The Valley VOICE

Free!

Volume 14, Number 19 September 28, 2005 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**
"Your independently-owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

Most schools in the area participated in the Silver Anniversary Terry Fox Run on September 16. Here, Lucerne students are off and running.

With pine beetle comes changes to landscape and forest industry

by Jan McMurray

The pine beetle situation in the Arrow-Boundary and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts is much better than it is in other areas of the province. However, that is not a very heartening statement, seeing as how the epidemic is "the worst natural disaster ever to hit our forests," according to the premier.

The ministry has just finished its annual aerial survey to assess the infestation and the latest data will be available soon. "And then the scramble begins," said Christine Sacenieks, Stewardship Forester, describing the planning process the licensees are going to have to go through when the numbers come in.

Sacenieks of the Kootenay Lake district and Tara DeCourcy of the Arrow Boundary district indicated that this year's data would show a lot more infestation than last year's because it is "growing exponentially" in the forests. As of last year, DeCourcy says that about 8% of stands or 47,000 ha on the Arrow side of the district were at risk and about 27% or 132,000 ha were at risk on the Boundary side.

The Kootenay Lake district, according to Sacenieks, had 11,000 ha of red attack or dead trees last year.

Although both Sacenieks and DeCourcy stressed that the situation in other areas of the province was much more dire, DeCourcy said people should be aware that "it is going to change the landscape" in our area.

"We do need to be harvesting the pine. It will be visible from the highway, where we wouldn't normally be doing clearcutting," she said.

The main strategy that both districts are using to combat the problem is salvage harvesting. DeCourcy said that a tree must be salvaged in 2-3 years once it is dead. After that, it has no economic value.

Logging companies are finding themselves in a tough transition phase because they have to shift to cutting more pine and less of other species where possible.

"We're trying to get as many of our operations into currently infested areas or red attack areas, so they have to drop everything else. They are doing a pretty good job, but are taking some time to get there," said DeCourcy.

In other areas of the province like Vanderhoof and Prince George, where the pine beetle infestation is much worse because there is a much higher percentage of pine, the allowable annual cut (AAC) has been increased. DeCourcy says that Arrow-Boundary is trying to avoid an AAC uplift in order to have a timber supply for the future.

"We're not contemplating an uplift at this time. With our mixed stands and lower percentage of pine, we can still make it work and have a timber supply in the future," she said. "With some luck and good strategy around harvesting, we won't lose a lot of pine and we won't have a lot of unsalvaged pine and we won't have to increase the AAC."

Kootenay Lake district faces another challenge because West Arm Provincial Park is fairly badly infested and Parks legislation limits the options. "Harvesting is the tool we usually choose, but within parks, it is more complicated," said Dale Anderson, Stewardship Officer, Kootenay Lake district. "Road building has such a big impact and there are issues of motorized vs. non-motorized use."

Another issue is the increased risk of wildfire associated with pine beetle attacked forests. "The trees are well adapted to fire prone ecosystems," said Anderson, explaining that the cones require heat, either fire or sunlight, to release their seeds. "We are trying to encourage people to reduce the risk of wildfire, with our main concern being human safety."

The federal government has recently announced assistance of $100 million to the Province, which has come up with a strategy to spend the money over the next three years on mitigating the impacts of the beetle attack. In February, the Province budgeted $101 million over three years to reforest beetle kill area, support economic diversification planning in affected communities and to facilitate new strategies for using beetle wood.

Tourism funding may be invested in International Selkirk Loop

by Jan McMurray

At the most recent council meetings, local governments in our area discussed how they might use the provincial tourism funding now available to them through the Union of BC Municipalities — and discovered that there are at least two options for pooling the money toward regional projects.

The allocation of the funds for each Village in the regional district is $15,000, and for the RDCK, it is about $91,000.

The RDCK has proposed that all local governments in the region contribute a percentage of its funding to go towards promoting the International Selkirk Loop (ISL) on the Canadian side. The proposal is to establish a Canadian office for the ISL Tourism Society and hire a Canadian Operations/Marketing Director.

The letter from the RDCK to the local governments outlining the proposal says: "The inclusion of the Canadian portion (West Kootenays) of the ISL is the first expansion outside of the United States and, as a result, will receive unprecedented international media exposure..." It also says that the ISL has received commitments for the project from the federal government ($120,000) and the Province ($40,000) as long as local governments will contribute $80,000. It is this $80,000 that the RDCK is trying to raise through the UBCM tourism funding.

The letter also points out that the US government has allocated $40 million to the ISL, and indicates that the Canadian side may see some of that.

The CAO from Creston had another idea for the tourism funding and wrote to all local governments in the regional district suggesting they all pool the money together for regional advertising and promotion.

And of course, some municipalities have their own projects they would like to pursue.

At the RDCK meeting, the board authorized $40,000 for the ISL project. It also aknowledged that the UBCM originally made an error in the amount allocated to the regional district. Instead of about $117,000, the figure was closer to $91,000. This will mean that the RDCK will have to ask for a bit more from each Village, so each Village council will have to re-visit the issue. Thus, the following are preliminary decisions made by the village councils in our area.

Kaslo council decided to support RDCK's plan to promote the Canadian side of the ISL.

New Denver council decided that its priority was the paddlewheeler project, in partnership with the Village of Slocan and Area H. However, it will contribute a portion to support the ISL, provided other municipalities do the same.

Nakusp council was waiting for suitable proposals from the Chamber of Commerce and decided to table the ISL proposal until after the UBCM convention, when it would no doubt be discussed in more detail.

Slocan council also decided to wait on a decision regarding the ISL project. Councillor Gates, RDCK representative for Slocan, said he thought Slocan might get some spin-off from the ISL, but questioned if it was worth the amount asked for.

Incomappleux Road update

The Incomappleux River Canyon Bridge, about six km northeast of Beaton, has been closed to all traffic effective immediately and until further notice, due to damage caused by a recent rockfall.

The rock came down on September 10, the day after people who were protesting Pope & Talbot's road building efforts in the Boyd Creek area of the Incomappleux Valley were served with an injunction and cleared the road.

In BC Supreme Court on September 15, the injunction was cancelled and all further proceedings adjourned indefinitely because of the rockslide.

Bridge closure notices have been posted at the site, with barricades being erected effective September 28 at 6 pm. Engineering assessments indicate the bridge is unsafe for vehicular traffic, and the public is advised to avoid using the crossing, as further rockfalls are possible.

The closure will remain in effect until the damage is repaired, which is anticipated to happen in summer 2006. The road does not currently access any active harvesting operations and will soon become impassable due to its elevation and winter weather.

Incomappleux River Forest Service Road connects with Highway 31, about 76 km north of Nakusp, and 67 km south of Revelstoke via the Galena Bay ferry.

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Morton's Beach controversy continues

by Penelope Dewar

ARROW LAKES—Since the 1960s the land locally known as Morton's Beach has been involved in controversy. This summer was no exception.

Some summers, depending on weather and management of the Arrow Reservoir, this flood land at the north end of McDonald Creek Park becomes an unofficial local campground. If the reservoir is high Morton's Beach is flooded. But if, like this summer, levels are low, it fills with unregulated campers.

One solution to the problem of crowds and their impact on Morton's Beach is a developed campground. Nakusp resident and historian Milton Parent says. "they don't have much choice. When I was a kid we went camping and it didn't matter where, because there were so few people."

Local resident Doug McQuair is of two minds about development at the north end of the park.

"We're just a bunch of locals looking for a place to go. I have mixed feelings because it's so much fun. It's a big playground. But there's lots of stuff we see, like kids roaring around on quads. It could be a good training ground, if everyone paid attention."

Parent considers that "you always get your renegades. At Halcyon [hot springs] they put up a sign saying 'no trespassing'. Then people got mad, so they said, 'use it and take care of it'. But I don't think that will work there [at Morton's Beach]."

McQuair believes "this year was pretty good because there were a couple of port-a-potties. But there are things that could be done during peak season. Years ago Parks gave us a toilet, but no one used it because they blocked the road off. Now, when they really need it, there isn't one. I'm torn. I love to be there, but when it's crowded it's not the same. And of course some years it's flooded, so I don't know how it could be developed. But outhouses are a must."

Tom Morton wants proper facilities installed at Morton's Beach. His brother, Val, owned much of the land that is now McDonald Creek Park, until it was expropriated by BC Hydro in 1968. In the late 90s Val learned that the acreage taken from him 30 years before because it was "unsafe" had been surveyed for possible park development while he and his parents still lived there.

He unsuccessfully sued BC Hydro for not allowing him to keep his unflooded land. His case was considered important enough to be featured in a five-page exclusive by Province editor Joey Thompson, and many believe that his loss reflects the sorry state of our justice system.

The developed south section of McDonald Creek Park has only 38 sites. During much of the summer they are all filled.

"When we drove past the park last summer the mowed field [at the south end] was half full with campers, spilled over from the camp sites," Tom Morton reports.

There has been some confusion over whether the Parks Branch actually owns all the land at the north of McDonald Creek Park. According to Bill 50-2004, Parks and Protected Areas Statutes Amendment Act, the park contains approximately 268 hectares of upland and 200 hectares of foreshore, including all title descriptions comprising Morton's Beach and adjoining land that lies west of the highway.

Amid rumours of another planned road access blockade by the Parks Branch, the Ministry of Environment is reviewing the situation at Morton's Beach. As to the question of managing foreshore, Alex Green, acting Section Head for Parks and Protected Areas, says that during dry years in other partly flooded parks, they look after land that's below the high water level.

Area K director Paul Peterson, has his own ideas about how Morton's Beach and the rest of the land at the park's north end should be managed.

"I'm getting a lot of conflicting information regarding the state of Morton's Beach," Peterson says "I've gone over there several times to see what I could, and wasn't totally impressed by the conditions I saw. The problem is that one jerk can ruin it for everyone. Running an ATV in tall grass with nesting birds or across the creek with spawning kokanee is a criminal offense and disrespectful of the environment.

"This is the provincial government's responsibility, and if they can't look after this portion of the property, they should turn it over to local government as a regional park that would best serve the needs of the communities. It can't be a money issue. BC Hydro practically stole the property under a guise of lies, and then turned it over to parks—so what's the problem? If they can't look after it, they should give it back to Mr. Morton, or to someone else who can."

According to Paul Peterson, any change at the north end of McDonald Creek Park would require "a lot of support."

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A77097

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

Closing Date:	October 13, 2005 @ 2:00 PM, BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC
Geographic Location:	Limpid Creek, located approximately 38 km southwest from Salmo, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District
Estimated Volume:	15,360 cubic metres, more or less
Upset Stumpage Rate:	$8.17 / cubic metre
Term:	one (1) year
Estimated Species / Volume:	Balsam (Grand-fir) 9,358 m^3, Cedar 914 m^3, Lodgepole pine 52 m^3, Spruce 166 m^3, Hemlock 33 m^3 Grade 3: Balsam 183 m^3, Douglas-fir 983 m^3, Cedar 102 m^3, Lodgepole-pine 154 m^3, White Pine 80 m^3.

Comments: Harvesting methods are partial-cut and clearcut with reserves, utilizing ground-based equipment (65%) and cable yarding equipment (35%).

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Enterprise, Category 1, 2 or 3.

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

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 2:00 PM (Local Time), October 13, 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 A77097.

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A75259

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

Closing Date:	October 13, 2005 @ 11:00 AM, BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC
Geographic Location:	Worthington Creek, located approximately 15 km southwest from the village of Edgewood on the west side of Lower Arrow Lake, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District
Estimated Volume:	51,449 cubic metres, more or less
Upset Stumpage Rate:	$36.05 / cubic metre

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

Term:	Two (2) years
Estimated Species / Volume:	Lodgepole pine 32,960 m^3, Larch 1,383 m^3, Spruce 683 m^3, Balsam 326 m^3, Cedar 444 m^3, Douglas-fir 273 m^3, Hemlock 129 m^3, White Pine 296 m^3. Grade 3: Lodgepole-pine 12,190 m^3, Larch 681 m^3, Spruce 631 m^3, Balsam 555 m^3, Cedar 321 m^3, Douglas-fir 134 m^3, White Pine 443 m^3.

Comments: Harvesting methods are partial-cut and clearcut with reserves, utilizing ground-based harvesting equipment. The licensee will be required to construct approx. 8.8 km of temporary and permanent spur roads. Operating season restrictions exist on some portions of the harvest area. Access to this cutting authority area may be temporarily delayed while construction of approximately four kilometres of the Worthington Branch 14 Forest Service Road is completed by BC Timber Sales.

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Enterprise, Category 1, 2 or 3.

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

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.

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Columbia Basin Trust Board Appoints Chief Executive Officer

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Board and staff welcome Neil Muth who starts as CEO on September 26.

Most recently Neil served as Vice President of Private Placements for British Columbia Investment where he was responsible for bcIMC's private equity and debt investment activity. Prior to that, Neil served as Vice President, Finance and Operations for bcIMC, where he was responsible for the Corporation's information technology requirements; accounting, financial control and financial reporting functions; banking and corporate treasury functions; human resources services; and corporate operations. He has served on a number of corporate and advisory boards.

Neil's experience, combined with his BA in Economics (Victoria) and MA in Economics (UBC), make him a great addition to the Columbia Basin Trust team.

Strengthening the Basin since 1995 — 10 years

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Peace Walker speaks at Benailse Retreat Centre in Winlaw

by Jan McMurray

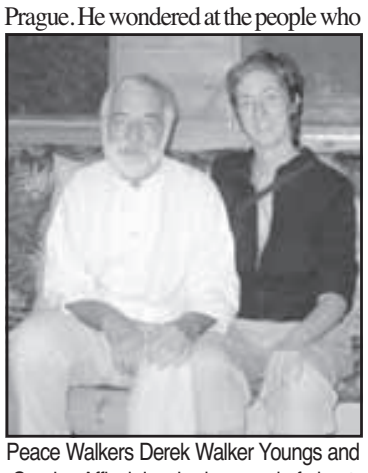
Derek Walker Youngs, who has walked for peace for 20 years in 23 different countries, gave a very inspiring presentation at the Benailse Retreat Centre in Winlaw to a gathering of about 25 on September 20.

"I am here to share a story about my dream for a better world," said Youngs. "We need to keep the spirit of peace alive — we need to talk about it and be a part of it — or it will die. Walking for peace is my way of keeping that spirit of peace alive."

It all started for him when he signed up for a nine-month anti-nuclear walk from LA to Washington in 1986 along with 1200 people. Two weeks into the walk, a helicopter landed in front of them in the Mojave Desert, bringing the news that the walk was all over. Youngs said no one knows for sure why it ended, but in any case, 500 of them kept on walking and among them was Youngs.

"It changed my life and I have not stopped walking," he said. "I have fun walking for peace and I will continue to walk for peace as long as I am having fun." He says he has slowed down over the years because of some health issues and because he is now married and living on the Sunshine Coast.

Youngs believes that peace is a process, not a cause to win or lose, and sees "synchronicity" as a very important part of it. He learned about this synchronicity while he was walking in Czechoslovakia in the early 1990s, around the time of the Velvet Revolution. He said he could not understand how some of the peace activists' efforts could possibly change anything. He wondered at the young man who doused himself in gasoline and set himself on fire in the square in Prague. He wondered at the people who came to the square on the anniversary of the event every year to place candles and who were beat up by police every time. He wondered at the Avenue of Martyrs in downtown Prague. And he wondered at the group of musicians he saw deep in a cave that were singing Bob Dylan and Joan Baez songs.



Peace Walkers Derek Walker Youngs and Carolyn Affleck inspired a crowd of about 25 at the Benailse Retreat and Healing Centre in Winlaw on September 20.

"I think the regime toppled not because of one person's action, but because of all of those who did their thing to promote peace. It all lined up and then there was change," he said.

Youngs said that in his travels, he has realized that the majority of people in the world want peace, but don't think they can effect change. He encourages us to believe that we can, if we all do our part. "That lining up of energy could happen in a moment," he said.

He and fellow peace walker Carolyn Affleck have just come back from walking in Japan, where they attended the 60th anniversary of the bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There, they learned of the Mayors for Peace program, started by the Mayors of the two Japanese cities. So far, close to 1,000 mayors in 110 different countries have signed up. Youngs spoke to the Mayor of Nelson, who said he was interested in joining and would take it to the next council meeting for approval. The Mayors for Peace have a goal to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

Youngs was in the area not because he was walking, but because Affleck was coming on an interesting mission and he decided to accompany her so he could visit with his old friends John and Livina from the retreat centre in Winlaw. Affleck, daughter of well known West Kootenay historian Ted Affleck, came to the Nelson area to see the place her father had so prolifically written about, and to find a special place for his ashes. Carolyn, a photographer, has been walking with Youngs for a year and a half and creates postcards and calendars from the pictures she takes on their travels.

For more information, visit the Peace Walker Society's website at www.peacewalker.com.

Teachers say "yes" in strike vote

by Jan McMurray

A whopping 88.4% of BC teachers voted "yes" in a province-wide strike vote last week.

A news release from the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) says that job action was set to begin this week and explains that the action is set out into three phases. "The first phase, a two-week period is designed to place pressure on the employer but maintain regular classroom instruction and voluntary extra-curricular activities," it says. If there is no progress made at the bargaining table, phase two, from October 11-20, "would see rotating strikes in school districts around BC." If there were still no resolution, "a full-scale withdrawal of all services would commence October 24."

Arrow Lakes Teachers Association President Henning von Krogh described the job action phases as "a bargaining strategy," stressing that each phase comes on line only if the government and the employer cannot come to an agreement.

"We have to hope that the government will come through and settle something. Bargaining is hard, but we have to do our best," he said.

Labour Minister Mike de Jong has appointed Labour Associate Deputy Minister Rick Connolly as a fact-finder to look at the matters in dispute and to report to de Jong on what the issues are and where the parties stand on those issues by September 30.

"At least now there is someone that wants to talk and the two sides are talking. There seems to be an acknowledgement that we need to address learning conditions, so that's good," said von Krogh.

He reported that School District No. 10 had an excellent turnout at the polls, with 100% of the teachers and 14 out of the 18 teachers on call casting their votes.

Although he is not able to reveal the results of the vote for the school district, he said, "I think the results show that teachers support their local bargaining team. It shows they weren't happy with a legislated settlement. We've got three goals and they support those goals," he said.

The teachers' goals are improved learning conditions for students, restored bargaining rights and a fair salary increase.

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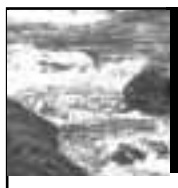

Arrow Lakes Reservoir Update

This year, water supply in the Columbia River basin has been below average. **Please note forecast information is subject to change at any time.** The actual elevation of reservoirs is influenced by snowpack, inflow levels, weather patterns and other factors such as load requirements.

BC Hydro's operation of the Hugh Keenleyside (HLK) dam is guided primarily by the requirements and obligations of the Columbia River Treaty.

	September 17 Forecast	Trend
Arrow Lakes Reservoir *operating range: 420 – 440.1 m / 1378 – 1444 ft*	430.3 m 1411.8 ft	↓

Projected average flows for the week of September 17 to September 24, 2005

HLK and Brilliant combined discharge . . . . . .71,000 cfs (range: 66,000 cfs to 76,000 cfs)

Arrow Lakes Reservoir reached a minimum elevation of 426.1 m (1397.9 ft) on January 25, 2005 and reached a peak elevation of 434.6 m (1425.9 ft) on July 1, 2005. The Arrow Lakes Reservoir level is decreasing and is expected to reach between 428.2 m and 429.8 m (1405 and 1410 ft) by the end of September.

If you would like information on reservoir levels, Monday to Friday, please call 1 877 924-2444. For further information on our operations or our generating facilities, please call Bob Gammer at 250 365-4565.

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Category 2 and 3 Open Fire Restrictions Rescinded

Effective 08:00 hours Wednesday September 14th, 2005, the Categories 2 and 3 (backyard burning and industrial pile burning) Open Fire restriction issued July 6th, 2005 has been rescinded in the entire Southeast Fire Centre. Categories 1 through 3 fires are again permitted in this area. A registration number is required for all Category 3 fires. The prohibition previously put in place for the use of "burning barrels" and fireworks in the Southeast Fire Centre is also rescinded and their use is again permitted in accordance with the Wildfire Act and Regulations. This cancellation applies to backyard and industrial pile burning and the use of burning barrels and fireworks on all lands outside of municipal boundaries and Regional Districts that have open fire bylaws. Please check with your local authorities before lighting a fire or using fireworks within municipal boundaries. There are no other restrictions currently in effect in the Southeast Fire Centre, which extends from the U.S. Border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands/Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C./Alberta Border in the east. This includes all of the Arrow/Boundary, Kootenay Lake, Rocky Mountain and Columbia Forest Districts.

For information visit: www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect or contact the Southeast Fire Centre at (250) 365-4040. To report a fire call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell phone.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
www.gov.bc.ca

Voices from the Valleys

Why I won't run for office...

I won't be running for public office in the municipal elections in November.

It's not that I don't believe in public service. In my opinion, there is no higher calling than that of an elected official in a public office. (Not to say that I haven't been disappointed with the performance of more than a few of them.)

It's not that I don't think that I could contribute in a meaningful way. I have opinions on everything, lots of good ideas (mostly stolen from other people) and like to think of myself as reasonably articulate. I understand the procedure of council meetings and the rules of order, even if I don't always adhere to them.

It's not that I would constantly find myself in conflict-of-interest. There's mechanisms to deal with that. It would be rather inconvenient to have to absent myself from chambers every time a motion to buy advertising was raised, but it could be done.

It's not that I think that I don't have a chance of getting elected. As a BC resident, I can run in any race in the province. If I don't like the odds in my home constituency, I could run in any of the neighbouring villages. All I need is enough signatures from local electors. No one should use the excuse of certain failure to avoid running for office anyway.

It's not even that I'm too cheap to hire a reporter to cover whatever Council I could manage to get myself elected to, or that I fear the editorialist's pen. If I couldn't get someone else to write a scathing editorial about my conduct in office, I'd have to write it myself.

It certainly isn't that I think that there's plenty of candidates better qualified than me (although there probably are). Representative democracy demands choice. No one should hesitate to run for office because the incumbent is doing a good job, or because of a fear of hurting someone's feelings. Contested elections are a sign of a healthy democracy.

Nope. I'm afraid that I might get elected and turn into one of those Sober Custodians of the Public Good. One of those responsible, hard-working councillors that get so much done in our valleys and villages. I've seen it happen many times before. A person gets elected to council, and before you know it they're sitting on at least a half-dozen committees and maybe a commission or two. They're attending meetings with various community groups, and organizing a variety of events. They learn to look at issues from all sides and make compromises.

A lot of good editorialists have been lost this way.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

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Oct 01/05

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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*.

File complaints with CRTC

"Jonesing for the CBC, waiting for telephone service" — great editorial!! It is great to see a newspaper finally reporting the truth. I would like to encourage any of your readers to contact the CRTC and file a complaint if their telephone service is suffering during this lockout.

If your newspaper ever goes online, please let me know I would be interested in subscribing and reading articles from someone who reports as it really is.

Thanks again

Jill Sarafin
Calgary

CBC owned by the people

I believe that we as citizens of Canada are the shareholders of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. We should have a vote on whether the strike is over or not. We should also have a vote on whether or not we should fire the management. I believe that it is an essential service and I'd like a lawyer to look into this as a class action suit.

Kohle Ocello
Kaslo

Thanks for editorial

As a former Kootenay girl and a locked-out Telus worker I am writing to just say thanks for your editorial. We are suffering the effects of big business owned media down here at the coast and have yet to get any unbiased coverage in the major newspapers and on the radio stations (especially without CBC). It is nauseating to read the carefully scripted lies designed by professional spin doctors to manipulate the thinking of the masses. And it is a terrible thing that is being attempted by these companies — to effectively eliminate the middle class and concentrate the wealth in the hands of the powerful few.

Reading your supportive, straighforward uncomplicated and truthful presentation of the situation was such a pleasure it brought a tear to my eye and made me homesick too!

With much gratitude,

Brenda Nelson
North Vancouver

Winlaw food bin needs to be filled

Hello to everyone up and down the valley. I am writing on behalf of the people who have a hard time making ends meet in this valley. There are 200 families that have made use of donations provided by you in the food bins from Crescent Valley to Slocan City. Most of these bins are full when they are picked up on Mondays. The need is for non-perishable food items, hopefully high protein and nutritious, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.

The bin in Winlaw is conspicuously empty week after week. I am writing to let you know that it is right by the front door of the mini-mart. Maybe you haven't noticed it yet, but your donations would be greatly appreciated.

The Slocan Valley is the most amazing place I've ever lived. So please let's donate $10 a month in stock to help our neighbours. Can you imagine what that would do? I CAN!

Khelin Walker
Winlaw

Open letter to Trevor Ryan, RPF

Regarding your letter in the Arrow Lakes News of September 14, I am not sure whether you are the only person that does not understand why at least some people would like to preserve some 1800-year-old trees as well as an ungulate species that is nearing extinction, namely the mountain caribou.

Your attempt to discredit either "small bands of protesters" or the Valhalla Wilderness Society is plain silly. The VWS enjoys more credibility worldwide than either your club of RPFs or the big band of people that stand by and let rare natural values go down the drain irrecoverably.

The Incomappleux Valley is unique in its Inland Rainforest characteristics, with trees as old as our western civilization and the core habitat of the very endangered mountain caribou. Only extreme short-sightedness can suggest to cut that forest down!

Of course, our loggers and their families have to make a living, but there are other areas wood can be harvested at a lesser loss, i.e. all the beetle and root-rot infested ones, for example. The redwood giants in California attract more tourist business now than if those trees had been cut down. Why deprive our province of a similar forest when the world is just waking up to the natural wonders we still do have here in this valley?

You mention the money trail. If the VWS is really supported by foreign donors, and I don't know that, we can be glad for such concern for our wilderness values. Where the profit of the company you seem to speak for goes, we all know. Please, come to your senses, forget about the profit for a US-based company and take a stand for what is truly valuable and worth saving here in this valley, before it looks like Nigeria or the woods around Lake Baikal.

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Water is precious

On September 18th, I attended a Harvest celebration at Slocan Park Hall. There was a big clothing exchange followed by presentations and a potluck. Michelle Griffith's film about water was the last presentation. She did a short introduction before showing it.

In her Introduction, she explained she'd done the film as a project in her grade 11 film class at Mt. Sentinel. She said when she started the course she was techno-illiterate, and didn't even have a home computer. She wanted to create something that would speak to people. She decided on a documentary on water. She said the intended outcome was for people to walk away from her 7-minute film with a new realization of how lucky we are here in the Kootenays to have good water.

It opened with a variety of shots of water in all its moods, from slow-motion drops to waterfalls to creeks to ponds, the works, with nice background music. She cut to footage of women in India drawing water from a well by pulling long ropes which shows how far down the water was. She showed them walking with big urns on their heads on some sort of giant tubes suspended in mid-air. She showed water drops falling on sand in deserts, then more desert shots. She filmed classmates talking about how important water is.

She recorded her own voice saying "Every 8 seconds a child dies from lack of drinkable water." She had other statistics about how many diseases world-wide are related to lack of good water. She filmed Sean Marechal, wilderness instructor, with an apple and knife in his hand. He held up the apple and said, "this is the world." He cut the apple and held up half and said "This is the water in the world." He cut the apple again and said "This is all the fresh water in the world." He cut that piece again and held up the last wee piece, saying "This is all the drinkable water in the world."

The title of the film is "Waste Water." The message of the film, presented with conviction and clarity, is "This water is too precious to waste!" Chris Berger, a Valley Youth Worker, exhorted the audience to heed the voice of youth and take steps to protect this life-sustaining resource.

Sandy Anderson
Slocan

Faith can move mountains

The only inland rainforest on earth, there is no other. Past Beaton and an eagle guarding a narrow gorge, the Incomappleux Valley opens up to 30 km of clearcuts. Then

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The Valley Voice Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Phone: 358-7218 Fax: 358-7793 E-Mail:valleyvoice@netidea.com

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Voices from the Valleys

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finally one of the last stands of old growth forest left on earth: giant hemlock, white pine, spruce and cedars up to 2000 years old, all the way to the Westfall in the Duncan. From the dry crackling cutblock, you step into a thick, damp sea of moss that grows up into the trees, huckleberries the size of cherries, fluorescent moss and unusual rock formations. The last bit of range for the endangered inland caribou, grizzly, wolverine, fish...

Road building brings invasive species like pine beetle. Clearcutting is the most destructive form of logging — you can plant a tree but you cannot plant a forest. Corporations are like dinosaurs, they leave nothing for future loggers. I worry about our men on precarious ledges, under tension of heavy payments for large machinery, gas and market fluctuations. We can downsize, use smaller equipment, roads, selectively log, develop transformative industries and enjoy our forest forever. I can make as much in baskets from the skin of the tree as you can get in boards, yet my skill is ignored.

None of our First Nations land claims have been honoured. They maintained this as sacred land for thousands of years, believing that it belongs to the next seven generations. In one generation, this area has been mined, dammed and now stripped of its forest — driving fish, animals, plants and people into extinction. Assuming one can manage, develop and control nature is the ultimate sin, destroying ecosystems that affect our climate, creating catastrophic consequences.

Every time we stand for the earth a double rainbow appears reminding me of a long ago covenant between the creator and humankind to save the seed of life. A symbol for the little people of all colours to not give up hope. I believe that faith can move mountains and the rockslide that blocked the road soon after we had to take our barricade down against Pope and Talbot, was nothing less than the miracle we prayed for to organize an International Boycott Old Growth Campaign.The caribou agree.

Eloise Charet
Bear Clan of Turtle-Island

Surgery cancelled to accommodate surgeon's vacation plans

Over the past 12 months I have helped and have felt helpless as I have watched my dear neighbour Doug Croisdale endure steadily increasing pain and debility of a severely degenerating hip. Doug's mobility became more and more difficult over the long months of waiting for surgery. Each movement caused his bones to crunch and grind sending a sharp and then lingering ache down his leg. His morphine doses were increased to dull the pain, and caused an almost worse reaction, itching. I've seen Doug's arms and legs bleeding caused by restless nights of little sleep from the torment of itching and hip pain. His progressive decreased mobility caused his feet to swell up like footballs, which made standing even more painful. Boredom, frustration and a sense of powerlessness have also been big challenges for Doug.

A month ago Doug had a fall and spent a long and very uncomfortable night on the floor. This ordeal exhausted him, nearly to death. He has been in the Nelson hospital since that time where he has acquired several infections requiring antibiotic treatment. Yet, he has managed to regain some of his strength and optimism.

On Sunday, September 18 Doug was very bright and eager to have his surgery done on Tuesday. On Monday his orthopedic surgeon, Dr. McVicar cancelled Doug's hip replacement because it conflicted with the doctor's latest vacation plans. Doug's spirits took a big dive. Dr. McVicar has rescheduled Doug's surgery for some time in November.

From my point of view I see this shocking postponement as a prison sentence of more pain, more itching and more debility, which for this tired 87-year-old is devastating. In my opinion I see this type of treatment and lack of concern for an elderly person's pain and suffering to be disgusting and inhumane. I also feel that this is a cruel disregard for Doug's prolonged and debilitating condition. I have written this as a very concerned friend of Doug's in the hopes that someone will step up to the plate and find an orthopedic surgeon to do Doug's surgery by the end of September.

Jan Formby
Nelson

Congratulations to the Kaslo Trailblazer Society

My husband and I recently toured the Kaslo River Trail with Val Koenig, treasurer for the Kaslo Trailblazer Society, as we were unable to attend the group's Grand Opening this past September 18th. We understand the day was a huge success and everyone had a good time! Val took us on a guided tour and explained the future plans for the area, including the bridge at the end of the new north side of the trail — pretty impressive to say the least! At various points along the trail, locations have been tagged for a bench or a picnic table, which the public can purchase by contacting Val at 353-2168. To date a couple of benches and a picnic table have been purchased.

We frequently walk the old trail which has now been upgraded substantially, along with the new north side, and I must say we were very impressed with all the hard work this dedicated group of volunteers has been able to accomplish since the Kaslo Trailblazer Society was formed in January of 2005. Each time we walk the trail we see evidence of more hard work from a dedicated group of volunteers, putting forth their time and labour for the enjoyment of Kaslo and visitors alike. This project clearly would not have been possible without all the very strong support the group has received its volunteers, community members and businesses alike. Val mentioned a group of German tourists stopped by for the Grand Opening and were so impressed they made a donation and signed up as members. They come to Kaslo on vacation every year and said they will definitely be back to enjoy the trail.

It really is a breathtaking walk on a nice day, catching numerous sightings of the Kaslo River, with the sun peeking through the trees. The only negative aspect I witnessed was horse hooves are tearing up the freshly laid gravel, along with horse excrement that has been left behind on some parts of the old trail. I would hope that horse riders and dog walkers will think ahead and be courteous and show respect for others by cleaning up after their pets/personal property.

In a past issue of T*he Valley Voice*, Barbara Douglas made a nice appeal to the public stating "Let's all work together so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors and beautiful place we are blessed to live in. PLEASE!" I agree!

Thanks again to the Trailblazers Society for a job very well done. We'll see you on the trail!

Jill Braley
Kaslo

Think of the future, not the fortune, in the Incomappleux

This letter is in response to your cover story of September 14, "Pope & Talbot's road building efforts frustrated by protesters and Mother Nature."

It deeply saddens me that P&T only see dollar signs in the old growth forests. It is impossible to put a dollar value on these majestic trees, or on the habitat of a nearly extinct species. It seems ironic that all research points to this area as prime caribou habitat, except for the research that P&T solicited, "although it was not required." If you pay someone enough money, they will find whatever you are looking for. It seems as though Mr. Leitch and his colleagues cannot see the forest for the trees.

Do you not feel an incredible, sacred and spectacular feeling walking through an old growth forest? Almost magical? These forests are becoming more and more rare. I hope dearly for my children and grandchildren to experience this humbling, awe-inspiring phenomenon of old growth forests one day. However, if P&T continue to destroy these places at the rate they are going, that will not be possible.

Mr. Leitch is quoted as saying, "...it is clear that they want no harvesting. They want us to leave all of the old growth. I can't live with that."

Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but if you continue to log here, the caribou literally can't live with that.

Obviously they haven't left all of the old growth, because according to Mr. Diers, "P&T is the largest destroyer of habitat for the Central Selkirk herd."

I realize that our community and many surrounding communities are very dependent on logging as a central part of our economy. Logging feeds many families in this valley. However, there are many forests you can harvest without destroying these ones. They will not re-generate over 20, 50 or even 100 years.

I don't know all the answers, but I do know that the ignorance and insensitivity to our environment and Mother Nature as displayed by Mr. Leitch and P&T, the situation our ecosystem is in will only continue in this downward spiral.

Does it feel good to destroy such pristine beauty? What about the thought of only telling our grandchildren how big trees were in the 'old days'?

The day after the protesters peacefully stepped aside, Mother Nature stepped in. Let's try paying attention for a change, and think of the future, not the fortune.

Carlee Hughes
Nakusp

Visiting ER is often appropriate response

Canadians have good reason to take pride in their public health system. In comparison to our neighbour to the south, where some enjoy the best care on earth while too many others suffer or die because they have no real access to quality care in a timely manner, we have it good. Of course our neighbour to the south compares unfavourably with almost every so-called developed country in the world and even some poor countries such as Cuba. Unfortunately, our treasured system is under attack because of a complex array of factors such as an aging population, ideology, questionable allocation of limited resources and a shortage of trained personnel in certain areas and specialties.

Currently, the flavour of the month regarding what is wrong with our public health system is the public's abuse of emergency departments. I don't deny that some people tie up medical resources for trivial reasons that are not critical, but it isn't always that easy for the layperson to determine what is trivial and what is not. If a person is bleeding from a close encounter with a chainsaw or some other such accident, it is appropriate for that person to visit the ER as promptly as possible. When a young child is choking, vomiting violently, experiencing high fever or otherwise in visible distress the nature of which they cannot describe because they haven't yet learned to talk, the parent should start the car or call an ambulance. On the

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Public Consultation Meetings With Columbia Basin Trust

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) invites residents of the Basin to attend a Community Meeting in your area to give input towards the proposed Option Agreement.

The Option Agreement is a contract between the Province of BC and CBT's power subsidiary CBT Energy (CBTE). The contract allows for CBT to purchase all of the shares of CBT's joint venture partner, Columbia Power Corporation (CPC).

The public meetings will outline the Option Agreement in a short presentation, and will include 1 1/2 hours for the public to comment and ask questions. You are invited to come early to have the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with staff and Board. As well, Board and staff are available after the meeting to continue discussions with residents.

The public consultation process, the Option Agreement, a background document, and detailed questions and answers are available on the CBT website at www.cbt.org/optionagreement.htm.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR YOUR AREA BETWEEN 7-9 PM.

OCTOBER 3 - TRAIL
Trail and District Rec Centre

OCTOBER 4 - CASTLEGAR
Brilliant Cultural Centre

OCTOBER 5 - NELSON
Prestige Inn

OCTOBER 6 - NAKUSP
Nakusp Arena

If you are unable to attend a Community Meeting, but want more information, or give input, contact CBT at, 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-365-6633 or visit www.cbt.org and follow the link to submit your comments online.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
Strengthening the Basin since 1995 — 10 years

Voices from the Valleys

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other hand, if a person with severe chest pain, difficulty breathing or a myriad of other symptoms with no apparent explanation or cause should go to the ER only to find out his condition wasn't life threatening, that person didn't waste ER resources and their visit was still appropriate. Most people are not trained doctors and in no position to diagnose themselves to determine the appropriateness of their visit. Even doctors on occasion hold a person overnight for observation, if a bed can be found within the same time zone, only to determine in the morning it isn't serious and send the patient home. Of course occasionally a patient is sent home who should not be, like the gentleman in Delta recently who was sent home twice only to die a few hours later in the ambulance or ER.

My point is that even if the condition proves to be non-life threatening, visiting the ER is often the appropriate response. If the patient has an aneurysm, heart problem or some aggressive infection like flesh-eating disease and makes an appointment with his family doctor, he will very likely be deceased a week or two (or more) later and unable to keep his appointment.

Randy Kewen
New Denver

Happy cyclists visit area

My wife and I moved to Nelson about 11 years ago. We have often travelled through Silverton and New Denver over the years and have had a meal there on occasion. However, we have never stayed over. Recently, friends came to visit after spending a week bicycling in New Denver/ Silverton. They could not say enough about how they enjoyed their stay. They stayed in a B&B. They cycled every day. And they intend to do it again next year. In fact, they want to come and stay in the area every year for a month or so. And the main reason is that they enjoy cycling so much in your beautiful valley.

They were most impressed with the friendly help and service they received from Rob Farrell from the Wilds of Canada Cycle store in New Denver. Our friends left their Valhalla Pure / Wilds of Canada trails map with us. I called Rob and had a chat. We packed our camping gear and found a fantastic campsite right on the lake, with spectacular views of the Valhallas, in the Silverton Municipal campsite.

We cycled down the CP Rail trail to Three Forks and from there down the Galena Trail to New Denver. It was a great trip and easy enough for beginners. Rob very kindly dropped us off at Summit Lake with our bikes and we cycled the railgrade to New Denver — a 30-km trip. First it was downhill for about 14 km down to Slocan Lake (stunning views of mountain peaks and of the creek below), then another level 9 km just above the shining lake to Rosebery and then the final 7-km gradual climb to Denver Siding. It was a beautiful and easy trip in a pristine environment.

We so enjoyed our stay that we came back for another camping weekend at the Silverton Campsite and for some more cycling. We had great meals at Panini's and at Jack Harvey's. We bought food in the supermarkets. We filled up at the gas station. And Rob serviced our bikes very competently and at a very reasonable price. People sometimes think that bicyclers do not spend much money in the communities they visit.

We would like to encourage you to promote bicycling in your communities. People will come flocking to stay and have fun. Rob Farrell and his bike store, and his and his friends' efforts to build and maintain trails, should be supported as much as possible. And we commend you for having kept your lake so pure and your mountainsides as pristine as you have.

Andrew and Ilse Murray
Nelson, BC

Incomappleux another example of human destruction

The other weekend, I went to a presentation by the Valhalla Wilderness Society in New Denver on the studies they have been doing on the Interior Rainforest or Wetbelt. Very interesting! I have spent a good part of my life living in the forest and much of what they had to say rang true to my personal experience.

Then I read a letter to the editor in another paper by Trevor Ryan, who badmouths the VWS, claiming that they are funded by foreign interests. By the way, P&T is an American based company which means that foreign money is financing the destruction of the last of our Interior Rainforest!

Really! What difference is it in a global community who is funding who? We are all in the same boat and everybody should be concerned about our society's insatiable appetite to devour our life support systems.

Then Cam Leitch from P&T, says they are going out of their way to maintain some of the rainforest but he cannot see the point of saving it all nor will he consider it. Considering that 95% of it is has already been clearcut, his gesture is rather inane, to say the least.

What with global warming, Hurricane Katrina, and the Tsunami fiasco, you would think that someone would notice the connection to mass deforestation. If we don't pull our heads out of the sand soon, Momma Nature is going to give us a good swift kick in the butt.

The way I see it, we are all a bunch of mindless consumers racing headlong into our own stupidity. I get this image in my mind of lemmings running for the edge of the abyss. The closer we get, the faster we run. In the lead is a bunch of mentally challenged egomaniacs like George Bush, P&T, Interfor, WalMart, Exxon, General Motors, et al. I for one am stepping aside to watch the spectacle from a safe distance so as not to get sucked over the edge by the rush of lunatics.

If you are interested in the right of all living beings to live in peace then the sooner the lemmings jump off the cliff the better for all the survivors. We should be encouraging them.

Human beings are destroying the planet at an unprecedented rate in a vain effort to fill the void in the centre of their souls. If there is a God that created all this then he must be some irate at what we've done to his creation.

Cliff Woffenden
Nakusp

Register your opposition to the Parks Plan

The BC government has announced it has $1.3 billion in surplus. This surplus was achieved, in great part, by cutting funding to social services, health care and parks. Those budget cuts resulted in cutting the staff of the Parks department and the Ministry of the Environment to the bone. Notwithstanding this surplus, and the previous one, the government said that parks have to pay for themselves, hence they have to be turned into businesses, which is their rationale for privatization.

Now, the BC government plans to open up parks to foreign investors, inviting entrepreneurs to build lodges and other amenities in our parklands including Valhalla Park. This has been revealed in secret documents leaked by the Public Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. The documents they released reveal the government is presently marketing our parks to American, European and Asian investors.

This plan particularly violates the spirit and nature of Valhalla Park, as it is designated a wilderness park. This designation, preserving its roadless integrity accessible only by boat from the lake villages, draws increasing numbers of tourists, including many from Europe and especially Germany, where there no longer exists wilderness in any form. The tourists I meet here extol the lack of development in the park, the fact that it is free from the lodges, boat ramps, graded walkways, saunas, flush toilets and other so-called amenities that make some parks resemble a mountain outpost for Disneyland.

For those who want the comforts of home when they travel, they can find them in abundance at Banff and Jasper, and in several BC Parks. There are also abundant lodges outside the boundaries of BC parks, including three or four around Valhalla Park. Surely, given this fact, BC should be ready to preserve the wilderness aspect of the Valhallas for those who seek a different, more rugged experience.

Many tourists come to the lake towns here and visit the Valhallas on day hikes. Some say they just like to look across the lake at the Valhallas' unscarred, rugged fjord slopes to see and feel what BC once looked like. They say the amenities in the lake villages are more than ample. Many of the businesses in our villages survive the winter by service and sales to summer tourism. Accommodations within the park will draw tourists wanting accommodations away from our villages' amenities.

As the evidence emerged revealing the government behind-the-scenes endeavour to market our parks, there has been an outcry from the public. To this, the government typically denies what the evidence clearly proves it is doing. But behind its denials, the government does not remove or cancel its endeavours to privatize portions of our parks to private business; the offers have not been withdrawn.

Now, with the revelation of the government's huge monetary surplus, even the battered rationales they have constructed by starving parks of funds collapse. If you believe that the decades of battle waged to preserve some parkland should be honoured, not betrayed; if you believe BC residents, and the tourists invited here through the government advertising Supernatural BC, have a right to parks that are completely free from entrepreneurial intrusion, then write your MLA, write the Parks Department, write Campbell, and demand the government scuttle the plans which we have now seen documented.

It took a long, hard battle to preserve the Valhallas; residents and tourists alike have been greatly benefited and inspired by the unique wild beauty of the Valhallas. Let's act now to keep it so.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Puppies not "casually dispersed" at Friday Market

We are writing in response to Anna Hawthorne's letter in the last Valley Voice about what she called a "display of ignorance" and "the casual dispersion" of puppies at the Friday Market. Before one makes assumptions and accusations about people, one should take all the facts into consideration.

As proud new owners of one of the puppies in question, we know that these puppies were not casually dispersed. Not one single puppy went home with anyone from the market that day. We were the first to take a puppy home two days after the market, which means that everyone else had at least three or more days to get over what was dubbed "the emotional blackmail" of seeing cute puppies and re-think whether or not they really wanted and could take care of a puppy. If a person decides to take a puppy home simply because their child is begging them, I think the person's childrearing skills come into question more than their ability to be a good pet owner!

Her letter also mentioned how the puppies were picked up by "small children and adults alike, with various abilities for handling young animals." Well, of course, small children do not have perfect animal handling skills (especially if they have no pets at home) but what better way to learn than by being exposed to them? This is how both children and puppies are socialized — by interacting.

I can assure everyone that if this "incident" was really as traumatic as Ms. Hawthorne makes it sound, my puppy has gotten over it! These puppies, having spent the first eight weeks of their lives in a loving home with three children, were very well socialized. Our puppy loves kids so much that every time he hears children's voices on TV he searches the room and then looks outside hoping to find them.

Also, the statement regarding unwanted litters usually being born out of negligence does not apply here. The owners of the mother dog had been asked repeatedly by numerous community members, ourselves included, about when they were going to let their dog have a litter because of the wonderful, gentle nature of the mother dog. This litter was planned with a number of puppies being spoken for beforehand.

One would assume from her letter that unless a person pays for a puppy, that they won't be good pet owners. I am offended by that. We've been waiting for two years for the right time to get a puppy. Our puppy has just finished his three sets of vaccinations (including rabies), will be getting neutered at six months of age and we are also looking into obedience classes. He has 10 acres to romp around on and two kittens (from the wonderful organization PALS) to keep him company when we aren't at home.

Ms. Hawthorne writes that if not given to the SPCA puppies should be sold and "vetting the prospective new owners by investigation and follow-up as to the fate of the pet" should take place. What she must not realize is that every single puppy went to a local home (except one which went to the grandchild of a local). The owners of the mother dog know and respect everyone who got a puppy (we know most of them too) or they would not have chosen them to take a puppy — and they did turn down some people who they felt they didn't know well enough. We left their house with our puppy after being told that if for any reason we couldn't keep him, we were to bring him back.

Casual dispersion? We don't think so.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the family in question for our wonderful, well socialized Willow puppy. We are glad to be living in the type of community where we are tightly knit enough to be able to trust our fellow neighbours. Spooky says thank you too for being so well loved for the first eight weeks. We think he's gonna keep us!

Tamara, Chris and Spooky
Claxton
New Denver

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New Denver council, September 13: Air quality survey coming soon

by Jan McMurray

•Jane Murphy and David Butt attended as a delegation to present a draft air quality survey. Council went through the draft survey with the delegation and some changes were made. Council authorized CAO Carol Gordon to make changes to the draft in conjunction with the air quality committee and to send it out to all New Denver residents' mailboxes.

•Council received an email addressed to New Denver, Kaslo and Kimberley from Paul Willis of the Ministry of Environment regarding the woodstove changeout pilot project. The ministry is taking a second look at candidates, including New Denver, for the project. Willis says that the successful community will probably have to be willing "to apply disincentives for non-participation from owners of old technology stoves" and New Denver had indicated that it was not interested in doing this. He asks New Denver to contact him with any ideas that would "strengthen your position as a candidate for this program." After some discussion, Mayor Wright volunteered to write Willis back, saying that the Village is considering disincentives but requires public input first. The air quality survey will be the vehicle for public input. Wright will also mention that the Village has adopted an open burning bylaw.

•Council received a letter from Joan McKay of the Valhalla Inn requesting written confirmation from the Village that the current zoning would allow for the inn to operate a cold beer and wine store. The letter of confirmation is required by the Liquor Control and Licensing Board. The Village will send the letter.

•In response to a concern of some 10th Ave. residents, council decided to block off the laneway between 9th and 10th Avenues with a No Exit sign and to require that affected residents carry their garbage to Kootenay Street for pick-up. Since the work on the S bend on Highway 6 was done, there is increased traffic on the laneway because both 9th and 10th Avenues are now cul-de-sacs and no longer lead to the highway. With many small children living in that area, safety is the concern.

•Public Works and Water Committee reported that the results of the environmental assessment of the public works yard had come in and that the yard was given a clean bill of health. The committee will advise the Province it had received the report and will be looking for certification as an environmentally clean site.

In order to monitor the work of the street paving crew, overtime as needed for public works staff was authorized.

•Councillor Bunka commented on the unsightly state of the area around the recycle bins and wanted to know who was responsible for cleaning it up. Mayor Wright informed her that it is up to the contractor to maintain the site, but not to haul garbage away. He said that many communities were experiencing the same problem and some were asking the RDCK to put up fences, lighting and to have paid guards on site.

•Wright reported that the RDCK had started its budget process and was finishing up organizational changes. The building and planning departments are being amalgamated into a new development services department, and the chief building inspector and planning manager positions have been eliminated. A new community services department is being created, as is a new community services manager position. He pointed out that the RDCK spends most of its money on recreation: recreation commissions, the three recreation complexes, regional parks, cemeteries and museums.

Councillor Casley expressed concern about the elimination of the chief building inspector position, saying that residents of this area have always waited one week for their building inspections. Wright assured that the change will mean that building inspectors can spend more time on site and less time in the office.

•A letter from the group working on renovations to the gym at the Slocan Community Health Centre proposed that two walls be replaced with two engineered roof beams in order to satisfy the requirement for a written engineering report. Council voted to send a letter to IH, asking for approval for this proposal.

•Rob Ochsendorf, owner of the Apple Tree restaurant, has accepted the terms of the sale of the property where the outdoor seating is located. The Village has sold Ochsendorf the property for $9,000.

•The Open Burning Bylaw No. 591/05 was given final adoption.

•Bob Bertuzzi, president of the Kootenay Performing and Visual Arts Society, requested funding for a feasibility study on building a multiuse theatre/video conference centre in the West Kootenay. The Village will inform Bertuzzi that there are no grants in aid budgeted for this.

•Public Lands and Safety committee reported that the Garlic Fest went over very well with the electrical upgrade and that parking was better this year, but could be improved.

•The deadline for Joint Emergency Preparedness Program grant applications is October 31. Councillors Bunka and Casley will look into this.

•A resolution calling for the development of a national policy to ban water exports and protect Canadian freshwater resources was carried and will be sent to Prime Minister Martin.

•Councillor Brookfield will attend a Sustainable Planning Workshop regarding community planning and development in Creston on October 6, with expenses paid.

•The September 27 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Mayor Wright (as RDCK representative) and Councillors Brookfield and Casley will be attending UBCM at that time.

Jude Nicholson-Chodat enjoys a hotdog at the annual Lucerne Barbecue.

Burial group can help when loved one dies

submitted

NEW DENVER—The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group is a new organization in the New Denver area that offers a variety of services and assistance when someone in the family dies.

The group will assist families by providing the several necessary forms, advice on procedure, information on burial options and on non-denominational services that family and friends can access. As a volunteer group, it will charge a nominal fee for its services.

The group recommends planning before a death occurs in order to encourage the fulfillment of last wishes.

A meeting for all registered members and interested individuals takes place October 15 at 10 am at the Hidden Garden Gallery. For more information, call Kay Costley White at 358-7991 or Lorna Obermayr at 358-7965.

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October 18 - November 2
Slocan Community Hospital and Health Care Centre
Do you need help with back pain,
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For more information, see website www.8880035.com
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Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group
Your community burial organization.
We can help when you need it.
JOIN US
For information, call
Kay Costley White, 358-7791 or Lorna Obermayr, 358-7965

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Request for FIXED PRICE BID
The Slocan Valley Cooperative Association
Slocan Park, B.C.
New Cardlock - Project #E05013
The Slocan Valley Cooperative Association (Owner) has proposed the demolition of its existing gas bar and canopy and the construction of a new cardlock facility to be located at 3024 Hwy 6 (Part of Lot 1, District Lot 7065 K.D. Plan 2677, C of T 1260941) in Slocan Park, British Columbia.
Plans and specifications are available from the General Manager of the Slocan Valley Cooperative at Slocan Park, B.C., Box 10, V0G 2E0.
Phone: 250-226-7433; Fax: 250-226-7916;
e-mail: s.v.coop@telus.net
Closing Date for submission of bids is
October 11, 2005, 9:00 pm
SLOCAN VALLEY CO-OPERATIVE
3024 Highway 6, Slocan Park

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Jack and his team, likes to wish everyone a beautiful Indian summer!
Fall is here and we want to inform our loyal customer about our slightly adjusted fall hours
open: Thursday to Monday 5pm – 10pm
closed: Thanksgiving Oct. 9 and 10.
Keep on reading the Valley Voice and we will post ya for our winter hours!!!

Slocan council, September 14: Boat ramp project moves forward

by Don Currie

•Council is moving forward with plans to construct a double-lane boat ramp with a centre floating wharf on the sloping beach area at the end of Main Street. Trevour Shephard, P. Eng. of Northstar Environmental Engineering, Kelowna, submitted a follow-up report to the one delivered at the August 10 council meeting containing a schedule of project tasks and milestone dates for construction. The schedule puts the completion date at June 2006.

The Village is tasked with co-ordinating the gathering of logs and boom chains for a breakwater and with re-locating a power pole. Excluded from the project scope is a parking lot for boats and trailers and any changes to the swimming beach area.

Shephard asserted that the project was estimated to cost $170,000, but could be completed at $20,000 under budget with Village input on some materials and work. Canfor has donated $100,000 towards the project. Council thanked Shephard for the report and decided to have an onsite meeting the following day to go over all details.

•Council approved a proposal to jointly sponsor with the Slocan Valley Royal Canadian Legion an Oktoberfest event on October 22. The festival will feature a street dance, live music, food and a beer garden. Council agreed to supply picnic tables and to a partial street closure of Harold St., ensuring parking and emergency access to fire hydrants. The event organizer, Shirley Markovic, can be reached at 355-2487.

•Peter Leach of Lemon Creek showed Council a copper cupola he has designed and built to top the newly constructed gazebo at the trailhead to the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. The cupola will support a weather vane complete with brass figures of a skier, train, cyclist and equestrian, symbolizing past and present uses of the old railbed. The project should be completed for installation by the end of September.

•Council noted the increased use of the RV Park and credited it to Margaret Markovic's management of the park, along with upgrades and better signage. The park was filled to capacity on several weekends over the summer. Council noted that articles on Rails to Trails, Slocan Village and Idaho Peak in the fall 2005 issue of British Columbia Magazine indicated a growing interest and awareness of the Village and surrounding area.

•In his report from RDCK for July and August, Councillor John Gates reported that the Kootenay Connector Transit Service linking Castlegar, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, New Denver, Salmo Silverton and the Village of Slocan will cost approximately $65,000 annually and will be recovered on the basis of assessment values. The final decision on allocations will be decided by directors during the annual operating agreement review process.

Gates also reported that RDCK had adopted a resolution for consideration at the upcoming UBCM meeting questioning the requirement for sewerage installers to be "registered practitioners." The RDCK resolution asserts the requirement has created a "monopoly situation" due to lack of registered practitioners and resulting in steep increases in costs of installations for homeowners.

•A written report from public works foreman Jerry Simmons stated that dead trees near the curling rink and in the RV Park had been removed. Trees downed by recent high winds are being salvaged and processed into lumber for the construction of new bus stops. A public composting area for leaves and grass clippings has been established at the horse corral. A load of paving bricks has been ordered to continue with the sidewalk project on Harold St. Work is advancing on laying a water line from Springer Creek to the ball park. Council passed a motion ordering a halt to work on the inside of the new works building until there was budget approval to complete the project.

•The public attending the meeting generally approved of the recent painting of the Silvery Slocan Community Hall and installation of a four-way stop on Slocan St. Councillor Marc Septav said the stop was recommended by the RCMP to slow mill and truck traffic on the street.

•As required by Section 98 of the Municipal Charter, Council tabled for public questioning its 2004 Annual Report. The progress report on objectives for 2004 stated that 2004 was a transitional year due to the resignation of the mayor and clerk in August 2004. A significant amount of time was spent on restructuring the organization. Council noted the completion of the gazebo, general clean-up of the village, the implementation of a computer system to manage Village affairs and a cross-indexed bylaw filing system. The report set objectives for 2005 and 2006. The key objectives were to complete the boat ramp, to move forward on the paddlewheeler project, to continue with the boulevard project and construction of bus shelters on Harold St. and to start planning a Seniors Home. There were no questions from the public. The complete report, including a detailed accounting of revenues and expenditures, is available at the Village office.

•Council approved a business license application from Doug Burton to operate a heating repair and sales business from his garage. The usual commercial bylaw conditions will apply.

Virginia Taylor and Jim Hicks were winners of the Slocan Lake Golf Club's new trophy, named after Les Weisbrich, in honour of all his support and accomplishments over the years. The trophy will be awarded to the seniors men and ladies low net winners of the open tournament every year.

The Slocan Valley Community Band is starting up its 22nd season in early October! New members are welcome. Bob Old and Gail Elder are sharing the conducting. Call Bob for more information at 355-2414.

Ann Mott's show season finale

The Hidden Garden Gallery is pleased to present the paintings of Ann Mott at the last show of the season from October 5 to 10. Mott has entitled her show *My Imagination Runs Wild*. An opening reception will be held Wednesday, October 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm.. The artist will be present from 6:30 to 8, so come on out to meet her, enjoy her paintings and hear the musical offerings of Larry Anderson and Larry Lavan. Light refreshments will be served.

Mott, who started painting with Abby at the Pavilion a few years ago and now paints with Sue Mistretta, produces joyful, colourful and expressive works showing a keen eye for composition and detail. She is looking forward to her show with great excitement and we are too. All are welcome.

That night the gallery will also celebrate the kind donations of the 'Best Friends' and the volunteer efforts of all those who worked so hard to keep the gallery running from Mother's Day until now. Let's toast our great community together.

Ann Mott's is the last show of the season at the Hidden Garden Gallery.

Slocan's 1st. Annual
Oktoberfest
Oct. 22nd.
Live-Festive Music
& Street Dance
"Authentic Food & Beer Garden"
All Food/Craft/Retailers/Traveling Merchants/Flee Market Venders/Etc.
Contact:
Shirley Markovic (250) 355-2487

What's New at the Slocan Community Health Centre?

- **Flu Clinics** in the Pavilion Activity Room Friday November 4th - Drop In between 9 am-12 noon or 1 pm- 6 pm
- **Primary Health Care services and programs:** Steve Mounteer
- **Diabetic Education Day** - October 6th 1 pm - 3 pm
- **Nutritional counselling**
- **Heart health**
- **Health information resources**
- **Support groups**
- **Registered Nurse consultations** - nursing assessment and treatment, self care teaching

"Voices for Hospice" Hospice fundraiser/awareness raiser Friday October 7th at the Silverton Memorial Hall - for more information call 358-7819

For information on these and other services, please drop in to the Centre at 401 Galena in New Denver weekdays 09:00 to 15:00, or call 358-7911.

Emergency Services 24/7 358-7911

Diagnostic Services:

Laboratory – Tuesday through Friday 08:00 – 10:00 no appointment needed
X-Ray, ECG, Holter – Mon, Wed - Fri 08:15 – 11:00 appointments at 358-7911

Interior Health

For Sale

New Denver Building Lot

One block from the Slocan Lake, Carpenter Creek and Downtown New Denver. 65ft by 130ft. lot on a cul de sac. Flat and backed by mature trees. Lots like these are becoming fewer and fewer.

$110,000

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TV star to host fundraiser for Slocan skate park, October 8

Gabrielle Miller, who stars as Lacy in the Canadian hit TV show *Corner Gas,* will host a $50-a-plate fundraising dinner, dance, and silent auction at the W.E. Graham Community School gym on Saturday, October 8. The evening will include music by 'Two for Tripping', a buffet dinner, a silent auction of Corner Gas memorabilia, a no-host bar, and a barn raising dance with a mystery band. All proceeds will go to the construction of a world class skate park in the village of Slocan.

The idea for a skate park in Slocan began with a determined group of 15 skaters , who had a fundraising plan that included beach clean ups, skate-a-thons in conjunction with Nelson District Youth Centre, bottle returns, 50/50 draws at community events, and a raffle. As a result of their efforts, they raised approximately $8,000 and were able to hire Jim Barnum of Spectrum Skate Park Creations Limited to design the park and to oversee the construction.

The small (100' x 100') park will feature a large beginner-friendly portion for novices to test their skills and learn new ones. The youth group is hoping to attract visitors to the community, host an annual competition, and to spend a lot of time honing their own skills.

Committed funders for the construction phase include Vancouver Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust Youth Program, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Village of Slocan, Kootenay Savings & Credit Union, BC Hydro, Slocan Valley Recreation Commission, Kootenay Slocan Lions Club, Springer Creek Forest Products Ltd., and individual donors.

Join us October 8 for a rollicking good time. Limited seating is available so please call 355-2484 to reserve your ticket.

Calling all scarecrows!

This year Slocan Valley Recreation will run the third ever Slocan Valley Scarecrow Festival from October 13 to 19—but in order for that to happen, they need some scarecrows. They don't have to be pretty, they don't have to make a fashion statement and they definitely don't have to be politically correct.

"Scarecrows are an art form that's hard to define," says Craig 'the Rec Guy' Lawrence, co-ordinator of the event. "Do they reflect the person that made them or did they just seep out from the scarecrow ethers into a friendly bale of straw?"

Wherever they came from, Slocan Valley Recreation would love to have people let their creative juices flow and put the results on display for all to enjoy. They can be made around any theme the artist wishes—a favourite character or a not-so-favourite 'friend', perhaps... They can be displayed at the artist's home or ask the Rec Guy to find somewhere for it to go.

In order to get your scarecrow into the festival, you must let the Recreation Commission know by October 7. They'll make up a tour map which will be available throughout the valley. Entry is free and there'll be prizes offered to help celebrate the artists' creation.

A crack team of scarecrow judges are being flown in at no small expense and everyone can phone the Rec office and cast their vote for the People's Choice Award.

It all starts with getting those scarecrows entered, so call the Rec office at 226-0008 today.

Art and Adventure at the Little Slocan Lodge

submitted

Art and Adventure in the Slocan Valley moves to the Little Slocan Lodge for a fall colours painting retreat October 10 to 13.

The retreat is a gathering for artists who wish to benefit from meeting and working with other painters who enjoy painting or sketching the outdoors, sharing ideas and inspiration. Bring paints, warm clothes and your good spirits, and also some slides or pictures of your work to share with the group in the evenings.

Book your accommodation directly with Little Slocan Lodge by calling 800-505-6788. The cost for dormitory style lodging, bedding and linens included, is $24 per night plus tax. Bring money for food as we will cook together; there no other costs at this time.

Those coming from a distance who may wish to stay longer can come with us to Nelson or Winlaw for extended painting opportunities after October 13.

Put your name on the list now and be sure of a space. For information and registration call Barb Wilson at 226-0021 or e-mail barbfinearts@lycos.com.

Winners of the Slocan Lake Golf Course Open tournament on August 14 were from L to R: Robyn Hicks (Ladies B Flight low net), Jim Hicks (Senior Men low net), Virginia Taylor (Senior Ladies low net), Linda Henke (Ladies A Flight low gross - 90), Jim Mellen (Seniors Mens low gross - 80), Dot Mellen (Senior Ladies low gross - 95), Mike Hicks (Mens A Flight low net), Mark Solecki (Mens A Flight low gross - 72), Chris Churchill (Mens B Flight low net), Donna Fasthuber (Ladies B Flight low gross - 100), Tamara Barkowski (Ladies A Flight low net), Dan Campbell (Mens B Flight low gross - 82). Missing: Terry Everett (Mens C Flight low gross - 86) and Steve Hammond (Mens C Flight low net). Winners of the Bushwackers tournament held September 10 were Laurie and Debbie Hicks, with low gross winners Jim and Dot Mellen.

Village of New Denver

The New Denver Village Council reminds residents to complete the air quality surveys and return them to the Village office, Monday to Friday, between 8:00 and 4:00, by October 7, 2005.

Sappho's Bakery

Thanksgiving Specials at Sappho's Bakery

Dinner Buns, white or whole wheat, regular price $2/dozen, now only $1.75

Crusty buns, regularly $5/dozen, now only $4

Fresh apple or pumpkin pies, regularly $12, only $9

Please order at least one day in advance to ensure you don't miss out on these specials.

Buy your family's bread in bulk and save: six loaves of delicious 60% Whole Wheat or Valley White for the price of five.

Remember that Sappho's has the best pizza in town! A 12-inch thin-crust pizza, with lots of fresh toppings, is only $15; on Saturdays, get two for $25. Pizza available on one hour's notice; call by 5 pm.

Rear entrance, 309 Kildare St., New Denver, across the alley from the Nikkei Centre. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. Call 358-2119 to order, or to reserve your favourites!

Slocan Lake Early Learning Society
New Denver Nursery School

You are invited to the Grand Opening of the New Denver Nursery School's new

PLAYGROUND!

& A tree-planting ceremony in honour of Gay Houston
Oct. 4 at 10:30 am
Lucerne School lower playground

Everyone Welcome!

SILVERTON HERITAGE Country Inn
12 Lake Ave. 358-7929

THANKS! from "the cats" at Silverton Inn

for your great support over the summer and on our Saturday Night Buffets and Sunday Brunches. They are finished for this season, but watch for them to reappear over the winter as special events.

FALL HOURS

Our kitchen will be open seven days a week from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm.
The Dining Room will also be open seven days a week from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

BREAKFASTS

Besides our Regular Menu and Daily Specials, we will be offering "All Day Breakfast" on Sundays, featuring Mel's fabulous Eggs Benedict and Steak 'n Eggs, etc.

STEAK NIGHTS

Our world famous 2-for-1 Steak Night will continue every Friday night, served in both the Dining Room and the Pub.

Don't Forget...
Book now for Special Events and Christmas Parties!

Nakusp council, September 22: Search and Rescue requests $5,000

by Jan McMurray

•Council decided on the wording of the Village name change referendum question that will be asked of voters at the November 19 election: Are you in favour of changing the official name of the Village of Nakusp to the Village of Nakusp Hot Springs?

•Gord Hogoboam of Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue attended as a delegation. He explained that he is trying to raise $10,000 per year that the organization can count on, and asked council to provide $5,000 of it. He said he had asked the RDCK to increase its contribution from $3,000 to $5,000 per year.

He explained that the organization is expected to pay for its own equipment and training up front, and then is partially reimbursed by the government, through the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). There are more and more training requirements, he said, and equipment is expensive. He also mentioned that the command vehicle is "getting to be a liability."

Hogoboam noted that the Fish River search in 2003 gained some recognition for Nakusp, and said that with the area being written up in kayaking magazines as an area for high-end, more dangerous kayaking and with more people going into the forests without experience, Search and Rescue would be needed more and more.

Later in the meeting, council decided to move this item into budget deliberations.

•Betty Fahlman, president of the Nakusp Energy Corporation (NEC), attended as a delegation to ask council for a letter of support to accompany grant applications. The corporation has an agreement with School District No. 10 to provide Nakusp Secondary with a heating system that would use wood waste as biofuel. NEC also plans to produce compost and mulch from the wood waste. Council voted to provide the letter.

•Gord Roberts, as a private citizen, attended as a delegation to give council his opinion on the Danny Gare Hockey School request for a five-year contract for ice time. Gare asks for the contract at a rate of $55 per hour or $2750 per week, which would match the price the City of Nelson gives the school. Roberts prefaced his remarks by saying he is a "huge supporter" of the hockey school, but warned council to make sure that the Village is not losing money on it. He said he believed the school was making a profit and should pay a fair price for the ice. The Village opens the ice rink one month before it would otherwise to accommodate the school. He pointed out that the arena's user groups and village taxpayers do not want to subsidize the hockey school.

Council asked Mahoney to bring a cost analysis forward and for a report from Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff.

Mayor Cowan excused himself for this item due to a perceived conflict of interest, as his wife is involved in organizing the hockey school.

•Council waived the 2% increase in ice rates for 2006-06, with the understanding that the increase will apply in 2006-07. In March 2004, council approved a 10% rate increase for 2004-05 and a 2% increase for the following two years. At the Ice Users meeting on August 24, ice users said that a previous superintendent had promised that there would be no rate increase for this year and that the groups had collected their fees accordingly. Because of this, and declining enrollment in user groups, the Village was asked to review the 2% increase, which would amount to $970.

•CAO Richard Mahoney reported that the Hot Springs Charette consultants will be available for a meeting in mid-October.

•Council received a Nakusp Hot Springs report on sales for the month of August. Council was very happy to receive it, as there hadn't been one submitted for quite some time. However, council felt they needed to see the expenses side as well. Councillor Dahlen suggested that the income/expense statement be attached to the minutes of the board meeting that are submitted to council.

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HUGE new selection of licenced Rock Hoodies, T-Shirts & Flags
• Trailer Park Boys
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and much, MUCH MORE!
Merchandise may not be exactly as shown
Largest selection of quality collectible vinyl records in the Kootenays.
Professional record-cleaning service now available, too!
New & Used turntables and cartridges from Technics SONY and Dual
GIANT Selection of Blacklight Music & Novelty Posters!
Buy your new CDs here 'cause we're The Music Store in Town! We're here for YOU! Plus, we donate $1.00 from every new CD purchased, to help what we feel is a really good cause, PALS (Protecting Animal Life Society).
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NOW IN STOCK!
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Bob Dylan - *No Direction Home*
Rolling Stones - *A Bigger Bang*
Sarah McLachlan - *Bloom: Remix Album*
Disturbed - *Ten Thousand Fists*
Carly Simon - *Moonlight Serenade*
Iron Maiden - *Death on the Road*
Kayne West - *Late Registration*
Matthew Good - *In a Coma: 1995-2005*
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Plus we can Special Order that hard-to-find CD or DVD you're looking for.
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Columbia Basin communities recognized for literacy achievement

submitted

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy has been honoured for its outstanding work promoting literacy and lifelong learning.

At a September 8 awards ceremony at the Vancouver Public Library, the alliance was given the first Council of the Federation Literacy Award, recognizing outstanding achievement in literacy.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) promotes literacy and lifelong learning throughout the Columbia Basin by educating the public about the importance of literacy and by supporting local community actions related to literacy. Community literacy co-ordinators and advisory committee members have developed strategies and initiatives for supporting literacy development.

As a result, during the last school year, more than 88 family and adult literacy programs operated in 15 major communities and their satellite areas, more parents understand the importance of reading to and playing with their children, thousands of books have been distributed to peoples' homes, more children have confidence in their abilities to learn (and so do parents), adults and children who were struggling with reading are receiving assistance.

Many of these programs are offered in partnership with other community groups, such as libraries, family and community resource centres, early childhood educators, children and youth organizations, schools, college campuses, food banks, and public health. These collaborations are critical to the success of literacy development and the Council of the Federation award is an acknowledgment of the commitment and effort of all these groups.

PHOTO CREDIT: SHAYLA MARSHALL

The Nakusp senior soccer team won the trophy at the eight-team tournament it hosted on September 23 and 24. Front: Sam Howell, Jared Kew, Ben deWit, Andrew Orr. Middle: Allister Milne, Devin Buerge, Havill Leitch, Laine Weighill, Tyson Klein, Joel James, Kyle Volansky, Alejandro Tapia. Back: Rane Marshall, Jerod Jacobson, Nic Ireland, Owen Scott. Missing: Coach Rod Morrison

Local Boys Win Home Tourney

by Lee-Anne Marshall

The weather was superb for the Nakusp Secondary School Junior/Senior soccer tournament last weekend, although according to Ale, our Rotary Exchange student from Mexico, it was chilly.

The eight senior teams played three games each in the round robin. NSS had two high scoring shut-outs against Princeton and Midway and beat Invermere 4-1.

The results were as follows: Nakusp - 9 points, Rossland - 8 points, Invermere - 5 points, Kimberley - 6 points, Princeton - 4 points, Creston - 4 points, Midway - 0 points, New Denver - 0 points.

Invermere and Kimberley played for third and fourth place while Nakusp and Rossland battled for first place and the hardware. It was an intense game and called well by the referee, with Rossland receiving the only yellow and red cards in the match. Alle scored the lone goal on a penalty kick in the first half. The NSS Cougars had more scoring opportunities but couldn't put it between the posts. They fought hard and denied any goals against with a strong team effort. Nakusp Coach, Rod Morrison, was quoted as saying, "It was a great weekend." Congratulations, boys!

Five junior teams were vying for the top spot in their round robin tournament and Keremeos won the honours with 12 points. Creston finished with 8 points, Invermere with 7, Kaslo 3 and Nakusp 0.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

The first *Council of the Federation Literacy Award*, recognizing outstanding achievement in literacy, was presented to the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy on September 8 during a brief ceremony at the Vancouver Public Library.

The extensive literacy work in the Columbia Basin would not be possible without funding and support from The Columbia Basin Trust, the Ministry of Advanced Education, the National Literacy Secretariat, Literacy BC, our School Districts, the BC Gaming Commission, the Raise a Reader strategy, Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, our local Community Foundations, Rotary, Public Health, local service groups and businesses, the Community Literacy Advisory Committees, and the many organizations and individuals who collaborate to offer literacy programs.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and all of those who have participated and supported literacy work in the Columbia Basin communities. Kudos to all of you!

Nakusp and Slocan Valley Fairs show fine produce and crafts

Craig Lawrence, the Slocan Valley Rec Guy, demonstrates not only how to make a scarecrow but also how to be one.

Joanne Hird earned the grand aggregate title for the fifth year running. This year marked the sixth annual Slocan Valley Fall Fair.

Librarian Evelyn Goodell works the Nakusp Public Library booth at the fair.

Slocan Valley Fall Fair's grand aggregate winner Gordon Potter with grandsons Christopher and David Walker.

Peter Vogelaar and David Ducharme of the Slocan Valley won awards for every sand sculpture they built this past summer. This one is called 'Leap of Faith.' Visit www.snowsculpture.com to view more photos by this talented duo.

Lena Fahlman, sentenced to a jail term, has visitors on Nakusp's Fall Fair Day. Her great granddaughter, Chiara Minchin, squeezed through the bars to sit on her lap, and her daughter-in-law Betty Fahlman (right) and granddaughter Joleen Minchin speak to her through the bars. "Jail 'n bail" is a fundraiser for the Nakusp and Area Community Foundation.

Raven's Nest

New Lines of Fall Clothing have arrived

Sale Specials
Until October 12
Nomads Hempwear
25% Off
Made in Canada—men's and women's long sleeved shirts

Introducing
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Brilliant Expansion Project - Community Day

Free tours of the project site will be available, along with entertainment and refreshments.

Walking is required during the tour. Please wear proper footwear - NO SANDALS.

This is a family event, everyone is welcome. We hope to see you on October 2nd!

WHEN: October 2nd, 2005

WHERE: Brilliant Expansion Project at the Brilliant Dam, Castlegar.

Senior's only tours - 9am -10 am

Open to everyone - 10am - 2pm

Due to limited parking, carpooling is encouraged!

For more information about this event, please contact
Columbia Power Corporation at 250-365-8585.
Out of area callers, please call collect.

COLUMBIA POWER CORPORATION
Brilliant Expansion Consortium
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

South Slocan Recreation Hall is closed after more than75 years of service

by Sharon Speirs

SOUTH SLOCAN—Recently, a much-loved and much-used building was closed, soon to be torn down. The recreation hall at Number 3 power plant was built by West Kootenay Power and Light to serve the employees and their families who lived in that community in the late 1920s.

The building originally had two wooden staircases, one at each end of the front wall, that went up to the main hall on the second floor. Later, these steps were taken down and cement stairs built up to the back of the building.

Silent movies were shown in the hall, with the projection room being built to hang out over the first floor entrance. Early projectionists were Jack Batley and Mr. Blackmore. The projector, originally from the Starland Theatre in Nelson, is now in the Nelson Museum. There was also a player piano, to provide the music which was so much a part of silent movies. The fate of the piano is unknown. Wooden folding seats were provided for the movies and some of those seats were still in the lower floor when the building was closed.

Over the decades, the hall hosted family gatherings, birthday parties, retirement celebrations, fashion shows put on by the Hospital Auxiliary, card parties, anniversaries, and New Year's Eve dances. Cubs and Scouts have met in the hall almost from the beginning; Lord Baden-Powell is rumoured to have attended a Cub/Scout activity in the early 30s. Girl Guides flourished under the guidance of well-known South Slocan postmistress, Mrs. Murray.

Another activity held in the hall was badminton; both men and women's clubs met weekly.

In the first floor of the building is the bowling alley; complete with two hardwood lanes with small ledges at the end for the pinsetters to sit on. At least four generations of ex-pinsetters have experienced the discomfort of the benches and the joy of earning money! Over the years, teams of 10pin bowling for the men and five-pin for the men kept the pinsetters busy. More recently, the South Slocan Ladies Bowling League kept the sport alive with weekly bowling from October until the tournament in March.

The MacDonald family was one of the first families to live at #3, and they have many memories of that time. Betty MacDonald Ridge remembers watching the construction of the hall. She bowled as a young person and with the ladies' league for more years that she cares to remember. Dave MacDonald described in detail his memories of the silent movies and wistfully remembers getting into the movies for free by being an usher. He also remembers seeing R.B. Bennett, Canada's eleventh Prime Minister, who attended a gathering and made a speech at the #3 hall.

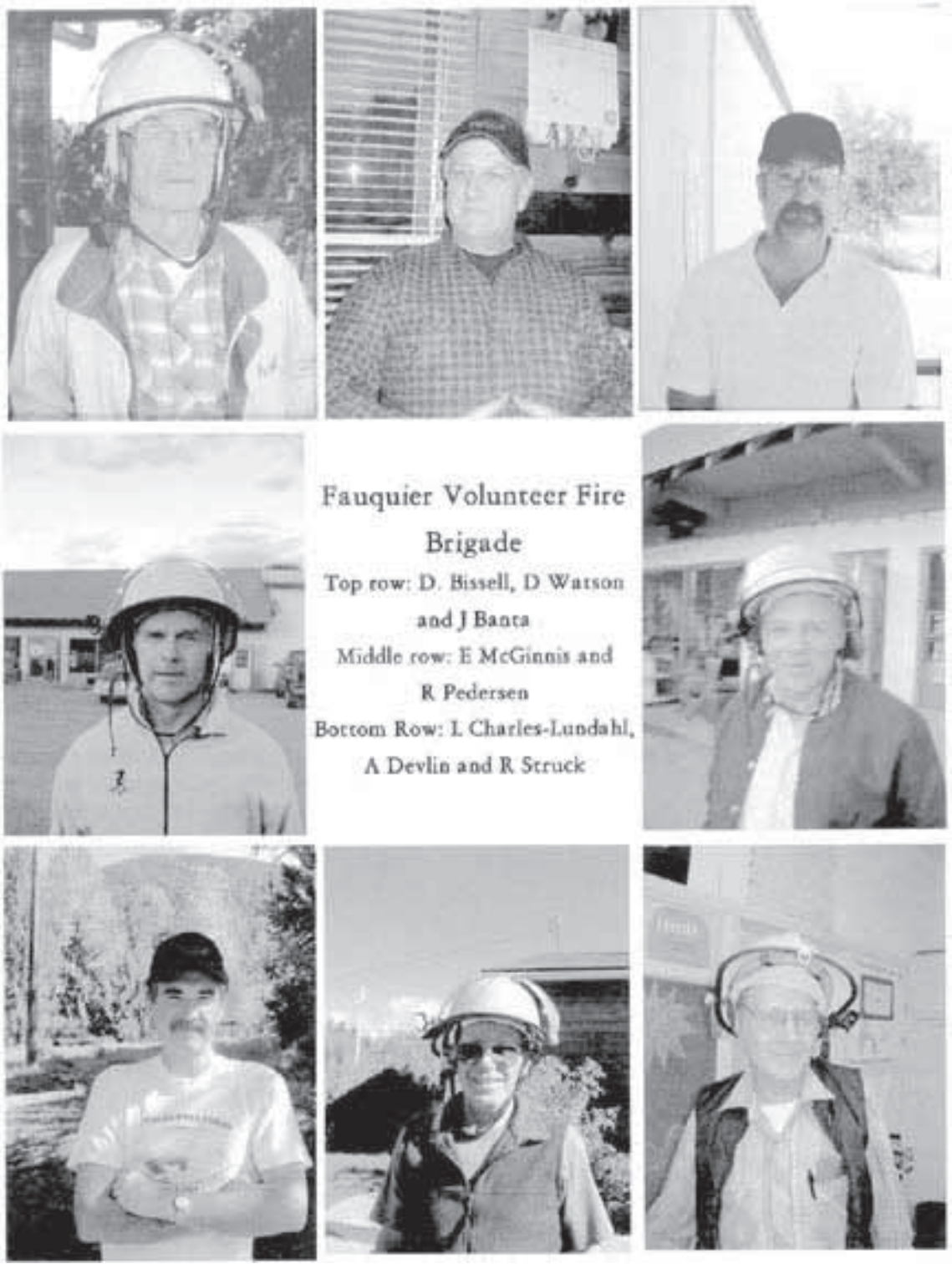
Another memory shared was of the hall being used as a bunk house when buildings at another power plant were destroyed by fire. The men were housed on the top floor and the cooking was done on the bowling alley floor.

For the past 75 years, the hall has served an important role in the South Slocan community. It will be missed by all who remember it.

Contributor Sharon Speirs says the hall "has meant a lot to my family over the years, and we would like to acknowledge the contribution it made."

Nakusp Fire Department

L to R: Jason Needoba, Terry Warren (Chief), Bill Regner (Captain), Gordy Matchett, Reg Gustafson (Deputy Chief), Bob Cann, Dean Zanier, Mike Graup, James Peterson, Art Olson, Arnie Herridge. Kneeling: Daryl Katchen, Richard Cann (Lieutenant). Missing: Lawrence Crowe (Lieutenant), Warren Leigh, Jason Craig, Didace Wilcott, Len Gustafson, Brian Coates, Harry Anderson, Kerry O'Connor, Helmut Klughammer, Jack Raven and Probe Dave Wight.



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Winlaw Fire Department

Back Row: Guy Tarr, Jon Wollenberg (Chief), Wolfgang Teiner, Ryan Verigin. Matt Dutoff, Fred Dutoff (Deputy Chief); Middle Row: Rob Bilton, Tom Knott, Gosci Bilton, John Parker; Front Row: Francy Griffiths, Ruth Pierson, Paul Jmaeff, Jason McVeen; Missing: Heather Tarr, James Parker, Dale Parker.

Slocan Fire Department

L to R: Tim Hill (Chief), Jordan Bates, Chris Ray, Tammy Steen, Don Steen, Don Curry, John Gates, Clayton Marr, Kelvin Guerin, Peter Leach. Missing: Yves Lemelin, Kevin Marr, Bill Patterson, Wayne Hockley, Steve Whitby, Nathan Stelmacher.

Crescent Valley Fire Department

Back row, L to R: Brett Jmaiff, Steve Perepelkin, Chris Carlson, Glenn Leidloff, Rob Postnikoff (Chief), Mark Kooznetsoff, Mark Chernenkoff. Front row, L to R: Chris Jmaiff, Justin Ballard, Mike Saliken, Carl Nord (Deputy). Missing: Chris Perepolkin, Cecil Postnikoff, Ken Postnikoff, Trevor Rimmer.

Passmore Fire Department

• no photo available •

John Ludwar (Chief), Gord Ihlen (Deputy Chief), Gale Ludwar, Tracy Skead, Dave Anderson, Leif Gilbertson, Peter Kinakin, Rob Klapstein, Nathan Mikkelson, Paul Muntak, Craig Sapriken, Dorothy Spear, Mike Spear, Heather Spear, Dave Halliday, Nate Orasuk.

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Don Munro
Director, Area "H"

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Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteer firefighters. Keep up the good work!
from
The Village of Slocan

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would like to acknowledge the dedication of the Silverton Volunteer Fire Dept.
for their continuing community spirit and efforts in protecting our municipality

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TO OUR WONDERFUL FIREFIGHTERS!
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Kaslo
353-2955

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We all owe you so much!
Valhalla Inn
New Denver, B.C.
Ph. 250-358-2228

New Denver Fire Department

Front Row: Patrick Leontowicz, Nigel Thomas, Alvie Bouillet, Richard Friedenberger, Leonard Casley (Chief)
Back: Doug Fischer. Missing: Jamie Grierson, Keith, Darrel & Tony Steenhoff, Alex Joseph, Dave Hodsall, Chris Nicholson-Chodat, Dean Mikkelsen, Marc Ducene, Jim Hughes, Chris Fox, Roy Duncan, Darren McCoy.

Silverton Fire Department

Back row, L to R: Derek Hicks, Ron Provan (acting chief), Larry Anderson, Armand Lange, Mitch Olson. Front row, L to R: Jack Barquest, Randy Duncan, Allan Laktin, Larry Lavan. Missing: Roy Duncan, Gary Wilman, Joe Trozzo.

Kaslo Fire Department

Pete Tardiff, Bud Garrett, Les Mallory, Fire Chief Brian McMillan, Richard DeCruyenaere, Patrick Guy, Larry Badry, Steve Shaw, Bernie Eckstein, Ken Hart, Ryan Stockford.

Kaslo volunteer fire department increases services

by Maggie Staples

Kaslo and Area D now has 'first responder' service available, with trained volunteers and a dedicated vehicle ready to step in when no ambulance is available in an emergency.

The Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department signed an agreement with the British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) to assist the ambulance service in a first response capacity. When the local ambulance is away on a call or transporting a patient, anyone needing emergency assistance will receive medical aid from fire department first responders while waiting for an ambulance to become available.

Sunshine Logging donated a vehicle, while grants from the Community Forest Society and YRB went towards outfitting and equipping it. The vehicle has a tank, pump, generator and hose so that a first response to interface fire is now possible. The tank holds 250 gallons of water, which when mixed with retardant is equivalent to 1,000 gallons.

"It could be enough to put us at an advantage until provincial fire fighters respond," said fire chief Brian McMillan. "We've been very fortunate this past season, but it's impossible to predict next year. We are very grateful to have received this donation."

Fire department volunteers who have already achieved a CPR 'C' are qualified to train and be licensed as first responders through the Ministry of Health. Four have done so already. The implementation of this service greatly enhances the response capabilities in the community by providing timely medical assistance to those in need.

"This is one more step forward to improving the level of care available in remote communities," said McMillan, prior to the signing of the agreement.

The role of the trained and licensed first responder is to perform an organized and prioritized patient assessment, intervene in life-threatening injuries and conditions, use oxygen therapy, manage medical emergencies, trauma, environmental emergencies, and to record and report patient information.

Our Volunteer Firefighters deserve our heartfelt thanks for all they do for us. Keep up the great job!
SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES
216 Lake Avenue, Silverton
358-2293 True Value Hardware

Left to Right: Clint Carlson, Sunshine Logging; Brian McMillan, Kaslo Fire Chief; Randy Simpson, Kaslo Community Forest; Les Mallory, Kaslo FD volunteer; Jeff Mattas, Sunshine Logging

Kaslo Concert Society 2005-2006 Season promises outstanding music

submitted

Call it the Little Concert Society That Could. The Kaslo Concert Society continues to bring outstanding musicians to the Kootenays. The 2005-2006 season features all Canadian performers beginning with the *Harps of Avalon* on October 21, Calgary cellist Kirill Kalmykov on November 18, outstanding Canadian pianist Robert Silverman on February 17, and the winning choral combination of *Cottonwood Chamber Singers* and *Corazon* on April 21. All concerts are held on Friday evenings at 7:30 in the Lighthouse Theatre at JVH School in Kaslo.

• *Harps of Avalon* (October 21) present an evening of romance and magic featuring harps, voice, and an array of rare medieval instruments. Their repertoire includes both original and traditional music, and features the ethereal sounding bass psaltery (the only one in the world), medieval instruments such as the organistrum and the nyckelharpa, as well as harp, poetry and voice.

• For Russian-born Calgary cellist Kirill Kalmykov, music is about connecting what you hear with what you feel: soul music. Kalmykov's thrilling performance of the St. Saens cello concerto in Nelson with the Symphonie of the Kootenays last year was a testament to his virtuosity. His Kaslo concert (November 18) will be built around various musical dance forms. On Saturday November 19 Kirill Kalmykov will give a master class/ workshop for cellists in Kaslo.

• Our February 17 performer is veteran pianist Robert Silverman. After 30 years as a faculty member at the UBC School of Music, Silverman now devotes himself full-time to concerts and recording. In 1998 Silverman was honoured with the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry in recognition of "his high level of artistry, his moving interpretations of a wide range of music…and his commitment and contribution to music in Canada."

• April 21 we present one of Allison Girvan's choirs along with the *Cottonwood Chamber Choir* from Nelson. Heard as one of our extra concerts in 2005, these popular vocal groups return as the featured performers for the Jack G. McDowall Memorial Concert.

Exciting plans afoot at the Argenta Library

submitted by Lisa Ross

Housed in the basement of the Argenta Hall since 1992, the Argenta library contains some 10,000 titles, including some hard to find and out of print books. Until now, it has been run by volunteers. This year, thanks to grants from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, the RDCK (Larry Greenlaw,) the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, and 2010 LegaciesNow, the volunteers will be joined by a part-time paid staff. This will mean more hours open to the public.

The library will also host the 'Bound Together' project which will bring people together to create an anthology about life in and around Argenta. There will be workshops with three dynamic West Kootenay writers this fall, who will help get our creative juices flowing and get us started on our own contributions. In March, there will be a book-binding workshop at the library. Participants will learn hand-binding techniques and help produce a limited edition of the anthology, which will later be sold as a library fundraiser.

Other activities at the library include a story time for preschoolers, where children and their parents who have purchased memberships will be able to sign out books to take home. Contact Cari Lamoureux at 366-0088 or Ann MacNab, 366-4305.

Annual membership is $10 / individuals, $3/ children and $15 for families. Hours are 1 pm to 4 pm Wednesdays and Fridays and 3-8 Thursdays. For information on the library or the 'Bound Together' project, contact Susan VanRooy at 366-0022 or Lisa Ross at 366-6808.

PHOTO CREDIT: RIK VALENTINE

These two cuties making good use of our great little library are three-and-a-half-year-old Ella Rogers and her little brother Zander.

Kaslo May Queen, Alex Zilkie, cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the North side of the Kaslo River Trail, September 18. Assisting her were Princesses Heike Lettrari and Amanda Dyck.

Kaslo Earthworkers celebrate community talent

Over this past year, Kaslo and Area Earthworkers Community Organisation (ECO) has been busy. Members' efforts have included children's theatre at the *Winter in the Forest* festival, the initiation of a community composting project, payment for repairs to the community bulletin board, road clean-ups, and a very successful silent auction, which raised $500 towards the purchase of trees for Kaslo's collaborative tree planting project. If you look at the bay, Vimy Park and other locations around town you will see the great results!

First on the list of events for this fall is a community talent show with the theme 'Nature Calls!' (Yes, it's meant to be funny.) We hope local people, of all ages, children included, will start thinking of fun, nature-themed, family friendly performances that they can bring to this event. Comedy, music, storytelling, theatre, songs and dance are all good and anything else as well!

The talent show takes place on Saturday October 15, 7pm at the wonderful new daycare The Toybox (the old Cornerstone Church) on Arena Avenue in Kaslo. Everybody is invited. To book a performance spot, call 353-2189. Tickets are available on the night and cost $2 adults and $1 for 18 years and under.

There will be a delicious concession and intermission where ECO membership will be available. Or come to an ECO meeting every first Wednesday of the month at the Crooked Cafe.

The Langham presents...

•There will be an opening reception on Friday September 30 for a new gallery exhibit, on display until November 6. Chris Peterson of Argenta has promised us pieces of abstract wood sculpture in his show, "Shapes in Wood" and Emily Youngreen of Mirror Lake has some fairly diminutive pieces in her "Equineacts." Both artists will be in attendance and refreshments will be served.

•Pied Pumkin is going to play a harvest dance for the Langham on Saturday October 8 at the Legion Hall. "Absolutely original, slightly organic and eternally orange, Vancouver's legendary folk trio Pied Pumkin String Ensemble have been creating original, infectious music for over 25 years." There will be a portion of the dance from 7:30 to 8:30 pm which is free to children with parents before the bar opens. You can buy a ticket to the entire evening for $16 per person or you can bring the family (two adults and children) to the family portion of the dance for only $12. Babysitters with families are also free.

This dance will mark the festive conclusion of the Langham and the North Kootenay Lake Arts and Heritage Council's Open Art Day. There will be workshops in music, dance, writing, painting and drama at the Langham all day for the very low price of $10 or $5 for only one workshop. These workshops are family oriented.

•Brisas del Palmar will be playing in the Langham Theatre on Thursday, October 27. Some hot Cuban music to warm up the cooling nights.

•The Langham has an ongoing drawing group, a life drawing group and Fern Van Horn will be continuing to present watercolour workshops. Also coming up will be image transfer workshops. What's an image transfer? Just what it says. You can take a slide and print it onto a Christmas tin, a glass bottle or a birdhouse.

Pied Pumkin is going to play a harvest dance for the Langham on Saturday October 8 at the Legion Hall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

• William Hunter Cabins (250) 358-2844 www.williamhuntercabins.com
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• Silverton Heritage Country Inn (250) 358-7929
Visit the world-famous Silverton Heritage Country Inn, located on Slocan Lake since 1897. Offering three lakeview patios, complimentary continental breakfast, a fully-licensed pub with eight beers on tap and a gourmet dining room. We feature a Saturday night and a Sunday morning buffet, and a 2-for-1 Steak Dinner every Friday evening. Open 7 days a week.

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

• Valhalla Inn (250) 258-2228 www.valhallainn.biz
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• 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

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• Mistaya Country Inn Ph/Fax (250) 358-7787
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Arica Gardens B&B and Andino Artesania Gift Shop (250) 226-7688 www.aricagardens.com
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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.

Tourism holds its own in the Kootenays

by Jan McMurray

Statistics kept by our local Visitor Information Centres in Kaslo and New Denver show that the 2005 season was very similar to last year's season, with numbers up slightly at both locations. Slocan's numbers just about doubled.

There were 7,976 visitors through Kaslo's centre in August this year, compared to 7,235 last August. Like in New Denver, visitors were mostly from BC, followed closely by Albertans. In Kaslo, most of the visitors' requests were about attractions (2,081), shopping (1,475), accommodation (1,648) and food and beverage (1,337), but there were a significant number asking about adventure recreation (1,249) and parks (722). There were 157 inquiries about investment/moving.

In New Denver, 2,089 visitors came through the centre in August, compared to 1,954 in August 2004. Most requests were about adventure recreation (295), followed by attractions (269) and accommodation (202). There were 73 requests for information about parks and 35 about investment/moving.

Slocan's centre saw almost double the number of visitors this year compared to last, with 643 in August this year and only 329 last year. The total number of people coming through in July and August was 1,250, compared to 654 in July and August of 2004. Margaret Markovic, who operates the centre, said she thought the marked increase was because the centre is so new and people are becoming more aware that it is there. She reported that many of this year's visitors wanted information on Valhalla Provincial Park, camping options, rock climbing and general area information.

Nakusp numbers were not available by our deadline.

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• Ladies' Fun, TBA • Club Championship, June 25-26: $15.00
• Cancer Research, Sat. July 9: $20.00
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(* fee includes dinner)

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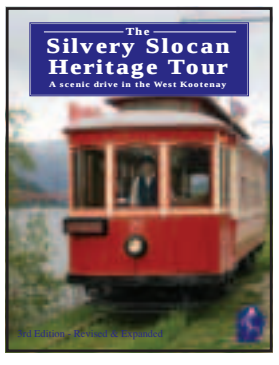

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

East to Glacier Creek and Monica Meadows Part 2

I way prefer car camping to tenting, even though I've tried it and have good gear. The fact that the vehicle is still warm from driving, dry and familiar, with lights and good stereo, makes curling up in the car or van quite fine, and cushy too. The night passed by quietly at the Monica parking lot, with stars, then clouds, then again stars as dark gave way to dawn. First light of the sun fell on the immense Macbeth icefield.

There were nearly no bugs at all as I set off up the trail about 7:30 a.m. and the sun already was on the main slope going up. The trail is in absolutely first class condition and really well laid out at a reasonable but very consistent grade. No knobby rocks or dips or ruts, just a fine business-like rate of ascent to the meadows above. Compared to the generally rough road and miserable trail to Kokanee Glacier from Nelson via Gibson Lake, this is by far a better maintained access…

After several broad switchbacks the trail concludes with a long traverse east around to an open small meadow of larch and odd spruce/balsam trees. This is the main backpacker campsite and from here a short walk leads to the end of the defined trail and generally open going. Monica Meadows are a sort of alpine mini-prairie with dramatic walls of granite to the north and east. Scrambling to Starbird Pass could offer views east to the Rockies and Starbird Glacier itself but the meadows alone oughta keep most visitors quite happy. Clumps of larch trees, some rather huge ones, dot the meadows, and the low ridges roll on in all directions to make for great rambling without the risk of getting lost. I messed the best flush of flowers by a couple weeks, yet felt very content to see the lay of the land and not need to be swatting those horseflies.

Tiny seepages of water emerge here and there from the mosses and heather and there's some small lakes over along the base of the big wall to the east which includes Mt. Monica. These are higher elevations here and the air is slightly thinner than some hikes, and the sun and wind can wring you dry pretty fast. I've never hesitated to drink water from different creeks in the high country and feel that it's gotta be good to condition your system somewhat to at least a few stray organisms…

Despite the nice weather and great road and trail, I was the only soul (though not lost) in the whole darn valley. The area gets reasonably well visited during the peak times, but for sure this is a small window of time between being snowfree to allow access and frost-free to not wipe out those delicate flowers. It's a real long way west to any big population centres—and I mean bigger than just Nelson or Trail—so I can see how the big money and crowds east of this area of Jumbo Pass are being drawn in via Panorama.

Logging is what opened up these valleys to road development and access to the average recreationalist, so hopefully a little logging will continue here annually to ensure some level or road maintenance as weather and normal landslides ruin the roads. Without some industry ongoing, the place could become unavailable in the future or else only open to visitors from the Rocky Mountain Trench side.

After strolling around the meadows at length I decided to exit the area over the open ridge to the west side at the main meadows. The descent was easy and by the time I was down in the heavy timber I'd picked up the main trail again along that traverse section. Soon I got down to the parking lot and after a snack and the beer I'd stashed in the creek, I slowly drove back down through the water bars and corners to the junction and then on down into the main valley. The afternoon sun lit up some slopes that were less apparent the night before, and the canyon lower down seemed even more wild and daunting at the edge of the road than it had the day before.

I drove on through the Ledge Creek Provincial Park on Kootenay Lake just south of Lardeau for a swim and a nap, then later grabbed a coffee in Kaslo at the Silver Spoon. Oh, I could describe the good food there as well for you, but of course *The Valley Voice* has that so-called food editor to do that stuff now, and the last thing I need is a big lawsuit. So I left Kaslo—without comment—and motored home over one more pass to complete another fine visit to a high place in the Kootenay Mountains.

Peter Roulston has owned the Bicycle Hospital at Nakusp for 14 years and lives in New Denver, 358-2133.

Using a vehicle in a rural setting

A brief conversational exchange between my friends Barry, Sally and myself put a thought into my head that rattled around there due to its bumpy nature. The statement was in itself quite innocuous—we were simply commenting on how difficult it is to give up the use of a vehicle if you live in the rural area, as opposed to living in town. These folks know the reality of this statement having spent half of their life developing a homestead down the valley and are now living quietly in the village. While it may be obvious that those that reside rurally need to drive children to bus stops, drive into town for all shopping, social engagements and the like, it may not be quite as obvious that there are added expenses to living on a country plot that few think of before they move here.

Of course, a vehicle is a prerequisite for country living if you want to independently access the amenities of the town. In this part of the world a four-wheel drive obviates many of the problems many of us have with the combination of steep access roads and deep snow and this becomes an added expense due to increased purchasing, maintenance and operating costs. In point of fact, I couldn't even use my driveway in the winter without some method of keeping it clear of the white stuff, and we could stretch the point a bit and include the added expense of my trusty bulldozer which is primarily engaged in this activity.

If you are a working parent, you will have added commuting costs to contend with to get to and from work—that is in itself obvious, but you better also take into account the cost of chauffeuring children back and forth to school and social events—expenses that increase proportionally with their age. How easy it would be if children could just jump on their bicycle or walk to a friend's house rather than have to be driven. In this school district, many students are not bussed within walking distance of their homes, but are dropped at specified bus stops where it is expected parents are there to drive them the rest of the way. If one parent is working, a second vehicle becomes a necessity so the other partner can pick up and deliver the children—again, very much a rural surcharge.

It doesn't help that there are few pedestrian amenities between and around our area—paved shoulders for bicycles, a walking path between New Denver and Silverton. Teen-aged children suffer unprecedented rates of obesity and the car gets way too many kilometres on it.

While it just has to be conceded that you will pay more on a vehicle if you live in the country, a bit of judicious planning does help to keep those increased costs down. Organize trips to town to coincide with as many activities as possible. Spend more time on the phone organizing car pools for mobile children. Get a more energy efficient car or a motorcycle for all those solo trips you have to make. The increased insurance premiums are usually more than compensated by the savings in fuel.

Yes, it costs more to run a vehicle for all us country dwellers—the perils of country living—but ask me if I would like to change my spot in the country for a plot in the town—you must be crazy!

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

A CHEESEBURGER PIZZA? WHAT?? A CHEESEBURGER PIZZA?? Now where in the Kootenays, or even in the whole wide world, can you find a cheeseburger pizza???

Okay, first let's start with the whole wide world. Karl and Dagmar Bender, a young German couple, travelled all over Europe from Sweden to Italy and from Spain to Greece looking for a place to settle. Then they came to Canada, travelled all around BC and decided they liked the Kootenays better than any other place they'd seen, and on May 19 of this year they opened their own restaurant on the main street of Nakusp. They call it *Wood Fire Pizza 'n More,* and this is the place where you can get not only a cheeseburger pizza, but you can also enjoy various fine German schnitzels, Italian dishes, excellent steaks, cedar planked salmon and much more.

Karl and Dagmar cook most of this food in their new wood fire oven which is a high-tech wonder and a work of art. Karl explained the thermodynamics of it to me, and from what I can remember it provides even heat from the top, bottom and sides. The temperature can be precisely regulated, and the even heat makes for perfectly cooked dishes. The oven is located in their open kitchen so if you like you can watch your food being prepared and then watch it cook. The restaurant itself has an open feel to it, is uncluttered and smartly furnished. It is also toasty and comfortable in there.

Now, let's talk about pizza. Karl and Dagmar offer a 'Margharita' pizza which is your basic fresh tomatoes and tomato sauce with fresh herbs (from Spicer's) and mozzarella cheese. Named after an Italian queen of the 17th century under whose reign pizza first appeared, this simple wonder, Karl tells me, is the 'mother of all pizzas.' Their veggie pizza is also a wonder. On it goes basil pesto, corn, grilled zucchini, artichoke hearts, red onion, red pepper, Portobello mushrooms, mozzarella, fresh tomatoes and goat cheese! There's a Greek pizza, a Hawaiian pizza and a steak lovers pizza with grilled steak slices, artichoke hearts and garlic cloves. They've also got a barbecue chicken pizza, and yes yes, they have a cheeseburger pizza with meat sauce, real cheddar and bacon. You can also load all these up with lots of extra toppings.

But as the name of the restaurant implies you can enjoy a whole lot more than pizza. There is an antipasto platter featuring olives, salami, tomatoes, mozzarella, cukes, pepperoni, artichoke hearts, and prosciutto, all on focaccia bread. My dining pal and I were tempted by that one, but instead chose the blue crab and spinach tzatziki with bread. We watched it being heated in the oven, and let me tell you something—the chunks of crab were big and juicy, and the dish was delicious in the extreme and almost a full meal for both of us, but we ordered more food anyway.

My pal ordered the special which was spatzel pasta with a lovely salad AND fresh heated chanterelle mushrooms. The entrees included barbecue chicken, chicken souvlaki, wood fire steak, four kinds of schnitzel, pork hocks (phone ahead) and finally a bratwurst entrée. I grew up in Milwaukee around lots of Germans who, as I recall, always seemed to love bratwurst and beer. So I ordered the bratwurst and an Isenbeck beer which they have on tap. The beer is dark and delicious with no bite or bitter after-taste. It is smooth. Very smoooth!

The bratwurst was the fattest, plumpest, most perfectly cooked one I've ever had, and it was smothered in onions that had been glazed in a beer sauce. When I ordered I asked Karl if he could smuggle some chanterelle mushrooms onto my plate. He did. I was happy.

I don't usually have desserts, and some day I'll tell you why, but in this case I considered eating dessert as part of my job. My pal ordered black forest cake. She was given a piece the size of a big piece of birthday cake. Amid the rich chocolate were two layers of cream, one of raspberry sauce. It was topped with shaved chocolate. I ordered the spaghetti ice cream, a rich originally Italian gelato with raspberry sauce and coconut flakes. These desserts were almost sinfully good.

There is much more on offer at Karl and Dagmar's *Wood Fire Pizza 'N More*. There are pasta specials, a full bar, and a kids' menu. If you want to check this out with the Nakusp Chamber of Commerce, just talk to Karl. He's the president.

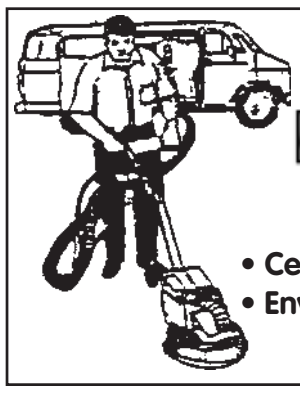
What a great place!

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

MAKING THE MOVE DOWNTOWN

I'm already set up at NAKUSP GLASS and will officially shut down after Oct. 1st. Until I open again in March, you may catch me in town sometimes or phone me at 358-2133.

PETER ROULSTON'S BICYCLE HOSPITAL



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The Valley Voice September 28, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Const. Arthur Forsyth, son of Art & Karen Forsyth, graduated from the RCMP Academy on July 18/05. He was assigned to Quesnel with his wife Megan.

AUTOMOTIVE

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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

Thelma Heslip's family would like to thank everyone who attended her memorial on Sept. 10, 2005. A special thanks to all who provided refreshments and flowers. Thank you to all of you who enriched Mom's life during her 50 years in New Denver.

Bobbi, Betty & Ron and families

Thank you to the all of the following for helping to make the Kootenay-Slocan Lion Pig Roast a Community Success: Allen's Candies, Cowpuccino, Eldorado Market, Evergreen Natural Foods, Extra Foods (Nelson), Fomi's Bakery, Four Seasons Greenhouse, Harold Street Cafe, Kootenay Spoons, Legendary Meats, Mountain Sky Soaps, Mountain Valley Service, Nelson Brewing Company, Oso Negro, Pennywise, Safeway (Nelson), Save-On-Foods (Nelson), Slocan Park Hall Society, Slocan Valley Co-op, Slocan Valley Recreation Commission, Valley Spokes, Valley Voice, Winlaw Mini-Mart.

COMING EVENTS

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY Ann Mott's Opening Oct. 5, 6-9 pm. Music & refreshments. All welcome.

SLOCAN LAKE EARLY LEARNING SOCIETY/New Denver Nursery School AGM takes place at the Lucerne School library at 7 pm on October 5. Everyone welcome!

THE NEW DENVER KYOWAKAI SOCIETY, host organization for the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, invites representatives of local heritage organizations to a discussion session on Friday, September 30, 2005, 10 am-2 pm. Information: 358-7288 or NIMC@netidea.com

OCTOBER ROCKS with ARTHUR FUNKARELLI! Harvest Dance Saturday, October 8 at the Silverton Memorial Hall, 8 pm. No minors. Advance tickets available for $10 at The Valley Voice (New Denver), Gaze n Chat (Silverton), What's Brewing on Broadway (Nakusp). Tickets $12 at the door.

PIED PUMKIN DANCE, Saturday, October 8, Kaslo Legion, Family dance 7:30-8:30 PM, kids free. Adult dance, 9 PM. Tickets Sunnyside Naturals.

SLOCAN CURLING CLUB Annual General Meeting Sunday October 9th at 2pm Slocan Curling Club. Everyone welcome, coffee, refreshments, door prizes.

FALL COLOURS PAINTING RETREAT Little Slocan Lodge, October 10 to 13. Accomodation: 1-800-505-6788. Information: 250-226-0021 or email: barbfinearts@lycos.com.

Le BIBLIOBUS visitera Nakusp bientôt! La bibliothèque mobile de l'AFKO sera chez Bianca, le jeudi 13 octobre entre 17h et 19h (potluck). Info: Bianca, 265-2208.

SLOCAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COMPLEX SOCIETY Annual General Meeting Thursday October 20th at 7pm W.E. Graham School in Slocan. Everyone welcome, members encouraged to attend.

SANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM. Sunday, October 23, 7 pm at Knox Hall. All welcome! Come hear about our successful year.

THE WINLAW HALL is hosting their annual Fall Supper Nov. 6/05, two seatings, 5-6 pm second 6:30-7:30 pm. Advance tickets preferred, $12.00 adults $6.00 12 and under. For info call Lorna 226-6779 or Carey 226-7702.

X-MAS CRAFT FAIR Winlaw Hall, Sat. Dec. 10/05, 9am-3pm. Kitchen will be open. To book tables, call Ruth at 505-4885.

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- BOAT PRO, Oct. 16
- MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE with Gerald Kirkland, Oct. 7;
- BEGINNER DRIVER TRAINING, Oct. 11, 13, 18, 20;
- A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GENEALOGY, Oct. 14, 21;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

- INTRODUCTION TO COLLECTING MUSHROOMS, Oct. 4;
- STALKING WILD MUSHROOMS, Oct. 15;
- INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL, Oct. 17, 19, 24;
- INTRODUCTION TO WINDOWS XP, starts Oct. 18;
- THE FRIDAY FILES, Write with Word, Oct. 7, 14;

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APARTMENT FOR RENT in New Denver. Large 2-bedroom apt. available Oct 1. $650/month. 306-536-0112.

ONE BEDROOM COTTAGE in Glenbank, Nakusp on acreage. No pets. $375 per month plus utilities. Available October 1. 604-888-9889 betweeen 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

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1 BEDROOM APARTMENT, utilities included. $500/month. Phone 358-2165. Available immediately.

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3-BEDROOM TRIPLEX UNIT for rent. One mile from Nakusp, on acreage, appliances, privacy. $600 per month. Available immediately. 250-860-0736.

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Kaslo council, September 13: Power to the airport coming closer

by Jan McMurray

•Council received a quote of $32,659.05 from FortisBC to take single phase power to the east end (hangar area) of the airport. Council decided to table it until a quote is received for the brushing, clearing and blasting.

•Council received a letter from Kaslo resident Michael DeNault asking council to consider the stargazer group's use of the airport tarmac for "star parties" when choosing lighting for the airport. He also asks for official permission to be there after dark. Council will advise Larcombe that his concerns will be considered.

•Council received a letter from Kaslo resident Doug Askew, who leases a hangar at the airport, informing council that he still cannot use his hangar because the loose backfill that was placed in front of the hangar does not give the firm support required. The letter was referred to the Public Works Committee.

•Council approved water and sewer upgrades as proposed by Clearwater Environmental Services. Purchases include cellular dialer and UPS for alarm upgrades for sewerage lift stations; a metering pump, two repair kits, and a spare blower for the water treatment plant; and timers for the Village's sprinklers so they run for only 20 minutes at a time.

•Public Works will be directed to install timers on all outside hoses, limiting sprinkling to 20 minutes per location.

•Council received an email from Randy Runzer from Urban Systems regarding the South Kaslo Water Study. Before assessing the impact that South Kaslo may have on the water treatment plant, Runzer asks the Village to provide him with the current approximate population of Kaslo, the current approximate number of water connections, information on any new developments that may be planned, and the daily water consumption of the three highest days per year. The Village will provide the information.

•Council received an update on the water treatment plant extension project that will improve service to the residents of the Allen subdivision. The RDCK has spent a total of $799,998 to date on the project, with an estimated $170,627 worth of work yet to be done, putting the project about $7,000 over budget. Urban Systems suggests some ways to cut costs and says it will try to complete the extension before winter if it receives RDCK approval.

•Council decided to support the RDCK plan to contribute 27% of its UBCM tourism funding to the International Selkirk Loop (ISL) proposal. The proposal is to open a Canadian ISL Tourism Society office and hire a Canadian Operations Marketing Director.

•Council turned down a request to provide the Government Agent's office with its space in the provincial building rent free for a five-year term, if the Ministry of Labour (formerly BCBC) accepts the Village's terms of purchase.

•Council received an email from Gary Cockrell, real estate consultant, regarding the purchase of the provincial building. After reviewing the appraisal supplied to the Village by BCBC and the offer to purchase, Cockrell suggests that council have an independent appraisal done, expresses concern that the offer to purchase is flawed, and requests audience at a council meeting. Council took no action on this item.

•Council received quotes from appraisers on the Village-owned lot near the arena. Jay Wollenberg, professional planner and real estate analyst, will be asked to visit Kaslo to consult on the development of the lot and Glen Walker will be advised that the disposition of the lot remains under study.

•Three items on the Planning and Development project list were referred to a possible meeting with Jay Wollenberg. These are an Oak Street subdivision proposal, the sale of a parcel of land to establish a Heritage Conservation Reserve and the sale of Village-owned property.

•Council received a letter from Paul Willis of the Ministry of Environment regarding the woodstove changeout pilot project. The ministry is taking a second look at candidates for the pilot project and Kaslo is in the running. Council voted to respond with concerns about the absence of public education on the program and the municipality's legal ability to impose disincentives on owners of inefficient wood stoves.

•Dawn Lang, who has operated the municipal campground for many years, will not be submitting a proposal for the 2006 season. Council voted to thank her for her service and to wish her well in her new endeavours. The operation of the campground will be referred to the Planning & Development Committee.

•Information on the unavailability of free crown grants on the south side of the Kaslo River was referred to the Planning & Development Committee.

•The Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) of BC reviewed the proposed signage for the Kaslo River Trail and sent in a few suggestions for changes. The suggestions were referred to the Trailblazers Society.

•As decided during budget deliberations last year, council voted to increase water rates by an estimated 4.5% for 2006 to provide additional reserve funds of $7,000.

•A letter from Enrico Lettrari of Mountain King Services regarding loud music in the late evening hours coming from the Crooked Cafe will be referred to Lorena Staples for a legal opinion as to bylaw enforcement.

•A letter signed by 21 residents of the Kaslo Heights area requested that streets and avenues in their area be given some attention. Problems include water drainage due to a lack of ditches, rough spots, dust and very tall weeds. The letter was referred to the Public Works committee.

•The Kootenay Lake Historical Society will be granted $1000 for Visitor Centre maintenance.

•The area in front of Kaslo's fire hall, rather than "C Avenue" into the school, will be paved in 2005. The paving of Balfour Avenue will be referred to 2006 budget deliberations.

•Bylaw 1022, Beer Garden Regulation Bylaw, was reconsidered and adopted.

•The municipality endorsed ICBC's Zero Crash Month and will register Kaslo's participation online.

•The September 27 meeting of council was cancelled, due to lack of quorum as three council members will be at UBCM. Mayor Douglas is attending as an RDCK representative and Councillors Cormie and Holland are attending as Village representatives.

•Accounts payable of $64,222.17 was approved.

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RDCK, September 24: Transit service coming together

•Three readings were given to the Kootenay Lake West Transit Service Establishment Bylaw. The bylaw will be forwarded for approval of the Inspector of Municipalities.

The transit service, known as the "Kootenay Connector," will provide service to all electoral areas and municipalities on the west side of Kootenay Lake, from Castlegar and Nelson in the south to Nakusp and Area K in the north.

The Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary will work with the RDCK to link the two regional systems, so there will be public transportation to the regional hospital in Trail.

To pay for the service, the RDCK is entering into a Community Transit Partnership Agreement with Interior Health. IH will contribute approximately $300,000, with the RDCK's portion at about $65,000.

BC Transit's three-year freeze on all new transit systems ends in March 2006, so it will take on RDCK's portion of the funding at that time. IH's commitment will be for five years.

RDCK must get approval from the electors in the areas and municipalities that will receive the service. People will be able to comment on an Elector Response Form, which the RDCK will make available. The deadline for receipt of elector responses is December 7. The earliest the RDCK could begin providing the transit service would be January 2006.

•Tim Wiseman's appointment to the Slocan Valley Economic Development Committee was rescinded at the September 24 RDCK meeting because of continued non-attendance. The RDCK will ask the Village of Silverton to put forward another nominee.

•A public hearing regarding the land use amendment bylaw to allow for development at Halcyon Hot Springs will be held October 12 at approximately 6:30 pm at the Seniors Hall in Nakusp. The bylaw, revised to prohibit a casino or similar gaming facility, was given second reading.

Regional Hospital District news

•An independent audit of housekeeping services was done in all hospitals and residential care facilities in the province between March and May of this year. Of BC's six health authorities, Interior Health received the highest score with 90.36% averaged across 52 sites.

Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver scored highest in IH at 91.98%. Victorian Community Health Centre in Kaslo scored 89.01% and Nakusp's Arrow Lakes Hospital scored 88.54%. The Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital in Trail scored 90.16%; Nelson's Kootenay Lake Hospital scored 84.79%.

This was the first audit of its kind in Canada.

Real Estate conference focuses on community planning

by Jan McMurray

Plan for the transition your community is going through along with the real estate boom or be victims of change.

That was the message that came through at the Real Estate Institute of BC conference held in Nelson September 23 and 24 at the Prestige Inn.

"Developing mountain and rural communities" was the name of the conference and the impacts of the high demand for recreation property in most BC resort and mountain communities was the theme.

Presentations about communities such as Whistler, Invermere and Fairmont that are further along the path of change than our West Kootenay communities are offered lots of great information.

The concerns of these communities are generally the same: a high percentage of non-resident homeowners, lack of affordable housing, encroachment onto agricultural lands, pressures on infrastructure such as water and sewer, traffic congestion, overcrowding. Ironically, the real estate boom causes problems that erode the desirable characteristics of the community that caused the boom in the first place.

A presentation called "How Growth in Recreation and Resort Markets is Driving Change in the East Kootenay Region" revealed that in some Columbia Valley communities, residential properties have doubled in value over the last four years. Waterfront and view lots are in high demand and the situation shows no signs of letting up for several years into the future. In Invermere, second home ownership is estimated at 40% and in Fairmont at 60%.

To address the pressures caused by these trends, the Regional District of East Kootenay is involved in a Communities in Transition program to help with community planning around infrastructure, land use, social and cultural issues and the environment.

The Mayor of Whistler, a keynote speaker, presented Whistler's vision of what the community will look like in 2020 and strategies on how it will get there. The program is based on The Natural Step framework, which provides a process to help communities to plan for sustainability.

Solutions presented were to establish a regional process for planning; have a vision and adopt supporting policies at the local and regional government levels; involve all stakeholders in the planning; do empirical research; use new tools such as a housing authority, housing trust or development corporation; access programs such as Communities in Transition (www.communitytransition.org), Smart Growth BC (www.smartgrowth.bc.ca) and The Natural Step (www.naturalstep.ca) to build skills and capacity.