The Valley VOICE
Free!
Volume 14, Number 20 October 12, 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."

Teachers protest Liberal government's back-to-work legislation

by Jan McMurray

Teachers throughout the province set up picket lines at all BC schools on Friday, October 7 and will remain off the job until they vote to return.

"This is a political protest against Bill 12," said Arrow Lakes Teachers Association (ALTA) President Henning von Krogh on the picket line at Lucerne Elementary/Secondary School in New Denver on Friday morning.

Bill 12 was introduced on October 3, following an 88.4% vote by BC teachers to support strike action to back their bargaining goals of improved learning conditions for students, restored bargaining rights and a fair salary increase. Teachers started job action on September 28 by withdrawing supervisory and administrative duties — classroom teaching and extracurricular activities carried on as usual.

In response to Bill 12, which extends the existing imposed contract to June 30, 2006 while the government addresses the broken bargaining system, the teachers held another vote on October 4 and 5. Province-wide, 90.5% voted to express opposition to the Bill by not reporting for work starting October 7 and until a satisfactory resolution has been reached and accepted by members through another vote.

On the picket line Friday morning, Lucerne teacher Terry Taylor said she felt she was in a really difficult spot. "We are teachers because we care about kids," she said. "My heart is with the kids. It's difficult to not be meeting their needs, but the job action is about that, too."

The school's CUPE workers joined the line as well. Barb Mark said, "CUPE supports you. We're here reporting for work but won't cross the picket line."

Bob Varaleau, local Telus worker who spent his 79th day out of work on the picket line with the teachers, said, "The TWU supports them because we have a very similar issue where our rights to negotiate are being taken away from us."

Von Krogh reported that in School District No. 10, 41 of 47 contract teachers and about 1/3 of Teachers on Call came out to vote by secret ballot this second time.

"It was an amazing turnout seeing as how they were given only 24 hours notice," said von Krogh. "It shows that teachers are looking for progress toward a negotiated settlement."

The October ALTA newsletter reminds that the International Labour Organization (ILO), a United Nations agency, was asked to examine the legislation that imposed a contract on BC teachers in 2002 and found that the "essential service" designation for education violates international law. The ILO also urged the government to avoid legislated settlements and to hold negotiations in accordance with freedom of association principles.

On September 19, Labour Minister Michael de Jong appointed a fact-finder who reported back on September 30. "The report of the fact-finder confirmed that we have a broken bargaining system and we will not see negotiated settlements until that system is fixed," says de Jong in a press release. To address this, he has appointed mediator Vince Ready as an Industrial Inquiry Commission to develop a new bargaining process. Ready will report back to government by December 31. De Jong said he expected a new bargaining structure to be in place in time for negotiations that will begin early next year.

On October 6, Education Minister Shirley Bond invited education stakeholders to take part in a permanent Learning Roundtable to discuss class size, class composition and other issues related to learning conditions in the public school system. By October 8, all partners had accepted the invitation except for the teachers.

The teachers' union, BCTF, and the employer, BC Public School Employers' Association, have met 35 times over the past 15 months and have failed to agree upon a single item.

De Jong's fact-finder found that the BCTF proposals would cost the system anywhere from $673 million to $938 million annually.

The salary increase proposed by BCTF is 4% on July 1, 2004, 5% on July 1, 2005 and 6% on July 1, 2006. A Vancouver teacher at the top of the salary scale earns $63,737 right now and would earn $73,298 in September 2007 if these increases were approved.

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB VARALEAU

Teachers set up picket lines at schools across the province last Friday. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Columbia Basin Trust asks for input on puchase of power shares

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), set up to deliver benefits to the region most affected by the flooding allowed under the Columbia River Treaty, is doing its rounds to ask Basin residents if CBT should purchase the shares of Columbia Power Corporation (CPC).

"We want the collective wisdom of the Kootenays," said CBT board chair Josh Smienk at a meeting in Nakusp on October 6, attended by about 20 people. This was the fourth meeting in a series of ten to inform Basin residents about the Option Agreement, which could allow CBT to purchase all of the shares of its joint venture partner, the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC).

The agreement, a contract between the BC government and CBT Energy, CBT's power subsidiary, expires November 30. This round of meetings is to provide information about the agreement and to hear how Basin residents feel about it.

Another round of meetings to present the results of the CBT board's due diligence and public consultation process will take place early in November.

At the moment, CBT and CPC are each half owners of the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, Brilliant Dam and Generating Station, the Brilliant Expansion Project and the Waneta Expansion Project. They equally share the net income from these power projects. CBT's 50% goes into its Delivery of Benefits program, which essentially makes funding available to community groups in the Basin. CPC's 50% goes into the Province's general revenue.

If the Option Agreement goes through, CBT will eventually get 100% of the income from the power projects. For the first 15 years of the purchase, until 2020, CBT will use CPC's 50% share of the income to pay back the Province, which has agreed to finance the purchase for 25 years, until 2030.

This means that if all goes well, CBT's 50% share of the income from the power projects will still go into the Delivery of Benefits program during the purchase period.

However, there is a risk that things won't go well, as recently experienced at the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, where $20 million of repairs have had to be done unexpectedly.

"I think it's important for people to understand that things could go wrong and we might have to use our money to put into the power projects. So, in the worse case scenario, we would have no Delivery of Benefits programs," said Nakusp resident and Village councillor Karen Hamling, who was in attendance. Smienk acknowledged this risk, but said it was not high.

Hamling said her biggest concern was the delivery of benefits to the region to compensate for the flooding, and encouraged CBT to put money into a foundation as a safeguard.

After 2020, CBT would have to pay at least the interest on the remaining principal each year. The Trust, however, expects to be able to meet the terms of the loan. "Power project revenues are expected to be high enough in 2020 to cover the interest payments and pay down the principal," says a handout that was available at the meeting.

Smienk said the next thing for the CBT board and government to negotiate was the price of the shares and the interest rate. The current low interest rates was listed in one of the handouts as a positive aspect of exercising the Option Agreement. The price of the CPC shares would be at least $276 million (the amount the Province has invested in CPC) and would be fair market value at most. Smienk said that RBC Dominion was determining fair market value and that the National Bank was going to be checking up on that determination.

Another issue raised was that the CBT would remain a Crown Corporation under the Option Agreement, so all of its assets would still be owned by the Province.

"If we go ahead and buy it, we still don't own it," pointed out Hamling. "CBT's assets will be worth more, but they will still be owned by the Province."

Smienk acknowledged that the arrangement was hard to understand, and explained that the benefit of the purchase was that the Delivery of Benefits program would double after the loan was repaid in 2030.

However, the other side of this has to do with the issue of independence. CBT has looked at ways of becoming independent from the Province because Basin priorities sometimes conflict with provincial priorities. Independence has not been achieved because no government has been willing to write off CBT's assets from the Provincial books. When the value of those assets increase, independence is even more unlikely.

Nakusp resident Laurie Page said she was uncomfortable with the emphasis on the economic benefits of the agreement and the lack of research on the social and environmental impacts it could have. Smienk said that the issue was mainly an economic one, but that social and environmental concerns would hopefully come out at the public meetings and at a meeting scheduled for October 15 between the CBT board and its former directors.

One possible social implication relates to CBT governance. Smienk warned that some government officials have already made noises about the possibility of having to look outside the Basin for board members with the right skill set if the agreement is exercised. "CBT will have to ensure that the correct skill set, including expertise in the power business, is present at the board level to run a corporation which has assets in excess of $1 billion," said Smienk. He said he is confident that we have the expertise here, but said, "It is possible that the board will be chosen with skill sets as a priority over Basin residency."

At the July CBT symposium, a resolution was passed to have an Independent Review Committee look at the Option Agreement. CBT has worked with local governments to appoint members to this committee. So far, there are three: Russell Leslie, General Manager of Nelson Hydro and an electrical engineer, Ken Wyllie, local lawyer, and John Loo, electrical engineer who retired from UtiliCorp and now has his own management

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Climate change forum focuses on water issues in Columbia Basin

by Bonnie Baker

At a well-attended forum on climate change in Nelson on September 26, four experts on the subject said that climate change is happening now and used charts and graphs to prove it. The forum, organized by the Columbia Basin Trust and Selkirk College, focused on how climate change will affect our water resources in the Columbia Basin and the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Philip Mote and Alan Hamlet, both from the University of Washington, and Dr. Stewart Cohen and Dr. Hans Schreier, from UBC, spoke eloquently about the new and conclu-sive data that, using computer models, can tell us well into the future how global warming may affect our world.

Mote explained the basis of the conclusion that the earth's temperature is definitely heating up. Mote is part of an international group of scientists who have taken the piecemeal studies on climate change and put them all together to come up with a cohesive analysis of its impact.

"Before the Industrial Revolution, the amount of carbon dioxide was very stable" he said. "There was a natural balance between what nature put in and what nature took out. We started digging carbon out of the ground and burning coal and later oil and natural gas, removing carbon from the rocks and the earth and putting it into the atmosphere at much greater clip than nature could absorb it.

"There is a profound human influence on climate and that's because of the basic physics of the greenhouse effect. It's very powerful."

Despite some doubters in the US, no one at this forum needed to be convinced.

"How many of you think that we can tinker with the greenhouse effect dramatically and have no impact on surface climate?" Mote asked.

All the speakers agreed that it's time to respond to the changes.

"In fact, greenhouse gasses are increasing at a pretty big clip: carbon dioxide, the leading long lived gas, is increasing by 32 per cent," said Mote.

Mote talked specifically about climate change in British Columbia and how the snowpack is receding up the mountains due to global warming, so more of our precipitation comes down as rain, not snow.

Both Hamlet and Cohen expanded on Mote's information but it was Schreier, of UBC's Institute for Resources and Environmental Sustainability, who laid out a radical plan to tackle the problems caused by a warmer world.

Schreier called for a change in our habits, from an "engineering approach" to a "soft approach."

He showed vivid photographs of extreme weather, including floods and forest fires that happened in the last five years in Europe and in Canada.

"You need to change your habits, and this is much harder to do than building reservoirs." he said.

He said that we must make a 180-degree change in our behaviour, from paving over the ground to piping runoff and pollution into rivers. With the climate warming we will need a way to store the extra water that will not be stored in the snowpack, he said. Building more reservoirs is expensive and the extra land needed is scarce.

"We need to look at the hydrological cycle. We focus mostly on what I call the 'blue' water, which precipitation goes into the rivers, lakes and groundwater; that's what we manage", said Schreier. "But what we don't manage is the 'green' water, which is the rainfall that doesn't go into streams; it goes into the soil and back up into the atmosphere [transpiration].

"If you're in forests some of the rainfall goes into the soil, some of it goes as run-off, and some of it goes up into transpiration. So in a forest, you can see very little surface run-off," he said. "If you go to the city, there's lots of run-off. So whatever we do, we're going to change the hydrological cycle. That's on top of climate change."

Schreier proposes we manage the 'green' water to increase the soil's ability to absorb run-off before it gets into the rivers and streams. In cities, that means building permeable pavement. Nelson's new community complex parking lot is one example of that. In rural regions, it means leaving the forests to hold that water back.

Schreier had other suggestions: he said that once the forests are cut down because of the pine beetle, we need to plant a variety of species, to resist future epidemics of insect damage. We need to all use low-flow toilets and to stop eating meat.

It is in communities that these changes can happen, that we must find innovators at the local level and support them, and create models of change that other less adventurous communities can then emulate.

CBT asks for input on purchase of shares

consulting business. A fourth, an economist, will be appointed soon, Smienk promised. The committee will report back to local governments, the CBT board and Basin residents at the end of October.

MLA Corky Evans, Energy and Mines critic, recently asked Minister of Energy and Mines Colin Hansen in the legislature if it would be possible to extend the November 30 deadline on the Option Agreement.

"The advice of CPC is that bringing institutions as complex as CBT and CPC together requires a year or two of structural and cultural change. To do that when they are in the middle of three construction projects might be poor timing," explained Evans in a telephone interview. The construction projects he was referring to are the repairs at the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Expansion project and the Waneta Expansion project, which has not yet begun. Evans reported that Hansen suggested that he did not wish to consider an extension.

Smienk disagrees with the idea of waiting until the projects are completed because he says the value of CPC will be so high at that time that CBT won't be able to afford to purchase the shares. He also maintains that the deal is not at all complex. "It is just a change on paper," he said. "We are not moving people around, just shares. We will have the same staff, same managers, same offices. The only difference will be who signs their paycheques."

A handout says that CPC would become a subsidiary of CBT and that there would be a single board for CBTE and CPC, where there are two now. The board would "work closely with CPC senior management for an orderly transition" with no changes for 18-24 months to prepare strategic plans and then 18-24 months to implement changes. The board's first step would be to hire a CEO for the power corporation. The CEO would do a cost benefit analysis of office locations and make recommendations to the board after 18-24 months.

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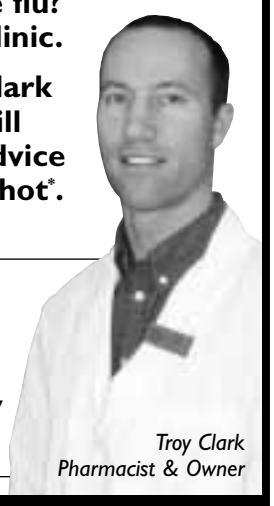
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TIMBER SALE LICENCE A77731

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

Closing Date:	October 27, 2005 @ 1:30 PM, BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC
Geographic Location:	Gem Hill, located approximately 25 km west of Castlegar within the Arrow Boundary Forest District
Estimated Volume:	8,713 cubic metres, more or less
Upset Stumpage Rate:	$31.63 / cubic metre

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

Term:	One (1) year
Estimated Species / Volume:	Lodgepole pine 3,749 m^3, Larch 94 m^3, White Pine 271 m^3, Douglas-fir 255 m^3, Cedar 95 m^3, Hemlock 112 m^3, Spruce 30 m^3
	Grade 3: Lodgepole-pine 3,192 m^3, Larch 495 m^3, White Pine 181 m^3, Douglas-fir 94 m^3, Cedar 122 m^3, Hemlock 23 m^3.

Comments: Harvesting method is clearcut with reserves utilizing ground-based harvesting equipment. The licensee will be required to construct approximately 0.8 km of new road and upgrade approximately 0.9 km of road to access a portion of the timber sale area.

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 1:30 PM (Local Time), October 27, 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 A77731.

Anti-teacher legislation fails to solve a single problem facing our students

While the government attacks teachers and imposes a 0% wage increase over two years, they are neglecting the growing problems in BC schools:

- **Overcrowded classrooms**
- **Inadequate support for children with special needs**
- **120 neighbourhood schools closed**
- **Cuts to libraries, specialist teachers and counsellors**
- **Shortages of textbooks and classroom supplies**

BC teachers want to negotiate to solve these problems.

We're taking a stand because kids matter.

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BC's teachers bctf.ca

Voices from the Valleys

Small businesses give value

It's Small Business Week again in Canada. A time to refect on the significant contribution that small business makes to each of our small communities. It's the shop-keepers, artisans, restauranteers and professionals of our Main Streets that make our villages the interesting places to visit that they are. These are the first people canvassed for any cause. They not only collect and remit taxes to three levels of government, but if they manage to squeeze out any small profit on their dealings, they are obliged to share that with the federal government as well.

Along the way, they support a wide variety of other activities that make life interesting, through the work that they do. Small businessmen and women in our communities provide us with groceries, clothes, books, records, furniture, appliances, power tools, lumber, hardware. They groom pets, cook meals, pour drinks and design fitness programs. They sell us drugs when we're sick, and practice a variety of therapies to keep us well. They display the work of local artists and craftsmen. Their advertising supports the publication of this newspaper. Not to say that we don't appreciate the occasional government ad, or big corporate campaign, but it's the small local business that is our bread-and-butter.

That's why I get annoyed when well-meaning folks put up obstacles to their ability to earn a living selling whatever goods or services they've chosen to put into the marketplace, whether this is predatory pricing by some discount giant, or subsidization of a competitor by government. These people, by-and-large, believe in competition in the marketplace, but they want a level playing field.

Two years ago, I went shopping for socks in Nelson. I figured that I would buy two or three pair at Vince DeVito's, and then leave. Vince is a good advertiser, and I thought that I should give him some business. Well, I was kind of shocked at his prices. I ended up buying only one pair of socks - for $16.95 + tax. I went down to a local discount retailer and bought six pair of socks for eight bucks. I gave myself a pat on the back for being so penny-wise. Well, I went home and tried on my new socks from DeVitos. Gosh, they were comfortable. The other ones were adequete, I felt, so I still felt pretty good about my purchase. After all, I had bought six pair of socks for less than the price of one pair. I found that those Canadian-made socks that Vince sold me became my favourites. I began to wear them for two or three days at a time. They were always the first socks that I put on when the laundry was done. Six months went by. The cheap socks began to develop holes at the toes. Six months later they were unwearable. Faced with a choice of darning or throwing them out, I chose to chuck. I bought another half-dozen pair, and kept wearing my favourite pair whenever I could. I still wear those socks. They're still my favourite pair. They're still as comfortable today as they were the day that I bought them.

Sometimes you get what you pay for.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Liberals want higher gas prices...

Many constituents have been writing, phoning and emailing my office, concerned about the huge jump in gas prices. Unfortunately, these rapidly increasing prices may be little more than the unfolding of a Liberal strategy that I warned of in articles to the media more than a year ago.

In those articles, I talked about a report I had obtained through Access to Information that indicated that the Liberals actually wanted higher gas prices. The report, entitled Transportation and Climate Change, was prepared in 1999 and determined that, in order to achieve Kyoto targets, gas prices would need to increase from approximately $0.54 per litre to about $1.40 per litre over the following ten years.

The report also observed that this would provide a federal fuel tax revenue increase between $670 to $700 billion over a 20-year period.

It seems more than coincidental that what has followed is exactly what was proposed in that report. The government is reaping a

huge windfall from the misery of Canadian motorists and those who use petroleum products to heat their homes.

For each penny per litre increase in the price of gas, government

revenues swell by an estimated $32M per year. GST is

even collected on the excise taxes levied by governments, including the 1.5 cent a litre tax added by the government to battle the deficit that ended in 1997.

The government may claim to sympathize with those suffering from the impact of high prices, but secretly they may well be celebrating the success of their 10-year plan and the huge increase in revenues that they can use to try to buy yet another election.

MP Jim Gouk

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*.

Thanks for the memories

I would like to use your interesting newspaper as a way to express my thanks to so many who enabled me to enjoy such a wonderful summer.

I have spent the past two summers in the Slocan Valley and have been left with such a special feeling for the folks in that valley. I refer specifically to shop keepers, staff at the golf course in New Denver, hospital personnel at Nakusp and New Denver, a great group of friends at Hills.

The beauty in your valley is spectacular and it is so inspiring to see the care given to homes and businesses.

Many thanks!

Norma-Jane Miller
Thunder Bay, Ontario

Running for Council?

A heads up to those thinking about running in Kaslo's municipal election on November 19.

The deadline to file your intention to run for mayor or councillor (four seats) is this Friday, October 14 at 4:00 pm. at the Village Hall.

As this is a full term (three years) it would be great to see more people running for office to support, represent and above all, work with the citizens of our town to make Kaslo an even better place to live in. I for one, am looking forward to an "All Candidates Meeting" and I certainly hope we have one.

I already have a few questions in mind for the candidates.

Jill Braley
Kaslo

Silverton Dump?

Earlier this year while walking around the village, at the corner of Turner and Fifth Streets I noticed several truckloads of fill had been dumped on the road allowance across from the Maltz residence. Shortly after, "scrapings" from a concrete mixer were added to the pile.

Lately more truckloads have appeared along with old bricks and other debris. Early this week unwanted sod from someone's lawn has appeared. This morning there was garden waste in the form of old flowers, etc.

Originally I thought this was a stockpile of earth for use elsewhere for building up some low section of the village. Now I wonder if this is an addition or replacement area to the Rosebery dump (the excuse being the high price of fuel).

So now I wonder, can anyone leave their unwanted articles in that location? On future walks will I see old tires, bicycles, old fencing and a '34 Ford fender?

The evolution from a quiet boulevard to an eyesore has been quite revealing....

Ray Nunn
Silverton

Spay and neuter

This is for anyone interested in the background of my recent letter which was published in *The Valley Voice* expressing dismay about the casual dispersal of pets at public markets and other serious concerns focused on attitudes which allow unspayed females to become pregnant and unneutered males to roam and create more unwanted baby dogs and cats whose little warm bodies eventually wind up in green garbage bags behind animal euthanasia facilities to be dumped in landfills or are incinerated. These innocent souls number at least 18,000 per year in Canada. Those that escaped the terror of waiting in line to be killed become the walking wounded of the unwanted, strayed and abandoned pet animals…the end game.

Please do read on and research for yourself: EUTHANIZED PET STATITISTICS IN CANADA, www.crystalbay.net; www.animaladvocates.com and www.learnnc.org.

An answer to the constant and growing problem of unwanted dogs and cats is to adopt an animal that is waiting in a shelter which insists that the pet is inoculated, neutered or spayed as a condition of adoption.

Anna Hawthorn
New Denver

Don't cheat the children

It's been many years since I last walked a picket line. Teachers, even retired ones, are not comfortable "walking the line." This morning I walked and am impressed at the attitude of the current strikers. "Enough is enough" seems to be the developing attitude: enough cutbacks in funding, enough rollbacks of negotiated contracts, enough sleazy PR games from the government.

Lord Gord and his cronies are playing the game of "illegal strike." "Illegal" is merely anything the government has the majority to pass. Is it an unjust strike? Is it unnecessary? Is it immoral? What would be immoral would be to not stand up to the shortsighted bullies in Victoria who "lead" us down the path of cheating our children.

I just returned from a month in the good ol' USA, caring for my parents. There are high school grads teaching classes because there aren't enough college grads or certified teachers who are interested in the quality of jobs in Education.

Americans haven't valued their teachers for a long time and look at what they have now…a fat, dumb, TV educated populace who can be sold on any lies their phony leaders tell them. "Weapons of mass deception" allow the government to make war on anyone they don't like, cheat their good neighbours (softwood tariffs) and degrade the environment to the point of no return.

It takes a well-educated populace to see through the deceptions, to understand the spin doctoring and to resist the rascals who lie and cheat their way to the top. "Big money" doesn't want an educated electorate. I applaud the resisters; I support the "illegal strikers."

Kevin Murphy
New Denver

Stand up to new security laws

Do you want to be part of the USA and its policies and politics? Do you believe that the UN is currently our best tool for the international progress of mankind? Have you seen the damaging statistics about the negative affects of NAFTA on ordinary Canadians? Do you accept the CIA on Canadian soil and interfering with our policing policies? Can you face your children and future generations by accepting the USA's anti-Kyoto position? Are you supportive of our unnecessary military participation in Afghanistan and the likelihood of Al Qaeda revenge in Canada? These questions concern all of us!

Art Joyce's letter alerting us to new security laws that probably will be passed at the urging of the USA is a red flag! It's understandable that ordinary law abiding citizens would have no fear because they've done nothing wrong. Well, a letter like his or this one would be quite enough for suspicion, investigation and/or indefinite detention. If you are "clean," you would still suffer the harassment of the police or military: you get to bankrupt your family with defense costs, to say nothing of lost income, psychological harm, unbelievable stress, marital damage, loss of respect, etc.

Our socially and environmentally irresponsible old-line political parties have always aligned with big money, big business, and American interests. One thing is clear to me: citizens who continue to vote Liberal or Conservative will ring the Death Knell for Canada (except the name)!

I'll share my references!

Eric Faulks
Hills

Give the taxpayers a break

If the Village of Kaslo council did not make any new plans for next year then taxes would go down by almost $200,000. This reduction is a result of paying off a loan for a million-dollar water system installed in the early 1980s.

However, there are plans presently underway by the council to spend some of this new-found money. How much is not known.

The Village has made an offer to purchase the provincial building for $120,000 and if the offer is accepted

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Choices and Priorities

B.C. BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

This is an exciting time for British Columbia. There are some important challenges, goals and opportunities ahead – but we cannot afford to do everything at once. We want to know what is important to you so we can work to meet your priorities.

Building New Infrastructure

Important investments in roads, schools, universities, colleges and health care facilities worth more than $12.1 billion are planned over the next three years. Infrastructure investments are funded through new borrowing. The surplus is used to reduce this new borrowing. When the surplus is larger, the Province needs to borrow less and can put more toward debt reduction. With a smaller surplus, the Province may need to borrow more.

Risks and Challenges

A balanced budget may be affected by international economic slowdowns and natural disasters. That's why the Province set aside a forecast allowance and a contingency fund to protect the balanced budget from unexpected events. The forecast allowance also covers potential wage and benefit increases arising from the next round of public sector bargaining.

Currently, 52 per cent of the Provincial budget goes to pay wages and benefits. A one per cent increase in wages and benefits would mean $160 million less per year would be available to invest in other areas such as health care, education and public safety services.

Opportunities and Choices Ahead

On February 21, 2006, the Province will table a balanced budget with an updated plan to keep it balanced.

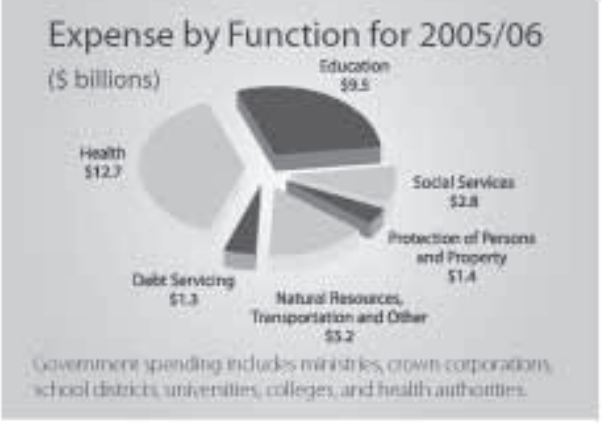
In addition to the current fiscal plan surpluses, the Province anticipates that revenue will increase by $600 million in 2008/09. These resources could be available to reinvest in areas that meet British Columbians' priorities. While recognizing that British Columbia cannot afford to do everything at once, what opportunities do you see ahead?

What is Your Vision?

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, which includes both government and opposition members of the Legislative Assembly, will hold public meetings to seek the views of British Columbians. The Committee will present a report on its consultations by November 15, 2005.

To provide your views to the Committee, you can send a written submission or letter by October 23, 2005 to:

Mail: Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services
Parliament Buildings, Room 224, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone: 250 356-2933 (collect) or 1-877-428-8337



For the online questionnaire, visit www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Voices from the Valleys

continued from 4

and a referendum held with the municipal elections this November is successful, then a commitment will have been made.

There is also a plan to restore the city hall for a million dollars. Along with this plan a decision will have to be made on the removal of the existing fire hall and a location chosen for the new one.

Expensive as these projects are, they are tied together and it is almost impossible to do one without the other. With the amount of work involved on the city hall a reasonable amount of time would have to be set aside for the restoration. This means the existing offices would have to be moved over to the provincial building in order to maintain a satisfactory work environment.

Should we proceed with these projects or should we let economics be the prime consideration here? We could just buy the provincial building, sell the city hall and let the taxpayers benefit from lower taxes.

These would be draconian measures and they did not succeed in the past, otherwise we would not have the SS Moyie or any other historic buildings in town today.

The council has yet to present the finer points of these matters to the public so discussions and decisions can take place.

They also need to demonstrate that instead of just spending this new-found money, some savings can be found in the village budget before going to the various organizations such as the Regional District and the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society for funding.

After all, if the community forest can set an example by showing that it is possible to put something back into the community, then why can't the city hall do it too and give the taxpayers a break?

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

BC teachers want a fairly negotiated contract settlement

British Columbia's excellent public school system has been built by the teachers, parents, and citizens of this province over many generations. Throughout the long history of public education and the teaching profession in this province, teachers, and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, have been advocating for improved learning conditions for students, working for a socially progressive and just civil society and representing the economic and professional interests of teachers.

In January 2002, the Liberal provincial government legislatively imposed terms and conditions of employment upon teachers while we were on a limited and legal job action. They stripped our collective agreement of all matters pertaining to limits on class size, composition of classes, and staffing requirements for specialist teachers. And they made it illegal to bargain those matters into our agreement in the future. It took previous generations of teachers many years, many struggles, and often strikes to obtain the

teaching and learning conditions that existed in BC schools prior to 2002.

Those conditions, arrived at by both employees and employers at the

bargaining table, are gone now, and the effect on the provincial education system has been significant: larger classes and fewer teacher-librarians, counsellors, learning assistance teachers, special education teachers, and ESL teachers.

The deterioration of our students' learning conditions is not the only

effect of the government's attack on our collective agreement. Our loss of bargaining rights as teachers has diminished our role in the education process at the school level, the district level, and the provincial level.

The government no longer consults teachers, the front line professionals, when introducing major changes to the public school system. And government continues to question our fundamental right to speak out.

So what are the bargaining objectives of teachers? We have three:

1. A return of the teaching and learning conditions guarantees for students that existed in 2002 prior to the contract being stripped of those provisions by legislation.

2. A return of free collective bargaining rights.

3. A fair and reasonable salary increase.

It is often said that if we work together co-operatively, we can achieve more. In order for teachers and employers to work together, there must be a fair process that will lead to a negotiated settlement. Legislating an end to the bargaining process will only make working together more difficult.

Teachers are asking the government to solve the existing problems, not to legislate more.

Teachers do not want job action. We love teaching, we love interacting with the students in our classrooms, we love learning, and we are committed to Public Education. But we are united and committed to achieving a collective agreement that secures improvements for students and a fair settlement for teachers. Our students deserve better than the erosion of their learning conditions they have seen in the last three years; our union deserves the democratic right to free collective bargaining; and teachers deserve a fair salary increase.

Teachers want to thank parents for the tremendous support we've received. We know that you also care deeply about conditions in public schools. We also understand that a teacher strike would create additional challenges for families. We want to assure you that teachers are doing all they can to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Please join us by contacting the Premier, your local MLA and the local School Trustees and telling them that you want this dispute settled soon and settled fairly.

Henning von Krogh
President
Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association

Another teachers' strike?

Another teachers' strike? Again? As though all those professional days and non-instructional days and whatever they call them aren't enough, now they want to go on strike. And for what? More money? Better working conditions? For many of us, it is hard to feel much sympathy for the financial woes of those whose take-home pay is three or four times our own. And as for working conditions, well, who else gets to work from 8:30 to 2:30 with two or three months holidays every year? And what about our children? Don't they care about the kids, about their education?

As a matter of fact, they do. If they were in it for the money, most teachers would have gone into real estate or computer programming. Teachers care about kids, they care about education. They care passionately about teaching. That's why they are teachers.

What's it like, teaching? I mean, how hard could it be? Let's visit a classroom, somewhere, anywhere. There are 25 students in this combined grade 3 - 4 class. Of these, six are on an IEP, an Individual Education Plan, because of serious learning difficulties. One has cerebral palsy, one has brain damage. Two have severe attention problems. And then there's the little firebrand who flies off the handle at the least provocation, screaming obscenities and attacking his peers. Seven out of 25 with serious problems: 28%. There are also two or three students who are well above grade level and are bored to tears. The teacher in this classroom has one aid most, but not all, of the time, mainly to help the cerebral palsy kid. Have a nice day!

Other classrooms may have a high percentage of ESL students, those who speak little or no English. Then there are the FASD students, those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder caused by the mother's alcohol consumption while she was pregnant. As a result, the brain of the child has not developed normally and there are severe cognitive deficits. And the Down's syndrome students and those on the autism spectrum. All of these students, ESL, FASD, Down's, and those with some level of autism, as well as many of the LD or Learning Disabled students, have problems with language. Even if they can parrot the words, the words do not compute, they have little or no meaning and do not translate into comprehension. How do you teach when you cannot use language to communicate?

"The kids we see today seem to be so much more needy!Ó laments one teacher. In any classroom, at least 20% of the kids just "don't get it.Ó These are the kids at risk for school failure an all that entails: low self esteem, unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse, delinquency, and, in extreme cases, suicide.

Why is this percentage so high? It is easy to point fingers: teachers blame parents, parents blame teachers, everybody blames television and lack of government funding.

But there is no one cause. Instead, there are many contributing factors. ADHD, FASD, Down's syndrome, autism, learning disabilities and physical disabilities are not problems that can be fixed with increased government spending. The fact is, however, that our teachers deal with these children in the classroom every day. The task is so demanding and so exhausting that the best teachers, those who care passionately about their charges, succumb to stress-related illness and go on disability leave. Teachers need help. Why aren't they getting it?

In 2001 the teachers' collective agreement expired. There were negotiations between the government and the BCTF, but no agreement could be reached. In January of 2002, the government legislated a settlement and unilaterally imposed a contract upon the teachers. This so-called contract — a unilaterally imposed "agreement" is not a contract but rather reeks of forced labour — removed provisions that put limits on class size and on the number of specialist teachers. It also made it ILLEGAL (!) For teachers to bargain with respect to class size, class composition (how many special needs students per class?) or staffing formula in the future. This contract also decreed a 2.5% per year salary increase over three years, but this increase would not funded by government, it would come out of the already depleted pockets of local school boards. Almost 8% of the teaching force was let go by school boards desperate to cut costs. We lost teacher-librarians, ESL teachers, learning assistance teachers and special education teachers. Class room teachers now faced larger classes with

less help. Students with learning difficulties were left to sink or swim, and many

sank.

The legislated contract of 2002 expired on June 30, 2004. Teachers have been without a contract, without the right to bargain, and without adequate resources for the services they had been mandated to provide, for over a year. It's not for want of trying. It just seems our children's education is not high on this government's priority list.

Nearly half the population of British Columbia cannot read well enough to read Time or Maclean's magazine or the Readers' Digest, and an equal number do not have the basic math skills required for day to day living: simple things, like how much GST on a washing machine, how much change from a $20 when I buy a burger and fries. It can be argued, then, that the BC government, in limiting funding for the educational services which are so desperately needed, is in breach of its mandate pursuant to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

It is in breach of another mandate as well. Most countries, Canada among them, have adopted treaties through the International Labour Organization of the United Nations that provide that governments must grant workers the right to organize into unions and the right to strike. The ILO has reviewed BC's "essential serviceÓ legislation with respect to teaching and concluded that it should be repealed because it violates the treaty provisions. The government is in breach of its own treaty.

The financial squeeze government has imposed on school boards has created other problems as well, problems that do not directly affect teachers but do have an impact on parents and on students. To compensate for budget cuts, school boards have been forced to impose user fees. Parents with a child in high school have to shell out between $150 and $350 at the start of the school year for the privilege of taking courses and using text books and course materials. For a single parent on EI or Workers' Comp. with two children in high school, that's a fortune. If this money is not paid and paid in full, the student does not get a locker and is teased, ridiculed and bullied by the other students. Nowhere is this added expense addressed by the BCTF. Perhaps it should be. Our public education is purported to be free. Something you have to pay for is not free.

Another casualty of budget cuts is the psycho-educational assessment. If you are sick, you go to the doctor for a diagnosis, and the doctor then prescribes a treatment pursuant to that diagnosis. If Johnny can't read, we need to find out why Johnny can't read before we can determine what remedial methods will work best. The "doctor" in this case is an educational psychologist who does a full psycho-educational assessment which includes a variety of tests, usually including the WISC-R, Peabody and Bender Gestalt. Such an assessment costs money, $500 a shot at least. Where money is in short supply, many students who need it must forego such testing. Eye problems, hearing problems, learning disabilities or psychological problems go undiagnosed and untreated, the child does not learn, the teacher has another non-learner with attention problems to deal with.

Not everybody is in favour of unions, or of strikes. But unless teachers stand united, they have no hope of being heard, let alone of effecting any change. We, as parents, as grandparents, need to stand behind our teachers, to make a united front, and to pressure our government to make available sufficient funding for the education of our children. We MUST support our teachers. We owe it to our kids.

Eljse de Boer
Fauquier

Supporting the Early Years Research Project

We are looking for parents who would be interested in providing feedback on our programs. In exchange for a spring interview we will provide a monthly newsletter, free workshops, child and travel subsidies to programs and workshops, and notification of current programming. If you are interested in giving us your feedback, please call either Nancy or Julia at 265-3674. The following are programs that are offered:

Starting Oct. 5, ongoing:
Parents and Tots
10 am -12 pm Thursday
Communication Ctr. Fauquier

Starting Oct. 5, ongoing:
Story Time
10:30 am, Wednesday
Nakusp Public Library

Starting Oct. 14, ongoing:
Gym Playgroup
10:00 - 11:30 am, Friday
Halcyon Home, Nakusp

Starting Oct. 17, ongoing:
Ready, Set, Learn
11:45 am - 2:00 pm, Monday
Edgewood Elementary (FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS ONLY)

Starting Oct. 18, ongoing:
Early Childhood Playgroup
10 am -11:30 am, Tuesday
Stepping Stones Children's Ctr., Nakusp

Starting Oct. 18, ongoing:
Mother Goose
12:00 - 1:00 pm, Tuesday
Edgewood Elementary School
(CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER)

Oct. 20:
Art & Kids Workshop (free)
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Arrow/Slocan Lks. Comm. Services, Nakusp (CALL 265-3674 TO REGISTER)

Starting Oct. 20, 10 wks. must register:
Mother Goose
1:00 - 2:00 pm, Thursday
Arrow/Slocan Lks. Comm. Services, Nakusp (CALL 265-3674 TO REGISTER)

Starting Oct. 22, alternating Sat. & Thurs., ongoing:
Learning Adventures for Families (LAFF)
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Saturday; 6:00 pm Thursday
Stepping Stones Children's Centre, Nakusp

Taking Action for B.C. Students

BECAUSE EDUCATION IS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

The Province believes that even one day of class lost to strike action is too long. The needs of students must come first. That's why we're taking action to ensure certainty for students and a fair approach for teachers.

A Broken Bargaining System

Over the last 18 months, the B.C. Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the B.C. Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) have been bargaining in an attempt to reach a new collective agreement. To date, no issues have been agreed to and job action appears likely.

All parties agree the bargaining system for public sector education is broken. A recent report entitled *Voice, Accountability and Dialogue: Recommendations for an Improved Collective Bargaining System for Teacher Contracts in British Columbia* found that over the past 10 years, every collective agreement involving teachers in this province has required government intervention. During that time, a total of four contracts have been imposed.

A Matter of Fairness

The Province has successfully negotiated more than 130 collective agreements under the current wage mandate including deals with nurses, doctors and B.C. government workers.

Over the last four years, teachers were one of the few public sector unions to receive an increase. In fact, the last BCTF contract provided a 7.5 percent wage increase over three years, ending June 30, 2004. It's only right that the BCTF abide by the same rules as other public sector unions.

A Workable Solution

The Province has introduced the Education Services Collective Agreement Act, which will extend the terms and conditions of the existing contract over the next nine months when the current wage mandate expires. At that time, there will be an opportunity to negotiate a new contract that includes wage increases for teachers.

The Province is also acting to fix the system for the long term by appointing an Industrial Inquiry Commissioner to help establish a new bargaining process. The Commissioner will consult with the parties before recommending a new model.

Certainty for Students and Parents

A student's education comes first. That's why the new bargaining model will be required to ensure a stable educational environment. It will be a model that both students and their parents can depend upon today and in the future.

In addition, the Province will establish a new Teachers' Congress to ensure a healthy new dialogue between teachers and government into the future.

These new measures are just part of our commitment to ensure students needs come first.

Our Commitment

The Province has invested more funding and made class size a priority:

Investing More Funding

- Increased operating funding for school districts by $150 million this year.
- Increased operating funding by $460 million since 2000/2001.
- Increased per pupil funding by $345 over the last year and by $881 over the past five years.
- Investing $1.5 billion over the next 15 years to seismically upgrade high priority schools.

Reducing Class Size

- Enshrined class size limits in law.
- Reduced average elementary class sizes last year – a trend that is expected to continue this year and beyond.
- Required school districts to publicly report on class size so that parents and students have easy access to class size information about their school.

Why We're Taking Action:

A fact-finder appointed on September 19, 2005 to conduct an independent review of issues that are hampering negotiations found:

- According to figures provided by BCTF, its proposals would add approximately $673 million annually to the cost of the education system at the end of a three-year agreement.
- BCPSEA estimates the cost of the BCTF demands at approximately $938 million.
- There is no prospect for a voluntary resolution at the bargaining table.

For more information on how the Province is working to improve education, visit: www.gov.bc.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Silverton council, September 27: Wiseman asks for RDCK accountability

Slocan's 1st. Annual
Oktoberfest
Oct. 22nd.
11 am - 6 pm
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

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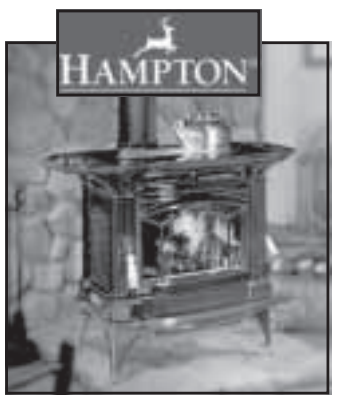

The Hampton Wood Stove provides high efficiency heat to ensure warmth & comfort even when the power is out. Functional design features include an easy latch door, sealed ash drawer and a cooktop surface. Load logs from either front or side, allowing greater installation flexibility.

The Classic Wood Stove is the perfect combination of high technology engineering and classical design. All Classic Wood Stoves offer wide view doors for an unparalleled view of the beautiful real wood fire. Add the warmth and comfort of a real wood burning stove to your home today.

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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

by Jan McMurray

•Council received the RDCK's proposal that all local governments in the district kick in part of their grant under the Community Tourism program towards promoting the International Selkirk Loop. Silverton has a $4050 allotment. Mayor Wiseman said he felt he needed more information on the proposal and expressed grave concern about the RDCK as a responsible government body. "I have quite a concern about RDCK itself and how they manage money and their accountability to the public," he said. As an example, he pointed out that 13 RDCK directors attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference this year in St. John's at the taxpayers' expense of $38,000. "Silverton pays $29,000 per year to the RDCK in taxes. The trip to St. John's was more than that. I think that's disgusting and I don't want to support them."

Councillor Dorsey responded by saying that the RDCK's rationale for sending 13 directors to FCM was to give rural directors a chance to find services. He also said that the organization had begun a process of streamlining since Gary Wright took the chair. "I am in favour of good representation at FCM and UBCM," he said, and reminded that he helped to change the gas tax deal so it would include all municipalities at an FCM meeting he attended.

Mayor Wiseman made a motion that the RDCK be asked to provide more information about the International Selkirk Loop proposal and "facts and figures" on what Silverton gets for its $29,000.

•Mayor Wiseman reported that a human rights tribunal case, different from the Bouillet vs. Dorsey case, had ended and was a "dead issue." He said the Village had no outstanding legal issues at this time.

Local wildlife artist Eric Renk was chosen as Ducks Unlimited Canada's Waterfowl Stamp and Print Artist 2006 with his painting, "Slipstream." There were over 600 entries. Framed prints of the painting with the smaller stamp centred below will be available at all of Ducks Unlimited Canada's fundraisers in 2006. Proceeds from these events go towards the preservation of Canadian wetlands.

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Village of New Denver

2006 Permissive Tax Exemptions

Section 224 of the Community Charter allows Council to exempt from taxation property:

(f) in relation to property that is exempt under section 220 (1) (h) [*buildings for public worship*],
(i) an area of land surrounding the exempt building

The following properties are proposed for exemption:

1. That portion of Lot 6, Block 14, Plan 9501, District Lot 543, Kootenay district (Turner Memorial United Church) commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 6, Block 14, thence north fifty feet, thence east thirty feet, thence south fifty feet, thence west thirty feet to the point of commencement;

2. Lots 7 & 8, Block 35, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District (St. Anthony's Catholic Church);

3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District & (1) Lot 26 (2) Pcl A (KM82543) (St. Stephen's Anglican Church), commencing at the south west corner of Lot 26, Block 45, thence north fifty-five feet, thence east one hundred feet, thence south fifty-five feet to the south east corner of Lot 23, Block 45, thence west one hundred feet to the point of commencement;

4. Lots 1-3, Block 48, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District (Pentecostal Church);

for the year 2006.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

He added that many "fictitious numbers" regarding the Village of Silverton's legal costs were circulating and that in the period January 1, 2003 to July 31, 2005, a total of $26,300 had been spent on legal costs. "There has been a request for a breakdown. That won't be forthcoming," he said, but mentioned that the figure included legal costs related to the leases with the Gallery, Historical and Arena Societies and the A/C line to the reservoir. "There were more legal issues than people would like to think," he said.

•The Village of Silverton passed a resolution in support of the Village of Nakusp's efforts to have BC Hydro and the Water Comptroller make the maintenance of the Nakusp boat launch part of BC Hydro's responsibility.

•The public works report stated that reservoir disinfection was completed and thanked Silverton residents for their careful use of water during that time. The wind storm on August 29 blew over a hydro pole at the ball park and blew the anchor door off Cooper's wharf. All this has been repaired. Improvements were done to the tennis court, a new sidewalk was poured at Memorial Hall and the drainage problem near Bigway was addressed. A request to purchase a curb stop locating device for about $1700 plus taxes was approved. There is $2150 in the public works budget.

•Acting chief Ron Provan reported that the Silverton and New Denver fire departments were giving a school presentation during Fire Prevention Week. Leonard Casley was appointed to the Silverton fire department as a member

•Junko Ida was named Chief Elections Officer with Anna Marie Hogg as Deputy Elections Officer.

Mayor Wiseman reminded that nominations were being taken October 4-14 until 4 pm. "Please pick up the nomination papers, fill them out correctly and put your name in early — don't wait until the 4:00 hour and quickly rush the papers in."

•The Memorial Hall was granted free of charge for the Voices for Hospice event on October 7.

•Two readings were given to a routine tax exemption bylaw for churches.

•Accounts payable of $67,873.91 were approved for August. The figure is so high because taxes were collected and remitted in this month.

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

Bill Lander
250-352-3581 bus
250-551-5652 cell
lander@netidea.com
COLDWELL BANKER ROSLING REAL ESTATE
593 Baker St, Nelson

Employment & Opportunity Fair held at WEG School, October 5

Thrive 2005, Slocan Valley's Employment and Opportunity Fair, was held October 5 at WE Graham Community School.

The event was put together by Jessica Lunn and Michelle Seguin of the Youth Employment Resource Centre as a means of demonstrating the innovative ways that people make a living in the valley. The objective was to inspire and inform youth about some of the career, training and funding opportunities they can access, by showcasing businesses and organizations that operate in our communities, and to introduce them to the diversity of the businesses that make up our rural economy.

Rachelle, Travis, and Skye of Mount Sentinel's Planning 10 class. Rachelle and Skye found the booths 'interesting' and hope they will be helpful. Travis (aka Seth) did not find the booths helpful because he already has a job.

More than 20 local businesses, both large and small, were represented at the fair, which opened with a keynote address by Leah Main titled 'Co-operative Marketing: The Power of Working Together'. She spoke of her experiences working with Destination Silverton, Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, and the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission—three organizations that each work to enhance different levels of economic opportunity by engaging numerous businesses and organizations to join together to do what individuals cannot, especially in an isolated environment.

A panel discussion on 'Innovative Valley Ventures' featured representatives from Little Slocan Lodge, Polestar Calendars, Valhalla Powder Cats, Evergreen Natural Foods, and the Slocan-based multi-media centre, who each described their unique business structure, marketing approaches and how they set business goals.

'Tips and Tricks for Getting Hired: the Employer's Perspective' was addressed by Springer Creek Forest Products, Slocan Valley Co-op, Nelson Youth Centre and WE Graham Community Services Society, which all stressed looking for people ready to work, ready to take their job seriously, and who show initiative by being involved in their community.

The Youth Employment Resource Centre, the Career Development Society, Circle of Habondia Lending Circle and Community Futures representatives spoke about their resources, which include assistance with job searches, small business assistance, training courses and help sorting out the process of getting a job or starting a business.

In between panel discussion and the Q&A sessions which followed them, attending students were able to circulate through the various display booths and talk one-on-one with successful valley entrepreneurs and representatives from the various participating agencies. This was a unique opportunity for them to ask questions and get feedback on their business or employment plans from people who have been through the experiences they are just embarking on.

End-of-day discussion among participating businesses and agencies generated positive feedback and hopes that the event will be repeated in the future, and that students from schools throughout the valley will be able to attend.

Partnering organizations for this full-day event were Selkirk College, Kootenay Career Development Society, HRSDC and WE Graham Community Services Society.

Celebrate micro-credit week and party for Peru in Crescent Valley

Enjoy a delicious Latin evening October 22 at the Crescent Valley Hall to celebrate micro-credit week and help the Circle of Habondia raise money for a lending circle in the mountain village of Huayrracocha, Peru.

Dine with El Taco Restaurante thanks to owners Justine and Gil Langevin. Dance to *Cilantro Sonido*, an exciting six-piece Latin band from Winlaw. The evening begins at 5 pm with Peru: Dark and Light. A video entitled *Nada Personal (Nothing Personal)* tells the chilling story of Hilaria Supa's community in Peru. Nadine Podmeroff will show the light-filled DVD filmed when local people visited Peru last spring and summer.

You can look over the Peruvian arts and crafts for sale and enter the art auction. Dinner is at 6:30. Over dessert, hear Melvi Padilla speak about micro-lending in Bolivia and Dania Kaltara share the Habondia Habitat story. Find out how you can support micro-financing locally.

Lana will open the musical evening and dancing to *Cilantro Sonido* will go into the night. Get your tickets soon as only 100 people will enjoy this delicious Latin evening. Tickets available at Otter Books (Nelson), Bagels and Brew and Selkirk College Library (Castlegar), Valley Spokes, Collectables and more (Slocan Park) and Earth Spirit Books in Winlaw. Cost is $20/person. $35/couple and families are adults plus $6 per child. Call 226-6788 for ticket information and 226-7879 to donate Peruvian arts and crafts.

Hidden Garden Gallery thanks Teri Freeman

Consider how much a single person can affect a community. Teri Freeman, artist and organizer extraordinaire, has pulled together more than two dozen art shows over the past two years at New Denver's Hidden Garden Gallery. She found painters, potters, jewelers, photographers, weavers, sculptors and quilters to put on shows throughout the summer; found speakers to talk about utopias and politics and art; cajoled people to bake and musicians to make joyful noises for openings; wrote articles and ads and organized posters and made calls to let us all know what shows were coming up; plastered and painted walls and plinths; cleaned and organized others to clean; set up food and drink; bought supplies; sat on the HGG board to help make decisions about gallery events. And kept smiling.

HGG's board and volunteers want to thank Teri for all she's done as events co-ordinator—and invite others who might want to take on some of the planning and setting up to come to our brainstorming session and Annual General Meeting (dates to be announced). The HGG board is a living oxymoron: meetings are actually enjoyable and fun.

Drop-in for seniors at the Youth Centre

The Crescent Valley Youth Centre will host a drop-in coffee time for seniors every Monday from 9 am to 1 pm beginning October 17. Come and visit with friends and enjoy a game of pool, cards or cribbage. Coffee, tea and fresh baked goods are for sale. There is a $2 drop in fee.

This is a great space and wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. A computer with high speed internet is also available. The centre is located in the former Selkirk College building beside the Crescent Valley Community Hall. Call 359-8288 for more info.

Streamkeepers, Mt. Sentinel and Columbia Power work together to restore Slocan River

submitted

The Slocan River Streamkeepers and Mt Sentinel Students have once again joined forces to help restore the river.

"We live in a time of change and our indicators are pointing in the direction of a warmer climate, including warmer water temperatures," said Jennifer Yeow of the Streamkeepers. "We already are seeing two to three weeks during summer when water temperatures are above 20 degrees Celcius."

This, coupled with continued development beside the river, does not bode well for aquatic life, she says. To counter these trends, the Streamkeepers are assisting Columbia Power Corporation to implement a program whereby landowners receive assistance to fence and to plant trees.

This fall, nine riverside properties are scheduled for planting. Other eligible activities include fencing of livestock, livestock watering away from the river, and bank restoration where there is a vegetative component. The program is long term and is open to applications in early spring. Watch for requests for proposals in the newspaper.

The students also benefit by receiving funds to carry out volunteer projects like building homes for low-income families in Mexico, extracurricular sports activities and art.

Call Yeow at 226-7339 for more information about this program or to learn about Steamkeeper events.

Mt Sentinel students and parent helper prepare land for trees at Brian Cross and Penny Clarke's Ewe Dairy Farm, Appledale.

Slocan Valley winter sports swap

The Slocan Valley Recreation Commission kicks off the winter sports season with their annual winter sports swap on Saturday, October 22. This may be the longest running sports equipment swap in the West Kootenays with records going back to the early 80s.

Every type of winter sporting goods can be found at the event—snowboards, skis (cross-country & downhill), skates, boots, bindings, poles, sports clothing, sleds and more. It's a great time to recycle goods that aren't used anymore and find something that suits your needs. All items being entered into the event should be in good condition.

Equipment being entered can be dropped off from 9:15 to 9:45 in the morning at the the Crescent Valley Hall—note the new location. The swap itself takes place from 10 a.m. to noon. Pay-outs or unsold equipment must be picked up between noon and 1 p.m. Admission to the event is a non-perishable item for the Slocan Food Bank

Ten per cent of the selling price goes to the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission, to a maximum of $20 per item.

The Crescent Valley Hall is located on Highway 6 approximately three km north of the Highway 3 junction. For more information contact the Rec Office at 226-0008.

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Nakusp Library still reaching for its expansion goals

by Penny Dewar

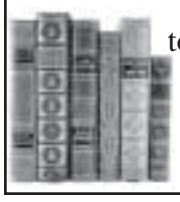
For 85 years, through 8 moves, uncomfortable conditions, even 16 years of courthouse storage, Nakusp has loved its public library.

Evelyn Goodell, who first became its librarian in 1979, says, "We have really good community support." Nakusp's books per capita is significantly greater than the provincial average, as is the percent of the populous with library cards. Earlier this year the library received the most votes in Nakusp for CBT funding: $20,000 to help cover costs of a long-awaited, desperately needed expansion.

For 48 years Nakusp's library has been in the same space. Its 1,690 patrons (intitally230) come from as far as Edgewood, Beaton and Silverton to take advantage of a collection that's grown from 2,650 to over 16,000. Books, shelves, desks, tables, chairs, computers, staff and patrons are crammed into one quarter the area recommended by Canadian library standards, less space per capita than most of BC's 234 other public libraries.

Nakusp Library Fact

• For every new book received, we have to discard one to make space on crowded shelves.



"Books are wonderful," says Goodell, "but they're like anything else when they get too crowded." Books are on top of books, out of reach on tops of shelves and uncomfortably low on the floor beneath shelves.

"I'd love the library to be a place to relax, read and have a quiet moment. My ideal would be welcoming, comfortable, clean, attractive, and not crowded," says Goodell.

Unfortunately, conditions have reached a critical stage. "We have no room for children to study, no comfortable chairs, and there's only one electric plug and holes in the linoleum that have been there for years," she says.

Cheryl Stenstrom, library consultant for the BC Public Library Services Branch, credits the librarian. "Evelyn is doing such a good job using her limited budget to build up a fine collection."

Nakusp's quality collection is attracting interlibrary interest. "Last month we sent 105 books to other libraries," says Goodell. "This morning there were 12 requests; then there are the books that our patrons order." Much of her 20-hour work week involves sending and receiving books, but "this year a lot of my time will be spent on grant applications," she says.

Library board member Cindy Lidstone says the group has raised about half of the $200,000 total cost of the expansion project. She says that local individuals and businesses have been generous, but there is still a long way to go. "And we're running into a few walls. Corporates like to contribute in kind (such as used computers), but we have structural and wiring things to do," she says.

The slow go to raise the funds can be partly contributed to lack of municipal support. The average per capita local government input for other BC libraries is $22.73. Nakusp receives only $17.43 — none of it from the municipality. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) supplies the library's budget from taxes it collects: 60% from within the village and 40% from elsewhere.

"Most people don't understand the nitty gritty of taxes," says Village clerk/treasurer Richard Mahoney, who confirms the Village provides no funding — only space, for which the library pays rent.

Lidstone points out that now that the library has permission to expand, the rent has increased.

Barry McLean, RDCK treasurer, says library support is usually a joint arrangement between the district and municipalities. At a recent meeting of the Kootenay Library Federation, Lidstone was "surprised, talking to other trustees, at how many libraries get municipal funding. Everyone, corporate and individual, loves the library, (but) we slipped through the cracks."

Castlegar recently built their new library from funds being paid back, over ten years, through a small short-term tax increase. According to McLean, the RDCK would consider a loan to help the expansion and a ten-year loan might fall under the Alternate Approval Process, bypassing the need for a referendum. But this would require Village co-operation.

Goodell, whose parents met in a library and instilled a respect for libraries in their children, looks forward to connecting more with the community, especially with parents of preschool children. The library's recent 'Raise a Reader' grant established a 'Step into Reading' collection for the very young, and enhanced their 'Leap into Reading' collection for beginning readers.

One community member and long-time patron, Jim Mellor, who regularly sweeps the stairs, shovels snow and delivers the weekend Globe and Mail (donated by another patron), says, "The staff are great people," then adds, "They let me do the (newspaper) cross-word."

"Libraries attract really nice people," says Goodell. There are 15 volunteers who help the staff and even deliver books to home-bound Nakusp residents. She praises them, and the eight hard-working board members. She misses retired staff and volunteers like Betty Walton, who volunteered until she was 90. Still active at 95, the former Nakusp teacher misses her library friends. Although she can still climb the library stairs, the lack of handicap access is another concern addressed in renovation plans.

Last year the provincial government published its "vision for public libraries in BC." It describes libraries as "unique among public institutions because of their commitment to free access, their focus on community, their permanence, their high level of public acceptance, and because individuals can participate voluntarily in the services they provide." Phrases like public trust, expanding knowledge, enhancing leisure time, pursuing interests, achieving goals, define the role of BC's public libraries, now and in the future.

October 17-24 has been declared Canadian Library Week. Make a point to visit Nakusp Library and if you can, buy a mug, a book bag or donate a shelf. And, in the upcoming municipal elections, vote for candidates who pledge support for expanding and improving the Nakusp Library in the near future.

Evelyn Goodell, long-time librarian at Nakusp Public Library encourages everyone to come in during National Library Week October 17-24.

I like the Nakusp Public Library because...

Patrons at Nakusp Public Library recently completed the sentence "I like the Nakusp Public Library because…"

…books and children go together likes peas and carrots!

Patti Adam, School District #10 Trustee

…I can go there and ask the always friendly and patient librarian for "a book they talked about on TV the other day. I didn't quite catch the title but it was about gardening in the Arctic and the author's name was something like John Smith or John Miller, I'm not sure it was something with an I in the middle, and he had grey hair and blue eyes. Do you think you could find it for me?"

Christa Magenau, writer

…we have the best librarians, a dedicated Board, wonderful volunteers and a supportive community. Our bigger and better library will be a well-deserved gift to all of us."

Jennifer Cliff Marks, Regional Coordinator, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

…without it I would feel totally orphaned!"

Beth James, organic farmer

…I can always find those classic nuggets of world literature that my mother first led me to and also audiobooks to while always the miles, timeless videos, and great non-fiction to help with whatever project, current passion or stage of life I'm undertaking.

Best of all, I can always find that fascinating new novel I heard about on CBC radio last week. And if my heart's desire isn't on the shelf…the wonderful Library staff and volunteers will order it in for me. For the past two decades, it's been the best little library I've ever known. I love the Nakusp Public Library. And my mother would too."

Terry Taylor, English Teacher at Lucerne School

…it has a good variety of subject matter, books are readily accessible, inter-library loan service is good, it is in a central location, and there is a friendly staff. Thank you to all.

Betty Walton, retired teacher and library volunteer

…it is a friendly place and has a wonderful supply of books. The staff is great and are very helpful with the interlibrary loans. I love the children's corner and take my grand-children there. I am a big user of talking books—they make long driving trips seem shorter.

Karen Hamling, Nakusp Councillor

..because I never met a book I didn't like (to paraphrase Will Rogers) and it keeps me out of used book stores where I can have an orgy with my credit card.

Lorna Obermayr, artist

..although it is a small library located in a remote area, I can request any unusual or rare book and the librarians will make every effort to find that book for me.

Helen Davis, singer

…it has a great selection of books. The only word to properly describe the children's section is awesome. Sarah's Corner is truly appreciated by parents who bring their children for storytime. The magazine section has a good selection dealing with everything from computers to gardening. A lot of the magazine subscriptions are donated by locals. It's a real asset to Nakusp. I'd like to thank the staff for all their hard work and the members of the community who support the library at their fundraisers.

Len Heppner, Nakusp Councillor

You can play a part ... in the I Love the Nakusp Library Expansion Campaign

♥ Buy a "I ❤ My Library " mug—$10

♥ Buy a "I ❤ My Library " book bag $15 & $20

♥ Donate $25 or more
—Your name will be on the "Books of Donors"

♥ Donate a shelf—$100
—Your name will be on a plaque on a shelf
—Your name will be on the "Books of Donors"

♥ Donate $1,000 or more
—Your name will be on a plaque in the Library
—Your name will be on the "Books of Donors"

♥ Sign up to help paint, move books, etc. etc. etc.

♥ ♥ Give your suggestions and ideas

Celebrate Canada Library Week!

Visit your Library

Nakusp Public Library is open:

Monday 12 - 4:30 7 - 9

Wednesday 12 - 4:30 7 - 9

Friday 12 - 4:30

Saturday 12 - 4:30

www.nakusplibrary.bc.ca

Nakusp Library Fact

Since 1958 the Library has grown from 230 patrons to 1690.

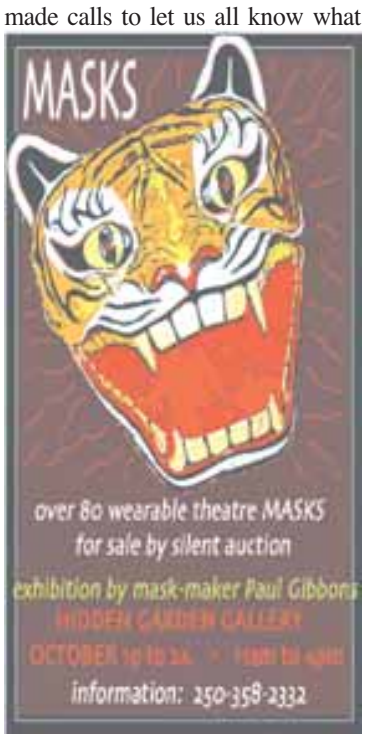
Huge sale of masks at Hidden Garden Gallery

NEW DENVER—Mask-maker Paul Gibbons is showing and selling his large collection of more than 80 masks from 20 years of work in theatre. The exhibit and silent auction will be at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver from October 19 to 24. The masks are all wearable. They are light-weight, durable papier-mache; some of them have been used in hundreds of performances. They come in all shapes and sizes, animals and birds as well as humans and 'other-worldly' beings. Also on sale are several small and giant puppets—and for the adventurous, there are a few pairs of stilts and stilt costumes.

Gibbons was co-artistic director, along with Tsuneko Kokubo and Gerardo Avila, of Snake in the Grass Moving Theatre in Vancouver from 1978 to 1994. The company was resident theatre group at the UBC Museum of Anthropology for 13 years and performed in theatres, galleries, schools, community centres and festivals across Canada and internationally. Prior to that he was co-founder of the zany Circus Minimus.

This exhibit will be fascinating for anyone interested in theatre, mythology and transformation. And, for those who are tired of the usual fare, this is a rare opportunity to purchase a hand-made mask just in time for Halloween. The gallery will be open 11 am - 4 pm each day.

Find your Hallowe'en costume at the Hidden Garden, October 19-24, during the show and sale of Paul Gibbons' fascinating mask show and sale.



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HGG's board and volunteers want to thank Teri for all she's done as events co-ordinator—and invite others who might want to take on some of the planning and setting up to come to our Annual General Meeting (date to be announced). The HGG board is a living oxymoron: meetings are actually enjoyable and fun.

Because of people like Teri.

Arts Council starts concert series

by Marilyn Massey

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council starts its concert series this season on October 22, with *Harps of Avalon*.

This will be an unforgettable evening of romance, passion and magic, featuring harps, voice and an array of rare medieval instruments. Their music ranges from songs 2,000 years old, to the fiery flamencos and the blues; no style escapes their fast-paced transcontinental journeys that have consistently won them standing ovations.

As troubadours of time, the ensemble members play some of the oldest instruments known to civilization, using them in songs both old and new. Ever seen a bass psaltery? Ever heard an organistrum or nyckelharpa? You'll hear all of them with harpists Lori Pappajohn, Jill Whitman and medieval instrumentalist Joaquin Ayala.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door the evening of the concert. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank Margo's Sunny Hill Lodging as the hospitality host for this concert.

For more information on the series, or to take advantage of the package deals, call Marilyn Massey at (250) 265-4087.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the
BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

Harps of Avalon

In an evening of romance and passion

SATURDAY, Oct. 22nd at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $15 Adults and $12 Seniors/Children

Available at Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host: Margo's Sunny Hill Lodging

Nakusp Library Fact

- Average local support per capita for libraries in BC is $22.70.
- Nakusp Library support per capita is $17.43

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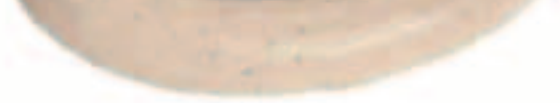

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Slocan Valley Co-op: Looking towards the future

by Moe Lyons

Lately, the Slocan Valley Co-op has been trying out a new slogan: "Learning from the past, Looking towards the future." Both halves of this phrase are particularly appropriate at this time. The Co-op has been serving the valley for almost 50 years, and the next 50 years will start off with big changes that will have a significant impact on the valley economy.

Within the next year, the Co-op will take on a whole new look as it grows to include a new cardlock service island in the north lot. This facility will be able to service large trucks and will sell regular and premium gas, as well as diesel and blended fuels. Fuel will be available 24/7 to everyone who, upon approved credit, can access the cardlock, and will pumped by our staff for the general public during regular business hours.

According to Vince Salvo, president of the Co-op board, the growth and health of the Co-op is a particularly good thing for the valley, because, he says, "Co-ops are a third way. They give people the choice to control the economic and social factors that affect their community. Our 1,400 members own our Co-op and make the decisions about what happens here. The Co-op is ours — it does not belong to the government or a faceless corporation that is only out for profits and doesn't care what happens here." The board and management of the Co-op, along with the Federated Co-operatives organization, have been working long and hard to make this new expansion a reality that will serve the valley well.

October 16-22 is Co-op Week

Co-op Week is the opportunity for Canadian co-operatives and credit unions to celebrate and bring awareness to the value of co-ops.

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CO-OP

The Slocan Valley Co-op
Learning from the past
Looking towards the future

Come celebrate Co-op Week with us!
October 16-23

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CO-OP WEEK EVENTS:

On the afternoon of October 21, we will be featuring samples of Hot Meals for Seniors from the Interior Health Association. This is your chance to try out these delicious and nutritious offerings, which will soon be available through the Co-op.

We're having a **Co-op Week Wind-Up Wine and Cheese Party** on Sunday, October 23! This will be a taste-testing of the wines from our newest Okanagan suppliers, St. Hubertus and Hillside Estates. You will need an invitation to attend, so come in and sign up to celebrate with us!

$25 MEMBER DRAWS Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday! (Oct. 18-21)

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KS Kootenay Savings

MLA would approach government with Arrow Park ferry cutback concerns

by Penelope Dewar

In 2002, when the provincial Liberals imposed 30% cost reductions, Arrow Park Ferry operation was cut by three hours. The final sailing was moved back to 9 pm, and the ferry was shut down for two hours at noon.

At the time there was no government response to a 120-name protest petition initiated by west-side residents John and Connie Miller, who also operate a business on the far shore.

"They swept our concerns under the table," says Connie Miller. When she and her husband moved to West Arrow Park there was all-day service, until 10 pm.

"I don't know if we would have moved here if there had been a shutdown. It's an inconvenience. We have to plan our lives and our business around it."

Three years later concern about schedule cuts continues. The Millers are often forced to use a small open boat to take their young daughter home from morning classes, and their business has endured the expense of supply and delivery trucks stuck, on one side or the other, for two hours.

"I've got used to it," West Arrow Park resident, Winnie Imrie says, "but I don't like it. I can't go out for an evening and get back home." She considers the noon shutdown a hazard.

"If something happened an ambulance couldn't get here."

The biggest ferry users and losers to the shutdown are contractors.

"Many times I've had to sit for a couple of hours, and there goes my profit," says Richard Fahlman. "I've had trucks break down and couldn't get a mechanic or welder before noon. By 2.30 they won't come because their day would be shot. Anyone who owns a truck has a hard time."

"The government saves and the contractors lose," says Doug McQuair. "If you have a breakdown, your day is done. You have to send everyone home. You'd think they'd want us to work more so we could pay more taxes."

"It's hard to plan the day," says Reg Gustafson. "We get up early enough as it is."

Jeff Becker, woods manager for Pope and Talbot, agrees that the lack of early afternoon sailings is an inconvenience.

"I'd prefer if it wasn't shut down, but it's not a huge issue. You plan your work around a two-hour rather than a 15-minute wait." He says he supports contractors' concerns because "it affects us as well." During summer fire season, when early shift operations stop at 1 pm, "the company pays to keep the ferry running, so employees can work a full day."

A search for a possible solution is complicated by the fact that, in June 2004, the government handed over operation of the Arrow Park Ferry to Western Pacific Marine. Company president Graham Clark says that, when they were awarded the contract, one condition was "the core service plan is adhered to. We have a duty to the public, but it's provided through the instrument of the ministry."

Mike Loveecchio, of the provincial Public Affairs Bureau for Transportation Communication, explains, "The rule of thumb is those are operational changes based on budget complications."

When told about the petition, he said, "There are no service changes planned, and none anticipated. Funding is there for the schedule as it exists."

In spite of their lack of response to earlier objections, Loveecchio says that anyone wishing to request a change "could contact the MLA, go through the local Chamber of Commerce, or approach the minister directly with their reasons." Pressed for the most effective method, he adds, "Your local MLA is the best conduit for bringing a proposal forward."

Nelson-Creston MLA Corky Evans says he would take concerns to the government.

"If anyone wants me to raise the issue, they can contact me, but I need a story to explain the negative impact. It would be helpful if the impacted contractors let me know the costs of the cuts and what they would like to see."

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Mirror Theatre presents *The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow*

With Hallowe'en just around the corner, Mirror Theatre presents its third 2005 production to help put everyone in the mood.

But this isn't just another spooky play. With lots of laughter and song, a cast of all ages and a headless horseman lurking ominously in the wings, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* takes a playful look at what happens when an outsider, a hungry highbrow schoolteacher, descends upon a rustic Dutch community on the Hudson River and tries to win the hand of the prettiest girl around.

A fun show for the whole family, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* plays at Fauquier Community Hall on Friday October 21, Edgewood Legion Hall on Saturday October 22 and Burton Community Hall on Saturday October 29. All performances begin at 7 pm.

Tickets available at the door: adults $8; children/students $5; family special $22.

Girl Guides of Canada is celebrating 95 years of Guiding in Canada in 2005, but the nine members of the Nakusp Trefoil Guild are celebrating 238 years of combined membership with Guides! During a recent guild meeting, District Commissioner Teresa Jansen presented member Phyllis Ott of Silverton a 40-year membership pin. Other long-timers who received pins were Kit Irving, 35 years; Elva Ritchey, 25 years; Delores Buerge, 20 years; and Joan Stuart, 15 years, all from Nakusp. Missing were Dawn Lindstein of New Denver, 40 years; and Judi Gardiner of Silverton, 30 years.

Where does our recycling go?

by Jan McMurray

A rumour that the recycling from the depots at the Burton and Edgewood transfer stations ends up in the landfill has been quashed.

The misunderstanding probably comes from the fact that the glass from all of the depots in the regional district is not taken to Castlegar along with the rest of the recycling, which is sold to various markets. Instead, it is crushed and used as cover for the landfills.

Ron Armbruster, District Operations Manager for Waste Management (WM), the company that provides recycling services throughout the regional district, explained that there is no viable market for the glass. "The markets are pretty picky for contamination," he explained. "It is not practical for the volumes that we have to clean, sort and try to truck to market." He said that in his view, the glass was still "recycled" because it was being crushed and used for something practical.

WM subcontracts the job of hauling the Burton and Edgewood recycling to the Nakusp depot to a Burton company called Justamere, owned and operated by Sterling Simpson. Justamere also has the contract to haul the garbage from the transfer stations at Burton and Edgewood to the Nakusp landfill.

Simpson says that using the glass as landfill cover is a good deal for taxpayers because they don't have to pay for the disposal of the glass, as they do with their garbage. Also, they save on the costs of landfill cover.

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.

	October 8 Forecast	Trend
Arrow Lakes Reservoir *operating range: 420 – 440.1 m / 1378 – 1444 ft*	429.7 m 1409.9 ft	↓

Projected average flows for the week of October 8 to October 15, 2005

HLK and Brilliant combined discharge . . . . . .63,000 cfs (range: 58,000 cfs to 68,000 cfs)

Arrow Lakes Reservoir reached a minimum elevation of 426.1 m (1397.9 ft) on January 25, 2005 and a peak elevation of 434.6 m (1425.9 ft) on July 1, 2005. The reservoir level is decreasing and is expected to reach between 425.2 m and 428.2 m (1395 and 1405 ft) by the end of October.

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.

BC hydro

A05-390 www.bchydro.com

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Local medical practitioners help tsunami victims in Indonesia

by Jan McMurray

Two Slocan Valley residents shared their life-changing experiences helping tsunami victims in Indonesia at Winlaw's Cedar Creek Café on October 1.

Dr. Carolyn DeMarco, a general practitioner who specializes in women's health and alternative medicine, and Rowena Harvest, a midwife and self-taught herbalist and healer, both went to work this past spring at a clinic set up in the area hardest hit by the tsunami.

The Aceh province in northern Sumatra experienced the highest death toll in the disaster — an estimated 200,000 died and 400,000 were left homeless. The epicentre of the earthquake that triggered the tsunami was just off the coast of Aceh, an area already torn by civil war for 30 years.

The two women were so taken with their experience at the little clinic in the jungle that they are both planning to return.

DeMarco describes her obviously intense personal experience: "When I decided to come to Aceh, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to handle the immense losses that so many had experienced and the vastness of the grief suffered there. But what I found was more about life than death, hope than despair, and resiliency rather than fragility. The brave, patient and generous spirit of the Acehnese people is what I will remember with great affection."

At the Cedar Creek event, DeMarco showed slides and a DVD made by an Indonesian non-governmental organization (NGO) showing the destruction caused by the tsunami. Harvest showed a video produced by a 15-year-old Indonesian girl detailing what people were going through in the aftermath of the destruction, with clips of the clinic where the two Slocan Valley women worked.

DeMarco was very happy with the Winlaw event. "The community response was overwhelming," she said. "The café was packed and we raised $400."

The Bumi Sehat clinic was set up by an American woman named Robin Lim, poet and author, who founded a midwifery clinic in Bali.

The Slocan Valley pair was sponsored by two Indonesian NGOs and Lim's Balinese clinic. They were joined by Eda, a Balinese chef and translator, and Eric, a Dutch house builder who has lived in Bali for 16 years and speaks five languages.

The team held a morning and an evening clinic and saw 40-60 people each day. DeMarco said they saw a huge range of medical conditions, but most were skin infections and "rashes of all kinds." Harvest came up with a name for them — WTI or "Weird Tsunami Itch."

DeMarco said they tried to use remedies that people could still find locally long after the Western aid organizations had gone. She said that this clinic was different from others because it intended to be locally run and self-sustaining within two years.

"We showed many people how to soak infected body parts in warm salt water. I trained people to clean out infected wounds with warm saline compresses. And we also used local honey to draw infections out of wounds — this was Harvest's innovation," related DeMarco.

The team documented the medicinal use of local herbs and started to organize a garden to plant the herbs in. They also used essential oils, Chinese herbal remedies and tinctures made from hand-picked herbs in the Kootenays that Harvest brought over. And they never hesitated to use antibiotics and painkillers or other drugs when necessary.

The more challenging conditions to treat were depression, anxiety and trauma caused by the loss of loved ones and property in the tsunami.

"With no Western drugs available for depression or anxiety, we listened, we counselled, and we held hands. We saw the positive changes in people every day. Our founder Robin Lim called our tenure here a crash course in the religion of gratitude," said DeMarco.

Harvest is going back in November for two years to work at the clinic in Sumatra and the midwifery clinic in Bali. DeMarco will be going back in the new year and is planning a fundraising event at the Doukhobor Cultural Centre in Brilliant tentatively for December 12.

Taeko Miwa and Lee Hammond celebrated the Grand Opening of their gift and framing shop, Raven's Nest Gallery, on September 24.

Leland Hotel sees new owners in its 113th year

by Jan McMurray

NAKUSP—Sharon Metlewsky and Dan Watt have taken over the Leland, BC's oldest operating hotel. The couple will celebrate the hotel's 113th anniversary on the Remembrance Day weekend with "Vicious Fishes," which Metlewsky describes as "the hottest cover band out of Kelowna."

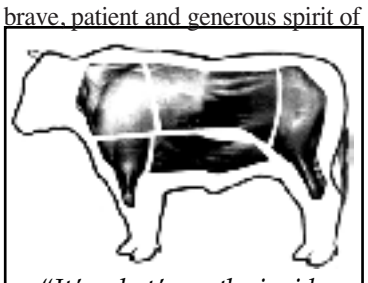
"We are absolutely loving the hotel business," said Metlewsky, who doesn't miss her former job as Teachers' Assistant. Watt worked as a sawyer at Box Lake Lumber for 30 years and also welcomes the career change.

Since the couple took over in May, the pair has brought in a big screen TV with satellite and is featuring Monday night football and hockey. They promise to show all Canucks games this season.

They have also been bringing in live entertainment. Metlewsky is a singer and says she gets up and sings with all the bands that play at the bar.

The hotel rooms were renovated in April, with "brand new everything in them," said Metlewsky. "Our gorgeous lakeview rooms are the only lakeview rooms in town," she says, giving special mention to the honeymoon suite with old claw tub and canopy bed. All rooms have cable TV and Metlewsky says they are hoping for wireless internet service soon for customers travelling with their laptops.

The restaurant will be leased as of November 1. For now, food can be ordered at the bar.



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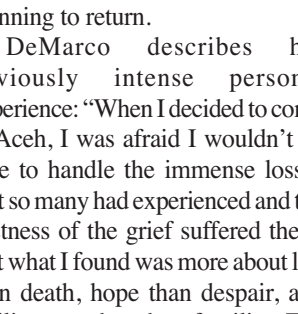
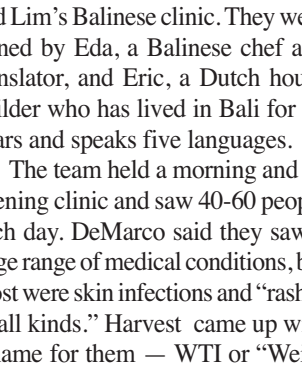


Gordon
306 Broadway
Nakusp 265-3635

Valley Foods



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Dan & Sharon
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Jobs and businesses in the Kootenays are growing, say the Chartered Accountants of BC

According to the CA's BC Check-Up, the 'Kootenay Development Region' gained 200 jobs in 2004. These gains came entirely from growth in the goods sector (4,400), and offset significant job losses—4,100—in the service sector.

More than $1 billion in projects were estimated to start this year, so the prospects for work "are excellent, and the demand for skilled people will continue to grow," according to Amed Naqvi, FCA, of Nelson. The majority of those projects are tourism-related.

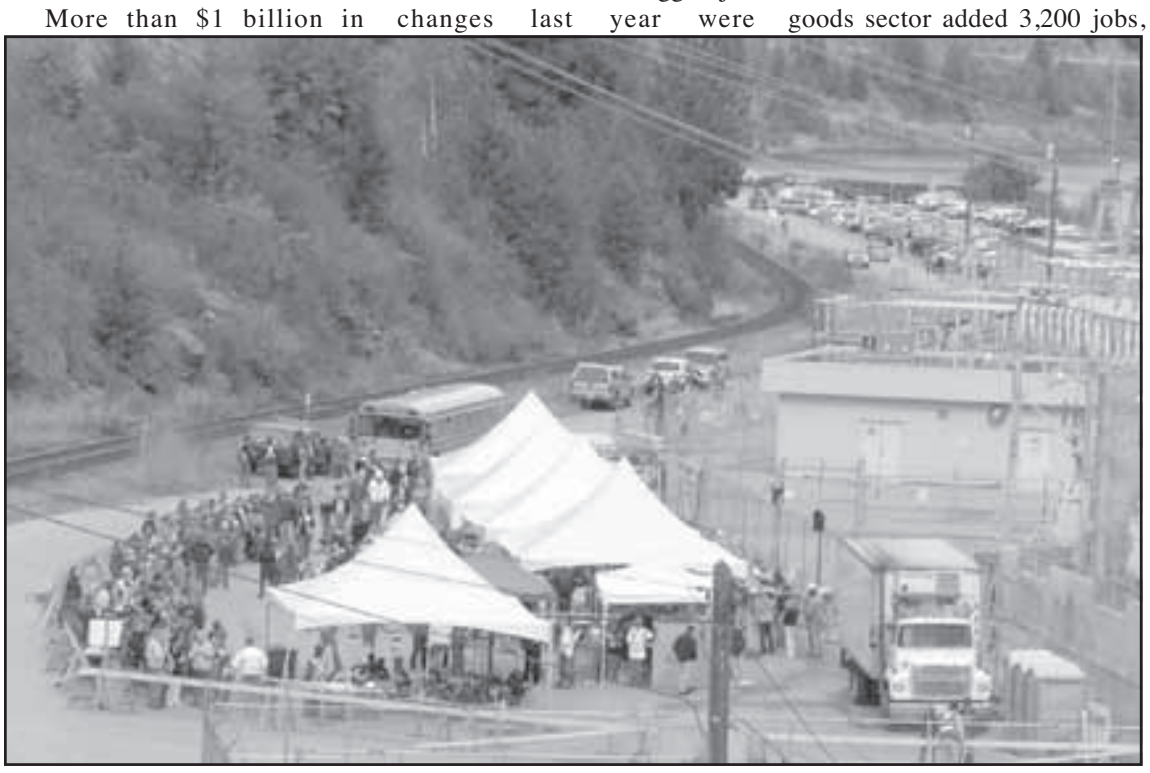
The areas with the biggest job changes last year were construction (+3,000), manufacturing (+2,700), accommodation and food service (-2,200), and trade (-2,000).

This year follows a five-year trend of job gains in the goods sector, and job losses in the service sector. Between 1999 and 2004 the goods sector added 3,200 jobs, while the service sector lost 4,200 jobs.

The 2004 unemployment rate in the Kootenays fell to 9.3 per cent, its lowest level since 1999, and down 2.2 percentage points from 2003.

On the company side, business incorporations in the Kootenays are rising, while business bankruptcy rates dropped. [Note: this does not include business closures—only formal bankruptcies.]

In 2004 alone, there were 450 new businesses started in the Kootenays, up 23.3 per cent increase from 2003. Business bankruptcies in 2004 dropped to a total of six, down (45.5 per cent) from an unusually high level the year before. More information is available online at bccheckup.com.



Community Day at the Brilliant Expansion Project near Castlegar, held October 2, was a huge success. The event included bus tours across the Brilliant Dam to the expansion project, stopping at the intake area, going through the access tunnel and stopping to view powerhouse construction. There were also family activities, entertainment, and refreshments. Brilliant Expansion is a Columbia Power Corporation/Columbia Basin Trust project.

Nakusp Hot Springs recognized by Kootenay Business Magazine

The Nakusp Hot Springs has scooped another award. It has just been chosen by the readers of Kootenay Business Magazine for the '2005 Best of Business Gold Award' in the hot springs getaway category.

"Over the last few years we have consistently placed as one of the Kootenays' best," says manager Gary Assel, "having earned honourable mention, silver, and several gold awards. Recognitions such as these have benefitted the community as a whole and have helped to keep the Nakusp Hot Springs a viable entity in today's marketplace."

Assel says year-to-date revenues are at $391,175, with a profit of $133,811, up 10 per cent over last year's sales in the same time period.

New office launched to help small business

submitted

The Government of Canada has opened a new office to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) do business with the federal government.

SMEs are defined as any for-profit enterprises with fewer than 500 employees. They now account for approximately 47% of the value of government purchases and 75% of government contracts.

The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises has launched a web site (www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme) providing information and resources for SMEs as well as a toll-free information line (1 800 811-1148).

Don Munro, RDCK Director, Area "H"

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the many small business owners in our area. You make this area worth living in!

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The Mayor, Councillors and staff of the Village of Silverton are proud to recognize the invaluable contribution of our many small business owners. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated!

THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

If it were up to us, we'd have a salute to small business MONTH! The hard work you put into your business is returned a thousand-fold to the rest of the valleys. We appreciate all you do, and your dedication to our communities!

503 Slocan 355-2277

Panini Bistro

Linda
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VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS
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265-3689

The Mayor, Councillors and staff of the Village of Nakusp salute our many hard-working and community-minded small businesses. You make our village the great place that it is!

Pope & Talbot

926, Hwy 6
Nakusp
265-3741

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowlege the vital role that our locally-owned small businesses play in keeping our economy moving. We salute all you hard-working people!

SmartGrowthBC comes to Kaslo to help community planning

by Jill Braley

KASLO—Tom Lancaster, Community Assistance Program co-ordinator with SmartGrowthBC, recently spoke to a group of citizens on October 5 at the invitation of Kaslo councillor Donna Cormie.

The Village of Kaslo recently joined SmartGrowthBC and approximately 30 people attended the workshop. SmartGrowthBC, founded in 1999, is a provincial non-governmental organization devoted to fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible land use and development. Working with community groups, businesses, municipalities and the public, it advocates for the creation of more livable communities and looks at transportation, health, infrastructure and ways to avoid urban sprawl and its effects on the communities. Key points are to preserve heritage, agriculture, rural and habitant lands.

After Lancaster's presentation the floor was opened to questions from the public and it was brought out that Kaslo's Official Community Plan (OCP) is outdated in some respects, but has some visionary points that need to be reviewed and updated. Municipal government needs to work with the community to achieve what is appropriate for all citizens to work and live in harmony – "what works for the betterment of the community," Lancaster said. "Youth issues are just as important as adult ones — we are planning for their future as well. Affordable housing is critical for all."

Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC gave a presentation to interested Kaslo residents, including Councillor Donna Cormie, on October 5.

Susan VanZandt, Village deputy clerk said "Kaslo needs a toolkit and be shown how to bring the youth, seniors, families and developers together. At present everyone is in separate corners and not working together. We also need help in applying for grants to save our heritage buildings. Everyone knows we don't have the funds to save them."

"We need to start dialogue now: how do we get there tomorrow?" asked Truus Meijer Drees, president of the Kaslo Senior Citizens' Association. Lancaster said the first step is to form a community association and look for sources of funding to save the heritage buildings and sustain the unique village. It's very important for municipal leaders to get public input by way of meetings and referenda, working together to plan future growth, he added.

Lancaster said that it was most evident to him that Kaslo is a beautiful area, with a very interesting past, and commented on the village hall, built in 1898, the Langham building and others, and told the crowd he was most agreeable to making a return visit to Kaslo to assist a citizens' group.

For more information visit smartgrowth.bc.ca or contact Lancaster at tom@smartgrowth.bc.ca.

Two other speakers also gave presentations that evening. Lance Jakubec, CMHC representative, talked about sustainable planning and development for small communities (cmhc-schl.gc.ca). Dave Wahn, RDCK planner, said it was a challenge to work with nine municipalities and 11 electoral areas having 20 directors, all with different outlooks and personalities, on issues that affect their respective areas.

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Community Composting Project is up and running

The Kaslo 'Back to the Earth' Community Composting Project is up and running. Project co-ordinator Jamie Whitney accepted the project's first funding cheque from Kenton Andreashuk of the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership which is administering the grant for the Columbia Basin Trust Environmental Initiatives Program.

Compost technicians Neil Johnson and Francesca Blishen are gearing up to collect compostable food waste from local businesses. using bikes and trailers. The collected material will be cycled to the new composting bins, which are being constructed by the team at the village recycling transfer station.

"The Back To The Earth project aims to actively reduce waste going to landfill by recycling food waste into compost, which can be used by Kaslo residents in their gardens." says Whitney. "Local support for this project is vital if we are to succeed in making Kaslo a Zero Waste Community."

Leaf Collection Week will coincide with Waste Reduction Week October 17-23.

On Monday, October 17, 'Back to the Earth' is looking for volunteers to help collect unwanted leaves from local seniors yards or sidewalks to be composted rather than burned, which causes poor air quality. Anyone who would like to volunteer can meet up at noon outside the Kaslo Public Library. Hone up your rake if you have one and come along!

If you are a senior or you know a local senior who has an abundance of leaves littering their lawn and would like help taking them away you can call the project. For more information or to donate materials please call Jamie at 353-7751 or e-mail backtoearth@netidea.com

In the future, 'Back to the Earth' plans to host educational composting workshops for the public. As well, indoor vermi-composting bins will be produced for sale to Kaslo residents.

ANNOUNCEMENT
I, Larry Greenlaw, your Area D Director for the RDCK, plan to seek re-election in November.
I will continue to work to have the RDCK assist the citizens of Area D to achieve a satisfactory and successful lifestyle. Your continued support is of the utmost valued importance. Thank you.
Yours truly,
Larry Greenlaw

Lucas Myers brings new play to the Langham

submitted by Marlaina Blanche

From Lucas Myers, creator of DRESS and EAST, comes the world premiere of a brand new theatrical extravaganza to Kaslo's Langham Theatre Saturday, October 22. *'The Amazing and Impermeable Cromoli Brothers Present: The Best of the Cromoli Brothers!'* is a madcap, post-modern vaudeville act with vignettes ranging from the poignant to the political to the absurd, including audience favourites *Heaven's Gate Web Cam, Love, The Rich, Dear Mary I'm in a Gang Now*…, and many more. Featuring original songs on ukulele, glockenspiel and harmonium, and the amazing performing talents of Mr. Myers, this is a show not to be missed!

Warning: nude sock puppets, hilarity, Jesus.

Lucas Myers is a professional actor who has toured internationally and performed in many of the regional theatres across Canada. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and has studied with the SITI Company in New York and is committed to creating theatre BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY! His theatre company, NoFrills Theatre Co, has produced a variety of one person shows and collaborated with theatre artists from Whitehorse to Toronto.

Tickets are $12 at Sunnyside Naturals and at the door.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22
KASLO LEGION HALL
SENIORS IN DIALOGUE CONFERENCE
IF YOU ARE 50+ THEN COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING AND FUN DAY SHARING IDEAS FOR IMPROVING SUPPORT SERVICES IN KASLO AND AREA 'D'.
MINI ROUND TABLES TO DISCUSS KEY TOPICS OF TRANSPORTATION, NUTRITION, SAFETY AND SECURITY, HOUSING, HOME CARE, ETC.
9:30 --- 3:30 beverages, snacks, lunch, and door prizes throughout the day.
Call 353-7432 today to pre-register or if you need assistance with transportation

Students' fruit-picking deters bears

Students from Jewett Elementary School recently participated in a community service program to help both bears and humans.

On September 15, the Grade 5/6/7 class picked apples from trees near the school to deter grizzly bears from walking through the schoolyard. Last September there were two grizzlies in the neighborhood—and part of the attraction was the fruit growing near the spawning channel where the bears were feeding on the redfish.

With the help of Gillian Sanders of the Bear Aware program and The Kaslo Fruit Tree Project, the students gathered over 2,000 apples. Many took a box home, some were fed to horses—and some were turned into candy apples and sold at the Argenta Fall Faire to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation.

After picking the apples, students learned more from Sanders about bear behaviour and what humans can do to live in harmony with them here in bear country. Congratulations students on your hard work and thank you for your contribution to the community!

Grades 5/6/7 students work with Bear Aware and the Fruit Tree Project and gather over 2000 apples.

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Kaslo hosts Seniors In Dialogue conference

submitted by Maggie Staples

A conference about seniors is being held in Kaslo at the Legion Hall on Saturday, October 22 starting at 9:30 am and ending at 3:30 pm. The purpose of the conference is to bring together people from Kaslo and Area D to share information and ideas about support services for seniors and to share ideas and concerns.

Support services include topics such as transportation, nutrition, safety, housing and local health services. Planning now will help us all towards achieving our immediate and future goals.

Brief presentations from keynote speakers, small group discussions and resource people from different sectors will highlight the day, and snacks, beverages and a catered lunch will be provided. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

Participants' creative ideas will help to shape a future that considers the needs of all.

Call 353-7432 to pre-register. Free transportation is also available from the north end of the lake to Kaslo and back again. Mark your calendar and phone to register today!

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

There's always room for the bike

For most of us living in these small Kootenay communities, the need and desire to get out of the valley to some place bigger and a little different happens from time to time, and it can be a real treat to squeeze in a bicycle ride as part of the outing. The trip will likely use up the whole day anyhow, what with appointments, shopping, eating somewhere and visits, so why not include a ride in the plan, and just get home a little later?

I bought a small car this spring, partly to save gas, and mainly to have a reliable way to travel without driving my very high mileage, not real dependable van or truck. One concern was being able to have a bicycle with me for sightseeing in various places, but with the seat and wheels off, the rig fits across the back seats real easy, dry and safe, with the trunk still free for all the other usual litter. Most bikes have at least front wheels and saddles with quick releases, and it's often surprising how you can crank them around or invert them to occupy a small space.

Anyway, that's no great revelation, and many people can use their bike racks or have enough room in their vans or trucks. The point is that you can have that stash of bike gear semi-packed to go with you any time and with little fuss you can get to know more about the town or area you visit. It's easy to stuff your helmet, gloves, stiff shoes or boots and shorts or tights into a nylon bag that fits into some corner of the trunk. I lay out a small tarp across the back seats before I dump in the sometimes wet or dirty bike, and still have room for lighter objects on top.

So I was in Nelson last week and after touring around downtown (on foot) and the usual stop at the mall, I drove over to the soccer field right east of the mall adjoining Lakeside Park and got organised to get in some riding time. If getting changed in the car is too cramped or just too revealing to the world, you can nip into the restrooms to put on that gear that works well on the bike, but may look uncommon on main street. With the water bottle full and tires checked for pressure, I set off along the bike path.

Nelson has a large athletic population and growing leisure class, and it's fun to merge into the flow of walkers, talkers, runners, baby strollers, rollerbladers and other riders winding through Lakeside Park. I rode back to the highway leaving town out the West Arm and crossed the big orange bridge. I wanted to appreciate the bridge structure, so rode slowly on the sidewalk, without meeting anyone coming over and being able to dawdle rather than being all involved with the traffic and tight quarters of the shoulder. The ride out toward Balfour is delightful, winding scenery with few hills and good safe shoulders, and plenty of riders and runners use it so that the traffic seems conditioned to sharing… silently admonishing the cars with their big brown eyes—slow down!

I enjoy using the small cable ferry at Needles and I often get to meet some interesting folks as I hang over the rail watching the view of the lake slip effortlessly by—an appealing break in the ride to Vernon. The ubiquitous ospreys have already started their long migratory journey to Central and South America, their nests along the power poles remaining vacant until they return next spring, but the activity at the log dump on the opposite shore kept me engaged until we had crossed over.

This last trip over, I began to wonder if progress will eventually rob us of this enjoyable diversion, the proposed new bridge keeping us safely ensconced in our vehicles, the crossing now simply another feature of the road. It made me reflect on when "progress" is really progress.

From an economic standpoint, the proposed new bridge makes little sense to me. The Government of BC talks about spending some $64 million to replace a ferry that cost less than $2 million to build in 1994, when the existing ferry was built. The operator of this inland ferry, Western Pacific Marine, employs some 15 people in the Fauquier/Edgewood area. There are two people working at all times and these jobs are a useful addition to the small rural economy. I calculate that it costs much less than $500,000/year to operate the existing infrastructure—compared to the interest on $64 million, which would be at least $3.5 million/year. Not only would the bridge take away employment from 15 people, it would cost the taxpayers an extra $3 million/year in interest payments, not including the differential between the building cost of the bridge and the ferry—bad economics from anyone's standpoint.

I recognize that there are a few people that utilize the ferry for their regular commute, but if you are aware of the schedule, there is only a few minutes a day to be saved by using the bridge. For this you lose an important contributor to the local economy as well as an interesting historic diversion. As for the many tourists that use the road, I bet that many of them, like myself, find the small cable ferry an enjoyable event in their tour through the Kootenays. I know of many bikers that do the tour from Nakusp/Fauquier/Vernon/Salmon Arm/Revelstoke and then back to Nakusp, so they can get some of the best riding in BC as well as two free ferry rides on a very spectacular lake.

Most people know this route well from driving, so I won't describe the ride; however, the amount of detail and features you can absorb is so much greater on the bike at lower speeds and with the easy choice of stopping anytime, anywhere, it's like the first time. There's a delightful array of pocket beaches, stone walls and fences, landscaped yards and attractive homes up winding driveways that you'll never notice from the car. Turnaround can be at Six Mile, Kokanee Park, Harrop Ferry or Balfour. Regular bus service could make for a handy one-way ride, too.

As autumn weather closes in, the higher roads and passes and north or east aspects become less appealing for pleasure rides, but this lakeside (or Westarmside) tour is good for most of the year and gets blown clear of snow and dries again quickly through the action of traffic and exposure to afternoon winter sunshine. As always, you should dress in easy-to-see bright colours and use one of those LED strobe lights if evening overtakes you. You can see plenty of good examples of cycling and runners' gear and styles on this ride.

Returning into Nelson, I again chose to take the sidewalk, simply walking the bike this time and having a really good look down at the former ferry landing ramps visible below the bridge on the west side. Lots of Nelson people still recall taking the short ferry prior to the orange bridge construction. People who are all pumped up over the idea of a bridge at Fauquier should walk across this one and get an idea of the mammoth effort and cost of erecting and maintaining these structures. It's quite humbling.

I threaded my way back through Lakeside Park, following the streetcar line across the rear of the park and emerged to see a couple of soccer teams doing practices. From the airport a small private plane droned overhead then banked west. Tiny figures up on Pulpit Rock on the north shore looked down on that same plane levelling out and gaining altitude. Weary and now impoverished shoppers drove home from the mall, and I changed discreetly, stuffed bike into car, and returned from big town to small town.

Peter Roulston runs the Bicycle Hospital in Nakusp and now lives in New Denver. 358-2133.

We had a great trip over the Monashee Pass the other day—dried fall leaves flipping up in double spirals behind the car—snow covered mountains poking their crowns out behind white fluffy clouds. The road, like most times, had little traffic on it and we had a great breakfast at the Gold Pan Café, which is my favourite stop for breakfast. I often spot some interesting wildlife on this stretch and we even saw a lynx on our last trip. This time, we had to dodge errant cows, which appeared to be in a state of meditation in the middle of the road,

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

By the time this issue goes to press Thanksgiving will be over. But that doesn't mean we should abruptly stop giving thanks for things — like the Silverton Country Inn and its restaurant, its lounge and its fitness centre, not to mention proprietors Larry Murell and Shirley Minion.

Larry and Shirley took over the Silverton Country Inn on May 1, 2004, and in the intervening year and a half they have transformed the place. They have added a fitness centre, spruced up the lobby and put in new tables and chairs on the "front porch."

But the biggest changes they've made have been to the food and beverage service. Eating there is a world apart from what it use to be. There are now actually six different areas for dining including the dining room, the outdoor patio on the north side of the building, the pub, the front porch (known as the "Runway") the lower level on the south end of the building (the "Flight Deck"), and the upper level of the Flight Deck which some refer to as the "Launching Pad." Having these six venues is one thing, but improving the food and beverage service is what Larry and Shirley have really gone to town with. Every day of the week there are several specials to choose from (for instance the very red, very beety, very delicious borscht that Shirley makes from scratch, and the various beef and vegetable and soup specials that appear each day on the chalkboard in the new lobby). But those specials are only the beginning. There is a menu full of great food available seven days a week. There is homemade soup that changes each day. There are salads, including Caesar (with chicken if you want), Greek in the traditional style and coleslaw (my health guru tells me coleslaw is an excellent source of mayonnaise). Then we get into the appetizers. The Mediterranean platter includes pita, tzatziki, and hummus. I consider myself a hummus expert because I make it at home all the time. Their hummus is better than mine, damn it. Other apps include garlic prawns, which are succulent to say the least, hot arti and spinach dip, and chicken wings.

Enter the burgers and sandwiches. How about a 6 oz. NY striploin steak sandwich with shrooms?! There's a beef dip too (au jus but of course). There are hamburgers, veggie burgers and chicken burgers. Throw on cheese if you want. There's a toasted chicken sandwich, and then, of course, there is my beloved clubhouse sandwich. The real thing! These burgers and sandwiches come with green salad or coleslaw.

Entrees anyone? Oh yes! There's the spanakopita, and this one is big and beautiful, served with rice, Greek salad, pita bread and tzatziki. There is the souvlaki, which I had, and believe me it is a complete dinner — a large platter loaded with chicken, rice, salad, pita and dip. Delicious! Also on the Entree list are BBQ baby back ribs, sauteed garlic tiger prawns (I'm told they are heavenly) and meat lasagna. I can't emphasize enough that all this great food is available seven days a week! Our friend Mel is the kitchen's head honcho. With her work Bret and Shirley, and boy do they keep the place humming. Friday night is the famous two for one steak night. Sundays from noon till two is "late breakfast," which is your choice of steak and eggs or Mel's eggs Benny. There are daily dessert specials and a full bar. Speaking of a full bar, when Larry and Shirley took over there were only two kinds of draft available in the pub. Now there are nine, including Guinness and Strongbow Cider. Wow.

For all these reasons and more I wish to express my heart and stomach-felt thanks to Larry and Shirley and their great staff for making the Silverton Country Inn a special and attractive place to go for food and drink. The place has a lot to offer. Check it out!

Voice Food Editor, Andrew Rhodes enjoys a Mediterranean platter at the Silverton Heritage Country Inn.

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

RETURN TO WINTER MODE...
I'm closed officially for the season in Nakusp, but you can reach me at home in New Denver at 358-2133. I'll be in Nakusp again regularly in March 2006.
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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

Let it be known by all that without **Teri Freeman** NONE of the art shows, music, talks or other events at the Hidden Garden Gallery would have happened these past two years. If you see Teri on the street, hug the stuffing out of her or otherwise let her know how much you appreciate her countless hours of work organizing shows, openings, gallery sitters, publicity, etc. For contributions to the creative life of this community beyond measure, the HGG board and volunteers extend their heartfelt thanks to Teri, and warm wishes for a restful winter.

The Sandon Historical Society (SHS) board would like to thank its staff and volunteers who contributed to a successful season at the SHS museum. Special thanks to Judith Maltz for her energy and dedication in running the museum. As well, thank you to all of our staff: Gordon Butt, Andrew Rhodes, Carol Bell, Sue Mistretta, Jesse Wejr, Laurel Kinnear, Nancy Guise.

Special thanks to all the musicians who performed at our annual open house: Liz O'Neal, John White, Mary O'Shea, Marguerite Thring and all the members of the Golden Oldies. We appreciate your involvement in making the day fun and enjoyable for all.

The family of Victoria Harding would like to thank all those who supported us through our difficult time during the loss of our Mother and "Auntie Vic." Special thanks to the wonderful staff at the Arrow Lakes Hospital and to everyone who donated their time for the tea and dinner.

The Harding Family

COMING EVENTS

AT THE LANGHAM in Kaslo, The Amazing and Impermeable Cromoli Brothers Present: The Best of the Cromoli Brothers! featuring the amazing talent of Lucas Myers. Warning: Nude sock puppets, hilarity, Jesus. October 22, 7 pm. Tickets $12 at Sunnyside Naturals and at the door. NOT TO BE MISSED!

THE WINLAW HALL is hosting their annual Fall Supper Nov. 6/05, two seatings, 5-6pm 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

ST. ANTHONY'S 32nd annual CHRISTMAS FLEA MARKET. Saturday, November 26. Knox Hall: 9-2pm; Bosun: 10-2:30. Table rentals: phone Bev at 358-7771 or Gail at 358-2397.

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

NAKUSP ROOTS MUSIC SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on October 26 at 7 pm at the Tenderfoot Lodge in Nakusp.

Peruvian Art and Craft donations accepted for Art Auction, October 22, Party for Peru. Call Laverne 226-7879.

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NOTICES

Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submit applications to Box 293, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0. Application forms are available at: Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Lucerne School and My Aunt's Place. Deadline for application is October 30th, 2005.

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

It's that time of year again for **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.** If you are interested in filling a shoe box for a boy or girl ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14, you can pick up your age tags and brochure now. These boxes go to hurting and needy families around the world and your gift will bring smiles and warmth to a child's life. If you need more information, phone Carol Pengelly 358-2717 or Joan Law 358-2374. The filled boxes are to be dropped off by November 7th at Danny Law's home 614 Union Street. Thank you to all who donated boxes last year. There was a good response.

OBITUARY

CARLSON, ROY CARL: September 16, 1929-September 24, 2005, of Penticton. Passed away at home after a brief illness. Sadly missed by his wife of 50 years, Elizabeth (Betty); his daughters Janice Lochbaum (Robin), Jill Gabana (Gary), Jo-Anne Bettauer (Robert); eight grandchildren (Mark, Jonathan, Adam, Danielle, Kelsey, Van, Kaitlyn, Noah); brother Arne Carlson (Sherry) and sister Inga Darough (Roland). Cremation. family memorial at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Canada or Society of choice are appreciated.

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NOTICE OF EXCLUSION APPLICATION REGARDING LAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

Helen Morrish and Linda Louise, of SS #1, S. 29, C. 2, Fruitvale, BC V0G 1L0, intend on making an application pursuant to Section 30 (1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act to exclude from the Agricultural Land Reserve the following property which is legally described as, Lot 2, D.L. 12304 Kootenay District Plan NEP 23567 except Plan NEP 65781 and located at 4440 Passmore Upper Road, Passmore, BC.

Any person wishing to express an interest in the application may do so by forwarding their comments in writing to The Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 590, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 by October 26, 2005.

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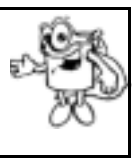

Sandon groups ask RDCK for help

by Jan McMurray

Two Sandon non-profit organizations — the Silver Ridge Community Club (SRCC) and the Sandon Historical Society (SHS) — attended the September 24 RDCK meeting as a delegation to ask for the board's help in "moving forward" in Sandon.

The delegation listed five areas of concern, which were all referred to Area H Director Don Munro.

The first was the "threat to the lives and property of area residents" posed by the leaky woodstave pipeline that delivers water for Sandon's privately owned power company, Silversmith Power and Light.

The delegation's written summary of its presentation explains that when Cody Road washed out in June, apparently caused by a major leak in the penstock, SRCC hired Dr. A. Salway, a professional engineer specializing in hydrology and terrain stability, to formally assess the pipeline. He advised SRCC that there was an "imminent threat to lives and property in the Sandon area with potential for severe pollution to Slocan Lake and beyond." The summary states that Salway's report has been sent to the Ministries of the Environment, Transportation, Forests and the BC Utilities Commission, but there has been no satisfactory response.

The SRCC has also retained a lawyer's services to try and pressure the government to act on Salway's recommendations, including that "the pipeline should immediately be shut down."

At the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention at the end of September, Munro, MLA Corky Evans and New Denver Mayor/RDCK board chair Gary Wright met with Minister of Environment Barry Penner and a few others from the ministry on this issue.

"We were really pleased with their response," said Munro. "Jim Mattison, Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of water stewardship, said he would personally get involved and check out the status of the penstock and the concerns of the group."

Evans reported that he was very pleased with the meeting "because in the many years that Sandon has been an issue, it seemed the first time that representatives from the municipality most involved (New Denver) and the regional district and the Water Comptroller and the Minister responsible were all at the table. No resolution was determined, but there was a commitment from the people in charge of water licencing to do an investigation of the condition of the penstock and the leakage. We also had a conversation about the need to resolve land issues in order that people can have some stability in their lives and get on with the restoration of Sandon."

Ian Johnston of Land and Water BC was charged with the concerns about Silversmith's pipeline in the spring. Johnston inspected parts of the pipeline with Silversmith's engineer and with SRCC's engineer in August. After that inspection, Johnston asked Silversmith to fix a trestle that supports the pipeline across a steep gully, address drainage issues on one of the draws, begin documenting inspections and provide plans for the replacement of the woodstave pipeline by September 30. Johnston reported on October 7 that Silversmith had fulfilled those requirements.

With the government currently undergoing restructuring, this file is being transferred out of Johnston's office and over to the Ministry of the Environment. Johnston is now with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. Johnston said that the plans for replacing the pipeline will be considered at the office of the Ministry of the Environment. He also said that Silversmith was in the process of purchasing the land that the powerhouse occupies and that no work on replacing the pipeline can begin until the purchase has been completed.

Other concerns of the delegation at the RDCK meeting were related to the disposal of Crown lands, unsightly premises, electrical service and access to the museum in Sandon.

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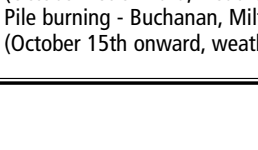
FLU CLINICS

Flu shots are safe, effective, and free for the following:
- People 65 years and older
- Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
- Health care workers and emergency responders
- Healthy children aged 6 - 23 months
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants aged 0 - 23 months
- Pregnant women in their 3rd trimester
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities

NAKUSP		
Nakusp Seniors' Hall (Drop-In)	Nov. 2	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Health Unit (611 Broadway) (Phone 265-3608 to book appt.)	Nov. 8	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
	Nov. 15	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
NEW DENVER		
Slocan Community Health Centre (Phone 358-7911 to book appt.)	Nov. 3	10:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Slocan Community Health Centre Activity Room (Drop-In)	Nov. 4	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
EDGEWOOD		
Red Cross Outpost Hospital (Drop-In)	Nov. 7	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
FAUQUIER		
Fauquier Community Center (Drop-In)	Nov. 7	1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
SLOCAN PARK		
Slocan Park Community Hall (Drop-In)	Nov. 4	10:00 am - 2:00 pm
SLOCAN CITY		
Women's Institute Hall (Drop-In)	Nov. 14	10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Clients for the flu clinics should wear short sleeves and bring their glasses and Care Card. If you need more information about the flu vaccine or the clinics, please call the Nakusp Health Unit at 265-3608.

Kaslo and District Community Forest Society News



The mountain pine bark beetle (MPB) *Dendroctonus Ponderosae*, is only 1/8 - 1/3 inch long but can quickly kill its host, lodgepole pine. According to the MOFR, the pine beetle could attack and kill an estimated 80% of susceptible lodgepole pine in the Interior of BC over the next 8 years. In the Southern Interior, all merchantable (>12.5 cm diameter) pine are susceptible to MPB.

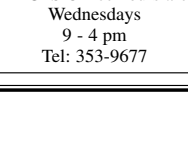
In response to a recent beetle outbreak at Seven-Mile Creek near Mount Buchanan, the KDCFS has applied for and received approval for a new cutting permit (CP 14) that will be logged this fall. Once CP 14 is harvested, the Society will have largely addressed the infested and susceptible pine within our current operating area.

"State of the Licence Meeting"

Senior members of the Kootenay Lake Forest District Office met with representatives of the Society on September 19th at the Community Forest office. This meeting was one of a series of meetings staff of the Ministry of Forests and Range (MOFR) is holding with licensees in our district. The Board feels that this was a very productive and positive meeting.

What we learned:

- The mountain pine bark beetle problem has gone from endemic to epidemic. As such, the Ministry now recommends that licensees make greater efforts to harvest not only infested stands, but susceptible pine stands as well.
- The District is very pleased with the speed and appropriateness of our actions to address the beetle in our operating area.
- The District has recommended for approval our request for an increase in our maximum five year cut from 120% to 140%. This will ensure that we have enough volume remaining within our existing cut control period to adequately address the current pine beetle infestation. Any cut over 100% during the current cut control period will be applied toward the 2007-2011 cut control period.
- By December 31, 2005, Rich Coleman, MOFR minister, is expected to announce the volume in our district to be allocated to community forests, as well as the volume of timber associated with KDCFS' new Probationary Community Forest Agreement.
- The Kootenay Lake Forest District is in favour of awarding KDCFS a Probationary Community Forest Agreement because we're already up and running and we have a proven track record of performance and delivery of our current allowable annual cut (AAC) of 10,000 m3. A new licence of this type could mean a doubling of our AAC on an expanded landbase.



Our current licence is a Non-Replaceable Forest Licence with an allowable annual cut of 10,000 cubic metres. It was signed in 1997 and has a 15 year term, which will expire in 2012. The Minister has invited KDCFS to replace our existing licence with a Probationary Community Forest Agreement, a new form of tenure for BC communities that can be renewed indefinitely.

Management of the Licence
KDCFS and Timberland (2001) have signed a new 3 year contract. Timberland will manage our development as a team; Irene Strucel continues as our Registered Professional Forester.

Current and Planned Operations within the Community Forest
- Road construction- Shutty Bench, Branch 11 (Sept-Dec/05)
- Harvesting - Buchanan, Cut Permit 14, block 1 (Sept-Dec/05)
- Broadcast burning - Buchanan, Cut Permit 10, blocks 2 and 88 (October 1st onward, weather permitting)
- Pile burning - Buchanan, Milford, various cutblocks (October 15th onward, weather permitting)

For more details check the bulletin board by the KDCFS office, 2nd floor, Government Building, Kaslo.
KDCFS Office hours are Wednesdays 9 - 4 pm
Tel: 353-9677