The Valley VOICE
Free!
Volume 14, Number 23 November 23, 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."

Changes come to local councils through municipal elections

Municipal elections were held throughout the province on November 19. Preliminary results were released the same day. Official results will be declared on November 23. Voter turnout was excellent almost everywhere in our area. In Silverton (population 230), 128 people got out to the polls. There was a 61% voter turnout in Nakusp, where 698 out of 1150 voted. In Kaslo, the 449 votes cast represented 75% of the 600 eligible voters. A 40% turnout in Slocan saw 92 voters out of 227. A very respectable 65% of voters turned out to vote for Area D (North Kootenay Lake) director, but a dismal 21.7% cast ballots for Area H (Slocan Valley) director.

Two new faces on School District No. 10 board of trustees

School District No. 10 trustees are Lora Lee Brekke, Pattie Adam, Quinn DeCourcy, Judy Struck and Bill Hilton.

Brekke will continue to represent the Eastern Zone (Lucerne School). She received 296 votes compared to Hans Suhr's 25.

Adam, incumbent, was elected by acclamation to continue to represent the Central Zone (Nakusp).

DeCourcy received 148 votes to be elected to represent the Southern Zone (Burton, Edgewood and Fauquier). Edward McGinnis tried for that seat but received 119 votes — 29 less than DeCourcy. Although Burton and Fauquier voted overwhelmingly for McGinnis, the significantly higher number of voters in Edgewood, where DeCourcy is from, almost all cast their ballots for their local candidate. DeCourcy takes over the Southern Zone from long-time trustee Verna Burton.

Of the three at-large candidates, experienced trustee Judy Struck got 857 votes, newcomer Bill Hilton got 793 and Paul Peterson, trustee for 12 years, will not be returning. He received 749 votes.

Jim Holland wins mayoral race in Kaslo

Come December 5, Jim Holland will be sworn in as Kaslo's mayor. Of the four mayoral candidates, Holland came first with 199 votes.

Patrick Mackle, who has been mayor before, placed second with 118 votes. Sitting councillor Donna Cormie received 103 votes for the mayor's seat, so will not be returning to the council table. Bob Douglas, with 29 votes, will be Kaslo's mayor for only another couple of weeks.

The councillors were elected by acclamation following the withdrawal of candidate Shannon Ross on November 15. Councillors Suzan Hewat and Molly Leathwood will continue to serve and will be joined by Richard Jones and Peter Vass.

Decisive win for Karen Hamling in Nakusp

There will be no change to the name of the Village of Nakusp, but there will be some changes around the council table come December.

Karen Hamling was elected mayor with a decisive 441 votes. Incumbent mayor Bill Cowan received 257 votes.

Two of the current councillors will stay on. Janis Dahlen received the highest number of votes with 535 and Len Heppner got the lowest number of votes of the successful candidates with 414. New to council will be Ulli Mueller, who received 497 votes and Gord Roberts with 446.

Incumbent Wally Curran did not make it with his 292 votes, and neither did John Janzen (183), Karl Bender (163) and Herb Gillette (113).

In the referendum on changing the name to the Village of Nakusp Hot Springs, there were 607 votes against and eight in favour.

Shadrack wins Area D title

Another close race was run between Andy Shadrack and Larry Greenlaw for the title of Area D director. Shadrack won it this time with 361 votes. Greenlaw, incumbent, with 345 votes, lost his seat by 16.

Don Munro will serve a third term as Area H representative on the RDCK board. Walter Popoff challenged Munro for the second time and received 183 votes, compared to Munro's 453.

Area K Director Paul Peterson was elected by acclamation and will serve a second term.

No changes at Village of Slocan

The election brought no changes for Slocan council.

John Van Bynen remains as mayor, elected by acclamation. All four incumbent councillors continue, all for their second terms: Marc Septav (79 votes), Madeleine Paerriere (74 votes), John Gates (65 votes) and Joanne Ellis (56 votes).

Jean Patterson, the one candidate who ran the race against these four, was unsuccessful. She received 48 votes.

Almost a clean slate for Silverton

Silverton voters have brought in a new era for the Village.

John Everett has been elected mayor. He received 69 votes compared to Ken Poznikoff's 59.

Linda Laktin is the only incumbent council member left. She received 92 votes, the lowest number of the successful candidates. Carol Bell and Stephanie Griffiths each received 111 votes and Kathy Provan got 100.

Incumbent councillor Michael Dorsey, with 49 votes, has lost his seat.

Lorne McMillan, President of the Slocan Valley Legion Branch #276, John Gates, Sergeant-at-arms and RCMP Corporal Kerry Heidema at the cenotaph in Slocan on Remembrance Day. This year's Remembrance Day marked the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII.

Sergeant Brian Lahner, who grew up in New Denver and now serves in the Canadian Forces out of Winnipeg, spoke to Lucerne students at a Remembrance Day assembly at the school on November 10. The K/1 and 2/3 classes sang, and students from grades 4-12 read their Remembrance Day poems. Harvey Truax of the BC/Yukon Command donated books about the two World Wars to the school library. Also in attendance were Earl Moffat of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 20 (Nakusp), Agnes Emary of the local Legion, local youth Mitch Olsen, Sea Cadet and Noam Ironi, Air Cadet.

On a glorious Remembrance Day by the lake in New Denver, a small crowd gathers around the cenotaph after the ceremony. From left to right: Pauline Peat, Spencer Peat (veteran), the Buchanan's granddaughter, Olivia McLennan, Agnes Emary and her grandson, Eric.

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Valhalla Park's draft plan amended to reflect public opposition to lodge strategy

by Jan McMurray

The summary of public comments on the Valhalla Provincial Park draft management plan have finally been released, months after open houses were held in February in New Denver and in Nelson. About 64 people attended the open houses and about 44 written submissions were received.

Greg Chin from the Ministry of the Environment says the reason for the delay was that "it took considerable time to sort out the implications of the draft BC Parks Lodge Strategy on the Valhalla Provincial Park draft management plan..."

Government documents on the draft BC Parks Lodge Strategy were leaked to the media shortly after the open houses in February. These documents outlined the government's plan to attract investors internationally to build lodges in BC's parks. Valhalla Provincial Park was mentioned in the leaked documents. After this, public support for the Valhalla Provincial Park draft management plan decreased significantly.

The summary of public comments describes how the draft management plan will be amended in light of the outcry against private lodges and commercialization in parks. While the draft plan will not guarantee no lodges in the park, it will recommend including strict guidelines that would make it difficult for new roofed accommodation to be approved. For example, park zones have to be honoured and no re-zoning will be allowed to make way for a lodge. Proposals for new roofed accommodation will require impact assessments and public consultation, and the location of the new accommodation will have to be considered in areas outside the park boundaries before being considered inside park boundaries.

Another notable amendment to the draft plan is that it recommends that horse use be discontinued in the Gwillim Creek drainage, which is the water supply for the Village of Slocan. In seven of the submissions received by the public, there was opposition to the traditional use of the drainage for horseback riding, in the interests of protecting the Village's water supply.

There were also 13 submissions supporting non-motorized boating on the lakeshore of the park or on Slocan Lake as a whole. Because of these comments, the draft management plan will recommend that a comprehensive boating and shoreline plan for Slocan Lake be developed, involving all levels of government, interest groups and the general public.

The plan will next go through consultation with First Nations before it is submitted for Ministry approval.

Wildland Consulting out of Revelstoke was hired to draft the plan and run the public process in close partnership with BC Parks staff.

Local youth chosen for CBT's advisory committee

This year's Columbia Basin Trust Youth Advisory Committee includes two young people from this area. Joe McDonald from Nakusp and Slocan's Katie Trace are members of the committee, which spearheads CBT's youth initiatives in its mandate area. It also provides youth perspectives to programs and issues as well as overseeing the delivery of youth media and grants.

"We were looking for youth from the Basin who could commit to the committee for a full year, and have an enthusiasm for building the capacity of youth in the Columbia Basin," says Wayne Lundeberg, CBT Community Liaison. "We have youth from 10 different Basin communities, with an age range from 15 to 27. Having a committee with such varying backgrounds, ages and geographic representation assists CBT's Youth Initiatives to be relevant and pertinent."

For more information on the Youth Advisory Committee, contact CBT at 1-800-505-8998 or visit www.scratchonline.ca.

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REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

THESE REPORTS ARE FROM PRESS RELEASES AND MAY HAVE BEEN EDITED

West Kootenay Traffic Services

•Both fatal and injury vehicle crashes have dropped all over BC, and there was a 40 per cent reduction in the West Kootenays in the past year, says the RCMP's West Kootenay Traffic Services division.

From November 2003 to November 2004, there were 256 crashes which caused either deaths or injuries. The next 12-month period had only 156.

WKTS attribute the drop to three factors: the Integrated Road Safety Unit targetting aggressive and impaired drivers; emphasis on prosecution of impaired drivers; enforcement of seatbelt use with tickets issued and no warnings given.

Although compliance is up to nearly 90 per cent in the West Kootenays, police say that in some areas—including the Slocan Valley and Kaslo—they are finding less than 70 per cent of young male drivers are wearing seatbelts.

•The leading cause of crashes in winter is speeding relative to road and weather conditions, and police will be lowering their tolerance in issuing tickets in an effort to slow drivers down. They also urge drivers to put proper snow tires on their vehicles.

Nakusp Detachment

•Some time between the evening of Sunday, November 13 and the following Tuesday, the front door of the Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Hall building on 1st Ave. NW was desecrated. Anyone who may have noticed suspicious behaviour there during this time is asked to call the Nakusp RCMP at 265-3677 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Nelson Detachment

• A Pepsi vending machine was stolen from in front of the Slocan Valley Co-op in Slocan Park sometime between October 23 and 26. Anyone with information should call the Nelson RCMP or Crimestoppers.

Kaslo

•Kaslo correspondent Jill Braley reports that the cenotaph in Kaslo was vandalized on or around Remembrance Day. "KKK" was sprayed on the back of the cenotaph in green paint. Peter Vass, who maintains the grounds around the monument, reported the incident to the RCMP.

Local groups get invitations to apply for community forests

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley and Nakusp community forest groups received their letters of invitiation to apply for Community Forest Agreements on November 17.

"We're pretty excited about it," said Stephan Martineau of the Slocan Valley group. "Something that has been expressed for the last 24 years in the Slocan Valley is that people want control over their own drinking water. Local control is always a good thing and this is a positive step in the right direction."

Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman said that both groups had submitted good proposals, with the Slocan Valley's focus on forestry management in their own community watersheds and Nakusp's focus on supporting a log yard through a community forest. He said that when the focus is on protecting water and the environment, "it works well in most locations where we've done that."

During the initial phase of writing the proposal for a community forest, the Nakusp group determined that an annual allowable cut of 60,000 cubic metres would be optimal in terms of business viability.

"We've said 10,000 cubic metres for each group to start," said Coleman. "Nakusp wants 60,000, but we don't have it available. I've asked staff to do a timber supply review in the area to see if we can find more volume. I think it's important to get them started, and then if we find more fibre, we can add to it," he said.

Jesper Nielsen of Nakusp says the group is happy that they've been given a formal invitation. "That's all we can say until we take a closer look at it," he said, explaining that the quality of the timber in the working area would be the group's most important consideration, followed closely by the quantity.

The groups have about six months to complete the application process, which will include working with regional Forestry staff to identify the working areas. They are applying for a five-year probationary agreement, which "always gets renewed unless it is abused," said Coleman.

The opportunity to apply for community forest agreements comes from the provincial government's timber re-allocation scheme, where 20% of the tenure held by large companies is being re-distributed to community forest groups, First Nations and small business.

The Nakusp group submitted its proposal in the spring of 2003 and the Slocan Valley group submitted its proposal in the fall of 2004. They were both expecting to hear whether or not they would be invited to apply for a community forest license this past spring. When MLA Corky Evans questioned Coleman in the legislature at the end of October about the status of the proposals, the Minister promised to have an answer for the two groups.

People had a chance to try the nutritional frozen meals offered through the 'dinners at home' program on October 12 at the Slocan Valley Co-op. The co-op, in partnership with Interior Health, will soon have the program set up. From left to right: Walter Popoff - Senior Citizen Counsellor Program, IHA; Laresa Altenhoff, Manager, Food and Nutrition Services, Kootenay-Boundary Health Service Area, IHA; Eileen MacLeod, Community Development Services, Kootenay-Boundary Health Service Area, IHA; Moe Lyons - Slocan Valley Co-op.

Columbia Basin Trust will not exercise option agreement

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has decided not to exercise the option agreement, which would have given it 100% of the shares of its joint venture partner, the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC).

"The CBT, the Province and CPC are moving forward together in a renewed partnership," said Neil Muth, chief executive officer of the CBT.

Minister of Economic Development Colin Hansen said, "We advised CBT that we preferred they not exercise the option, as the Province wanted to remain more directly involved through CPC in the power assets of the region."

Instead, the Trust has reached an agreement with the Province "to give CBT more funding and more control over joint venture power projects in the region," according to Hansen.

Under the agreement, the Province will transfer $10 million in new funds to the CBT. Also, CBT will have one-third representation on the CPC board of directors, and the new chief executive officer of CPC will be required to live in the region.

"The Trust board looked very closely at the option agreement, weighed important input gained at the public meetings, and examined the risks the option agreement could present for governance and program delivery," said Josh Smienk, chair of CBT. "Our board places a high level of importance on maintaining a good, strong working relationship with the Province. The alternative we have agreed to with the Province provides important benefits to the region."

Muth said the CBT board has not had a chance to decide where the new $10 million will go. He said the funds will be issued in two installments of $5 million over two years, and that the Province did not earmark the funds for anything specific.

The CPC board currently has five members, with no representation from CBT. "This is good news for our organization," said Ed Pietraszek, acting president of CPC. "We're in the midst of several major initiatives, including the Brilliant Expansion Project, the Waneta Expansion Project and repairs to the Arrow Lakes approach channel. The agreement between CBT and the Province will allow us to maintain business continuity. I also look forward to having greater regional input through CBT's direct participation on our board."

East Kootenay MLA Bill Bennett pointed out that exercising the option agreement would not have resulted in greater independence from government. This has been an important issue for the Trust and prompted it to examine selling its shares of the power assets to BC Hydro in the fall of last year. Bennett echoed the sentiments of many Basin residents when he described the scenario had the Trust exercised the option: "CBT would have taken on hundreds of millions of dollars in debt and put at risk the funds allocated each year to Columbia Basin communities through the Delivery of Benefits program."

CBT will be holding community meetings in early December to provide further background and to discuss the agreement reached with the Province.

Damaging alien invader in Slocan Valley and Glade

by Juliet Craig

If you live in the Slocan Valley or between the junction and Castlegar, you may have received a notice at your door about an alien invader lurking nearby—not the kind with antennae and big eyes, but a spindly green plant called rush skeletonweed.

Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla junceae*) is an extremely aggressive, non-native plant species that quickly takes over native habitat. This species out-competes native plants and reduces biodiversity, impacts wildlife habitat, and degrades agricultural land. Already infesting thousands of hectares in the US, rush skeletonweed is only found in a few places in BC, including the West Kootenays. Since it has no natural predators in Canada, this species will continue to spread if it is not controlled.

"The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) has just completed an inventory of this species," says Juliet Craig, CKIPC co-ordinator. "We found it in the Slocan Valley from Passmore to Crescent Valley, Krestova, Shoreacres, and Glade. Since it is relatively contained, it is extremely important for residents and land managers to control this plant on their properties and prevent it spreading further."

This spindly plant has barely visible leaves, a small yellow flower, and fluffy white seeds that are similar to dandelion. Its taproot can grow up to eight feet long, making it very competitive with local plant species and extremely difficult to get rid of.

"The seeds are carried by wind and can blow to neighbouring areas, or stick onto tires to move into uninfested sites," says Craig. "If someone finds it on their property, they should get rid of it immediately. Small plants can be hand pulled and larger infestations dug up. Plants should be burned or bagged and brought to the dump to prevent seed spread."

For more information on the CKIPC and rush skeletonweed, contact 352-1160. To see a photo of rush skeletonweed and learn more about how to control it, go to www.weedsbc.ca.

Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the CKIPC, has been going door to door to warn residents about this aggressive alien invader.

Private well owners face new regulations

New provincial regulations on private wells came into effect on November 1, affecting both existing and future wells.

Wells must be constructed by qualified drillers, pumps must be installed by qualified installers, and all drillers and installers must register with the provincial government.

All new wells must have a surface seal to stop contaminated surface water getting in, a secure well cap, and minimum one-foot clearance from the top of the casing to the ground surface, grading to drain surface water away from the wellhead, and a well identification plate.

If you already have a well, you have until October 31, 2007, to install a secure well cap or well cap and cover.

And unused wells must be deactivated—by capping, securing and protecting—or closed—by filling it in and sealing it. Again, only qualified drillers can close a well.

For more information, or to find a qualified driller or pump installer, contact a Ministry of Environment office or go to wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wat/gws/gwis.html.

CBT hires new communications manager

by Jan McMurray

Roland Semjanovs is the new communications manager for the Columbia Basin Trust.

Roland Semjanovs

Semjanovs said he'd like to work on increasing CBT's public profile and on getting a greater dialogue going between residents and the organization.

For the last eight years, Semjanovs was manager of communications for the McKenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in the Northwest Territories. He pointed out the similarities of the two organizations: they were both set up by legislation and public consultation is key to their work.

Semjanovs hopes to be able to visit Basin communities over the next while. "I spent a lot of time travelling to all the small communities up and down the McKenzie Valley and enjoyed every minute of it," he said. "In order to get to know an area and its people, you have have to go see it, meet the people and hear first-hand what their concerns are."

This is a new position for the Trust and was first filled in the summer by Derek Zeisman. Zeisman held the post for a short time before being nominated as the federal Conservative candidate for the Nelson-Creston riding.

New era for Meadow Creek Cedar

by Jan McMurray

Meadow Creek Cedar, a major employer for the Kaslo area, is experiencing "a whole new era" since it was purchased on October 1.

Michelle Johnson, who has worked at the mill for over a year, says the new owners are broadening the scope of the company. Where the mill used to produce strictly fir product for the Japanese market, it will now be cutting spruce, hemlock and douglas fir both for export and for the domestic market.

"Japan is still our main market, but with some minor modifications to the mill, we can cut domestic lengths, too. We are in the process of doing that now," said Johnson.

Building up log inventory is the first priority, as there was no inventory when the new owners took over. The mill has not been operating at full capacity for a while and many workers were laid off before the purchase. Currently, there are about 70 employees working just one shift. The goal is to get most of the employees back and run two shifts at the beginning of 2006.

"Depending on the wood supply, we hope to have a few more than 100 workers by the beginning of the new year," said Dale Kooner, president of Tricon Construction Inc, the Vancouver-based company which purchased all of the shares of Meadow Creek Cedar.

CORRECTION

In our article titled "Concerns about Arrow Lakes ferries aired at Nakusp meeting" we cited an incorrect email address. Anyone wanting to communicate with the CEO of the company that operates the ferries should email **boss@boatcruises.com**.

CORRECTION

In our September 28 issue, in the article entitled, "Kaslo council, September 13: Power to the airport coming closer," it was incorrectly reported that Kaslo resident Michael DeNault wrote to council on behalf of the stargazer group. It was in fact Dennis Larcombe who wrote the letter. DeNault has no association with the stargazers.

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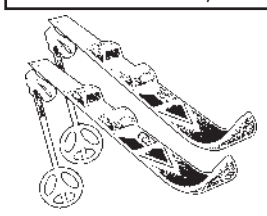

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Voices from the Valleys

Federal politicians could learn from municipal counterparts

What an election! All kinds of interesting things happened, a number of popular incumbents went down to defeat, and more women were elected to office than ever before. In the 21 contested elections in our distribution area women have won 11 seats. When you figure in the positions filled by acclamation, women hold 19 of the 31 seats on local councils and school boards in our part of the West Kootenay.

That's not a bad thing.

Incumbent mayors Bob Douglas and Bill Cowan were defeated in Kaslo and Nakusp. Larry Greenlaw lost his seat as Area D director for the RDCK. Michael Dorsey lost his position on Silverton Council and Paul Peterson was defeated in his bid for a fifth term on the board of School District #10. Wally Curran won't be returning to Nakusp Council. I want to thank all these men for their years of service. I'm going to miss each of them, for different reasons. I didn't always agree with their positions on a variety of issues, but I have to acknowledge their contribution to their communities and their commitment to the institutions of local government.

Karen Hamling is the new Mayor of Nakusp. Jim Holland takes over the mayor's chair in Kaslo. John Everitt will be Silverton's mayor for the next three years. Andy Shadrack is the new Area D director. New councillors have joined the villages of New Denver, Silverton, Nakusp and Kaslo. Two of the five members of the Arrow Lakes School Board are new as well. I congratulate them on their victory, and look forward to getting to know each of them better. They have a difficult task ahead. Not only do they have a whole new job to learn, but in many cases there's an expectation that they will do the job differently than their predecessors.

Many incumbents were returned to office through acclamation or election. Many challengers were defeated. I want to thank each of the candidates that let their name stand for election. Without your participation, there would be no democracy.

The many returning officers, deputy returning officers and scrutineers deserve our thanks, as well. The elections were well run and fairly administered. There was a minimum of finger-pointing and name-calling.

Too bad our federal politicians can't behave as well. It looks like we're going to have parliamentary elections over Christmas this year. That probably means that we'll have to cut short our annual vacation, here at the Voice. Normally, we only publish one edition in January and two back-to-back in December. We're still planning on publishing on December 7 and 14. We'll probably publish on January 18, as planned, but may have to publish on January 4 as well - if there's an election on. Depending on the length of the campaign, however, we might publish on January 11 & 25.

Sorry that I can't be any more clear than that, but it now appears that the government will fall on Monday. The minimum campaign in Canada is 36 days, so the earliest that we can go to the polls is January 3. There is, however, no maximum length for a federal election campaign. It's completely up to the Prime Minsiter. The longest campaign was 74 days, back in 1926, when MacKenzie King was elected Prime Minister.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Offer MLAs 0-0-0

After recent events in Victoria, one has to reflect a little to get a grip on where the world is going to. I wouldn't be surprised to wake up one morning to read these headlines in your paper:

MLAs form a Union.

MLAs demand substantial pay increases, substantial pensions, and tax exemption for the first $60,000 earned.

The employer of the MLAs, the people of British Columbia, announced today that they are offering a 0-0-0 contract.

MLAs threaten job action.

The people of BC threaten a $25,000 a day fine.

MLAs threaten to go on strike.

The people say, "don't do that."

The MLAs strike.

The people freeze the MLAs' assets.

The MLAs cry "foul."

The people say, "hey, just get back to work."

The MLAs go back to work disgruntled.

What's next in this world that's gone mad?

Paul Peterson
Burton

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*.

Food editor in error

Valley Voice food editor Andrew Rhodes asks: "Did you know that in 1886 there were folks putting up buildings in Crescent Valley?"

Well, no actually.

That would make the Frog Peak Café the oldest building still standing in West Kootenay. I don't know when it was really built, but I would guess it was at least 10 years later, and probably more like 20.

Surviving pre-1896 buildings are of the utmost rarity in our area, and I am not aware of any from before 1890. (There is a building on New Denver's main street that sports the date 1888, but it's wrong.)

That quibble aside, I don't for a moment dispute Rhodes's assessment of the café's fine food and atmosphere.

Greg Nesteroff
Castlegar

Being punished for receiving free gift

Did you know that when you are on social assistance you cannot receive a gift worth over $5,000?

My dad gave me a car, for medical travel purposes, which has a book value exceeding $5,000. It was given to me debt free, no payments, insurance paid for one year, and a set of winter tires. What more could a single mom on assistance wish for?

Well, I claimed this asset with Social Services, just like I should have done. Now they want me to sell my car, buy one worth less than $5,000 and live off the remainder or cut me off assistance. I refused to sell my car so yes, just like they said, they cut me off.

My other option is to go to a dealership, buy a car of my choice, worth any value, making monthly payments, no matter what the payments are with my monthly assistance cheque (taxpayers money), be in debt for a couple years but I can stay on assistance as long as I pay for the car.

So in other words, I am not allowed a free gift worth over $5,000 and receive assistance, but I can put myself in debt and stay on the system.

Hmm, what is wrong with this picture?

Val Scott
Nakusp

War and Peace

War is a consciousness. As in sports, it was a test of strength, but now its #1 motivation is winners over losers. Unhealthy competition leads to dominance and territorialism, creating predator/victim societies. War begins with us and how we treat others. Do we have to win, compose our will with arms? Or do we take the path of mediation and reconciliation, the path of peace and love?

We just passed the millennium and the most violent century on earth: constant war, biological warfare, uranium coated bullets and mass murder. Billions of dollars spent on bombs while people starve. Military hardware is deadly toxic to the environment, veterans return sick and babies are born deformed. 57,000 American Vietnam vets committed suicide after the war. They are telling us something...

Those who believe they kept Canada free and democratic didn't grow up Doukhobor, in an internment camp or hunted and shoved onto a "reserve." Presently, there is a petition at the UN World tribunal demanding that the Queen and Canadian government answer to genocide. Over 50,000 Indian children died in Christian reform schools. The heart was ripped out of our many nations, land taken and desecrated.

I am an Algonquin peacekeeper like my dad before me. We were taught to face our fears without weapons, to walk in harmony with all creation. Gandhi called it SATYAGRYA, "soul force." In 1975, I went to war-torn Cambodia and brought home my entire orphanage called "Canada House," the seed of a generation annihilated by the Khmer Rouge. Finding babies among dead bodies crying "Mama" made me swear to put an end to this carnage of inhumanity.

If anything should serve the memory of our veterans, it should be to end any weapons of destruction. They tear us apart, sin is separation and Jesus never carried a weapon. It is virtually impossible to fight for peace; only love can accomplish such a task. It is the most powerful force in the universe. As brothers and sisters, we must listen with honesty and compassion to one another. A fairer world is a safer world. Let's declare the Kootenays a peace zone.

If I have offended anybody, please forgive me. I just had to say my PEACE.

With love,

Eloise Charet
Bear Clan

NDP delivers in parliament

It was interesting to read our MP's comments on the NDP in his latest report from Parliament. He appears to take every opportunity to attack Jack Layton and the NDP Better Balanced Budget, calling it a 'make-believe budget' or 'publicity stunt.' The fact remains that $4.5 billion has been set aside to ensure that Canadian tax dollars are reinvested in communities on priorities such as the environment, affordable housing, education and training.

How do we know that this is actually the case? Is this money actually going to be spent? On June 1st Minister of State John Godfrey announced that he has started negotiations with the provinces and territories to invest up to $800 million, over two years, in public transit. On Oct. 6, $100 million was announced for home energy efficiency as part of the fuel rebate package. On Oct. 7th , Human Resources Minister Belinda Stronach announced that $1.5 billion will be released to the provinces for tuition fee relief. In regard to foreign aid, the Privy Council Office made this announcement on June 6: "When we pass Bill C-48, we will have the authority to spend an additional $500 million over the two coming fiscal years."

The bottom line is that the Bill C-48 money has already been approved and has already begun to flow. Mr. Gouk can only spout sour grapes as his party does not offer any positive solutions that will make a difference for people here in the Southern Interior riding.

As far as Mr. Gouk's claim goes that I have some kind of 'blind idolization of Jack Layton,' this is sheer nonsense!

If we look seriously at what Jack and the NDP have been able to accomplish, we can see that the NDP gets things done for Canadians. We have made minority Parliament work, and our budget stopped a May election threat by shifting corporate tax cuts to delivering investments for people instead.

In regard to the next election Jack Layton and the NDP have a compromise solution that avoids going to the polls during the holiday season. The NDP will introduce a motion saying the election should be called in early January for a vote in mid-February. The more NDP MPs we elect, the more chance there is that Parliament will actually serve the people that elect it.

Alex Atamanenko
NDP Federal Candidate
BC Southern Interior

Bus service would be beneficial

Businesses in New Denver and Silverton are having a hard time finding workers, and those workers with other skills have a hard time finding work.

At present two buses per week from Nakusp pass through the upper Slocan Valley en route to Nelson. Pre-booking is required to guarantee a seat on one of these buses. Even if a seat is available, the service is

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Voices from the Valleys

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inadequate other than to allow four hours of shopping in Nelson. It does not allow anyone to work in Nelson before the return trip departs.

There is a daily scheduled bus service between Slocan City and Nelson that is provided Monday through Saturday by buses operated by Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services. One bus leaves Slocan City early each morning, and a second bus leaves mid-morning. The buses return after work hours from Nelson. This bus service has allowed the 336 residents of Slocan City and those others living between Slocan City and Winlaw to find daily work elsewhere in the Valley or in Nelson (another daily bus service leaves from Winlaw).

There are some 750 to 850 people in the New Denver/Silverton area. There are another 300 to 400 people in the Hills/Rosebery area. A separate bus service, or one that linked up with the Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services bus service from Slocan City would be an asset to the communities of the upper Slocan Valley.

Until such time that there is a viable economic base in the area, the obvious benefits that a bus service could provide would be increased employment opportunities for our residents. In addition, a regular bus service would provide transportation for seniors, increased highway safety, fuel savings and reduced traffic volumes on Highway 6.

This is a worthwhile project.

If you have any interest in getting an adequate, scheduled bus service from the upper end of the Slocan Valley to Nelson (and also Castlegar?) please address your suggestions to your Village Council, MLA Corky Evans and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 6B9; Tel: 352-6665; Fax: 352-9300; Email: rhenderson@rdck.bc.ca.

Mr. Corky Evans, MLA, 204-402 Baker St, Nelson, BC V1L 4H8; Phone: 250 354-5944.

John Fraser
New Denver

Shame on Paul Martin

What were you doing five minutes ago? Sitting on the toilet? How about a week ago? Perhaps you were dining on fillet mignon, or a cheese burger, or some tofu cheesecake for that matter. Really, it Makes No Difference!! You were probably so engrossed in your activity that you completely missed what was going on around you.

What am I doing? I'm trying to get your attention!

Why? To begin, I ask, is anyone aware of what our PM has done?! No? I didn't think so. So here goes:

A couple weeks ago Martin Kowtowed to the US again in a very important matter; important to you, to me, to our children and our grandchildren. Canada, under Paul Martin's direction, has shamefully withdrawn sponsorship of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), causing other sponsoring countries to delay their tabling in the resolution.

What in the heck is NPT and what is this resolution about, you might ask?

NPT has to do with non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The resolution would have created interim working committees to focus on four key priorities: protecting non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; nuclear disarmament; a multilateral, international, and effective verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; preventing an arms race in outer space. (above taken from http://www.ndp.ca/page/1697.)

Does Martin, or does any Canadian, understand how imperative it is to neutralize the world's nuclear weapons and prevent proliferation? Do you realize how close the world has come to complete annihilation in the past couple decades? Old computer technology and rusty weapons sensors have brought us within minutes of world destruction. Yup! That's right! Don't need to fear the proverbial hair-trigger finger near "the button" as much as you do the faulty perceptions of an aging inorganic object that mistakes satellites for enemy missiles. Don't think I am joking. I am dead serious.

But it's not just the bomb that's a worry. Today, there are nuclear energy plants around the world (mostly in the US) in such disrepair and so corroded that the "right" catalyst could cause a meltdown! (Ohio's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station was shut down just last year after workers found a six-by-five inch cavity in its reactor head caused by extensive corrosion.) Remember Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania (1979) and Chernobyl in 1986? You ain't seen nothing yet!

But what am I talking about?! We haven't seen anything at all! If it's not on our television sets or helping us pay our bills or even in our lifetime, it's invisible. Capitalist greed has infected our structures, our nation and our culture and reduced us to blind fat helpless babies. We are more concerned about the price of gas than the potential danger that looms just over our shoulders. If we would have witnessed, in front of our very eyes, mothers vaporizing, children melting, fathers limbless and burning in Nagasaki, we might ask, "what the hell are we doing supporting the existence and proliferation of such destructive and lethal technology?! What kind of insanity has infected the brains of our rulers?!"

Shame on you, Mr. Prime Minister, for not taking the future and safety of my child, of all the earth's children, seriously!

Send your letters to: pm@pm.gc.ca or Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa K1A 0A2; Fax: 613-941-6900.

Traci Goertzen
Kaslo

We all learn by example

The Valley Voice of November 9 contained two letters, one that approved breaking a law with which you disagree and the other, handing over the education of BC's children to a left-wing union.

We all learn by example. Our educators have shown students that flouting the law has no serious consequences for the guilty. The $500,000 fine paid by the BCTF cost each teacher approximately $12.50. The attitude displayed by the BCTF executive in the media was one that would not be allowed in a classroom and could not lead to meaningful negotiations.

The curriculum in the schools should reflect the values of all the people of this province, not only the socialist viewpoint held by the BCTF. Authority should be returned to the elected school trustees and teachers should realize they are employed by all the people of BC. The government must make reasonable funding available and have a clear and open communication with the school boards no matter what political party is in power.

Many of us did not wave back or blow our horns for the picketers because they were breaking the law. They wanted better wages and working conditions, as do all unions. The BCTF executive used them to refight last May's election. How did the children benefit from this?

Presently our courts are setting minimal fines and sentences for those who break the laws of our province. There seems to be no deterrent for holding illegal strikes or conducting civil disobedience. When the public unions, including the BCTF, demand new wage agreements next spring, will the government allow the people of BC to be held hostage?

A. Barkley
Trail

Liberals are hypocrites

I find it curious the Campbell government would make a big fuss about giving a measly $70 a month increase in benefits to the disabled in this province, announcing it no less than three times, and claiming it made the disabled the second highest paid in the country, then turn around and vote themselves a raise and try to slip it through unnoticed!

The Liberals made no mention of the fact that the $70 a month increase to the disabled was in fact already on the books when they rolled it back shortly after taking office, and then paraded it out again just in time for the last election. On top of that, the sitting government has tried to force public sector unions, teachers and nurses among them, to accept zero per cent raises. I wonder what the outcome of the last provincial election would have been if they'd paraded this MLA raise out just before the vote.

I've got an idea. Let's have a binding referendum on whether or not MLAs should be paid according to the average income of their constituents. For most MLAs this would mean a pay cut of more than 50 per cent. And while we're at it, let's have a referendum on whether or not the disabled in this province should have their benefits brought up to the poverty line.

If Mr. Campbell, his government, and even the opposition in this instance, are so certain the people of BC agree with this sort of blatant hypocrisy, then I dare them to give us a chance to vote on it.

Will Webster
Kaslo

What's New at the Slocan Community Health Centre

Surviving Christmas - Diabetic Education Day,
Thursday, December 1st 1 pm – 4 pm Please RVSP

Nutrition with Hayley Ehnes, RD
Winter feet with Geraldine Buchanan, foot care Nurse
Stress reduction with Steve Mounteer, RN

The Primary Health Care Nurse will be at the Christmas Flea Market
Saturday, November 26th at the Bosun Hall

Silvery Slocan Legion Hall
Sunday, November 27th in Slocan

- get your blood pressure and blood sugar level tested
- find out about services available at SCHC
- meet the Primary Health Nurse, Steve Mounteer

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 ñ 10:00
no appointment needed
Xray, ECG, Holter - Mon, Wed - Fri 08:15 - 11:00
appointments at 358-7911

Interior Health

Susan Wilson appointed to chair School District #8 Parents' Advisory Council

The Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) announces the appointment of Susan Wilson as interim chair.

"This school year has seen a variety of changes already, and more changes are expected with the upcoming trustee elections. It is DPAC's goal to see parents work collaboratively with all partners in education to ensure that public education serves the best interests of students by supporting, encouraging and improving all schools and school programs in the Kootenay Lake School District," said Wilson.

Past president Lenora Trenaman is running for trustee in the North Shore/Crawford Bay area. Wilson says that Trenaman brought insight and passion to her position as DPAC chair and that her commitment to parents and students in the Kootenay Lake School District over the past six years was unyielding. She presided over the combination of the east and west DPAC co-councils into one strong district-wide DPAC. She took part in various provincial forums and committees and ensured parents in the district were able to advocate on their own behalf through the DPAC Advocacy Project.

Wilson, long-time DPAC representative for Winlaw school and current DPAC representative for Mt. Sentinel Secondary, will be interim chair until the Annual General Meeting, to be held Thursday, December 1.

Hi-tech talent comes to the Valley

by Jan McMurray

Two artistically and technologically talented people have moved their businesses from Nelson to Perry Siding. They are set up on the old "Harmony Gates" hippie commune land, and say that theirs are probably the first computers ever to grace the property.

Simon Kelly does photography and digital art, and Angela Peebles does web hosting and development.

Kelly's business, called one7six, includes the design of marketing and promotional tools such as brochures, car decals, business cards and advertisements. He can also print out quality digital photographs on his commercial printer.

Peebles does everything anyone would ever need in the world of the web. Website hosting, website building, consulting, troubleshooting and teaching how to build your own website — you name it, she does it. She has instructed workshops on the subject at Community Futures.

The couple spent four years running their businesses in Nelson and now want to focus on building clientele in the valley. Call them at 355-2766.

Silverton's tram tower moves uptown

submitted by Rick Tegeler

In the early morning hours of September 18, a small band of Silverton Historical Society members and interested volunteers, together with Jim Pownall and his venerable crane truck, successfully moved the replicated tram tower from the south end of Silverton to its new, permanent home at the outdoor mining display in front of the gallery.

The tower was gracefully hoisted aboard Jim's truck and slowly and quite carefully paraded up the main street to the gallery and museum. After a mere three hours, the tower majestically stood in its new home.

Ultimately the Silverton Historical Society will pair the tower with an identical twin. The two will be connected by overhead cables much the same as were the historic originals. Beginning over 100 years ago, tramlines and towers were the arteries of commerce for Silverton and Sandon. Literally dozens of lines provided mills with the lifeblood of high-grade silver ore wrested from otherwise almost inaccessible mine portals thousands of vertical feet above and sometimes miles distant.

The tower properly represents a true historic legacy, one that was instrumental to the creation and ongoing existence of Silverton. In its new location adjacent to the Historical Society's Interpretive Centre, it can better be seen and appreciated, offering all who view it the opportunity and impetus to reflect on the wonderful history and ingenuity of the people who created the originals.

Slocan business gets national recognition

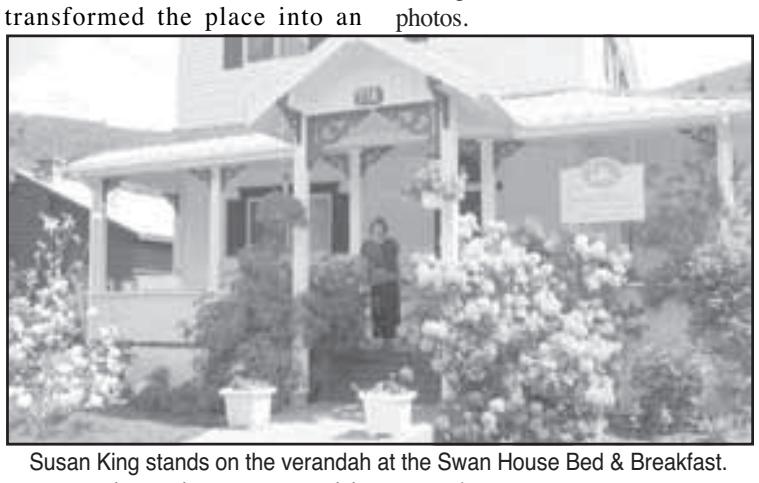
by Jan McMurray

Our area boasts some excellent small businesses, but rarely are they recognized in a national magazine. Recently, Slocan's Swan House Bed and Breakfast made the cover of "Canadian Homes and Cottages."

The article tells the story of the daunting yet remarkably successful renovation project Susan King and George Bondaroff took on when they bought the old miner's cottage in 1999. On a $50,000 budget and a four-year time frame, the couple transformed the place into an elegant home with its heritage feel intact.

What was their secret? King and Bondaroff did a lot of the work themselves, re-used a lot of the materials they removed during the gutting stages and Bondaroff is quoted as saying, "A bit of filler and a lot of paint saves a lot of money."

The article was put together by the same couple who wrote the popular The *Slocan: Portrait of a Valley*. Katherine Gordon did the writing and Quinton Gordon shot the photos.



Susan King stands on the verandah at the Swan House Bed & Breakfast.

Local talent will read at Bosun

submitted

Bring your ears and your imagination to a reading of Under Milkwood — A Play for Voices by Dylan Thomas. It will be presented Friday, November 25 at 7:30 pm on at the Bosun Hall in New Denver. Tickets are $10 at the door and all proceeds will be donated to LACE for the Bosun Hall renovations.

Guided by two narrators, you will meet the eccentric inhabitants of a small Welsh seaside village as they go about their business in the course of one fine day in spring. All the gossip, all the petty feuds, all the loves and lusts, all the dreams and desires that bubble up in any small town are recounted in Thomas's lush language. Full of wit and wordplay, rich in humour, the play mingles the ghosts of the past with the world of the living.

Directed by Judith Ceroli, the cast of voices includes Al Arnett, Barry Barker, Angela Finley, Hank Hastings, Wendy Harlock, Art Joyce, Roger Lewis, Susie O'Donnell, Eleanor Spangler, Ruby Truly and Barbara Yeomans. As there is a cast of 11 and almost 70 characters in the play, each reader, except for the two narrators, plays multiple roles.

So bring a cushion, sit down and let the voices of these village folk work their magic on you. For further information, call Susie at 358-2162.

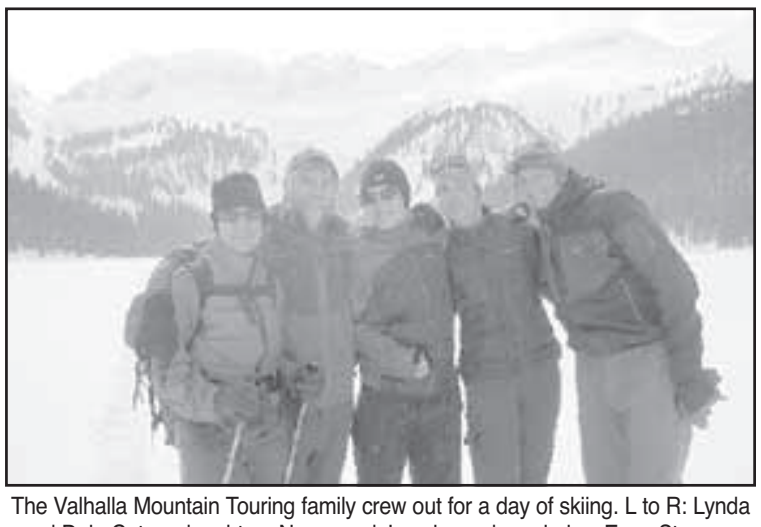
Local family business brings back the kids

In the Kootenays, where it is often said that the biggest export are the young people, it is nice to hear about the kids coming back to work here. Dale and Lynda Caton, owners of Valhalla Mountain Touring (VMT), are going into their 13th season of providing backcountry winter fun with their daughter Jasmin and her new husband Evan on their team.

Dale describes Jasmin as a "young old hand at the business" and says that Evan is a "great addition," with four years of experience as an avalanche forecaster and avalanche awareness instructor in the Wasatch and LaSal mountains of Utah. He will instruct an avalanche course in early January at the VMT lodge. Both young people are working on their mountain guide certification.

VMT operates in the Selkirk Mountains just north of Valhalla Provincial Park. Guests travel to the VMT lodge by snowcat, where they "settle in for a week of feasting, partying, having saunas and rolling in the snow, and sweet sleeps in cozy beds in preparation for another day on the soft white slopes," according to Dale.

This December, the lodge will offer three day trips for people who have a difficult time arranging an entire week's absence from their busy lives. Check out www.vmt.ca for more information.



The Valhalla Mountain Touring family crew out for a day of skiing. L to R: Lynda and Dale Caton, daughters Nyree and Jasmin, and son-in-law Evan Stevens.

SILVERTON HERITAGE
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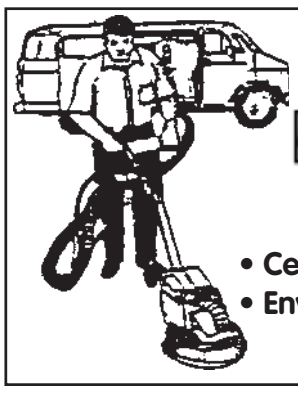
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Silverton council, November 8: Grand piano to be stored in Silverton Memorial Hall

by Jan McMurray

•Council granted a request from the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society (VSSFAS) to store its grand piano in Silverton Memorial Hall. Mayor Wiseman removed himself for this agenda item, although he said he did not think he was in conflict of interest. Councillor Duncan took the chair.

A letter from Heather Huether of the VSSFAS asked permission to store the piano in the southwest corner of the hall (on the side of the stage area). She explains that the society was able to purchase the piano this past summer as a memorial to Holly Wiseman through the generosity of Yamaha Canada, the World of Music and fundraising. The letter says that VSSFAS would like to protect the piano with an attractive portable surround and allow musicians to use the piano with the society's permission.

Councillor Dorsey said he thought it was great to have the piano there, but was concerned that allowing this would open the door for other groups to use the hall for storage. He was also concerned that perhaps some people would get permission to use it and others wouldn't. His final concern was that the piano would take up a considerable amount of the stage and could be a problem for a theatre or dance production. Kathy Provan, who is on the VSSFAS board, assured Dorsey that the use of the piano was for the community and would not be restricted. Acting Mayor Duncan said that the piano could be moved to make way for other things.

•Council received information from the Union of BC Municipalities on the Community Works Fund, which provides federal gas tax revenues to local governments. Estimated amounts to the Village of Silverton are $27,640 in 2006/07; about $35,000 in 2007/08; about $43,000 in 2008/09; and about $59,000 in 2009/10. The money can be spent on projects having to do with public transit, community energy systems, water and wastewater, solid waste management and capacity building.

Council voted to sign the agreement and send it in. Mayor Wiseman said he understood that the funds would be issued very soon and in two installments.

•Public Works Foreman Chris Fox reported that the fire inspector had been through the Village's buildings and had left a fairly lengthy list of things to do to bring the buildings to compliance with the fire code. Work has begun on the list and Fox said he hoped to have most or all of the things done by the next inspection.

Council brought forward concerns that the pruning of the trees near the dike may have been too drastic. Fox explained that the trees had been let go for so long that something radical had to be done. He called the row of trees he had pruned a "test run." Councillor Laktin suggested that Ray Nikkel be called in for consultation in the future.

Fox also explained that the dirt pile on Turner Street was a donation to the Village, arranged between a local contractor and Fox. There were concerns among some residents about "who was moving it and at whose expense" and Fox made it clear that it had "nothing to do with Wiseman or Huether." The arrangement was that the contractor would haul away whatever had not been used by winter. Fox said he had called and asked for it to be hauled away earlier because of the controversy. Mayor Wiseman said, "I wish the Village would be allowed to do things that are good for the Village," and added that the maintenance department is excellent and should only be getting positive comments.

•Councillor Laktin reported that Silverton Building Supplies was willing to try out having a book exchange section for six months with the books from the Free Store. Wiseman thanked the committee and reminded that when the Free Store was closed, the books were the biggest concern.

She also reported that 17 organizations applied for Recreation Commission #6 grants and that the total funding was divided among all 17. The two organizations that submitted letters requesting grants were not approved as organizations are required to fill out a form in order to be considered.

•Council voted in support of the Silverton Heritage Country Inn's application for extended hours on November 26 for a Birthday party and on New Year's Eve, until 3 am both nights.

•Bylaw No. 433-2005, Garbage Collection and Control, was re-considered and adopted.

•A draft bylaw to provide for the establishment of a Board of Variance was presented. Mayor Wiseman explained that he asked Administrator Junko Ida to draw up the draft, as the existing bylaw is outdated and "to start passing bylaws is not easy for the new council." Wiseman was hoping to give the bylaw three readings so that it could go through final adoption on November 22, the last meeting of this council. However, Councillor Dorsey said he wanted some information added to the bylaw. Wiseman acknowledged that the bylaw could be given three readings on November 22 and final adoption could be left for the new council.

•A variance was granted to Gary and Janice Willman to build a smaller home on the existing foundation at 215 6th Street.

•A variance was not granted to the Fasthubers, who would like to put up an accessory building on their lot, which has no residence. This requires a zoning change and takes time. Council decided to leave it up to the new council.

New Denver council, November 9: Village will support education on wood-burning practices

•The select committee on air quality brought forward a resolution committing council to "take the necessary steps to support a program to educate residents to voluntarily adopt residential wood-burning practices which effectively mitigate the harmful effects of such wood-burning on local air quality." The resolution carried.

•During Mayor Wright's report on Regional District, there was considerable discussion around the funding of a Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development for Selkirk College. The RDCK has asked that municipalities approve in principle a new service area to provide tax dollars to help fund the position. Council rejected this request for numerous reasons, including concerns about municipalities subsidizing education.

Marilyn Luscombe, President of Selkirk College, attended the October 22 RDCK board meeting to request $200,000 for the endowment fund. The college is trying to raise $1.25 million by March 31, 2006 in order to receive a matching $1.25 million from the provincial government. The endowment fund would sustain the Chair's position in perpetuity. The Chair would support research, development and innovation to bolster regional economic development. The RDKB has committed $150,000 over five years.

•Mayor Wright and Village Administrator Carol Gordon were authorized to sign the Community Works Funding Agreement (transfer of federal gas tax revenue). This program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities under an agreement with the Province, will provide New Denver with approximately $192,000 over the next 5 years, to be used for eligible environmentally sustainable projects that reflect local needs.

•Prompted by a letter from the President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers warning of possible post office closures in rural and small towns, council passed a resolution protesting such closures, and urging the Minister responsible for Canada Post to consult with major stakeholders "to develop a uniform and democratic process for making changes to the Canada Post network."

•A request from Norbert Duerichen and Julia Greenlaw for permission to keep goats within Village boundaries was not granted, as it would require amendment of the animal control bylaw. The petitioners were given 90 days to find alternative housing for their animals. The animal control bylaw may be reviewed at a later date.

•A bylaw to amend the Village of New Denver Five Year Financial Plan was given three readings. This 'housekeeping' bylaw reflects actual 2005 revenues and expenditures, rather that the projected figures used for budget calculation. It is customary for council to update the budget bylaw in this fashion annually.

Thank you Silverton

I would like to thank everyone for their support during Saturdays Village Election. I will work hard over the next three years to bring harmony and open government to Silverton.

Congratulations to all who ran for a terrific campaign and a special thank you to Ken Poznikoff for making the choice for Mayor a difficult one.

You the voters have spoken now it is up to myself and the team of councilors you selected to live up to your expectations and make Silverton the kind of place you want.

Please be patient with us while we get settled into office. Soon you will have a chance to meet with the new council and express your concerns.

I would like to offer my appreciation to the current Mayor and Council for their work and commitment the past three years.

Sincerely, John Everett

Computer Tutoring?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn

250-265-2163

FortisBC Inc.

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct and Operate the Kettle Valley Distribution Source Project

Notice of Written Public Hearing Process

The Application

On October 11, 2005, FortisBC applied to the Commission for approval to construct and operate new transmission and distribution lines, including substation in the Kettle Valley ("the Kettle Valley Project"). The Kettle Valley Project will consist of the construction of a distribution source substation and conversion of the existing 13 kV distribution system to 25 kV that has an estimated cost of $21.48 million.

The Regulatory Process

The Commission has established a Written Public Hearing Process for the review of the Application.

The Commission has determined that no participant funding will be available for this proceeding.

Public Inspection of the Documents

The FortisBC CPCN Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the Utility's Head Office in Kelowna at the Landmark IV, 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, B.C., its Trail Office at 1290 Esplanade, Trail, B.C., the Public Library in Grand Forks, B.C., and the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Registering to Participate

Unless they have already registered, persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, by Wednesday, November 30, 2005. Intervenors will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Wednesday, November 30, 2005. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date
■ Registration of Intervenor and Interested Parties with the Commission	Wed., Nov. 30, 2005
■ Commission and Intervenor Information Requests to FortisBC	Fri., Dec. 2, 2005
■ FortisBC Responses to Information Requests	Fri., Dec. 16, 2005
■ Intervenor Comments filed with the Commission and FortisBC	Fri., Dec. 23, 2005
■ FortisBC Response to Intervenor Comments	Fri., Jan. 6, 2006

Further Information

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

The 27th annual Kootenay Artisans Christmas Market takes place November 25-27

Buying Christmas gifts in the Kootenays can mean a lot more than heading for Walmart. There are a number of excellent alternatives, featuring the work of local artists and artisans.

The 27th annual Kootenay Artisans Christmas Market takes place November 25-27 in a new location, the Nelson and District Rod & Gun Club, 801 Railway Rd. next to the Cottonwood Falls.

The market has 35 new and returning artisans specializing in food, spices, clothing, weaving, pottery, glassware, body products and much more. Irwin Hobden's hand carved wood products, Penny Kazarian's original jewelry designs, Jennifer Pullin's hand made felt products, Simone Varey's puppets for all ages and hand woven socks and mitts will all be featured, and Tickleberry's returns with treats for a second year. For a full list go to our website, www.ndac.ca.

The market has always offered a unique food concession for customers and this year Win Wilkinson of Sinnabar Exotic Foods will offer salads, soups, and wraps—dishes from around the world for your pleasure. The weekend will be filled with entertainment such as Shenango, Corazon Youth Choir, Kootenay Lake Women's Choir, the CBC Trio, LVR Jazz Choir, Full Swing A Capella, Rain, Ruby's Children melodies and many more.

The market opens at 12 noon on Friday, November 25 and stays open to 9 pm; Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday 10 to 4. Admission is $2 and children under 12 are free. For more information call 352-2402.

Large crowds attended last year's Kootenay Artisans Christmas Market. This year's market will be at the Rod & Gun Club in Nelson.

Lucas Myers' *The Fall Show* on tour

Due to overwhelming audience response to *The Best of the Cromoli Brothers,* Lucas Myers brings the latest Cromoli Brothers Vaudeville Extravaganza to the Vallican Whole Community Centre December 2 and the Langham Theatre in Kaslo December 3.

Fresh from a sold-out run in Nelson, *The Fall Show* features Cromoli favourites as well as totally new fall oriented material, including *The Harvest* (starring Bud and Leif Cromoli), *The True (and Scaaaaaaary!) Tale of the Last Hallowe'en Costume in Walmart, Vice*, and more. New songs, new skits, that same great Cromoli flavour! Myers plays more than 20 characters and performs original music on ukulele, glockenspiel and melodica.

Tickets are $12 and can be purchased in advance at Jennie's Books in the Valley and Sunnyside Naturals in Kaslo. Warning: nude sock puppets, hilarity, pumpkin pie. Grown-ups only please.

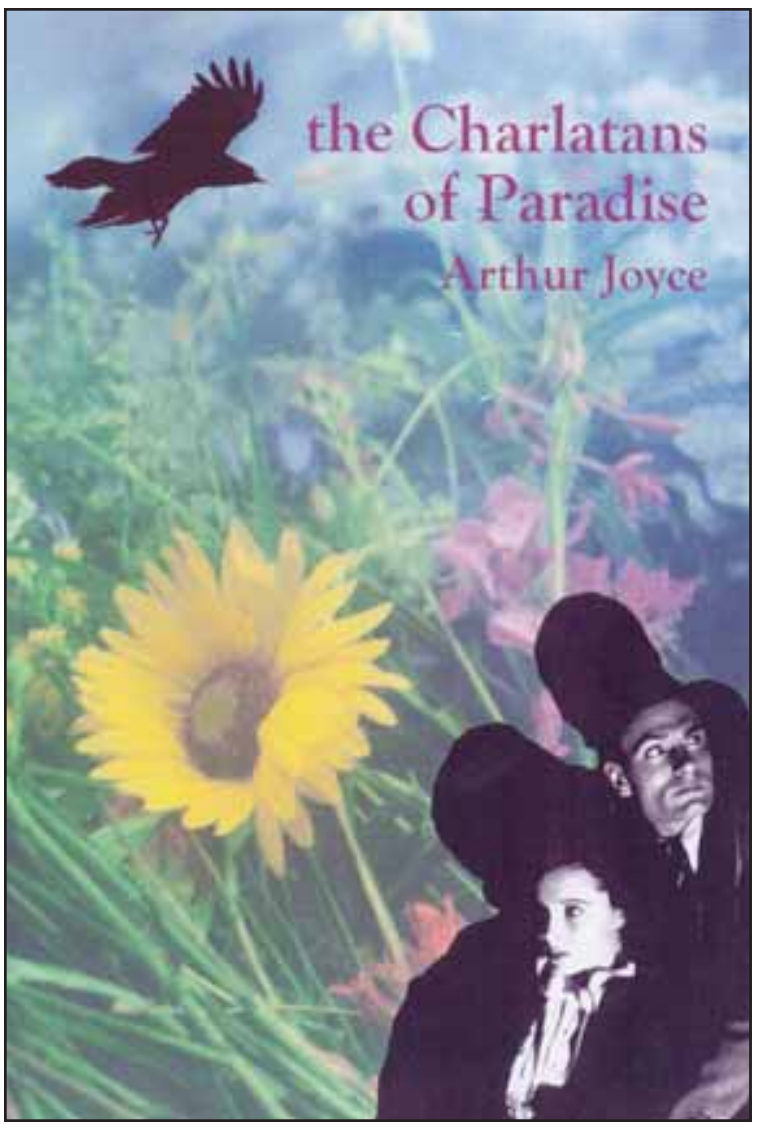
To celebrate the Year of the Veteran, the scouting movement is giving badges to veterans. At New Denver's Remembrance Day celebration at Bosun Hall, Everett Hicks of the Beavers presented veteran Monica Irwin with a badge.

Slocan's two remaining veterans are Jim Bartuccio, who fought in the Korean War and Jean Turner, who was a postal clerk in Toronto during WWII.

Local author's new book of poetry goes beyond navel gazing

submitted

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." This proverb has special relevance to author and poet Art Joyce in his new book, The Charlatans of Paradise, released by New Orpic Publishers of Nelson, BC. Whether it's questioning notions of societal freedom or exploring the importance of connecting with the earth, this collection of poetry goes far beyond mere navel-gazing.



Art Joyce's new book of poetry is "The Charlatans of Paradise."

It seems there's a revolution underfoot in publishing. Fed up with the system of government patronage that has chosen to focus on a narrow range of poets in Canada, many writers are turning to small presses or even starting their own. While government subsidies were vital in establishing a Canadian voice in world literature in the early '60s, many mainstream poets now seem hesitant to 'rock the boat' politically. Joyce's writing in this book has more in common with the tradition of dissent expressed by Spanish and Latin American poets such as Federico Garcia Lorca and Pablo Neruda.

Publisher and editor Ernest Hekkanen says of The Charlatans: "Joyce demonstrates that he is one of the finest poets working in Canada today. In lines that are energetically taut, elegantly crafted and wonderfully luminous, he brings the reader to the brink of feeling utterly vulnerable in a world that strains toward destruction. Tethered by his belief in nature's ability to renew his spirit, Joyce looks unblinkingly at humankind's fall from paradise..." Hekkanen himself founded New Orphic when mainstream presses failed to pick up on his books, which reflect an unapologetically dissenting view of the world.

Yet as Joyce explains, this book isn't just about saying the emperor has no clothes. "To say one can't write political poetry and still write beautiful, moving verse is to admit failure, incompetence, or worse—lack of vision." As with 19th century Romantic poets who sought rejuvenation in the unspoiled beauty of the earth, there's plenty here to warm the soul. Many of the poems in The Charlatans were written in and for the Slocan valley, as for example in Cedar Sprite: "Sphinx of the forest / you enter her labyrinth / at the peril of your own awakening..."

Joyce will be launching The Charlatans of Paradise at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver, Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm, and in Nelson at Otter Books, Saturday, December 3, 1 pm. For information or to order, contact New Orphic Publishers in Nelson at 354-0494, or the author at chameleonfire @hotmail.com. Copies of the book will also be available at Otter Books.

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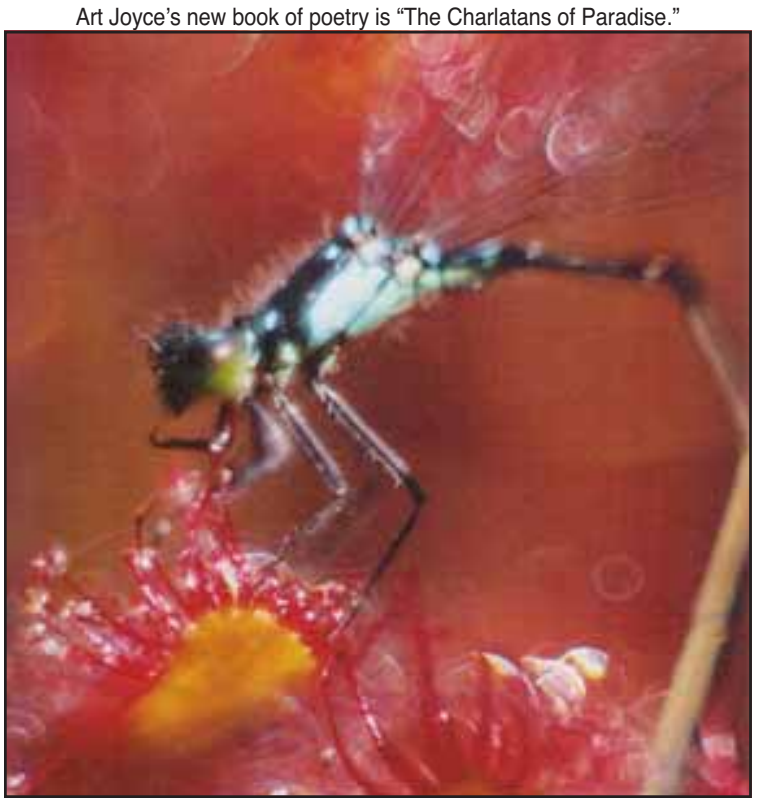

Award-winning Kootenay photographer Janet McIntyre shows a completely unique variety of her work at the Frog Peak Cafe in Crescent Valley during November.

Covenant Church at the Junction
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Every Sunday 10 AM
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Email: jesse@ecov.org

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With new artisans and returning favourites
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market open:
Friday, Nov. 25: NOON - 9 pm
Saturday, Nov. 26: 10 am - 6 pm
Sunday, Nov. 27: 10 am - 4pm
Free Entertainment • Delicious Food
Admission $2 (children under 12 free)

Check out our great Christmas Gifts
Come in and see our new items and have a great Cappuccino or Latte while you shop.
Ionic Mist Lamps have arrived ! They make great humidifiers and air fresheners. See our very cozy night shirts. Stocking stuffers for everyone. Fiber Optic Christmas trees and wreaths.
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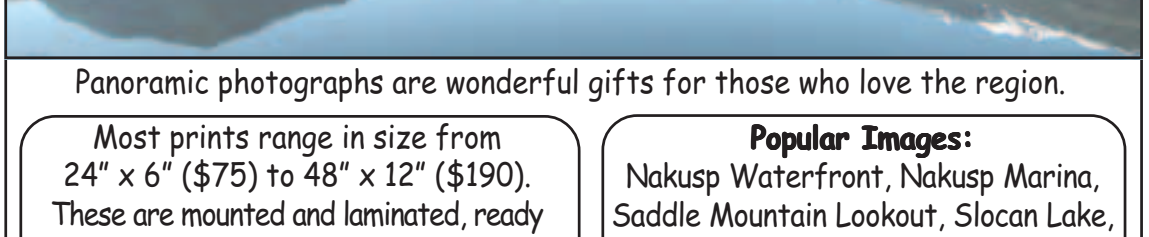

Panoramic photographs are wonderful gifts for those who love the region.
Most prints range in size from 24" x 6" ($75) to 48" x 12" ($190). These are mounted and laminated, ready for framing or for hanging with mirror clips.
Popular Images: Nakusp Waterfront, Nakusp Marina, Saddle Mountain Lookout, Slocan Lake, Idaho Peak, Halfway River Log Dump
To view what's available, please do any of the following:
We would like to thank everyone for all their support in 2005. Wishing you all the best this holiday season.
Rory & Beth McLeod, Nakusp
Call us! We would be happy to show you the prints and discuss your needs.
Rory & Beth
265-0090
Go to our website: www.kootenayvirtualtours.com and click on Panoramic Prints to see the images.
Come and see our display at the Creative Hands Fair November 26, 10 am to 4 pm Nakusp Sports Complex
Some prints will be on display at What's Brewing on Broadway in Nakusp. Please feel free to view those and then call us for more info.

Kaslo council, November 8: Air quality fine in city hall building

by Jan McMurray

•A Work Safe BC Inspection was done on the city hall building on October 24. The report states: "There appears to be no problem with the heating system that would contribute to poor indoor air quality." The report says that diesel odour from the fire hall and highway are "transient" and would not likely pose a health hazard.

The inspector noticed a small break in the linoleum by the basement washroom and suspects there is asbestos, so suggests removal or enclosure. Also, the railings on the stairway on the south side of the building that lead into council chambers are rotting. He suggests the entrance be signed, repaired or demolished.

Council voted to refer the inspection report to the library for information, and to install signage at the bottom of the staircase mentioned in the report.

•The CAO and Mayor were authorized to sign the Community Works Fund Agreement, which gives Kaslo access to its share of federal gas tax revenues, estimated at $37,262 for 2006/07; about $48,000 for 2007/08; about $59,000 for 2008/09; and about $93,000 for 2009/10. The funds can be used for projects in the areas of public transit, community energy systems, water and wastewater, solid waste management and capacity building.

•In a recent act of vandalism at the water and sewer treatment plants, an electrical fitting was smashed with rocks and live wire was exposed. Plant operator Allan Law suggests that council reconsider fencing the area. This was referred to the Public Works Committee.

•Another memo from Law outlines two options that would improve the functioning of the water plant. There have been problems with valve positioning, pressure surges and pipe ruptures. The preferred option is to replace the pneumatic actuator heads on the control valves of each filter with electric ones, at an estimated cost of $27,000. The other option would cost about $12,500. The memo was referred to the Public Works Committee.

•Kate O'Keefe from the Kaslo Area Health Advisory (KAHA) wrote to council with a request that came out of the recent Seniors' Dialogue event. She asks that the Village request "that medical appointments in Trail for residents of Area D and Kaslo be scheduled on the same day/s, preferably on a bus day." She says that she is asking council to make the request on KAHA's behalf because IHA has repeatedly asked citizens groups to work through their elected officials. She also submitted a copy of a letter she wrote to MLA Corky Evans asking for his support on the same issue, as well as for a regional hospital in Nelson and for more medical procedures to be performed in Nelson. The Village will advise O'Keefe that her suggestions will be pursued through the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District board.

•Council received a letter from North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society President Lynn van Duersen, following up on the society's request that its property be exempted from taxation starting in 2006. Van Duersen notes that the property is not listed among those exempted under the recently passed bylaw. Council directed staff to advise the society that tax exemption for its property starting in 2007 will be discussed during upcoming budget deliberations, with apologies for not informing the society of council's decision not to grant tax exemption for 2006.

•Council approved the purchase of new accounting software (MAIS) at a cost of approximately $15,000, to be paid for over two years.

•In response to a question from Larry Badry of the Kaslo First Responders, CAO Sawyer found out from the Municipal Insurance Association that First Responders can provide service outside of the five-mile fire district.

•The Village will call for proposals from engineering firms to enable the municipality to apply for infrastructure planning study grants for reservoir rehabilitation, airport water treatment, industrial park water treatment and liquid waste management planning.

•The Village will apply for a grant from Communities in Transition, Real Estate Foundation of BC, to identify the best use for Village-owned property.

•As recommended by the City Hall Conservation Committee, a grant application will be pursued with Heritage Legacy Fund. Alice Windsor reported to the committee that grants of up to $25,000 per project are available through the fund.

•Council approved the City Hall Conservation Committee's recommendation that a day-long "Let's get organized" workshop be held with Allister Kerr, senior heritage planner with the provincial government and Bob Inwood, architect.

•Ken Butler's resignation from the City Hall Conservation Committee in a letter dated October 25 was received with regret.

•Ken Frie was appointed to the City Hall Conservation Committee.

•The Village will submit an Expression of Interest to Tourism BC under its Kootenay Rockies Community Foundations program. The program includes development of a 3-5-year Community Tourism Plan and Marketing Plan. This is the direction the Village is taking with its tourism funding available through the Union of BC Municipalities.

•Accounts payable of $307,329.42 were approved for payment. The amount is much higher than usual because it includes payments on four loans. Payments on these loans are typically made twice per year.

Fishes and Wishes and Fruit brings the history of the Kootenays to life

submitted

A new book from the Kootenays captures life 90 years ago on a small hard-working Kootenay Lake ranch and aboard an Arrow Lakes sternwheeler. Colin Haddon's 1915-18 diary gives us a first ever eyewitness description of daily life, its joys and woes, on Kootenay and Arrow Lakes during the First World War.

The young Londoner-turned-Gray Creek rancher was blessed with an adventurous spirit, a flair for writing, and a buoyant, breezy wit which make his diary so captivating. Liberally sprinkled through the book are Colin's charming little drawings and snatches of verse, together with six of Colin's best stories on the Kootenays from the popular outdoor magazine, Rod and Gun in Canada. Maps, mini-profiles of people, places and events named in Colin's diary, and an outline of his life and times by Colin's nephew, Richard Haddon, round out the book.

In 1911, Hubert Collingwood (Colin) Haddon traded a comfortable life as the son of London society portrait painter for ten acres of raw bush at Gray Creek, on Kootenay Lake's East Shore. Long on hope and ambition if chronically short on cash, 18-year-old Colin settled into the hardscrabble life of a Kootenay small rancher. For extra cash, Colin worked on road-building crews on the East Shore, as a deckhand on the Arrow Lakes sternwheeler SS Rossland and on the tug and barge service on Kootenay Lake which ran between Procter, Riondel, and Lardo.

Colin's remarkable diary journey, as it plays out in Fishes and Wishes and Fruit, trailed him through the heart of the Kootenay region. In the tiny, isolated settlement of Gray Creek (population 60), Colin turned his wilderness acres into a working ranch, trapped, hunted, and fished, and swapped labour with his new Gray Creek friends. In Rossland he was "a wage slave for a tyrant;" and in Nelson he hung out at the employment agency. His barge work covered the extent of Kootenay Lake, while on his Arrow Lakes run between Arrowhead and West Robson, Colin shoveled coal by the ton, winched the Rossland off sandbars, and encountered enemy alien detainees on their way to the internment camp at Edgewood.

Colin's writings roam across the map of the heart also. We read in Fishes and Wishes and Fruit how he found companionship and a welcoming hand in Gray Creek; how he worked, shirked, and outsmarted his road crew boss; parted company with his "objectionable" Rossland mate; found and lost the love of his life; ranted about the "rotten" mail, the winters, and the war ("Gott Strafe Deutschland!"). Colin the comedian lightened his load with touches of self-parody in his diary; while his six Rod and Gun stories reveal a darker side, the keen eye of the naturalist and a flair for high drama.

In 1920, Colin died in Kaslo, just nine years after his arrival in the Kootenays. But Colin's memory was kept alive by his Gray Creek "family" — Arthur and Tom Lymbery and Janet Schwieger — and by his brother Geoffrey and nephew Richard Haddon back in England. Almost 90 years later, these two far flung families reconnected, and brought Colin's Kootenay chronicle back to life in the book, Fishes and Wishes and Fruit: 1915 Diary of H. Colin Haddon.

To order the book, contact the Gray Creek Historical Society at gchistory@netidea.com.

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411 Kootenay St. Nelson 354-4722

I would like to thank my supporters and volunteers during my run for Mayor of the Village of Silverton. I wish Mr. John Everitt & the elected councillors the best in their upcoming term.

-Ken Poznikoff

At the Outreach Open House on November 2, staff was available not only to provide information about the services they offer, but also to draw the name of the door prize winner. Cheryl Jackins was the lucky recipient of a basket filled with office supplies and snacks. Your friendly staff members down at Outreach are, left to right: Marty Lewis (Administrator), Susan Gustafson (Wage Subsidy Program), Sheree Schiavon (Employment Counsellor), Shannon Roberts (Employment Counsellor) and Farhana Alam (Administrative Assistant).

CPC puts Crescent Vally Youth Centre online

submitted

Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) has donated $1,000 towards the cost of a new computer for the Crescent Valley Youth Centre. In addition to the funding, a refurbished computer system has also been donated by CPC for use by the Centre's office staff.

"We are delighted that we can help out the Youth Centre with the purchase of a new computer," said Audrey Repin, Manager of Community Relations for CPC. "Now there will be computer and high-speed internet access for those people who don't have a computer at home. In addition, the refurbished computer will allow the office staff to complete their work efficiently and effectively."

"The Crescent Valley Youth Centre is currently without a computer for public use, so this is going to be a wonderful asset," said Cathy Spears, Executive Director of the Youth Centre. "It will be also available to other members of the public, including a seniors group."

The Crescent Valley Youth Centre opened in June in the former Selkirk College building beside the Crescent Valley Community Hall, and is currently open five evenings a week.

For more information, contact the Youth Centre at 250-359-8288.

Nakusp council, November 10: Water Comptroller promises decision on boat ramp

by Jan McMurray

•Councillor Dahlen gave an update on the boat ramp issue. After receiving many letters supporting a re-evaluation of the decision that the ramp is not eligible for upgrading under the Columbia River Water Use Plan, Water Comptroller Jim Mattison and Sue Heaton from BC Hydro visited Nakusp on October 26. Dahlen reported that Mattison promised to deliver a decision on the boat ramp by the end of the year. She said the group of local people who met with them explained that the Village cannot afford to replace the ramp and said they believed the reason for the deterioration of the ramp was the fluctuating water levels. Dahlen also reported that at the October 22 RDCK meeting, a resolution passed that the RDCK would support legal action to settle outstanding water access issues on the Arrow Lakes if they are not settled by the end of the year.

•Mayor Cowan reported that the Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association had met with Land and Water BC about the plan to sell the crown land around Arrow Lake to help finance a causeway at the Galena/Shelter crossing. He said the request for bids to develop the business plan was expected to go out by early December.

•Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff reported that he would be meeting soon with Bruce Lintott from the Ministry of Transportation regarding traffic on Government Hill. He also presented a detailed maintenance program, prepared by Turf Bred Professional out of Chilliwack, for the field that is used for the annual Slo-Pitch tournament and the Music Fest (and many other sports activities). He said he would soon present the estimated costs of following through with the maintenance program.

•Councillor Curran reported that the Nakusp Chamber of Commerce has had record revenues so far this year, with $16,000 profit from the campground. He added that the current campground contractor is interested in continuing.

•The Mayor and CAO were authorized to sign the Community Works Fund Agreement, which transfers federal gas tax money to the Village, to be used for projects in the areas of public transit, community energy systems, water and wastewater, solid waste management and capacity building.

•Because of liability issues, council decided to close off the Steves Hill area by removing street lights, placing barricades and putting up signs.

•Ulli Mueller Building Planning & Design Inc. submitted a set of plans for the old Stanley Printing building, currently being leased to a woman from Kelowna who proposes to open a dine-in/take-out fish and chips restaurant. She asks for a waiver of the development permit requirement, relaxation of the parking stall requirements and for the use of the Village owned vacant lot beside the building. Council approved the first two requests, but not the third.

•Council received a letter from Statistics Canada with notification that the next Census of Canada will be held on May 16, 2006. The letter stresses the importance of complete population coverage for the census, as it affects the amount of federal transfer payments received by the province. Council decided to order some posters to raise awareness of the Census in Nakusp.

Burton Seniors keep a busy schedule

by Shirley Neuls

This year's Thursday schedule of the Burton Seniors is in full swing again. Our coffee hour is well attended; we visit and discuss things of interest and have coffee and goodies.

Potluck dinners, on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 pm are looked forward to each month and attended by lots of senior folks and some friends from the community.

Carpet bowling is a success, with at least eight people taking part. We have 22 people signed up to play cribbage during the winter. Lots of Fun!!

Our Christmas dinner is set for December 15. Groups are working on entertainment for that night.

Give the gift of a Spa treatment at Christmas

by Jan McMurray

If you need a Christmas gift idea for the person who has everything, consider a gift certificate from the Spa at Halcyon.

The Spa is a wonderfully soothing and tranquil place. It offers Swedish massage, sports massage, hot stone massage and aromatherapeutic massage. There are also three types of bath treatments, as well as manicures, pedicures, parafin hand and foot treatments and facials.

Gift certificates are available for individual sessions in each treatment or for a half-day session, which includes a herbal mineral drink, therapeutic foot soak, aromatherapeutic or hot stone massage, Halcyon or European facial treatment, pedicure and manicure.

Jeremy Fraser is the main massage therapist at the Spa. Trained at the Okanagan Valley College of Massage Therapy, Fraser says he tailors treatments to his customers. With needs ranging from relaxation to injury and disease management, Fraser's clients are in very capable hands.

And of course, a dip in the hot springs pool is the perfect activity for either before or after a visit to the Spa.

Spectrum Evolution offers variety

Spectrum Evolution, a new store offering home decor, bath and beauty products and a tanning salon, welcomed about 100 people during its grand opening on November 4. Located in the old Huckleberry Foods building, Spectrum Evolution has a friendly atmosphere and a good news motto — "quality with reasonable prices." Co-owners Shirley Kosiancic and Nancy Bertoia pose in the corner that features Bertoia's handmade tablecloths, napkins, pillows and blankets, destined to be hot Christmas items.

A celebration of the Green Door Pizza and Bowl and Green Door Youth Centre was held on November 18 and 19. About 30 people and organizations were presented with certificates of thanks for their participation in getting the facility up and running. Laurie Page, chair of the Arrow and Slocan Lake Community Services (ASLCS) board, honours Chris Jackins, Arrow Lakes Young Entrepreneurs Society (ALYES) representative, with a certificate. ASLCS, ALYES and the Straight Arrow Youth Ops Society are all partners in the Green Door project.

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Enter our draw to win $100 gift basket.
Christmas Specials throughout the store.
Open until 9 pm for TWILIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA, Nov. 25
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

8th Annual Rotary Dinner Theatre featuring Mirror Theatre Production of **Wynn Fairly, Champeen Rassler** or **Get a Grip on Yourself**, by Billy St. John.

CASTING CALL ON DECEMBER 3, 2005

at Janet Royko's Studio, 7703 Hwy. 6

For more information please call JoAnne at 265-3219

19th Annual Community Carol Sing

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm
Nakusp Senior Secondary Gym
Free Admission

sponsored by the Nakusp Rotary Club

LEARNING FOR LIVING PROGRAM
IS COMING TO NAKUSP!

Learning for Living is designed to assist persons who self-identify as having a disability and/or barriers to employment in preparing for work and in obtaining and maintaining employment.

In the first phase of LFL, students are supported through the process of assessing their career goals and essential workplace skills. Students will then develop a career plan and enhance their personal and employability skills. The second phase of LFL focuses on transitioning to work and includes a work experience placement. Incremental essential skill development and community and resource exploration are facilitated throughout the course.

DATES: Late January 2006 - early June 2006
LOCATION: Selkirk College - Nakusp Centre
DURATION: 20 weeks for 25 hours per week: 10 weeks of classroom and 10 weeks of work experience.
FEE: Students may be eligible for federal or provincial assistance. Fee payers are also eligible for this program.
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: January 9, 2005
REGISTRATION: Limited Spaces Available
If this program is for you, or if you know someone who could benefit from this program, please contact:

Outreach Employment Services: 205 6th Ave NW or Call us at 265-3318

This program is offered in partnership by:
Selkirk College, Service Canada and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services

LEARNING FOR LIVING PROGRAM
GROUP FACILITATOR/ WORKPLACE MONITOR

Learning for Living is a 20 week program designed to assist persons who self-identify as having a disability and/or barriers to employment. The program will assist the students in preparing for work and in obtaining and maintaining employment. This program is a partnership between Selkirk College, Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services and Service Canada.

A 25 hour per week facilitator is required for 22 weeks, commencing January 2006. He/she will be responsible for assessing students' career goals and essential workplace skills, providing group life skills and employability skills facilitation, assisting the student in obtaining a work experience and mentoring and monitoring the student throughout this work experience. He/she will also be responsible for completing all required administrative functions for the project. including evaluation.

The applicant must be a graduate of a relevant post-secondary program with a demonstrated knowledge in the employability skills and life skills field, which will include at least five years experience. An Instructor's Diploma would be an asset.

The applicant will have experience working with individuals with disabilities, will have excellent group facilitation skills and problem solving and task analysis skills. He/she will have excellent interpersonal and oral and written communication skills and proven teamwork, organizational, administrative and computer skills. He/she will have a sound knowledge of the local labour market.

Applications should send a cover letter and resume by December 9 to: Farhana Alam, Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services: mail: Box 100, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0, fax: 250-265-3378 or email: falam@aslcs.com

Trailblazers continue their work on the south side of the Kaslo River

KASLO—Work on the south side river trail is progressing well, says Val Koenig of the Kaslo Trailblazers Society. Volunteer work parties will continue Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9 to noon until freeze-up. Road access is from behind the village maintenance yard.

The society is also very happy to see the hard work being done by the village crew on the hiking trail along Vimy Park to Kaslo Bay, Koenig adds.

"The combination of this and the river trails will be a fantastic benefit to both residents and visitors."

In addition to these hiking trails, the Rails to Trails group has opened up part of the historical Kaslo to Sandon wagon road up to Retallack. The recent addition of a bridge across the Kaslo River, about three km east of Retallack, has provided additional access for ATVs and snowmobiles, as well as horses, mountain bikes and hikers.

"The numerous volunteers involved in trail construction are pleased to be able to provide these facilities to our community. We look forward to seeing you on the trail as a worker, financial supporter, or recreational user."

Forest Society donates pump to fire department

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society has donated a Wajax Mark III pump to the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department to use for fighting wildland fires. Chief Bryan MacMillan says they had asked for funding to buy a used pump, but the society said it would rather buy a new one, at a cost of about $4,000. They also donated the same type of pump and 1,000 feet of hose to the Meadow Creek Fire Department.

In the middle, from right to left: Randy Simpson, Ken Wapple and Barry Rempel, Kaslo & District Community Forest Society and Bryan MacMillan, fire chief. In the foreground are members of the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department. A great group of guys working hard to support the citizens in Kaslo & Area D!

Winter is coming: please think of the Kaslo Food Bank!

by Jill Braley

With winter approaching, the volunteers of the Kaslo Food Bank are noticing an increased demand from people in need. The food bank relies on the goodwill of the community to support its efforts by way of donations of food and cash.

At Christmas time especially, generosity from community members is greatly appreciated. The Kaslo Food Bank is a registered charity, non-profit organization and tax receipts can be issued for cash donations. There is also a food donation box just inside the front doors of the Kaslo IGA.

Please contact Teresa May at 353-2115 for further information.

The food bank has been in operation for approximately nine years, run entirely by volunteers, and is sponsored by the Kaslo Christian Outreach. It is located in the basement of the St. Andrews United Church and is open each Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm.

Langham News

submitted

• The last art exhibition of the 2005 season at the Langham features *Spirit Landscapes,* works in acrylic, collage, pen and ink by local artist Christine Yallop; and *Mixed Greens—Wool to Wax*, works in mixed media by Rossland artist Kathleen Hill. The exhibition runs until December 18.

• Former Kaslo resident Karl Koerber debuts at the Langham Theatre on November 26 at 7:30 pm. In the spring of this year he released his first CD, *Returning To You,* a collection of poetic and thought-provoking original songs. The recurring themes of obsession, redemption, love, loss, death and the search for meaning in a seemingly meaningless universe are rendered in these songs with intelligence, compassionate self-deprecation and humour.

Koerber will be joined by *Thistledown*, an up-and-coming group of very talented young Nelson musicians, one of whom is his daughter Jessa. Tickets are at Sunnyside Naturals.

Skatepark Committee accepts donation

by Jill Braley

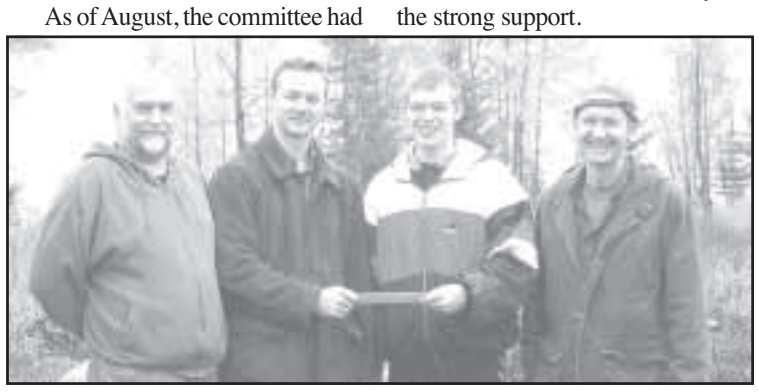
The Kaslo Skate Park Committee is well on its way with its plans for a new park, with funds totalling $125,000 and land donated by the village. The latest donation it received was $2,000 from FortisBC.

The land is adjacent to Vimy Park, off the ring road on a section of the beach. One of the conditions the Village placed on the project was to have all the necessary funding in place before construction could begin.

As of August, the committee had raised $92,000 in public donations and grant funding. The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society granted $25,000 and this past fall, the team was busy with fundraising activities, cutting and delivering 45 cords of wood to raise an additional $7,000.

The group is now waiting to hear from the Olympic/Paralympic Live Sites program, which could provide matching funding of $125,000 if the committee's application is successful.

The Skatepark Committee wishes to thank the community for the strong support.



Corey Sinclair, Manager - Stakeholder Relations, FortisBC presents a $2,000 donation to members of the Kaslo Skate Park project. Accepting the donation is Seron Beattie, youth president accompanied by David Wiebe, adult president (far left) and Don Page, adult vice-president.

Kaslo Minor Hockey results:

Pee Wee Winterhawks

Nov. 5: Castlegar #2-3, Kaslo-2. Goals scored by Alan Grant and Liam Mitchell (assisted by Jake Rempel).

Nov. 12: Grand Forks-9, Kaslo-1. Goal scored by Rempel (assist Harley Martin.)

Nov. 13: Grand Forks-4, Kaslo-1. Goal scored by Matt Guttensohn (assist Lindsay McKinnon.)

Bantam House

Nov. 3: Rossland/Trail #1-5, Kaslo-1.

Nov. 5: GrandForks-6, Kaslo-2.

Nov. 6: Rossland/Trail-15, Kaslo-3.

Nov. 12: Kaslo-8, Rossland/Trail #1-0.

Nov. 13: Beaver Valley-4, Kaslo-0.

Midget House

Oct. 29: Kaslo-5, Castlegar-4.

Nov. 5: Rossland/Trail-2, Kaslo-1. Kaslo goal scored by Jordie Hogan (assist Shane McKinnon.)

Atoms

Nov. 5: Rossland/Trail-6, Kaslo-4. Kaslo goals by Cole Arcuri (3) and Ryan Tate.

FortisBC Inc.

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Nk'Mip (East Osoyoos) Transmission & Substation Project

Notice of Oral Public Hearing

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2006
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Osoyoos Seniors' Centre, 17 Park Place, Osoyoos, B.C.
Telephone: (250) 495-6175

The FortisBC Application

On October 12, 2005, FortisBC applied to the Commission for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct and operate the proposed Nk'Mip (East Osoyoos) Transmission and Substation project that is projected to cost $8.97 million. The project consists of a distribution source sub-station in East Osoyoos, a 63 kV transmission line from the West Osoyoos Substation to the Nk'Mip Substation and a distribution feeder. The project will also provide for a future 138 kV tie to the future Bentley Substation. The project is required as a result of customer growth in the Osoyoos area.

The Regulatory Process

The Commission Panel has determined that the FortisBC CPCN Application will be reviewed by way of an Oral Public Hearing to be held in Osoyoos, B.C.

The Commission has determined that no Participant Funding will be available for this proceeding.

Public Inspection of the Documents

The FortisBC CPCN Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the Utility's Head Office in Kelowna at the Landmark IV, 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, B.C., its Trail Office at 1290 Esplanade, Trail, B.C., the Public Library in Osoyoos, B.C., and the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

The FortisBC CPCN Application is available for viewing on the FortisBC website at www.fortisbc.com. The application, including all documents will be posted on the Commission's website at www.bcuc.com.

Interventions

Persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, by Wednesday, November 30, 2005 identifying their interest in the CPCN Application. Intervenors will receive copies of the CPCN Application and all correspondence and filed documentation and should provide an e-mail address if available.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the proceeding and who have not already registered, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by identifying their interest in the CPCN Application. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary, the Application section of the CPCN Application and all Orders issued.

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date
■ Registration of Intervenor and Interested Parties with the Commission	Wed., Nov. 30, 2005
■ Commission Information Request No. 1 to FortisBC	Fri., Dec. 2, 2005
■ FortisBC Responses to Commission Information Request No. 1	Fri., Dec. 16, 2005
■ Intervenor Information Requests and Commission Information Request No. 2	Fri., Dec. 23, 2005
■ FortisBC Response to Intervenor Information Requests and Commission Information Request No. 2	Fri., Jan. 6, 2006
■ Oral Public Hearing	Sat., Jan. 21, 2006
■ FortisBC Argument	Fri., Jan. 27, 2006
■ Intervenor Argument filed with the Commission and FortisBC	Fri., Feb. 3, 2006
■ Final Argument from FortisBC	Fri., Feb. 10, 2006

Further Information

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone: (B.C. Toll Free) 1-800-663-1385

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with Peter Roulston

Simmering around the East Kootenays

When I moved out west in 1974, one of the features of the Kootenays that especially attracted me was the number of hot springs here, both developed and primitive. Both West and East Kootenay valleys are blessed in this thermal bliss and each fall I like to make the tour around to enjoy some of them again. In the early 80s I did a week-long bicycle tour there, but these days I find the car serves me nicely as a micro motorhome.

This is not a long journey at all, but includes three mountain ranges, the longest free ferry in the world, and the headwaters of two of BC's biggest rivers. I wanted to make a three-day trip of it, so left my New Denver home early one weekday and grabbed breakfast in Kaslo. While there, I met up with Val Koenig, who is spearheading the Kaslo River Trail project and heard a rumour that there may be a valuable artifact lost right on the proposed south side of the creek trailbed, so great fortune may befall these volunteers…

The Osprey 2000 ferry runs less often in the winter, so I made a point of not just dawdling along as I so often do. The 40-minute crossing was spectacular with a good blow from the south causing spray, sway and dramatic vistas. Far down the lake I could see one of Dick Smith's big tour boats from Kaslo forging along through the rollers.

The road to Creston from the ferry is about 80 km of curves and views with so much to take in any time of year. At Creston I got some Ambrosia apples from the fruitstand and after walking main street, set off east to Cranbrook. With the change to mountain time, it was getting dark at 6 pm, so the drive north up the Rocky Mountain Trench was mainly just avoiding deer, elk and sheep and looking for the turnoff to Whiteswan Lake Park near Canal Flats, an hour north of Cranbrook.

My favourite eastern hotspring is the Lussier Creek pools at the 18 km point on the well-maintained gravel road to Whiteswan. BC Parks has improved the pools and layout of the place, and you can soak for free out in the open in a series of rock pools right beside the icy cold Lussier Creek. From the large, well-signed parking lot, a broad gravelled path leads down the pools. I had a nice time soaking with several other folks there, and moved from pool to pool as temperatures and conversations evolved. By 11 pm everyone had left, and I parked at the far end of the lot for a quiet night car camping.

The ore trucks hauling limestone from up the valley start rumbling past real early, so after a short pre-sunrise soak, I drove down to Canal Flats for breakfast, then idled my way out to the highway for the short drive to Invermere. This whole town seems to have a fresh-out-of-the-box feel to it which I don't like, and tons of huge new villas being built and Alberta cars everywhere with the resort town sprawl and spillover. Calgary isn't that far to the east, and waterfront and lakeviews are in great demand.

Fairmont, just to the north, is kinda the same hyper-development picture, and the resort and pool uphill above the community are very tidy and non-natural, but there are some hot pools at Fairmont that seem to be overlooked for the most part, at least in the off season. Right above the main resort complex is a stone building once called the Indian Bath House and in it are three concrete pools about the size of very large bath-tubs. The place is open and unattended but visited somewhat by curious guests out for a stroll. Just upslope from the bathhouse are two beautiful open concrete pools, about the same size, and much warmer to be in for a soak, with vast views up and down the valley. I suspect this is reserve land and seems to remain undeveloped except for walking paths to see the view of the town, but there are no signs saying you can't have a soak here, so it remains one of my choices.

The one other hot spring also nearby and well-known is the Parks Canada facility at Radium Hot Springs. This is a really nice example of a big-scale pool which still has some natural aspects in the form of a steep rock cliff that borders the east side of the pool with native plants and shrubbery and even a population of tiny rubber boa constrictors that may crawl along the cliffs at night. The pool is large and has various zones to it and a small, very hot, tub of pure untreated springs water. From the parking lot outside, it's a good idea to walk down to the spectacular Sinclair Canyon and back, to see how both highway and resort were squeezed into this narrow gorge. You can't park the car down at the canyon anywhere, and driving through doesn't give enough perspective, so do the walk.

The East Kootenays are framed by the sharp-featured Rockies and Purcells, though the valley bottoms are quite open and flat. There are very long straight sections of highway that remind me of southern Ontario, and the rate of growth here matches my childhood memories of the east as well. I suppose if you go there convinced that it's too built up now and spoiled, you may be affirmed in that, yet there is great beauty and nature just one step away from the major arteries, same as Banff, Kelowna or Whistler.

From Radium I doubled back to return home by the same route rather than making the big loop trip up past Golden and over Rogers Pass to Revelstoke. The route I took is lower elevation without those pockets of early winter road risks, and beside that I was able to see some of the night-time scenery in daylight hours. Even in these short days of late autumn, it's a pleasure to get out and about while the going's good!

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

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

World's best fish and chips at JB's in Woodbury

Hello Food Fans.

Five or so clicks north of Ainsworth on the lake side of Highway 31 and right beside lovely Woodbury Creek you will see a big old fishing boat up on 15-foot stilts. It's very hard to miss, and it marks the entrance to the wonderful Woodbury Resort and Marina.

In 1977, Terry Jones (of the notorious Jones Boys) bought this property in order to build the resort and marina. Unfortunately, most of the land was too steep for what he envisioned. So he moved part of a mountain — 10,000 truck loads he estimates — to create a good deal of flat terrain along the shores of Kootenay Lake. Today the resort includes a lovely 27-room lodge along with five self-contained chalets and numerous cabins, a community hall, and plenty of room for trailers, motorized campers, sites for tent camping, and a marina for 100 boats—not to mention a chapel that Terry built because, he says, "I wanted to get married in my own church." Each and every one of these buildings and sites has a breathtaking view of Kootenay Lake.

But what does this have to do with food? Well, there's one building I didn't mention, and it is JB's Marine Pub and Restaurant. Now listen carefully. If you want to sit back in a thoroughly relaxed and congenial atmosphere and eat perfectly prepared food from a full menu that includes the world's very best fish and chips, then this is the place for you!

The fish they use for their fish and chips is halibut shipped fresh from Alaska on the day it is caught. The dish is so popular that in the summer JB's restaurant goes through 700 pounds (well over 300 kilos) of halibut each week! The cooked halibut is very white, indicating, I'm told, that the fish comes from the very cold water north of the Queen Charlottes. It is perfectly prepared by head chef Rob Clark using 'Rustle's Secret Batter' and the best oil available, which Terry tells me he imports by the truckload from Vancouver. All the care and attention put into this dish pay off gloriously when you put the first fork-full in your mouth. It's amazingly good. I also had their 'world famous' Caesar salad. This also comes with a 'secret' dressing that's very garlicky and tangy and delicious.

Meanwhile, there is more to choose from. Appetizers range from chicken fingers and wings to escargot. There are various salads, chili, borscht, and French onion soup. Burgers include beef and veggie and a halibut burger that I'll order next time.

Other seafood includes shrimp and chips and a seafood platter that goes overboard with halibut, shrimp and fries. There's also a prawn dinner! Do ya eat meat? Try the 8 or 12 oz hand cut New York strip. Why not have Salisbury steak or chicken cordon bleu? Maybe you like BBQ ribs or a schnitzel dinner. They can also fix you up with fettuccini marinara. (pause for breath). There's a kids' menu too. There's also a full bar.

I knew before I got there that I was going to have the fish and chips, so I experienced no menu stress. I arrived before the dinner crowd, but by the time I was half through my meal the place was filling up with local families and people who drove up from Nelson, and some people that live in the resort all year round. The staff, including bartender Camron and server Jenn kept calm and congenial as the place began to fill with happy people. The service was warm and friendly. As I left through the dining room, other patrons nodded and smiled at me as if I was an old friend. I recommend this place highly. The fish & chips is to die for!

JB's is wheelchair accessible.

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

It's been a while since I've been back in Manitoba, and to tell the truth, I have forgotten how the weather can change around here in mid-November. Yesterday it was a balmy -1°C and now I can't see across the street for the cold and blowing snow.

Like the Slocan Valley, winter can instantly appear here — the difference is in the intensity. All the roads are closed, school is off, (much to the delight of my nephews and niece), and it looks as if my flight out of Winnipeg is to be cancelled along with the long list of other flights that are trying to get out. My brother is out on his new quad, which does double duty as the snowplow when not needed for its duck hunting chores. I am amazed at how efficient the little vehicle is in clearing the huge amount of the white stuff that has accumulated overnight. He pushes through the vast drifts with ease and it takes little time to clear out his long, rural driveway. It has me questioning the complex equipment I use for the same task.

There is a lawless freedom that is associated with small prairie towns and intense snowstorms. Because cars are blocked from all the roads, there is ample excuse to fire up the snow machines that have idled away the summer and need to be resurrected for the forthcoming season of snow. The village is abuzz with snowbound prairie folk looking for an excuse to travel down the main street on their skidoo or quad.

It gives one a feeling of mastery over the elements to say nothing of the fun to be had racing up and down the village streets for the first time of the season. As an addicted motor-head myself, I couldn't pass up the chance, and a request for butter from the local grocery store had me battling the elements while trying to not get pulled into a ditch by the invisible snow drifts, as I was getting used to a machine I had never driven before. Visibility was down to about three metres, and the cold and blowing snow was able to tear right through my much too flimsy BC outdoor clothes. I didn't look forward to having walk back to the house if I got the quad stuck, so I was more cautious than my exploratory nature desired. There is something about being able to maintain mobility when the rest of the town is shut down, and I enjoyed my little trip even if my butt was frozen by the time I returned to the wood fire back in the house.

There are some lessons in this little story for those preparing for the upcoming battle with winter back at home. Probably the most important is to have your vehicle ready for that first big snowfall. It is amazing how many people out here don't have their winter tires on. My return from a funeral last night was fraught with peril, as the borrowed car's tires were in no way equipped to handle the snow and ice we encountered on the 40-km trip back home. It would have been nice to just forget about driving, but necessity required that the trip be made, and it was only luck and slow speed that brought us through. There were many cars in the ditch and the girls and I had to reflect on the fact that the same loss of control in BC usually ends in a much more disastrous situation.

Also, be prepared to give some slack to motorists that are going slow in bad snow conditions. Just because your big four-wheel drive is able to handle the difficult road, don't push the drivers in front of you to go faster than they are comfortable with. If you push them into an accident because you think they should speed up, remember that they will probably take you out as well.

The snow is coming — is your vehicle up to it?

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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

I have a lot of people who are more than worthy of a thank you for their help over the years as mentors and helpers with my school board duties. To all of you a great big thank you. The school board has just lost two veterans and gained two very capable new members with fresh new ideas; these folks will be a tremendous asset to the board. I would like to also thank the school board itself and administration and staff; it has been a wonderful experience to work with such a functional dedicated bunch and I will miss being there with you. Good luck in the future and don't let that tough job get you down. Love to all of you.

Paul Peterson

John Greenan's family would like to thank everyone who attended his memorial celebration at the Bosun Hall on November 8, 2005. Sincere thanks to Jack Kelly Jr., Sally and Barry Lamare, Debbie Janek, all the health care workers, friends and neighbours. Thanks also to Shelley Thring's choir and the Golden Oldies Singers for their songs. The delicious lunch, table-settings, and beautiful flowers provided by the Slocan Lake Arena Society were greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who enriched Dad's life during his 53 years in New Denver. The family would love to read any stories about John that you would like to share. Please send or email them to dgreenan@telus.net

Sincerely, Dougal, Leona, Daryl, Chad

The Winlaw Hall Committee would like to thank Fomi's Bakery, Four Seasons Greenhouse, Rudy Hoffman, Bob & Carolea Cutler and all others who supported the hall with donations towards our supper Nov. 6th. We would also like to thank Dean from Fortis for going out of his way on Sunday morning with his help when we had the power outage. A special thanks once again to Carey & Mike for all the hard work they did to feed so many, thanks also to the "hall helpers." Thanks so much to our friends and the community for supporting our hall — we couldn't do it without you. Watch for our upcoming Valentines breakfast. Anyone wanting and willing to help with any events there's always room for more. Call Lorna 226-6779 or Carey 226-7702.

Many thanks to our family for hosting such a delightful gathering celebrating my 90th birthday and to the many friends who attended. Thanks also to those who sent flowers, cards, phone calls, emails and other personal good wishes. 'Twas indeed a day to remember.

Brenda Mayson

We would like to thank all of our relatives, neighbours and friends for their support and expressions of sympathy after the sudden passing of our husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, John Nesteroff. To all who phoned, sent flowers and cards, brought food and baking we are very grateful. Thank you to the staff of the Grand Forks Hotel for your prompt action, to the First Responders and the Ambulance Service. Thank you to Dr. White and the nurses in the emergency department for your care. May God bless you all.

From the family

COMING EVENTS

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

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.

BOSUN HALL BENEFIT "Under Milkwood - A Play for Voices" by Dylan Thomas, Friday November 25, 7:30 pm, Bosun Hall, New Denver. $10 at door. 358-2162.

MOUNTAIN SKY SOAPS CLEARANCE SALE: Amazing selection of bulk soaps at reduced prices. As well, stepping stones and molds for the creative gardener. Saturday, Nov. 19, 9-5, 2276 Hwy #6, Crescent Valley, 359-6850.

SILVERTON GALLERY CHRISTMAS FAIRE - Sunday, December 4, 11 am to 4 pm. A local artisan faire celebrating the spirit of the Kootenays. Delicious lunch. Festive baking. Unique gifts.

YOU ARE INVITED! Rock Island Pottery Studio presents "Christmas is Coming" 2nd Annual Show and Sale Featuring: Susan Janzen - pit-fired pottery, functional pottery and Jan Burks - extreme quilting fibre art. Refreshments Available. Dec.10 and 11 Noon to 5 pm. 3774 Rock Island Road (21 km. South of Nakusp on Highway #6 west) Bring a friend!

BEST EVER! It's BREAKFAST WITH SANTA at Appledale Hall 8:30 - 11am. Dec.11. Full breakfast and live music by Alf and John. Great silent auction and Santa! Everyone welcome. Winlaw PAC

The public is invited to the annual **Kootenay School of the Arts "Christmas Sale"** Opening Reception Fri. Dec 9th - 5:30 - 6:30 pm Sale: Fri. Dec 9th 5:30 - 9:30 pm & Sat. Dec 10th 10-4:00 pm. Purchase hand-crafted work from clay, fibre, jewellery & metal studios. 606 Victoria St., Nelson, BC. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Personal Classified ads start at $8.00 in the Valley Voice

ARE YOU A PARENT OF A LUCERNE SCHOOL STUDENT? Then you are a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)! Parents have a voice in their children's education through PAC. Come out to the next meeting on December 8 in the Lucerne library.

INTERNATIONAL AIDS DAY is December 1. A Candlelight Vigil and Prayers will be held near the Cenotaph in New Denver at 7 pm, to be followed by a jam with local musicians at the Silverton Inn.

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THE HOME SCHOOL in Slocan Park has room for several students. Individualized instruction, all grades, certified. Safe, happy, affordable. 226-6702.

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INSIDE STORAGE SPACE available for the winter. Phone Jamie@ 358-7269.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION to salvage small fibreglass dinghy left at the Silverton Resort August '05. Will assume possession by Dec. 15 if no notice of intention is forthcoming. 358-2322.

NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION ON AA MEETINGS IN NEW DENVER AND ADJACENT Towns, call Dave at 358-7265.

CHIAROSCURO PHOTOGRAPHIC GALLERY in Hills will remain open through the Christmas season. Tel: 358-2569 by appointment.

CONGRATULATIONS to BRIAN MAGNUSON on winning the Community Calendar Photo Contest. Thanks to all who entered.

FUNDRAISER: CLUBS, CHARITABLE organizations, school/church groups and sports teams. Earn dollars delivering Telus phone directories in Kaslo. No selling involved. Call or fax for more information. Canwest Directory Distributors: 1-800-663-4383, ext. 5057. Fax; 604-420-4958. Attn: Moe.

ARROW ARTS COLLECTIVE, 308 Broadway in Nakusp, proudly showcases locally created fine arts and crafts in an exciting range of colours, textures and designs. Open Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10-4 pm or by request, 265-3001.

Another year has passed, and the **WINLAW WATERSHED COMMITTEE** is having its AGM. We will present updates, elect new board members and discuss the upcoming year. New members WELCOME! 7pm Spicer Centre WInlaw, Monday December 12th. Cheers!

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Business Classified ads start at $10.00 in the Valley Voice

Thank you to all my supporters & all people who live integrity. It was a joy to have served the reason we all love to live here. Good wishes to the new Council. May Silverton grow!

Sincerely, M. Dorsey

Peter Kanigan, B.A.
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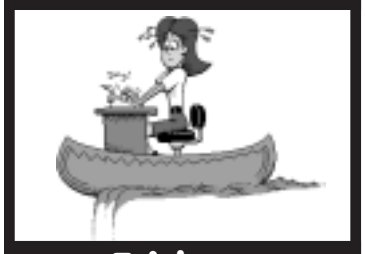

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Slocan council, November 7: Administrator addresses rumours about Village

by Sylvia Currie

•Administrator Eunice Ludlow gave an extensive report on her first year in her position with the Village. She related difficulties encountered because there had been no handover of duties from either the previous Village clerk or the former mayor, both of whom had resigned their positions over a month before Ludlow took office. There was no filing system, no index of bylaws and no office procedure manual. The accounting system was manual and the financials were several months behind. Ludlow stated this was in no way a criticism of the former clerk, since that person had been greatly overworked and without help for a long time. This year, the Village finally complied with an old resolution of council to computerize the accounting system. Office staff has been converting from the manual system to a leading edge computerized system.

As for the gossip that "everything is being done wrong at the Village office and they are not operating in a transparent way," Ludlow said it was "slanderous," since the budget and all finances are now computerized and reports filed regularly with the provincial authorities. Village auditor, Dave Brown of Berg, Naqvi and Lehmann, Chartered Accountants in Nelson, has audited the books for 2004 and copies of the 2004 Financial Report and Annual Report are available at the Village Office. Regarding the questions raised by former mayor Len Mortensen concerning Village finances, Ludlow has arranged a meeting between Mortensen and Brown. She said that Brown will answer questions only after having received them in writing. He will not and cannot answer questions pertaining to 2005 at this time.

She informed council that Village water rates will have to double in the new year. She said that public utilities are notpermitted to run in the negative and Slocan's had been for two years.She said the price increase should have been implemented over three years. Rates are currently $0.36/day and will rise to $0.66/day inside the Village and $1.33/day outside the Village. This will require a new bylaw, which was given two readings later in the meeting.

Ludlow also reported that there were two land issues that the Village would have to sort out. First, the Water Treatment Plant had been built on land that does not belong to the Village, but on Crown land in Valhalla Park. She said that there will have to be negotiations with the Integrated Land Management Planning Bureau to remedy this.

Second, the helicopter pad is not on Village property, but on land ceded to the RDCK at the time of the fire hall negotiations. Ludlow questioned why the RDCK was given so much land without provision for the helicopter pad, plus $46,000. She also wondered why the promised field training building did not materialize and why they lost the ambulance bay.

Ludlow gave a brief report on the status of several Village projects. The Village has received many letters praising the work of Margaret and Shirley Markovic in the administration of the Village RV Park. The Wellness Centre is slightly behind schedule and will probably open in early spring. The gazebo at the Rails to Trails trailhead on the shore of Slocan Lake is mainly complete and has received wide praise. The boat ramp project is currently getting underway.

Ludlow further informed council that she has received accreditation for the Municipal Administration Training Institute Foundation Program and has obtained her International Institute of Municipal Clerks Certificate, Level 1.

There were no questions.

•In his RDCK report, Councillor Gates informed council that Selkirk College is proposing to endow a Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development. If Selkirk College can raise $1.25 million, the provincial government will provide a matching grant. The college is seeking a $200,000 grant from the RDCK, to be financed at $40,000/year over five years ($0.29/$100,000/year/taxpayer). The RDCK area that would be taxed is the area west of Kootenay Lake to the Arrow Lakes (Creston is serviced by the College of the Rockies). The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary had already committed to a grant of $150,000. Council decided to support the proposal.

Gates also reported on a Rails to Trails presentation to the RDCK board by Vice-President of Tourism BC Don Foxgord. The Spirit of 2010 project will have 600 km of trails in the region, with trails running from Nelway, Salmo, Nelson to Hwy 6 junction and up the Slocan Valley. Foxgord said that because of the prohibitive cost of liability insurance, motorized vehicles on the trails were to be restricted to maintenance vehicles only.

Village staff was directed to negotiate a lease arrangement for the old fire truck with Riondel.

•Works foreman Jerry Simmons reported that the second block of Village sidewalk upgrades on Harold Street was complete. The next project will be to lay the sand around the sites for the two planned Village bus stops.

Electrical and telephone wiring has been completed in the old fire department clubhouse, which has been relocated to the Valhalla unit crew site to serve as the Emergency Operations Centre.

The handicap modification of the bathrooms at the Wellness Centre are estimated to cost the Village $600-$700.

•Fire Chief Tim Hill reported that the department had held a one-day practice where they set alight two cars and successfully put out the blaze. The department currently stands 16 strong and more volunteers are needed.

He also raised the concern that all 911 calls are not being forwarded to the First Responders, which poses potential problems for patients. Council decided to write a letter to the BC Ambulance Service, requesting that all calls to 911 from the area serviced by the Slocan Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders be forwarded to both groups.

Hill also reported on a meeting he attended with Steve Schmidt, consultant to the RDCK on emergency measures, to discuss area emergency preparedness plans. Slocan ranks near the top with regard to planning. A table top training exercise for forest fire preparedness will be held in March 2006 in Slocan at the Emergency Operation Centre.

•Jamie Ingram, representative of the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society, attended to ask council for a donation of two Village-owned lots to help with the society's fundraising. The society would like to build two more dwellings for sale and believe they would be more saleable on the lots in question. Village Administrator Eunice Ludlow advised a positive referendum would be necessary to allow for the sale or donation of Village property.

Ingram reported that the society currently has about $50,000 — $25,000 cash and a $27,000 mortgage. It owns property near the cemetery, used as a building lot. The engineered drawings of the community complex are mostly completed and fees are paid. The society's target is $1.5 million for the arena and $1 million for a swimming pool. Ingram also asked for a show of support from the present council for the project, since the lack of enthusiasm shown by former councils had caused the offer of funds by the previous owners of the mill to lapse. Council decided to hold a joint meeting with the society to further discuss the matter.

•The Village will make a donation of $250 to the Christmas Light-up Committee. The event takes place December 11.

•The recycling depot will be moved in early 2006 to just outside the gates of the transfer station.

•Council received correspondence from Olga Illich, Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, who indicated support for the paddlewheeler project.

•The federal gas tax revenue rebate has now been signed by UBCM. Council estimated it will receive two installments of approximately $30,000 each very soon.

•The lease of the paddock area with Slocan Valley Outriders Association will be renewed, with the request that they be more diligent in keeping the grass cut.

•Council will pursue a $30,000 grant from the Union of BC Municipalities for the Seniors housing project. A letter of intent is due November 15.

•Bylaw 555 to increase the annual stipend for the mayor to $5,000 and for councillors to $3,000 was given third reading. Before this, Slocan's rate was the lowest in the area.

•Administration and council have completed a review and redrafting of the Small Contract Policy, which was accepted by council. It is the first change to this contract form since 1976.

•Resident John Patterson brought to council's attention that milfoil weed has taken root near the current boat launch. Council agreed to monitor the situation and to seek advice and help from appropriate agencies as to proper methods of control.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Slocan Lake Golf Club
Tuesday, November 29, 2005 at 7:00 pm, Lucerne School Library in New Denver.
• • • • •
All Members are welcome to attend

Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group

Your community burial organization. We can help when you need it.

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For information, call Kay Costley White, 358-7791 or Lorna Obermayr, 358-7965

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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:

Mondays
- Edgewood Elementary, 11:45 am - 2:00 pm, *Ready, Set, Learn* (FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS AND PARENTS)
- New Denver Lucerne School, 11:00 am - Noon, *Mother Goose* (CALL 358-7768 TO REGISTER - 10 WEEKS)

Tuesdays
- Nakusp Stepping Stones Children's Ctr., 10 -11:30 am, *Early Childhood Playgroup*
- Edgewood Elementary School, Noon - 1:00 pm, *Mother Goose* (CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER - 10 WEEKS)

Wednesdays
- Nakusp Public Library, 10:30 am, *Story Time*
- New Denver Lucerne School, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, *Learning Adventures for Families (LAFF)* (CALL 358-7222 TO REGISTER)

Thursdays
- Fauquier Communication Ctr., 10 am - Noon, *Parents and Tots*
- Arrow/Slocan Lks. Comm. Services, Nakusp, 1:00 - 2:00 pm *Mother Goose,* (CALL 265-3674 TO REGISTER)

Friday
- Nakusp Halcyon Home, 10:00 - 11:30 am, *Gym Playgroup*
- Fauquier Community Hall, 6:30 pm, *Family Movie Night* (LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH)

Saturday
- Nakusp Stepping Stones Children's Ctr., *Learning Adventures for Families (LAFF)* (ALTERNATING DATES CALL 265-3674)

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

AFTER-SCHOOL CARDIO WORKOUT - Every Tuesday at Brent Kennedy School from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Instr. Marilyn Boulin

CARDIO WORKOUT EVENING CLASS - Every Monday & Thursday evening at Brent Kennedy School. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Instr: Wendy Van Der Kurr.

WINLAW VOLLEYBALL - Thursday evening at Winlaw School 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WINLAW BADMINTON - Wednesday evening in the Winlaw School Gym. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

BASKETBALL CLINIC LEVEL 1 - Ages 8 to 12 years. Instr: Misha Chernoff. Nov. 26th & 27th (Sat./Sun.) Brent Kennedy School.

PRO-D DAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS - Monday, Nov. 28th. "We've Got the Beat" with Bo Conlan, Slocan Park Hall. "Christmas Craft Tricks Are For Kids" with Yvonne Munro, Crescent Valley Youth Centre.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS TEA - Sat. December 3rd, Slocan Park Hall 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

KIDS SKI/SNOWBOARD BUS TO WHITEWATER SURVEY - Ages 10 to 18 years. Would you catch a ride on the bus to Whitewater on Saturdays beginning in January? Call us for details. 226-0008

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