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,
Winlaw **Phone: (250) 226-7241;**
toll free: 1-877-324-GOLF
Discover golfing at its finest at Valley View. Licensed lounge & restaurant open April through October. Catering and dinner meetings available on request. Everyone welcome.
GREEN FEES: **$18**/9-holes, **$25**/18-holes RENTALS: Power and pull-carts available. Juniors' Night Monday at 4:00. Two-for-one golf Fridays after 2:00 pm followed by our famous WING NIGHT! Men's Night Thursdays, Seniors' Monday Mornings, Juniors' Monday Afternoons. For more information, call: (250) 226-7241.

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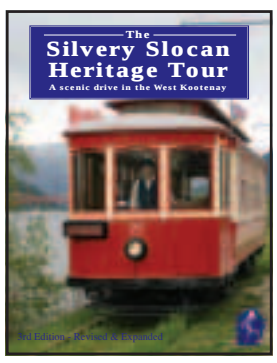

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Sticking to the shade on Sandon Wagon Road

The ongoing heat wave these past weeks has had me either out on the lake or in the shady parts of my backyard, fussing over the shrubbery and minor projects. The real spectacular alpine hikes can wait a little longer till the rains cut down on the dust and once the horseflies have dropped off somewhat...

I did do an excellent intermediate sort of bike ride the other day up the Old Sandon Wagon Road, which follows the shaded south side of Carpenter Creek east to Three forks then onward up to Sandon via some mine sites. I've written about this route before but I feel this is a good one to repeat as it is so close to town and in turn leads out to numerous other reclaimed advanced level riding. It also makes for a good one way shuttle ride for your visiting friends to enjoy.

The Sandon Wagon Road was commissioned by the famous Johnny Harris of Sandon fame and allowed vehicle traffic to reach Sandon at a time when the only way in was by train and the present day highway had not even been considered. This road was used at least until the late 60s and parts of it were active for mining and logging until quite recently.

You can ride your bike right from the house this time, as the ride begins on the south side of Carpenter Creek in New Denver just by the highway bridge. Signed as the Hartney logging road, it also has a gazzetted provincial highways number, and immediately climbs uphill earnestly, enroute to Alamo and Three Forks. There may be the odd vehicle in the first 2 kms to access a small ranch and some older logging patches.

This ride is laid out as an east to west tour, with the little bridges and jumps all designed for the rider coming from Three forks out to New Denver, but I like the idea of riding uphill on the shady side, and can't cope well with the special features anyhow. The climb from town continues for nearly 3 kms then levels out past the Mountain Chief minesite until the Alamo Wagon Road crossing, which can get you down to the popular cable car. Past this junction, the route climbs another kilometre or so then levels out, to finally descend to the east end access at Three Forks.

If you do this as a ride out and then down to New Denver, as designed, then simply leave the Three Forks lot, go until the trail junction with the sign that says "Old Sandon Road—not maintained." The road is in fact now maintained and improved further all the time by a number of locals who are more devoted off-road riders than me. An excellent map has been produced and is available for minor cost at both WOC Cycle and Valhalla Pure in New Denver. Consult with Rob Farrell at WOC or phone him at 358-7941 for further details.

This is a moderately challenging ride with the emphasis on the mining heritage that put it here to begin with and the physical effort you may expend enroute. There's a ton of scenery and a variety of little bridges and spots where you may walk or at least ride it real carefully!! Do your share to remove any odd rocks or branches that may have come down. I met eight people altogether during my ride, which was to Three forks on the old road then home via the Galena Trail from Three forks. This loop took me two hours with a short visit with some Castlegar guys at the cable car. Total distance out and back was 17 kms. with the elevation gain being a consideration.

The old mining roads offer a fantastic source of riding choices as they generally are pretty solid roadbeds and climb at acceptable grades for the most part. Numerous scary singletrack offshoot trails are being made all the time, though I tend to avoid them unless they connect me with another swell route. All levels of riders can get out to sample these routes and with directions or guidance from the folks who maintain them, you can have a rewarding day's outing. Get informed, get equipped and get out there.

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

Financial Forum

with Tim Affolter

Estate planning — what people fear

No matter how you look at things, estate planning involves emotions. Some common emotions include the joy of giving to loved ones, sadness that you won't be around to see how loved ones might enjoy your gifts, concern about how your beneficiaries will use your money or maybe guilt about not being able to provide enough for your family. One of the most common emotions in estate planning is fear.

Fear of losing capital

Many investors worry that the value of their investments will be eroded with poor investment decisions. For that reason, some people choose more conservative investments.

Protecting an inheritance is relatively simple by using investments that provide a guarantee of capital like term deposits and GICs. Segregated funds can be purchased through a life insurance company and these can be an excellent estate-planning tool because they provide a death benefit guarantee. These respective guarantees ensure that the value of an investment will not end up being lower than the original amount or beneath an established minimum amount after the maturity guarantee period or upon death.

Fear of taxes and fees

Estates are subject to various taxes and fees that can run into thousands of dollars. Probate fees, executor's fees, legal and accounting fees can add up quickly. Taxes, however, usually take the biggest bite out of an estate.

Certain taxes on death can be avoided by leaving specific assets, including RRSPs and RRIFs, to a spouse instead of another beneficiary. Other costs to the estate can be reduced through careful tax planning that may involve selling assets or transferring them to the beneficiaries before death.

Investments purchased through an insurance company can also help to minimize the impact of estate expenses. If a beneficiary is named, the value of a segregated fund or GIC will not form part of the estate and will not be subject to probate because the death benefit will be paid directly to the beneficiaries. As a result, probate, executor, legal and accounting fees are avoided.

Life insurance is another useful tool. If you anticipate a large tax liability on your death, you can prepare in advance to cover these costs by purchasing an appropriate amount of life insurance.

Fear of giving up privacy

When a Will is submitted to the courts for probate, it becomes a matter of public record. That means that anyone — including the general public — can view a copy of it. The size of your estate, the identity of your beneficiaries and the amount of their inheritance are now in the public domain.

If you purchase GICs, segregated funds or life insurance through an insurance company then these assets are allowed to be transferred privately, outside the public glare of the courts, because they bypass probate.

Fear of delays

The days and weeks that follow a loved one's death are extremely stressful. Not only are family members coping with their grief, but they must also arrange funeral and memorial services and put the estate settlement process in motion. Obtaining probate often takes time especially if the estate is complicated or if the Will is challenged.

The key to avoiding delays is to make sure proper planning is done in advance. Make sure your Will is up to date and done properly. Once again, you can use products from life insurance companies to help with efficient transfer of assets.

Fear of giving too much

Sometimes parents are worried about giving too much money to their children and question their ability to manage and invest the money sensibly. The fact is, receiving a sizeable inheritance is a tremendous responsibility that some beneficiaries simply aren't ready to take on. To avoid transferring an inheritance to a specific heir all at once, you can set up a trust. Trusts can be a very effective wealth transfer strategy. There are some drawbacks that should be carefully weighed, such as cost, complexity and ongoing management.

Everyone has unique needs and concerns. Be sure to discuss your particular situation with a qualified estate planning professional who can ensure that the majority of your estate ends up in the hands of your loved ones rather than the tax man.

Tim Affolter CFP, CLU and ChFC is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. who specializes in financial and estate planning and tax minimization strategies.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

At the epicenter of New Denver's bustling business district, a short block from the financial district, and 1/3 of a block east of Josephine and the huge chess set you will find Linda Norman's Panini Bistro. How lucky we all are. Linda took over the restaurant five years ago, and the place has just gotten better and better. The feel is causal and comfortable. The food is great, and the staff members are good-looking! You can relax in pleasant surroundings either inside or outside under an umbrella on the petunia-laden patio.

As a local guy, I have tea at Panini's (open seven days a week) almost every day, but recently had the vast pleasure of eating lunch on the patio. The selection of dishes is remarkable. There is, of course, "The Panini" which is rolled out pizza dough filled with tasty goodies, sealed and grilled on the special "panini grill." You can fill these babies with your choice of shrimp, feta, olives, arti-hearts, onions, capers, proscuitto, brie, smoked salmon(with Linda's special secret home-made herb-cream cheese) ham, salami, mushrooms, tomatoes, peppers, tuna and capers. Over this filling goes pesto or tomato sauce. Toothsome. And all those fillings can be used as toppings on a Panini pizza...a gustatorial delight! The veggie burgers are made from scratch by Linda and topped with peanut or teriyaki sauce. Mouth-watering.

There's plenty to keep both meat people and veggie folks grinning with their mouths full. There are broiled focaccia sandwiches and half a dozen salad plates. (Panini's home-made feta-garlic dressing will knock your socks off.) A variety of tortilla wraps round out the menu along with breakfasts featuring eggs benedict, eggs Panini, and tongue-tempting omelets with over twenty fillings to choose from. Dizzying!

Other home-made delights include heart-breakingly good pies, date squares disguised as triangles, and cookies. Did I mention soups? Home-made each and every day! Panini's has a long list of excellent organic coffees and teas to choose from.

On the day I had lunch there...what did I order? I deliberated for about 15 minutes and then ordered my favorite: a veggie burger with peanut sauce. Succulent!!!

I asked waitress Sarah W why she likes working there. She said "People really love the food, and that makes them happy!"

Visit Panini's soon. It truly is a delightful place. By the way, it is also licensed. Heaven!!!

Andrew Rhodes is the Valley Voice food critic and spokesman for the Burton Tunnel Consortium.

Want your Cool Eatery featured in the Valley Voice?
Call 358-7218 for details.

BACK TO THE OLD GRIND . . .

The brats will soon be back in school and you'll be back to that hateful and meaningless job that you'd love to shove. At least enjoy the commute part of the day on your well tuned and nicely outfitted bicycle, with some help from me! Stop in my shop any Friday or Saturday for repairs, tuneups, parts and accessories and great free advice.

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1991 FORD EXPLORER All season and winter tires. $2800. 358-7913.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

CLINT AND LORI LARSEN would like to announce the birth of their baby boy, Dawson Carl Larsen, born on July 22nd, weighing 9 lbs, 1 oz.

Valley Voice Personal Classifieds start at $8.00

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GOT A GREAT BUSINESS IDEA? Have you always dreamed of starting your own business but weren't too sure how to go about it? Community Futures is now offering appointments in Nakusp and New Denver on Thursdays (by appointment). Please contact Farhana at the Nakusp Outreach on 265 3674 x 311 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

CARD OF THANKS

A SLOCAN VALLEY POKER FLOAT THANKS - To the following for their donations and assistance: Polestar Calendars, Winlaw Mini-Mart, Lemon Creek Lodge, Maple Leaf Store, Jennie's Book Garden, Evergreen Natural Foods, Mountain Sky Soaps, Sleep is for Sissies, Cowpuccino, Wildways Outdoor Adventures, Smiling Otter Kayaking, Cedar Creek Café, Harold Street Café, Slocan Park Service, TNT Gneral Store, El Dorado Market, SK Electronics, Karibu Park, Wayne Savinkoff. The Kanigan, Cutler and Chatten Families (float stations). Winlaw Fire Department, Jon & Holly Burden and the 35 volunteers in the Slocan Valley Rec'ing crew (it couldn't have happened without you). Apologies if we missed anyone. Slocan Valley Recreation Commission.

IN THE LONG LIST of merchants we thanked for donating prizes for our Walk/Run for Fun, we missed Ida Kosiancic of Heidi's Hideaway in Crescent Valley. Thank you from Three Islands Resort!

COMING EVENTS

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY - Lorna Obermayr's new paintings - Aug. 17 - 22. Opening - Ruby Truly and Andrew Rhodes, Aug. 17 at 7:00 pm. Galen Felde's latest paintings Aug 24 - 29. Opening - Osmosis, Aug 26 at 7:00 pm.

LEARN TO DANCE Slocan Lake Dance Camp Aug. 19-22, New Denver. Ballroom/Social Classes & Dancing. $35 per Couple per day/$18 Singles www.dancingbeat.org or 358-2448

TANA LEE MCPHEE performs "CRAZY"at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp *Dress-up Dance Party* on Country Day, Aug. 21, 2005 Bosun Hall, New Denver, 8:30 pm. $6 at the door.

SILVERTON SUNDAY MARKET - Foods, crafts, arts, music, etc. 10 am-2 pm on the north lawn of Silverton Country Inn. Info 358-7704 or mainline@netidea.com. New vendors always welcome.

SLOCAN CITY OUTDOOR MARKET every Sunday 10 am - 2 pm. Interested vendors & performers, call Carol at 355-2627.

PLAYMOR FLEA MARKET has evolved! We are now "Playmor Market" and operate Saturdays, 9 am-3 pm, instead of Sundays, until October 15. Come buy or sell! Naida 359-7512.

FRIDAY MARKET IN NEW DENVER. Happens every Friday downtown, 10 am to 2 pm. Featuring locally grown produce, herbs, flowers, artisan's wares and homegrown valley culture. Info: 358-7733 or fridaymarket@netidea.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DUE TO EXPANDING TOURIST SEASONS and students going back to school, Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort is currently seeking applications for full or part time employment in many departments. We are a four season destination resort located 20 km south of Kaslo. We offer a flexible work schedule as well as competitive wages and an attractive benefit package. Must be a team player with a positive attitude. Please reply to: Megan Rokeby-Thomas, General Manager. Fax 1-250-229-5600 phone 1-250-229-4212 email ahsr@hotnaturally.com.

MEN & WOMEN: Commissionaires BC is accepting applications at the Castlegar Airport for part-time security guards for the Slocan area from former members of the Canadian Armed Forces, HM Forces, RCMP & the Primary Reserve. Men & women applicants must be physically fit, meet Cdn. standards for security guards and be willing to work shifts. Send resumes to 123-100 St., Castlegar, BC V1N 3C7.

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LOVELY 3-BEDROOM HOUSE Silverton, 5 appliances, half price electric/wood heat, garage. $650 per month. November 1. 358-2211.

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LARGE DANCE STUDIO SPACE with mirrors is available for long-term rental in the OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, 3253 South Slocan Village Road. Enquiries: 359-7107.

Valley Voice Business Classifieds start at $10.00

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NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION ON AA MEETINGS in New Denver and adjacent towns, call Dave at 358-7265.

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SLOCAN LAKE WEBWORKS builds, revises and maintains websites for artists, artisans, writers, small business, non-profits; attentive service, affordable rates; Stephen Lones 358-2775; www.earthrising.ca/webworks.

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First anniversary Artist Trading Card session to be held in Nakusp

August 27 will mark the first anniversary Artist Trading Card (ATC) session in Nakusp. The session will take place at the Alfa Guild Gallery on Broadway from 4-6 pm. There will be anniversary cake for all those attending.

Trading sessions are open and free to the public and anyone may attend and participate. Both artists and non-artists participate, so make some cards and come and trade. If you just want to see what goes on at a trading session you are welcome to drop by and observe, but you'll wish you had brought some to trade.

As a lead-up to the Saturday trading session, artists Wendy Toogood and Chuck Stake (aka Don Mabie) will present a slide lecture on ATCs on August 24 at 7 pm at the Alfa Guild Gallery. This event is free to the public. The lecture will focus on Stake's art practice as a background to his involvement with ATCs. He will discuss his activities as a performance artist, a correspondence / mail artist and his latest obsession, ATCs. He will also reference his rubber-stampworks and his pen and ink text drawings.

The pair will also display examples of their cards and cards by other artists from their extensive collections that night, and will stay in Naksp for the Saturday trading session. A number of traders from Kelowna, including Margo the Queen of ATCs, will be coming.

Debra Rushfeldt, owner/operator of Prima Materia in Nakusp, is a veteran trader and is happy to show her binder of ATCs to visitors to the store.

Bee Cee Beemers will visit Nakusp for 4th annual hotsprings rally

August 18-21 the Bee Cee Beemers motorcycle club will host its annual rally in Nakusp. Centred at the Village campground, the event is expected to attract 200 riders from as far away as Tasmania.

It is a tradition for BMW motorcycle clubs worldwide to hold annual get togethers for members of this far flung community. Each weekend somewhere, a group of riders gathers for a few days of relaxation and comradeship in numbers ranging from 50 or 60 up to the 8500 who recently attended the 33rd International Rally in Lima, Ohio. Long distance touring and camping are passions for many BMW riders.

As can be expected, each event has its own "personality," a set of events and experiences that visitors come to expect. For the Bee Cee Beemers, whose slogan "Ride to Eat; eat to Ride" was coined at the club's founding in 1980, food is a central focus. From Thursday evening's bottomless chili pot, to Friday's bratwurst and sauerkraut to Saturday's steak barbecue, we do our best to take care of our friends. The unique BMW cake provided by Nakusp's Debbie Guest is just one of the signature items that people have come to expect at a Hotsprings rally.

New this year will be a Pancake breakfast hosted by the Rotary Club and Bee Cee Beemers at the Nakusp High School, Saturday, August 20 starting at 8 am. People are invited to meet the BMW riders, have a look at their bikes and share a meal. Funds raised at this event will support the Arrowtarian seniors' housing project in Nakusp.

The public is also invited to Halcyon Seniors' Home on 8th Avenue at 2 pm on Friday and the motorcycle games at 2:30 pm Saturday behind the rec centre. Sunday morning, the rally will end with an interdenominational service, presided over by Pastor Alec Dutt, member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

Rally guests will have a selection of presentations and seminars to attend. Many will spend their time meeting new friends and hanging out with old friends. Most will take the opportunity to explore the Kootenay country and ride some of the best motorcycling roads in North America. Twisty pavement slicing through breathtaking scenery is just something Beemer riders can never get enough of.

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NOTES FROM THE RCMP

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE BASED ON PRESS RELEASES AND MAY HAVE BEEN EDITED.

Slocan Lake

•Slocan resident Darrin John Eggen was charged with Assault Causing Bodily Harm after RCMP were notified on the evening of August 1 that an adult male had been assaulted and an ambulance was attending. Eggen was released on conditions and is set for appearance in Nakusp court on August 30.

Nelson

•The 27-year-old male who drowned in Slocan River near Shoreacres Bridge on July 30 has been identified as Jacob Enewold of Castlegar.

Kaslo

•A visitor from Ontario was found dead in Kootenay Lake just south of Kaslo on August 9. Susan Lumley had last been seen about noon on August 7 near the Kaslo Bay Resort. There were indications that she had been depressed. The Nelson coroner's office is investigating the incident.

•A small amount of alcohol was taken from a residence after a Break and Enter in the 600 block of 7th St.

•A man drove his snow machine into Kootenay Lake through a crowd of swimmers and onlookers at Lighthouse beach area on July 19. The investigation is ongoing.

•A total of 129 marihuana plants and grow equipment was seized from a rental resident situationed on Hwy 31 in Mirror Lake on July 17. RCMP were acting on information received. Any landlords who feel their properties are being used for an illegal purpose can contact the Kaslo RCMP detachment at 353-6805.

•After several months of investigation, it has been determined that the operator of the Gold Pan Cafe in Cooper Creek was selling alcohol to its patrons in contravention of the Liquor Control and Licencing Act. On July 8, RCMP seized a large quantity of alcohol and charges were forwarded to the Nelson crown counsel office for approval.

Job Posting/Executive Director/Coordinator

Nelson and District Hospice Society seeks an Executive Director (ED). This is a part time position (22hrs/week). The ED is accountable to the Board and responsible to plan, organize, direct and administer all organization activities and programs consistent with Board approved policies, goals and objectives and in accordance with legal constitutional requirements.

Qualifications/Experience: A Bachelors degree in social sciences or related field is preferred or a combination of related academic training and experience dealing with end of life issues, non-profit financial management and community based programming. Demonstrated skills in volunteer management and training, staff supervision, community outreach, direct client work, office management. Excellent communication skills and sensitivity are required.

Salary currently under review.

For more detailed job description follow the links at www.nelsonhospice.org or contact mailto: hospice-nelson@telus.net

Forward your cover letter and resume by August 26, 2005 to: Search Committee, Nelson Hospice, Box 194 Nelson, V1L 5P9 or fax to 352-2377 or email to: hospice-nelson@telus.net

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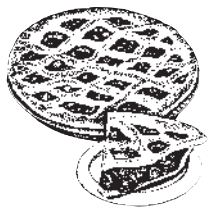

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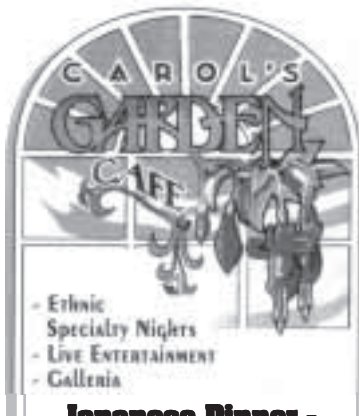

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