The Valley VOICE

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

Investment pool scam artist to be charged this month

by Jan McMurray

Kevin J. Steele, who defrauded and deceived about 200 people that invested in his commodity pool, most of them from the New Denver area, is expected to be charged around December 15.

"We submitted our report to Crown Counsel and should know by December 15 if the charges will be approved," said Orv Nickel, office manager at the RCMP-Integrated Market Investment Team (RCMP-IMET) office in Vancouver. He explained that Steele would either be summoned to appear in court on a particular date or he would be arrested. If arrested, he would go to the Vancouver City Jail and probably appear in court the next day.

When asked what would be stopping Steele from disappearing before he is charged, Nickel said Steele had turned in his passport. He said they had interviewed him as part of the ongoing investigation and "we are confident that he is not going to try to take off."

An Illinois federal district court has ordered Steele to pay over $7 million in restitution to the investors, plus a $6.2 million penalty for violating US federal commodities laws. The restitution is to be paid within 30 days of the court order, which is dated November 22.

However, Nickel said that based on other similar cases, the chances of anyone getting their money back are very slim. "The money generally disappears before the police get involved," he said.

There was a total of about $242,000 in Steele's accounts when they were frozen in May, according to the November court order.

The scam was uncovered on May 19, when a Slocan Valley pool participant contacted Steele's agent, Interactive Brokers LLC (IBL), to ask about his account. IBL staff realized the account statement was fictitious.

The US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) submitted a complaint against Steele to the Illinois court on May 25. At that time, the court issued Steele with a restraining order and asset freeze. On June 13, the court ordered a preliminary injunction against Steele. Because he did not plead or otherwise defend as to the complaint within the time permitted, the Commission moved for a default judgment of permanent injunction. The court entered the default judjment order against him on November 22.

As soon as the original complaint was filed in May, the CFTC launched an investigation, with assistance from RCMP-IMET and the British Columbia Securities Commission. The investigation is ongoing.

The reason that most of the investors in this scheme were from the New Denver area is that David Fulkco, son of longtime New Denver resident Wally Fulkco, "became associated with Steele for purposes of soliciting prospective pool participants and assisting in the administration of the pool" according to the November court order. Both David and Wally solicited investors for the pool.

Nickel said that David Fulkco had been interviewed during the investigation and "we have nothing more to do with him. He might be a witness. We are not interested in charging him at this time."

The court order outlines the facts of the case. Steele is a 33-year-old Canadian citizen who lives in Vancouver. He has never been registered in any capacity with the CFTC. He began operating his commodity pool in at least January 2003 and offered to split profits with David Fulkco and David Shannon, both living in Victoria, if they agreed to solicit pool participants. He used pool investors' funds to pay Fulkco and Shannon a total of over $800,000 for their services. Fulkco created a company, Abriel Asset Management, to accept investor funds. He also prepared individual monthly account statements for investors based on falsified account statements he received from Steele. The statements always showed profits of 6-11%.

From January 2003 until May 2005, Steele received a total of about $8.1 million from pool investors and lost about $4.3 million in his trading. He returned $746,850 to pool investors and misappropriated a whopping $3.1 million.

Steele spent over $1.3 million on personal luxuries for himself and his girlfriend. They vacationed in Atlanta, Hawaii, Vancouver, Las Vegas and California, went on cruises, went gambling, leased luxury cars, bought designer clothing, art, jewelry, and went to expensive restaurants. He also used investor funds to pay his girlfriend's credit card bills.

Santa and Mrs. Claus made their annual pre-Christmas visit to Kaslo on December 2. Kaslo is the only community in our distribution area to host Mrs. Claus.

Full slate of federal candidates run in both ridings

by Jan McMurray

There are federal candidates for each of the major parties in both the Southern Interior and Kootenay-Columbia ridings. Watch for more on the candidates in our December 14 issue.

In the Southern Interior, Derek Zeisman of Trail is the Conservative candidate. He ran against Robert Zandee of Oliver and Stephen Hill of Rossland for the candidacy and came out on top with 54% of the vote at the nomination meeting September 25. Conservative MP Jim Gouk announced in the summer that he would not seek a fifth term.

Castlegar resident Alex Atamanenko is the NDP candidate for the second time in a row. He came in a close second in the 2004 election, winning 35.1% of the votes compared to Gouk's 36.6% — a difference of about 700 votes.

Scott Leyland of Rossland will once again run for the Green Party. Leyland received 7.9% of the vote in 2004.

The Liberal candidate is Bill Profili, former mayor of Rossland. He was not challenged, and nominated on December 1.

The Southern Interior riding includes the Slocan Valley, Kaslo, Lardeau, Argenta, Johnson's Landing, Nelson, Castlegar, and the Kootenay-Boundary and Okanagan-Similkameen regions.

In the Kootenay-Columbia riding, Conservative MP Jim Abbott is staying in the game. Sitting MP since 1993, he got 52.1% of the vote the last time around.

NDP candidate Brent Bush, who ran for the first time in 2004 and came second with 23.8% of the vote, was acclaimed on September 10. Bush lives in Kimberley.

Clements Verhoeven, a teacher in Creston, was nominated the Green Party candidate on November 28.

The Liberal Party candidate, Jhim Burwell of Fernie, was nominated on December 4.

The Kootenay-Columbia riding covers the Arrow Lakes communities of Nakusp, Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier and Trout Lake and the Lardeau Valley communities of Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek and Marblehead. It also encompasses Revelstoke, Golden, Radium, Invermere, Elkford, Sparwood, Kimberley, Cranbrook, Fernie and Creston.

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Hills moves one step closer to community centre/fire hall

by Art Joyce

The 'summer of fire' experienced by Hills residents in 2003 has left a lasting impression. At a special meeting of the Hills Recreation Society held in the Doukhobor Hall November 21st, members voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a plan to raise funds to build a combined community centre/fire hall.

Funding for capital infrastructure outside municipal boundaries is scarce these days. There had been some discussion of joining Red Mountain Road residents to partner with the New Denver and Silverton fire departments, but this was ruled out. Hills, at some 15 km from New Denver, falls outside regulatory boundaries for a first response fire department.

"Because we have no fire protection," explained society director Richard Allin, "we're stuck with high insurance premiums *and* finding a way to protect ourselves."

In response to the near loss of a home in '03, a portion of the funds earned at the annual Hills Garlic Festival were pledged to improve firefighting capacity. A fire committee was formed and RDCK Area H Director Don Munro was approached. Munro was able to secure an older fire truck at no charge to the community, plus a $2500 annual stipend for licensing and basic maintenance. An open house was held this spring to demonstrate the truck's capacity.

Committee members Wayne McCrory and Lawrence Schiavon became active in the Slocan Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee, providing basic fire suppression training for local volunteers. Stan Bohnet's prior experience with community fire departments proved useful in getting the truck's radio equipment up to date. A portable pump, fire hose and other equipment have been purchased and preparatory work done on standpipes.

Research pinpointed the BC Gaming Commission as the best potential source for construction costs. Up to $100,000 in capital funding is available per year for projects that create a lasting legacy for the community. Property owned by the Hills Recreation Society is available as a site for the new hall. Schiavon and Sieggy Hepperle surveyed the land during the summer to produce a site plan and construction estimate. An initial materials estimate of $63,000 was revised downward to $45,000. The total cost to build the hall is estimated at just over $90,000.

There were concerns expressed at the November 21st meeting that the plan failed to reflect well thought-out, long-term planning for community goals and needs. Some wondered if too much was being made of the fire scare, and whether Hills could afford such a facility.

But in the end, a motion to commit $15,000 of Society funds — $5,000 more than initially proposed by the directors — passed by all but one vote. Munro then surprised the audience by stating that he could commit RDCK funds to a maximum of $10,000. John Hermann's suggestion of a 'beer fund' — families sacrificing one or two cases of beer per month to raise money — proved unnecessary. Pledges of some $4,000 in cash have flooded in, plus $8500 in commitments of labour and construction equipment. An application to the Gaming Commission for $45,000 has been made.

"It's not the final crowning glory of Hills," Allin concluded, "but it is another piece of the puzzle."

"The Future of Food"
A film by Deborah Koons Garcia
Sat. Dec. 10th, 7:00 pm, Nelson Chamber of Commerce
225 Hall St., call 1-877-635-4722
GREEN PARTY
Guest speakers: Abra Bryne and Scott Leyland, GPC MP candidate
Admission by donation: $5.00 suggested
Refreshments, Baked goods, and Popcorn
A Nelson-Creston Green Party Event

What's New at the Slocan Community Health Centre

Are you looking for ways to volunteer in your community??

• We need volunteers for our residents in the New Denver Pavilion to assist with outings, special events or just for sharing your time and visiting. Contact Sue Davies @ 358-7819.

• The Slocan Community Health Care Auxiliary (aka. Hospital Auxiliary) welcomes members and volunteers to help in all aspects of the Health Centre and its operation. Contact Diane Andrews @ 358-7284

• The Red Cross Loan cupboard is looking for a volunteer to manage it. Contact Ann Weir @ 358-7801

• Volunteers are also needed for Hospice in New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and surrounding areas. Hospice Volunteer training will be available in New Denver early in 2006! Contact Sue Davies @ 358-7819

The SCHC wishes to recognize the valuable efforts of the many volunteers who already support the Centre and its residents, and to express heartfelt thanks to these hardworking individuals.

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

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A62686

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

Closing Date: January 12, 2006 @ 11:00 AM, BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC

Geographic Location: Santa Rosa, located approximately 29 km southwest from Rossland

Estimated Volume: 23,928 cubic metres, more or less

Upset Stumpage Rate: $30.10 / cubic metre
The upset stumpage rate was determined by the Market Pricing System, and is applicable only to coniferous sawlog grades.

Term: Two (2) years

Estimated Species / Volume: Lodgepole pine 4,315 m^3, Douglas-fir 3,731 m^3, Balsam 2,985 m^3, Larch 2,651 m^3, Cedar 2,476 m^3, Spruce 2,311 m^3, Hemlock 1,262 m^3
Grades 3 & 4: Lodgepole-pine 1,012 m^3, Douglas-fir 659 m^3, Balsam 746 m^3, Larch 932 m^3, Cedar 825 m^3, Spruce 23 m^3,

Comments: Harvesting method is clearcut with reserves utilizing ground-based equipment. The licensee will be required to construct approximately 2.2 km of spur road to access a portion of the timber sale area.

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

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

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

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

Applications will be accepted by the BC Timber Sales Manager, Kootenay Business Area, 1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6K1 no later than 11:00 AM (Local Time), January 12, 2006.

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A62686.

Film examines genetically modified food

submitted by Luke Crawford

If you're worried about what you eat, don't miss a screening of Deborah Koons Garcia's powerful movie *The Future of Food* on December 10, 7 pm at the Nelson Chamber of Commerce, 225 Hall St.

A guest speaker, Abra Bryne, will address the audience after the movie. Luke Crawford, representing the Nelson-Creston Green Party which is hosting the screening, will discuss the local No-GMO initiative. Scott Leyland, the Federal Green Party of Canada candidate will address the audience briefly at the start of the evening.

Admission is by donation, suggested at $5.

The Future of Food offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabelled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled Canada's grocery store shelves for the past decade.

From the prairies of Saskatchewan to the fields of Oaxaca, Mexico, this film gives a voice to farmers whose lives and livelihoods have been negatively impacted by this new technology. The health implications, government policies and push towards globalization are all part of the reason why many people are alarmed by the introduction of genetically altered crops into our food supply.

Shot on location in the US, Canada and Mexico, *The Future of Food* examines the complex web of market and political forces that are changing what we eat as huge multinational corporations seek to control the world's food system. The film also explores alternatives to large-scale industrial agriculture, placing organic and sustainable agriculture as real solutions to the farm crisis today.

For more information call 1-877-635-4722, or visit www.kootenaygreen.ca

TASK proposes web based information system for regional tourism

by Jan McMurray

The recreation and tourism sectors in our region need a web based information source to overcome the barrier of isolation. This is what the Tourism Action Society in the Kootenays (TASK) has determined from its ongoing consultation with people in the industry through its conferences, workshops and focus groups.

The kinds of information found in this Tourism-Recreation Information Network (TRIN) would be of use to business owners, investors, tourists and trip planners.

"It will help all who are interested in the development of the recreation and tourism sectors in our region. It is a tool for collaboration. That's where it gets over the physical barriers between us," said Executive Director of TASK Eileen Fletcher.

The executive summary for the proposed project states that the tourism and recreation industry in the Kootenays is "characterized by many micro or small enterprises that rely on the quality of the natural environment." It says that a complete survey of businesses in the Kootenay Boundary Columbia is expected to identify 3000 of them, with 98% being micro and small enterprises. It concludes that the solution to better communication between these enterprises is a web based information system.

The society has a plan to make this web tool a reality. It wants to have an expert develop the architecture of the electronic database. Collecting and organizing the information for the database will be a big part of the project. Finally, the tool will be integrated with the web, and links made with the other sites already out there. Web portals will be put in place, said Fletcher, explaining that potential investors might use a different portal than an adventure operator.

Fletcher says the estimated cost of the project is $200,000, some of which is in place. There are funding applications in at both the federal and provincial levels for the project.

One partnership that TASK has made thus far is the Selkirk College Geospatial Research Centre, which Fletcher described as "a very important technical partner." She also mentioned local Chambers of Commerce, which provide information through their community based websites.

"We are hopeful to see partnerships with tourism organizations within the region, the province and the country," said Fletcher.

Both New Zealand and Yukon, which also have isolation issues in their rural tourism, have developed similar kinds of web based information archives. "Their information archives are models for what we are proposing," said Fletcher. She said there was substantial government support for their electronic information archives and that in Canada we see a growing interest both provincially and federally for this sort of thing.

PEOPLES PHARMACY

Some Facts About Cold Bugs

You've caught a cold bug! Call it a bug, call it an infection, or call it feeling really, really sick. Think antibiotics will make you feel better? Maybe - maybe not, and you should know why.

- Bugs come in many forms, most often as bacteria or viruses.
- Antibiotics kill bacteria, but do not treat viruses.
- 90% of colds and flus, and the accompanying coughs, sore throats, aches and pains are caused by viruses. and antibiotics won't help.

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections ranging from life-threatening meningitis to common problems like strep throat.
If you visit a doctor and aren't prescribed an antibiotic, there are good reasons. Your illness has been diagnosed as a virus, and you'll most likely get better without an antibiotic. An ordinary cold or flu virus will run its course in a week or so.

Come in today to see how we can help you during the cold and flu season.

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RCMP officer shoots and wounds dog in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

The last day of November did not start out like a typical day in New Denver. At around 8:00 in the morning, Constable Scott Rennie fired two shots in a residential area and wounded a Rottweiler dog.

While Rennie was walking to work from his home in the orchard area of the village, he says he saw the Rottweiler from about 40 feet away. Both Rennie and the dog were in the alley between 3rd and the creek. As Rennie was getting closer, he says the dog began growling and snapping and then charged him. He reached for his gun and shot twice. One bullet hit the dog, leaving a wound in her left shoulder and an exit wound on her right leg. The other bullet grazed her right side. The dog was taken to the veterinarian in Nakusp, kept for observation overnight, and Leduc was able to pick her up the next day.

No one saw the incident. As soon as Leduc and her housemate Lorne Berisoff heard the shots, they went into the street "and I started freaking out and asked him why he had done this," Leduc said. She said Rennie concentrated on calming her down, but offered no explanation for his actions. When Corporal Kerry Heidema arrived on the scene, "he was very understanding and sympathetic," said Leduc.

Heidema, who investigated the incident, said he was satisfied the act was not done out of malice.

What is puzzling is that Rennie knows the dog and she has never shown agression toward him before.

"I can't explain it," said Heidema. When he was talking to neighbours during the investigation, Heidema found that they have "no big issue" with the dog. The only possible explanation he heard was that some dogs act agressively when they see people wearing fur. Rennie was wearing a fur hat for the first time that day.

Leduc admitted that there had been complaints about the dog showing agressive behaviour when the family lived in a house closer to the school and "the school kids would torment her." Since they moved to the orchard, however, Leduc was not aware of any complaints about the dog being aggressive.

"She has her couch on the front deck here and that's where she spends most of her time. During the Garlic Fest, she sat there and watched everyone walk by. My six-year-old daughter dresses her up and plays with her. Scott [Rennie] has walked past here many times with his dog and has never had a problem," she said.

Leduc feels that the shooting was not necessary. "He was in full uniform. He had other means of protecting himself other than the gun. He knows her — he could have called her by name.

"I have so many questions that haven't been answered. An apology would be nice. I asked Kerry if Scott would say sorry to Megan and justify what he did, but nothing has been done about it."

Heidema said he followed up with Victim Services and arranged for counselling for both Megan and Tanya.

He explained that when police feel threatened by people, they must first try to deal with it verbally, then by using pepper spray, then the baton, with the gun as a last resort. With animals, they are not obligated to follow these steps.

"There was no opportunity here [for Rennie to use other means of protection]. It happened pretty fast," said Heidema.

Village Administrator Carol Gordon said the Village had received complaints about the dog. She said there was some concern in regards to aggressive behaviour, and several complaints about the dog running at large. Gordon said the Village bylaw stated that dogs must be licensed, should not be running at large and should be on a leash if off property. To enforce the bylaw, the Village calls in an animal control officer from Nakusp when required.

Heidema said the RCMP office had had one previous report of the dog being aggressive. The person who reported it "just wanted the owner to know," said Heidema, and the police did that by leaving a note on the owner's door.

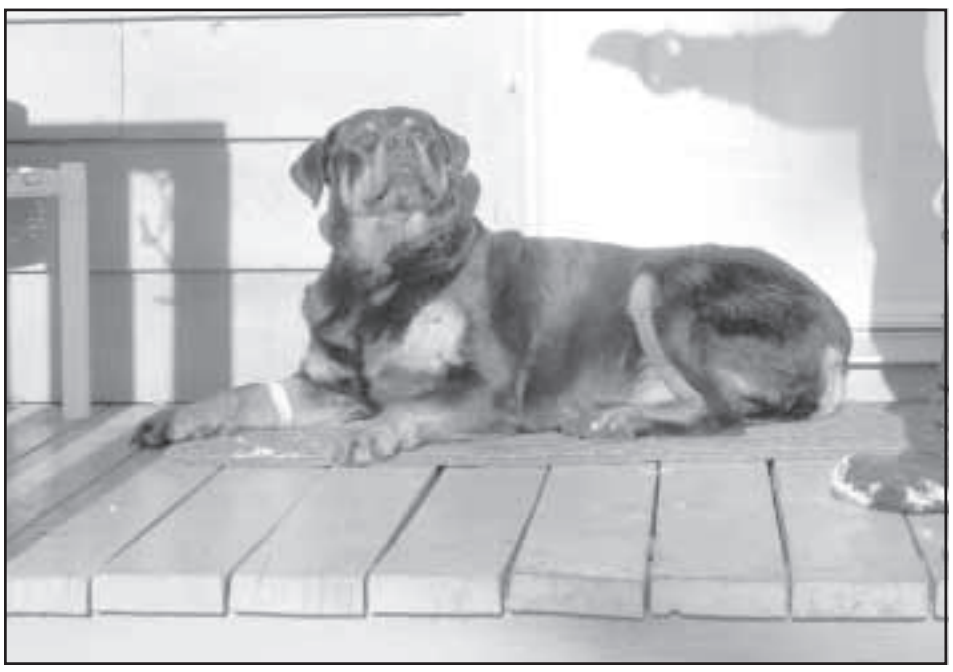
Leduc said she would appreciate it if people in the community who have a problem with the dog would come to her first.

Because the dog was off property and not under the owner's control, "we are not responsible for the vet bills," said Heidema.

One of Leduc's neighbours paid the bill, with contributions from other New Denver residents.

"I'm overwhelmed by the community support," said Leduc. "My neighbour Nicole Nicholson-Chodat rode in the truck with Roxie all the way to Nakusp, holding a compress to her wounds."

Heidema said he was very happy that the dog survived. "I'm glad it worked out the way it did and I hope it never happens again," he said. "If nothing else, it's a wake-up call for people to obey the bylaw. Nobody really knows what their pet is doing when they are not around. Fortunately, it happened to someone who could defend themselves. I understand the emotional aspect and I don't try to make that any less than what it is."



Roxie is recovering from gunshot wounds at her home in New Denver.

Only one more issue in 2005!

December 14

Deadline: December 9

Call now to book your SEASON'S GREETINGS ad!

The office will close on December 19 for the holiday season & will re-open January 9. First issue of 2006 — January 18. Deadline: Friday, January 13.

The Valley Voice

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
www.gov.bc.ca

Voices from the Valleys

Musing on a winter election...

Here we are in the middle of an election that nobody wanted. There's all kinds of finger-pointing and blame-casting going on between the various federal parties, but there's no doubt about it. We all go to the polls on January 23.

It was probably inevitable, but that doesn't mean that I like it.

The completion of Judge Gomery's investigation of corruption within the ruling Liberal Party means that voters have the most important information that the opposition parties want to put in front of them. I'm glad that the investigation was allowed to finish its work, but I don't need the judge's recommendations on how to avoid the situation in the future in order to pass judgement on the government responsible. I'm disappointed that Prime Minister Martin couldn't agree to the opposition demands for an election early in the New Year, but I'm not really surprised. An election in February probably won't give him better results than an election in January.

The Liberals have the most to lose as a result of the findings of the Gomery Commission, and the Bloc Quebecois have the most to gain. Of course, every seat that goes to the Bloc in Quebec, is one less seat that Stephen Harper has to get in order to form a minority government. If he can shake loose a few seats in Ontario and squeeze the Liberals out in the west, he might be our next Prime Minister. It's doubtful that he can get enough seats to form a majority government.

Jack Layton and the NDP ought to pick up a few more seats across the country. The revelations of the Gomery inquiry and the unlikelihood of a Conservative majority means that the Liberals will have more trouble scaring potential NDP voters into supporting the Grits (not that they won't try).

It looks like it should be an exciting race here in BC Southern Interior. The popular incumbent MP Jim Gouk is stepping down, and the new Conservative standard-bearer Derek Zeisman will attempt to hold the seat for the Tories. The NDP's Alex Atamanenko, who came within 700 votes of defeating Gouk in the 2004 election, is running again. The Greens might increase their share of the popular vote as disaffected voters register their ire with our political process, but they won't win this seat. Neither will the Liberals.

Kootenay-Columbia is Jim Abbot's seat to lose. The interesting thing about that election is likely whether his margin of victory goes up or down.

For my part, I promise to vote for the candidate that will give me some form of proportional representation and fixed election dates. It sucks having to have an election campaign over Christmas. Here at the Valley Voice, we've decided to publish three editions during the course of the election campaign. We'll publish another paper next week, take a break for Christmas and the New Year, and get back to work in time to turn out a special pre-election edition on January 18.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

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

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

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

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

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.

Vote Green

It's known that politicians follow the people: They don't lead!

The Conservative plea is: Vote Your Conscience, suggesting only a Liberal alternative to themselves. The NDP makes stronger public medicare a higher priority than accessible education and training, more secure pensions, and lastly a healthy environment. The strength of the Green votes has spurred environmental action and awareness amongst people and politicians provincially, nationally and internationally: Creating greater awareness and action towards healthy environments. You can't have healthy people or a healthy economy without a healthy environment.

The rhetoric and distracting 'red herrings,' 'pork barreling' and name calling will certainly be part of this wasteful campaign trail caused by a poor voting system that has not received the promised corrective action, called 'proportional representation'.

So by all means vote strategically, vote your conscience, vote to win a healthier life for you and yours, vote to achieve meaningful change! I think a GREEN VOTE is the most effective way to advancing a healthy Canada regardless of who forms the next government.

Eric Faulks
Hills

TASK position on Jumbo clarified

I am writing in response to a letter by Rowena Eloise titled "Jumbo threatens Kootenay lifestyle" in the November 9 *Valley Voice*. The letter indicates that the Tourism Action Society in the Kootenays (TASK) is in support of the Jumbo project. I would like to clarify that.

TASK is often asked to support proposals for new tourism businesses including resort development. TASK does not support individual proposals. TASK supports the industry as a whole.

Mandated to support the development of the breadth of the tourism sector, TASK supports the development of a region-wide network of sustainable tourism providers through information and collaboration. TASK is committed to achieving consensus within the diversity of its membership. TASK does not grant approval of individual businesses or proposals.

As with any resort development in the Kootenays, TASK encourages government and the proponents of the Jumbo Glacier Resort to respond to the principles of sustainable tourism development and to build mutually beneficial partnerships with the diversity of small and mid-sized businesses, organizations and communities that provide authentic visitor experiences in the host region.

Eileen Fletcher,
Executive Director, TASK

Preserve the caribou

When I was working in the South Selkirks this summer I was fortunate to encounter three individual mountain caribou. It's hard to describe my experience viewing these magnificent animals on the verge of extinction. Many travel as far as Africa to see some of the last wild large mammals on earth.

Some may believe that in the name of 'progress' it is inevitable that we alter our landscape in ways that endanger species to the point of extinction. I don't believe that because we *can* destroy habitats for short term profit, that we *should*. I believe that we live in a country that is wealthy, well educated and creative enough to preserve species and habitats that took millions of years to evolve.

We, the stewards of the West Kootenay, are the spokespeople for these small remaining herds of mountain caribou. During the federal election, let our MPs know if you value the issue of preservation of species (such as mountain caribou) as well as the issues of healthcare, education, economy, etc. It is our choice.

For more information about our Mountain Caribou go to www.mountaincaribou.org

Gillian Sanders
Kaslo

Remembrance Day should be activism-free

An activist stands up and has her say only to put a blotch on a magnificent day for most of the other decent people in attendance.

On November 11 in the Bosun Hall in New Denver an activist protesting war and who knows what else, wanting peace by the sign she carried, raised the hackles of many who were out to remember those who have died and fought in conflicts for our freedom, and those who still fight and stand for peace.

She may have the right to her outlook on life, but not at a Remembrance Day service and I believe she owes the community an apology. The service this year had more people out than I have ever seen; whether it was the beautiful sun-drenched day or the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, I don't know, but it was just nice to be there.

Agnes Emary had put countless hours into making the service possible, along with other people, and a political activist had to throw a screw into the day.

My father spent four and a half years in a Japanese prison camp being starved and tortured for his country and my freedom. I spend every November 11 remembering him and all the veterans I have known who have lost their lives. I spent time in Winnipeg two weeks previously at the anniversary of the release of the Hong Kong veterans. I spoke to the seven veterans present and learned more of the war my father fought. This year was the first time I had met anyone who had spent time with my father in prison camp so it was a special time, a time to remember.

When I saw the woman with the sign at the cenotaph, noticeably out of place, protesting, that kind of annoyed me, but when she got up to address the people at the Remembrance Day service in the hall, which I feel was totally inappropriate for the time and place, I for one could have gladly thrown the foolish woman out on the street myself.

There is a place for protesting, but it sure isn't at a Remembrance Day ceremony where many of the people present are individually grieving loved ones affected and lost. She was completely out of place and her position and words were unsuitable, offensive and inconsiderate.

Go back to your Bear Clan, and take your heartless spirituality with you. Come back to a service when you want to remember a soldier who fought or is fighting for your freedom and mine. Find a more fitting place to take your meaning of peace and life.

Nobody at the Remembrance Day service was promoting war—only remembering.

Wanda Palmer
New Denver

Voting for ethics

Ethics, I believe, the moral values of Canadian citizens, will determine the outcome of the coming federal election on January 23.

Democracy is a result of the personal ethical quest for freedom to decide how Canada, as a collective, chooses to determine our effect upon our surroundings and its global inhabitants.

Ethics is a slippery fish. We can be appalled by the carnage in Iraq, call the American administration despicable, pat ourselves on the back for 'being peacekeepers' yet when Canadian citizens realize that America couldn't operate its many wars without the Canada Pension Plan and federal taxation investments in weapons, tank and missile components…oooh, we become silent and tippy-toe away.

Through reading the websites of the Canadian Council of Executives and the International Carlyle Group, I have discovered the agenda envisioned for Canada by the most powerful Canadians. I urge you to give the websites a read.

I've realized that it doesn't matter if I vote for Liberal, or Conservative, because the Canadian Council of Executives holds the puppet strings.

If I vote for the NDP, however, I can still influence ethical standards.

The NDP and the Bloc Quebeçois were the only parties to protest mandatory investment of Canadian

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

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Pension Plan monies into the global military.

The Conservative and Liberal representatives however, are funded by, and many of their personal finances are a result of, military investments made over decades, Belinda Stronach in point.

What's wrong with investing in the military?

That comes down to personal ethics.

As a resource rich nation with brilliant minds, the majority of its citizens having the privilege of sleeping peacefully, awaking to plentiful food to eat, warm clothing to wear, schools to attend, and work to profit by, I feel Canada is 'sitting pretty'.

Why then, with all of our sustainable capability, would we choose to kill, starve, and torture—let's admit it—our relatives into devastated insanity for financial profit?

We shall reap what we sow. What goes around comes around. Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.

If well-funded bullies came to our town, murdered all the community leaders and our beloved toddlers, raped our sweetest children and women, wiped out all commodities to survive, and if you personally lived, wouldn't you react?

Best to avoid the carnage scenario. Soldiers also make excellent doctors, technicians, service people, artists, musicians, and parents.

War is predominately about resource grabbing. Media fear is a way to manipulate the voting populace. Addiction to oil, money, and power, results in people becoming expendable.

Are you expendable?

I'm voting for Ethics.

Susan Eyre
Passmore

New Denver needs foot bridges

I have only been here for a full year and I have made interesting discoveries around almost every corner of the town [New Denver].

One thing I have been enthralled by is the continuation of street names across Carpenter Creek and since I live on Josephine St. in the Orchard, I can see that the campground visitors and the residents might profit (time-wise) by putting a series of paths and footbridges across the creek. I have more or less mapped this out, i.e., one end at the white washstand in the campground across the marina road, up the side road to the dyke path, with a set of steps down to the overflow creek beds, through the grasses, trees and other beds to the basic run of Carpenter Creek; from there, a bridge over the creek (raised for the high-water run in the spring) up the north side bank to Bellevue or Josephine St. in the business section.

I have talked to seniors and others on both sides of the creek and they have agreed that it would be something to find out about.

The other thoughts are about getting up the bank from the [south] dyke paths which could have steps like on the north side (railway ties, I think). The complaints again [are] from seniors who go up the avenues (each a bit of a hill) to Union St. (Hwy 6) which is also a bit of a hill to the bridge. Tough going if your breathing and leg muscles are both going the way of the dodo bird.

Jeanne Edge
New Denver

Letter was inspirational

Eloise Charet's letter on war and peace was an inspiration. If everybody thought the same way as Eloise, the world would indeed be a wonderful place. Tragically, not everybody thinks the same way as Eloise.

I like to compare war to cancer. It's not a perfect comparison, but it does stand up fairly well. They are both horrible, malignant scourges and they are both largely man-made and preventable. Generally speaking, we do everything we can to prevent them, but sometimes they happen anyway. At which time, we roll up our sleeves and fight them with every weapon at our disposal, but the result is usually less than satisfactory for all concerned.

Everybody says that they're against war. Who wouldn't say that? Simply declaring oneself to be anti-war is about as useful as declaring oneself to be anti-cancer; it contributes nothing to the eventual elimination of either evil. Doing away with a war, like doing away with cancer, is a long, drawn out, painful and discouraging process. For every 10 steps forward, there will be nine backward. And ultimate success may, in the end, prove to be simply unattainable. That doesn't mean, of course, that we shouldn't keep trying, but pragmatism and hard work will achieve much more than idealism and slogans.

Disarmament and peace do not mean the same thing, nor will one necessarily lead to the other. Disarmament will only work (assuming it can work at all) if everybody disarms, and that's not going to happen in the foreseeable future. Confronted with that unpleasant but nevertheless unavoidable fact, what should we do? We should negotiate, mediate, arbitrate, push people towards compromising and avoid pointing fingers, no matter how good it makes us feel. Once a war starts, arguing about whose fault it is becomes a hollow exercise in self-righteousness.

And we should also keep our powder dry. A military force is a reservoir of trusted strength—and what country doesn't need a reservoir of trusted strength? There are many areas in the world where the only conceivable peace is a strictly monitored and strictly enforced peace. And the only way to do that monitoring and enforcing is with a well-trained, well-disciplined and well-equipped military force. It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish with all my heart that it could be otherwise. But wishing doesn't make it so and wishful thinking is probably indirectly responsible for more wars than any other cause.

John Banta
Fauquier

IHA cuts services in spite of increased funding

It is no news to residents of the West Kootenays that their medical and long term care services have been noticeably cut in the last few years. However, it may come as a surprise to some that much of this reduction has happened coincidentally with a significant increase in funding to the Interior Health Authority, or IHA, the governmental body that has overseen these cuts.

In a document entitled "Continuing Care, Renewal or Retreat?" sponsored by the Canadian Centre on Policy Alternatives and published in April of 2005, authors Marcie Cohen et al. report that in the period between 2000/01 to 2003/04, the IHA received an increase of 19% to its funding or a dollar figure of $153.1 million. This represented the second largest increase in funding received by any of the five health authorities in the province. However, during the same period of time the IHA cut the largest number of acute care hospital beds of any the authorities, reducing the number in its region by 24%. This is in contrast with the 15% reduction experienced province wide.

The IHA's lead in the race to cut services has not been limited to acute care. Ms. Cohen and colleagues report that the IHA has also been out front in reducing the number of publicly funded long term residential care beds for elders. Between 2001 and 2004 the number of residential beds within the IHA was reduced by 29%, leaving the region with an average of 67.8 residential care beds per 1000 people aged 75+, well below the provincial average of 83.4 beds per 1000. It is also reported that between 2000/01 and 2002/03 the number of home support hours for the elderly was reduced by 34%. By 2003 the IHA region averaged 158 home support hours per client, 19% below the BC average and the lowest in the province.

Connected Communities is a group of concerned citizens from Trail, Castlegar, Nelson and Kaslo. We are asking others to join us in asking the Interior Health Authority how a 19% funding increase has been translated into what appears to be a 24% cut in the acute care hospital bed rate, a 29% decrease in the residential care bed rate, and a 34% reduction in the home support hours per 1000 of the population aged 75 and over.

Mary Rathbone
Connected Communities
Nelson

Are we a responsible community?

I have been living in the community of New Denver / Silverton for about five years. I am well acquainted with my local people and issues as a result of having worked for a handful of businesses including the local coffee shop, the local bar, the local family restaurant, the local clothing store and the local newspaper. I love our community, so much that I purchased my first home right here in New Denver. Even though I didn't grow up here, this is my hometown and what happens here is of real concern to me.

Recent events have raised the question of our community needs in regards to our emergency services. Like many others I was disturbed by the latest news that one of our local RCMP officers shot a local rottweiler known to him on his way to work. I wasn't there but based on what I have heard I feel that a conscientious owner would better contain a dog that may seem intimidating. However I can't really find anything responsible about the officer's actions either. I strongly question the judgment call made by a trained, armed professional. The incident took place in a residential area, around the time when kids would be heading to school.

Along with many members of the community I ask why a trained RCMP officer would choose his gun over his baton, tazer gun or pepper spray to stop an intimidating dog. According to the officer, the gun was drawn because he felt his life was in danger as the dog was near… which worries me even more. A trained RCMP officer shot his fairly large target twice missed once and got her in the leg the second time!

I also heard about an incident involving a group of local teenage girls swimming nude at Bannock last summer. Word has it they were asked by two RCMP officers to get out of the water and interrogated for a few beer cans on the beach, before they were allowed to get dressed. If this story is accurate, my concern is why responsible authority figures wouldn't allow these young girls to get dressed first before questioning them? I also question why the parents of these teenagers didn't express concern in the officers' conduct to the detachment.

I know all of the local RCMP officers. Our Corporal is well known for his level of care and professionalism. His job is to regulate and supervise. Are we making our concerns known to him? My intent is not to criticize our local detachment. I am simply reminding us of the role we play in our community as individuals. Are we expressing that this is the type of policing required in our community?

I know my community. I feel safe here. I don't feel that we have major crime issues and I refuse to be made to feel like I need to be watched. I understand that our RCMP detachment covers other communities down the valley as well, but I am confident that the people in the communities of Slocan or Winlaw don't have the RCMP cruiser drive by their house three or four times in one night. So why do we need so much policing? Do we ask if this is what our community needs?

It stumps me that many members of our community are not aware that our local ambulance service is 'out of service' at times. My knowledge may not be accurate but I know that our local ambulance service was called to cover Nakusp during the holiday season last year and will probably be again this year. Our local ambulance service relies on a few dedicated people who don't get paid enough to contribute more time to this service. They are not paid for their training and not properly compensated for their time and dedication. Our local fire departments are run by devoted volunteers.

As responsible community members we have direct impact on these issues. We vote for our municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments. If you have a concern, contact your representatives. Communicate your concerns and ideas to more than just each other at the local coffee shop. Take charge and be responsible and realize that if your local authorities or community services aren't up to your expectations, you have to dedicate yourself to make a change.

I am more concerned with commercial chip trucks speeding through our residential roads than young kids being disciplined for drinking a few beers on the beach. I want my community's ambulance service to serve our villages during the holidays and not another village 45 kms away. I want more guidance for the youth in the community.

Do you ask yourself how you are accountable to your community? Do you hold your paid community services accountable for their course of action or approach? Do you want the youth in your community to be afraid of your local officers or trust them? Wouldn't you want your kids to be guided and encouraged rather than watched? Could it be that our community needs a paid youth counsellor more than a third police officer?

Maybe our village needs a better balance of services provided. I want my community to appreciate the efforts of their local emergency services. After all we are all just as responsible to this community as they are. Let's pay more attention to what our community needs and take action by taking responsibility and voicing our needs.

On that note I would like to thank Gordon Campbell for cutting down healthcare and ambulance services in my community and spending 50K+ on an extra cop to make our neighborhoods safer!

Nikta Boroumand
New Denver

Post office doors should push open

On November 16 Speedy Glass Corp. of Nelson had come here [to Kaslo] to make adjustments on the entry doors of our post office. At first I had thought that the glass had been broken. Later I found that this was not true…as the next day upon my return for mail I could not get the door open. It had been sealed! Just who came up with this stupid (money saving?) idea? Dumb, dumb, dumb!

People who are physically challenged have a real problem and those who are confined to walkers, wheelchairs and crutches are effectively denied entrance, not to say folks with large packages going anywhere are also inconvenienced too.

Trying to pull open that out-swinging door with crutches so one can get in results in the door jamming against the right crutch or hitting some part of your body thus preventing anyone else from going in or out. Of note—it is much easier to push a door open and walk through.

From this hasty and irresponsible action we take umbrage at your actions. In this respect it is obvious to all that the post office management has never walked in the shoes of the physically challenged.

It is therefore obvious that all you desk jockeys can do is to think up more and more reasons to screw the public again this time. Are you not supposed to be a service to your patrons? However in this case what you have done is a hindrance to those who have problems enough. Absolutely no help!

We would suggest that you make the right steps to correct this bureaucratically created problem as soon as possible. This is a brainless stupid idea making no sense at all.

Paul & Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

CLARIFICATION

On the front page of our November 23 issue, the caption under the photo of the Remembrance Day ceremony at Lucerne School mentions books on the Great Wars that were donated to the school library. These books were donated by the Nakusp Branch 20 of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Lucerne grade 2-3 students explore the Roots of Empathy with baby Myles Gale

If you are near Lucerne School, do drop in and check out the bulletin board by Ms. Champagne's Grade 2-3 class. You'll see photos of baby Myles Gale, who is visiting the class regularly as part of the Roots of Empathy program, and examples of the children's writing. It's a real treat!

Roots of Empathy, offered through the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, is a rich, vital and highly rewarding program that teaches human development, emotional literacy, and nurtures the growth of empathy. Empathy means understanding how people feel.

Baby Myles Gale and his mother, Alison, and brother, Clay, have made two visits to the grade 2-3 classroom and will continue to visit throughout the school year. Evelyn Goodell, a Roots of Empathy Instructor, works with the students before, during, and after each visit.

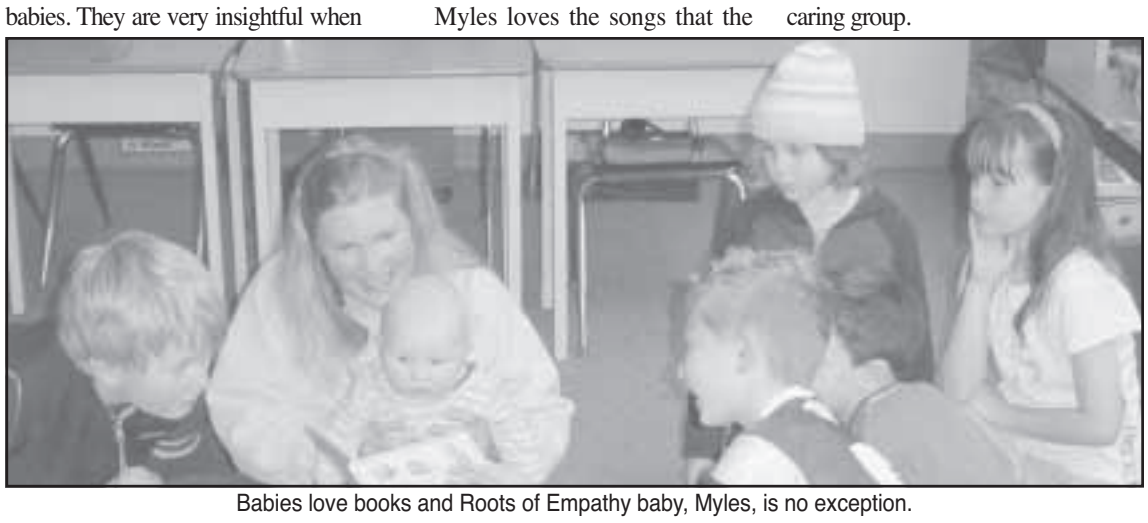
The goals of Roots of Empathy include: fostering the development of empathy; reducing levels of bullying, aggression and violence in children's lives; building peaceful societies; preparing students for responsible and responsive parenting; and increasing knowledge of human development and infant safety. The program was developed by Canadian Mary Gordon.

Before Myles visited for the first time, Ms. Champagne helped the children write a list of the things they thought 10-week-old Myles would be able to do. Their list included: chew a banana, open a fridge, crawl over and stand up, scribble, and say "mama" and "papa." When Myles visited they learned that he isn't able to do these things yet, but they checked "yes" to the following on their list: he can cry, chew on things, laugh, be quiet, lie down and almost hold a toy. The children will be learning a lot about how babies grow and communicate and how the people in babies' lives can best help and understand them.

During the last month the children have been learning why a baby cries and what we can do to help the baby. They understand that we never hit or shake a baby.

The children in the Grade 2-3 class are wonderful storytellers and love to share their tales about when they were babies. They are very insightful when talking about their feelings; they are very trusting, and their empathy is growing.

Myles loves the songs that the children sing to him and he is becoming more comfortable around this warm, caring group.



Babies love books and Roots of Empathy baby, Myles, is no exception.

Holly and Jon celebrate new CD

submitted

Holly and Jon, Slocan Valley blues/roots duo, have recorded a 12 song CD of all original material and will celebrate its release at a party at the Silverton Country Inn on Saturday, December 10.

The new album, entitled "Big Wind on the Way," was recorded in Nelson and features some of the area's finest musicians. All of the photos, artwork, cover design and layout were produced right here in the Slocan Valley with the help of Juscha Grunther and Walter Wells.

Joining Holly and Jon for the Silverton gig will be Adam Arsenault on drums and Brandon Smith on keyboards. They plan to showcase some of the songs on the CD as well as a varied selection of blues and roots tunes.

Holly and Jon have been featured on CBC Radio, CJLY Radio, CFBX Radio and have opened for rock legend, Leon Russell.

Check out www.hollyandjon.com.

Peace poster winners on display at Slocan Valley Co-op

Ember Edwards (Vallican Whole School), Staci Makortoff (Brent Kennedy School) and Jasmine Joloin (W.E. Graham School) have taken the first step to becoming internationally recognized artists by winning local contests sponsored by the Kootenay-Slocan Lions Club. The winners will each receive certificates and a cash award of $25.

The posters were selected on the basis of originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme, *Peace Without Borders*. All students will be honoured at ceremonies at their schools.

All the posters created are on display at the Slocan Valley Co-op in the downstairs members' lounge and visitors are invited to select their favorite poster vote for the People's Choice award. The winner will have the opportunity to spend a half-day with a local artist learning and increasing their talent.

The winning posters now advance to the next level of judging which includes parts of BC, Alberta, Washington and Idaho, facing stiff competition through the district round and three more rounds of competition before one is chosen as the international grand prize winner.

This is the fourth year that the Kootenay-Slocan Lions have sponsored art poster contests in the Slocan Valley. The posters of the grand prizewinner and finalists for the last year can be viewed at the Lions International web site www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/youth_peace_poster.php3#

Breakfast with Santa

The famous Winlaw *Breakfast with Santa* and silent auction takes place Sunday, December 11 this year. Approaching its 10th year, this annual event has become a Christmas tradition in Winlaw. The Parent Advisory Council produces the breakfast and popular silent auction to raise funds for student activities at Winlaw Elementary School, one of BC's excellent small rural schools. The action takes place at Appledale Hall, just north of the West Winlaw Mall. The breakfast begins at 8:30 and costs $5 for adults and $3 for children. As always, this will be a full breakfast with pancakes and sausages. The upper floor will be devoted to the silent auction which will be the best and largest ever. Santa Claus will be there and rumour has it that if there is enough snow he might be testing out his new sleigh.

Silverton Community Christmas celebration - December 9

Silverton's Christmas celebration begins at 4 pm December 9 with the lighting of a bonfire in the lot just north of the BigWay grocery store. Cookies and hot chocolate will be available, and Santa will visit from 6-8 pm. Stores will be open, Christmas lights will be shining, the Silverton Market will be open in Memorial Hall, carols will be sung, you can even buy a fresh-cut Christmas tree …

And don't forget to share – many families are in need, and Silverton's merchants want you to help us "fill the truck" (on loan from Steve Hammond of Silverton Building Supplies) with food and gift items that will be distributed by Christmas Sharing. The truck will be parked conspicuously in downtown Silverton Friday evening and Saturday to accept donations – non-perishable foods and gifts for all ages are gratefully accepted.

To help you help us, we will also have donation boxes at the mailboxes in Hills, Rosebery, New Denver and Silverton from 9 AM-3 pm on Friday, Dec 9 – if you will not be coming to our evening celebration, please, please make your donation when you go to pick up your mail.

Destination Silverton extends their thanks in advance to all who participate, and to all who make donations to Christmas Sharing.

Hank Williams First Nation plays at the Whole

FLIKS brings the Canadian independent film *Hank Williams First Nation* to the Vallican Whole community Centre Friday, December 9, and to the Capitol Theatre Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 pm.

Shot on the Woodland Cree First Nation in Northern Alberta, *Hank Williams First Nation* is a film for the whole family. The story is pure Canadian fun, and you'll recognize many of the actors from North of 60. The reserve is shaken when one of its own sets out on an ambitious, quirky adventure. Seventy-five-year-old Martin Fox (Jimmy Herman) abruptly decides that he must visit the grave of his long-time hero, Hank Williams, because he isn't convinced Hank is really dead. With the support of brother Adelard Fox (Gordon Tootoosis), Martin sets out for Tennessee, accompanied by his 17-year-old nephew.

The two travellers gain something of a charming notoriety, as their quirky story is picked up in the US press. The news trickling back home provides a unifying spark to the little community, and its variety of colourful characters.

There's a particularly satisfying feeling in listening to people talk about what they care about. Director Aaron Sorensen allows us to listen in on this conversation. Sensitive filmmaking, strong performances and gorgeous cinematography combine to create a profoundly sensual journey, visceral in its effect on the viewer.

A darling at the Los Angeles Film Festival and sold out in rural locations all over BC, this is an independent film success story—and it was financed completely through private funds, unheard of in the filmmaking world today!

The film runs 100 minutes and is rated all ages.

For more information check out the FLIKS website at www.FLIKS.ca

Hank Williams First Nation traces the journey of 75-year-old Martin Fox (Jimmy Herman) as he travels to the grave of Hank Williams.

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Stop by on Friday night and receive a free calendar and cap!
Also offering many Super Santa Specials Friday Night only!

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Local students do well at Rossland Youth Film Festival

by Jan McMurray

Mount Sentinel and WE Graham are putting themselves on the map for their excellent film programs.

At the fifth annual youth film fest in Rossland, run in conjunction with the Rossland Mountain Film Fest, students from Mt Sentinel won in two categories and students from WE Graham took an honourable mention in one category.

Sam McKinnon of Mt Sentinel won Best Animation for his film "Check." Ben Affolter of Mt Sentinel won Best Drama for "Exceptions."

"Miracle Whipped" was produced by the kids in the 2005 Information Technology class from WE Graham Community School. The film was written, produced, acted, and edited by Kevin Welch, Dan Berg, and Matt Mills. "Miracle Whipped" received an honourable mention in the drama category.

"The Rossland Arts Council was very pleased to have the participation of students from Mount Sentinel and WE Graham — the work of the students was outstanding," said Kathleen Hart of the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture.

Other entries from Mt Sentinel were "Exsequor" by Ken Kabatoff (Drama); "My Symbols" by Michelle Griffiths (Experimental); and an untitled piece by Eric Zoobkoff (Sports/Adventure).

This year there were over 20 entries ranging from animation to sport action films. Student entry came from five area schools: Rossland Secondary, JL Crowe, Stanley Humphries, WE Graham and Mt. Sentinel. All films were made by young people under the age of 19.

Films were adjudicated by a panel of film and arts professionals in five categories: drama, documentary, infomercial, sports/action and animation/ experimental.

Winners in each category received a 'Best of the Fest' certificate and a $50 cash award. Honourable mentions in each category received a certificate.

Winners of the U-19 Film Fest went on to compete in the Rossland Mountain Film Fest's Amateur Quest.

This year's U-19 Fest was a cooperative effort of the Rossland Arts Council and the Rossland Mountain Film Festival.

Christmas Present for the Slocan River

submitted by Jen Yeow

While the Slocan River Streamkeepers were busy planting and protecting trees beside the river, another project to help stabilize a bank and provide fish habitat was under way and is now near completion. The project was funded by the Ministry of Transportation and is intended to compensate for fish habitat losses that are expected to occur from a newly installed culvert on Gwillim Creek.

This is part of a "no net loss" directive from Department of Fisheries and Oceans that says that if habitat is compromised due to road work etc. at one site, enhancement works must be done, preferably near the original site.

The work is being done on the Larsen property, downstream from Lemon Creek. Eric Miller of Miller and Masse Consulting is overseeing the project and the end result will be a stable bank with a significant increase in woody habitat for rainbow trout in a section of river known to contain many fish.

Initial efforts to stabilize the bank were completed in 2003. However, downstream from this work, the bank continued to erode. To address this problem, the riprap was extended, but more importantly, 15 large logs with rootwads facing into the river were installed deep in the bank.

After covering the logs with rock and gravel, over 700 square meters of brush layering was planted. Brush layering involves laying live stems on earth and covering them with protective material to create a dense vegetative mat. Additional planting of live trees on the upper bank will also ensure the new riparian forest will thrive. In addition to creating habitat, the project is intended to halt the loss of pastureland and reduce sedimentation of the river.

The Slocan River Streamkeepers are pleased to see this kind of project, which results in a win-win for aquatic life, ranch owner and the river ecosystem.

Ongoing work to stabilize the banks of the Slocan River includes riprap, installation of logs with rootwads extending into the river and brush layering.

Gouk meets with Canada World Youth participants

submitted

Jim Gouk, Member of Parliament for British Columbia Southern Interior, met with David Piver, a young resident from Nelson and participant in the Canada World Youth (CWY) program, as part of a unique event held on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa on November 23.

The event involved the Honourable Jacques Hébert, founder of CWY, and more than 30 MPs and senators representing each of the four federal parties, as well as ambassadors and CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) representatives.

It was an opportunity for MPs and senators to meet young Canadians and their counterparts from Brazil, and familiarize themselves with Canada World Youth CWY is a non-profit organization that offers international educational programs to young people aged 17 to 24. Since 1971, more than 25,000 people from Canada and around the world have participated in CWY programs in 67 countries.

Jim Gouk, MP for British Columbia Southern Interior, with Canada World Youth participant David Piver and his Brazilian counterpart Cristian Wittmann.

Don't miss the Snow Ball

submitted

The weather outside might be frightful, but inside the Playmor Hall on December 10th it will be delightful, at the Kootenay Dancebeat Club's Snow Ball. The fun gets underway at 7:30 with a free mini-lesson in the smooth genre by Lui Marinelli, a Castlegar instructor and former club president. From 8 to 11 pm, there will be a good mix of social/ ballroom music and seasonal door prizes and refreshments to make this a special event. So don your glitter and velvet, bring your fancy dancing shoes plus your single friends, and come dance the night away. Admission at the door is $8.

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Local residents participate in demonstration to close School of the Americas

by Jan McMurray

Peace activist from Winlaw, Grant Clubine, joined Castlegar Selkirk College students Bud Godderis and Carly Escott in a trip to Columbus, Georgia, to attend an annual demonstration at the controversial School of the Americas.

The event has been gaining momentum since it started in 1990. This year, on November 20, there were 19,000 people standing vigil outside the military base at Fort Benning, home of the School of the Americas facility. Today, Clubine says, the training is being done at various bases across the US, not just at Fort Benning.

Since 1946, the school has trained over 60,000 Latin American security personnel in courses such as commando tactics, military intelligence, psychological operations and counter-insurgency warfare. In 1996 the Pentagon was forced to release training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

Clubine explained that the event commemmorates the murder of Bishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, who made a plea to the El Salvadoran people "to stop killing their own brothers." In the middle of the priest's homily in church 25 years ago, someone shot him.

Current US legislation (HR 1217) to close the school and to investigate the development and use of these training manuals has over 120 bi-partisan co-sponsors in the House of Representatives, and a vote to suspend operations at the school is expected next summer.

Similar legislation was passed successfully in 2000. Congress ordered the school to close, which it did for one month and then reopened as Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Co-operation.

School of the Americas Watch, a broad movement of human rights groups, people of faith, students, veterans, unionists and others maintain that as long as the underlying purpose of the school remains the same — to control the economic and political systems of Latin America by aiding and influencing Latin American militaries — it must be closed down.

Local peace activist, Grant Clubine went to the demonstration because he believes "Canada should learn from the history of the SOA and avoid closer military ties with the US. The Canadian military is working more closely with the US military in combat missions. In Iraq and Afghanistan the use of torture and human rights violations like those taught at the SOA are being uncovered and Canadian troops are complicit in that our soldiers are mandated to hand over any combatants they capture to US forces."

On November 20, Winlaw resident Grant Clubine joined this solemn procession to call for the closure of the School of the Americas, known to be a training facility for torture, at the Fort Benning military base in Columbus, Georgia. On everyone's cross is the name of a person killed by a School of the Americas graduate.

Volunteer firefighters recognized by WCB

On November 16, the BC Liberal government agreed to amend Bill 11, the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, to include volunteer firefighters. Bill 11 was introduced on October 31 in order to recognize the occupational health risks associated with firefighting. It named certain cancers that would be defined as occupational diseases associated with long-term employment as a firefighter. Specific cancers now recognized by WorkSafe BC are primary-site brain cancer, primary-site bladder cancer, primary-site kidney cancer, primary-site colorectal cancer, primary-site ureter cancer, primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and primary leukemia.

However, the bill pertained only to full-time firefighters, so would have recognized approximately 5,000 full-time firefighters but ignored the over 11,000 volunteer and paid on-call firefighters who protect the majority of BC's communities.

With a swell of support for the inclusion of part-time and volunteer firefighters by many organizations, such as the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC and the Union of BC Municipalities, the government agreed.

"The potentially toxic conditions in which they work don't differentiate between volunteers and paid firefighters. It's important that legislation should not do so, either," said Labour and Citizens' Services Minister Michael de Jong.

The Crackercats return

submitted

Kootenay Co-op Radio invites the West Kootenay community to check out the return of Saskatoon's dynamic power roots trio, the Crackercats.

These up-and-coming Canadian musicians have toured our region regularly for the past three years, developing a loyal following amongst roots music fans.

The group's ultra high energy shows, which fuse traditional prairie folk music with deep southern blues and bluegrass with a twist of Gypsy flare, are a recipe for an evening of great music and lively dancing for all!

In July, the Crackercats released their second full studio album, Livin' on the Run. They are back from touring across Canada at summer festivals, and most recently from a tour through Scotland, the Netherlands and Norway.

You can see the Crackercats live at the Crooked Cafe in Kaslo on December 9 and at Little Slocan Lodge on December 10. The group also plays the Royal in Nelson on December 12 and the Sirdar Pub on December 8.

Check out www.crackercats.com for more info.

RDCK, November 26: International Selkirk Loop project moves ahead

by Jan McMurray

•It looks like the development and marketing of the Canadian portion of the International Selkirk Loop project is a go-ahead. The board has received positive responses from nine of eleven RDCK member municipalities regarding contributing some of their Community Tourism funds to the project. The total amount committed from municipalities so far is $40,567, although Slocan's $4050 is "subject to confirmation." The RDCK board has committed $40,000 of its Community Tourism funding to the project. The two municipalities that had not yet responded were Salmo and Silverton. The loop is a drive beginning in Idaho and coming up through the West Kootenay.

•The board decided to set aside up to $50,000 from the 2006 budget to fund one or more Zero Waste Coordinators.

Kaslo and Area D

•The contract for the Kaslo Water Plant building expansion has finally been awarded, to LBA Contracting Ltd. This expansion is being done to better accommodate the former McDonald Creek Water users, residents of a part of Area D just outside of Kaslo, who lost their water system to a slide during a storm in May 2002. Since then, the Village of Kaslo has supplied the rural residents with water.

The work will include adding onto the municipality's existing building to accommodate the necessary equipment for a third filter, and installing the filter. The contract is worth $77,288.27 and has a closing date of January 31.

Nakusp and Area K

•Staff was authorized to advertise the tender for a five-year agreement for the operation and maintenance of the Nakusp landfill, starting April 1, 2006. The previous contractor, Kaylor Contractors, did not complete the contract term, leaving at the end of September. The RDCK has kept the facility open with its own equipment. Nakusp's Galena Contracting had employees to spare, so the RDCK hired them to work the site until the contract is awarded for April 1.

•With BC Hydro resuming the environmental assessment of the Revelstoke Generating Station Unit 5 project, the RDCK was invited to participate on the Advisory Working Group. Area K Director Paul Peterson was appointed to the working group.

School Districts get more $$$

BC school districts will receive, on average, $341 more per student this year now that the final enrolment numbers are in. The government has increased operating funding by $150 million per year, says the education minister, and since enrolment is down by 6,400 that means average funding is up from $6,752 to $7,093.

School District #10 (Arrow Lakes) will get $6,692,758 for its 646 students. This is an increase of $259,376 and a decrease of 11.2 kids. School District #8 (Kootenay Lake) is up $837,335 to $46,060,578, and down 272.6 students, to 5,380.8.

Forty-three of the province's 60 school districts lost more than one per cent of their student enrolment over last year.

Creative achievement Awards

The province is looking for submissions and nominations for the second annual BC Creative Achievement Awards. The awards recognize talented British Columbians working in applied art and design; winners will receive $5,000 and be granted the use of a seal to mark their creative excellence.

Anyone working in art and design with "a practical application"—e.g. jewellery, glass, wood, fibre, clay and metals—is eligible. For more info, visit bcachievement.com.

Silverton

•Because Linda Laktin of Silverton had resigned from her position as Alternate Director to the RDCK at the November 22 Silverton council meeting, the board did not have to deal with her request for a leave to be absent from this November RDCK meeting. Background correspondence attached to this agenda item were a letter from Administrator Jundo Ida at the Village of Silverton inquiring about Laktin's monthly stipend, a response from the RDCK Chief Administrative Officer indicating that Laktin did not qualify for the monthly allowance, a letter to Laktin from Dawn Attorp, Manager of Corporate Administration at the RDCK, advising of the possible disqualification from office due to continuing absence, a letter from Laktin to RDCK Chair Wright requesting a leave of absence from board meetings in excess of the time frame permitted under the Community Charter. Laktin never attended an RDCK board meeting.

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Local fish & wildlife organization marks 10 years of success

submitted

It's been 10 years since the Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (CBFWCP) started working to protect species at risk, conserve habitats and restore fisheries in local rivers, lakes and reservoirs. In that time kokanee stocks have increased, important wildlife discoveries have been made, and thousands of hectares of critical habitat have been protected.

"It has really been a team effort," says CBFWCP Manager, Maureen DeHaan, who has been at the helm since its inception. "Of course our two long standing program partners, BC Hydro and the Ministry of Environment, have been behind us since day one but over the years we have worked closely with a wide range of community groups, stakeholders and volunteers who should get a lot of credit for what we've achieved. As part of our anniversary celebrations we're holding a draw for three free flights with a biologist." You can enter online at cbfishwildlife.org.

The CBFWCP is a joint initiative between BC Hydro, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the construction of BC Hydro dams. Since 1995 BC Hydro has provided the CBFWCP with $3.2million each year (indexed to inflation) to fund conservation and enhancement work.

The fertilization program of Kootenay Lake and Arrow Lakes Reservoir, co-ordinated in conjunction with MoE, is possibly the largest successful lake restoration in the world and has helped build kokanee stocks back to near historic pre-dam levels. The CBFWCP helped purchase over 10,000 hectares of critical wildlife habitat, much of it in the East Kootenay. Restoring of grasslands, increasing forage for ungulates, funding spawning channels, and helping to manage valuable habitat land for a multitude of stakeholders are all part of the "game plan."

From the endangered Upper Columbia white sturgeon and Northern leopard frog to burbot, bats and big horn sheep the CBFWCP's projects support a range of species. Approximately one third of its projects focus on species at risk.

In all the CBFWCP has invested more than $30 million in local fish and wildlife, delivering over 600 projects and working with more than 150 partners. Although the key focus is doing projects that help restore fish and wildlife, the CBFWCP recognizes that its conservation efforts help local economies too. In addition to the bulk of their work being carried out by local contractors, there are improved tourism, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing opportunities. Even restoration practices using selective logging techniques have helped to supply fibre to local mills.

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Young Nakusp man dies in ski accident

by Jan McMurray

A skiing accident claimed the life of Trinity McQuair, a 20-year-old man from Nakusp, on Sunday, November 27 at Mount Baker in Washington State.

McQuair was skiing with his brother and two friends near a double-diamond ski run when McQuair got separated from the group, according to Duncan Howat, general manager of the ski area. Howat said McQuair skied past two rope lines with warnings about the cliffs, but kept going and fell at least 36 metres to his death.

Sherriff's Deputy Mark Jilk said all four were skilled skiers, but not familiar with the Mount Baker Ski Area.

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New Denver council, November 22: Arbour Days designated

The agenda for the November 22 New Denver council meeting included the following items, which were dealt with by mayor Gary Wright and councillors Gordon Brookfield and Ann Bunka:

• New Denver had previously decided to support membership on the Selkirk Loop through regional district if three-quarters of the affected municipalities also supported it by October 31. When that deadline arrived without the requisite support, New Denver declined to participate. Support has now reached the three-quarters mark, so council resolved to extend the deadline, and will now support membership to a maximum of $4,050.

• Two arbour days were established for 2006: Mondays April 3 and October 2. Yard waste will be collected on these days at village expense, as a contribution to the clean air initiative. Notice of these collection days will be sent out along with utility bills in December.

• A request from Judith Hobbs and Vern Prier to purchase a portion of the 15 ft. lane allowance and adjacent 30 ft. lane allowance in Block 34 is being amended to include a narrower portion of the lane. This amendment will be sent to Hobbs and Prier for their comment, then returned to council at a later date.

• The CBT 'Support to Community Foundations in the Basin' was discussed. Participation requires a municipal contribution of $60,000 over three years, which would be matched by the Vancouver Foundation and CBT, to triple the money. As municipalities cannot use existing reserve funds for this, participation would be difficult. Council will look into possibilities such as combining with other municipalities to generate the funds.

• Administration was authorized to proceed with communications regarding a land exchange requested by Ron and Mary Behrendt . This exchange will require a road closure bylaw, filing with Land Titles, and notices in newspapers; the Behrendts will be required to fund the legal survey and raise the alley surface to a predetermined height.

• The village's fire inspection contract with CGI Information Systems and Management was renewed for three years. Administrator Carol Gordon advised that the cost is accommodated under the business taxation rate, and said "It's a good and needed service."

• Council approved funding for incoming councillors to attend the 2006 newly elected conference.

At the end of the meeting, Wright commented "It has been truly an honour to work with this council," and Bunka added "It's been a lot of work with a minimum of fuss and lots of laughter."

Wright, Bunka and Brookfield, who are returning to office, say they look forward to working with new councillors Bonnie Greensword and Katrine Campbell after the December 5 inaugural meeting.

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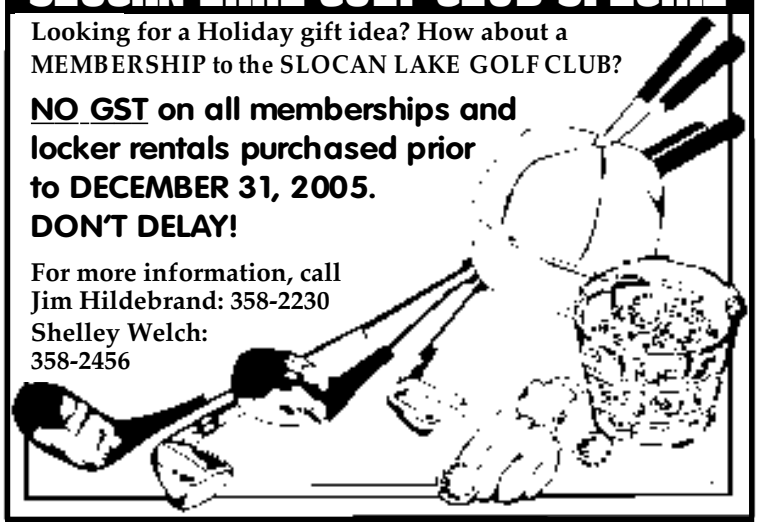

Silverton council, November 22: Congratulations all around

•In his report, Mayor Wiseman congratulated all the successful candidates in the municipal election and wished them the best of luck over the next three years. "There are ups and downs — keep looking up," he advised. He also congratulated the voters for coming out, estimating that the voter turnout was 70%. He thanked Administrator Junko Ida and Fire Batallion Chief Ron Provan for stepping in during difficult times and doing such excellent jobs as acting administrator and interim fire chief, respectively. He also thanked Leonard Casley, "who was willing to step in as chief."

•In Councillor Dorsey's report, he thanked Chief Elections Officer Junko Ida and Deputy Elections Officer Anna Marie Hogg for all their work on election day. For the future, he advised that weeks to be proclaimed be "kept on top of" and that public and press receive the full agenda package at the same time as council members.

•Councillor Duncan thanked staff and maintenance and congratulated the upcoming councillors and mayor.

•Councillor Laktin congratulated the new council members and thanked outgoing members.

•Laktin submitted her resignation as alternate director to the RDCK. She did not attend a single meeting. The last RDCK meeting to be attended by a representative from Silverton was in March.

•Bylaw No. 434, Board of Variance Bylaw, was given three readings. The new council will give final consideration to the bylaw. Councillor Dorsey voted opposed to the three readings, saying that there was "a certain amount of liability involved," according to the Community Charter. He believes that council should not be dealing with bylaws so close to a change in council. Wiseman said that Ida had learned from the Ministry that council was allowed to carry on business to the end of the term.

•Public Works Foreman Chris Fox reported that he had been working on complying with fire regulations at the Memorial Hall and the Village office. Because New Denver and Silverton were no longer sending in water samples together, there was some confusion with the water tester, but that had been cleared up. An arrangement was made with Canada Post so that they will pay for snow removal at the mailboxes.

•During public and press time, resident Joe Matthews asked about the fill on Turner Street. He asked who decided to accept it free of charge, and commented that the Village should not be undercutting other local contractors. He was concerned about the amount of time spent using Village equipment to move the fill. Wiseman and Fox both explained that the issue had already been discussed, both indicating that they were tired of it. Wiseman said that Maintenance and the contractor had made the arrangement for the fill and that it was a win-win situation. Fox said the fill had been used at the Fingland Cabin and the dike area. Councillor Duncan said what was left of the fill would be moved out very soon. Both Dorsey and Wiseman said that decisions like these were best made by Maintenance.

•Mayor elect John Everett attended the meeting and thanked the council members for their service and said he was looking forward to working with Ida.

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Nakusp council, November 24: Hot springs audit to be done

by Jan McMurray

•Council voted to hire Fairbank Architects Ltd. from Vernon to do a facility audit on the Nakusp Hot Springs.

In a memo, Acting Chief Administrative Officer Larry Robinson says that he followed up on concerns of council, the hot springs board and staff by inviting the company to submit a proposal for the audit.

The proposal explains that the audit will evaluate the facility "to ensure that it continues to meet with the needs of tourists, local residents and Provincial Standards." It will look at what maintenance improvements are necessary for the facility's ongoing viability. The audit will be comprehensive, with consultants inspecting the structural condition of the buildings, the mechanical and electrical systems, the pool systems, the water and sewer systems, traffic patterns and parking facilities, etc. The process will take six to eight weeks and a written report will be submitted to council in early 2006 to meet the Village's budget deadline.

The basic cost of the audit is quoted as between $12,600 and $14,800. Some services would cost extra, potentially bringing the total amount to almost $20,000. Payment for the audit will come out of the 2006 budget and treasurer Richard Mahoney said it would come out of hot springs profits.

•Council awarded the pump house tender to Arrow Lakes Ready Mix, at $91,670. The contract includes building the pump house structure, and tying in the existing well near the arena through the pump house to the nearby water main. This will supplement Nakusp's water supply for now. Future plans are to drill a second well and to have the Village solely on the groundwater system. Currently, the Village is being supplied by Upper Brouse, Halfway, Lower Brouse and (sometimes) Kuskanax Creeks.

•Council received a copy of a letter from Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman to the Nakusp and Area Development Board inviting the board to apply for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement. The letter explains that the current offer is for up to 10,000 cubic metres annual allowable cut, but that more volume may be offered next year. It also says the agreement would be for five years, with the possibility of becoming more long-term; that the boundaries must have written approval from District Manager Larry Peitzche; and that the invitation is valid for six months, with the possibility of an extension.

Councillor Hamling reported that the Nakusp group discussed Coleman's letter at length. They wrote back to him, asking several questions they would like answered before making a decision to accept or reject the invitation. Their questions are in regards to the working area, the possible expansion of the annual allowable cut, the application process and stumpage fees.

•Council will send a letter of congratulations to the Nakusp Secondary girls volleyball team, which participated in the provincials in Castlegar December 1-3 and to Joe MacDonald, who was selected to serve on the Columbia Basin Trust's youth committee.

•Supertintendent Jason Chernoff reported that the Village had received the outstanding debt from the Curling Club. He said that computer problems were ongoing, but were being addressed. He also reported a draining problem at the lagoon. Chernoff has applied for four grants for a handicap washroom and lift and a new ice plant at the arena.

•The curling rink will not be in operation this year, due to a lack of interest.

Mahoney said that the seniors were interested, but not the curling club and said he didn't think there was a lot of interest from the school either.

Hamling said there had been no women's group or mixed group for a couple of years. "Sometimes when something is left for a year, it comes back a little stronger," she said.

Chernoff said, "We hope for more interest next year. It's not worth keeping it open for one or two groups," noting that the monthly fee charged for the facility does not cover the costs.

Councillor Heppner said there was a rumour that the club was not happy with the ice quality. Chernoff said they had asked for $8500 for an ionizer, "but I didn't even bring that forward."

Mahoney said he would meet with Vernon's curling club president and would apply for a grant for the operation of the rink and equipment.

Donation to Fauquier Reading Centre

In October 2004, Bill Laux bequeathed more than 1,000 books, articles, CDs and pictures to the Fauquier Reading Centre. The Laux Collection recently went on display at the reading centre and the train section, with pictures of old locomotives and trestle bridges and articles written by Laux, has proved very popular with visitors. Laux, a longtime resident of Applegrove, lived in a 'castle' he built himself, which he left to the BC Land Conservancy.

An open house was held for the Laux collection, which was donated to the Fauquier Reading Centre, on November 22.

Hang an ornament in memory of a loved one

submitted

This year marks the tenth anniversary of The Celebrate a Life Tree, initiated in 1995 by the Nakusp Hospice community.

For those who have lost someone dear to them, this Celebrate a Life Tree offers the opportunity to honour their memory by hanging an ornament inscribed with their loved one's name.

This year's tree will be located in Kootenay Savings Credit Union in Nakusp. Anyone wishing to add an ornament may do so during the hours 9:30-5:00 Tuesday-Friday and 9:30-2:30 Saturdays, starting December 2.

It is a free service, but donations are gratefully accepted and are used for training volunteers, maintaining the beautiful Serenity Garden at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, and for furnishing and creating a comfortable room in the hospital for clients and their families.

The Hospice Society, which offers its services free of charge, has been caring for the terminally ill and their families since 1987.

Co-ordinating with medical professionals and other members of the health care team, this group of volunteers strives to offer whatever help is needed physically, emotionally and spiritually for those approaching their life journey's end and for their loved ones.

The Hospice Society is actively seeking members, volunteers and board members. A volunteer training session is planned for Spring 2006. Anyone wishing to join Hospice or requiring information can contact Jan Fujibayashi at 265-0166.

Summit Lake Racers prepare for season

submitted

The Summit Lake Racers, from Alcan Nancy Greene to the NSS team, recently met to discuss the focus of this year's program. The team format has traditionally been one of both skill development and competition, but it has been noticed that there are many skiers and boarders in the community who want to belong, but don't want to race. Under the new club system, those people will have the opportunity to train with their friends, but will be able to opt out of running the gates during competitions.

Fundraising, executive appointments, and the January 22nd local race were discussed. The NSS team will hold a bottle drive in early December, so save all those beverage containers.

Registration forms and more information are available from both Merrilla Thorp (265-4353) and Allison Alder (265-4222).

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Central Kootenay Regional District

INVITATION TO TENDER

NAKUSP LANDFILL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

The Regional District of Central Kootenay invites Tenders for the operation and maintenance of the Nakusp Landfill. The work to be performed under this Contract will include the operation and maintenance of the Nakusp Landfill Site in accordance with the operating guidelines of Operational Certificate MR-16521 and the Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste. The proposed contract is for a five year period.

It will be MANDATORY for Tenderers to attend the LANDFILL SITE TOUR scheduled for 1:00 pm (Local Time) Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at the Nakusp Landfill site located on 1420 Hot Springs Road, Nakusp, BC in order for their tenders to be considered.

Tender information package can be obtained from:

Waste Management Department
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
Phone: (250) 352-8161 / Toll Free: 1-800-268-7325 / Fax: (250) 352-9300
Website: www.rdck.bc.ca
Website: www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca

Tender must be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Tenderers to the Regional District of Central Kootenay office, Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 no later than 2:00 pm (Local Time), Tuesday, January 24, 2006. Faxed submissions or emailed (electronic) submissions will NOT be accepted.

The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted. The Regional District of Central Kootenay reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders.

Local students attend leadership workshop

by Jan McMurray

Louise Kent and Bartek Kosinski, representatives of Free The Children and Leaders Today, joined students from School District #8 at LV Rogers School on November 25 to conduct a Free the Children - Be the Change workshop.

Empowering students with the belief that they have an integral part to play in creating a more equitable global culture, Kent demonstrated how youth can create the ideal world by using their gifts and passions and developing their leadership potential through various volunteer opportunities.

Heike Lettrari, grade 12 student at JV Humphries in Kaslo, attended the day-long event. She explained that the morning session was attended by all high school students from all over the district. The afternoon session was just for student leaders, and 20 attended.

"It was very worthwhile," said Lettrari. "We did various activities in the afteroon that pointed out different aspects of leadership. It was very interactive."

She said the basic message was that no matter how small your idea is, you can still make a positive change. "So, if you have an idea, act on it," she said.

Lettrari said that the day inspired her to try to change stereotypes at JVH. "We notice that there are several groups forming, and we'd like to break down barriers so that no one feels excluded."

Heather Robertson, Mt Sentinel teacher, was very impressed with the speakers. "She was Miss Energy and he was Mr. Compassion," she said.

Robertson said that the workshop fit nicely with Mt Sentinel's social justice program. "There are lots of opportunities at Mt Sentinel for kids to get involved," she said, mentioning Project Mexico, where students go to Mexico and help build homes for families and the school's Africa program. As part of this program, students are now fundraising for a well and for bicycles for medical workers so they can travel to smaller outlying communities.

Regarding the Kaslo election...

To those of you who voted for me Nov. 19, 2005, thank you. I felt very well supported by the grass roots. Everything happens for a reason. I will now have more time to get my own projects and business up and running. I remain committed to economic development and job creation for our area.

I will continue to serve as a volunteer member of the conservation committee, and will be devoting time and energy to important local issues. The preservation, restoration and maintenance of our public heritage assets will remain a priority of mine.

Myself and many others will continue to promote Kaslo and Area D as the very special area that it is.

The turnout at the polls was excellent. Well done Kaslo. It doesn't end at the ballot box however. An engaged citizenry is a powerful force. Please stay involved in issues that affect Kaslo and Area D. We are indeed moving forward here and WE WILL GET IT RIGHT.

Let's keep talking.

Donna Cormie
Near Kaslo, BC

James & Shirley Morris, owners of Kaslo Drugs 1980 Ltd. celebrating 25 years in Kaslo!

Kaslo council, November 22: Heritage workshop scheduled

by Jan McMurray

•A "Let's Get Organized" heritage workshop was scheduled for February 18 for 40 people, with a registration fee of $10, as proposed by Mainstreet Consulting Associates.

•Council received correspondence from the Kaslo Housing Society once again expressing interest in Village-owned land south of Kaslo River. The society would like to carry out a housing project on the land. Council had promised the land to the society as long as it had a plan by 2008. Council voted to grant an extension to March 27, 2013.

•A total of $3800 in fall recreation grants were approved, as follows: Kaslo Concert Society ($600); Kaslo and District Public Library ($200); JV Humphries Dance Club ($500); Kaslo May Queen Pageant ($500); Kaslo Area Youth Council ($500); Kaslo Minor Hockey ($500); Kaslo Curling Club ($1000).

•An area was designated off limits to power vessels at the SS Moyie bathing beach.

•The Village will propose that the lease with the Kaslo Golf Club be increased by $215 annually. This takes into consideration the lot on Oak Avenue that has been added to the lease and re-zoned to allow for fairway improvements.

•The Village will provide the Kootenay Lake Historical Society with a letter of support for its upcoming spring project of restoration of the caboose and replacement/scarfing of the SS Moyie hogposts.

•Council received a request from RDCK for approval in principle of a Selkirk College endowment fund for the purposes of hiring a Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development. Council tabled the item until the next regular meeting.

•JV Humphries students will be invited to attend open council meetings as observers to encourage interest in local government.

•A public boat launching ramp will be considered during a review of the Official Community Plan.

•The Kaslo Shipyard lease will be increased by 1% each year. Council adopted as general policy that all future leaseholders with the Village who pay more than $100 per year be subject to annual increases of 1%.

•Accounts payable in the amount of $45,172.96 were approved.

•Mayor Douglas thanked council members for their service and wished the new council members the best of luck in their upcoming tenure.

Kaslo hockey

submitted by Suzan Hewat

Most house teams were on the road on the weekend of November 19 and 20 as Kaslo hosted the Damsels and Dinosaurs tournament.

Kaslo Peewee Winter Hawks were in Castlegar for a tournament where they placed 8th out of 12 teams. In the first game, Kaslo tied with Vernon Sentinels 5-5. Unassisted goals were by Lindsay McKinnon, Matt Guttensohn and Liam Mitchell. Guttensohn got another goal, assisted by McKinnon and Devon Veldhuizen. Harley Martin put one in, assisted by Mitchell.

The second game was against the Kelowna Knighthawks and they won 12-1. The lone Kaslo goal was made by Jake Rempel, assisted by Connor Robertson and Leah Aasen.

Kaslo did much better in the third game against Penticton Silverhawks. The score was 5-1 for Kaslo. Peter Reimer and Matt Guttensohn scored goals unassisted. Harley Martin put one in, assisted by Liam Mitchell. With help from Matt Guttensohn, Lindsay McKinnon scored.

In the last game, Kaslo scored two goals to Beaver Valley's 4. Lindsay McKinnon scored, assisted by Harley and Devon. Jake Rempel got the other goal, assisted by McKinnon.

Kaslo Bantam House, Beachcombers, went to a tournament in Enderby.

Scores were: Langley 7-Kaslo 4; Kaslo 8-Winfield#2 - 3; Kaslo 8-Vernon 5. Kaslo lost in the third place game to Winfield#1, 9-5.

Author Anne DeGrace reads at the Langham

submitted

On Thursday, December 8 at 7 pm in the Langham theatre, Nelson author Anne DeGrace will read from her new novel, Treading Water (admission by donation).

Already in its second printing, the story is set in a fictional community based on Renata, BC — tracing the development of this community from the first settler to the last to leave in the face of hydroelectric dam development in the 1960s.

Anne DeGrace is a librarian, journalist, writer, illustrator, volunteer, mother, and multi-tasker. Between jobs she has co-authored two photographic books of the West Kootenay region, but fiction is her first love. Her stories that have appeared in The New Quarterly, Room of One's Own, and Wascana Review. Treading Water, inspired by the tiny community of Renata that once flourished on Lower Arrow Lake, is her first novel.

Moyie issues Ambassador Passes

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society, in honour of the SS Moyie's 107th birthday, is issuing a 2006 season Ambassador Pass to Kaslo residents in the V0G 1M0 mailing area. The pass will entitle one person free admission to the ship for the entire summer season, and can be used by any adult family member.

The gift shop in the Kaslo Tourist Information Centre, 324 Front Street, has extended its hours and is now open year round, 9-12 Monday-Friday for the winter season. A great selection of gift items, local history books, cookbooks, T-shirts, stocking stuffers, and much more are all part of a 10-25% winter sale.

Kaslo RCMP report

Kaso RCMP reports that on November 18, there was a break and enter to a Kaslo residence on E Avenue. Some food items were stolen.

On November 19, Kaslo RCMP investigated a Meadow Creek incident where a 36-year-old man enticed his neighbour's domestic turkey to cross the road and then shot the turkey. Clint Roberts was charged with mischief and illegal possession of a firearm.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

The ski season starts in Sandon

Today, December 1st, there's maybe an inch of snow in downtown New Denver, and even though the big ski areas are claiming to have 70 or so cm. of snowpack, it's still just the start of things and there's a lot of obstacles to be safely buried by deeper snow that still can catch you off guard. Until a few more storms pass, I'm going to spend some days at Sandon on the old rail grades there that already have shin-deep snow coverage. This is easy terrain, close to home with good car access.

The 14 km drive to Sandon from New Denver gets you back away from the milder valley bottom weather to a colder snowbelt climate, often five degrees colder, with at least three times the snow depth. You can be stuck in the shade on clear days in some of the lower levels, but if you get there midday and get up on even the lower slopes it's great, and on those stormy days when you can't go elsewhere, the forests and terrain keep things sheltered.

One of my preferred outings that takes a couple hours is to park about one km before Sandon and ski up the Payne Wagon Road, which leaves from a pullout beside the settling ponds for the semi-active Treminco mill site. I stuck a little sign in the snow by the road and there may be ski tracks from this point as well. I like to do this tour as an initial climb, followed by either downhill or level during the main loop route. You could get up on fishscale type gear, or with the right day wax, or else be lazy and stick on the skins.

The Payne Wagon Road climbs at a perfect rate for maybe 700 metres to where it crosses the K&S rail trail. It goes far up the mountain as well, but that's another story. From this crossing I follow the level K&S towards Sandon for a little, then head up the Reco Wagon Road which goes up sorta steep from in Sandon. After about one km of uphill out of Sandon, this old road crosses the Cody Spur rail trail, which can be followed out to the Last Chance mill site near Cody where that rail grade once crossed Carpenter Creek on a large trestle. There's a big iron wheel and some timbers at this site.

Now the rest of the trip is downhill or level. Follow the Cody Spur back past Sandon as it descends at a slight but helpful rate. Passing by the Reco Road that you ascended, the Cody Spur continues onward through the forest as a delightful easy ski route and soon crosses the higher spot on the Payne Road until finally intersecting the K&S trail at the Altoona mine portal, which has collapsed somewhat this year. There's a steepish connector to get down at this point but it is no big deal…

From the Altoona mine the K&S goes on out to Three Forks, but to make a loop in this case, you bear left and follow the level rail trail back to where it crosses the Payne Wagon Road at the first lower junction, then make the final ski out down to your car. More snow will cover some of the odd rocks and brush that are still showing, but generally speaking, this route is already in good shape. Colder weather will freeze up a couple of wet spots and more snow can help to fill the bare spots under the biggest trees.

The total distance for this loop is maybe seven or eight km and I would call it easy—by Kootenay standards, anyhow. A light pack and light gear oughta get you through okay, and you can read up on the rich history of these rail grades before you come out here. There is a pretty good but somewhat neglected signpost for the K&S in Sandon, right by the replica train station that got built but never quite got to open. It would be good to have a big plywood large-scale map of the immediate Sandon area on one of those unused walls to guide and assure first-time visitors of where these inviting trails may lead.

There's regular snowmobile use of the first bit of the K&S trail from Sandon in order to access Payne Mountain; otherwise, these rail grades are pretty much just enjoyed by ski people. These trails get a lot of upkeep in the summer by work parties of local cyclists and hikers, and in the winter the Sandon folks do some trail tidying as well. Frank Barnes does a lot of this stuff and can shuttle people up the Payne Road to the alpine by arrangement and he tracksets the rail trails at times if snow conditions allow. Snowmobiles may offend some skiers, but they play a major role in shuttling skiers and grooming trails.

The new snow has sure added a lot more light to the often dark days of early winter, but you still want to plan things so that you're back to your car by 4 pm at the latest. Always take some kind of small pack with you on outings, and get one of those new LED headlamps—they're cheap, bright, long-lasting and can make the difference in those cases where you get delayed or have problems of any kind in the dark. Although I rarely tell anyone where I'm going or for how long, I'm fanatical about having the gear I need.

Although half the people who read this stuff I write already know about it and likely lots more, I like to think that the other half may be inspired to sample something or somewhere new, or at least be reminded of an outing they've enjoyed in the past. With the oncoming Christmas season there's a lot of people travelling to do stuff, but there's always those treats to try right here close to home.

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

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Fomi's is fantastic

Hello there all you beautiful food fans. I know that many of you, like myself, drive up and down the Slocan Valley at least occasionally, and when you do I'm sure you see, on the west side of the highway, that round sign about a klick north of Winlaw that says Fomi's Bakery. Perhaps you glance down at the buildings on the bench below the highway. Perhaps you notice the driveway curving down there, but by that time it's too late because you think you're in a hurry.

Well stop everything! Halt right there! Hold your horses, and stop the presses! I now compel you to go to Fomi's. Trust me. I like you!

I went with a friend last Tuesday. We made that turn off the highway, parked, and stepped inside a very welcoming and casual dining area one wall of which is all glass facing north along the river. Another wall is made of sliding glass doors facing west and another wall holds the big chalkboard telling you what's for lunch. The room is bright with tremendous views. It is spacious and comfortingly warm. It is a happy room with two large table-clothed picnic tables end to end, and eight smaller tables whose tops are two foot diameter four inch thick rounds of wood. There are wooden stools, and you can sit right up at the window if you like.

But the next room is where the fun begins. This is where owner/operators Nicholas and Wendy Fominoff display their wonderful and astounding goods. I spoke to Nicholas, and he said "I like to make things that not many others make, and I like to do it right."

So let me begin by telling you what's in just one of the glass display cases. Oh my. There are big trays full of truffles: chocolate, pistachio and caramel cream. There's something in there called *Solomon's Treasure*: seven layers of chocolate cake with chocolate truffle poured over each layer. Then it's cut and the pieces are dipped in chocolate. Nicholas uses only Callebaut Belgian chocolate—arguably the world's finest.

There are honey nut energy bars, large cinnamon twists, blueberry cream twists, apple and blueberry fritters and peppermint patties. There are cream-fruit slices with kiwi or strawberry. There are croissants with layers of pastry cream, sherry, whipped cream, kirsch (a thick cherry liqueur), Black Forest chocolate with melted Callebaut chocolate squirted all over the top—we're talking about a croissant here! Then we move through the eclairs and bismarcks and monster cookies of all descriptions. There are small pies that come in apple raisin, apple rhubarb, and mango chutney.

Know what a Belgian chocolate gift box is? It's a box made entirely of chocolate filled with a dozen truffles. Near that is a 16" gingerbread sleigh loaded with five dozen shortbread cookies and some truffles just for fun. Perfect for the holidays. You can eat the entire thing. It's calorie-free. Sure it is. Still in that same display are pecan tarts, and various nutty and raisiny cinnamon buns and an array of spelt pecan bars. Look! Nanaimo bars, and yes dear, there are doughnuts.

There are more delights behind the glass, but let's move on to the bread racks. Why not try jalapeno cheddar loaf? Huge loaves of whole grain bread: organic harvest loaf, spelt organic white with sunflower seeds, whole grain rye, real pumpernickel (so good!!), valley harvest, old tradition brown or white, and sesame-garlic. Some of these come in mini-loaves, and there are dinner buns for days.

Meanwhile, back in the comfy cozy sunny dining area my pal and I are having lunch, because Fomi's is also a restaurant. All right then. The chili and the various soups, including borscht, come in bowls made of bread (my fave). Everything is home-made including the chicken pot pies, veggie rolls, chicken rolls, and the chicken and veggie samosas. There are thin-crust pizzas with twenty-two choices of toppings. This place is astonishing, and it is a family business. Nicholas and Wendy, along with three daughters and a son are very friendly and helpful, and you can tell they are happy to be there. I really didn't want to leave, but when I did I took with me pumpernickel bread, a chicken pot pie, pizza, and a big container of fantastic borscht. Treat yourself. Go to wonderful Fomi's. You already know where it is. You could go today. You'll be glad you did.

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

Winter riders need to bundle up

Most people have put their motorcycles away for another season and there are only a few of us blue-lipped chaps left on the road – every frost-free day is precious this time of year. I find that some of the best riding is to be had in the late fall, but unless you are well equipped, most bikers find the cold weather too uncomfortable.

The most important thing to pay attention to in late season riding is frozen road surfaces. You can usually cope with the cold, but sliding around a corner on two wheels when you hit a patch of black ice is not good for the health. Although I sometimes ride in sub-zero weather, I like to know if there will be any ice on the road before I embark. It's good to have foreknowledge of the section of road you are travelling on. If you are in doubt, be suspicious of bridge deckings and shaded road corners. If too much doubt exists, you might be better to leave the bike at home.

If you can be reasonably sure you won't be hitting ice on the road, biking well into November can still be fun here in the Kootenays.

Obviously, the most important criterion for cold weather riding is to stay warm. This is simply a matter of the correct clothing — after all, if people can skidoo all day in the snow, it isn't that much of a change to ride your motorcycle in colder weather. A good set of leathers is important here. Put a layer of high tech underwear on below your normal street clothes and make sure you have a pair of closely woven, or wind proof pants over this. I then put my leather pants over these two layers. The point is not only to have a layer or two of insulation, but also to be as wind proof as possible. For the top of your body, the same layers of clothing holds true, but here, I put on my trusty electric vest next to my skin.

If you really want to be a cold weather rider, you need one of these electric vests, as they put the warmth back into your body that gets sucked out by the strong, cold windblast. Some people will even add electric gloves and pants, but I find the vest by itself suffices in even the coldest weather. These vests cost a bit over a hundred dollars and are virtually a necessity for Kootenay riding. If you don't already have one, I would recommend the investment. I have used mine for at least 10 years and it has not given me a speck of trouble.

Gloves of course are important, and if you don't have heated grips, which are an easy add-on feature to any bike, it is good to keep a warm pair of gauntlet mitts in your saddlebag. I find the mitts do a much better job than gloves in keeping hands warm, as they don't isolate the fingers from each other. Keep these mitts or gloves dry, as once they are wet, your fingers begin to freeze.

Boots should be of the proper biker variety that don't have laces to let in the cold draft. Keep them waterproofed with snow seal or some other form of waterproofing. I carry a set of thin rubber over-boots that I can slip over my boots if things get too wet. Remember that two pairs of socks are better than one thick pair.

A real secret of cold weather riding is a Buff. If you aren't familiar with these neck warmers, you should seek one out. There are various other types of neck warmers, but nothing comes close to the versatility and effectiveness of this garment. I have at least three myself, and use the heavier Polar Buff in cold weather. I can place it over my face and nose and even cover my head or ears, depending on how cold it gets. I simply don't ride without it.

Cold weather riding can be lots of fun if you are adequately prepared. Be careful of ice on the road, and as important, don't get yourself caught out without the right gear — you can easily find yourself chilled to the bone and this usually leads to drowsiness and poor reflex action that may cost you your life. Be careful, but also be aware that cold weather doesn't have to stop you from enjoying a couple of months of extra riding in the Kootenays.

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Fomi's Bakery

"There are big trays full of truffles: chocolate, pistachio and caramel cream. There's something in there called *Solomon's Treasure*: seven layers of chocolate cake with chocolate truffle poured over each layer... Know what a Belgian chocolate gift box is? It's a box made entirely of chocolate filled with a dozen truffles. Near that is a 16" gingerbread sleigh loaded with five dozen shortbread cookies and some truffles just for fun. Perfect for the holidays."
Valley Voice Food Editor, Andrew Rhodes

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FOUR BRIDGESTONE BLIZZAKS 195-75R-14 on rims for sale. Used one winter $350. Call 358-7276.

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

Thank you, to the people of Silverton who voted for me in this election. I will be doing my best to represent your needs at the council table. I am still the new kid on the block and need to bring myself up to speed on local issues. I will be counting on your help to do that and look forward to getting to know you all better. And to the people in the larger community, your continuing support makes be feel very blessed, thank you!

Carol Bell

Business Classified ads start at $10.00 in the Valley Voice

A SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS TEA THANKS - To all the following for their support of our 23rd Annual Slocan Valley Christmas Tea for Seniors.BC Hydro, Castlegar Savings Credit Union, Kootenay/Slocan Lions Club, El Dorado Market, Evergreen Natural Foods, The Gift Box, Jennie's Books, Kootenay Coop, Lemon Creek Lodge, Kal Tire, Save-On Foods, Castlegar & Nelson Pharmasaves, Safeway-Nelson, Maple Leaf Store, Mountain Sky Soaps, Slocan Park Service, Slocan Valley Co-op, Cedar Creek Café, Winlaw Mini-Mart, Kootenay Market, Little House Collectibles, WalMart, Ellison's Enterprises, Fomi's Bakery, Georama Growers.

SVRC 226-0008.

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

IT IS EASY to send Kootenay Gifts to family and friends with www.mountainskysoap.com. Reasonable shipping rates and gift-wrapping service. You can even send our seconds online.

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 SNOW BALL Dec. 10, Playmor Hall, 7:30 Free Mini-Lesson, 8-11 p.m. Social/Ballroom Dancing, door prizes & refreshments. Don your finery & bring your single friends! $8 non-members at the door. www.dancingbeat.org.

PARENT PARTICIPATION WANTED! Lucerne parents, come on out to the next PAC meeting on December 8 at 7 pm in the Lucerne library. You have a voice in your children's education through PAC.

GOAT MOUNTAIN SCHOOL SOCIETY AGM will be held at 7 pm at 316 7th Ave. in New Denver on Wednesday, December 14. For more information, call Ruth at 358-2116.

Looking for a place to have your **CHRISTMAS PARTY**? The Crescent Valley Youth Centre is available to rent for $25 per day plus a $25 refundable deposit. Book the Youth Centre for birthday parties, meetings, classes, clubs or special events. You can enjoy the slate pool table, foosball, sports equipment, TV and DVD, stereo, board games, couches, kitchen, and for an additional $25 the PA system and Karaoke machine. Please contact the Youth Centre for more information: (250) 359-8288.

A BOOK UNDER EVERY TREE - New Denver Family Literacy is looking for new and gently used children's books to put in Christmas Sharing Hampers. Books may be dropped off at the Lucerne School Office by December 16.

EDUCATION

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.

3-BEDROOM TRIPLEX UNIT for rent. One mile from Nakusp, on acreage, appliances, privacy. $600 per month. Available August 1. 250-860-0736.

TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE in Slocan Park for January 1. 226-7860 anytime.

TWO-BEDROOM ROSEBERY HOUSE $450/month. 358-7253.

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FULL SPECTRUM BODY WORK offers deep tissue and stress reduction treatments in the privacy of your own home. For additional info and to book appointments please call 358-6808.

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.

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.

AREA H NORTH TV SOCIETY would like to inform residents that due to broken equipment, CLASSIC ROCK 101 (CFMI) radio station is not available until sometime in January, when the new equipment arrives. The Society apologizes for any inconvenience.

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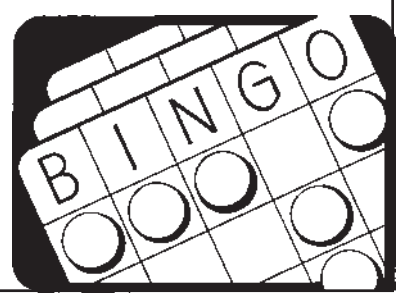
BINGO WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2005 not the 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Silverton Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome!!! Sponsored by Slocan Lake Arena Society.



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World AIDS Day observed in New Denver & Silverton

by Rob Riley

Remembrance and hope was the sentiment voiced at a small ceremony for World AIDS Day, held December 1 in New Denver's Greer Park.

Just under a dozen people gathered about 7:00 pm to light candles, sing songs, remember loved ones and to pray for hope in the worldwide struggle against AIDS. Participants took turns saying a few words, followed by several songs, played by Hills resident, Marion Bergevin. Later, the event moved to the Silverton Inn for an evening of music.

While most area residents know about the global threat of AIDS, many aren't aware of the impact the disease has on the local level, or who is most at risk, said organizer Jan Bradshaw.. Over 50 per cent of new HIV infections in the province last year involved 18 to 25 year-old women who were engaging in heterosexual sex.

"It's not a 'prostitute thing' or a 'drug thing' or a 'gay thing' now," said Bradshaw, a former director of ANKORS (AIDS Network, Outreach & Support Society) and current board member of SALTS (Slocan and Arrow Lakes Treatment Services). "We have to get past this stigma around AIDS, and look at the realities. And reality is that it's right here in our communities, and that every day two more people will be diagnosed HIV positive in this province."

Bradshaw pointed out that people are not actually killed by AIDS, but rather by opportunistic related diseases or conditions, such as cancer, heart attacks or pneumonia. "So when someone *does* die from AIDS, you would hear one of those causes listed, but not necessarily AIDS. And because people don't talk about it because of the stigma, and the fact that it isn't the immediate cause of death, the awareness just isn't there," she said.

Bradshaw pointed out that many people who have AIDS or are HIV-positive are also co-infected with Hepatitis C, and noted that the rate of incidence of Hep C for the Slocan Valley and surrounding area is almost twice what it is for the rest of the province. She cautioned, however, that not all those with Hep C were also HIV-positive or had AIDS. Bradshaw added that the collection of accurate local statistics is complicated by the fact that many people chose to seek treatment in the Vancouver area, rather than locally.

This difficulty was confirmed by Cheryl Dowden, ANKORS acting executive director. People from the Kootenay-Boundary area make up approximately five per cent of the total number of HIV cases in the province, Dowden said. She noted, however, that the closest infectious disease practitioner is in Kelowna, and said while over 200 people use ANKORS services in the West Kootenays, she was unable to estimate how many others travel outside the area for treatment and services.

Bradshaw thanked everyone who attended the lakeside ceremony for World AIDS Day, as well as all the people who volunteered and turned out for the "Musical Jam" later in Silverton. "There were too many people to thank individually, but everyone did a great job, and I'd like to thank them all for the support," she said, noting that a small amount of money was raised for ongoing SALTS projects.

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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)

CORRECTION

In our report on Silverton council in the November 23 issue, Kathy Provan is mentioned as a Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society director. Provan is in fact not a director of the Society.

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Nakusp Light Up winners

Nakusp's annual Light Up, with Santa Claus Parade and late shopping, was held November 25.

Parade winners were: Irly Bird, first prize for Best Float; Overwaitea, second. prize for Best Float. In the "Other Entry" category, CIBC won first and the Girl Guides won second.

Store decorating winners were: Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic (first prize) and the Post Office (second prize). Honourable mention was given to Barton Insurance and Home Hardware.

For inside decorating, CIBC won first and Sun Valley Gas won second. Honourable mention went to Arrow Lakes News and Home Hardware.

Back row (L to R): Sara Varga, Jesse MacDonald, Mandy Wilcott, Desirae Sinclair, Crystal McCready; Middle row (L to R): Heike Mense (coach), Dawn Driscoll, Cassidy Wethal, Britney Currie; Front row (Lto R): Crystal McKinnon, Kristy Homis, Casey Waldron.

Nakusp girls volleyball team has excellent season

submitted

The Nakusp senior girls volleyball team had a very successful season this year, earning their way to the provincial championships!

In October and November they travelled to Nelson, Castlegar and Mt. Sentinel to play the teams of Kaslo, Boundary, Mt. Sentinel, 'AA' Nelson, 'AA' Castlegar and 'AA' Trail.

The girls played nine matches and took only one loss, against Mt. Sentinel. On November 15, the team attended the West Kootenay finals. They defeated Kaslo, Boundary and Salmo and advanced to the Kootenay finals, which were held in Castlegar on November 18. There they met the East Kootenay teams of Elkford and Sparwood to compete for the Kootenay berth in the provincial tournament.

The girls defeated both teams and consequently competed in the 2005 Girls 'A' Volleyball Provincial Championships which were held in Castlegar, November 30 to December 3, where they placed 12th.

On the court they faced tough competition, but played very well against the experienced teams of Lake Cowichan (18 - 25, 20 - 25), Fort St James (25-22, 20-25, 11-15), Houston (12-25, 25-21, 15-12), Langley Christian and Immaculata.

This is the first time the Nakusp girls volleyball team has ever attended the provincial championships!