The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Conservatives dump candidate in BC Southern Interior

by Jan McMurray

A Conservative (or its predecessor parties) riding since 1993 under MP Jim Gouk, the Southern Interior now finds itself virtually without a Conservative candidate for the upcoming election.

Derek Zeisman, who won the nomination to be the Southern Interior Conservative candidate, has had an incredibly rocky campaign. It started off with a car accident on December 20 that put him in Trail hospital, where he is still recovering from a broken femur, pelvis and ribs and a collapsed lung. It has ended up with his party dumping him after finding out that he is facing six charges in a 2004 incident when he allegedly tried to smuggle a 1989 Mercedes-Benz and 112 containers of liquor across the border from the US into BC.

The news about the smuggling incident broke on January 11. On the 12th, Conservative leader Stephen Harper announced that if elected, Zeisman will not be able to sit as a Conservative.

As January 2 was the deadline for candidates to withdraw or for any changes to the ballots, it was too late to replace Zeisman or to remove him from the ballot. So, he will appear on the ballot as a Conservative, but would not be able to sit in the Tory caucus if elected.

Zeisman issued a press release on January 15, apologizing for "...failing to disclose that I remain under investigation for six charges under the federal Customs Act.".

He also states in the release, "Party officials have assured me that they continue to support my candidacy" and indicates he would be able to join the Conservative caucus if cleared of the charges.

However, Colin Metcalfe of the BC office of the Conservative Party of Canada would not confirm those statements and said Zeisman would have to be solely responsible for those comments.

Before the news broke, the Conservative party was flying in candidates from other ridings to sit in for Zeisman at All Candidates forums. Senator Gerry St. Germain took Zeisman's place at Grand Forks January 4, and Stockwell Day sat in at Keremeos January 10 and Princeton January 11. No one has shown up to represent the party at the forums since.

Metcalfe said the main issue was that Zeisman "failed to disclose all of the facts to the party, knowing full well that he ought to have done so."

He described the party's screening process. Potential candidates must fill out an "extensive questionnaire" and undergo a criminal record check and a credit check. "The reality is that it's not about the charges because he hasn't been proven guilty yet. It's about the fact that he failed to disclose the information," he said.

Zeisman's trial date is February 6 in Surrey provincial court. He is charged with attempting to smuggle the vehicle and liquor across the border, making false statements and attempting to evade duties. If found guilty, he could be fined up to $50,000 and/or face six months in jail.

The biography Zeisman sent out to the media shows that he has worked as a trade commissioner at Industry Canada's International Trade Centre in Vancouver, as foreign service officer in the Canadian Diplomatic Corps and as Canada-US border policy analyst and public affairs officer. He was also hired as communications manager for the Columbia Basin Trust at the end of July but did not successfully pass the probation period.

The cause of the collision Zeisman was involved in on December 20 in Fairview, on Highway 22 between Trail and Castlegar, is under RCMP investigation. The press release issued by police says that the accident occurred at dusk, at a time when roads were covered with snow and a combination of rain and snow were falling. It says that allegedly, the vehicle travelling northbound was in the process of passing when it hit the vehicle travelling southbound. The drivers were the only occupants of the vehicles and both were injured.

In response to an article published in the *Trail Daily Times* on January 5 entitled, "Conservative candidate on the mend after car crash," a letter to the editor was published in the same paper on January 11. It says, "...it certainly has been a traumatic and not very good experience to the young lady he hit while he was driving recklessly in poor weather. He appeared to be passing when unsafe to do so and was in her lane when he hit her oncoming car." The letter also states that the Conservative Party and the media had not shown any interest in "his innocent victim."

Metcalfe said that at this point, the party hopes Zeisman will concentrate on taking care of his health and hopes for the "quick recovery of other people involved in the accident that happened before Christmas."

Charlotte Farrell gets a head start on her political education by grilling NDP candidate for BC Southern Interior, Alex Atamenenko. Farrell was primarily interested in the NDP's platform for toddlers.

Young New Denver skier makes BC Winter Games

submitted

Local skier Meagan Brown-Dahl qualified for the 2006 BC Winter Games this past weekend while racing at Red Mountain in the CIBC Wood-Gundy K1/K2 and J1 slalom and giant slalom races. Meagan placed fourth in both events out of 35 female 11-14 year olds from the East and West Kootenay zone.

The 12-year-old has been training with the Summit Lake Racers club for six years. Meagan attended the race at Red Mountain with her older sister, Amber, who earned gold, silver and bronze medals throughout the weekend racing against four other female 15-16 year olds in the Junior category.

Mom Tracy Brown accompanied and coached the girls and commended both on their efforts. She stated that, "Meagan is thrilled about the chance to participate in the Winter Games in Trail this February. From what I hear, they really put on an exciting event for talented young athletes from throughout BC."

With the Games being held so close to home, hopefully Meagan will get lots of local support!

Since the race season started, over 30 ski and snowboard racers, members of the Summit Lake Racers and NSS high school teams have been travelling to train at Whitewater Resort, near Nelson. With Summit Lake in jeopardy of not opening this year, racers, coaches and their families have had to scramble to pull together other training arrangements. Whitewater offers pass holders 50% off lift passes and accommodates the Summit Lake Racers training needs.

Next weekend, Summit Lake Racers practices continue for high school and Nancy Greene racers at Whitewater; K and J skiers can attend a Speed Camp at Red Mountain and the snowboarders head to Big White for their first snowboard cross.

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New funding program aims to help communities get healthier

submitted

Community groups in Interior Health are being invited to learn about a new opportunity for funding and partnership being announced by Interior Health. Supporting community health promotion alliances and networks is the key focus for a new $1 million Community Action for Health funding program.

The Community Action for Health program will provide seed funding to Healthy Living Alliances and Networks to enhance their ability to support health promotion and illness prevention in their community. Although the funds will be targeted to promoting healthy eating, active living and reducing the problem of overweight and obesity, the community will be responsible for deciding which projects and initiatives meet the needs and priorities of their local area.

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What's New at the Slocan Community Health Centre

Having a little difficulty with those New Year resolutions? Want to finally quit smoking? Lose a little weight? Get back into shape again? Perhaps the Primary Health Care Centre can help.

Kick the habit with lots of information and support, and free nicotine replacement patches and gum. Find out how much carbon monoxide is in your system, and watch the numbers go down after you quit smoking and start feeling better. January 15-21 is National Non-Smoking week.

Talk to the Primary Care Nurse or a dietician to find out how you can best reduce those calories and lose an inch or two.

Check you blood pressure and your blood sugar levels, and find out ways to improve your health status.

Join the local gym, which is presently in the ìold doctors medical clinicî and soon to be relocated to the larger gym. Individual fitness program instruction available. Contact Lorna Obermayr @ 358-7965.

For information on these and other services, please visit the Health Centre at 401 Galena in New Denver (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday), or call 358-7911.

Emergency Services 24/7 358-7911

Diagnostic Services:

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

Interior Health

Kaslo animal cruelty case over

The animal cruelty case against a Kaslo couple ended in a Nelson court room on January 9. Blaine Bennett and Judy Kurenka were given a 10-year prohibition on owning animals. The prohibition came with a list of exceptions, including dogs, cats, poultry or fowl, cows, goats, pigs, rodents, domestic birds and fish, two horses and any other animal agreed to by the SPCA.

BC SPCA is outraged over the sentencing. "This was a horrific case of abuse involving a large number of exotic, farm and domestic animals," said Marcie Moriarty, general manager of cruelty investigations for the BC SPCA. "Despite overwhelming evidence in the investigation and a guilty plea by Bennett, the outcome of the case was shocking. It was barely a slap on the wrist."

The couple faced 13 counts of animal cruelty. In November 2002, BC SPCA animal protection officers executed search warrants on two properties owned by the couple and seized 103 neglected and abused animals, including three Barbary macaques, a Japanese Snow Monkey, 11 marmosets, exotic birds, pot bellied pigs, miniature horses, chinchillas, rabbits, ducks, chickens, and a llama. Five of the animals had to be euthanized immediately because of critical distress.

Under BC law, individuals convicted of animal cruelty can be fined up to $2,000, given a jail sentence of up to six months and can be prohibited from owning animals for a period of time determined by the judge.

Moriarty said the SPCA spent more than $100,000 to rehabilitate, shelter and re-home the animals. "It is very discouraging for the SPCA to spend hundreds of staff hours and hundreds of thousands of donor dollars on a cruelty case only to have the courts allow animal abusers to continue their actions," she said.

She says that the BC SPCA, through its branch in Nelson, made numerous attempts to work with Bennett and Kurenka to make the necessary changes to their animals' environment, but instructions and recommendations issued by the SPCA were repeatedly ignored.

International committee formed to save Canada's inland rainforest

submitted

A group of prominent scientists, legislators, artists and activists have formed an international committee to bring world attention to the destruction of BC's ancient inland rainforest and the plight of the endangered mountain caribou. Colleen McCrory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society is one of the committee members, along with Canada's past Minister of the Environment, Charles Caccia; world-famous wildlife artist Robert Bateman; Canadian literary icon Farley Mowat; David Suzuki, well known host of The Nature of Things on CBC TV; and many others.

"This campaign is about protecting old-growth forest ecosystems in the Interior Wetbelt of southeastern BC," says McCrory. "The Inland Temperate Rainforest and the mountain caribou in this area are global biodiversity treasures. Both are very rare. It is unconscionable that the huge old trees of the ancient inland rainforest are still being logged even while its hallmark species, the mountain caribou, is on the edge of extinction."

The mountain caribou depend upon old-growth forest at all elevations of their home range, which extends from the Robson Valley east of Prince George, south into northern Washington and Idaho.

"The low-elevation, old growth forest of this area is facing extinction because clearcut logging has ravaged valley after valley," says Paul George, founder of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee. "This kind of forest exists nowhere in Canada other than on the BC coast and along this range of mountains in southeastern BC. These forests are a precious part of Canada's biological legacy. They support grizzly bears, wolves, cougars, wolverines, mountain caribou, salmon and many, many important smaller species and undoubtedly new species that have not yet been discovered."

Fish and wildlife organization seeks public representatives

The Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (CBFWCP) is looking for new public representatives to sit on its steering committee to help guide the organization over the next three years.

"We're looking for people who live in the Columbia Basin and have the time, interest, knowledge and willingness to work with us to help conserve and enhance fish and wildlife," says committee co-chair Wayne Stetski.

Individuals can nominate themselves or conservation groups can put names forward. Basic prerequisites include an interest in and knowledge of fish and wildlife conservation, the ability to listen to others, provide input, bring issues to the table, and be able to provide a regional perspective rather than representing a single issue or group. The public representatives may also be required to communicate issues back from the steering committee to the community or stakeholder groups.

"This is a small and dynamic committee," adds Stetski, "and it is an integral part of the compensation program. It influences decisions and makes recommendations that shape the program's overall direction."

The positions are for a three-year term starting April 1, with the deadline for nominations being February 1. For more information please visit www.cbfishwildlife.org or to request a full nomination package call 352 6874, or e-mail angus.glass@bchydro.bc.ca.

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As a result of warming trends, temperatures in the road bases are increasing. Restrictions will be imposed as conditions warrant.

The restrictions may limit vehicles to 100 percent, 70 percent or 50 percent of legal axle loading, as allowed under the regulations pursuant to the *Commercial Transport Act*.

Overweight permits will not be granted and all term overweight permits are invalid for the duration of the restrictions.

The public, and trucking and transportation companies should govern themselves accordingly. Your co-operation in adhering to the above regulations will be appreciated.

For load restriction clarification please contact your local weigh scale. To view restrictions go to website:
http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/loadrestrictions/loadrestrictions.htm
(See District 4 for service area 9 – Kootenay Boundary and 10 – Central Kootenay)

Jacques Dupas, District Manager, Transportation
West Kootenay District

Ministry Contact:
Duane Neufeld, District Technician 250 354-6628

Dated in Nelson, British Columbia this 3rd day of January, 2006.

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BC hydro

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Thursday, January 26 in Nakusp

BC Hydro invites the public to an information and discussion meeting regarding:

- 2005 Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Columbia River operations
- Columbia Basin reservoir levels and fish operations
- Projected Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Columbia River operations for 2006
- Columbia River Treaty overview

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m., presentation from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Selkirk Inn, 210 – 6 Avenue West, Nakusp

Please R.S.V.P. to Amy White at 250 365-4565 by 4 p.m., Wednesday, January 18.

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Property assessments climb to reflect increased market value

by Jan McMurray

Most property owners in our area will have seen a big increase in their property values on their 2006 assessment notices.

"Most homes on this year's assessment roll are worth more than they were on the 2005 assessment roll, and market movement appears strong when compared to previous years," said Nelson/Trail Area Deputy Assessor Dennis Hickson.

Overall, the Village of Nakusp's assessment roll increased from $130 million last year to $140 million this year. The Village of New Denver's increased from $48 million to $53.7 million. The Village of Silverton's increased from $20.9 million to $25.2 million. The surrounding rural area increased from $423 million last year to $486 million this year. The Village of Slocan remained steady at $20 million. The assessment roll comprising Nelson's rural area increased from $1.36 billion to $1.55 billion.

To put those overall numbers into perspective for individual properties, here are example assessments that reflect local market trends for properties by location. Nakusp: 2005 - $95,000, 2006 - $110,000; New Denver: 2005 - $107,000, 2006 - $124,000; Silverton: 2005 - $100,000, 2006 - $122,000; Slocan: 2005 - $69,000, 2006 - $70,000.

Assessment notices for 2006 are the estimate of a property's market value as of July 1, 2005. Changes in property assessments are reflective of activity in the local real estate market and can vary greatly from property to property. Assessment roll changes reflect market value shifts but also include subdivisions, rezoning and new construction.

Property assessment and taxation is a two-part process in BC. First, BC Assessment estimates the market value of a property as of July 1 each year and sends the property owner an assessment notice in early January of the next year. Second, in the spring, the local taxing authority (provincial and local governments) sets tax rates that are applied to the property's assessed value to generate the property tax notice which is usually sent May to July.

Questions about property taxation should be directed to the local taxing authority.

"Property owners who feel that their property assessment does not reflect market value as of July 1, 2005, or see incorrect information on their notice, should contact the BC Assessment office indicated on their notice as soon as possible in January," said Hickson.

"If a property owner is still concerned about their assessment after speaking to one of our staff, they may submit a written request by January 31st for an independent review by a Property Assessment Review Panel." The panels, independent of BC Assessment, are appointed annually by the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue, and meet between February 1 and March 15 to hear formal complaints.

"Assessments by Address" is available for residential property owners to further assist them in understanding their property's market value and to provide comparable sales information. This service is available on BC Assessment's web site at www.bcassessment.bc.ca from January 3 to March 15. Paper copies of Assessments by Address are also available at local area offices and most municipal halls, libraries and government agent offices across the province. New for this year is "Sales by Address" — information on property sales that occurred three months before and three months following the July 1, 2005 valuation date.

The Nelson/Trail Assessment Office is located at 502 Victoria Street in Nelson. During the month of January, office hours are 8:30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

If we're going to grow, let's grow smart

by Jan McMurray

Are you concerned about the unprecedented demand for vacation and recreational property in our area? If so, please come to a workshop on community planning to be held February 15 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Coming to facilitate the workshop is Tom Lancaster from Smart Growth BC, a charitable, non-profit organization that works with municipalities and community groups to develop more sustainable and livable communities. Lancaster has worked with many communities in the province, including Kaslo, Victoria, Squamish and Oliver.

"We try to make community members and local governments understand why they should move towards smart growth," said Lancaster. "We hand over tools, knowledge and skills on how to implement smart growth principles."

"Smart growth" is a collection of land use and development principles that ensure that growth is fiscally, environmentally and socially responsible, and recognizes the connections between development and quality of life.

Some of the Smart Growth principles are: to provide a variety of transportation choices, create diverse housing opportunities, preserve natural beauty and environmentally sensitive areas, protect and enhance agricultural lands, and to utilize smarter and cheaper infrastructure and green buildings.

The organization recognizes that each community is unique and has designed the workshop to address the issues and needs of communities accordingly. Lancaster will begin the workshop with a 45-minute introduction to smart growth principles, followed by a question and answer period. The second hour will begin with participants breaking up into smaller groups to discuss specific issues that have come up in the first part of the evening. The group will then come back together to wrap up.

New Denver's Healthy Housing Committee is sponsoring the workshop. The housing committee formed this past summer when rental accommodation seemed to be getting scarcer and housing prices were escalating out of reach of local residents. Although the committee's main focus is housing, it is also interested in addressing other issues arising from the real estate boom in the area. Because this phenomenon is happening throughout the area, the committee has invited local government representatives, community groups and individuals from the entire Slocan Valley to the event.

Small pool only at Nakusp Hot Springs

by Jan McMurray

Only the small pool is open at the Nakusp Hot Springs after the failure of the pool liners in December. The facility was completely shut down from December 16 until December 22, when it was possible to re-open the small pool. The entry fee is just $3 to soak in the small pool.

Small town, big money

Skatepark reaches fundraising goal

by Jill Braley

The Kaslo Skatepark Committee and Kaslo Area Youth Council received word from the Province in December that they will be receiving $124,775 under the Olympic Paralympic Live Sites program (OPLS). This means that the group has reached its fundraising goal of $249,000 and expects to begin breaking ground in the spring.

The group will build a state-of-the art, 10,000-square-foot concrete skatepark, with features including ramps, stairs, rails, curbs and ledges. The park is intended to accommodate skateboarders, rollerbladers and bikers with a variety of skill levels.

It has taken five years to come this far. Adult president of the group, David Wiebe, says he is very grateful to the community for all its support, and to the adults and youth who have put in so much volunteer time and energy to make this happen.

"Don Page [adult vice-president] has played a very critical and instrumental role in this project by submitting various grant applications, and giving freely, untold hours of his time to ensure the kids of Kaslo reached their goal," said Wiebe.

The skatepark committee also acknowledged the kind offer from the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society to contribute the remaining $125,000 for the project if the OPLS funding had not come through. Since it did, the community forest has allocated its funds to other organizations within the community.

The Village of Kaslo approved the Vimy Park location for the skatepark in February 2004 and generously offered to assist with site preparation. The group has received grants from the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society ($52,500 and $25,000), Columbia Basin Trust ($40,000), Vancouver Foundation ($25,000), Kaslo Kootenay Savings Credit Union ($5,000), Fortis ($2,000), and BC Hydro ($2,000). Fundraising efforts such as bottle drives and firewood sales in the community raised $19,000.

The Kaslo and District Arena Association was also successful in its application for OPLS funding. The association found out in October that it would receive $136,406 for its project to expand the lobby and add a fifth dressing room to the Kaslo Arena. The addition of 1800 square feet to the lobby area will eliminate congestion and improve access for the disabled. This project is also scheduled to begin in the spring.

Members of the Kaslo Skatepark Committee and Kaslo Area Youth Council say "Thanks" to the community and to the Olympic Paralympic Live Sites program (OPLS).

At the December 14 regular meeting of the Board, the directors of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society voted in favour of the Disbursement Committee's motion to release the following amounts to non-profit organizations in our communities.

Kaslo & District Public Library	**$1,000**
Kaslo Trail Blazers Society	**$5,000**
Argenta Library Committee	**$500**
Langham Cultural Society	**$7,000**
Kaslo Legion Br #74	**$5,000**
Kaslo Chamber of Commerce	**$1,000**
Kaslo and Area Youth Council	**$1,500**
1st Kaslo Brownies & Girl Guides	**$300**
JVH School - Gr 6/7 Field Trip	**$500**
Kaslo Skate Park Committee (term deposit)	**$25,000**
Kaslo Singing Grannies	**$250**
Kaslo to Sandon Rails to Trails	**$2,000**
Kaslo Golf Club (term deposit with expiry date July 2006)	**$75,000**
Trust for Kids	**$500**
Kaslo Minor Hockey	**$1,000**
Loggers Sports	**$5,000**
Jewett School Lunch Program	**$2,000**
Salvation Army	**$300**
Langham Drama	**$500**
Kaslo and Area Food Bank	**$1,700**
Senior Housing Society Project (term deposit)	**$60,000**
Grade 5 Fort Steele Field Trip	**$250**
Total:	**$195,300**

The elected directors and two appointees, Ken Wapple and Barry Rempel, are pleased to make this announcement in fulfilment of our promise to the membership to run the Forest Licence in a fiscally responsible manner and to return funds over and beyond our operating requirements back to our communities.

If you have any comments or questions regarding disbursements or our policies, please contact the Community Forest office.

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
Box 1360, Kaslo, BC, V0G 1M0
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Our World Famous 2 for 1 steak continues on Fridays. The Kitchen & Dining Room are open Wednesday to Sunday noon to 8 pm. The Pub remains open 7 days a week.

Application process in the works for appointments to KDCFS board

by Jan McMurray

It's time again for the Village of Kaslo and RDCK to appoint their representatives to the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS), and this year, both local governments are doing things differently.

For the first time, people are required to apply for the appointments. Both the Village and Area D Director Andy Shadrack have advertised for applicants.

Barry Rempel has been the Village appointee for three years and Ken Wapple has been the RDCK appointee for two. The KDCFS board has written to both the Village and to Shadrack to recommend that these two be re-appointed.

A letter from the Village was hand delivered to the KDCFS board at its January 11 board meeting to let society directors know that no Village appointee would be attending the meeting, as Rempel's term expired on December 31. Wapple received a letter from Shadrack on December 23 that notes that Wapple's term also expired December 31 and that Shadrack would not be making the appointment until the January 21 RDCK meeting.

This has disrupted the proceedings of the board, according to KDCFS board President Gary Cockrell. "Our bylaws give them the privilege to appoint representatives to the board, but not to leave holes in the board," said Cockrell. "Ken is the treasurer, so we are left without one until the Area D director makes a decision. Barry signs off on logging plans and reviews contracts to make sure the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted."

Cockrell said they have not heard when the appointments will be made, just that "they are working on it." He said it would make more sense to wait until the society's AGM in the spring to make the appointments. At the board meeting last week, Cockrell reported that directors voted to continue recognizing Wapple and Rempel as board members.

Shadrack reported that two people were being interviewed for the position on January 15, and confirmed that those two people were Ken Wapple and Dave Russell.

Russell has sat on the KDCFS board for two stints before. He resigned from the second one in December 2003, following a public meeting where the majority voted to maintain the Village and RDCK appointments. He resigned because he could not support this decision. He ran for an elected seat at the 2005 AGM, but was not successful. He received the fewest number of votes (65).

Shadrack said that during his municipal election campaign in the fall, he declared he would have an open process in making this appointment. When asked what made him decide to change the process, he said, "I think it's important that the appointee listen to the different points of view of Area D residents and make sure they are heard at the board table."

To help him make the appointment, Shadrack chose two people to advise him — Kathy Sparkes, a former KDCFS board member and Kelly Abey, a current KDCFS board member.

"I wanted one to be female, and wanted one to be from the north end of Kootenay Lake and someone who works in the mill part of the industry," he explained. Sparkes meets the first criteria and Abey meets the other two.

Shadrack said he, Sparkes and Abey had met to agree on a format for the interviews. The advertised criteria for the RDCK appointee was: "willingness to listen to the diverse views of Area D residents; good knowledge of community forest issues; working knowledge of forestry and/or wood manufacturing and/or business an asset." Applicants were to submit a resume and three references. The deadline for applications for the RDCK seat was December 23 at noon. Shadrack said that both applicants had met the advertised criteria.

The Village of Kaslo ad for applicants for the Village appointee on the board listed similar criteria, with the addition of a willingness to represent council's viewpoint on specific directives and a knowledge of the Forest Practices Code. The deadline to apply was January 10 at noon.

The appointed seats have been on the chopping block many times in the past and Shadrack has spoken out in favour of removing them. At the June 15, 2005 AGM and requisitioned meeting, a special resolution to axe the two seats failed, even though a majority supported it. It failed because special resolutions require 75% of the vote to pass. There were 101 in favour of removing the seats and 87 opposed.

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Police concerns aired at Kaslo CCG meeting

by Jill Braley

The Kaslo and Area Community Consultative Group (CCG) met on January 11.

Constable Luukko attended and updated the group on various policing concerns in the community. Dogs at large and showing aggression is one of them. Luukko said that after two incidents involving the same dog, the dog is taken away.

He also spoke about many vehicle infractions before Christmas, such as uninsured vehicles, expired licences and people not wearing seatbelts. The seatbelt fine is $138 and more seatbelt checks are scheduled.

The DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program will be up and running at JV Humphries starting February 1. Luukko will also approach Jewett School in Meadow Creek to see if they would be interested in the program.

Both Luukko and Ken Hart of the volunteer fire department said that the public can help local emergency workers by posting reflective house numbers in front of their properties. They said there were many instances in Kaslo and Area D where critical response time was lost because of the absence of this signage.

The volunteer group also discussed some of its funding options. Donation cans will be distributed around Kaslo and the group will apply for a grant from the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society.

CCG meetings are held every second Wednesday at 7 pm at the Village hall. A confidential "mailbox" is also available in the foyer of the Village hall. Everyone is encouraged to come out and learn more about the community, receive updates from local RCMP and make suggestions for a safer, better Kaslo.

Wet weather causes slides and power outages

by Jan McMurray

Many of us might be happy with the spring-like weather this winter, but it sure has caused some problems for road crews and power companies.

On January 11, a mud slide at Ainsworth caused the highway to be closed from 4:30 am to 11 am, when it was opened to one-lane traffic. Crews finally finished the clean-up at 5 pm. Three smaller slides occurred in the same vicinity at about the same time. The rain had been falling hard and saturated the ground, causing the slides.

Bud McRann of Yellowhead Road and Bridge, the highway maintenance contractor, said a local person who was travelling to work from Nelson to Ainsworth came across the slide and let them know right away.

"I'd like to see us get back to cooler temperatures. This heavy, wet snow is so hard to deal with," he said.

The day before the slide, the Slocan Valley and Kaslo areas experienced power outages. The wet, heavy snow caused many trees and tree limbs to break onto power lines.

Corey Sinclair of FortisBC reported that the Kaslo and Slocan areas were the worst affected, but that there were were outages from the south Okanagan through to the east end, outside of Creston as well.

Sinclair said he thinks that was the worst we'll see this season. "It's the first big dump of wet snow that takes out all weakest tree limbs. If we get another dump, we won't be in as bad a situation," he said.

JANUARY 2006

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	X	THIS MONDAY, VOTE.				

To know when and where to vote, consult your voter information card. It includes all the information you'll need to use your right to vote, and you'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

Voting hours for your polling station are indicated on your voter information card and on the Elections Canada Web site at www.elections.ca by clicking on the Voter Information Service icon.

If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

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Elections Canada

Kootenay-Columbia candidates square off in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

The Kootenay-Columbia riding includes the Arrow Lakes communities of Nakusp, Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and Trout Lake and the Lardeau Valley communities of Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek and Marblehead.

Canadian sovereignty over our water and the Columbia River Treaty, as well as alternative energy were the two issues discussed most at the Kootenay-Columbia All Candidates meeting in Nakusp on January 7.

Sitting MP Jim Abbott of the Conservative Party said that sovereignty of our water was not a problem at this point, as he is unaware of any Canadian politician with any interest in the bulk export of our water. He also said that "it will be up to us in this constituency" to decide whether or not we want to continue with the Columbia River Treaty when it expires in 2024 and that we must declare our intentions in 2014. He explained that he had been instrumental in establishing a relationship between the Columbia Basin Trust and the Northwest Power and Planning Conservation Council out of the US.

The other candidates were not as confident about our ability to maintain control over our water, with candidates Brent Bush (NDP) and Clements Verhoeven (Green Party) both pointing to NAFTA.

"Chapter 11 of NAFTA needs to be reinforced so water is not incrementally privatized like health care," said Bush. Stating that both the Liberals and Conservatives "favoured deeper integration with the US," he asked, "would you trust the Liberals or Conservatives to negotiate our water?"

The discussion around alternative energy started when an Arrow Park resident asked why he was paying so much tax on gas at service stations. Abbott said the Conservatives would not drop the 10¢/litre excise tax because 5¢ of it now goes to municipalities under the Liberal's "New Deal" program. He said the Conservatives would partially drop the GST on gas. He also said that his party would be "involved in incentives" for alternative technologies such as wave, solar, wind and geothermal.

Bush told the Arrow Park resident that our rural areas need public transportation and said that $800 million of federal money was flowing to the provinces for just that. He said the NDP was very much in favour of supporting renewable power and mentioned the project underway to heat Nakusp Secondary with waste wood. "Canada needs to seriously address its reliance on fossil fuels and has to recognize that we are changing our climate," he said.

Liberal candidate Jhim Burwell said that with the New Deal, when you are buying gas, you are investing in your communities. He said the Liberals have a plan to reduce greenhouse gases.

Verhoeven said the real problem is the price of oil. "Alberta has an incredible amount of oil and wants to sell at world prices. Perhaps it's time to talk about Canada's resources being available to Canadians, not just Albertans. The Green Party is prepared to look at negotiating with the provinces." He said his party would penalize big polluters and put the money into alternative energy, and would subsidize geothermal heating. "People would have free heating and emissions would be reduced by 6 tonnes per household per year, which would meet our Kyoto commitment," he said.

The child care question was addressed, with Burwell saying that the Liberals have put great importance on the issue and have negotiated with the provinces for investments in child care. Bush said it was important to the NDP to keep this issue on the national agenda and outlined the NDP plan for a Child Care Act to ensure consistent, long-term funding for licensed, regulated, non-profit, high quality child care.

Abbott said the Conservatives differed fundamentally with the Liberals and NDP on this one. "The other two parties believe there is a role for the government to be involved with raising children. We believe the best people to be raising children is parents, so parents will get $1200 per year for the lowest income earner." He said that the Liberal spokesperson's comment that parents couldn't be trusted with the money and would spend it on beer and popcorn was an extremely demeaning statement.

Gene Nagy let the candidates know that the Arrowtarian Society was still looking for capital funding for its seniors housing project in Nakusp. Abbott said his office worked diligently with CMHC to get them to change their position on the existing mortgage, but got nowhere. Bush said that there was $1.6 billion for affordable housing in stand-alone federal money. "The money is there. This community needs an MP who will fight for it," he said.

Two young girls told the candidates that there was no gymnastics, curling or skiing in Nakusp this year and wanted to know how the candidates would encourage fitness in kids. They also spoke about the lack of people able to offer such programs in the community.

The Conservative Party is offering a tax credit on up to $500 spent to put children in recreation programs. Burwell said that tax cuts were not as long-term in vision as sustainable programming. "I believe we have to properly fund programs," he said.

One resident said he wanted a frugal, honest government and was unhappy with parties trying to buy his vote with tax cuts. Abbott's response was that the Conservatives would make some departments smaller but would put more into others, such as the Armed Forces. "We will put money in the pockets of Canadians instead of in the pockets of politicians," he said, saying that the GST rollback would benefit people on the lower end of the scale.

Bush says the NDP believes in putting tax money into social structure. "Since the mid '80s, lots has gone into corporate tax cuts and there is a growing disparity between rich and poor. This fragments society and causes crime and social problems," he said.

Burwell said the government was there to take care of health care, education and other basic needs and that public servants were needed to do this. He said the Liberals were trying to give provinces direction rather than simply transferring payments to them.

Verhoeven said smaller, more efficient federal governments had a way of ballooning into big, expensive provincial governments. "Federal cutbacks have pushed too much onto the provinces and we must look at this," he said.

Another question from the floor concerned the high cost of post-secondary education.

Abbott spoke about his party's tax credits for books ($500) and scholarships and bursaries ($10,000). He also mentioned the Conservative's proposed tradesmen and apprentices programs, involving a tax credit for tools, $1,000 per year to the apprentice for the first two years of the apprenticeship and a tax incentive to the employer.

Bush reminded that the NDP forced the Liberals to re-direct $1.5 billion back into post-secondary education during budget negotiations in the spring. "The NDP believes in a national strategy for education and training," he said.

Burwell spoke about the Liberal plan to pay 50% of tuition fees for the first and last years of study.

Clements said the Green Party is committed to making education more affordable, and more available.

Jhim Burwell says he is running to make sure the voice of Kootenay-Columbia residents is heard in Ottawa. "The best way to ensure that is to elect a Liberal," he said.

Clements Verhoeven says that real issues are lacking in this campaign. He says the Green Party has a vision. "Proportional representation would create a parliament free of partisan politics, which brought down the last government. We have to get off fossil fuels so the economy is not subject to the world prices of oil."

Brent Bush says the NDP will make a minority parliament work and will get things done for people. "I offer a new energy and a new positive approach to getting results."

Jim Abbott says the Conservative package is the most attractive one, but "you must decide. It's report card time for me. Have I represented your values in Ottawa?"

Make your vote count. Vote Strategically!

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Abbott

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AUTHORIZED BY OFFICIAL AGENT FOR JIM ABBOTT

Voices from the Valleys

Get out and vote, January 23

What a difference a month-and-a-half makes. The last time that I wrote about the federal election, I was predicting a close race in BC Southern Interior. The Conservatives had an energetic young candidate, Derek Zeisman - who was turning out four times the number of press releases as all the other campaigns combined. The riding had been held by Reform-Alliance-Conservative Jim Gouk for 12 years. Alex Atamanenko of the NDP, who lost the last election by less than 700 votes, was running again.

Mr. Zeisman hasn't had a good month, though. First, someone dug up a copy of an eight-year-old published essay, in which Zeisman advocates the abolition of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and monetary union with the United States, among other things. Although he was quick to dismiss the extreme views in his writings as youthful folly, it cast a big question mark over his judgement.

Subsequent events have tended to reinforce this negative opinion of the prospective MP. There's the matter of his accident, December 20. No one has been charged, and it has become apparent that the driver of the other vehicle won't be. The RCMP continue to investigate this incident. Again, the matter calls his judgement into question.

When it was revealed that Mr. Zeisman was facing charges of smuggling booze and a luxury automobile, and that he'd concealed this from both his party and the electorate, any shred of credibility that his campaign had left was lost. Dumped by his party, the former Conservative will remain on the January 23 ballot, but he won't get many votes.

The NDP has run an excellent campaign here. They have plenty of volunteers and are well-organized. They've been working hard at identifying their vote, and will certainly get it out on election day.

This constituency will almost certainly go to Alex Atamanenko. Alex is a thoughtful individual and he'll be an excellent MP. He speaks both of Canada's official languages, and Russian as well. He has a reputation for honesty and integrity. I've only chatted with him on a few occasions, but he's likeable enough and has a good grasp of the issues.

The biggest question in my mind is where does the Conservative vote go? Probably there will be some going to each of the other parties. Some of it will stay with Mr. Zeisman. Some of it will stay at home. The Greens may benefit the most. Much of their platform appeals to small-c conservatives and the party leader, Mr. Harris, is a former tory. I can't see a large number of Conservative voters coming out to support the Liberals, but some will be swayed to support the local candidate. Some of the populist old Reformers may actually embrace the NDP.

Bill Profili of the Liberals and Scott Leyland of the Greens are both excellent candidates, articulate and well-spoken. Both have an excellent grasp of their platform, but it's unlikely they will be elected.

In Kootenay-Columbia, I figure that Jim Abbott has a pretty safe seat. He's generally been a good MP, and he certainly knows the issues. He won over half the vote in the last election. With the momentum towards the Conservatives nationally, he'll hold his seat. His opponents can realistically only hope to keep him to less than 50% of the vote across the constituency. That would be quite an accomplishment.

Brent Bush is back in the race for the NDP. He placed second in the last election, and will likely do so again. He may increase his share of the popular vote, but he won't win this contest. He's much better prepared in this race, than he was the last time out. Perhaps the voters of Kootenay-Columbia will give him a chance to represent them in the future. Jhim Burwell won't get as many Liberal votes as his predecessor did. The Gomery Inquiry hasn't helped Liberal fortunes nationally, and it certainly won't help Jhim locally.

On the one hand, it's unfortunate that neither of these constituencies are going to be hot contests. On the other hand, it frees everyone to vote their conscience. There's really no fear of vote-splitting in either of these ridings anymore. It's just a matter of deciding which political party gets your $1.75/year.

On January 23, vote your conscience or vote strategically, vote for the party or vote for the candidate, but whatever you do, please vote.

Dan Nicholson, publisher
The Valley Voice

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*.

Open letter to the residents of Silverton:

It has been a pleasure to have served you over the last 15 months. You all made me feel as if I was part of a family. Your kind comments and smiling faces will always be with me. It is with deep regret that I must move on from here to another opportunity. Thank you for the terrific time, and your devotion towards community is an inspiration for all to mimic.

Chris Fox
Public Works Foreman,
Silverton

Puppies killed in Silverton

In the early morning two weeks ago, my dear friend of 35 years was horrified to discover her two young puppies with their throats slit on the banks of the creek that runs through Silverton.

Earlier that morning, around 3 am, as she walked the puppies by the creek, three men from the neighbourhood emerged from the shadows. One approached her and asked about the health of the pups. She responded, "fine" and quickly made her way home. She fed the puppies and put them out in the back yard. That was the last time she saw the puppies alive!

Shortly after 3:30 am the puppies' collars were found hanging from a tree in her front yard — one of many trees that she'd previously fought to prevent from being illegally cut down by the same neighbours she encountered on her walk.

Spiritually and emotionally healthy people love animals and would never do such an evil thing to someone's pets for no reason other than to hurt the owner. My friends and their puppies did nothing to deserve such a cruel act. I herewith send my prayers, deep love and compassion to those dear souls that came in cuddly furry bodies to give unconditional love and companionship. Let's not forget: what goes around comes around.

Alice Wells
Gulf Islands

Gun control not a solution to crime

A letter from Ed Chenel, a police officer in Australia brings forth some interesting information for Canadians. Australian gun owners were forced to surrender their personal firearms a year ago, and they were destroyed by the government. It cost the taxpayers over 500 million dollars.

The first year results are now in: Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2%, assaults are up 8.6%, and armed robberies are up a whopping 44%. While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically in the past 12 months, since criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed. There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly.

Australian politicians are unable to explain how public safety has been decreased, after the expense and effort of "successfully ridding Australian society of guns," but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that guns in the hands of honest citizens are the biggest deterrent to crime that it is possible to have.

Whose house would you rather break into if you were a criminal? The house where the owner might have a gun ready to greet you, or the house where the most deadly weapon was a kitchen knife?

Jim Jennings
Kaslo

Vote Green for a healthy Canada

"Your money or your life" is the law of the robber. The robbers in our society are the amoral decisions of corporations and government that can't recognize the value of life forms.

We allow those crimes by protecting our money instead of our lives. We do this by accepting quick, short-term political solutions protecting only our money.

Like the family that won't pay ransom for a hostage, we can protect ourselves by changing the rules. A personal rule change would be to vote for long-term life, protecting options for a healthy Canada.

A friend reminded me of the angst that we felt in changing political allegiances. She liked the Green ideas but at voting time was swayed to support a mainstream party. Several elections later she acknowledged that the political system wouldn't change unless she did. Since making that Green voting decision she has felt strength and pride, and now takes more interest in options and best solutions. She is no longer "swept off her feet" as the politician rages from the "soapbox" on prepared subjects. Her action speaks louder than the politicians!

Green Party ideas, proposals and solutions have been an inspiration around the world. They have continually rising support, and more and more influence. Life in Canada and on earth needs a show of Green strength. It's a vote that has real meaning!

A strong Green vote will direct anyone who forms the government. I'd say vote Green for a healthy Canada!

Eric Faulks
Hills

Inconsiderate dog owners should be ashamed

Thank you Peter Roulston for your accurate comments in the last issue of *The Valley Voice* regarding dog ownership in our communities.

As "Kaslovians" who walk just about everywhere within our community, my six-year-old daughter and I are regularly harassed by barking, growling and occasionally snapping dogs.

Despite complaints to council and interventions by the animal control officer, these owners persist in letting their dogs loose on public land.

I am amazed that the welfare of my six-year-old daughter is so easily disregarded by these dog owners. (And yes, these owners are usually the ones that rarely walk their dogs.) What kind of society are we living in where it takes an unpleasant dog attack and the resulting enforcement of the law before citizens bother to control their dogs?

My daughter and I are forced to use the busy main highway to get to our local skating arena as aggressive dogs prevent us getting there on quieter roads. We moved to Kaslo for the seemingly good quality of life for children here. Now I am not so sure.

With the principles of "smart growth" becoming accepted within our community as recently stated by the new Mayor, Jim Holland, we must act in our own backyard to create safe walking routes for our children and ourselves to use.

Dog owners who continue to ignore animal control bylaws, even when they know their dogs are bothering young children, should be very, very ashamed.

Francesca Blishen
Kaslo

To undecided voters

To undecided voters and those who may or may not vote on January 23:

You may be aware that Alex Atamanenko (NDP candidate for BC Southern Interior) was a few percentage points away from winning the seat in the last federal election. Now that Jim Gouk is retiring, we have a very good chance of sending Alex to Ottawa to represent our area. Your vote is important.

Alex is approachable, honest and hard working. He is a person with a strong sense of social justice, he speaks French, is ready to go and would do a fine job representing us. Just as Mr. Gouk's constituency office has done a fine job, so too would Alex set up an office(s) in service to the community.

In these times of minority governments in Canada, the NDP is the party with the power. They tend to be a

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Voices from the Valleys

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moderating voice in Canadian politics and Alex can take our voice to Ottawa.

If you are undecided and thinking of voting Green, please do. It is a big constituency and it is important that the Greens keep 4% of the vote so we, the people, can gain a voice for European type policies such as a four-day work week and coalition building skills.

If you are disgusted with politics, I understand. Is there, however, some other way that the 30 million plus citizens of this massive country Canada could express and co-ordinate themselves? For now, we vote. In the future, who knows? Let's get creative.

See you out on January 23rd!

Laverne Booth
Winlaw

Victimhood

I am writing in response to the letter by E. De Boer titled "An Open Letter to Stephen Harper" in the December 14th edition of *The Valley Voice*. I disagree with her statement that "Sexual orientation is innate. This is what God created, this is what God intended." Compare this statement to what it actually says in God's word: "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." (Leviticus 18:22). Also: "In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." (Romans 1:27). God also created the institution of marriage to be between one man and one woman (Genesis 2).

God did not create moral laws to punish us but to lead us to the truth and away from harm. It is not up to us or our politicians to change these laws.

I sense a spirit of victimhood in De Boer's statements. This is also evident in her statements about native residential schools. Victimhood is a malaise that leads to self defeat as it seeks to lay the blame for our problems on the offender and creates bitterness and hatred in our hearts. We must get beyond such feelings and forgive those who offend us so that we can go on to live positive and productive lives.

Ron Bowman
Kaslo

Each school in a league of its own

If the school system were a hockey league, this would be the season to woo back the fans. But the strike by teachers that took place last term has presented educators with a different challenge than getting students back in their seats. Our challenge is how to put the money that was saved during the strike back into the system. As tests go, this is one to relish.

In December, the Ministry of Education announced that of the $126 million available, $28 million would be given directly to schools — at a rate of $50 per student. Education Minister Shirley Bond has specified that individual schools will decide how to spend the money, based on their appraisal of how to best improve student achievement in their school.

I have spoken with many principals and vice-principals who welcome the opportunity this provides them to meet with their entire staff and engage their parent community to identify specific needs at their individual schools. In my travels around the province, it is clear that no two schools are identical. There are similarities — excellent staff, committed parents and quality students — but these broad strokes each host a unique school community and set of circumstances. It may well be that schools in the same town have different needs based on their population. It is likely that a school may see their needs change from year to year. I would be hard pressed to say that the schools where I have worked have been the same year to year let alone try to make the case that my school was the same as a school in the next community. This is why a single solution to educational challenges can never be achieved. Instead, our focus must be on supporting the needs that have been identified by the school community to maximize the success of the students at that school.

To take full advantage of this funding opportunity, all parties must have the needs of their students as their prime concern. The best decisions will be made by those closest to the students and in positions to see what differences can be made by providing adequate, timely and required support. It puts the onus on school leadership to accurately account for the needs all of their students and to report out the results that have occurred as a result of support. It also requires some flexibility in the system to recognize that each school is different and students can be best served with local solutions.

I have every faith local approaches are happening throughout the province and I believe we will see evidence in a short period of time that decisions made locally produce outstanding results.

Tom Hierck
President, BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association

Slocan Valley bus service needed

This follows a previous letter to the editor regarding a scheduled daily bus service to Nelson.

Since a public bus service has been available for many years to other villages in the valley; it begs the question of why the two largest villages in the Slocan Valley do not have the same service?

Given the restraints in provincial spending, this will not become reality unless the councils of New Denver and Silverton become involved. It will require a lot of effort and political muscle to get what should already be in place.

There is a local area authority proposal to run a bus service for those requiring medical treatment in Trail. This is good, and should have been in existence long before closing the local hospitals. However, this service will not address the basic need for everyday transportation.

The number of empty houses in New Denver and Silverton, and the number of departing families from both villages, is reaching epidemic proportions. Within a stone's throw of this house in New Denver there are five empty houses. They are not empty because New Denver is a terrible place to live. It is because nobody of working age with a family can afford to live in an area with little work.

With only a few job opportunities available to sustain the population, New Denver and Silverton are in danger of becoming a summer resort with absentee house owners. With a vibrant and healthy economy this would not happen.

No one should have to depend on the goodness of a neighbour if they wish to travel. Likewise, we should be able to go to work every day in Nelson or Castlegar if we wish, and bring money back into the local community. If we wish to pursue further education at Selkirk College we should not have to leave home to live in Nelson or Castlegar. We should be able to travel, access medical, business and entertainment needs in Nelson and Castlegar, as required and when required.

In the past residents in this area got together and fought a battle to get local internet service, and local phone calls to Castlegar, Nelson and Nakusp. They won, and it was a great step forward. It would seem that until the local economy becomes self sufficient, a daily bus service to the city would be another lifeline.

Bus service is available if we want it, but it will require community effort to get it.

Our local MLA Mr. Corky Evans is already behind the idea. Please speak to your local council members and get them on board also. If anyone on the Village council in New Denver or Silverton reads this letter please think about it.

In terms of future options, business and tourism, a daily bus service for our communities is an asset that has been missing for far too long.

John and Vicky Fraser
New Denver

Urge politicians to clean up food supply

King Midas didn't know he was in trouble until it was too late.

Everything he touched turned to gold, including the banquet of sumptuous food laid out for him to eat. Today's political rhetoric reminds me of that fable. Most candidates are concerned with nothing but the economy, while studiously ignoring our poisoned food supply, our polluted air and tainted water supplies. On average 2,798 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer every week, and on average 1,313 will die per week. On average 100 Canadian women a week die of breast cancer, and another 407 a week are diagnosed with it. We know that over 350 man-made contaminants are found in breast milk. The connection between cancer and contaminants has been known for years, yet the Canadian health care system continues to be drained of over $4 billion a year for various forms of cancer treatment. Think of that the next time you are asked to contribute to further cancer research! But what can we do, we ask ourselves?

Yesterday I was speaking to one of three scientists from the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs who was dismissed by Health Canada in July 2004 for whistle blowing. The charge was that they were "disobedient" to their superior. Dr. Chopra had recently been on the west coast on a speaking tour arranged by the Council of Canadians. Not only was he impressed with the beauty of our coast, but he was particularly moved by the people he met. He said, "Audiences were attentive, like all people they enjoy a good story. But aside from that, these people wanted to know what they could do to help." Giving their questions a lot of thought, he told them — and later told me — what the one thing we as Canadians could do to help save our country; to in fact become a country that would truly be a world leader.

We must tell our politicians that we want one thing from them: we want them to remove the contaminants from our food supply. Tell them we will no longer tolerate the following five things in our food: pesticides, hormones, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics or rendered wastes (road kill; dead cats and dogs; diseased, dying or downed animals).

Rendered wastes are commonly being used in animal feed, and we then allow our children to eat meat and drink milk from animals that have been fed this offal. He said, "Tell them you don't care if the amounts they carry are harmless, or if they have been approved — tell them you don't want them!"

And that, I feel is one important thing we could do in the election coming up. Make our candidates realize that we want action from them on issues that really matter. The more misguided concentration we put on "curing" cancer instead of preventing it, the more people will be doomed by a disease that could be prevented.

Linda Harrington
Galena Bay

Well-meaning mayor a poor communicator

This letter is in response to the letter by Kaslo resident Larry Braley in the December 14, 2005 issue of *The Valley Voice*.

First of all, the comments of new Kaslo Mayor Jim Holland come as no surprise to me, and shouldn't to anyone who has ever worked, or had dealings, with the new mayor.

I'd like to start by making a personal note to Mr. Holland, and remind him that he in fact did not win the majority of votes. Had either of his major opponents, Donna Cormie or Pat Mackle, not run, the result might have been much different. Yes, he was the first past the post, but he became mayor with a good deal less than 50 per cent of the vote.

His statement that he has more rights based on his time in Kaslo is, sadly, typical of a protectionist attitude, and a disregard for the basic rights of all Canadians. In case he's not aware of it, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms clearly protects the rights of all Canadians to live and reside wherever they want in this country, and that no person should be prejudiced against based on their place of origin nor the amount of time they have resided in any given location.

Jim is not alone among Kaslo citizens in his opinion. I recall a couple years ago when a young entreprenuer moved into Kaslo and attempted to start a catering business. Certain business people fought diligently to prevent the person from operating her business in town. Some even hassled her for selling products that were similar to theirs. They used the excuse that Kaslo could not support overlapping services, and ignored the fact this person had a right to sell whatever she wanted, so long as she had a license to conduct business in the community.

While it was true, at the time, the woman had not clearly thought her business plan through, and had picked a town already saturated with food service businesses, she still had the right to try, and to not be set upon by other business people. Quite simply, these other business people, most of whom I noticed were strong supporters of Holland's candidacy, were being protectionist and showed little regard for the young entreprenuer's right to conduct business. It's a common occurence in small villages and towns, but that doesn't make it right.

As someone who has had past dealings with Holland, from his days as a tree planting foreman to his term as chief of the Jazz Fest, I am quite aware of his business style and methods. If I am surprised by anything it is that the first complaint against Holland is for something he said, rather than something he didn't say. I'm not sure how things are at the Jazz Fest these days, but the biggest complaint I'm aware of from his days as chairman of that society was the lack of communication. From performers trying to get a gig at the festival, through crafts and food booth personel, to volunteers, I have heard many times that people made submissions and never received a reply. It was my own experience as well. Holland simply does not get back to people, or there is a strong perception that he does not. My own experience with him included being promised something, a simple letter of reference, and never receiving it. One can only hope, as mayor, he actually gets back to the people who contact him. However, if history is any road map, this will become an issue.

I didn't vote for Holland, for the reasons outlined above, but also because I carefully read his brochure. Personally, I felt the resume portion of his brochure was somewhat exaggerated. Not much, but enough to make me question his integrity. In it Holland basically takes full credit for the development of the Jazz Festival. Fact is, a lot of other folks worked on that festival, and without them, it would not be the going concern it is today. Yes, Holland was and is a major contributor to the festival, but so are a lot of other folks, and I found it somewhat shameful that his literature did not seem to acknowledge that fact.

As for Holland's assertion that he is the only truly elected member of the Kaslo council, well that, quite simply, is a pile of do-do. In the end only four people stood for council. A fifth was removed from the ballot shortly before the election. Although these people were acclaimed, their election remains legitimate. Obviously the people of Kaslo were happy with the slate, otherwise someone, or others, would have challenged. Methinks Holland has made a gross error starting things off by attempting to marginalize the very people he is going to have to depend on to get anything done over the next few years. Again, I am not surprised. From my experience with him, its simply the way he does business. In his world, he's what's important.

All this said, I have no doubt that Holland means well. Quite obviously he is an important member of this community. The key word there is "an." He is one of many important people in this community. There are about 899 other equally important individuals, including his four councillors, those who have been here forever, and those who just showed up last month. I sincerely hope Holland gets that sometime between now and when his mandate expires. If he doesn't, I suspect he will find himself in the "not really elected" category when the next election rolls around.

Finally, I want to thank Holland for his gaffe, and Larry Braley for bringing it to our attention. I think it clearly points to one of the major issues we have here, and in other small towns across this country. We live in a free and democratic society. We are allowed to live and work where we want. No one should be prejudiced against based on where they come from or how long they have been somewhere.

Will Webster
Kaslo

Voices from the Valleys

Dangerous dogs have no place in the Village

I have a comment to make concerning the ongoing discussion about the incident in which a dog on the loose was injured by one of our RCMP officers recently.

As someone who is still walking around with scars on his arm and stomach after being attacked by two dogs as a seven-year-old child in Montreal, I offer my support to the officer and to anyone else who chooses to defend himself when feeling threatened by a large, apparently dangerous dog on the loose on our streets.

The dog owner in Montreal was surprised that his dogs had attacked me and sent me to hospital, with the offhand and flippant remark that they had never done this before. Somehow this did not make me feel better, and I have never trusted dogs since that time.

Going for a walk on our side streets does not need to be a scary 'adventure' at any time for anyone.

I have passed by this same rottweiler on my way home from the hospital, and she tried to attack me as well. Had she not been chained, I don't know what I would have done. She was tearing at her chain violently and growling fiercely. However, I have decided that I will defend myself with any means possible.

My hat is off to our officer, and to anyone else who has to think twice before going out for a walk. Why anyone would want to keep a vicious dog is—and always will be—a mystery to me.

Ian Zack
New Denver

Keep big dogs on a leash

I was kinda sorry to read in the December 7 paper about the Rottie that got shot for attacking the RCMP constable. I too have had to walk on the south side of Third Ave. because that 'nice-tempered' dog was barking and snarling at me from the verandah of the house, then she would come down on the road. I had to stand still and wait for her to go back to the house.

Before you ask, yes, I do love dogs and have had them, different sizes, for 40 years or so.

There are a couple of realities which the owners of large and extra-large dogs will have to adhere to. They should be ordered to tie up or enclose their pets as per the bylaw. I know I sound paranoid but I spent 20 years in the Slocan area, where these very large breeds were allowed to run loose, knocking down the elderly, traumatizing people and attacking leashed dogs. I felt, when I came up here to New Denver where I had heard that people cared, I could go for a walk and not have to carry a stick or something for my protection. Not so!

Back east (Ontario) pit bulls and other large dogs are being banned because of their aggressive nature. Please don't tell me that you feel that large dogs are under the leash and shouldn't be picked on. Ask the people (in Vancouver etc.) that have been attacked by these 'gentle giants'.

My daughter from Ontario is terrified of big dogs and back home carries with her a box cutter for her protection. In my own experience, I have been challenged by half-breed wolves, bull mastiffs, shepherd crosses and other large 'guardians'.

Please, tie her up or keep her enclosed. The next person hurt will be your children if the dog is put down.

J. Edge
New Denver

Skatepark doesn't belong in Vimy Park

For the last 100 years everything that has been done in the Vimy Park area has been easily undone. Not so with the proposed skateboard park. Other communities have had to move massive amounts of concrete because they picked the wrong place to have a skateboard park. The thought of having this happen to our lovely little park is unthinkable.

The costs to locate this facility in Vimy Park rather than at the arena area are substantial. This money could be put to better use in the community. How many skate-boarders do we have in Kaslo?

We pride ourselves here in Kaslo with the waterfront that we have kept undeveloped and natural. The sounds and smells of the water are a powerful draw for visitors and residents alike. As Kathleen Elder once said, "We should keep for our youth now and forever a quiet beautiful place."

Pat Ekdahl
Kaslo

Copy of a letter sent to Elections Canada:

Since I won't be at home on voting day, I decided to vote by mail. To find a list of the candidates running in my riding, I punched in my postal code on your web site, www.elections.ca, and what do you think I found? A list of *three* candidates, all from the three major parties, when I know for a fact that there are several more running.

Why aren't all candidates listed? Why are you pushing people towards voting for just the major parties? Isn't Canada supposed to be a democracy? The current system is not fair to the candidates running, nor to voters.

Shirl M. Bayer
Winlaw

New Denver council, January 10: Public meeting scheduled on joint fire service

by Leah Main

•A public meeting is scheduled for January 26 to present the New Denver/Silverton Joint Fire Service Plan.

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•Work on the fitness centre at Slocan Lake Community Health Care Centre has proceeded satisfactorily. A lighting plan is being drawn up for approval by IHA before final work can be undertaken.

•Mayor Wright will continue to act as the liaison between New Denver and the Kootenay-Boundary Health Service Area of IHA.

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•Council received a communication from legal counsel representing the IHA indicating they are abandoning their appeal of taxation on property owned by them within the Village of New Denver. This means that they will be paying taxes on their parcel of land that contains two houses. The municipality expanded its boundaries to take the property into Village limits at the request of the IHA, and the IHA applied for tax exemption status from the Village.

•Councillors Greensword and Campbell will attend the Newly Elected Officials Seminar in Nelson beginning February 7, and the Village will pay expenses for all Council members who are able to attend the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments Conference April 27-29 in Grand Forks.

•Council has reviewed last year's municipal performance, and instructed Administration to monitor departmental costs on an ongoing basis.

•Information received from Kindy Gosal of CBT indicates that water levels behind Libby Dam will likely have serious effects on Kootenay Lake (projected 20-ft. drop in water level during peak tourist season), and BC Hydro estimates upward of $14 million in lost revenues. Council decided to write a letter in support of the CBT conclusions on this matter, especially regarding the impact of fluctuating water levels on the Canadian side, to be distributed to CBT, the US Army Corps of Engineers and other appropriate agencies.

•In response to a request from Ridley Shippers Coalition (Northern Energy & Mining) regarding the federal government's potential divestiture of ownership of Ridley Terminal (Prince Rupert), Council will write a letter of support stating concerns regarding public consultation, recovery of public monies already invested, and stating preference of ownership and regulation of operator to serve the best national interests.

Roxie no longer in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Roxie the Rottweiler, the dog one of our local RCMP officers shot and wounded last month, no longer lives in New Denver.

The Village sent the dog's owner, Tanya Leduc, a letter on December 30 after a second incident occurred during the evening of December 29.

The letter says that a local resident was walking a dog on a leash when Roxie came off the porch at Leduc's house and attacked the dog. It says that as the two incidents deem the dog to be vicious under the Village's animal control bylaw, the Village was initiating proceedings to have the dog seized. It added that Leduc should arrange to have the dog removed if she did not want to have the dog seized.

Leduc says she has Roxie living with friends of hers in the lower Slocan Valley until she can find suitable accommodation outside New Denver. She added that she was very grateful to the many community members who have shown her support.

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A Simple Curve one of Canada's best films in 2005

This week *A Simple Curve*, the first feature from award-winning New Denver native writer/director Aubrey Nealon (filmed locally under the working title *Idaho Peak*) made the Top 10 list of Canadian films of 2005. The list includes Canada's heavyweight filmmakers David Cronenberg, Atom Egoyan and Deepa Mehta. The fifth annual list, which does not rank the films in order, is organized through the Toronto International Film Festival Group to promote Canadian film.

A Simple Curve is the story of 27-year-old Caleb, raised in the Slocan Valley by his hippie draft-dodger parents. His attempts to keep the family business afloat are suffering from his father's relentlessly groovy business decisions, when a saviour arrives in the form of a wealthy American ex-hippie and an old friend of the family. But Caleb's rescue doesn't turn out the way he expects.

The cast features Kris Lemche, Michael Hogan, Pascale Hutton, Sarah Lind, Kett Turton and Matt Craven as Matthew.

At a gala presentation event hosted by actors Brent Carver and Lisa Ray, TIFF director Piers Handling referred to 2005 as a powerhouse year because the old guard was augmented by some strong first-time filmmakers, including Nealon. *A Simple Curve* was the only western Canadian film in the top 10.

The film won the award for Best Canadian First Feature at this year's Sudbury Cinefest and was the opening film for the prestigious Canadian Images section of the 2005 Vancouver International Film Festival.

For producer George Baptist, having *A Simple Curve* listed as one of Canada's top ten films is a huge boost for the film.

"To be listed with some of Canada's most famous filmmakers is terrific and clear sign that this country has to support and encourage the talented first time directors," says Baptist. "These newcomers enhance the exceptional talent we already have. Canadians should be proud of the films this country is producing."

A Simple Curve, *shot* on location in the Slocan Valley, was directed and written by Nealon and co-produced by Nealon, Baptist and Lael McCall. Produced in association with Chinook Arch Productions of Calgary and Principia Productions of West Vancouver, it is distributed in Canada by Domino Film and Television International of Montreal.

Computer Virus?
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Silverton council, January 10: Public works foreman will be missed

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Everett brought forward from *in camera* that Public Works Foreman Chris Fox was moving on. "He will be sorely missed by the Village. He left some pretty darn big shoes to fill around here," said Everett. The job will be posted.

•Everett reported on a budget meeting of the finance committee on January 9. He announced that the Village had come in on budget for 2005. The committee had a preliminary look at some tentative numbers for 2006 and "we may need to take a sharp pencil if we want to hold the line on taxes," he said.

He also reported on a meeting held January 9 on combining the New Denver and Silverton fire departments and bringing in Red Mountain Road. A public meeting on the issue takes place January 26 at the Memorial Hall at 7 pm.

•Administrator Junko Ida reported that no one had complained about the increase in water and garbage rates. At the December 13 meeting, council increased water rates by 30% ($5 per month for the average household) to offset the repayment of the loans for the water system and breakwater.

She also reported on complaints she received about dogs messing in people's yards. Mayor Everett and Councillor Laktin said they also received complaints on the issue.

•Much discussion arose from a letter from a resident about the inordinate amount of dog poop on the streets, sidewalks, alleyways and yards in Silverton. Most councillors were in favour of looking into the costs of doggy bag dispensers like the ones in New Denver and one or two more garbage cans. Mayor Everett and Councillor Griffiths felt that these features would show that Silverton supports responsible dog ownership. Administrator Ida said she felt it was expensive for the Village and dog owners should be taking the responsibility. The costs will be researched and taken to the Finance Committee.

•Councillor Bell reported she had attended some RDCK meetings and would submit a written report. The RDCK is considering holding its meetings in the communities rather than in Nelson and suggested that Silverton might like to host one. More information on this will be included in her written report.

•Councillor Laktin reported that she and some volunteers were in the process of organizing the Book Exchange at Silverton Building Supplies. SBS has offered a space for the books that were in the former Silverton Free Store.

•Council turned down the variance application made by the Fasthubers. A note will be sent to them telling them council would entertain another proposal if it conformed to the zoning bylaws and informing them that they can appeal to the Board of Variance.

•Requests for fee waivers for the use of the Memorial Hall from the Healthy Housing Committee for a public workshop by Smart Growth BC and from Barb Yeomans and Dick Callison for set-up of the Dr. Fun dance were granted. Mayor Everett said that the Finance Committee would be looking at ways to raise the income from the hall, as it has been losing about $6,000 per year.

•At the December 13 meeting, the following appointments were made:

Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission - Councillor Bell, Councillor Provan (alt.); Court of Revision - Mayor Everett, Councillors Laktin and Provan; Municipal Emergency - Councillor Griffiths, Mayor Everett; Recreation Commission - Laktin, Provan (alt.); Gallery Society - Provan; Arena Society - Provan; Historical Society - Everett; Finance Committee - Everett, Laktin, Griffiths; Advisory Committee on Health - Laktin, Griffiths (alt.); Spirit of 2010 Committee - Everett, Laktin, Provan, Griffiths; Staffing Committee - Everett, Griffiths and Laktin; Acting Mayor - Laktin (Jan.-March); Bell (April-June); Provan (July-Sept.); Griffiths (Oct.-Dec.).

Breakfast with Santa

submitted

The annual Winlaw Elementary School *Breakfast with Santa* and silent auction held December 11 lived up to its billing as the biggest and best ever. Santa gave his new sleigh a spin and then posed for photos. A record 164 breakfasts were served and more than 200 donated silent auction items were sold. This is also a record and shows that it is the high level of community support that makes this event such a success. Almost $3,500 was raised and will be used to enhance the children's experience at Winlaw School, one of BC's excellent small rural schools. First produced at the Appledale Children's Centre nearly 10 years ago, the parents continued the tradition when they moved on to Winlaw where the Winlaw School Parents Advisory Council has produced this event annually ever since.

Support the Bosun Opera Hall

submitted

The Bosun Opera House needs you! The hall has been a part of the infrastructure of this community since it was built at the turn of the previous century. It has provided a venue for celebrations, weddings, dinners, memorial services and an assortment of gatherings for all ages and interests.

After nearly a decade of semi retirement, the Bosun is back in action and has resumed its place as an integral part of our lives.

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and supporters there is a new floor, new overhead lighting and new chairs are on the way. Guides and Beavers, the Anniversary Dinner, dance camp, theatre and more are happening in the hall. The full kitchen, the tables and the chairs are available for rental.

The annual general meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11 at 5 pm. A number of renovations are on the slate and funds need to be accessed; if you can help or would like to be a part of this process, please contact Carol Bell, 358-2125 or Bev Casley, 358-7771.

A look at the Slocan Valley through the eyes of a visitor

Presenting . . .

a photographic look at the Slocan Valley (particularly the area surrounding Slocan, Silverton and New Denver) through the eyes of our visitors:

First Impressions, Lasting Impressions, Business Mix, Signage, Local Attitude, Beautification, Ease of Getting Around, Things to See and Do ...

- How the Slocan Valley stacks up agains the competition
- Suggestions, tips and tricks that can bring more cash to the area.

Who should attend?

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A tourism development program hosted by
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Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission
Presented by Roger Brooks, President of Destination Development, Inc.

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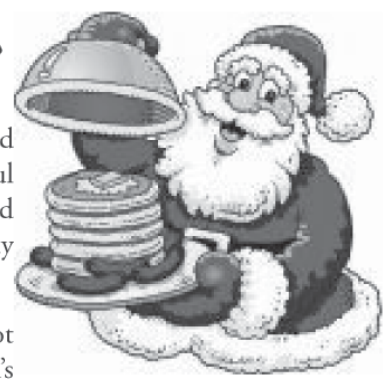
Great big Thank You!



The Winlaw Elementary School Parent Advisory Council would like to thank all those who helped produce another successful Breakfast with Santa last December 11th. In particular we would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who generously donated goods and services to the silent auction including:

4 Season's Greenhouse, White Pines Aikido, Ainsworth Hot Springs, The Artful Lodger, Air Liquide, Al Auringer, Allen's Chocolate, Annie's, Avon - Allison Sawyer, Back Alley Bizarre, Barb Wilson, Big O Tires, Blackbird Mirror, Brenda Pease, Capitol Theatre, Carol Fehr, Caroline Grueniger, Colour Your World, Cottonwood Kitchens, Crescent School of Art and Music, Darlene Bachelder, Devito's Shoe Repairs, Diane O'Neill, Diane Remple, Diane Sirois, Dr. Anne Starr, Earth Spirit, Eclectic Styles, Egg-Cetra, Elly Boer - Woola Babies, Ennis Fence, Finning, Floyd's Custom Furniture, Fomi's Bakery, Georama Growers, Gerrick Cycle and Sport, Hair by Teth, Harold Street Cafe, Heartfelt, Helen's New and Used, Hemp & Company, Jennie's Garden and Books, Karibu Park Cottages, Kootenay Co-Op, Kootenay Co-Op Bakery, Kootenay Glass and Mirror, Kootenay Spoons, Lemon Creek Lodge, Linda Remple, Lucas Warthe, Lynda Baltagilis, Maple Leaf Store, Marion Cutler, Moonshine Glass, Mountain Sky Soaps, Mountain Valley Station, Nakusp Hot Springs, Nature's Health, Nelson Daily News, Nelson Rec. Centre, Nomad Clothing Co., Otter Books, P&R Archery, Party Lite Candles - Sharon Butler, Perry Ridge Paneling, Pixie Candy Shoppe, Prestige Inn , Rudy's Bookkeeping, Safeway, Santa Claus, Save-On Foods, Secret Garden Toys, Shalimar Health Spa, Sharon Block, Still Point Pottery - Lance Hall, Sleep is for Sissies, Slocan Lake Home Hardware, Slocan Park Service, Slocan Valley Co-Op, Slocan Valley Planer Mill, Slocan Valley Recreation, Spirit Quest, Still Eagle, Susan Grimble, Taghum Trading Company, Tammy Rae, Terry B. Moore, The Gift Box, Tim and Michelle Garton, Trowelex, Tupperware - Susan Wilson, Westside Small Engine, WFC Computers, White Water Resort, Winlaw Brew Op, Winlaw Mini Mart, Comfort and Joy, Eldorado Market, Evergreen Foods, Lotti-Daa Spa, OK Welders, Oso Negro, Wal-Mart, Winlaw Post Office, Wolfgang Plumbing.

Apologies to those who may have been inadvertently omitted.

A special thank to all the kids who donated some of their things to the kids silent auction, and to the community at large. Community support makes events such as this possible.

http://winlaw.dpac.kics.bc.ca

RESIDENTS OF RED MOUNTAIN ROAD, VILLAGE OF SILVERTON & VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC MEETING

Residents of Red Mountain Road, the Village of Silverton and the Village of New Denver are invited to attend a Public Meeting, Chaired by Director Don Munro, Area H, regarding the expansion of Fire Protection Services to include Red Mountain Road and the proposed Joint New Denver-Silverton-Area H Fire Service. The public meeting will be held in the Silverton Memorial Hall on Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 7:00 pm. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Nakusp council, January 12: Council supports fire chief's concerns

by Jan McMurray

•Fire Chief Terry Warren attended as a delegation to ask council to help stop the downsizing of the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC).

Warren explained that the OFC's role as a provider of training and support to fire departments was disappearing and becoming one of pure governance. The regional office for the Kootenays in Cranbrook now has only one fire inspector, where it used to have a regional fire commissioner, three fire inspectors and an office assistant. Warren said the results of this downsizing could result in a decline in public safety, more costs and liability concerns to local governments, and will place more burden on local fire departments.

Council voted to send letters to appropriate government offices asking for this process to be stopped, and to send a resolution to the RDCK on the issue.

•Staff reported that the application for funding to cover 2/3 of the cost of the water well project was unsuccessful, and suggested that the gas tax rebate money be allocated to the project. As both the water and sewer need attention in Nakusp, council asked staff for more information, such as how much money is in the water and sewer reserves, before making a decision.

•Councillor Dahlen mentioned in her report that the Water Comptroller had promised an answer on Nakusp's wharf by the end of December but there had not yet been any word from him. Council would like BC Hydro to replace the wharf, but this is not a BCH responsibility under the Columbia River Water Use Plan. The Water Comptroller has been asked to re-consider that part of the plan. Council voted to send the Water Comptroller a letter asking for his decision.

•Councillor Roberts reported that the community forest group would be applying for the Community Forest Agreement with the Province. He said the annual allowable cut of 10,000 cubic metres appeared to be non-negotiable, but that the group hopes it will be able to expand in the future. The group is in the process of selecting an area and having it approved.

•Mayor Hamling reported on several meetings she had attended. Some highlights were: -firefighter membership is down from 25 to 16 and there were nine arsons in Nakusp last year (four dumpsters, three outdoor and two structures); the IHA has been directed to provide more complex care beds by 2008 and Nakusp should get some; -the school board spent its $32,200 in funds saved from the teachers' job action in the fall on computers, learning resources, texts and special education assistance.

•Council decided not to re-zone the property at 619 Broadway from Institutional to Core Commercial.

Music Festival expects to grow in 2006

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Music Fest anticipates 1,000 more people per day than last year and is looking to create more campsites.

Willi Jahnke attended the January 12 council meeting as a delegation on behalf of the Music Fest to ask council to make the grassed area around the Gazebo available for camping during the festival, to be held July 14-16.

Council voted to have staff bring forward a report outlining any concerns that may arise from Jahnke's request before making a decision.

Jahnke said the group would also be asking the school district for the use of grassy areas at Nakusp Elementary, as well as some private landowners for some space for campsites. Because of the concern about drinking and driving, Jahnke said campsites were preferable in the downtown area.

Last year, 4,000 people per day attended the festival and there were no drinking and driving incidences among festival goers.

The organization realizes that Nakusp's infrastructure limits the growth of the festival, but Jahnke said, "I want to grow because I want to see that we are capable of getting in bigger name bands, like the Eagles." This year's confirmed bands include Jason MCoy and the Road Hammers, April Wine, Tal Bachman and MerQury. Negotiations are still underway with Roger Hodgson of Supertramp, Blue Rodeo and Tom Cochrane.

"The economic benefits for the area are huge. It is the biggest event in the area," said Jahnke. He said the festival made $36,000 last year, but that this was not that much considering the risk factor. He explained that they needed $150,000 in the bank to pay the 50% deposits required by the bands, fencing and port-a-potty companies.

"Before you sell any tickets, you have to cough up the dough," he said.

Jahnke described the Village as the "main factor" and a "major contributor" and said festival organizers would address any concerns the Village has.

Green Party candidate Scott Leyland hosted a pot-luck dinner at New Denver's Knox Hall, January 6.

Beach Party at the Nakusp Arena

submitted

The Nakusp Music Fest is putting on a big fundraising event on January 28 in the Nakusp Arena auditorium—the Beach Party is on!

Four bands will perform that night: *Skavenjah* from Saskatchewan, *Sleddogs* from Kelowna, *Superbeing* from Vancouver and *Redfish* from Vernon. The auditorium will turn into a party site decorated with 14 lighted palm trees, beach decorations, umbrellas and hundreds of balloons. Nelson's Hairy Productions will take care of sound and show lighting.

The doors open at 7 pm. Besides having this exciting line-up of bands we will draw incredible prizes throughout the evening. At 9 pm, the main prize draw will take place, for two tickets to see *Queen* with Paul Rodgers in Vancouver April 13, return airfare Kelowna/Vancouver and hotel. Prize value is $1,000.

Second prize, a $400 value, will be drawn during the second intermission. It is two three-day VIP passes for the 2006 Nakusp Music Fest on July 14-16.

Third prize is a one night stay at Halcyon Hot Springs, valued at $ 250. Four tickets for the Music Fest kick-off party will also be awarded for the best beachwear, female and male. Many more give-away prizes by our sponsors will be drawn throughout the evening.

All ticket buyers may participate in all draws by entering their ticket stub at the time of entry. Early attendance is therefore necessary to participate in the draws of all the main prizes. 50/50 tickets will be sold throughout the evening.

All participants are strongly encouraged to wear beachwear and 'sun-protection'.

The entire auditorium will be fully licensed with beach-like alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Fine beach food will be provided and sold by Debbie Guest starting at 7 pm. Music Fest will set up a merchandise tent in which the official Beach Party, Music Fest and band merchandise will be sold.

Tickets are $ 30 (no minors). Early tickets can be purchased either by calling 265-2141 or 1-877-265-5565, or by visiting the office at 119 Broadway Street, Nakusp. Interested parties can also send an e-mail to nakuspmusicfest@aslcs.com. For more information and show details visit www.nakuspmusicfest.com. We are still looking for volunteers to help out during the festival, so contact us if you are interested.

An unscheduled and free-of-charge shuttle-bus service will be provided within Nakusp and local areas leaving from the arena starting at 10:30 pm.

Kaslo hosts Southern Interior All Candidates forum

by Jan McMurray

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

Three of five candidates showed up for an All Candidates forum at the Kaslo Community Hall on January 15. The two missing were Marxist-Leninist candidate Brian Sproule and Conservative candidate Derek Zeisman.

The Southern Interior riding ranks among one of the most exciting since the Derek Zeisman fiasco. A question on many people's minds is: where will all the Conservative votes go?

At the Kaslo meeting, Scott Leyland, Green Party candidate for the riding, said that there was a possibility he'd get enough of them to win the constituency.

"Take a leap of faith and elect a Green MP on January 23," he said more than once at the meeting.

Leyland said if elected, he would deal with rural access issues in Ottawa, and schedule regular public meetings around the constituency. He described his party as socially and environmentally progressive, but fiscally conservative.

Bill Profili, Liberal candidate, also emphasized the need for Ottawa to pay more attention to local, grassroots issues. He said his experience as mayor of Rossland for 16 years and councillor for four showed him that the ideas brought forward by the people were the ones that worked. "The federal government needs to listen to the people who have a pulse on their community," he said.

Alex Atamanenko, NDP candidate, told meeting goers that he was task oriented and planned to be a hard working MP. He reminded that the NDP got $4.6 billion diverted from corporate tax cuts to the people.

The following issues were addressed in the many excellent questions from the floor.

Oil and gas subsidies

Atamanenko said we must start the gradual shift from oil and gas subsidies.

Leyland said the Green Party would end subsidies to the oil industry, which is "making money hand over fist" and put that money into "green" incentives such as the switch to LED lights and GST freebates on fuel efficient cars.

Profili said the federal government should look at this, but that "it's not something the federal government can institute and force the provinces to do."

Private health care

Atamanenko said the NDP would put no public money into private, for profit health care. His party would improve the system by adding complex care beds, instituting a national Pharmacare plan and providing funding for the training of some health care providers.

Leyland said the Greens would go as far as using the notwithstanding clause to stop private health care. They would work with provinces to achieve high standards across the country. "The risk is that the provinces can walk away, so up the ante and the standards," he said. The Greens would follow Romanow's recommendations, he said, and would fund health care disciplines such as acupuncture that are known to be effective.

Profili pointed out that only the Conservative Party was interested in private health care. He said the Liberals instituted the Romanow Report with full intention to protect public health care, but the difficult part was to get the provinces to agree.

National Unity

Both Atamanenko and Profili spoke in favour of keeping the country together.

Leyland said the Green Party would let Quebec and Alberta separate if it came to that. "Canada formed as a federation of regions, so it needed to be centrist. But now there is inequity and regions feel disconnected. We need leadership to empower the provinces," he said.

NAFTA

Atamanenko says that NAFTA is not working, as evidenced by the softwood lumber problem. His party would rewrite Chapter 11 of the agreement, which allows private companies to sue federal governments if they make laws that give them a competitive edge, or that "expropriate" profits from the private sector.

Profili believes in the pro-Canadian approach of the Prime Minister rather than an anti-American one because "we can't get into a trade war with the Americans." What we can do is develop other markets, he said. Profili said the government recognizes the reduction in duties they've managed for softwood is not good enough, but "NAFTA is a Conservative agreement that everyone has to live with."

Leyland says NAFTA is not fair and the Greens are in favour of fair trade agreements. It must be re-negotiated, he said, to protect our rights to clean air and clean water.

Proportional Representation

Profili said that BC is short five seats and he would be prepared to argue for those.

Leyland says other parties have talked about introducing electoral reform, but none has delivered. "If you want proportional representation, please take a leap of faith and vote Green this time," he said, emphasizing that it is one of the Green Party's number one issues.

Atamanenko pointed out that the NDP would also benefit from proportional representation and said that Jack Layton has firmly committed himself to fighting for it. "I would take it to Ottawa and come up with a party bill or a private member's bill or whatever is necessary," he said.

Help for young people to enter the workforce

Profili outlined the program in the Liberal platform of funding 50% of the first and last year's tuition at a post secondary institution. He said he believed in encouraging young people to do what they wanted to do, and to give them the mechanisms to accomplish their goals.

Atamanenko said a well trained work force was key. Some of the NDP promises are to broaden eligibility for EI, to put money into post secondary education, to provide stable, long-term funding to the provinces, to re-invest in the federal grant system and overhaul the Student Loans program, to improve access and to reduce the burden of student debt.

Leyland said the Green Party would work hard to freeze tuition fees, to reduce them significantly, and would reduce GST on education costs. The Greens would like to shift to the Information Age economy, which is where the jobs are.

STOP URANIUM MINING IN OUR RIDING!!!

Choose the only party with a NUCLEAR FREE CANADA platform.

ELECT SCOTT LEYLAND

Green Party of Canada
WE CAN

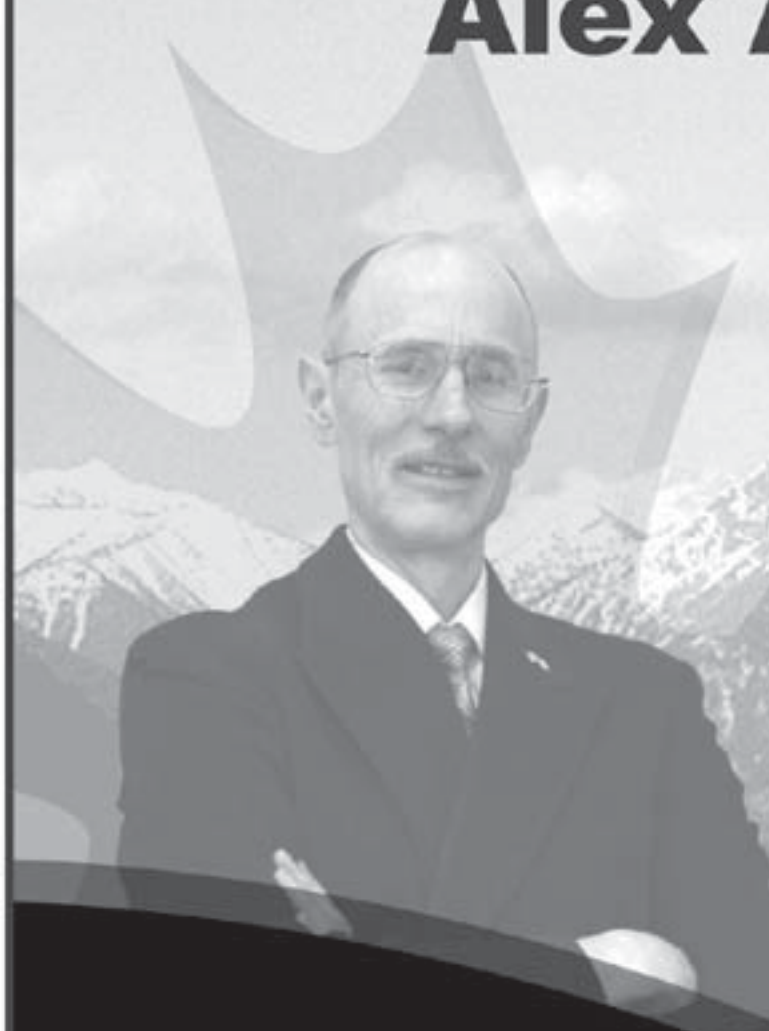
Clean Air, Clean Water, Sustainable Economic Activity, Improved Delivery of Healthcare

Vote for real, and positive change!

Meet Scott Leyland and Provincial Green Party Leader Adriane Carr at our office in Nelson Friday evening, January 20, 532 Ward St. -ph.352-0032. Adriane & Scott will be mainstreeting in New Denver and in Silverton between 11 and 1 on January 19.

This ad authorised by Michael Gifillan, official agent for Scott Leyland

Alex Atamanenko is listening...



Alex Atamanenko has heard our concerns. We are being driven out of our homes by high prices, and our jobs by trade agreements. Our environment suffers from private interests. We've had enough!

Alex and the NDP can make Ottawa listen. They'll demand affordable housing, a strong response on trade violations and tough environmental legislation.

Let Alex be your voice in Ottawa.

On January 23rd
Vote for someone whowill earn your support
Vote for Alex Atamanenko

NDP NPD

Alex Atamanenko
NDP Candidate
www.alexndp.ca

Paid for and Authorized by the Official Agent for Alex Atamanenko

Burton Seniors hold Christmas dinner, plan events for the New Year

Submitted by Gale Detta

Burton Seniors held their Christmas dinner and entertainment evening December 15. Members and invited guests sat down to a scrumptious turkey dinner after Stu Jones said grace in English and Ray Blanchette in French.

Winners of the door prizes were: Norma Cannon, Hermann Wind and Susan Lassiter. For entertainment, president Gale Detta had divided the membership into four groups and each group worked hard for the past few months to present their acts for this special night.

Group 1 did a 'Christmas tree drill', carrying decorated tree boughs. They sang a version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* especially written by Pat Wind.

Group 2 was all dressed in their various night attire and did a version of *Are You Lonesome Tonight.* By the appearance of them, no wonder they're lonesome.

Group 3 made and acted out a skit to the story of *The Ivory Tablecloth*. Just watch out for Parson Herb Dumont.

Group 4 all dressed as reindeer and sang *Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer.* Grandma (Theo Huitema) was one brave soul as the reindeer ran around him. This group also did a good foot-stomping version of *These Boots are made for Walking.*

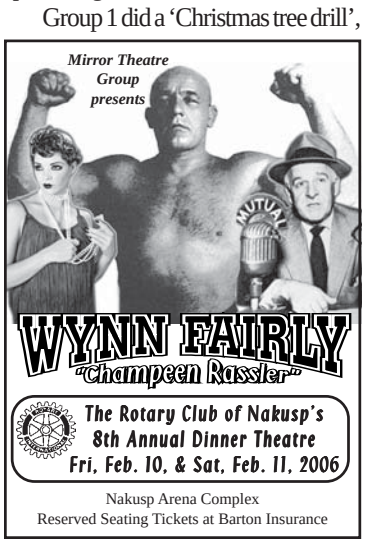
The talent shown was amazing as everyone was trying to make their act the very best.

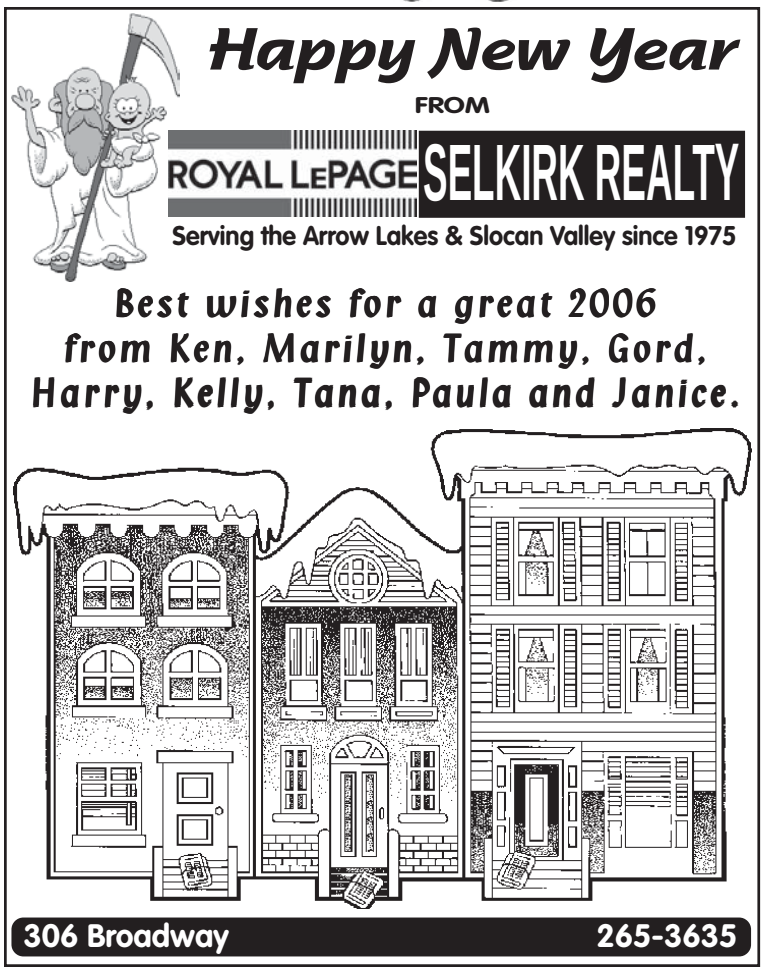
• The Burton Seniors look forward to another exciting year in 2006. Normal activities begin January 5 with carpet bowling. Potluck will be January 26 .

The annual 'Stew Nite' is planned for Saturday, February 4, so mark it on your calendar.

• Executive for 2006: president Shirley Neuls, 1st vice Gale Detta, 2nd vice Ginny McLean, secretary Norma Cannon, treasurer Sharon Valin, directors Helen Buerge, Eileen Townsend, Herb Dumont, Eileen Nicholls, Dora Brown, Ethel Goerzen.

What was it like living in the Roaring 20s ? A time of prohibition and speakeasies, when an evening out meant rubbing shoulders with flappers and gangsters. Here's your chance to find out! The photo shows Allison Lillies, Lisa Thiessen, Ed McGinnis, and Anji Jones of Mirror Theatre rehearsing Wynn Fairly *for this year's eighth annual Rotary dinner theatre. Wrasslin' is the least of their concerns as the all-girl radio station struggles with villainesses to bring matters to a rightful end. Do the gals save the day? Plan an outing with a group of your friends, enjoy a wonderful dinner, a great play, and all in support of a good cause—Rotary's community service projects…oh yes, and dress the part—it's the "bee's knees" for this season!*





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
- 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 - 10 WEEKS)

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)

West Kootenay Herb Grower's Co-operative launches hawthorn demonstration farm project

Submitted by Jeanette Lee, West Kootenay Herb Grower's Co-operative

Hawthorn is found in abundance in the West Kootenay region. Used in medicinal products, hawthorn has a long history of use for treating cardiac weakness and as a 'blood vitalizer', lowering cholesterol, improving blood circulation, and alleviating hypertension. Native hawthorn has been reported to possess medicinal value and is referenced in the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, but neither has been researched extensively.

"There seems to be growing interest in using native botanicals and the work of West Kootenay Medicinal Herb Grower's Co-operative will add considerably to our knowledge of how to produce them in sustainable, integrated production systems," says George Powell of the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative.

Based in Edgewood, the co-op was incorporated in August 2004 to develop herbal opportunities that balance economic, social and environmental concerns. Hawthorn production in agroforestry systems represents an opportunity to diversify and strengthen the local economy with an economically and environmentally beneficial crop which has established markets. Used in riparian restoration, hawthorn has net benefits for fish habitat and for farming.

The hawthorn agroforestry demonstration farm trials spans multiple sites. The production trials will be used to develop and document management practices for hawthorn as an alternative crop in agroforestry production systems, and provide an economic feasibility analysis for producing hawthorn as a commercial crop.

The co-operative is working in partnership with BCIT's herbal evaluation and analysis laboratory and Al Oliver, well known horticulturist and former BC Ministry of Agriculture specialist focusing on medicinal herbs, to conduct growing trials and chemical research and analysis of native hawthorn.

The co-operative grew out of a local economic development initiative. It is working towards bringing hawthorn and other economically and environmentally beneficial medicinals to market. It has received endorsement and support from Investment Agriculture of BC through the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative and Health Product and Functional Food Fund, Columbia Basin Trust, Western Economic Diversification; British Columbia Co-operative Association, Al Oliver of AG-Consulting Services, British Columbia Institute of Technology Herbal Evaluation and Analysis Laboratory, BC Herb Growers Association; Regional District of the Central Kootenay, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For more information on the Cooperative or the Project please e-mail d_sawyer@columbiacable.net. Interested in finding out more about the Agroforestry Initiative? Go to www.woodlot.bc.ca/agroforestry/whatis.htm.

LELAND HOTEL
NAKUSP BC

The Leland Hotel is looking for singers, musicians, amateur or pro to come and and join us for a Jam Session , Sunday, January 22nd from 4 – 8 PM. The jam will be hosted by the Rippin Rattlers. Will go later if there are enough musicians wanting to play.

Reasonable room rates for those out of towners who just want to come out and have some fun and don't want to worry about the drive home.

Let's rock this town!
We look forward to seeing you!

Staff changes at Nakusp RCMP

by Jan McMurray

It's that time of the cycle for some staffing changes at the Nakusp RCMP.

Around April 1, two RCMP constables will be replaced. Greg Pask has been promoted to Corporal and will be posted in Duncan. Constable Kurt Banse is moving on to the Forensic Identification Section in Chilliwack. Incoming constables are Tim McDonald from Osoyoos and Scott West from Kelowna. Corporal Owen Wlodarczak and Constable Kristian Thomsen remain at the detachment.

The Victim Services Co-ordinator will also be replaced. After 13 years at the job, Karen McMillan is retiring. Her replacement is Dawn Wegner, who has been working as a volunteer with McMillan for the past year.

NEW BOOK SALE
• 20% off all new books except local history
The store will be closed from January 22-30 to do some store stuff
Meritxell Books, Nakusp

Mexico in Vallican on January 28

submitted

"If you can't get to Mexico, come to Vallican!" That's the message the Vallican Whole Community Centre has for you. Saturday, January 28 from 5 pm to 9 pm, the Whole will be converted into *RARTS's Cantina*, complete with Mexican music, delicious food and an array of bodegacious beverages.

RARTS is the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society, the mother organization that runs the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

"This will be so much fun!" says board member Cindy Moser. "People are already talking about what a great party it's going to be — and wait 'til you see all the silent auction items that are pouring in!"

Among these items are fabulous hiking gear from Mountain Trek, beautiful artworks including clay creations from Ann Swanson Gross, Judy Laret and Pamela Nagley Stevenson, twig furniture from Rustic Creations, services, books, bags, romantic evenings and so much more.

You can tell these are people who know how to have a good time. Come and have one with them at RARTS's Cantina *at the Vallican Whole Community Centre on January 28.*

Admission is by donation. Once inside, partygoers will be able to buy food and drink, schmooze, and dance to genuine Mexican music from an ersatz jukebox. Come in a lovely, outrageous, tropically-inspired costume and you could win a prize. And there's another chance to win: can you guess the number of beans in our big bean jar?

"To hell with winter, let's party!" says the community centre board. "We not only need to have fun, we need to have funds!" The building has recently gained a wonderful new kitchen, and in the process depleted its bank account. So come on out, have a great time with friends old and new, and help support the ongoing beautification of one of the valley's most beautiful buildings.

"¡Venga a nuestro partido!" You'll be glad you did!

Computer Slow?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

Another day on the trail

submitted

On Sunday, January 22 from noon to 2:30 p.m., the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) hosts its second annual *Day On The Trail* event. It's an opportunity for the community to meet with the directors of the SVHTS at one of the many picturesque locations along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

This year, they'll be waiting with hot chocolate, hot dogs and a toasty bonfire midway between Lemon Creek and Perry's Siding. If you aren't a member of the society and missed out on its recent newsletter, it's a great change to catch up. If you are a member it's another chance for everyone to get together and share their vision of this great valley resource.

To get to this year's gathering, park at the Perry's Siding crossing off Highway 6 and head north for about two km. Another option is to park at the trailhead parking area off Kennedy Road at Lemon Creek and head south about three km. Of course, you can come in from further afield if you wish. Wherever you come from, signs will be out so you don't get lost.

Everyone is reminded that this trail has been designated non-motorized by TourismBC, the property owners. Hopefully there'll be enough snow for skiing along the trail and if there is you can be sure the trail will be groomed and trackset, one of the society's major winter activities.

Because of this winter's unpredictable weather the event may have to be cancelled on short notice. If this is the case, a message will be put on the SVHTS hotline 1-800-683-SVRT (7878) on the morning of the event. You can also phone that number if you require more information, or visit the SVHTS website at www.svrt.ca

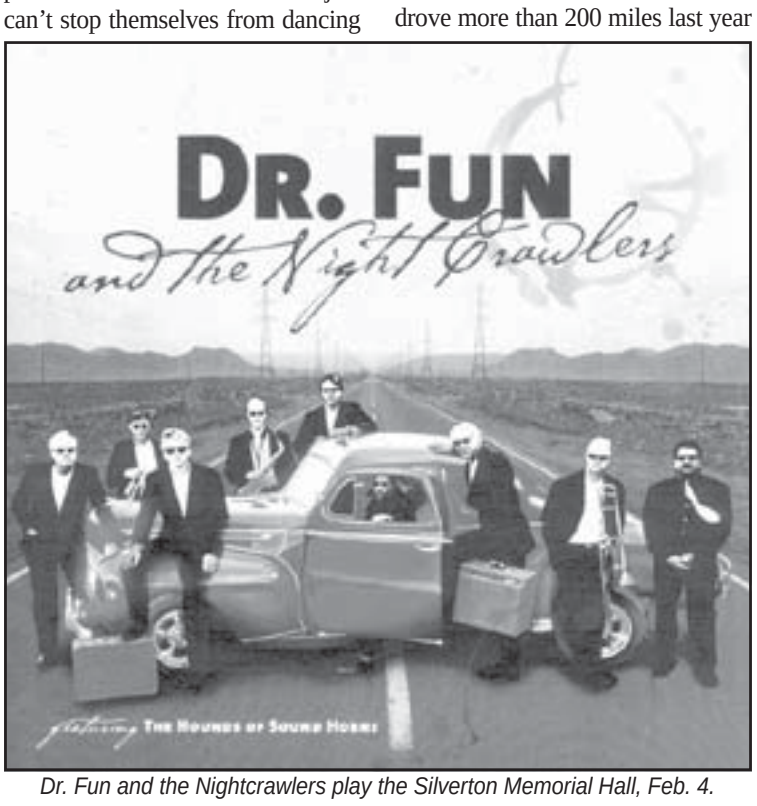
Clarke Smith navigates his trail groomer along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail recently . Grooming and track setting is being done by volunteers between Winlaw and Slocan when snow allows over the winter months. If using the groomed section, the set track is for skiers and the remainder of the trail's 2.5 metre width is for all other users. For more information on what's happening on the trail come to the Rail Trail Day January 22. The trail is now groomed and track set from Winlaw to Lemon Creek.

Dr. Fun rocks Silverton Hall

submitted

Mark Saturday, February 4 on your calendar, and make your reservations early for the 14th annual Winter Blues Boogie with *Dr. Fun and the Nightcrawlers.* Each year since 1993, the band has visited Silverton dispensing its unparalleled prescription to beat those winter blahs: funk, soul, R&B and rock so potent that folks from 19 to 65 just can't stop themselves from dancing all night.

Those of you who have seen this 11-piece band energize the crowds at Nelson, Kaslo, Kelowna and numerous festivals in BC and the USA understand why each year The Good Doctor continues to draw capacity crowds of enthusiatic dancers seeking a cure to the winter doldrums. You also know why more than 60 diehards from the States drove more than 200 miles last year to get their Bluezercise workout with the five-piece 'Hounds of Sound' horn section.



Dr. Fun and the Nightcrawlers play the Silverton Memorial Hall, Feb. 4.

This dance has aquired a well deserved reputation as "The Event of the Season," and has sold out for the past 10 years. Tickets—adults only, no minors—are by advance sale only, and are available for just $12 at Hemp and Co. in Nelson, Winlaw Mini Mart, Broadway Bistro Deli in Nakusp, Figments in Kaslo, and in New Denver at the Apple Tree, 3Ds Video, and Silverton Building Supplies. Call 358-7765 for more information on lodging and tickets.

Bring your dancin' booties and join the crowd in the accoustically superb Silverton Memorial Hall. Doors open at 8:30, music starts at nine o'clock, and snacks and beverages are available. All profits go to the Slocan Lake Early Learning Society.

DR FUN & THE NIGHTCRAWLERS WINTER BOOGIE

11 piece R&B. Silverton Hall, Saturday, Feb 4th, 9:00 PM-1:00. Tickets $12; Nelson: Hemp & Co.; Valley: Winlaw Mini-Mart ; Nakusp: Broadway Deli; Kaslo: Figments; New Denver: Apple Tree, 3D's Video, Silverton Building Supplies. No Minors.

The
Harold Street
Cafe

is open
winter hours
7^30 am to 7^00 pm
7 days a week

These are the Harold Street Cafe's winter hours. The Valley Voice apologizes for publishing the wrong hours in our Dec. 14 issue.

Silverton
British Columbia

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton
Box 14, 421 Lake Ave.
Silverton, BC V0G 2B0
Ph: 358-2472 Fax: 358-2321

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Village of Silverton is now accepting applications for the full-time position of

MAINTENANCE PERSON

The maintenance person is responsible for a wide range of duties related to the daily operations and maintenance of the Village, including equipment, street, water system and garbage collection. Possession of a Small Water System Certificate is an asset. The candidate will be willing to acquire related certificates to operate in a Village environment. A competitive wage and excellent benefit package is offered.

The ideal candidate will have:

- strong communications and interpersonal skills with the ability to work independently but with a consultative, teamwork approach;
- the ability to act professionally at all times;
- maintain positive communication with the public;
- mechanical, welding and carpentry skills;
- experience in operating and maintaining Village equipment;
- the ability to organize work schedules to meet deadlines and priorities;
- basic computer skills;
- knowledge of WCB regulations;
- prepare and administer operating and capital budgets;
- possession of a valid BC driver's license complete with a driver's abstract.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed resumé, complete with a cover letter and references prior to 4:00 pm, Wednesday, January 25, 2006 to the attention of:

The Village of Silverton
421 Lake Avenue
Box 14, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0
Ph: 358-2472 Fax: 358-2321

We thank all applicants in advance for their interest and effort in applying for this position, however, only those candidates to be interviewed will receive a response.

Message from Kaslo minor hockey president, Ronnie Martin

We've had a successful year at Kaslo Minor Hockey. Players, coaches, officials and volunteers should all be honoured for their continuing effort to promote a safe and fun environment for our children.

The community has been very supportive as well. Donations from the Community Forest Society as well as the Kaslo Recreation Commission have enabled us to purchase much needed equipment and new uniforms. Through the ongoing support of our local fundraisers, a successful bottle drive, a golf tournament and the money received from the sale of advertising in our tournament programs we can educate our coaches, safety personnel and referees to ensure that our participants get the most from their hockey experience.

The kids are having a good time, both enjoying the experience of being team players as well as learning to push themselves to do their best. We have participants from five to eighteen years old and they all play for the love of the game. We invite you to join the fun. Come and cheer them on.

Ronnie Martin, President
Kaslo and District Minor Hockey

Message from Nakusp hockey president

As president of Nakusp Minor Hockey, I'm asked each year to write a message for Minor Hockey Week. I usually struggle to find the words to describe my, at times, almost uncontrollable emotion for the game that I have loved since I was a kid and I try to explain my views on why the drop-out rate is becoming so high in Canada. This year while looking through some editorials to try to find a new way to say the same thing, I came across this letter written by a 10-year-old boy named Jeff to his parents.

DEAR MOM AND DAD:

Don't get excited. I'm not running away or anything. I hope you won't be mad that I left you guys this letter, but I don't have the guts to say this stuff in person.

It's about our hockey team. I was really excited to make the traveling team this year. The uniforms and hockey bags are pretty neat and we get to travel all over the place. But I know you are disappointed in me.

It started after dad called the coach after the second game to tell him he was taking me off the team. I know you used to like to tell the guys how many goals I scored last year in house league. I guess

continued on page 15

Kaslo Midget Rep

Back row, L to R: Tyson Klein, Chris Orr, Curtis Rogers, Francois Gagnon-Blackburn, Joe Wood, Chad Hicks, Nick Reitmeier, Rane Marshall; Middle row, L to R: Fergus Yano, Jamie Coates, Tavish McCuaig, Laine Weighill, Havill Leitch, Joel James, Kalum Stevens, Brett Zeleznik, Terry Wood, Robert Coates; Front row, L to R: Ben de Wit, David Zilkie, Luke Krbyla.

Kaslo Senior Novice

Bottom row, L to R: Conor McIntyre, Mieszka Weeks, Kevin Alexander, Biarki Weeks, Chance Harper, Adam Khadikin, Kyle Baker, Cole Bendis, Ishmani Baker. Top row, L to R: Ayden Boulton, Christopher Cullen, Ethan, Early, Catalina Hartland, Liam Patience, Tasha Hewat, Savanaha Cockrell, Elise Hewat, Haley James. Coaches: Eric Early, Bub Patience, Amanda Turner.

Kaslo Pee Wee House

Back row, L to R: Matt Guttensohn, Devon Veldhuizen, Lindsay Mckinnon, Leah Aasen, Liam Mitchell; Middle row, L to R: Peter Reimer, Alan Grant, Jake Rempel, Cole Arcurie, Harley Martin; Front row: Shawn Sicotte; Missing: Connor Robertson. Coaches Kent Nelson and Mike Guttensohn.

Kaslo Atoms

Coaches, L to R: Ryan Stockford, Jeff Davie, Pat Haegedorn; Back row, L to R: Ava Collier, Kathryn Haegedorn, Heidi Haegedorn, Scott Mitchell, Breanna Tate; Front row, L to R: Ross Jacobs, Sam Weber, Nic Baker, Jordan Davie, Cole Arcuri, Ryan Tate, Gillis Leathwood, Braelyn Patton. Goalie-Shawn Ellard.

Kaslo Bantam House

Back row, L to R: Glen Walker, Robin Birkett, Cari Walker, Cheryl Rempel, Cody Bens, Morgan Mattes, Nick Jones, TJ Tyers. Front row, L to R: Cam Settle, Brad Reimer, Tim Tyers, Jayson Foley, Dustan Tyers.

Kaslo Midget House

Back row, L to R: Scott Gillies (coach), Cheryl Rempel, Jarrod Berry, Paul Neufeld, Kirk Settle, Tyler Aasen, Darryl Poznikoff, Matt Duchesne; Front row, L to R: Luke Weber, Amanda Dyke, Shane McKinnon; Missing: Amanda Turner.

Players' strikes.
The Goon Squad.
Outrageous ticket prices.

AVOID IT ALL AND GET IN THE *REAL* GAME!

Enjoy hockey at its purest and finest— support Minor Hockey!

Kaslo Automotive
441 Front St • 353-2645

We are proud of all our players, and grateful to all the coaches, referees and other adults who help make it all work so well.

Congratulations and have fun!
Village of Kaslo

Keep your kids out of hot water - put them on the ice!
Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"
422 Front • Kaslo • 353-2594

Hockey not only teaches our kids how to accept a loss with sportsmanship, but also how to be a gracious winner. What a great way to learn how to be a Class Act!
Play safe & have FUN!
North Kootenay Lake Veterinary Services
Pat Haegedorn, DVM and staff
9580 Cowan, Kaslo • 353-7125

Want to know what's become of today's youth?
Check the rink. They're learning skills, like teamwork and sportsmanship, that'll last them a lifetime.
Kaslo Drugs
403 Front St, Kaslo • 353-2224

The door to Success is often locked.
One of the keys to that lock is Teamwork, on the ice and off.
Best wishes to all our great teams for Hockey Week!
Megla Trucking
Box 924, Kaslo • 353-2918

Just as hockey players need support from the team, our kids need support from the community.
We salute our minor hockey players and all the coaches, officials and fans who work so hard to support them!
Kaslo Building Supply is a proud supporter of Minor Hockey Week and wishes all players the best of luck!
Kaslo Building Supply
6521-Hwy 31, Kaslo • 353-7628
True Value Hardware

HARTECH AUTOMOTIVE
Just as important as being a good loser, is knowing how to be a gracious winner.
Have a great time for Hockey Week!
8845 Hwy 31 • Kaslo • 353-2800

"The fortunate side to our losses, is that they frequently teach us much more than our victories."
Mark Twain
Have a great Hockey Week!
FALKINS Est. 1897 -INSURANCE GROUP-
405 Front St, Kaslo • 353-7633

Enjoy the COOLEST game in town!
Woodbury
4112 Hwy 31 • 353-7717

Congratulations on your dedication and achievements. Be proud of your sportsmanship, but most importantly...
HAVE FUN!
Kaslo Bay Resort
formerly "Beachcombers" kaslobay.com
551 Rainbow • 353-7777

Message from Gord Roberts, Nakusp minor hockey president - continued from page 14

you don't have much to tell them this year.

But after the coach talked you out of taking me off the team I was really nervous to go back. The coach told me he thought I was good enough to be on the team and not to worry. He told the players I got sick and they all kept asking me if I was feeling better.

I know you really like it when I score goals. I guess that's why you said you'd give me five dollars for a goal and a dollar for an assist. But the coach said an assist is just as good as a goal. The coach wasn't too happy when I told him you gave me two dollars for a penalty though.

I try to be more aggressive, like you said, but the other guys skate pretty fast. You told me to carry the puck more, like Jimmy does, but I can't seem to go fast enough to get away from the other guys.

You should see me play street hockey though. When we pick teams I always get picked nearly first and I score a lot of goals. The other day I hit one of the guys in the elbow with a tennis ball and we couldn't stop laughing for about a year. But before our real hocky games I always get so nervous.

You know a lot about hockey, dad, but I just can't remember all the things you tell me in the car on the way to the game. By the time we get there, I always feel sick in my stomach.

I don't mind you screaming at the games because all the other parents scream. But don't yell at John to pass the puck more. He's the best player on the team and without him we'd be dead.

After our game yesterday, I felt bad when you yelled at the coach for not putting me on the ice in the third period. It was a close game and he wanted the best players out there. The coach is a pretty cool guy really, and he doesn't get any money or anything for coaching us.

I know you were both pretty upset after we lost the game. You were surprised when I started crying in the car on the way home. It wasn't because when I got hurt in the second period like I said. I just couldn't help it.

I love you both a lot, so I think I better quit hockey. It's costing you a lot of money, like you said, and you guys don't seem to enjoy coming to my games anymore anyway. I can't go back to house league, because all the guys would laugh. I hope you understand why I can't play hockey anymore. I think it will be the best thing for you guys.

SIGNED YOUR SON

If you are a hockey parent, do you recognize yourself in any section of this letter? Have we forgotten why we put our children in a hockey program to begin with? Is the pressure really worth it?

Let us pause to reflect about what we as adults are doing to our children. We may have all the best intentions in the world, but what do our words and actions portray? Could your child have written this letter? If so, it's not too late to change. Do it for the kids!!

Gord Roberts, president

Pee Wee Rep - Ice Hawks

Back row, L to R: Wayne Hascarl (ass't coach), Jade Streliev, Andrew Likness, Logan Marshall, Rod Zorn (coach), Damin Devlin, Brody Simpson, Christopher James, Dylan Homis, Daryl James (ass't coach); Front row, L to R: Mitchell Zorn, Mitchel Hascarl, Shea Weighill, Bryce Cann, Terryn Stenseth, Garritt Friedenberger, Ryan Bateman, Kellan Nishida.

Nakusp Initiation A/C - Scorpions

Back row, L to R: Paul Roberts (ass't coach), Dave Jackson (ass't coach), Barry Streliev (coach), Malcolm McInnes (ass't coach); Middle row, L to R: Damian Homis, Logan Hascarl, Mikel Guidon, Kira Streliev, Dane Bateman, Ben Gardner; Front row, L to R: Kobe Nishida, Alex Roberts, Angus Jackson, Dugan McInnis, Tucker O'Brien, Colten Petterson, Dustin Graup. Missing: Everett Hicks, Greg Markholm.

North Kootenay Falcons Bantam Rep

Back row, L to R: Jesse Hornby, Brett Roberts, Cody Abbey, Brad Dupuis, Satoshi Yano, Rick Yano (trainer); Middle row, L to R: Marcel van der Graaf (coach), Spencer Davie, Danielle Hascarl, Ben Davie, Cheryl Rempel, Chad Jones, Jesse Cann, Brodie Yano (ass't. coach); Front row, L to R: Shane Abbey, Ross Zeleznik, Nathan Wiebe, Nicolas Gagnon-Blackburn, Taylor Reitmeier.

Nakusp Atoms House - Stars

Back row, L to R: Richard Friedenberger (ass't coach), Ralph Dachwitz (coach), Jessica Carter, Jay Yoshida, Immanuel Ens-Palmer, Kylie Gardner, Connor Reimer, Russ Reimer (ass't coach); Middle row, L to R: Daro Yoshida (ass't coach), Zachary Friedenberger, Quentin Volansky, Greyson Reitmeier, Paige Dupuis, AJ Hughes, Doug Macpherson (ass't coach); Front row, L to R: Cameron Macpherson, Nathyn McInnes, Maxwell McCoy, Colton Dachwitz, Tyson Cann, Josh Rivers.

Nakusp Pee Wee House - Chiefs

Back row, L to R: Daro Yoshida (ass't coach), Levi Cordingley, Steve Marks (ass't coach), Ray Brown, Kayla Yoshida, Ron Palmer (coach), Mateus Dachwitz, Rory Case (ass't coach); Front row, L to R: Nicolas Watson, Tanner O'Brien, Avery Palmer, Carter Stenseth, Kody Marks, Jesse Jensen, Dylan Hascarl.

Jacque Plante was once asked what being an NHL goaltender was like. He replied, "How'd you like a job where every time you screw up a big red light comes on?"

We salute the best game on earth, and the boys and girls who play it!

NAKUSP • GENERAL • STORE
302 Broadway • Nakusp • 265-3444

Play safe, have fun!
PETRO-CANADA
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Hockey helps kids score life's big goals!
MARVIN'S SMALL MOTOR REPAIRS
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Congratulations to all the players on a great season - and enjoy Hockey Week!
Arrow Lakes Welding

Congratulations to all the players on a great season! Keep up the hard work and have fun!
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HAPPY HOCKEY WEEK!
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You're ALL winners - remember to have fun!
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IRLY BUILDING CENTRE

Win, lose or draw, play proud... play with confidence!
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The best thing about hockey is that it's KID'S STUFF
Tracy and the staff are pleased to recognize our minor hockey players, coaches,officials and fans.
Shaggyz Haircare
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GO TEAM GO!
We are proud supporters of our minor hockey teams— Have fun and play safe!
ROYAL LEPAGE Selkirk Realty
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PLAY HARD, PLAY SAFE & HAVE FUN!
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HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

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Kaslo Council, January 10: Community forest rep discussed

by Jill Braley

•Council received correspondence from the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society directors and Patrick Mackle in support of Barry Rempel as the Village of Kaslo representative on the Society board. Rempel has been the Village appointee for three years. The Village appoints its representative at the beginning of each calendar year for that calendar year.

For the first time, both the Village and Area D Director Andy Shadrack have called for people to apply for the appointed positions. The Area D rep will be announced at the RDCK meeting on January 21. The deadline for applications for Village rep was January 10; the successful applicant has not yet been announced.

•Council agreed that the media (The Valley Voice & Kaslo Cable) would receive the council agenda package between 3 and 4 pm on council meeting day. This was in response to previous letters from both The Valley Voice and Kaslo Cable for timely receipt of media packages.

•Kaslo Cable wrote to council regarding a public participation period at regular meetings.

Council voted to table the matter until the next regular meeting. Mayor Holland said he wished to continue with the current policy of a 10-15 minute question period after the regular council meetings, with the TV camera turned off. Holland also said he does not foresee any problems and council will come up with guidelines and policies fairly quickly.

Kaslo Cable also asked that the Village of Kaslo contribute free use of the community hall for the purpose of conducting a federal All Candidates meeting on January 15. Council approved the request.

•Former councillor Donna Cormie wrote to suggest there be a public meeting on the possible purchase of the provincial building. Her letter was referred to the Admin & Finance Committee for recommendation to council. Cormie also suggested a building inspection be done, at a cost of about $1,000, by a local person who provides this service. Cormie stated she was writing on behalf of the citizens wishing to retain the historic court house as a public asset.

•The Ministry of Transportation plans to get started on a Rehab Paving Project of Hwy 31A from Bear Lake to Kaslo this summer. MOT has offered the Village the opportunity to add its municipal paving projects to the list of work to be done. The Village has until March 31 to let them know. In a letter to the Village, Wayne Fraser of MoT says the Hwy 31A project will take at least two years.

•Mayor Holland reported a meeting is being held on January 19 regarding the Kootenay Lake West Transit Service and invited council to forward any public comments to him prior to this meeting. Holland said scheduling is still a major concern as well as wheelchair accessibility from Balfour to Nelson.

•Dawn Attorp of the RDCK let council know that just after the municipal election, Larry Greenlaw dropped off a petition from some Area D residents asking that the Kaslo fire department respond to their area. Attorp said she would also advise Area D Director Andy Shadrack on this. Council voted to refer the matter to the Community Services Committee to consult with Fire Chief MacMillan to make a recommendation to Council.

•Jill Braley sent an email reminding council that the lengthy process required to appear as a delegation before council was a topic of discussion during the municipal elections campaign period. Village staff were directed to review the process and report back at the next meeting.

•The Village received funding approval of up to $842 from the Heritage Society of BC for a "Let's Get Organized" workshop in February. The City Hall Conservation Committee is planning the workshop and Bob Inwood will facilitate.

•Joyce Davidson, Animal Control Officer, wrote to council requesting a meeting to discuss ongoing problems with animal control in Kaslo. Council will invite Davidson to attend the council meeting on January 24 to appear as a delegation.

•Council received a letter from the Municipal Finance Authority stating the Village would be in receipt of a cheque for $47,813.34. This is the Village's final share of the surplus payout on a municipal bond Issue #28. MFA said it was able to achieve this higher rate of return because of the continued success of the teamwork approach used by the local government in BC.

•The following persons were appointed as members of the City Hall Conservation Committee: Donna Cormie, Sarah Moffatt, Annettte Carberry, David Jones, Gillian Froese.

•Kaslo Golf Club will be advised that the Village will be keeping the club's $1,000 cheque to offset the $3,207.38 in legal fees incurred by the Village when trying to accommodate a longer term lease for the club. This course of action was abandoned by the club.

•Council agreed that the purchase of the Husqvarna Zero-turn mower be finalized, with funding of $11,200 from the equipment replacement reserve to be reflected in the 2006 final budget. The Village obtained the mower from Kootenay Industrial Supply in June of 2005 and since then has been paying interest charges.

•Mayor Holland and CAO Sawyer were authorized to sign a lease with the Kaslo Shipyard Co. for a five-year term beginning November 1, 2005, and for a lease fee in the first year of $2676.50 and in the final year of $2785.18.

They were also authorized to sign a lease amendment to add a lot to the Kaslo Golf Club lease for the balance of the club's existing lease term at an annual cost of $215 per year.

•Council received an email from Gary Weintz, VP, Kaslo Housing Society in search of grant funding from the Village to conduct a survey. Administration was directed to reply.

•The Village will provide the BC Ambulance Service with a letter of support to seek other funding avenues. The ambulance service made a request for bursary funding.

•Kaslo Area Health Advisory's request for a council representative on its board was referred to the Community Services Committee for recommendation to council.

•The Village will contact Smart Growth BC regarding various models for disposition or development of public property.

•Council decided not to pursue the designation of beaches as non-vessel areas, except the Moyie bathing beach.

•Councillor Vass reported on Stars for Success funding and expressed concern that the Village had not kept the building in satisfactory repair. Mayor Holland mentioned there is provincial funding available and suggested someone from the Periwinkle Daycare be asked to write some grant applications. Council voted that the daycare lease be referred to the Admin & Finance committee for discussion.

•2006 budget meetings have been scheduled for the first and third Tuesday in each month beginning at 4 pm starting January 17.

•Accounts Payable of $61,657.64 was approved.

Volunteer drivers needed

submitted

A Castlegar based program set up to help people get to and from medical appointments in Nelson, Trail and Castlegar is expanding its service to Kaslo. The expanded service is called the West Kootenay Volunteer Driver Program.

The program is currently looking for volunteer drivers. Training and support is provided, and gas costs are reimbursed.

Anyone interested in making a difference in their community should call Judy Soroke at (250) 365-2104 ext. 35 or 1-877-304-2990.

Kaslo & District Community

Forest Society News

Community Forest Agreement Application Update

KDCFS has recently learned that a decision has been made to award up to 25,000m^3 of allowable annual cut (AAC) to the KDCFS under a probationary Community Forest Agreement. The AAC and application requirements will be detailed in a letter to be sent by the Ministry of Forests and Range within the coming weeks.

This new allocation of timber rights to KDCFS is due to the Ministry's recognition of our record of performance and prompt delivery of our current AAC of 10,000m^3. Updates to the public will be provided as soon as KDCFS receives more information. The Board is striking a committee whose task will be to address the application requirements.

Comparing Licences

A Community Forest Agreement *conveys exclusive rights to harvest timber, through cutting permits. The Community Forest Agreement has a probationary period of 5 years before the assessment to award a long-term Community Forest Agreement with a term of 25-99 years, replaceable every 10 years.*

KDCFS' current forest licence *(AAC = 10,000m^3) is a non-replaceable licence with a 15 year term, expiring in 2012. Our forest licence must be surrendered upon entering into the Probationary Community Forest Agreement. Our new licence will encompass our existing area, plus additional operating area to support the 25,000m^3 AAC.*

Current and Planned Operations

Road Construction - Construction of Branch 11 (Shutty Bench-Athol Creek) was completed in early December, 2005. Branch 8 Extension (Shutty Bench-Kemball Creek) has been tendered; construction is scheduled for July 2006.

Harvesting - Buchanan, CP 14 Block 1 (on hold due to weather conditions, will resume as soon as conditions permit). Logging on CP 11 Blocks 1 and 2 (Shutty Bench - Athol Creek) is expected to begin mid-January 2006, weather permitting.

Broadcast Burning - Buchanan, CP 10 Blocks 2 and 88 is scheduled for spring 2006, weather permitting.

Shutty Bench Plans

Timberland has completed the marking of all leave trees within CP 11 Blocks 1 and 2. CP 11 Block 1 is a 17 hectare clearcut with reserves, CP 11 Block 2 (the upper cutblock) is 11 hectares and is to be left with 40% of the stand intact.

The KDCFS Board of Directors has voted to schedule logging of CP 11 Blocks 1 and 2 (Athol Creek) in January 2006 (weather permitting) and to award the standing timber to Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. at fair market value. MCC has invited all local logging contractors to submit a bid. KDCFS and Timberland will be responsible for the supervision of all harvesting operations.

On December 21st, 2005, KDCFS sent a letter to all licenced water users in Shutty Bench notifying them of the Society's plans. This letter included an invitation to any resident with any concerns or questions to contact Timberland or a Director of the Society.

The Board's decision to schedule these blocks early in 2006 was made, in part, in response to a written request by Meadow Creek Cedar asking the Community Forest to provide the mill with about 10,000m^3 of sawlogs at fair market value prior to spring break-up. The total volume of CP 11 Blocks 1 and 2 is estimated at 8,665m^3. MCC requested the logs in order to address an expected shortfall in log inventories and to provide employment to their workers through break-up.

Appointees Reapply...

Area D Director, Andy Shadrack, and Kaslo Mayor Jim Holland, have accepted applications for appointees to the Board. The current Directors are very pleased that both Barry Rempel and Ken Wapple are reapplying for their volunteer positions. The Board is well aware that the viability of our Licence these last two years is due, in large part, to their expertise. The Board has shown its support through letters of recommendation to both the RDCK and the Village Council.

Watch for further updates in February concerning membership in the Society, another planned informal members' meeting, the Annual General Meeting and new information about the Community Forest Agreement.

KASLO AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

For more details check the bulletin board by the KDCFS office, 2nd Floor, Government Building, Kaslo.
KDCFS Office hours are
Wednesday 9 - 4 pm
Tel: 353-9677
email: kcfs@netidea.com

Winter in the Forest Festival

Come join in the fun!

Sunday, January 29

at the Kaslo Airstrip...10:30 - 2:30

Sponsored by KDCFS, hosted by the Kaslo Oldtimers Hockey Team

Ainsworth
HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort is a Four Season Destination Resort located 20km sorth of Kaslo. We believe our Employees are the most important asset of our Organization. Attitude is #1 and we strive to have a fun and supportive work environment.

We are currently looking for a Team Player to fill the position of Night Auditer.

Qualifications:

- Book-keeping or Front Desk experience preferred but will train the right person.
- bondable
- night owl
- computor knowledge
- problem solver, self motivated
- detail orientated

Benefits include:

- Competitive Wage package
- Being part of a Positive Team
- Rotating work schedule
- 10 hour shifts
- Extended benefit plan after three months
- Free Hot Springs use - unlimited

Due to higher numbers of tourists, the Resort also has openings in the following Departments.

Hot Springs - full-time, shiftwork
Housekeeping - part time, day shifts only
Kitchen - part or full-time

Some positions are perfect for students. We are busiest on weekends and can provide a solid income over the Christmas Holiday Season and Spring Break.

Please email Megan ahsr@hotnaturally.com or phone 1-250-229-4212 for more details and to arrange for application

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Making the most of the 'pineapple express'

It seems like the early shot of cold winter weather before Christmas has been firmly pushed aside by the warm winds from Hawai'i, which coincidentally arrived here about December 21, the first calendar day of winter. Last week I was out in the canoe, transplanted a rose bush, and had great skiing, all in early January!

This will likely all change back to the deep freeze soon, but if this weather was to become the new normal, I think I could really get to like it. The two things missing for now, however, are some real sunshine and some skiing at Summit Lake. Low to mid-slope skiing has been a challenge, and I'm sure there's a ton of damaged ski bases this season with the lack of deep snow coverage.

Several days ago I took a friend out to explore a section of the old Kaslo/Sandon rail grade east of Payne Bluff, which is where the famous train-on-the-cliff photo was taken. We drove four km past the Three Forks junction towards Kaslo and parked at the start of the road that goes up McGuigan Creek and eventually leads you way up to the Antoine mine site and Rambler Basin. As we left the car, some Red Mountain folks came down on their snow machines after attempting to get up high for some ski touring, but had found the snow too deep with a poor base.

We climbed up the road for less than two km to the point where the K&S grade crosses the road, and at this point took a fairly new trail that leads down to the creek and crosses a fine wooden bridge complete with railing that sits where a massive trestle once stood. In the early 1900s a huge fire swept the area and destroyed most of the rail line, so this narrow and precipitous route fell into disuse and neglect. I understand that the Valhalla firefighting crew, stationed in Slocan, built the new footbridge and connector trail but it seems that nothing much was ever done with the results of their efforts…

From the McGuigan road the rail grade has also been cut out for maybe a half kilometre eastward, and after crossing the footbridge and climbing back up to grade level, we followed the cleared out line west for about one km. I had my touring skis with skins on, but my partner was slower on snowshoes on the steep sidehill out of the creek, so we bailed out early and cut down through the big logging patch to return to the highway down the haul roads. Severe waterbars and shallow snowpack made the descent not all that nice, either.

The return walk up the highway to the car took 20 minutes and by then it was dark. I'm not suggesting this as any great idea for a happy little ski trip, but it did pique my interest to plan a summertime visit with several people and two or more cars to make a full loop hike from Three Forks to McGuigan and then be able to really get a feel for this historic and spectacular abandoned rail route. I don't think the clearing work goes all the way through to the west and at Payne Bluffs, but the bushwhacking would be worthwhile.

Moving more to the present date, on January 10 I was in Sandon to ski the more known and familiar sections of the K&S rail trail, and found there to be about 80 cm of solid snowpack, even though the lawns in New Denver are green and lush! I broke trail on the Cody Spur section, and was impressed to find that Frank Barnes had packed and set much of the main trail right out to Altoona minesite. The amount of snow around Sandon is considerable and each rainy day down here adds more snowpack up there. Take the skis, sled, toboggan or snowboard up there and try the Idaho Lookout road. It's pretty wild.

Definitely a multiple activity type of winter. Ski, paddle, walk the lower trails or even puttering in the garden… I've avoided my bicycle so far, simply because the roads are wet and gritty and you have to bundle up a lot to avoid chills. I think if there's no snow coming, I'll ride along the rail trail from Slocan south along the river because it's low speed and not too dirty and should be snowfree. The Galena Trail north to Rosebery seems to be quite ridable for now as well.

Some final bicycle-related notes: the new Nakusp transit bus has front mount bike racks free for use of passengers. You just drop the rack, hoist the bike into the slots and flip down the holder thing. Takes maybe 15 seconds. With this feature, you can take your bike down the valley for the day and then come home, or shuttle one way and ride back.

And, as always, if you ride in the winter, dress up so that traffic can see you, because the winter driver is already challenged by road and light conditions, and may not see you.

Peter Roulston has operated the Bicycle Hospital in Nakusp since 1992 and now lives in New Denver. 358-2133.

Check out the Prius

It seemed a bit incongruous to see the brand new, one day old car sitting on the street covered with grime and road salt like all the rest, lined up along the street where everyone was attending the community craft fair at the Memorial Hall. I didn't even notice it at the time, but when I met my friend Lisa inside, she knew I would be interested in their new purchase and she was kind enough to give me the grand tour.

The Toyota Prius is a car of the future—perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it is a step into the future. Almost everything about it is removed from convention, including its gas guzzling, polluting propensities. The first thing you notice is its sleek aerodynamic shape. In fact, it has a drag co-efficient of 0.26, one of the most highly efficient shapes in a vehicle on the road today. You begin to notice its light weight when you open a door or the engine hood. I am told that much thought has gone into replacing heavy components with lightweight materials to increase the car's efficiency.

What you don't see right away is the novel power system this car uses. There is a 1.5-litre Atkinson cycle gas engine coupled to a 68 hp, (50kw) electric motor. Toyota calls this a synergy drive and it is a big step in vehicle design.

The highly efficient gas engine, which delivers 77 hp, is able to drive the power train as well as the electric motor, which doubles as a generator to charge a large NiMH battery pack located, behind the rear seat. This system is designed in such a way that any time you decelerate or coast down a hill, the generator charges the battery pack which in turn drives the electric motor, which kicks in any time you don't need the power of the gas engine. If you are driving slowly or idling at a stop sign, the gas engine stops and the vehicle is powered solely by the electric motor. This system is so efficient that these vehicles get better gas mileage in town, (4.2L/100km), than they do on the highway, (5L/100km). It is weird to turn on the car and hear the silence—no motor running, you are on battery power.

Okay, the engine is small and this is a full-sized five-passenger car. I didn't expect it to accelerate with any gusto, so I drove it up the Silverton hill to check out the power. What I didn't realize was that on high acceleration, you get the power of both engines, so acceleration is very respectable indeed. Coming down, you notice the drag of the regenerative drive, which is charging the batteries and giving you engine braking at the same time—power for free.

There have been attempts before to produce a low polluting, efficient vehicle, but this is the first real mass-produced vehicle that you can pick up at your local dealer. They cost in the vicinity of $30,000 new, and a three-year-old one will set you back about $14,000. The provincial government will give you a break on the PST, but the Feds, with all their rhetoric about lowering carbon emissions, still want their full tax dollars. If you take into account the fuel savings, this car is competitively priced. What you get as a bonus is the piece of mind of driving a car that emits 90% less greenhouse gases than a comparably sized vehicle, something we should all consider in this age of global warming.

I could go on about the space-age feel of the interior, the abundant leg room both front and back, the standard features such as air conditioning, keyless entry, cruise control, ABS brakes, independent McPherson suspension, etc, but I would like you to try one yourself. Maybe with a bit of luck, you can get a ride in Peter and Lisa's or simply drop into the dealership when you are in Nelson.

I don't normally push a particular type of car, but I think this is one to check out.

Need a new Computer?
Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Get Your Kicks At Nicks Off Highway Six On Fifth

Hello out there all you hungry food fans, and Happy New Year to everyone. I know you all ate well over the holidays, but now you must be hungry again, and if you are I have good news, and the good news is this: *Nick's Place*.

Nick's Place is located on Fifth Ave. in far away Nakusp, and that's where my fearless publisher sent me this week. Two days before I headed up there I managed to get a hold of Hal (the boss at *Nick's*) and Hal sent me a menu to have a gander at, and that's where the fun begins. Pizza is a big deal at *Nick's* and there are about 30 to choose from, with unending variations on the toppings, but they also have a burger menu featuring their 'house burger.'

If there were a Hamburger Olympics, this baby would qualify! It's huge, and it comes, like all the burgers, on a home-baked bun alongside a gargantuan mountain of fries (with gravy if you like) There are also subs and sandwiches on home-baked French bread. Just reading the menu made me hungry, and when I perused the side orders I knew this was a place after my heart. As regular readers of this column know, I believe that coleslaw is an excellent source of mayonnaise. *Nick's* includes coleslaw on the menu, but when I looked further down the list of sides I saw, to my delight, that you can order a dish of straight mayo as a side order. You can also order a side of gravy. Way in the back of the most secret part of my addled mind I imagined ordering two sides of mayonnaise and two sides of gravy with a big spoon and a straw. Don't tell anyone I said that.

The next day I went to Nakusp and walked into *Nick's*. I immediately saw that this was a down-home place, as casual as they come, totally unpretentious and catering to folks with large appetites who don't give a hoot what colour the walls are. I talked Hal into sitting with me and tried to interview him, but my questions were just plain boring compared to the fun Hal was having with his staff and his customers.

Right away Hal said, "Keep your eyes open and you might see somebody get fired." The staff that was within earshot all burst out laughing; in fact, the music of laughter is a constant background in this place. Every customer that came in seemed to be a regular, and they all had some kind of wacky joke for Hal and his staff. His staff, by the way, includes three sisters: Mitzy, Mel and Mindy. The three Ms.

So what did I eat? Well, not mayo and gravy. Instead I ordered a medium Hawai'ian pizza with ham, pineapple and green peppers. Hal serves pizzas with home-made dough and thick crusts, but if you must have a thin crust he'll make one that way for you. Mine arrived, and as I wolfed down the first piece I was amazed at the large thick slabs of ham and the ocean of cheese: cheddar, mozzarella, and edam. This pizza was delicious, as I know they all are! During the course of my meal I caught a glimpse of something monstrous on its way to a table. It was the unimaginably titanic house burger. I dare you!

Amid the laughter and good times at *Nick's* there are also all-day breakfasts including the Egg McNick, pies, poutine, fish 'n' chips, fresh cinnamon buns, shakes, and a whole lot more. All the bread is home-baked.

In closing I'd like to quote an entry in *Nick's* big guest book:

"Really awesome pizza man! The burgers are to die for. Yum yum! Great service too. Hal's a nut! We'll be back!" signed: Carl Hokans, Pittsburgh Pa.

I've gotta go along with Carl!

Nick's is a family restaurant, has a smoking room, and with a little help over two small steps it is wheelchair friendly.

Go there!

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

BICYCLE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Last summer I sold off my Nakusp house and acreage and now I'd like to simplify further. Home-based work two days a week suits me best so I'll maintain a small practice at my new home in New Denver...

Nakusp is ready for a full-on, full time bicycle sales/service shop, and I'd like to sell some or all of my Nakusp inventory, tools and furnishings, currently at a rented downtown location.

If you'd like to be self employed and make good money in bicycle sales and service, I'll give you great advice and a great deal.

PETER ROULSTON -358-2133

Pizza is a big deal at *Nick's* and there are about 30 to choose from, with unending variations on the toppings, but they also have a burger menu featuring their 'house burger.'

If there were a Hamburger Olympics, this baby would qualify! It's huge, and it comes, like all the burgers, on a home-baked bun alongside a gargantuan mountain of fries (with gravy if you like)

This is a down-home place, as casual as they come, totally unpretentious and catering to folks with large appetites who don't give a hoot what colour the walls are.

-Andy Rhodes, Food Editor
The Valley Voice

NICK'S PLACE

93-5th Ave • Nakusp • 265-4880

EDUCATION

Selkirk College

COMMUNITY EDUCATION/ ADULT LEARNING CENTRE

Adult Basic Education classes continuous enrolment!

KASLO: 353-2618

PRENATAL CLASSES, Jan. 22, 29;
FELDENKRAIS METHOD, with Susan Grimble, starts Jan. 24;
SO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO START A BUSINESS, Jan. 26;
MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE, Feb. 3;
TAX RETURN FOR SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS, Feb. 6;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

TAE KWON DO classes last week to register Jan. 23;
OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID LEVEL 1, Jan. 21;
OFA TRANSPORTATION ENDORSEMENT, Jan. 22;
INTRODUCTION TO WINDOWS FOR YOUR PC, starts Jan. 24, 9am-noon;
LINK BETWEEN BRAIN AND BEHAVIOUR, Linda Hoskin, Jan. 27;
TAX RETURN FOR SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS, Jan. 28;
DRIVER TRAINING, GRADUATED LICENCE PROGRAM, starts Jan. 29;
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES. For more information and registration call your local learning center. Mon. - Thurs., 9am-3pm

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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 package. Deadline is March 1, 2006. Mail to: Selection Committee, ALFA Guild Society, Box 155, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Call Betty for more info, 250-265-4636.

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to thank our family and friends for their support during my husband's recent cancer operation. A special thank you to Dr. Skrenes; also to Margaret, Mabel, Carol and Aline for driving me to Trail to visit Roy; to Sabine for the use of her cell phone; for the flowers, cards, visits and inquiries as to his health; to Larry for snowplowing; and to brother Abbie for bringing Roy home from the hospital both times.

To the person or persons responsible for stealing a section of Xmas lights from our back yard while my husband lay in his hospital bed — shame on you! Roy worked very heard to put up his prize-winning display so this act of thievery was very disheartening.

I would gladly have given you a set of lights if you were that desperate.

Karna and Roy Franche
Slocan

COMING EVENTS

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! Slocan Lake Arena Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, January 25th, 2006 at 723 Josephine Street, New Denver, BC (behind the Liquor Store) at 7:00 p.m. New members are invited to join. Everyone welcome!

HEY LUCERNE PARENTS!! LOOKING FOR AN EVENING AWAY FROM THE KIDS? 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Nakusp Library Board. January 26, 2006 7:00 pm at the Library.

FLEA MARKET. Saturday, January 28, 9 am-1 pm. 210 8th Ave. NW, Nakusp. Seniors Hall. Everyone welcome. Free admission. Vendors wanted. For information, call Faye at 265-0096.

NAKUSP & DISTRICT CHAMBER Annual General Meeting, January 25 at 12 noon at Woodfire Pizza in Nakusp. All Welcome!

SLOCAN VALLEY Churches & Winlaw Community Hall presents their Valentine's Brunch. Feb. 12/06. Two seatings 10-11:30 & 12-1:30 pm. Over 16 items to choose from. Advance tickets bought go into draw. Adults $10. 12& under $8. Come enjoy some great home cooking. Info call Carey 226-7702 or Lorna 226-6779.

MID-WINTER SONG - an evening of poetry and music. Author Art Joyce reads from his new book, *The Charlatans of Paradise*, with music by Rowan and guest reader Steve Lones. Friday January 20, 7:30 pm at Horsefeathers Gallery, Silverton.

SMART GROWTH WORKSHOP February 15 at 7 pm at Silverton Memorial Hall. Come and get involved in sustainable growth in the Slocan Valley!

CELEBRATE FAMILY LITERACY DAY! January 27, 6:30-7:30 pm at the Lucerne School Library. All ages family event. Parents required to accompany their children. Snacks provided.

VALENTINE'S DAY COFFEE HOUSE. Bosun Hall, New Denver, February 12, 2006, 7 pm; hosted by Slocan Writers Guild. Admission by donation.

SLOCAN VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION will meet Friday, January 27 at 9 am at New Denver Village Council Chambers. Meetings are open to the public. Info: svedc@slocanvalley.com or 358-7704 (leave message).

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

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THREE-BEDROOM MOBILE HOME in Canyon Court, Nakusp. Available immediately. $550/month incl. pad rental. Ph. 265-3842.

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HELP WANTED

TRANSLATOR NEEDED: Turkish to English. Min. university degree in English. Previous experience a must. Fax resumes to (604) 463-4049.

NOTICES

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

Business Classifieds start at $10

OBITUARY

Malcolm (Mac) Flynn

Mac Flynn passed away peacefully at home on December 5, 2005 following a lengthy illness. Mac was born in Saskatchewan on May 28, 1926. Mac was predeceased by his wife Lillian in 2002, his parents and his brother Ron.

Mac is survived by his eight children: Jim (Marilyn), Colleen (John), Maxine (Steve), Lora Lee (Gary), Gordon (Terry), Shawn, Dan (Yvonne) and Casey. He is also survived by his 21 grandchildren and 4 step grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on December 10, 2005. Memorial donations may be made to the New Denver Hospice Society or a charity of your choice.

Special thanks to the home nurses and support workers for all the care given to Dad, and to the Hospice Society.

REAL ESTATE

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

TINY TALENTS ART PROGRAM - With Ron Mulvey starts Mon.Jan. 30th

SKI BUS TO WHITEWATER - Next bus for Slocan Valley kids is Sat. January 28th

KIDS INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE - Call the rec' and get in the game

WINLAW SCHOOL INDOOR REC. - Basketball - Mondays; Women's Rec' Volleyball - Tuesdays; "Wally"Ball - Thursdays. Times: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

MUSIC WITH TERRY B MOORE - Blues Guitar starts Jan. 21st; Blues Harmonica starts Feb. 1st and Music Theory Begins Jan. 30th.

WOMENS BEGINNER DRUM CIRCLE - With Bo Conlan begins Jan. 21st

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN - With Deb Bayoff, Tues. Jan. 24th

PICTURE COLLAGING - With Rabia. Sat. Feb. 4th at the Threads Guild Building

BOOKBINDING - With Jane Merks. Sat. Jan. 28th. Slocan Park Hall

TRAVELLING WITH OUR ELDERS - Visit Samoa and New Zealand! Wed. Feb. 1st

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The deadline for our February 1 edition is January 27

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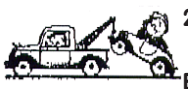
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An evolution in education

It's a fun evolution for a former high school teacher and a vintage schoolhouse as the building in South Slocan is transformed into The Yoga Schoolhouse. Upon the hillside across from The Dam Inn, Deva Peters and teaching partner Lorraine Ballantine are now offering a variety of yoga and Pilates classes that are intended for everyone.

The vision is community yoga or 'yoga kula'. Because yoga means 'union' everyone is invited to unite as a community, gathering in this landmark building. And offering community prices, the Schoolhouse will pass on the substantial savings to the student!

Classes are offered from Gentle Flow up to the intensely heated Ashtanga Vinyasa, bringing relief for a variety of conditions. With a background in Integrative Yoga Therapy, Peters and other teachers acknowledge the power of yoga to rectify and heal a myriad of conditions from anxiety and depression to arthritis and stiff joints. Yoga is not a cure-all but it is close, bringing a quality of deep relaxation, joy and relief from the life-induced conditions that keep us contracted and in chronic pain and stress. Those who explore this ancient discipline are readily sold on the effects, often in a surprisingly short period of time.

"The first step into yoga needn't be stressful or intimidating, because we start right where we are," encourages Peters. Several classes welcome the newcomer, or someone returning after a hiatus.

Also offering Pilates, the Yoga Schoolhouse appeals to the newest demand for core technique and alignment. In a unique blend of the principles of yoga, dance and martial arts, Ballantine guides the student through core breathing, postural alignment and core strengthening, essentials for healing and transformation. These classes are guaranteed fun, casual and relaxed, and targetted to anyone with a desire to discover themselves and gain strength and flexibility. No matter which class you try, there will be some great benefit.

Yoga and Pilates are suitable for all ages from junior to senior.

Come and try a free mini-class for newcomers, to be scheduled bi-weekly: call 359-7519 to register. The community is invited to dance to the uplifting World Beat of Adham Shaihk at the Grand Opening celebration onJanuary 21. Open house from 5-7:30, dancing from 7:30 on. Suggested donation $5-10.

Lorraine and Deva, yoga sisters at the Yoga Schoolhouse.

The North Kootenay Falcons Midget Rep team came second to Kelowna in a tournament held January 6-8 in Nakusp. The final game against Kelowna was super exciting, with a 2-2 tie at the end of regulation play. A 5-minute overtime made no difference to the score, so they went to a five-man shoot-out. The game was tied until the very last Kelowna shooter scored.

REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

These reports are based on press releases and may have been edited

Road Safety Unit

During numerous roadchecks in the Nakusp area on January 7 and 8, members of the West Kootenay Integrated Road Safety Unit issued many tickets, two 24-hour suspensions and seized over six pounds of marijuana from two vehicles.

Ticketed violations included no insurance, no drivers licence, speeding and failing to wear seatbelts.

Twelve motorists showing signs of impairment were tested, with two receiving 24-hour suspensions.

Charges under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act are pending against a 33-year-old male in connection with the marijuana seizure.

Slocan Lake Detachment

• Slocan Lake RCMP arrested Slocan resident Darin Eggen January 11 and laid eight charges including uttering threats, assault, and unlawful confinement. Eggen was held in custody overnight in Nakusp, and transported to court in Nelson for a 'show cause' hearing the next afternoon.

Eggen pled guilty to four counts of assault on his common-law spouse, one count of assault causing bodily harm on Victor Hurst, and one count of assault causing bodily harm against Nathan Stelmacker. Both the Hurst and Stelmacker cases were already before the court, awaiting trial on one, sentencing on the other.

Eggen was sentenced to one year of jail time effective immediately.

Nakusp Detachment

• On December 31 at about 2 am, the Nakusp Fire Department and the RCMP responded to a fire at the recycling area next to the arena. They found two of the large recycling containers had flames coming from the inside. It appears that someone started these fires. Information was received that a small white car containing several people was in the area a short time before the fire was spotted. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Nakusp RCMP or Crime Stoppers.

• Shortly after 8 pm December 16 police responded to a house fire on Helmer Road in the Edgewood area. The log home was fully engulfed in flames and a 92-year-old man died in the fire. The cause of the fire is believed to be accidental.

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A float above the jungle

FLIKS presents *The White Diamond* January 25 at The Capitol Theatre and January 27 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, both at 7:30 pm.

This time famed filmmaker Werner Herzog takes on the stuff of dreams, floating just inches above the jungle canopy in an airship that more resembles a soap bubble than a flying machine.

White Diamond stars the sights, sounds and people of the Guyanese jungle, and Kaieteur Falls—four times higher than Niagara Falls, and co-stars an infectiously charming but arguably mad scientist Graham Dorrington.

Dorrington's dream to soar over the canopy is lent extra urgency by his guilt over the death of a colleague, the jungle cinematographer Dieter Plage, who died in an airship crash in an earlier expedition led by Dorrington.

Along the journey, Mother Nature, myths and legends, and the dreams of man play out in this pristine part of the world. True to Herzog's poetic style, this is one of the most uplifting and inspiring films we've seen, and is a FLIKS PICK OF THE FESTS. 90 minutes, unrated, but is suitable for all audiences.

For more information go to www.FLIKS.ca or call 1-866-FLIKSca.

The White Diamond

The Bosun Hall needs you

submitted

The Bosun Opera House needs you! The hall has been a part of the infrastructure of this community since it was built at the turn of the previous century. It has provided a venue for celebrations, weddings, dinners, memorial services and an assortment of gatherings for all ages and interests.

After nearly a decade of semi retirement, the Bosun is back in action and has resumed its place as an integral part of our lives.

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers and supporters there is a new floor, new overhead lighting and new chairs are on the way. Guides and Beavers, the Anniversary Dinner, dance camp, theatre and more are happening in the hall. The full kitchen, the tables and the chairs are available for rental.

The annual general meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11 at 5 pm. A number of renovations are on the slate and funds need to be accessed; if you can help or would like to be a part of this process, please contact Carol Bell, 358-2125 or Bev Casley, 358-7771.

Menopause Madness coming to Silverton

submitted

The Silverton Gallery will host Menopause Madness on Saturday, January 28, starting at 2 pm.

The schedule will include workshops from 2-5 pm, a finger food potluck and social and at 7 pm, the much anticipated Menopause Madness Coffee House. Admission for all events is $20 or $10 for the Coffee House. If money is tight, a donation is accepted. This is a fundraiser for the Gallery.

Workshops will present the herbal approach to menopause, recent medical news, art and drumming for fun and stress release so that the mortality rate for loved ones is reduced.

The Coffee House will have the usual roster of singers, dancers and poets as well as an open mic. We want to hear your wild and crazy stories first hand. There will be a prize for the best as chosen by the audience.

Whether you're pre, mid or post, mark your calendar. Tickets are limited so get to My Aunt's, Mountainberry or Ann's Health Foods for yours. There will be a few at the door if we are not sold out.

Don't miss the event of the winter silly season. If we don't all laugh, we'll cry.