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

Columbia Basin Trust will not exercise Option Agreement to purchase shares

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) recently held three public meetings to explain why it did not exercise the Option Agreement to purchase the shares of the Columbia Power Corporation (CPC), and how the Trust came out of the process $10 million richer and optimistic about its renewed partnership with CPC and the Province.

As explained by Neil Muth, CEO of CBT, in Castlegar on December 7, CBT and the Province were miles apart on how much they thought the CPC shares were worth.

"It was substantially higher than what we felt the value was and what we felt we could afford," he said.

Muth explained that the figure could not be disclosed without paying $150,000 to RBC Dominion, the bank hired to determine the valuation — and added that this was standard practice with investment banks. CBT board chair Josh Smienk said more than once throughout the meeting that the board was willing to pay the $150,000 if the public wanted to know the amount, but no one seemed that interested.

Muth indicated that to say the difference between the RBC and CBT figures was in the hundreds of millions would be misleading, but "it was not in the tens of millions," he said. "It was a very big gap. It is unusual for two banks to be so far apart."

CBT and the Province were going to share the $100,000 cost of hiring RBC, but in the end, the Province agreed to pay the entire bill. CBT engaged its own advisor from the National Bank and got legal advice from a firm that has expertise in the energy industry. Being "prudent" according to Smienk, the Trust paid the National Bank $50,000 for the advice, which did not include a valuation.

Muth said that CBT felt the price would be affordable if CPC's share of the revenue generated by the power sales would pay for it. However, Muth said, "If we had to use 5% of the revenue going to CBT, we would consider it, but 10-12% would be too high and too risky." (Income from power sales is split 50-50 between CPC and CBT. CBT uses its 50% for its Delivery of Benefits program.)

"The Option Agreement required CBT to put all its assets up as collateral, not just the assets we were purchasing but also our 50% and all our assets, so we argued the valuation was too high," said Muth. "However, we felt that RBC had decent arguments in support of their valuation."

The agreement said that an arbitrator would decide the fair market value if the two parties did not agree on the price. However, it was unclear legally whether the CBT could walk away if the arbitrator's final price was too high.

On top of these risks, the Province, "our sole shareholder," let CBT know that it preferred CBT not to exercise the option. Muth made it clear that he was not speaking for the Province, but his interpretation was that the government was concerned about CBT becoming a power corporation and taking on such a large debt load.

Instead, the two parties entered into some "tough negotiations" to address three issues the CBT wanted to take to the Province: governance, financial compensation and independence.

Muth and Smienk explained that the difficulty with the governance structure was that CPC was in the driver's seat and CBT was expected to "rubber stamp" decisions. The CPC board, consisting of the CEO and a senior executive of the power corporation, was making the decisions and then bringing them to the joint venture committee, where CBT was represented. This led to a lot of costly duplication, explained Muth, because CBT board directors had to hire their own advisors in order to make informed decisions at the joint venture committee level.

CBT had wanted equal representation on the CPC board, but settled for 1/3, or two members on the six-person board. The CEOs of the two entities will not be allowed to be board members and the CEO of CPC will be required to live in the Columbia Basin, where historically he has lived in Victoria.

A member of the public asked if CBT would still do its due diligence. Muth said that CBT has hired a financial analyst and "I would expect him to work very closely with CPC, so we'll do our due diligence but not the way we have in the past."

Smienk said emphatically that CBT board members would not vote for something without being informed. He added that the board was looking at financial models and ways to make the model "work better for the Trust," giving the example of more local hiring.

The financial compensation of $10 million will be released in two installments of $5 million each. One installment will be made before the end of this fiscal year (March 31, 2006) and the other will come next fiscal year. How the money will be managed is yet another issue, which Smienk said would be taken to the 2006 symposium.

Negotiations did not go too far on the issue of independence. "We did get them to make a commitment to work with us with the $10 million to see if there is a way we can jointly go to the Auditor General and see if that can be done. At the end of the day, there might not be anything that can be done," said Muth.

Muth said the Province's arguments against independence for the CBT, which means writing CBT's assets off the government books, are that the former government never wrote off the CBT either, and that the Province has never interfered with CBT's Delivery of Benefits program.

Smienk pointed out that one exception to the claim of non-interference was the change to the CBT board structure that the government decreed in 2003. The Province changed the number of directors from 18 to 12 and gave itself the right to appoint them all.

Smienk explained that the whole issue comes down to going to cabinet and asking them to find $330 million to take CBT off the books. He says it would have been difficult to do this when the Trust was worth much less, let alone trying to achieve this now. He pointed out that from a cabinet point of view, writing off CBT would not result in any more money to the people of the Kootenays but would result in less government ability to build roads, schools and hospitals. However, he adds that other Trusts have been taken off the books.

Someone asked about the committee that was struck to do an independent review of the Option Agreement and due diligence process. This committee formed following a resolution made at the CBT summer symposium. Smienk reported that the committee met three times, but when the board decided not to exercise the option, the committee dissolved as its mandate was no longer relevant.

The Christmas Store in New Denver hosted a "Pictures with Santa" evening on December 7. Queen of New Denver Amber Brown-Dahl helps one of the newest members of our community, Sapphira Olson, tell Santa what she'd like for Christmas.

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Lawsuit against Valhalla Wilderness Society dismissed

The lawsuit filed against the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) six years ago by Patrick Roberts, alleging he had been libeled, was dismissed on December 9 in Nelson Supreme Court.

Roberts did not act on the lawsuit over the years, despite the society's lawyer Kenyon McGee periodically bringing the issue to his attention. Finally, VWS moved that the case be dismissed.

At the hearing, Roberts represented himself. He fought to maintain his action, speaking on the merits of his case and the reasons why he had failed to bring the matter to trial. In his concluding statement, Roberts told the judge the community would be outraged if his case were thrown out, as this would disillusion interested persons about the law and would validate what he called cheap legal tactics.

Justice Groves dismissed the case, awarding costs to VWS. The amount is now being assessed. In giving his reasons, Justice Groves found that Roberts' delay was inordinate and inexcusable and that the delays had prejudiced or damaged VWS. Groves stated that, contrary to Roberts' assertion, he believed that the community would be outraged if the lawsuit against VWS were permitted to proceed, given its history.

Anne Sherrod, VWS chairperson stated: "Mr. Roberts claimed he had been misled by VWS' attorney Kenyon McGee. Justice Groves pointed out in the proceedings that Roberts' own written statements in 2001 showed to the contrary. Mr. Roberts is a knowledgeable person about law and procedures, as is evident by his voluminous filings, but — as it turns out — he contributed to his loss by making assertions contradicted by the record and by his own statements. Everyone at VWS is grateful to be free of Roberts' ill-founded lawsuit."

Roberts claimed that VWS had libeled him in a November 12, 1999 letter the society mailed out to lower Slocan Valley residents entitled "A community alert about defamatory material." This VWS mail-out was in response to a November 2, 1999 newsletter of the Slocan Democratic Alliance (SDA), in which a letter by Roberts appeared. VWS claimed in the "community alert" that the SDA newsletter was "laced with false, defamatory statements about the Valhalla Wilderness Society..."

Five ideas for Success by 6

by Jan McMurray

Success by 6 program co-ordinators in our area, Kim Adamson and Kate Skye, have a plan for the funds raised this year to support children aged 0-6. They have come up with five initiatives.

We can all expect to receive a Success by 6 magazine in our mailboxes early in the New Year. The magazine will be published quarterly and will raise public awareness about the importance of the early years.

Another initiative that will build public awareness, as well as provide important early childhood development information for parents, professionals and community members will be a West Kootenay Success by 6 website.

The Stars for Success program will provide subsidies for children to attend any program that supports healthy development. These could be recreation programs, parent support groups, library programs or preschool programs. Adamson said that all of next year's funds would go into Stars for Success.

Adamson also talked about book drives, where they will collect new and used books for preschool aged kids and give them out at local credit unions in the spring.

Finally, in June, there will be a symposium to be held in partnership with the aboriginal community with a focus on poverty. Adamson says the symposiums will be held yearly. "This first one will provide an opportunity for the aboriginal community to give information to community leaders and service providers on the unique issues facing aboriginal families in our region," said Adamson.

There was $6,000 raised in the region in this first year of the program, with funding of $45,000 provided by the partnership of the provincial government, Credit Union Central and the United Way.

"We're quite pleased about the work that's coming together," said Adamson. "We will raise the profile of Success by 6, raise awareness in the communities and people will want to start to get involved. They will start to understand why caring for our younger children is key to building a strong community."

New movie series

submitted

Calling all movie lovers! An exciting new presentation from the Kootenay Gallery of Art, History and Science will be *Monday Night at the Movies*. With the co-operation of the Kootenay Cinemas management, the gallery's film committee has organized the showing of five interesting films from the Toronto film circuit, on the fourth Monday of each month, at 7 pm, starting next January.

This series contains a mixture of Canadian and British titles, documentaries and feature films. Gallery members can purchase a series ticket at the discount price of $35; regular price is $40 and $8 for a single showing.

Tickets will be available this week at the Kootenay Gallery, Bagels and Brew, and the Castlegar Library. Gallery members must show their membership cards to get the discount price.

January 23: *Pride and Prejudice*—the new, juicy version of Jane Austen's beloved novel.

February 27: *Scared Sacred*—deeply moving personal travelogue and political documentary. The filmmaker travels the globe, to various sites of catastrophe, finding the ways in which humanity takes the experience of being scared and turning it into something sacred.

March 27: *Eve and the Firehorse*—a semi autobiographical, beautifully filmed journey into the world of family life and spiritualism through the eyes of a young Chinese girl.

April 24: *The White Countess* — turbulent romance and turmoil set in Shanghai of the thirties from the perspective of a disaffected American diplomat.

May 22: *C.R.A.Z.Y.* Set against the backdrop of Quebec's 'Quiet Revolution', it's the story of a son's struggle with his identity and his quest for acceptance from his family.

Province to return money to schools

The province has announced it will return all the money saved during the teachers' strike to the education system, as promised.

School districts reported $126 million was saved, and the province will give $56 million back to the districts in per capita grants. The balance will be used to reduce class sizes ($20 million); added to the BC Teachers' Federation Long-Term Disability Trust ($40 million); spent on provincial education initiatives, including a rural schools strategy and healthy schools program ($8 million).

As their share of the $56 million, School District #8 (Kootenay Lake) will get $535,278; SD #10 (Arrow Lakes) will get $64,400. The government says schools must develop a spending plan in consultation with school planning councils, parents and staff and submit it to the ministry by January 10. The plan must demonstrate how funds will help improve student achievement, describe how the district will monitor improvement, describe the type of expenditures (e.g. textbooks, lab equipment, staff), and guarantee the funding will be spent by March 31. It can't be held in reserve; if it's not spent, the ministry will take it back.

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Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections ranging from life-threatening meningitis to common problems like strep throat.
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Local youth leaders attend UN Climate Change conference

by Jan McMurray

In Montreal from November 28 to December 9, about 10,000 dignitaries gathered to participate in the UN Climate Change conference. Among them were two Lucerne School graduates. Alysia Garmulewicz, who graduated at the top of the class of 2004, was one of six youth chosen to be on the Canadian youth delegation to the conference. Caitlin Perry, top student in the 2003 grad class, attended as an observer.

"The first week was a very steep learning curve," said Alysia. "They speak a whole other language, with a ridiculous number of acronyms! Now I feel I have enough background information that I can start to focus on some of it."

She explained that there were "two tracks" at the conference. One track involved discussions on how to make sure the world moves forward under Kyoto with or without the US, leaving the door open to other countries. The other track involved discussions on how to proceed after Kyoto, in 2012.

Garmulewicz was very positive about the headway being made at the conference. "We are making progress, definitely," she said. "There is good will from 99% of the countries on moving forward. There are differing opinions on how to do that, but the intention is there."

She added, "It's an amazingly complex process to bring the world together and sort out an issue like this one."

Perry followed the deforestation issue while at the conference. She said that while it is not part of the Kyoto protocol now, many countries would like to see it included.

She also was involved with a group of youth working on a permanent youth constituency to the climate change conferences. They put together a funding proposal to hire two co-ordinators for the project — one from the north and one from the south.

The high point of the conference from a youth perspective came on December 7, when the Youth Declaration was tabled. The declaration was written the week before the UN conference at the International Youth Summit on Climate Change, held at Environment Canada's Biosphere in Montreal. About 90 youth attended, including Garmulewicz. The youth summit was called "Beyond Kyoto - It's Us!"

"The Youth Summit was really fantastic. It was quite the process to have consensus there with 90 youth from around the world to come up with a one-page document. There was a very high level of knowledge of climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. I learned a lot from everyone," said Garmulewicz.

The declaration lists demands such as a permanent, funded youth constituency to be included in the international climate change negotiation process; emission reduction targets of 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 for developed countries; more support to decarbonize developing countries; a just transition from fossil fuel dependence; food and water security to avoid conflict under a changing climate; "green" urban planning policies; a climate change curriculum in our education systems.

Here is the introduction to the declaration: *We, the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow, face an unprecedented challenge as a result of global climate change and share in the responsibility of addressing it. Taking a step back from the complexities of compromise and negotiation, we cannot help but think the purpose of the Convention has been sidelined. We are frightened by the scale of this emerging global environmental crisis. We stand in solidarity with vulnerable communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate change, including low-income people, marginalized groups, indigenous peoples and people living in geographically vulnerable areas. As stewards of the Earth, we demand the right for all future generations to inherit a healthy planet. We make this declaration knowing in our hearts that Beyond Kyoto – It's Us!*

Garmulewicz became passionate about climate change on a trip to the Antarctica in 2003. She organized the first ever Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3) held at Royal Roads University in July of this year. She is currently in Carleton University's Environmental Studies Honours BA program.

Perry is in her third year at the University of Victoria in environmental studies and political science.

Alysia Garmulewicz, Lucerne graduate from Hills, was one of six youth chosen to be on the Canadian youth delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal.

RDCK board meeting, December 10: Fauquier's Fighting Back money not to be released yet

by Jan McMurray

•The board received an email from Bonnie Greensword of the Fighting Back Ferry Defense campaign. Greensword was writing in response to Fauquier's request for reimbursement of the unused portion of its $7000 contribution to the campaign.

Greensword's email states that the group's lawyer, Tim Pearkes, has said the funds cannot be returned at this time because they have already been "committed to the litigation to have ferry service restored, no tolls and the bridge at Fauquier." She reports that ferry service has been restored at Fauquier, but the 5 am and midnight sailings at Galena/Shelter Bay have not been.

Pearkes has advised that a few things be done before any money from the Fighting Back Fund be returned, according to Greensword's email. The first thing is to have the two runs reinstated. Then get confirmation from the government that there will be no tolls or reduction in service, and that the bridge at Needles will be built. Finally, ask the government to waive court costs.

Greensword says she has asked for confirmation in writing that the Needles bridge will be constructed from Minister of Transportation Kevin Falcon. She also reports that she has spoken with Director of Marine Branch Nancy Merston regarding the two runs at Galena/Shelter that have not yet been reinstated. Merston has said she will look into it, but that the current contract for the operation of the ferry will limit what can be done.

Finally, Greensword says that the ministry is in the process of changing the rating of a number of roads and that this will require a higher contract price. "...our position is that the same argument applies to the sailings at Galena/Shelter Bay — it is inadequate and should be addressed at the same time as the re-classification of the roads," she says in the email.

Area K Director Paul Peterson said in an interview after the RDCK meeting that he would be taking a copy of Greensword's email to the Fauquier Community Club.

•Bylaws establishing the Kootenay Lake West Transit service area were given three readings and forwarded to the Minister for approval. The board decided to invite Jo Brown of Arrow and Slocan Lake Community Services, Rick Marshall of BC Transit and Carol Markowsky of the IH to a public meeting at the RDCK building in Nelson to discuss scheduling problems with the transit service.

•The board authorized staff to prepare a bylaw establishing a service area to provide endowment funding of $200,000 over five years for the Regional Innovation Chair at Selkirk College. In the process of preparing the bylaw, staff will get the details on who would be taxed and how much they would be taxed. This information will probably be available for the January meeting.

The Valley VOICE is taking a vacation. We'll be back in the office January 9. Our next edition comes out January 18. Deadline is January 13.

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Four candidates vie for your vote in BC Southern Interior riding

Derek Zeisman Conservative

Derek Zeisman lives in Trail. He was born in Edmonton and raised in Alberta and BC. An active member of the Conservative Party and its predecessors (Reform and Alliance) since 1990, Zeisman was hired in 1994 as a parliamentary assistant to MP Jim Gouk. He worked actively on Gouk's 1997 re-election campaign. In 1998, he was offered a job in the Canadian Diplomatic Corps as a foreign service officer and was sent on a two-year diplomatic posting to the Canadian embassy in Algiers, Algeria in 2000. When he returned to Canada in 2002, he accepted a job as a trade commissioner at Industry Canada's International Trade Centre in Vancouver. Zeisman returned to the Kootenays in 2004, bought a home in Trail and returned to Gouk's office as a part-time constituency assistant. He is former editor of the Castlegar Sun and has Bachelor degrees in journalism and general arts, and a Masters in public administration.

Important issues for Zeisman during this election campaign are softwood lumber and the dumping of US products in Canada, health care, crime (not necessarily violent crime, but thefts and vandalism), the environment and federal taxation.

Zeisman says that low and middle income Canadians should not be paying the taxes that they are. "People who earn less than $7000 per year are paying federal taxes. I want to fight for average people, not for rich Canadians, who can do very well on their own. We need to fight for good jobs, low taxes, good health care, a clean environment and I'm determined to do that," he said.

Bill Profili Liberal

Bill Profili was raised in Rossland. He and his wife, a registered nurse, have three children and four grandchildren. He was mayor of Rossland for 16 years, and councillor for four. He is currently the chairman of the Lower Columbia Community Development Team. For 30 years, he worked as an Emergency Paramedic for the BC Ambulance Service. He chaired the first CUPE collective agreement for the BC Ambulance Service and has been a CUPE member for 34 years.

Bill Profili has also worked as a Cominco labourer, Bank of Montreal management trainee, plow operator for Highways, truck driver for the City of Rossland, garbageman, labourer and firefighter. Profili belongs to many social clubs and associations: Colombo Lodge, Knights of Columbus, Royal Canadian Legion and the Trail Wildlife Association.

A key issue for Profili is health care. "We need to protect the Canada Health Act and the public health care system. For the Liberals, it's a matter of fine tuning," he said. He also reminded that the federal government supplies money to the provinces for health care and should not interfere with provincial responsibilities. "We don't have quite the influence people think we do when it comes to health care."

Another issue for Profili is gun control. He says there is a "chasm" between metropolitan and rural Canada on this issue, and he agrees with rural people that gun control is not the best way to deal with crime. "I am a firm believer in looking at the justice system and determining how to best address the needs of society," he said. "We have to look at solutions other than gun control."

Canada's relationship with the United States is also on Profili's radar. He gave the softwood lumber example and said that Canada should be looking for alternative markets. "I am not anti-American, but I am pro-Canada. We need to address Canada's needs and not how to best interface with our southern neighbour."

Scott Leyland Green Party

Scott Leyland was born in Trail and raised in Trail and Fruitvale. He has been married since 1975 and has two sons and three grandchildren. He graduated from UBC in 1974 as a physiotherapist and occupational therapist and has worked at the Trail hospital since 1975. He recently retired from the position as manager of rehabilitation services for the regional hospital. Leyland has served as chair of the Neurosciences division of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and is a clinical instructor with the UBC Faculty of Medicine, School of Rehabilitation Sciences. Two community projects that he has been involved with are Trail's ALPHA House, a group home for adults, and Rosebery Parklands, a wilderness park on Slocan Lake. A Green Party member since the early 1980s, Leyland was also Southern Interior's Green candidate in the 2004 election and got 7.9% of the vote.

He says that this election is another example of how out of touch the main political parties are with the average Canadian. "People are sick and tired of all the fighting and posturing and strategic positioning. The main political parties feel so entitled to your vote and support that they call elections whenever they want. They show no regard for the average voter's wish that they respect the election results, co-operate and work on the problems of our nation."

Leyland points out that the main parties try to dismiss new parties and their ideas. "Our leader is being shut out of the leaders debate, in spite of several elections where the Green Party of Canada has had more candidates than the Bloc, and a full slate this election and last. They are not interested in you hearing the Green Party message of co-operation, hard work and practical problem solving," he says.

With his experience in leadership positions and a strong track record working as a team player, Leyland says he wants to be our representative for the Southern Interior. "I will work with whatever party forms government and not trigger early elections," he said.

Alex Atamanenko NDP

Alex Atamanenko came in a close second to Conservative Jim Gouk in the 2004 election, earning 35% of the vote to Gouk's 36%. Atamanenko is a retired teacher who earned a Bachelor of Phys Ed degree from UBC in 1967 and a Master of Arts in Russian from the University of Toronto in 1974. He has worked extensively in the recreation/physical education field, and as a federal interpreter for various international missions from the Prime Minister's visit to the USSR in 1989 to interpreting for the Canadian ambassador to Russia in Vladivostok.

"The main idea I'm trying to get across is that NDP is getting results," said Atamanenko, citing the budget deal that Jack Layton made with Paul Martin in the spring.

He says that one of the major issues is health care. "We want to work hard to preserve our national health care system. It's under attack from Americanization and privatization. We've really seen it in our area with our seniors and everyone," he said.

Another issue he said he'd like to work on with local mayors is the balance between development and the quality of life we enjoy in our rural communities. "It's important to be on top of all the issues, be they local, provincial or federal. That way, we can make the right decision for the people when things come up such as the North-South corridor, for example. People want to make sure that a four-lane highway doesn't get pushed through the Slocan Valley. Another one is the airport project in Kaslo — we might be able to tap into some federal funds for that."

He says the environment is a major part of the NDP platform. "We believe in maintaining the moratorium on oil and gas drilling off the coast, moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy and making the polluter pay," he said. "We could be a leader in producing cars with green technology."

He also mentioned lowering tuition fees, improving training in the work force, broadband and homelessness in Nelson as important issues.

Legendary Meats

SEASONS Greetings

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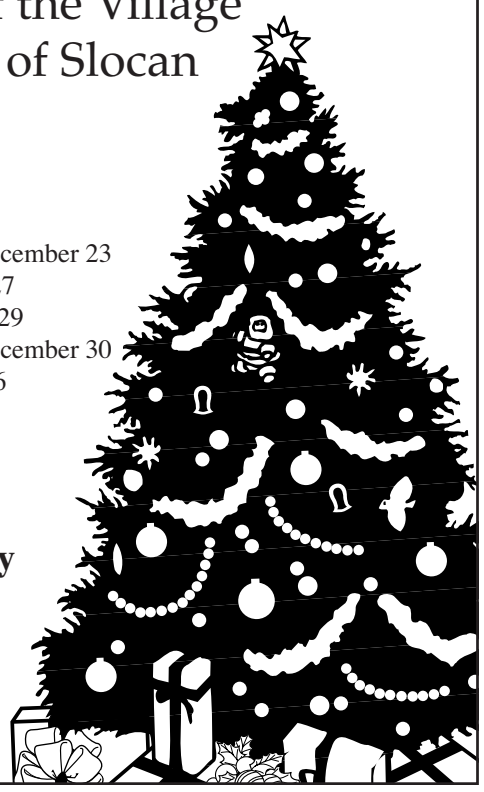

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Federal candidates for Kootenay-Columbia constituency introduced

Jhim Burwell Liberal

Jhim Burwell lives in Fernie with his wife Heather, who is an RCMP constable, and their five-month-old son. Burwell is establishing himself as a freelance writer and photographer after three-and-a-half years in the editor's chair at the Fernie Free Press. He works as a lifeguard at the Fernie Aquatic Centre and as an auxiliary firefighter with Fernie Fire Rescue.

"My approach to this campaign and as the Member of Parliament will mean active representation of Kootenay-Columbian concerns in Ottawa," said Burwell. "Fostering an environment of openness and accountability in government and the Party will be my way of starting to rebuild the trust that has been eroded by scandal. It is very important to me to be an example of openness and honesty while serving the people."

Burwell was one of five candidates for the local Liberal nomination in 2004. He is a lifelong federal Liberal, having begun his membership as a teenager working on federal election campaigns.

"I feel that Canadians should not have to think about things like health care and education, or worry that their lives are going to be made better by the initiatives of the government in both the short- and long-term. A social infrastructure supported by a sustainable economy should be the ultimate goal of any government, and I truly believe the Liberal Party of Canada, headed by Paul Martin, is any voter's best bet to achieve this," he said.

Jim Abbott Conservative

Jim Abbott, sitting MP since 1993, won 52% of the votes in the 2004 election. His background is in sales, marketing and business management with his own company and with small, medium and international businesses.

Accountability, health care and the environment are Abbott's three top issues.

"I am accountable to the people of the Kootenay-Columbia riding and it's my report card time," he said. "Accountability is also very much a national issue. Justice Gomery has taken a look at the evidence and the Liberal organization has been involved in criminal activity. Millions of dollars are missing. There is truly a deep-seated culture of entitlement that surounds the Liberals and their bureaucracy. It's time for Canadians to decide how important accountability is both nationally and locally."

Abbott said that health care was a very important issue in this campaign, but wants to make sure that the differences between federal and provincial responsibilities are clear. "When you start to talk about health care, people start to talk about delivery of service, which is singularly under provincial jusridiction. We should be talking about what we can do at the federal level to help the provinces with their responsibility of delivery of heath care," he said.

The environment is a big and far reaching issue for Abbott. "People have a deep concern over where we're going locally, nationally and internationally. In this constituency, we need to work out federal regulations in co-operation with the Province about the mountain caribou. Nationally, we need to look at Kyoto and beyond. Internationally, because of the number of disasters happening around the world, we need to look at how countries can be more prepared and how disaster assistance can be carried out in a more timely manner."

Abbott hopes to discuss the environment in a more global context during the campaign and says, "I am passionate about our responsibility as citizens in the world of nations." He was involved in tsunami relief in Thailand and went to Pakistan just after the recent earthquake in his capacity as vice chair of the Canada-Japan Parliamentary Association. Abbott is the critic for Asia-Pacific affairs.

Brent Bush NDP

Brent Bush, the NDP candidate in the 2004 election as well, was born in Nanaimo and raised in Nelson and Kelowna. He graduated from Simon Fraser University with a BA in Political Science in 1987. From 1989-1990, he served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Since 1992, he has been working as a letter carrier for Canada Post. He and his wife live in Kimberley, where Bush is a Search and Rescue team leader and food bank director. In the last federal election, he received 9772 votes or 23.8%, coming second to MP Jim Abbott.

Bush sees work to be done on the Trans-Canada Highway, the softwood lumber dispute, the Columbia River Treaty, and on the issue of polygamy in Bountiful.

"One of the common issues that affects every part of the riding is the deterioration of our highways system, particularly the Trans-Canada. In order to improve public safety and traffic flow, it will be my intention to work with local MLAs and the federal government to secure federal transportation infrastructure funding as part of a wider National Highways policy.

"The softwood lumber dispute continues to have negative effects for small forest based communities throughout BC. While federal aid dollars help to alleviate the symptoms of the problem, the problem itself remains. The federal government must put real pressure on the Bush Administration to respect its trade obligations and end US protectionism.

"Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of our fresh water supply. In the very near future, the Columbia River Treaty process will be critical to ensure that Canadian water remains Canadian. As the MP for Kootenay-Columbia, I will take a very active role to ensure that we don't negotiate away control of our fresh water.

"The issue of polygamy in the community of Bountiful, just south of Creston, remains unresolved. Although a federal offense, both the Province of BC and the federal government have been reluctant to prosecute polygamists for fear of losing their case based on a Charter right (Freedom of Religion). If the current RCMP investigation determines that there are grounds to prosecute polygamists at Bountiful, then both levels of government should proceed. If the current federal law against polygamy is found to contravene the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, then the law needs to change. This issue has been neglected for too long. The constituents of this riding need an MP who will show leadership on this issue."

Clements Verhoeven Green Party

Clements Verhoeven, a University of Western Ontario graduate, is a teacher in School District # 8 (Creston). He has taught mostly senior English and Social Studies. He says he has always called on his students to expand their world views. "My conviction that our planet depends on the sharing of all life has inspired my teaching, and it will inspire my candidacy for the Green Party as well," he said.

Verhoeven says the Green Party of Canada stands for proportional representation — a renewed democratic process that welcomes and embraces diversity.

He feels that this election is an "engineered crisis." He says the solutions the other parties are offering now to attract voters should have been the process of government, not an election campaign. He sees this election leading to fragmentation across the country, predicting that Ontario will vote Liberal "because they have the Bloc next door," the west voting Conservative because they are afraid the Liberals are heading back to Trudeau style energy policies, and BC will vote NDP "to block what's going on in the rest of the country." This sense of partisan politics interfering with real solutions is the biggest "big picture" issue for Verhoeven.

On a local level, Verhoeven says the export of our resources to the US "is ridiculous and has to stop." Softwood lumber is the perfect example, he says. "We have mills here. We're capable of turning out lumber and value added products."

Development is also a huge issue for Verhoeven. He says we need better infrastructure to allow for effective plastic recycling, including plastic bags, wraps and yogurt containers. "We're burying a very important resource as oil becomes more expensive and less available. That is a resource that we should be turning into our economy."

He says we're at the beginning of a fossil fuel crisis and would like to see some government leadership here. "We really need to harness alternative energy. With some tax incentives and some development to make the technology more available, we could use geothermal energy to heat our houses. The saving would amount to six tons of carbon per household per year. That would bring us down to pre-1992 emission standards, which the Kyoto Accord is urging us to do."

He concluded by saying that the Green Party stands for action on the environment whereas the other parties stand for more of the same. "We don't want the old way anymore and we can't afford it anymore. It is a waste of taxpayers' money and huge insult to their intelligence."

Supporting the Early Years Research Project

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

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

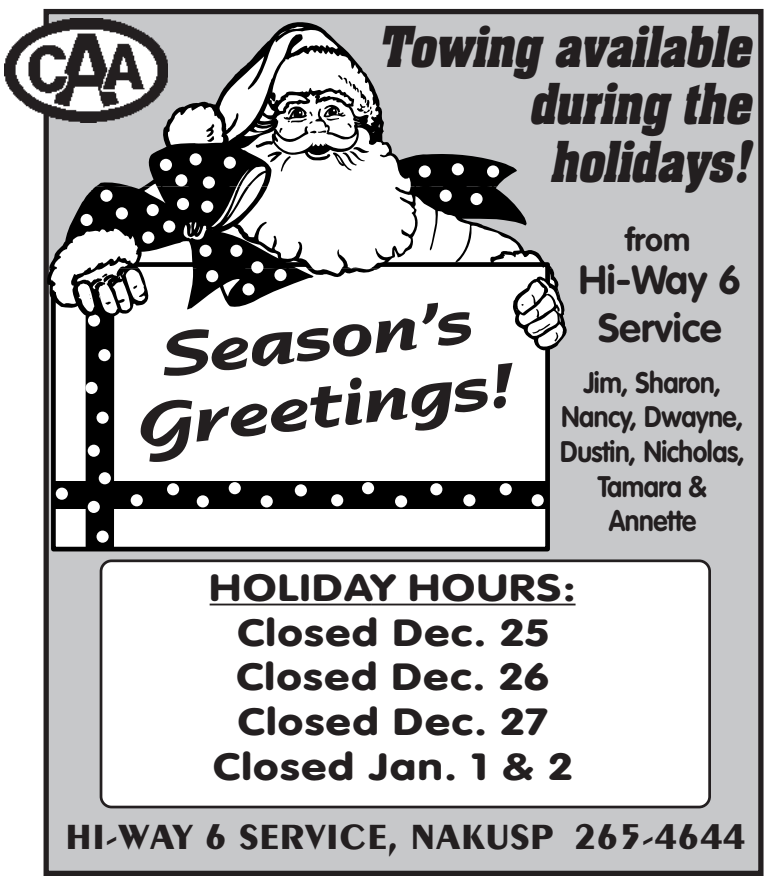
Tuesdays
- Nakusp Stepping Stones Children's Ctr., 10 -11:30 am, *Early Childhood Playgroup*
- Edgewood Elementary School, Noon - 1:00 pm, *Mother Goose* (CALL 269-7260 TO REGISTER - 10 WEEKS)

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

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

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

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



Voices from the Valleys

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*.

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SLOCAN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual General Meeting

January 19, 2006
7 PM Knox Hall New Denver

Speaker: Derek Murphy, Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, on: potentials for collaboration between the Chamber and EDC

New Members Welcome from throughout the Valley !!

Please pay your 2006 dues prior to the meeting. Membership applications downloadable from http://www.slocanlake.com/chamber.html or Box 448, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Be proud of our soldiers

This fall my daughter Crystal joined the Canadian Armed Forces. She joined for reasons of her own—none of which, I can assure you, was the hope of fighting a war.

There is no one in this world who could want world peace more than myself or any parent of a child in the military. But sadly, that is not the reality of our world. Laying down our arms and declaring Canada a military-free country is equal to mass suicide. We should never protest our military. Be proud of our soldiers. They work very hard and deserve our respect.

I am thankful I was at work on Remembrance Day and therefore missed the inappropriate actions of our local activist.

I echo Wanda Palmer's words: Remembrance Day is a day to remember. Remember those who have died; those who have survived; those who are peacekeeping around the world; and—god forbid—those who one day may have to go to war to protect the freedom we all take for granted.

Jo-Ann Lyver, proud mom of Pte. Piluke, C.M.
New Denver

Stop motorized boat traffic

In the November 23 issue of *The Valley Voice* I read an article about the Valhalla Park draft plan. I would like to respond to something in that article concerning boat traffic on the lake.

In my opinion all motorized boat traffic on the lake needs to be stopped. As many of us humans, (not to mention the countless numbers of other inhabitants and species) use the water from the Slocan River in our households, it is imperative that these waterways be protected. As we begin to see a rise in boat traffic on the lake we need to ponder if that type of enjoyment takes priority over our natural, clean water. We do not need our waters to end up like those in the Okanagan, smelling of gas, with a film of oil on top.

Let's find a niche and become an ecological tourist haven; people would want to come to a valley with a non-motorized theme. Perhaps a valley-wide referendum on this matter would be appropriate?

Chris Berger
Passmore

Shocked by mayor's comments

After watching the first meeting of our new council I was shocked and insulted by several remarks by our new mayor. To state that he was the only elected official there, and to use it as a tool to get himself to the RDCK chair, was an insult to every councillor and taxpayer in Kaslo.

Due to circumstance, our councillors were elected by acclamation and they represent the electorate as equally as he does. Also claiming that he has more rights to a position than another elected official because he has lived here longer, is inappropriate, and has no merit in intelligent debate.

I think Mayor Holland owes the citizens of Kaslo a public apology.

Larry Braley
Kaslo

Peace to all

This letter is regarding Ms. Eloise Charet's protest during the November 11 Remembrance Services. The Second World War, as far as I heard, was to restore democracy to the war-ravaged world. One of the rights of democracy is allowing people to have their own opinions. Whether or not you agree with Ms. Charet's opinion regarding war, it is her prerogative to express herself.

I don't attend such services, as I choose to remember the loss of my father in privacy. My father was 27 years old when he died in the service of his country. He was a member of the RCNR (Royal Canadian Naval Reserve). As a result of his death, I didn't know my father, except for the memories of others. I detest wars of all kinds (maybe WW2 was the exception) because most of them are for power over others and pure unadulterated greed (Iraq comes to mind). I am sorry that Ms. Palmer's father spent time in a POW camp and for the loss of all others, including civilians who were murdered in concentration camps and other places.

I also don't believe that Ms. Charet is a heartless individual.

She has spent much of her life informing Canada and other countries of the injustices of the world. Whether or not it was an appropriate place to protest, I cannot say, as I was not there. I hope that everyone who is disturbed by this will remember why the war was fought and to let go of personal animosities regarding this situation. Peace to all, and thank you for allowing me to express MY opinion.

Kathryn Le Messurier
New Denver

An Open Letter to Stephen Harper

There is a black mark on Canadian history. All of us collectively share in the guilt and shame of what happened in the not-so-distant past. Oh, it was not done out of malice, no. We meant well. We acted on the strength of our convictions, out of Christian charity.

In order to extend the privileges and benefits of our Christian civilization and the English language to all, we rounded up Native children and placed them in residential schools. Well-intentioned as this move may have been, we separated these children from their families and their culture, punished them for speaking their native language and made them feel inferior, dirty, bad. Too often, they were abused and humiliated. We know now that this was a grave injustice and that apologies and restitution are in order.

And now, Mr. Harper, you are advocating just such discrimination, such injustice, to another segment of our population. As the good Christian you are, you do not approve of gay marriage or of a gay or lesbian life style, convinced as you are that this is an abomination in the eyes of the Lord.

Sexual orientation is not a life style choice, Mr. Harper. It is not a disease, it is not a mental illness. Sexual orientation is innate. This is what God created, this is what God intended. I was taught that God is omniscient, that God knows everything. It would appear, Mr. Harper, that you know everything better. In your eyes, that which God has created is an abomination.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau had it right: government has no business in the bedrooms of the nation. There are excellent doctors, social workers, teachers, and—yes Mr. Harper—priests, ministers, and MPs who are gay, wonderful people who live and love and work just like the rest of us. By sticking your nose in other peoples' love lives you are in breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guarantees that no one shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, colour, sex or sexual orientation.

I cannot vote for someone who advocates such regressive policies. I cannot vote for your party, Mr. Harper, unless and until you are prepared to accept ALL Canadians as full and equal citizens, regardless of ethnic origin OR sexual orientation.

E. De Boer
Fauquier

Be a good dog owner

In last week's paper, Nikta Boroumand wrote a letter regarding the dog/cop encounter, and this letter primarily focused on the role of the RCMP in our community. This was a thoughtful and well-presented letter, but I think the real root cause of these canine situations lies in the participation of the dog owners themselves.

Personally, I'm not fond of dogs for the most part, but I appreciate people who take the time to properly feed, walk, care for and love their dogs, as these animals will generally be nice, well-behaved members of these families. Smart dogs that are

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

treated in a respectful and loving manner can make for many pleasant times and outings…

These good dogs tend to go less noticed than the other dogs—the ones who spend long lonely days on ropes or in confinement with no idea what to do except be territorial and defend what they think is their space. Ironically, the role of both dog and police is to serve and protect, in whatever way they can.

My vision of a safe community is one where we can all walk at all hours of the day with some sense of protection from attack or persecution. New Denver has a delightful maze of relatively quiet streets, alleys, paths and waterfront trails for each one of us to use for commuting, recreating and socializing. I hope to enjoy walking around the village landscapes well into my future years.

Whether we are young or old, commuting or playing, talking or daydreaming, there is absolutely no way that some neglected or loose-running dog should ruin or endanger this experience. No dogs, particularly the notorious big breeds, should ever be able to get at innocent people, whether these people are running, not familiar, or wearing fur clothing! Pedestrians will always have the right-of-way and passage on our public lands.

One reason I moved to New Denver village is to enjoy the walking environment and I've made every effort to encourage people to freely walk past my front yard since the highway got changed last year. Lots of people pass by going downtown or to Bigelow Bay or else simply enjoying taking their pet out for a nice walk.

I do get really tired of these pleasant pedestrians being 'hounded' by various dogs who get stuck home alone all day and have no feeling of purpose or worth other than to go ballistic and bark wildly at anyone who comes into view. Why should the freedom to walk around be compromised by the endless barking and over-reaction of a bored and neglected pet?

You don't treat a dog like a barbecue or a lawnmower. You don't just yank on the rope if or when you choose to use them. Dogs can't just sit in the corner doing nothing until you find the time or inclination to take the poor thing out for some scenery…The SPCA will respond to cases of pet abuse, but simple neglect and indifference are not addressed.

Anyhow, yapping dogs seem to be a reality, and I'll tolerate it like the next guy, I guess, but dangerous unsecured dogs cannot be present in our community. The lone RCMP member walking to his place of work probably acted in a completely sane and logical manner, and the dog owner should be glad he chose to disable, rather than to kill it.

If you have a dog that spends its days bored and restless, and if you don't respect it or at least find someone to spend time with it, then it will likely end up being another one of these dogs that I'm not fond of. For the sake of your friends and neighbours, and the sake of innocent harmless pedestrians, and especially for the sake and love of your pet, make an effort to be a good dog owner.

Peter Roulston
New Denver

Messy Council meeting

We recently watched the December 5 inaugural meeting of the Kaslo Council (on cable channel 10) in which a lengthy discussion took place amongst council as to who would be best suited to represent Kaslo at the Regional District of Central Kootenay. Mayor [Jim] Holland informed council that the mayor was the "voice of the community," was the most qualified for the job, and he also had personal relationships with members of the RDCK. Holland also stated he had been hired by the RDCK on a seven-month contract basis, working with the RDCK treasurer and others, ironing out the facility at the new Nelson & District Community Complex to create a vision on how they would open the new facility, implement the project, present a major concert and produce it. The newspaper told us the concert was Jann Arden.

The Nelson Daily News ran [an editorial] on December 5 with a headline 'Arden Only Part of the Story', by Bob Hall. It refers to a previous NDN headline about the Jann Arden concert losing the RDCK almost $17,000. Towards the end of the article it stated "The dust has settled for now, and what are we left with? …wasted taxpayers money, no further ahead on the sponsorship program to raise cash for the 'frills' and plenty of people wondering when the bumbling politicians will start making some wise decisions. It's a mess for sure."

Mayor Holland was very articulate in advising the new council of his admirable accomplishments, specifically regarding his involvement in this project, in a bid to garner the vote to sit as Kaslo's [director] at the regional district level. Things are really getting messy!

Paul & Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

Celebrating a Life too Short: Trinity Jay McQuair

If you had visited Nakusp after 2 pm and through much of the afternoon of Saturday, December 3rd, you would have found little apparent community spirit. The streets, the shops were almost deserted; some businesses were closed. If, like my husband and I, during the hour before 2 pm on Saturday, you had been heading toward the local recreation centre, you would have been part of a rare coming together that was all about community. Close to 1,000 folk were migrating to the largest local indoor space that, as it turns out, was barely large enough to hold them. The purpose of this migration was to celebrate the extraordinary life, too short, of a young member of the community: Trinity Jay McQuair.

When we arrived there was standing room only inside the gymnasium-sized room. Gentle music was playing and there was an overall mood of quiet contemplation. All minds, young and old, were focused on trying to move beyond sorrow to celebration. Each of us was dealing with our own feeling of loss.

It is my misfortune that I never met Trinity McQuair. I heard about his humour and mischief, how he energized any situation, how he turned a school detention into a lifetime opportunity — a year of living and learning in Japan — and how generous he was with what he learned. In a local paper, at the time, I read about Trinity's Japanese experience, saw the impressive photo of him in Kendo regalia, and I knew he was a young man worth knowing. But our paths never crossed. On Saturday, listening to the brave eloquent words and presentations of one of his teachers and some of his friends, his brother, Luke, and his parents, Doug and Brenda, I felt the fine privilege that was: to know Trinity.

I do know Doug and Brenda, and Brenda's parents, John and Marlene Allard; not well, but well enough to recognize the same quality that has obviously been passed on to the McQuair sons — generosity of spirit. Family and friends, for the Allards and McQuairs, extend to community. And their community is global. Their concern includes whoever needs them. On Saturday it included all who sat and stood in that large room. When Doug and Brenda walked onto the podium and spoke with compassion, strength, even humour, they gave us all the gift of their remarkable son, and they helped us move from tears to celebration.

It is a large community that will never again be the same without Trinity McQuair. And, because of him, we who attended Saturday's moving ceremony will also not be the same. We each have this gift of Trinity that we should not ignore: support family and friends, embrace the humour, live every moment as if it is your last.

Penny Dewar
Arrow Park

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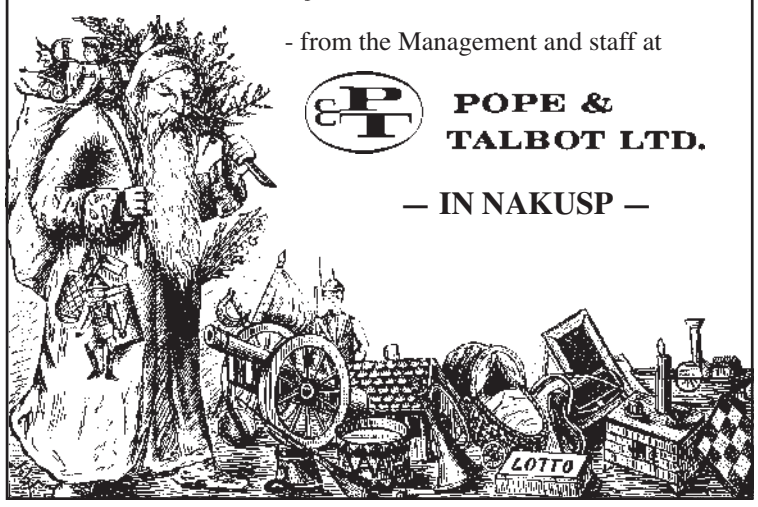

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Selkirk College hairdressing instructor wins cosmetology association's top teaching award

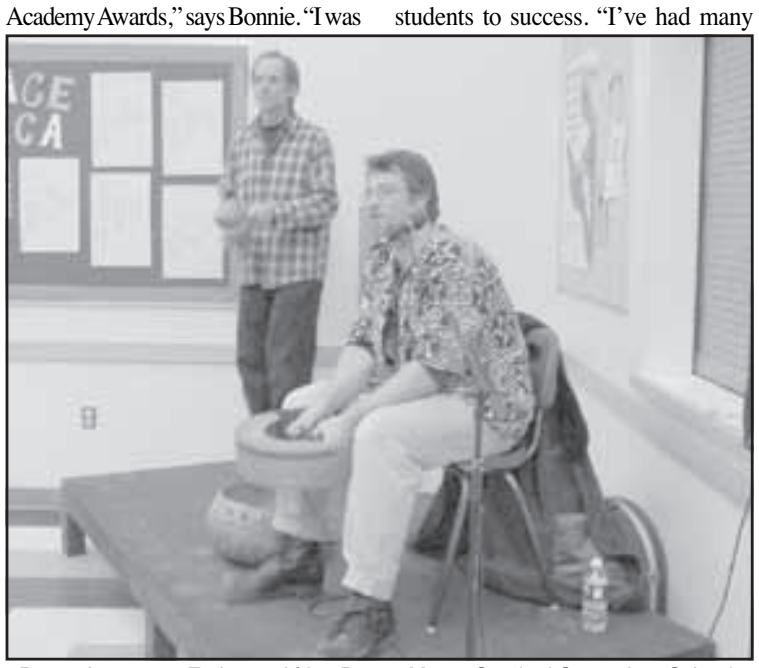
submitted

Selkirk's hairdressing program is clearly a cut above. Hairdressing instructor Bonnie Piderman has been named 2004/2005 Teacher of the Year by the Cosmetology Industry Association of BC (CIABC). Just five months ago Bonnie's student, Michelle Keegan, came first in Hairstyling at the 11th Canadian Skills Competition held in Edmonton.

Piderman was given her award before 700 of her peers. "It was like the Academy Awards," says Bonnie. "I was overwhelmed. I had no idea that I was going to win."

During her 20-year career at Selkirk College, Piderman has steered many students to success. "I've had many provincial champions over the years, and about five years ago Jody Hooker won the same national award as Michelle."

Piderman attributes her great track record to perseverance. "I'm always trying to raise the bar a little bit higher. I hope Michelle goes on to the World Championships in Japan. There is always more to learn, new techniques, new ways of doing things."



December 8 was Embrace Africa Day at Mount Sentinel Secondary School. There were lectures, storytelling, a panel discussion, beadwork, quiltmaking, drumming and dance, hair braiding, African music and much more.

Her work encompasses a cause that is near and dear to theirs—striving for peace—so the USCC Kootenay Ladies Organization donated $200 in assistance to Carly Escott. Stefanie Zaytsoff, a committee member of the ladies organization, presents the cheque to Carly, a local Selkirk College student who recently returned from Fort Benning, Georgia, where she and thousands of others gathered in protest against the School of the Americas military training facility. For more information on the protest, visit the website www.soaw.org.

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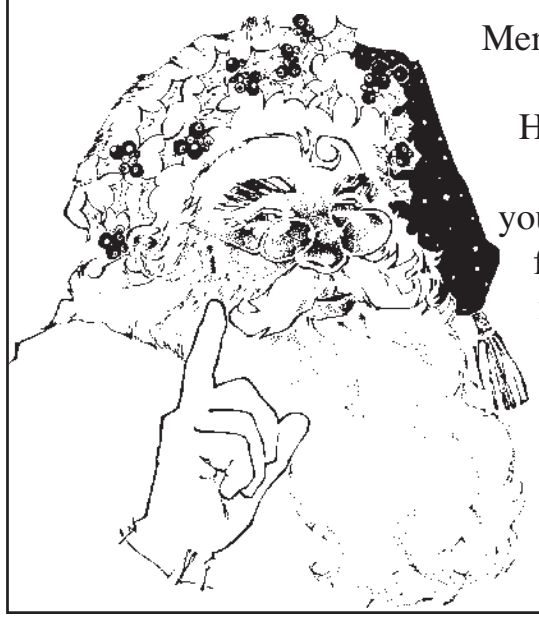
Oh come ON! You didn't think Santa could keep track of all those naughty and nice people without the help of a good accountant did you?



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours, from your friends at

Mark Adams

CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
NEW DENVER
358-2411

Invitation for Written Submissions from the Public

B.C. Children And Youth Review

Mr. Ted Hughes, Q.C., appointed by the B.C. Government, is conducting an independent examination of B.C.'s child protection system, and will be making recommendations for improvement.

Public input is being sought on the areas under his review.

Specifically, Mr. Hughes will examine:

- the review process for child deaths, including how results of reviews are internally addressed
- advocacy support for children and youth, and
- monitoring of government's performance in protecting and providing services to B.C. children and youth.

In addition, Mr. Hughes will examine and make recommendations to improve the public reporting of:

- child death reviews, to ensure a balance between public accountability and protection of privacy of families and others, and
- government's performance in protecting and providing services to BC children and youth

The review will consider the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Child and Youth Officer, Chief Coroner, Ombudsman, Public Guardian and Trustee, and other agencies involved.

Mr. Hughes will not be reviewing individual child fatality cases.

Submissions are requested by January 10, 2006.

Written submissions may be made to the BC Children and Youth Review
by Mail: PO Box 9732, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC, V8W 9S2
Fax: 250 953-3301 Email: Child.Review@gov.bc.ca

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News from Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council

submitted

The Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) elected interim chair Susan Wilson, as the new DPAC chair at their December 1 annual general meeting held on December 1. Wilson has three sons in the school system, one in Grade 9 at Mt. Sentinel Secondary, one in Grade 5 and one in Grade 4 at Winlaw Elementary. She has served on a variety of parent, school and district committees and forums over the past nine years, and looks forward to working with the school district's newly hired management team, support staff, teachers, principals and the school board of trustees.

Carolyn Hawton continues as vice-president, Kathy Couch as recording secretary, Juanita Skinner as correspondence secretary and Christie Heron as treasurer. This team has worked well in the past, and will remain focused on students and parents in this district.

The DPAC will focus on its advocacy project this coming year. The project is grounded in the belief that parents are the natural advocates for their children, and helps students and parents to solve problems students may have in the public school system. It is a grass roots, parent-driven movement that is built on ensuring students' needs are met and their views considered in all decisions affecting them. For more information, please consult the Kootenay Lake DPAC's web site at www.dpac.kics.bc.ca or the BCCPAC Advocacy Project at www.bccpac.bc.ca.

Another focus this year will be the health and well-being of students. DPAC will work with the Kootenay Lake School District No. 8 to bring awareness of healthy lifestyles to parents and schools across the district, including physical activity and nutritional foods. The new *Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools,* put out by the ministries of Health and Education, will be consulted and reviewed to establish good nutrition practices within the school district.

Ongoing topics of discussion include school planning councils, district accountability contract and suspension alternatives. The new Kootenay Lake DPAC executive looks forward to a productive year collaborating with all partner groups in education to ensure that public education serves the best interests of all students.

Slocan council appointments

The entirely re-elected Slocan council held its inaugural meeting on December 5.

The appointments are as follows: Fire/Safety: Councillor John Gates; Public Works: Mayor John Van Bynen, Councillor Marc Septav, and Gates; Water/Waterworks: Septav; Parks/Cemetary: Councillor Madeleine Perriere; Civic Buildings: Councillor Joanne Ellis; Bylaw Revision/ Enforcement: Van Bynen; Community Health/Education: Perriere; Business Development/Tourism: Gates; Planning Committee: Van Bynen; Liason with Slocan Valley TV Society: Ellis; Regional District Director: Gates, Van Bynen, Septav; Slocan & Valley South Regional Parks & Recreation Commission: Ellis and Perriere have one year left on their committment.

Slocan's "new" council is, L to R: Joanne Ellis, Madeleine Perriere, John Gates, John Van Bynen (mayor), and Marc Septav.

Silverton Council sworn in

Silverton's new council, from L to R: Kathy Provan, Linda Laktin, John Everett (mayor), Stephanie Griffiths, Carol Bell. The only appointments made at the inaugural meeting were representatives to the RDCK: Carol Bell, Director; John Everett, Alternate.

New Denver Council appointments

At New Denver's inaugural meeting, the following appointments were made: RDCK representative: Mayor Gary Wright, alternate: Councillor Bonnie Greensword; Public Works and Water committee: Wright (chair), Councillor Gordon Brookfield; Public Affairs: Councillor Ann Bunka (chair), Greensword and Councillor Katrine Campbell; Building design review: Brookfield; Heritage advisory commission: Bunka; Recreation Commission #6: Campbell, Brookfield (alternate); Chamber of Commerce: Brookfield, Greensword (alternate); Executive committee for the municipal emergency program: Campbell (chair), CAO Carol Gordon and Bunka.

New Denver's new council, from L to R: Katrine Campbell, Bonnie Greensword, Gary Wright (mayor), Ann Bunka, Gordon Brookfield.

NOTICE

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence. There is a $15.00 discount for all dog licences purchased by February 15, 2006.

Licence fees are:

Unspayed Female	$50.00
Unneutered Male	$50.00
Spayed Female	$25.00
Neutered Male	$25.00

The Council and staff of the Village of New Denver would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Village Office Hours over the holiday season are:

December 24th - 27th	-	Closed
December 28th - 30th	-	Open
December 31st - January 2nd	-	Closed
January 3rd	-	Open

Residential and commercial garbage collection will take place on Wednesday, December 28th. All other garbage collection will take place on regularly scheduled days.

Slocan holds third annual community light-up contest

submitted

The Community Christmas Light-up Committee together with the Royal Canadian Legion held a very successful decorating contest and community potluck supper in Slocan.

Businesses in the area were very generous with their donations of cash as well as many door prizes.

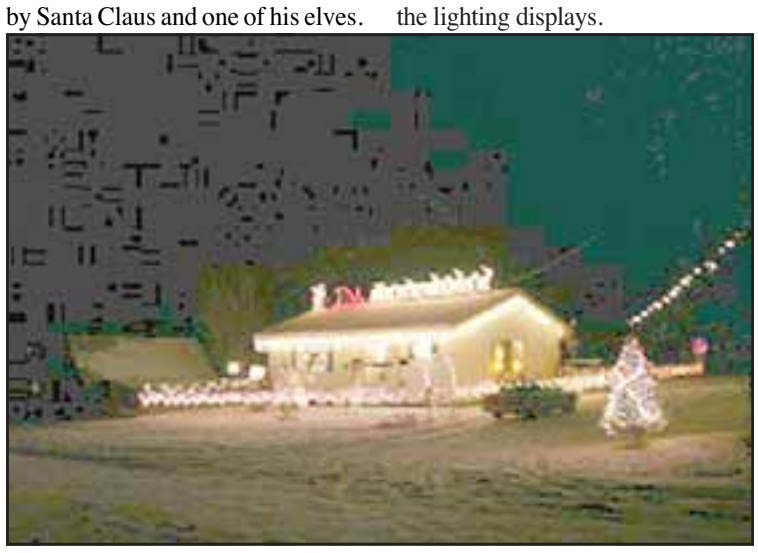
The event started with judging of the light-up displays of homes and businesses on December 10. Cash prizes were awarded in the following categories:Best Lit Yard: 1st prize - Roy Franche, 2nd prize - Glenda Zwer, 3rd prize - Bill & Rita Hicks; Best Lit Outdoor Tree: 1st prize - Doris and John Sarjeant, 2nd prize - Linda Adams, 3rd prize - Bernie Roshinsky; Best Lit House: 1st prize - Ed and Del Roshinsky, 2nd prize - Darlene and Ian Womack, 3rd prize - Springer Creek Forest Products, Honourable mention - Tim and Laurie Hill.

Celebrations on the following day, December 11, began at 5 pm with the lighting of the tree at the Village Office. Mayor John Van Bynen did the countdown and Linda Taylor started the crowd with Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly. This was followed by a wonderful potluck supper with about 60 people attending at the Silvery Slocan Social Centre. Everyone enjoyed the music of "Alf and John" and the singing of Christmas Carols.

Door prizes were awarded during the evening to the following: Larry Zwer, Jamie Ingram, Mable Bone, Bev Boisvert, Madeline Perriere, Peggy Ashton, Sharon Creswell, Jason and Lisa Stooshinoff, Kate, Peggy Ingram, Brian McCoy, Rita Kosenie, Karna Franche and Patrick Ashton.

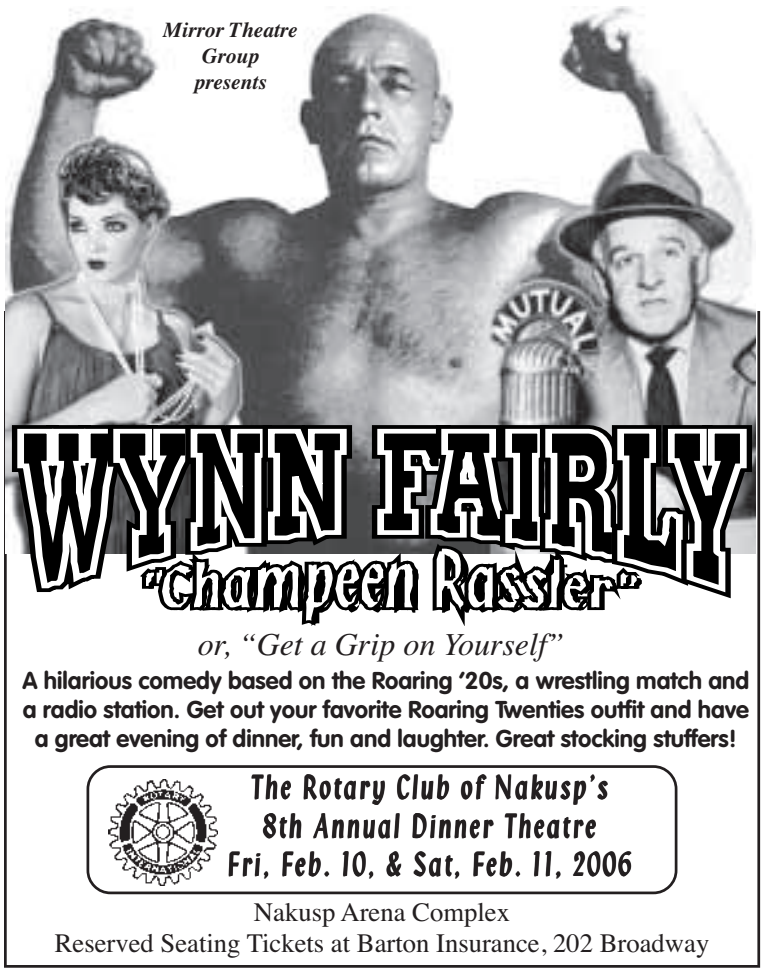
The evening ended with a visit by Santa Claus and one of his elves. Children received oranges and candy canes after their visit with Santa.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to visit Slocan and see the lighting displays.



Roy Franche won first prize for best lit yard in Slocan's annual light-up contest.

Carollers made their rounds at Silverton's community Christmas celebration December 9. Here, they sing in the Memorial Hall, where a Christmas market invited shoppers.



or, "Get a Grip on Yourself"

A hilarious comedy based on the Roaring '20s, a wrestling match and a radio station. Get out your favorite Roaring Twenties outfit and have a great evening of dinner, fun and laughter. Great stocking stuffers!

The Rotary Club of Nakusp's
8th Annual Dinner Theatre
Fri, Feb. 10, & Sat, Feb. 11, 2006

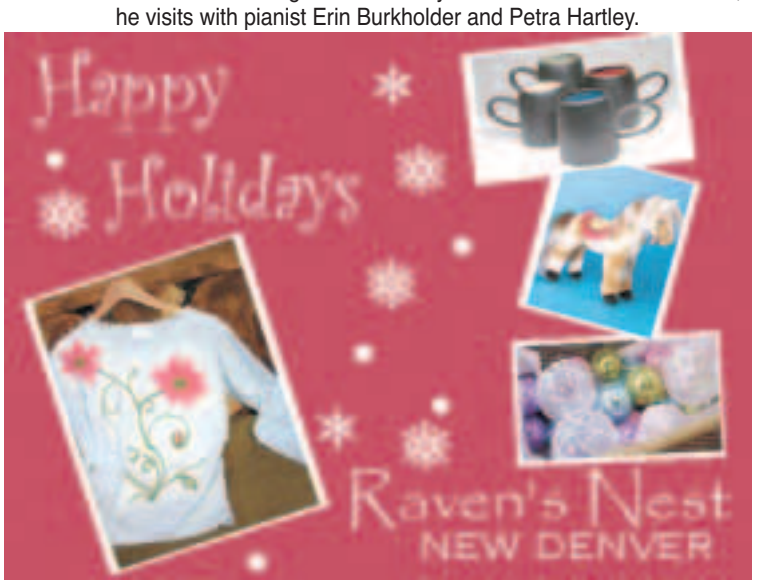
Nakusp Arena Complex
Reserved Seating Tickets at Barton Insurance, 202 Broadway

Here is Wyatt Donaldson telling the big guy his Christmas wishes.

Pat Dion presents Marilyn Massey with a bouquet and a kiss! Massey conducted the choir in the Hallelujah chorus for the grand finale of the Nakusp Rotary 19th Community Carol Sing.

The Nakusp Rotary 19th Community Carol Sing started off with the Sparkes, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders singing Susy Snowflake and Jingle Bell Rock under the guidance of Sandra Posnikoff, Lynn Koftinoff, and Valerie Bristow.

Silverton Memorial Hall during the community's Christmas celebration. Here, he visits with pianist Erin Burkholder and Petra Hartley.



Check out our great Christmas Gifts

Come in and see our new items and have a great Cappuccino or Latte while you shop.

Ionic Mist Lamps have arrived ! They make great humidifiers and air fresheners. See our very cozy night shirts. Stocking stuffers for everyone. Fiber Optic Christmas trees and wreaths.

Great gifts for the computer enthusiast
Flat LCD Monitors, Wireless Keyboard and Mouse, Flash Drives, DVD Writers
Shop early!

Everett Computer Consulting
Sales and Repairs

New Winter Hours
Tuesday — Saturday
9AM to 5 PM

Try our new faster Satellite Internet

Gaze n Chat
Giftware, Coffee & More

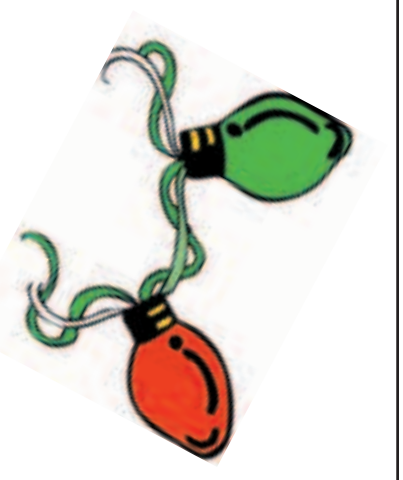
217 Lake Ave. Silverton BC V0G 2B0
Phone/Fax: 250-358-2878
E-mail: jeverett@everett-computer.com E-mail: gazenchat@slocanlake.ca

Two Great Businesses One location!

Extended shopping hours!

The lights are on until Christmas!

WANETA Plaza



Monday thru Friday 9:30 am to 9:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday 9:30 -5:30

Visit Santa and have your picture taken for only $7

Santa hours Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday - 11:30 - 3:30
Thursday and Friday 2:30 - 6:30

Over 35 stores to choose from, shopping was never easier

Free parking, free children's play area and ball pit

WANETA Plaza

5 kms east of Trail on Highway 3B

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2005-2006
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
WEST WASTE FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION

LOCATION	SAT Dec 24	SUN Dec 25	MON Dec 26	TUE Dec 27	WED Dec 28	THU Dec 29	FRI Dec 30	SAT Dec 31	SUN Jan 1	MON Jan 2	TUE Jan 3
Burton	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Castlegar	8:30 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	8:30 am to 4:00 pm	8:30 am to 4:00 pm	8:30 am to 4:00 pm	8:30 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Edgewood	Closed	Closed	Closed	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Nakusp	9:00 am to 12:30 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	9:00 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	9:00 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Rosebery	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Closed	Closed	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed
Slocan	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Closed	Closed	10:00 am to 4:00 pm

All RDCK Waste Disposal Facilities are CLOSED on Statutory Holidays

For more information on the hours of operation
visit the RCBC website at www.rcbc.bc.ca or
phone 1-800-667-4321

The RDCK board held its inaugural meeting on December 10. Gary Wright, mayor of New Denver, was acclaimed as the board chair for a second one-year term. Rural directors from our area are: Don Munro (Area H/Slocan Valley), Paul Peterson (Area K/Arrow Lakes) Andy Shadrack (Area D/Kaslo area).

Arrow Lakes Generating Station wins International Hydropower Blue Planet prize

Arrow Lakes Generating Station, located on the Arrow Lakes near Castlegar, is one of three winners of the International Hydropower Association's 2005 Blue Planet Prize for sustainable hydropower projects. The award was presented on December 4 during the United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change in Montreal.

The Blue Planet Prize is awarded every two years to recognize excellence in sustainable practices at hydropower facilities in operation for a minimum of three years.

The Arrow Lakes Generating Station was recognized for social, environmental and technical excellence—for its benefits to water quality, technical aspects and community development as well as the revenues returned, from power sales, to the Columbia Basin region. The project was constructed between 1999 and 2002 and is jointly owned by Columbia Power Corporation and the Columbia Basin Trust. Columbia Power Corporation manages the project on behalf of the owners.

The Blue Planet Prize is not the first award for the ALGS. In 2003, it was presented the Award of Excellence for Project Management from the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada, the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Engineering Excellence and the Award of Excellence from the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia.

The mayors of New Denver and Silverton want to make it perfectly clear that a renewed relationship between the two Villages is on their agendas.

FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC")

2006 Revenue Requirements and Multi-Year Performance Based Regulation Mechanism

Notice of Annual Review, Workshop and Pre-Hearing Conference

Annual Review
Date / Time: Thursday, February 9, 2006 - 9:00 a.m.
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Workshop
Date / Time: Thursday, February 9, 2006 – following Annual Review
Friday, February 10, 2006 - 8:00 a.m. (if required)
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

Pre-Hearing Conference
Date / Time: Friday, February 10, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

On November 24, 2005, FortisBC filed its 2006 Revenue Requirements Application and proposed the Establishment of a Multi-Year Performance Based Regulation Mechanism (the "Application") with the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission"). FortisBC recommended a two stage negotiated settlement process to the Commission to review this Application. The first stage would set the 2006 Revenue Requirements and the second stage would determine the parameters of Performance Based Regulation ("PBR").

FortisBC requested a 5.9 percent interim refundable rate increase, effective January 1, 2006. The Commission has approved an interim refundable rate increase of 5.9 percent, effective January 1, 2006 by Order No. G-130-05.

FortisBC will hold an Annual Review to provide updates on the 2005 Incentive Sharing Mechanism and a Workshop for the Application.

The Commission has scheduled a Pre-hearing Conference to solicit input from all participants on the proposed regulatory process and agenda to deal with the Application, and any other preliminary matters.

FortisBC is to provide copies of the Application to all parties wishing to participate in the Pre-hearing Conference. Those persons wishing to participate are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to do so no later than Thursday, January 5, 2005. Notification by mail, courier delivery, fax or e-mail is acceptable.

Mail: Box 250, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com

The Application and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

FortisBC Inc.
Head Office: 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9X1
Trail Office: 1290 Esplanade, Trail, BC V1R 4L4

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Websites www.fortisbc.com www.bcuc.com

Public Libraries in Castlegar, Creston, Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Penticton and Trail, BC.

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary at Telephone: (604) 660-4700, BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, Facsimile: (604) 660-1102, E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com or Ms. Fong Kwok, Financial Analyst at Telephone: (604) 660-0718.

SLOCAN LAKE GOLF CLUB SPECIAL

Looking for a Holiday gift idea? How about a MEMBERSHIP to the SLOCAN LAKE GOLF CLUB?

NO GST on all memberships and locker rentals purchased prior to DECEMBER 31, 2005. DON'T DELAY!

For more information, call
Jim Hildebrand: 358-2230
Shelley Welch: 358-2456

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Vince offers a wide variety of warm, durable socks, peet shoe dryers, comfortable insoles, waterproofing products, laces, and icers for safe winter walking

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Edgewood concerned about fate of Outpost Hospital

by Penelope Dewar

In the community of Edgewood there is a well-appointed medical facility known as the Outpost Hospital. Serving a local population of about 500, from Edgewood, Fauquier, and occasionally Burton, its nurses provide 24/7 medical assessment, testing, teaching, relief and advice. The Outpost nurses also work with home-care, public health and mental health nurses, as well as other health care professionals from Nakusp. Some of these professionals, including a massage therapist, chiropractor, and two Nakusp physicians, depend on the Outpost Hospital and staff for regularly established clinics. With 250 to 270 visits each month, it is a well-used facility.

If there is a serious medical emergency, Edgewood can also depend on an impressive ambulance service. Some of its six personnel are qualified to administer pain-killers, hook up IVs; prepare patients for the difficult journey to Nakusp or Vernon. But the security of the constant availability of Outpost nurses maintains a consistent high level of care.

According to Robert Murray, president of the Edgewood Community Club, "Edgewood has had a first hand medical presence for 90 years. The community is stable with the knowledge of our accustomed medical service."

Lives have been saved because the Edgewood Outpost exists. In 2004, local resident Richard Morgan was revived from a life-threatening heart attack by an Outpost nurse, who ultimately required the facility's defibrillator.

"He wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the Outpost," says his wife, Colleen, emphasizing that this incident occurred during the evening, and that none of the ambulance attendants available that night could have operated the life-saving equipment.

"Heart attacks don't wait for Monday to Friday," says Jim Prentice, Edgewood's longest-serving paramedic. He believes that the Outpost's all-hours service is essential, especially for the large local senior population.

Murray emphasizes the Outpost's "screening function." Without this service, residents of Edgewood and Fauquier could have to travel up to two-and-a-half hours (to Vernon), "even just to be told to take two aspirin."

"It keeps patients out of Emergency," says Edgewood resident Ariel Stinson.

Edgewood's Outpost Hospital, which opened in 1947, is one of the last six such facilities in Canada to be transferred from Canadian Red Cross to provincial operation. The Red Cross opened its first Outpost Hospital in Alberta in 1920, and by 1950, 90 were established across the country. Since then the number has diminished, and BC is the final province to undergo the historic change of jurisdiction. Its six remaining remote medical Outposts are in Kyuquot, Bamfield, Atlin, Alexis Creek, Blue River and Edgewood.

As of December 16, the Outpost Hospitals in Alexis Creek, Blue River and Edgewood will be administered by the Province's Interior Health (IH) department. For residents of Edgewood and Fauquier this is cause for concern. They cite IH-directed hospital closures in Kimberly and Lillooet, and more recently, the displacement of nurses at Nakusp's Arrow Lakes Hospital, and the cut-back from 24/7 operation at the Castlegar Hospital, as reasons for their concern. In particular they fear losing the 24 hour call service. "They're not after hours. They're hours," says one long-time resident, reflecting on the realities of remote living.

Prentice considers that the transfer of the Outpost to provincial control indicates a "realistic possibility of reduction of service." This possibility has sparked a community campaign. "Outpost Letters," addressing concerns and stressing that "shuffling costs from one health care provider to another is not a saving," have been posted in special boxes in Edgewood and Fauquier, and forwarded to IH officials.

"They don't need to write more letters. I've got it," says Deborah Austin, Interior Health's Nakusp-based Community Administer, who will take over administration of Edgewood's Outpost Hospital mid December. She expresses an interest in the Edgewood Outpost. "What they do is quite different from anywhere else. Their service is very broad and inclusive. They save us travel time. There's a link with Nakusp through the nurses — they're our eyes in Edgewood.

"We are looking at every community in Kootenay/Boundary in terms of what services they need," Austin continues. "They all deserve the same core service."

Those accustomed to the security of Edgewood Outpost's service would agree. However, they don't believe that a long-established service in one community should be cut for the sake of another community that developed without such a history. "We've had 90 years of community expectation of health care," says Murray. "Yanking this out would not save money and would cause considerable upheaval."

"The community thrives because of it," says Prentice, about the Outpost. "We've had this service forever. It's got deep roots."

"I don't anticipate any great changes," Austin states, adding that, in January, she will "meet with key people and the nurse to learn what they do. I want to know how many people call in the middle of the night. Without that (understanding) we can't make decisions."

"The comfort of knowing the nurse is there, that they can make that call (in the middle of the night) is unquantifiable," says Prentice. "You can't put a number on that type of security."

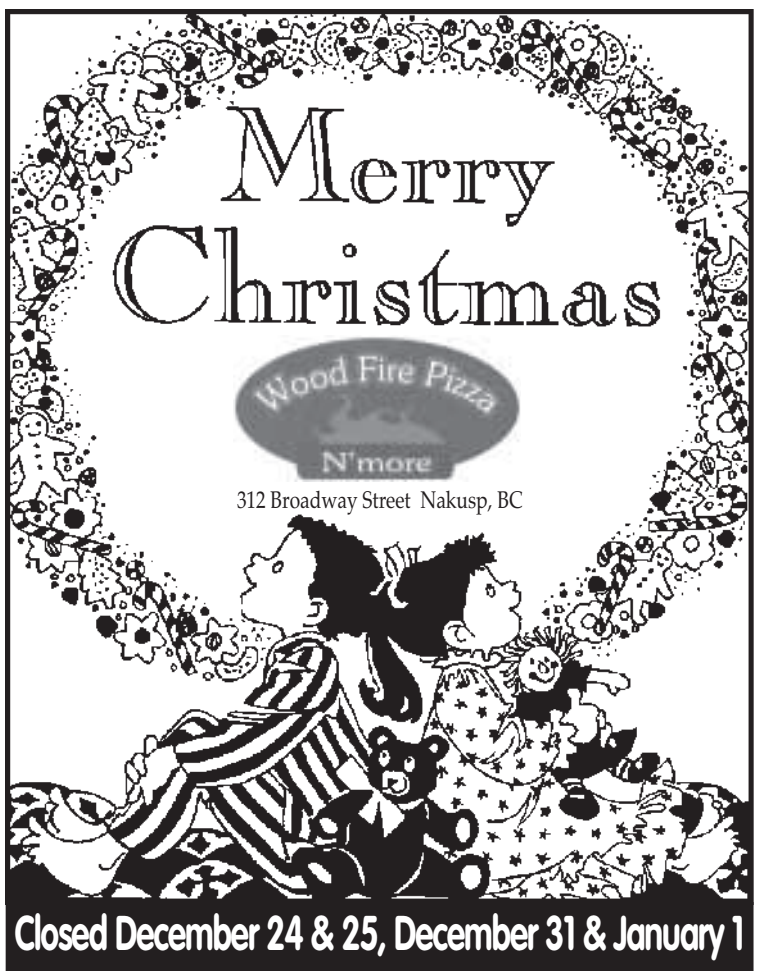
"We aren't out to cut them," the Community Administrator insists, adding that IH's take-over of financing the bimonthly physician visits to Edgewood, after another provincial funding source was cut, is proof of their support.

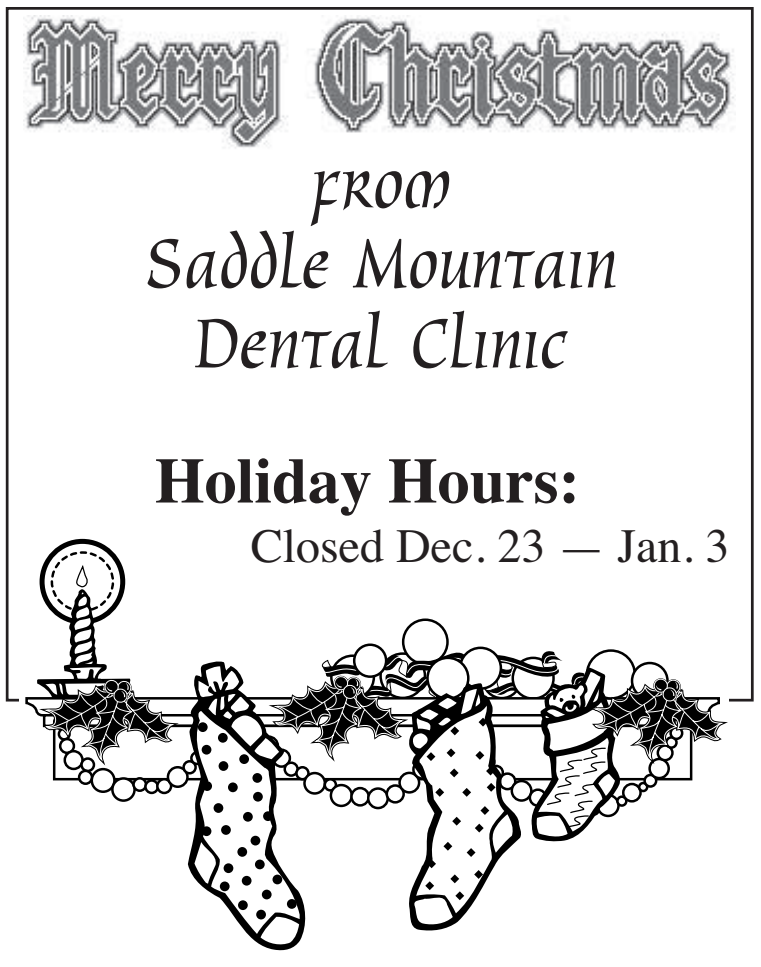
David Plug, spokesperson for the Provincial Health Services Authority, which is overseeing the transfer of BC Outpost Hospital jurisdiction from the Red Cross, states that the goal is "to have the Outpost Hospitals as part of a continuum of care." He adds that there is a commitment to maintaining services until there is "a better understanding of the needs of the community."

The Edgewood Outpost Hospital is, in every way, an essential part of the community. Jan Karrer, one of the two nurses presently attending the Outpost, has lived in Edgewood since 2002. Her son attends school there. "Every nurse that ever worked in the Outpost has lived here," she says. The six ambulance attendants reside in Edgewood, and, according to Prentice, "People have moved here because the Outpost exists."

Until March, 2007, the government will protect funds to operate the Edgewood Outpost Hospital as it is. The fear within the community is that, after 2007, budget cuts will be made.

Anyone concerned about the ultimate fate of the Edgewood Outpost can call Jim Prentice: 269-7685 or Cathy Watson: 269-7617.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE COUNCIL & STAFF
VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Please note the following holiday schedule:

NAKUSP SPORTS COMPLEX:

Facility Closures:	Sunday Dec. 25; Monday, Dec. 26th & Sunday, Jan. 1/06
Public Skating:	Admission: Adults $2, Youth $1, under 6 - free December: 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31 (2:15 - 4:15)
Shinney Hockey:	Admission $5.00/person, must wear helmet December: 24, 27, 29 & 31 (12:45 - 2:00)
Private Bookings:	Times are available. Please call 265-4500 for booking info.

VILLAGE OFFICE:

Closures:	December 26, 27 & January 2
Council Meeting:	December 15 @ 6:30 Council Chambers
Garbage Pick Up:	Dec. 26th & 27th garbage to be picked up on December 28, 29 & 30th Jan. 2nd garbage to be picked up on Jan. 3rd
Emergencies Only:	Call 265-3861

HOT SPRINGS:

Winter Hours:	10:00 am - 9:30 pm; Dec. 24 & 25: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Winter Wednesdays:	$3.00 admission

30% OFF SALE ON ALL CLOTHING!
Admission Special: 10 soaks for $45.00
For after-hour rental inquiries, call 265-4528

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.

Nakusp's new council members take oaths

by Jan McMurray

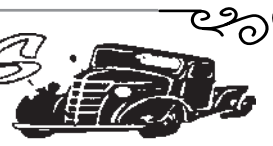
At Nakusp's inaugural meeting on December 5, Mayor Karen Hamling outlined some of council's goals for the next three years, mentioning the hot springs charette, a tourism community assessment and a review of the Official Community Plan.

She gave each councillor a book called M*aking a Difference: Cuff's Guide for Municipal Leaders*, by George B. Cuff. She also gave each a domino "to remind that there are five of us," she said. "We all have different opinions and different ways of handling things, but in the end we all have to make the decisions together. It is healthy when we disagree, and important to support the decisions made as a whole. Like the domino, there are at least two sides to every issue — some will stand alone and some will cause a domino effect."

Appointments were made. Mayor Hamling is the alternate for the RDCK board, and the Village representative for Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association, Nakusp and Area Development Board, Community Health/Community Consultative Committee and will sit on the Hot Springs board. Councillor Janis Dahlen is Nakusp's RDCK director, and will represent the Village on Recreation Commission #4 and the 2010 committee. Councillor Heppner was appointed to the energy, library and Provincial Emergency Plan committees. Councillor Ulli Mueller is chair of the Hot Springs board, was appointed to the Community Social Planning committee and will represent the Village at Chamber of Commerce meetings. Councillor Gord Roberts will sit on the Hot Springs board and will represent the Village at the Community Forest and Fire Department meetings.

Nakusp's new council is, from L to R, Len Heppner, Ulli Mueller, Karen Hamling (mayor), Janis Dahlen and Gord Roberts.

KIM'S KUSTOMS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from Kim, Denise, Mark, Tracey
Paul, Lisa & Keith

533 Hwy 6 265-4012

Arrow Lakes Theatre presents Mother Goose

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Community Theater Group has been busy preparing for its Christmas production of Norman Robbins' *The Wonderful Story Of Mother Goose*. The traditional English Christmas pantomime is filled with lively action, wit and slapstick humour. There is plenty of opportunity for audience participation and, as in all proper fairy tales, good overcomes and happiness prevails.

An excellent cast of local multi-generational players has been assembled, featuring experienced actors and some newcomers.

The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose will entertain the whole family at the Bonnington Arts Centre on December 17 at 1 pm and December 18 at 1 pm and 7 pm, with doors opening a half hour before show time. Come and see your friends, family and fellow community members weave a magical tale, sure to leave you rolling in the aisles. Tickets are available at the Green Door Pizza and Bowl and Broadway Deli for $10.

Nicolas Garmulewicz as Mother Goose (centre); Rachel Hughes (top left) and daughter Megan Hughes (bottom left) as Clarence Creep and Mini Creep; Ruth Fulmore (top right) as Sage and sister Shannon Fulmore (bottom right) as Onions.

SUMMIT LAKE SKI AREA

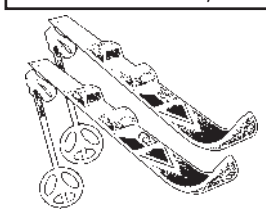
SEASON PASSES

2005 - 2006 Early Bird Rates

	All prices include GST	Early Bird
Adult (19 yrs & up)	regular price $235	$199
Student (13 - 18)	regular price $192	$162
Child (6 - 12 yrs.)	regular price $130	$113
Senior (60 yrs & up)	regular price $130	$113
FAMILY RATES (includes 1 adult)		
One Adult	regular price $235	$199
Two Adults	regular price $419	$357
Student	regular price $154	$132
Child	regular price $115	$95

Large Family Discounts available - adults pay, 2 oldest pay, & rest are 50% off

Reminder: Before your pass can be issued, WAIVERS MUST BE SIGNED (at ski hill) and PHOTOS FOR YOUR PASS DROPPED OFF. (write your name on the back of the photo).



EARLY BIRD SKI PASS SALES EXTENDED TO DEC. 15!

Available online at the School District 10 website:
www.sd10test.bclearner.ca/

Season Passes are available at Alley Health and Fitness,Nakusp & Mountainberry Foods, New Denver, B.C. or call Karen @ 265-4778.

Season Pass Holders are entitled to 25-50% Off Skiing Out-Of-Town

WI reports on this year's activities

In October the Edgewood-Inonoaklin Women's Institute held its annual meeting. The past executive was re-elected, making Ella Spence president, Lois Wood vice-president, Rachel Eckert secretary, Penelope Penner treasurer and Madeline Kutrieb director.

Holding the annual causes us to reflect upon our accomplishments over the past year. We made six knitted blankets for the homeless in Vernon, with wool donated by members of the community. Vernon Jubilee Hospital received two crocheted baby blankets, a layette and two lap robes from our branch. Personal gifts and several Cabbage Patch dolls were donated to the Nakusp safe house . The Victims' Society was also given dolls, all made by the members.

Alice Rawlins is our representative for Emergency Social Services, so we can do our part by handling vouchers and food in a crisis.

We enjoy hosting our annual Christmas supper for the Edgewood seniors.

Letters are written every two months for Amnesty International concerning the release of political prisoners and women's rights

Operation Christmas Child boxes are filled and sent out. We sponsor a girl child in Kenya. We support local hospitals such as the Outpost and Arrow Lakes Hospital, the reading centre, access centre, Pitch-In campaign, plus the Easter Egg hunt and Santa Claus' visit.

We do our part in all projects undertaken by the North Okanagan-Shuswap District, BC, Federated and the International Women's Institutes, doing our part to make a difference in our own small way.

We are always grateful for the communities' support, and always welcome guests and new members. Meeting time is the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Deane Horning rink wins regional curling finals

by Jan McMurray

The Brier is getting closer for our favourite local curling team. The Rock Island RV curling team, featuring Nakusp's Deane Horning as skip, won the regional finals this past weekend in Castlegar.

"We're off to a good start!" said Horning.

This win means that the team goes on to the Interior championships in Salmon Arm January 20-22. There will be 16 teams from all over the interior there, and four of them will go to the Provincials. Four teams from the coast will also end up at the Provincial championship tournament.

The team that wins the Provincials goes to the Brier, the Canadian men's curling championship. This prestigious national tournament takes place March 11-19 in Regina.

"We've been playing spiels all throughout the fall for practice — it's all practice," says Horning. "Our focus has always been the playdowns and the Brier."

Last year, the team made its way to the Brier and placed fifth, with six wins and five losses.

The Rock Island RV team members are skip Deane Horning from Nakusp, lead Rob Nobert who just moved to Kelowna from Nelson, second man Don Freschi of Trail, third man Paul Devlin of Trail, fifth man Grant Fines of Trail and coach Terry Bublitz of Trail.

PEOPLES PHARMACY

Wishing Everyone A Happy & Healthy Holiday Season

Good friends are good for your health.
Irwin Sarason

Troy and I are fortunate to have made so many new friends in the community, and we would like to wish one and all, a year of good health and much happiness.

Warmest greetings for the holiday season,

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Argenta Library calls for contributions to an anthology

submitted

The Argenta Library recently hosted three popular writing workshops with local authors Vivien Bowers, Rita Moir and Eileen Delehanty Pearkes with K. Linda Kivi.

Now the library is looking for written contributions and artwork for an anthology, "Bound Together." This book, with a special focus on Argenta, will accept contributions up to three pages in length (up to 750 words) from anyone who has a connection, past or present, to Argenta. Contributions must include some reference to Argenta but may also be based in other communities, and may include stories, anecdotes, poetry, photos, drawings, etc.

In March 2006, PB&J Press will offer a bookbinding workshop at the library to show participants techniques for creating their own books. The Bound Together book will be printed and hand bound in a special limited edition to be sold as a library fundraiser.

School District No. 10's new board of trustees is, from L to R: Bill Hilton (at large), Lora Lee Brekke (vice chair and eastern zone), Quinn DeCourcy (southern zone), Pattie Adam (chair and central zone), Judy Struck (at large).

Another winter election

In 1958, West Kootenay-Nelson MP Bert Herridge was given the gear he needed for the winter election campaign. The Ottawa Snowshoe Club outfitted him from head to toe, and here he is in his Ottawa office trying it all on. That year, the election was held March 31. Herridge was our MP for 23 years, from 1948-71. From 1941-45, he served as an MLA.

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Season's Greetings, and best of the New Year to all!

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And remember...
Please party safely and responsibly over the holidays.

If you're going to drive, please don't drink, and if you do drink, make sure you have a bite to eat as well!

Merry Christmas
to our Customers from the Staff of
WinLaw Mini Mart

HOLIDAY HOURS
DEC. 24 • 8 am - 8 pm
DEC. 25 • Noon - 6 pm
DEC. 26 • 10 am - 6 pm
DEC. 31 • 8 am - 8 pm
JAN. 1 • Noon - 6 pm

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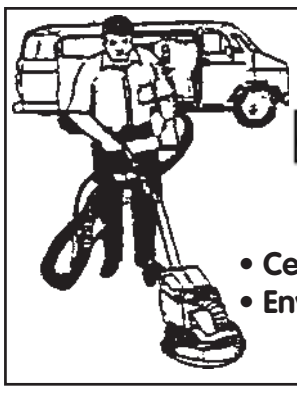

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HOLIDAY HOURS:

Dec. 24	9 - 5
Dec. 25	Closed
Dec. 26	9 - 5
Dec. 27	9 - 7
Dec. 28	9 - 7
Dec. 29	9 - 7
Dec. 30	9 - 7
Dec. 31	9 - 5
Jan. 1	Closed
Jan. 2	9 - 7
Jan. 3	will open 1:00 pm due to inventory.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Community Forest members meet for an informal discussion

submitted

Ten members of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society responded to an invitation from society secretary Erika Bird to participate in an informal discussion about the society and the forest licence. The meeting took place on December 5 in the KDCFS boardroom.

After a short speech by the secretary, outlining the history of Community Forest initiatives in Kaslo and her own involvement with the licence, the members introduced themselves and began to talk about their concerns and impressions.

Truus Meijer Drees, representing the Kaslo Senior Citizens' Association, thanked the Board for their recent donation of $2,500, but allowed that she felt awkward about the fact that this latest donation to the association was unsolicited. Ronnie Carmen, KDCFS office manager and bookkeeper, explained the procedures, noted that the seniors had twice applied for money, and promised to look into whether there had been an error in the latest disbursement. Sean Kubara asked about disbursement policy and was told that the policies would be posted on the bulletin board on the second floor of the government building.

The discussion became more lively as various members spoke of their need to feel more involved, to have a sense of participation, and of their wish to be better informed of developments. More effort spent on advertising, organized kitchen table talks, and especially guided forestry walks were ideas put forth.

Questions were asked about the status of water monitoring in the chart area. Bird explained that several creeks were currently being monitored in the Shutty Bench area. When asked why a more formal and ambitious scientific watering program was not in place, the secretary pointed to a lack of interest on the part of the members to form a committee, despite six advertisements calling for volunteers.

The secretary explained the board's position that a hydrologist would not be hired without direction from a water monitoring committee that had prepared a program with clear goals and objectives, a proposed budget and a thorough analysis of current and past local water monitoring programs.

A government publication on designing a water monitoring program was passed around and several present took down the website.

The society has accrued $37,000 in its water contingency fund. Any resident of Area D may apply for a grant from this fund to upgrade or repair their domestic water system.

Many of the members spoke of the need for a membership drive, and a clarification of the bylaws concerning membership. It was felt that it would be appropriate to have that all together for late January or February.

The meeting wrapped up with a final question posed by Luke Crawford. Concerned about an apparently recently flagged road on True Blue that encroached into Kaslo's community watershed, he asked Bird what the Community Forest had planned in the area of Kaslo's water source. The secretary admitted to being puzzled by the presence of flagging, as the society has no plans to develop the area that was indicated by Mr Crawford on a map. It was Kathy Sparkes who cleared the air by exclaiming "That would be us," meaning the Kaslo Trailblazers.

Those who attended the meeting all agreed that another similar meeting should take place and that their time that evening had been well spent. Hope was expressed that what was felt to be an ideological divide in the membership could begin to engender less antagonism and more respect. Ronnie Carmen took notes for presentation to the board at its next meeting on December 14.

A lovely addition to Kaslo's main street is Portobella Interior home decor shop, located in the old Front Street Salon building. The store is filled with linens, rugs, wool-stuffed pillows and duvets, dishes, candles, soaps and many other items that would grace any home. Marlaina Blanche is the store manager.

Kaslo's new council is, L to R: Rich Jones, Suzan Hewat, Jim Holland (Mayor), Molly Leathwood and Peter Vass.

Kaslo council's inaugural meeting

by Jill Braley

At the inaugural meeting of Kaslo's new council, newly elected Mayor Jim Holland thanked the residents of Kaslo for their support. Holland garnered 45% of the votes cast for the four mayoral candidates.

Holland called it "a very strong mandate" and said his platform came from the input of the constituency. "I don't see this mandate to be as much about my personal views as I do about listening to the public," he said.

Holland congratulated new councillors Rich Jones and Peter Vass and re-elected councillors Suzan Hewat and Molly Leathwood for their successful bids to be a part of the government of Kaslo.

Holland said he would like to foster a respectful atmosphere, have intelligent discussions and debates, with the overall understanding that council will work together to manage the Village affairs to the best of their ability.

After much discussion, Mayor Holland was appointed as the Village of Kaslo Director to the RDCK with Councillor Jones as alternate. The councillors were reluctant to give Holland the appointment because each had been approached by individuals concerned about a possible perceived conflict of interest — Holland lives in the regional district and sits on a committee that is working on a water system for his community. Councillor Jones also expressed concern that Holland would not have enough time for the appointment.

Holland said that he knew the people at RDCK quite well through his contract with them to organize the recent grand opening of the Nelson Community Complex and Jann Arden concert, and there was no potential perceived conflict of interest. He also explained that he had dropped some of his jobs and opened up his schedule.

Councillor Leathwood pointed out they had all just taken an oath that they would remove themselves if ever in a conflict of interest situation.

Other appointments were made as follows. Administration & Finance Committee: Chair - Hewat, Leathwood and Vass; Planning & Development: Chair - Leathwood, Hewat & Jones; Community Services: Chair - Vass, Jones & Hewat; Public Works: Chair - Jones, Leathwood & Vass; Emergency Planning Select Committee: Jones; Municipal Recreation: Leathwood & Hewat; Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce: Hewat; Kootenay Lake Historical Society: Leathwood; Community Consultative Group: Vass; City Hall Conservation: Jones; Kaslo & District Community Forest Society: Expressions of interest will be sought for one citizen to represent the Village of Kaslo on the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society board. A specific criteria will be established for the Village representative.

Signing authorities: Rae Sawyer, CAO or Susan VanZandt, Deputy Clerk and any one of Mayor Holland, Councillors Hewat, Jones, Leathwood or Vass.

Appointment of Auditor: Berg Naqvi & Co. Previous concerns and questions will be addressed. Council was asked to refer any inquiries to Susan VanZandt, Deputy Clerk.

In his closing comments, the mayor announced that his office at the Village Hall will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

He said the Official Community Plan would be reviewed by council early in the New Year. The restoration of the Village Hall was one of Holland's highest priorities in his campaign and he will be asking the restoration committee to select him as its chair. He said he would be suggesting a petition by the voters of Kaslo regarding the purchase of the Provincial Building, avoiding the costs of a public referendum.

On the development issue, Holland said he would research the potential of private/public partnerships to ensure Kaslo has as much control as possible. He also said the Village would adopt the principles of Smart Growth BC.

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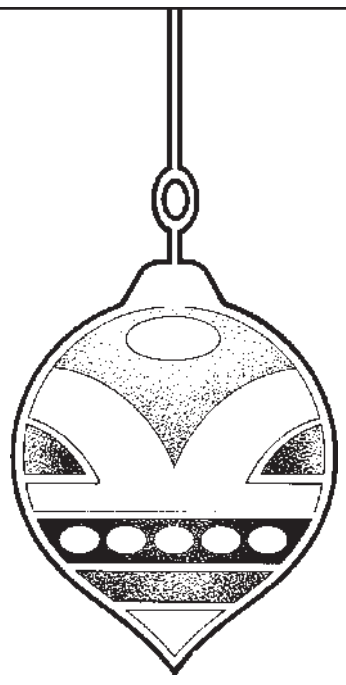
Our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday, and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.
from the Mayor, Council and staff at the Village of Kaslo

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Rambling the railgrades of Retallack

After a promising snowy start to the ski season in the Kootenays, the skies have been rather stormless, and low- to mid-elevation skiing remains somewhat sketchy. The local golf course has just enough to be ski-able without wrecking the grass there, and the trails near Sandon are good, with some rocks and brush still not covered up. The deep cold of the recent days and high elevation winds have added some risk to the alpine areas.

These cold days have sure helped tighten up some of the muddy spots, though, and the ice should be getting more solid on small local lakes for ice fishing. One sunny afternoon last week, I walked down to Bigelow Bay to sweep the snow off the canoe, and ended up having a real nice paddle around the shore of New Denver and down to Bosun Point. Carpenter Creek is impressive right now to see from water or land with the multiple shelves of thick blue and greenish coloured ice. All the creeks now have great ice sculptures…

On Friday, December 9 I drove to Retallack with a snowshoer friend to see how much snow there is or what's plowed out for access. We went a little ways up the logging road at Rossiter Creek to the Old Kaslo Wagon Road but I found the trail still too brushy and the snow only knee deep without a real solid base either. Backtracking west a little, we stopped at that new wooden timbered bridge that crosses Kaslo River right beside the highway on the south side. There's a plowed pullout and from here you can also easily climb up a bit to explore the wagon road on the north side, parallel to the highway.

The small but sturdy wooden bridge was built, I'm pretty sure, by those trail dudes in Kaslo who are enthusiastically clearing out entire sections of the historic wagon trail that once was a main artery between Kaslo and the summit at Fish and Bear Lakes. I'm sure the Retallack Lodge people are involved here as well, and I'll look into this further on my next visit to the trails. This is another trail with excellent access for any kind of car and can be enjoyed by even the most novice and inept skier.

The new bridge replaces a defunct older train bridge that had been for the K&S railway to Sandon from Kaslo. The present highway follows portions of the later full gauge CPR line that followed the demise of the small gauge K&S. The rail grade has been very generously brushed out to a wide enough track to set both ski and snowshoe trails and makes for a real nice scenic tour beside the river. The grade climbs slightly as it heads west past Retallack en route to the summit, and makes an excellent glide for skiers on the return leg. This is a shady north aspect and will retain good snow for a long time.

After only several hundred metres we could look north across the narrow valley to see up the Lyle Creek drainage to the towering peaks of mounts Jardine, Brennan and others. As we continued along we saw the big slopes above Highway 31A that you miss when down in the car, and further along you can look straight up Whitewater Creek to the spectacular summit which hugs the small glacier of the same name. The route comes out onto a large, flat open area at this point, and the less improved rail grade creeps on a little further to that bluff right over the river and across from the highway, where rockfalls and slides have erased any further remains of the rail grade, but there is a good viewpoint here.

The large flat area has a little wreckage around and a couple of gravel piles. If possible, get a copy of *Valley of the Ghosts* by Don Blake, which is an excellent study of Hwy 31A in its entirety with lots of details of this Whitewater location. Apparently in the 1920s there was a clever metal recovery operation that extracted lots of ore from some 38,000 tons of waste rock found at that huge Whitewater concentrator site. Mining operations around here were probably as big as the Sandon area, but spread out over more rail stops and sidings.

From this flat open landing you can now continue west along the snowcat trail that leads into the Retallack Lodge. This snowcat trail can also lead you way up Robb Creek but that's another whole tour, as are routes up Stenson and other drainages. It's less than a kilometre to the lodge and you could probably see some maps and photos of their operations if the lodge is open, so maybe phone ahead and make that part of your visit.

This roadside ski tour is an easy two-way trip totalling maybe six or seven km, or more if you choose to detour off some of the side routes or sample the wagon road on the north side of the highway. There's also the Cedar Grove along the rail grade west of the Retallack Lodge access bridge, just off the highway. The return trip to the car is slightly downhill and if the sun is out, the Goat Range and Blue Ridge peaks are quite stunning. Kaslo River is a nice feature to see throughout this short tour and there are some great frozen waterfalls alongside the grade to check out. This would make a nice family-type trip over the holidays and is handy to get to from Kaslo and the Slocan Valley.

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

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Dorothy's Cranberry Bread

Hello food fans. By the time you read this there will be eleven days or less till Christmas, but right now I'd like to thank all of you for taking the time to read this column over the last four or five months. Some of you have taken the time to stop me on the street and tell me how much you enjoy reading my restaurant reports, and that truly warms my heart. Thank you! As it turns out, this column has opened my eyes (and taste buds) to the surprising number of wonderful places to enjoy food in the West Kootenays and especially in and around the Slocan Valley. We are lucky. We are blessed.

In the new year I look forward to writing many more food reviews for you, and I'm pleased to announce that one place I will relish reviewing will be the Food Court in the middle of the Burton Tunnel. I'll bring my fearless publisher along for that one. You bet!

One of the great perks of this job is that every two weeks I get to enjoy a free meal in whatever restaurant I'm sent to. It's not quite enough to keep me going between issues, but I'm hoping that *The Valley Voice* will at some time become a daily paper. When that happens I'll get very fat and write a column for dieters.

So here comes Christmas. When I was a kid, one of my favourite Christmas treats was the cranberry-orange-walnut bread my mom made. There was always a loaf of it in the fridge, and it was sooooooooo gooooooood. It still is. Here's the recipe:

SIFT:
2 cups pastry flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup sugar (or 3/4 cup if preferred)

IN A CUP:
Put juice and grated rind of one orange
Add 2 tablespoons shortening
Fill cup 3/4 full with hot water
Add 1 large beaten egg

Mix wet ingredients with dry (mixture will be thick and sticky).

Add 1 cup cranberries, cut in half or pulsed twice in processor.

Add 1 cup walnuts (or almonds, or unsalted peanuts etc.) chopped or "processed."

Bake in large, well-greased loaf pan (or two small ones) at 350° F for 55 minutes.

Cool on rack. When cooled, wrap in foil and store in fridge or freezer.

Alright then. I'd like to add that stirring the dough and stirring in the cranberries and nuts takes a bit of elbow grease. When I make it, I make quadruple batches so I get good exercise stirring.

I guarantee you'll love this Christmas treat and so will your friends. It's sweet, tangy, and delicious, and it's pretty to look at, AND it makes fantastic toast on those chilly holiday mornings. Don't be afraid to slather it with butter!! And, if you'd like to try it but don't want to bake it yourself, you can order it through Sappho's Bakery.

So, my friends, thank you for your interest. Have a splendid holiday, eat lots of good food. See you next year!

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

Financial Forum

with Collin Ludwar

Lessons from Classic Rock

AC/DC has a song called "It ain't easy waitin' 'round to be a millionaire." Certainly, these are great words of wisdom from a paramount rock and roll band. However, if AC/DC read The Valley Voice's Financial Forum they would have to subtitle their song "On second thought — I guess it ain't that hard!"

In this article, I am going to introduce two advanced concepts that can help you make more money and pay less tax. That's right! - MORE money, LESS tax!

The First Concept: The Estate Bond (aka: a back to back annuity). This concept is for the conservative, retired investor that does not want to take on much risk, yet wants to make a better return than what a five-year GIC is offering.

How it works is that you take the money that you would have invested in your GIC and buy an annuity instead. An annuity is purchased through a life insurance company and works similar to a pension plan. This type of annuity will pay a guaranteed amount of money to you for the rest of your life. A small percentage of the monthly income you receive from your annuity is then set aside to pay for a life insurance policy. This insurance policy is taken out for the same amount of money that you are investing. If you buy an annuity for $200,000 then you also buy a life insurance policy for $200,000.

With the back to back annuity concept, you receive a guaranteed income for life plus your beneficiaries receive a lump sum tax-free insurance settlement when you pass away. This ensures that 100% of your investment is returned to them regardless of what income has been received from the annuity.

An annuity can typically earn more than 1 - 3% higher return than your current guaranteed term deposits or GICs.

The Second Concept: Shared Ownership (for business owners). The purpose behind a shared ownership concept is to draw money out of your company while paying far less tax than if you paid yourself income or dividends.

Many of the ways to do this are far too complex for this article so I advise that you to talk to your financial planner. One strategy however, is to use a Critical Illness insurance policy. Critical Illness insurance pays out a tax free, lump sum amount if you have a heart attack or stroke, or get cancer or a number of other illnesses. Many of these insurance policies will return your money if you don't submit a claim, if you cancel the policy or if you pass away.

Under current CCRA rules (subject to change) business owners can purchase these Critical Illness insurance policies through their company and the benefit can be paid out tax free. In the event of a premature death, the business owners' estate will receive all the insurance premiums paid by their company tax free. As a business owner, you can personally pay for the return of premium rider. This allows all the premiums you and the company paid out to come back to you personally — tax free. For example, let's say a $100,000 Critical Illness policy cost the company $100/month and would be paid up in full after 20 years.

You then add the return of premium rider to the main policy at an additional cost of $30/month. If you become ill, either you or your company will receive $100,000 tax free. After 20 years the company has paid out $24,000 and you have paid out $7200 for a total of $31,200. If you pass away, your beneficiaries are paid the combined amount of $31,200 or if you cancel the policy, you personally receive the $31,200. In both cases these funds are received free of tax.

There are many concepts like this that will aid you in your journey in becoming a millionaire. The above results will vary depending on age, current health, current interest rates and other factors. Certainly the complexity requires the aid of your financial planner, accountant and lawyer. So while "It's a long way to the top — if you want to rock and roll" a team of professionals financial planners will help make the trip a little shorter.

Collin Ludwar - B. Comm, is an associate insurance financial advisor with The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in risk management and group insurance strategies for individuals and business owners.

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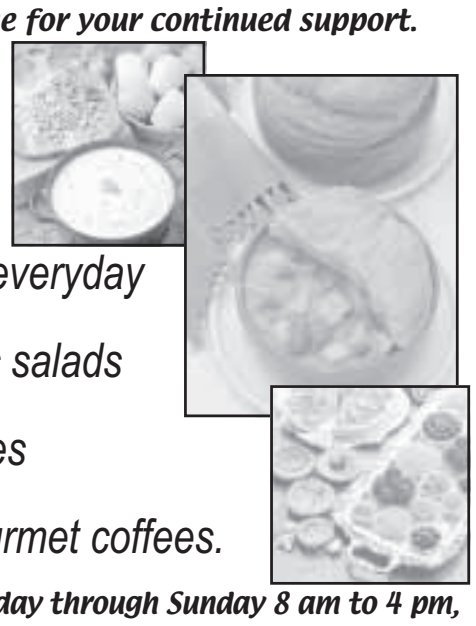

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Thank you again and Merry Christmas.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for the "ALFA" Guild Gallery in Nakusp, BC. Visual artists are invited to submit proposals for exhibitions. Submission requirements - description of proposed exhibit, CV or Biography, min. of 10 slides or photos which are labelled with artist's name, title of work, medium dimensions and date made, and an artist's statement. The Gallery will not show any works previously shown in this venue. Please include a SASE for a return of submission pac Mail to: Selection Committee, ALFA Guild Society, Box 155, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Call Betty for more info, 250-265-4636.

CARD OF THANKS

We sincerely thank everyone who has shown such kindness to us when we lost our Trinity. Your thoughtfulness, cards, food, fire wood, flowers, help and donations have been overwhelming. We didn't know we could even handle such a loss to our family but with the wonderful support from all our families and friends we feel we have the strength to go on.

While everyone was so good to us we do need to mention some individual "thank yous." First of all Thank you to our good friends: Darcy and Ken, Doug and Dorraine, Jan and John, Mo and Dave, and Trish and Colin for everything, and we mean it guys! To Heather, Brianne and Jan for the powerpoint "show." To Nicoline, to Joyce and Vern and to "Rhonda and supper girls" - Wow! The supper was great and we appreciate it-you are all so supportive! To Deb Guest, to all of the Nakusp Elementary School, Doreen and the "Lost Society" ladies for the tea - Thank-you. To the bed and breakfast places that so kindly opened their doors to us: Thank-you Pat and Jan Dion - The Secret Inn, Ralph and Tammy Dachwitz - The Cozy Cabin, Jody and Brenda Scott - Sunset Ridge, Uelli and Willy Jahnke - Frog's Leap.

Thank you to Jennifer and Steve Marks from On The Marks Printing for the programs. Thank you to the Gustafson families for their support and the Arnold/Wanstall and Martin families for the flowers. Thank you to the people, Gwen, Joseph, Marilyn and others who paid tribute to Trinity by speaking so well. Thank you to Andrew Holden and Father Scott for the service. Thanks for the jokes, Andy!

If we have missed anyone please know your kind thoughts and care have gotten us through this sadness and we thank all of you who have helped so much.

For a small community you pitched in and made us so proud.

From Doug, Brenda, Luke, Bryar and Adam McQuair and Randi Noyes.

Thanks for the overwhelming vote of support in the recent School Board elections. I am looking forward to the next three years on the School Board and will do my best to serve the residents of New Denver - Silverton as School Trustee.

Lora Lee Brekke

Many, many thanks to those who came out to observe International AIDS Day at the cenotaph in New Denver on December 1 and to those who came to the Silverton Heritage Country Inn afterwards for the jam session. Special thanks to all the musicians.

Jan Bradshaw
Slocan Arrow Lakes Treatment Services (SALTS)

COMING EVENTS

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.

HOT! HOT! HOT! 5 pm - 10 pm January 28, Cheap trip to Mexico. A Benefit for/at the Vallican Whole. Burritos, Beer and a fabulous Silent Auction. Watch this paper and local Bulletin Boards!

WANTED: PARENTS WITH GREAT IDEAS for Lucerne School! Please come to Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings, held the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Lucerne School library. Next one: January 19, 2006. Parents have a voice in their children's education through PAC.

FOR RENT

COZY ONE-BEDROOM COTTAGE in New Denver, newly rebuilt kitchen and bathroom. No pets. $425 plus utilities. Call 358-2119 between noon to 6 pm.

APARTMENT FOR RENT in New Denver. Large 3-bedroom apt. available Oct 1. $650/month. 306-536-0112.

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

FURNISHED ONE BEDROOM HOUSE in New Denver. $400. Available only till June 2006. 358-2576.

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

THREE-BEDROOM DOUBLE-WIDE in Slocan Park. Comes with fridge, stove, air conditioning, $700 per month. Available January 1, 2006. 226-7860.

THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE in Slocan Park comes with fridge, stove, $750 per month. Available January 1. 226-7860.

IN MEMORIUM

DEAR SON, BROTHER, UNCLE & FRIEND

It's two years today and still hard to believe
The shock's wearing off, we continue to grieve
Reminders surround us, which bring us to tears
It's hard when reality mimics your fears

Dear Mat we love you and miss you so much.....
your smile & your laugh, your humor, your touch.
So soar with the eagles and watch over us all
And be there to welcome the next one to fall.

With love from the George Family

This memorial ad was booked to run in our December 7 issue. We apologize for our oversight.

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MEDICINE WATERS WHOLISTIC HEALING CENTRE by appointment 250-265-2155. Rustic lodging is available. Natural lithium hotspring retreat. Touch for Health Level I January 20, 21, 22. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HELP WANTED

WANTED: APPRENTICE COOK, authentic Turkish cuisine. Fax resumes to (604) 463-1049.

SKI/BOARD WHITEWATER FOR FREE! - Slocan Valley Rec is looking for drivers with pick-up trucks to help with our ski bus program in January (on Saturdays). If you want to help or need details, give us a call. Drivers get a day of free skiing each time they help. SVRC 226-0008

RAIL TRAIL GROOMING - The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society is looking for volunteers (preferably with snowmobiles) willing to assist with trail grooming in January in sections of the Lower Slocan Valley. Contact Craig at 226-7312 for details.

NOTICES

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION WINTER GUIDE - Should be in mailboxes before Christmas. Watch for it. SVRC 226-0008

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

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE BY OWNER listings can be found at www.kootenayvirtualtours.com. Owners - list with us: basic advertising or we also do still photography, virtual tours, floor plans, property sketches and professional yard signs. 250-265-0090.

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RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SEPTIC TANK CLEANING: "Serving the Valley" 7 days/wk, 24-hr. All-Around Septic Services, Don Brown (250) 354-3644, emergency 352-5676.

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Scholarship triples for top high school grads

The Premier's Excellence Awards, given each year to 15 top high school graduates who plan to continue their studies in British Columbia, have been increased from $5,000 to $15,000.

The increase in the amount of the scholarships — the first since the program was created in 1986 — coincides with the 20th anniversary of the awards, which will be celebrated in January.

Leonard Booth was presented with a plaque and a blue cedrus tree in appreciation of his service to the Village of Slocan from November 1998 to May 2005, when he retired.

Barry and Judy Derco and the staff of Lemon Creek Lodge want to thank all our customers, and wish our friends and neighbours in the Valley and beyond a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

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Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

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Seasons Greetings from Columbia Power Corporation
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www.columbiapower.org

Dear Santa Claus —
Here is your cookies and "coffee" ... I left some carrots for the reindeer as well, since I know they get hungry.
PLEASE lock up behind you, as The Apple Tree Cafe is CLOSED from December 23 to January 15. We will be re-opening Jan. 16, if you are dying for a breakfast bagel.
Rob & The Staff
The Apple Tree Sandwich Shop
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... we'll see you all in 2006!
Happy Holidays!

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Terry and Sylvia wish all of our customers a warm, happy and safe Christmas and a joyous New Year!

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