The Valley VOICE

Free!

Volume 15, Number 2 February 1, 2006 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**

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

BC Hydro ordered to deal with boat launches on Arrow Lakes

by Jan McMurray

It looks like Nakusp and Area K's long and valiant efforts to have BC Hydro take responsibility for their boat launches are finally paying off.

The Comptroller of Water Rights, James Mattison, has ordered BC Hydro to provide boat launching facilities at seven locations on the Arrow Lake Reservoir: Nakusp, McDonald Creek, Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood (Eagle Creek), Shelter Bay and Syringa Creek. Also at Blanket Creek, on the Shelter Bay side, he has ordered public access to the reservoir in the form of a park with a dyked swimming lagoon. The order is dated January 23.

Although boat launches already exist at these seven locations, they have proven to be ineffective at low water levels and/or are in very poor shape because of the fluctuations in water levels. Local government officials have been trying to get BC Hydro to pay for the repair, extension or replacement of the launches for many years. Mattison makes it clear in his letter notifying BCH of his decision that BCH is required not only to provide access but also to ensure continued access to the reservoir via the boat launch facilities.

He says that during his review of the situation, he discovered that BCH had entered into agreements with other parties to provide access at the locations in question, but that this does "not release the licensee from the requirement to ensure continued access."

Diane Tammen of BC Hydro was not ready to comment on the order when we contacted her on January 26. She said BCH needs time to review the Water Comptroller's lengthy report that details his decision. "BC Hydro needs a chance to review the decision indepth and then we will be able to comment on the contents of the report and what the next steps will be," she said.

The order gives BCH six months to submit a plan as to how it will develop and maintain the boat launches and swimming lagoon. It is to "set out the specific details regarding the elevations to which the boat launching facilities are to be functional and the associated ancillary works," according to Mattison's letter to BC Hydro.

BCH can appeal the decision within 30 days to the Environmental Appeal Board.

When the Arrow Lakes were flooded in the 1960s, BCH built most of these boat launches because it was required of them under the Columbia River Treaty.

Clause (m) of BC Hydro's water licence to operate the Hugh Keenleyside Dam and the Arrow Lake Reservoir gives the Water Comptroller the authority to order BCH to provide public access to the reservoir. It is under Clause (m) that Mattison has made his order.

He states in his letter to BCH that decisions regarding reservoir access under the Columbia River Water Use Plan will come later.

BCH was mandated to do the water use plan in 1996. A group of 39 stakeholders from Trail to Revelstoke worked with BCH for four years to come up with recommendations for the plan. The draft plan was submitted to Mattison last fall. Recommendations in the draft plan include the repair, extension and/or replacement of the boat launch facilities in question.

Red Mountain Road to decide on joining fire service

by Leah Main

New Denver and Silverton, working with Regional District Area H Director Don Munro, have been looking into expanding the combined Villages' fire service to include Red Mountain Road to the south of Silverton. At a public meeting January 26 in Memorial Hall, about 35 people attended to find out the advantages and disadvantages of such an expansion.

Residents within the proposed expanded service area will have an opportunity over the next few weeks to make their wishes known. Director Munro indicated that the regional district will be contacting all affected property owners by mail, and that a petition will be available to them at the Silverton Municipal Office. If a clear majority (50% of residents representing at least 50% of assessments by value) indicate through this petition that they are in favour of the proposed service, regional district will proceed with the steps to formalize it. If that clear majority is not forthcoming, the proposal will likely be dropped.

The existing fire service contract allows the combined department to cover the municipalities of Silverton and New Denver, the area between the two towns, a portion of Area H to the west of New Denver (Denver Siding) and as far north as Rosebery.

Director Munro has had some preliminary talks with Red Mountain residents toward expanding the service as far as the south entrance to Red Mountain Road, approximately 13 km south of the Silverton Fire Hall. He explained that rural communities often have a difficult time providing fire protection services for themselves because of scarce human and financial resources, but that by combining with an existing municipal service, economies of scale can be achieved for both of those factors.

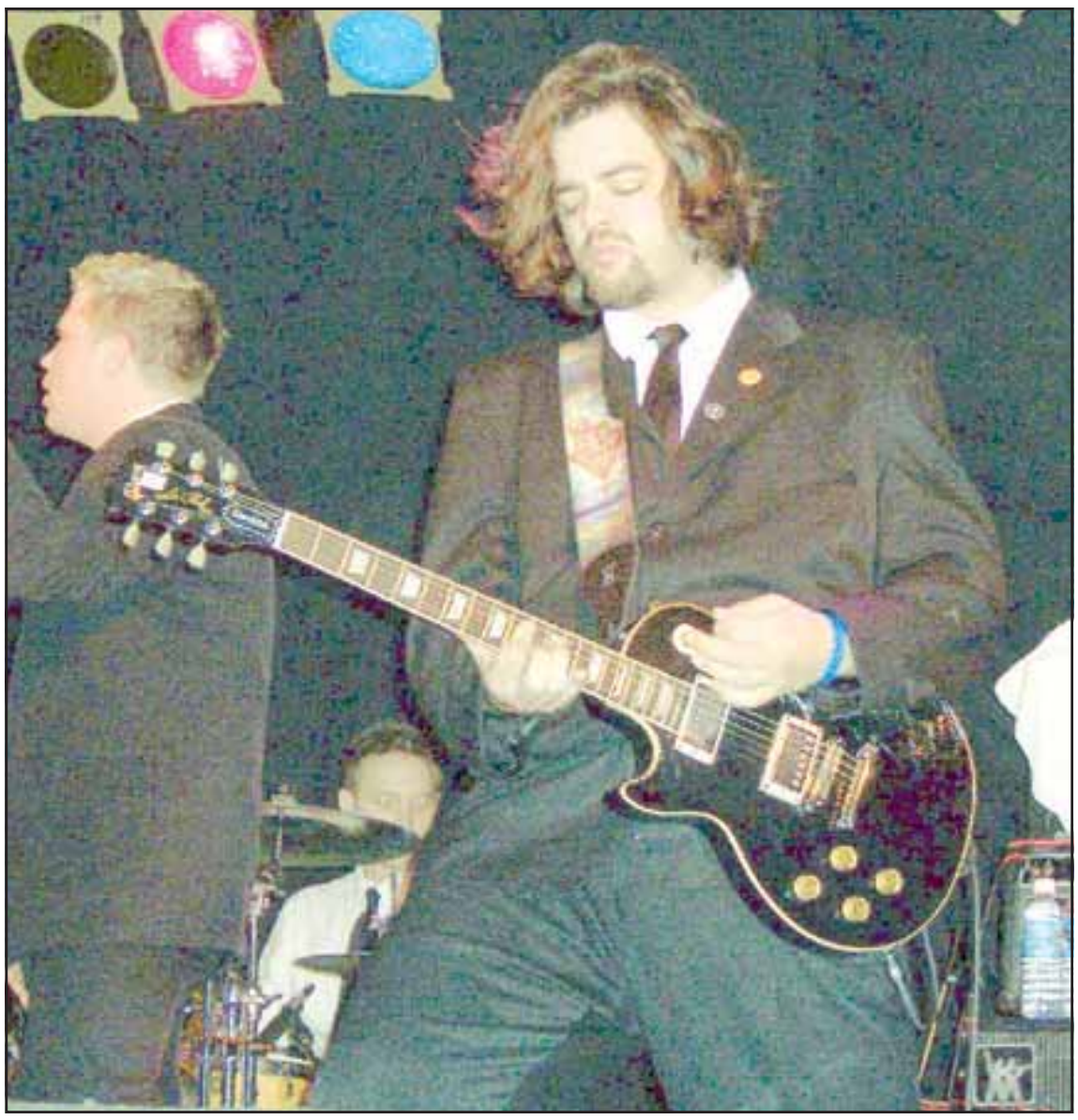
The rural residents in the existing service area are currently taxed $140/$100,000 assessed value. This would be applied to the expanded service area properties as well. This would generate enough money annually to run the service out of the two existing halls (Silverton and New Denver), and to build reserves toward purchasing new equipment as needed. The biggest equipment purchase is always fire trucks, which can run as much as $300,000 for an equipped truck that meets insurance underwriters' requirements. This taxation would likely be offset by a reduction in residential fire insurance coverage, although that amount would vary according to the company providing the coverage.

One factor in fire service response is access — how close can a truck actually get to any particular house? According to regional district guidelines and bylaws, it is the owner's responsibility to provide access. In practical terms, as long as the main road is open, the fire department will respond and come as close to the house as they can with whatever equipment is appropriate.

According to Fire Chief Leonard Casley, "We'll come and drag hoses to get to the house. We'll send one of the small trucks first, with the larger trucks after. Our main focus in that situation is to save lives and protect against the fire spreading."

The small trucks, which both carry water and foam, can negotiate tighter curves and get into spaces the larger trucks can't access. With the available equipment, Chief Casley estimates a 15-25 minutes response time for a fire on Red Mountain Road.

Additionally, with its mandate to work with the Forest Service, the fire department can help protect homes within the service area that are threatened by wildfire, and can liaise formally with YRB on road maintenance and snow clearing issues.



Four bands played at the Nakusp Music Festival's Beach Party, January 28. Skavenjah was in fine form despite driving through a snowstorm on the Crow's Nest Pass to play for the crowd. Redfish, Superbeing and Sleddogs were the other bands.

Federal election results: decisive victories for local MPs

by Jan McMurray

Although the January 23 federal election produced a cautious minority Conservative government for Canada, our two local ridings produced extremely decisive results.

In the Kootenay-Columbia riding, Conservative Jim Abbott was re-elected to do a fifth term with a whopping 54.3% of the vote (22,171 votes). Abbott has been an MP since 1993.

NDP candidate Brent Bush came second behind Abbott with 26% or 10,559 votes. Bush also came second to Abbott in the 2004 election with 24% of the vote.

Liberal candidate Jhim Burwell came third with 13% or 5,443 votes. Clements Verhoeven of the Green Party received 6% or 2,490 votes and Thomas Fredrick Sima of the Canadian Action Party got 132 votes.

In the BC Southern Interior, NDP candidate Alex Atamanenko cleaned up with 49% of the vote (22,742 votes), putting an end to the Conservative hold on the riding since 1993. In the 2004 election, Atamanenko came in a very close second to Conservative Jim Gouk.

Liberal candidate Bill Profili trailed behind Atamanenko with 9,383 votes or 20%. Conservative candidate Derek Zeisman came in third with 8,948 votes or 19%. Scott Leyland of the Green Party placed fourth with 5,258 votes or 11%. This was the best showing of all Green Party candidates in BC. Marxist-Leninist Brian Sproule received 123 votes.

Voter turnout in Kootenay-Columbia was 64.5% and in the Southern Interior, 65.7%.

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Lucerne basketball: playing their guts out, puking their guts out

by Alan deChezet

Despite a depleted roster, the Lucerne Lakers basketball team launched a highlight-reel comeback against Nelson to vault to the finals of the senior boys Salmo Skyway Classic.

With New Denver's forwards contesting every rebound, Zoel Thibault's full court scoring rushes, and Daniel Delaney's clutch reverse lay-up with seconds remaining, Lucerne obliterated a 15-point deficit against the LV Rogers B squad for a 57-56 triumph. Their 12-2 closing run was the team's most inspired effort in a turn-around season that has seen the Lakers win five of eight in 2006.

Playing their fourth game in six hours, and down to only seven players, Lucerne could not, however, prevail against the Salmo Falcons' size, savvy, and team depth.

Team depth? The Lakers rolled to snowy Salmo on Saturday, January 21, with two forwards competing in a Castlegar hockey tournament, a guard sick at home with the flu, and Randy Duncan, Zoel Thibault, and Darrin Hicks plagued by the same. At the outset of the LVR game, starting centre Duncan's head was spinning and he was unable to play, and the bench was stretched thinner than vermicelli from that point on.

The truth of the old basketball expression, "You can't teach size," was evident as Salmo's big men were, well, bigger—and older. Kris Reitmeier, Jody Nelson, Calvin Reitmeier, and Patrick Leontowicz showed courage and tenacity in fighting for position and rebounds under the basket, but they were outsized and up against players with more experience.

Following the Salmo tourney, the senior record stands at 5-7. The junior team sits at 2-1.

In early December, Steve Hammond and I took on coaching the juniors, as well as a young, green senior team (one which last school-year folded mid-season due to apathy), and we have emphasized fundamentals—lay-ups and rebounding, team-play on offense, and defensive positioning. We have been light on conditioning, because we felt teaching basic skills was a better use of limited practice time.

The gamble paid off, as the team that showed up in Salmo found the guts to play four games between 11 am and 5:30 pm and win two of them. Following an opening-round victory over Rossland, a second-round loss to Salmo sent Lucerne to the losers bracket, from which they qualified for the final, again versus Salmo.

Even a team pushed to the limits of endurance in practice should not be expected to show spark at the end of 16 quarters of basketball, but every one of the Lakers showed just that. Darrin Hicks, who noted that he couldn't breathe when he ran, was still charging the basket with minutes to go in the final match.

Earlier in the fourth quarter, Jody Nelson—soaked in sweat and his head hanging—was asked if he was okay to get off the bench and go back in the game.

"The blood's still pumping, so what's the problem?" he replied casually.

After the finale, the zombies ('walking dead' for those of you who don't watch trashy horror flics) regained their colour while shovelling down pizza bought by Roddy and Chiyoko Reitmeier, who watched the tournament amid a sparse turn-out by the home fans.

Had it not been for the sports-loving owners of Mountainberry Foods, who allowed Calvin to miss his night shift and play in the last two games, Lucerne would not have advanced to the finals.

High Laker on the day was Zoel Thibault, who averaged 18 points per game and was perhaps the top athlete in the tournament in terms of skill, desire, and leadership.

At home, the Lakers juniors play powerhouse Trafalgar of Nelson Thursday, February 2 at 4 pm. (How much of a powerhouse? Two former Trafalgar kids are on basketball scholarships in California).

The senior Lakers meet unknown (to us) Castlegar for the first time on Tuesday, February 7 at 5 pm. Salmo juniors and seniors will hit the hardwood here, starting at 4:30 pm February 9.

Cost-share funding available for local farmers

submitted

The Canada-British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program is up and running in the Central Kootenay.

This program helps producers identify their farm's environmental strengths, prioritize any potential risks to the environment, and develop action plans to manage the risks. This free program is available to those with farm status, and is completely voluntary and confidential.

The Creston Valley Agriculture Society has been selected to provide Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) assistance to all farmers and ranchers within the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). Val Miller, PAg, a certified EFP advisor, is helping producers complete their EFPs and apply for cost-share funding to make on-farm environmental improvements.

"Farmers have long been important stewards of the land, and this is evident on the various farms I have so far had the pleasure to visit," explains Miller. "By participating in environmental farm planning, farmers will confirm that their current practices are environmentally sound, and if any areas are found that need improvement, they can apply for available cost-share funding to improve those practices."

There are over 600 registered farms within the RDCK, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. These farms produce a wide variety of items, such as tree fruits, berries, dairy and poultry products, beef cattle, forage and cereal grains, vegetables, organic meats and produce, landscape and nursery stock, and purebred horses.

"Environmental Farm Planning is a win-win program. Farmers can improve their environmental practices where needed, consumers can have confidence in the environmental sustainability of BC agricultural products, and the environment is the ultimate benefactor," says Miller.

To participate in the program, contact Val Miller at (250) 229-5313 or by email at kootwild@shaw.ca to set up a one- to two-hour workshop that will provide information and materials to help you complete your plan.

To find out more about the EFP program, visit the BC Agriculture Council website at http://www.bcac.bc.ca/efp_programs.htm.

Peter Blacklock retires as NSS vice-principal

by Jan McMurray

Peter Blacklock, a favourite school administrator and teacher among students, parents and his colleagues in School District No. 10, is retiring. For the last five-and-a-half years of his 33-year-long career in the school system, we were blessed to have him in our district.

Blacklock was principal of Lucerne Elementary/Secondary School in New Denver for four years, and vice-principal of Nakusp Secondary School for a year and a half.

"He will be missed by our professional community," said Walter Posnikoff, Superintendent. "He is an extremely powerful professional working in school communities with parents and students. We wish him the best in this new stage of his life."

Blacklock will probably be most remembered for the plays he produced, not only in the schools but also with the Nakusp Rotary Club and the Nakusp summer drama school. At Lucerne School in New Denver, he put on *Li'l Abner*, *So Ya Wanna be a Cowboy* and *Grease*.

At the time Blacklock moved up to Nakusp, the district also created a new position for him: District Facilitator and Co-ordinator of Instruction and Programs. In this role, Blacklock helped to co-ordinate online learning in New Denver and Nakusp with videoconferencing equipment. There are now five grade 12 students in New Denver and four in Nakusp that are taking English Literature together through videoconferencing.

"If I have any regrets about choosing to retire at this time, it is that I have probably done more new things in terms of teaching in this last year than in my whole 33-year career," he said.

Blacklock says his retirement plans include writing music and plays, and to continue learning.

As of February 1, Susan Paterson is the interim vice-principal at Nakusp Secondary.

Slocan Valley Co-op builds for the future

by Moe Lyons

These days, you can't buy gas at the Slocan Valley Co-op. Any day now, however, it will be available 24/7: regular, blended and premium as well as diesel. Big things are happening in Slocan Park, as evidenced by big machines, big guys in reflective vests, and big plans finally come to fruition.

Meanwhile, it's business as usual at the Co-op, or as the sign in front says: "No gas for January, but still your little store with more." More indeed—one delicious bonus the customers—as well as the construction crew—are enjoying is Kathy's daily homemade soups!

In the Co-op's north lot an ultra-modern structure is under construction, and the lower valley will soon have a new, efficient cardlock fuel supply system. It will be able to handle everything from the smallest motor scooter to the biggest tractor/trailers that ply our highways.

Already the old tanks have been pulled up out of the ground, and the new, huge fiberglass units have been installed. The canopy in front of the store has been eliminated, making room for a new parking lot right by the front door.

"This is good news!" says Co-op board president Vince Salvo. "We've been working on this for well over a year, and now, finally, thanks to all our hard work and especially the skill and dedication of our manager, Bob Rode, we are able to move ahead."

"This project would never have gotten off the ground without the support of Federated Co-ops and the Castlegar Savings Credit Union," says Rode. "We're lucky to be part of a knowledgeable, prosperous organization and to have a local financial institution that believes in supporting local growth."

The first phase of construction is complete, the tops of the big tanks are peeking out of the ground, and the sophisticated dispensing units have arrived. The excavator operator's job is over and he has gone home. He's coming back, though.

"I love it here!" says Ryan. "The next time you see me I'll be looking around for a new home!"

So before we know it, the new cardlock will be up and running, the gas drought will be over, and things in downtown Slocan Park will get back to normal—only bigger and better than ever.

The big machines at work, erecting the retaining wall for the Co-op's new cardlock.

PUBLIC MEETING

Residents of the Villages of Slocan, Silverton, New Denver, Electoral Area H are invited to attend a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the Regional District of Central Kootenay 2006 BUDGET on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, 3:00 pm at the Slocan Fire Dept. 8877 Slocan St. South in Slocan.

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BC hydro — Invitation to tender

Description: To supply labour & equipment for traffic control and/or flagging operations in the Salmon Arm/Revelstoke/Nakusp Power District.
References: E515-FS-07-01 **Closing Date: February 8, 2006.**

Description: To supply Backhoe/Excavator rental operations in the Salmon Arm/Revelstoke/Nakusp Power District.
References: E515-FS-07-02 **Closing Date: February 8, 2006.**

Details available from the office of BC Hydro at 1401 Kalamalka Lake Road, Vernon, BC V1T 8S4. Phone 250 549-8520 or Cell 250 308-6935

Sealed tenders clearly marked with reference number will be received at the above address until 11 a.m. on the above closing dates.

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Local bus service to Castlegar and Trail begins February 13 and March 1

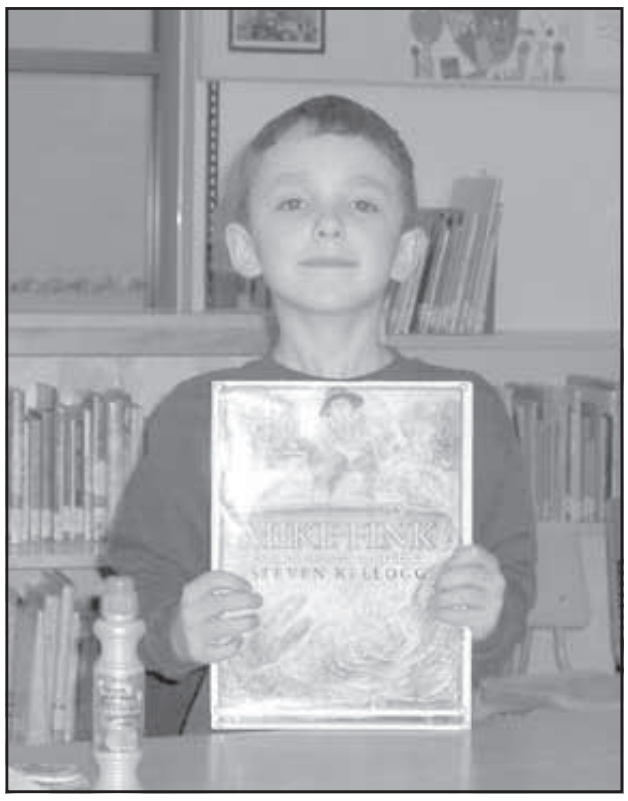
by Jan McMurray

Bus service to Castlegar and Trail begins February 13 for the Village of Slocan and south, and on March 1 for Nakusp and area, New Denver, Silverton, Kaslo and area and Salmo/Ymir.

The service comes to us from a partnership between Interior Health, BC Transit, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) and the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay and Kootenay/Boundary. The objective of the service is to get people to and from their medical appointments in Castlegar and Trail, where the regional hospital is located.

On January 19, RDCK directors met with IH, BC Transit and ASLCS representatives to discuss the new service. Gary Wright, RDCK board chair, said that everyone left the meeting very satisfied. "Jo Brown of Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services has done a very good job of scheduling with the few vehicles that we have. She should be greatly commended," he said.

He added that the medical community is aware of the new service and is willing to do its best to accommodate appointments around the bus schedule. "People should not be shy about asking for a particular time for their appointments," he said.



Koan Grierson displays his prize from the Family Literacy Day Bingo Event at Lucerne School, January 27.

Brown acknowledged that it was challenging to do the scheduling and described it as a "work in progress."

"We'll be making adjustments down the road," she said. "We'll be looking for input from people in the community to help us improve the system. But for now, it's very important to get it going."

To work in the service to Castlegar and Trail, Brown has changed the schedule of the existing bus service to Nelson from our outlying communities. For Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, the Tuesday and Thursday morning bus to Nelson will leave 15 minutes later than it has been. People wanting to go to Castlegar or Trail will transfer onto a connecting bus at Playmor Junction. The afternoon bus back up the valley from Nelson will leave one hour later than it has in the past.

Kaslo's Wednesday run to Nelson will leave at 7:20 am instead of 9 am. That bus will continue on from Nelson through Ymir and Salmo to Trail. It will return via the same route and be back to Kaslo at 4:45 pm.

The biggest change is the addition of a Thursday bus from the Kaslo area. This bus will leave Argenta at 7:15 am and will pick up people on the way to Kaslo. The bus will leave Kaslo at 8:35 am and head to Balfour, where people can transfer onto a bus to Nelson. In Nelson, there will be a bus waiting to transport people to Trail. The return trip will be the same, arriving back in Kaslo at 6:20 pm and in Argenta at 7:30 pm.

Brown reminded that passengers must book their seats in advance. The bus will only run if there is a demand. The number to call for reservations and more information is 1-877-843-2877.

Appointments made to KDCFS

by Jan McMurray

The two appointments to the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) board have been made, and the board is not happy with the results.

Dave Russell is the new RDCK appointee and Robert Mitchell is the new Village of Kaslo appointee.

Russell replaces Ken Wapple, the RDCK appointee for the last two years, and Mitchell replaces Barry Rempel, the Village appointee for the last three years.

The KDCFS board had made it clear that it wanted Wapple and Rempel re-appointed because the two have brought so much expertise and experience to the organization. Because the board is currently applying for an area based tenure, it feels that this is a particularly bad time to lose their two most valuable members.

Mitchell's appointment narrowly passed at Kaslo council's January 24 meeting. With Councillors Jones and Vass opposed to the appointment and Councillors Hewat and Leathwood in favour, Mayor Holland had to cast his vote in favour to break the tie.

Mitchell is a Registered Professional Forester and beat out Stan Baker and Rempel for the appointment.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack recommended that Dave Russell be the RDCK appointee at the RDCK board's January 21 meeting. The motion passed with 14 directors in favour and six opposed.

Also on the RDCK meeting agenda was a letter from KDCFS board chair Gary Cockrell requesting a meeting with the RDCK board to discuss the appointment. Cockrell also attended the RDCK meeting and asked for a deferral of the appointment until a meeting, either with the whole RDCK board or just with Director Shadrack, could take place with the KDCFS board.

The RDCK board decided against any such meeting. In an interview after the meeting, Chair Wright explained the RDCK board's view. "We were making over 100 appointments that day to various commissions. If by policy the whole board had to vet every volunteer appointee for every commission, we would have to open up a few more offices." He said appointments are made on the recommendation of the involved director, and the board feels that this is still a good way to do them.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack had at first decided to recommend that Wapple stay on the board until March 31, with Dave Russell taking over as of April 1. He notified Wapple of this decision in a letter dated January 15. Wapple let Shadrack know he would not accept the extension of his appointment unless the Area D director agreed to meet with the KDCFS board before taking it to the RDCK board.

For the first time in the history of the community forest society, people were required to apply for the appointed positions.

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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.

Voices from the Valleys

Eliminate appointments to KDCFS board

I have long held the opinion that the municipal appointments to the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society are an anachronism. The positions were originally created to provide some public input into what was a closed society. There may have been some idea that these appointments would provide some sort of liason between the Society and local government. Those functions are largely redundant in an open society.

The fact remains that these are political appointments, to be determined by the elected representatives of the day. It doesn't surprise me that when the elected officials change, so do the appointments. One might argue that the process for making these appointments is flawed or that the choice was inappropriate. There can be no question that these appointments have been contentious. Still, the appointments have to be made, and they have to made by what is essentially a political process.

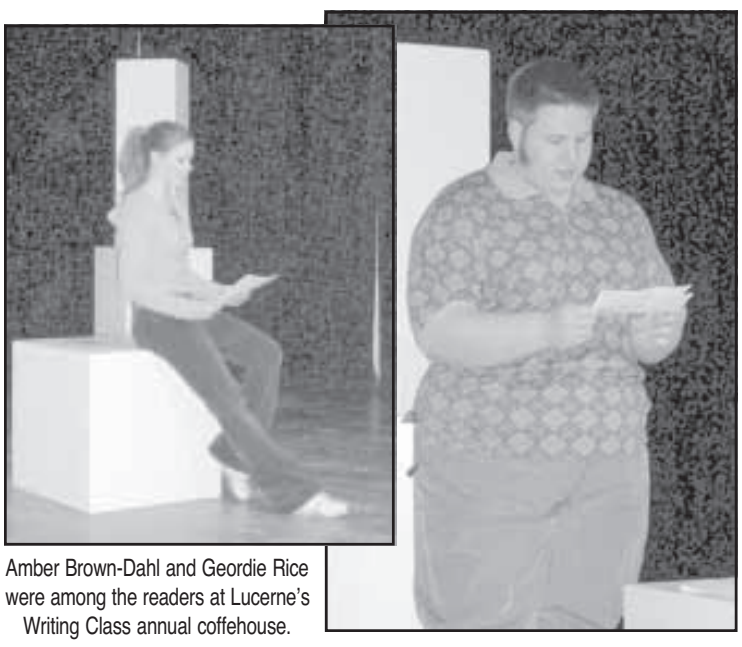
Ken Wapple and Barry Rempel are both logging professionals, and were a logical choice for development-oriented elected officials. They have done great service for the Community Forest Society, allowing it to donate over half a million dollars to a variety of worthwhile projects in the Kaslo District. There can be no question that the community has benefitted from their volunteer effort. It should also be noted that these men played a key role in the Community Forest Society's transition from a closed society to an open society, accountable to a free and voluntary membership. I like both of these guys, and would be happy to share a glass or two of single malt with either of them.

It should come as no surprise that neither of these men would be likely to have an excellent working relationship with their new, more conservation-minded political masters. Most of the players have known each other for years, and I get the sense that they have fought on different sides of many issues. Not to say that Area D Director Andy Shadrack and the Village Council had an easy decision, in replacing these two. I will argue that the decision in both cases was likely inevitable.

I would suggest that it makes more sense for the membership of the Forest Society to revisit their constitution and by-laws, and to eliminate the political appointments to their board of directors than to whinge about the unfairness of the appointment process. It probably should have been done at the time that the society was first opened up to a general membership. Mr. Shadrack, among others, argued passionately for this course of action, but the membership chose to retain the appointments.

If the board is to be effective, it probably helps to be composed of like-minded individuals. These appointments will continue to be contentious until such time as the Society eliminates them. It is an open and democratic society, and I find it paternalistic that two of its board members are appointed by government bodies.

Dan Nicholson, publisher



Amber Brown-Dahl and Geordie Rice were among the readers at Lucerne's Writing Class annual coffehouse.

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*.

Kaslo Quiz

Well folks, it's time for a multiple choice Kaslo Quiz.

a) What carries more weight: a pound of results or a pound of qualifications?

b) What carries more weight: a pound of honour or a pound of image?

c) What holds more truth: actions or words?

d) What ever happened to pride and honour?

Until next time,

Larry Braley
Kaslo

Canadian involvement in Afghanistan unacceptable

There are Canadians coming home from Afghanistan in wheelchairs and body bags!

Now we're sending 2000 troops on a search and destroy mission in Khandahar province!

When exactly did the Canadian people consent to having our peacekeepers deployed as an attack force?

Since when is it a Canadian responsibility to relieve British and American fighters?

Someone has us in a real bad mess. Are we really ready for more wheelchairs and body bags?

Shame on our "leaders" for getting us involved in this!

Double shame on each and every one of us if we permit it to continue!

Will Webster
Kaslo

Love thy neighbours

In the January 18 edition of *The Valley Voice*, Mr. Ron Bowman commented on my open letter to Stephen Harper re gay marriage.

I have a question for Mr. Bowman. What would Jesus have said?

"Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matt. 7:1)

"How dost thou say to thy brother, let me pull out the splinter in thine eye and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite! Cast out the beam out of thine own eye first." (Matt. 7:4)

"He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone." (John 8:7)

"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matt. 22: 39)

Gay and lesbian people are our neighbours. I love my neighbors, Mr. Bowman. Do you?

E. de Boer
Fauquier

Lobbying for leash law in New Denver

I am writing this letter after two incidents with a New Denver dog owner who does not leash her dog.

After the first incident, I phoned the Village office to find out about the bylaw regarding animals and found out that there is no leash law. The bylaw states only that the animal has to be in control.

I think the Village should change its bylaw from control to leash laws.

Let's keep all dogs on leashes and in control. Dogs cannot be controlled while they are running free down the street in front of their owners to harass or attack anyone in the vicinity. Even friendly dogs jumping on people are a nuisance.

Be responsible pet owners. Use a leash and clean up your dog dodo.

Wanda Palmer
New Denver

Long village names

While looking through some papers and correspondence of the Brantford, Ontario Senior Citizens Day Centre, I came across this little gem. My dad, Jack Frost (that's true) was editor for years and enjoyed a good chuckle. This excerpt was from the "News" from 1963.

"And now...the Welsh have had it...Our friend, Dick (Jesse) James has been proud to tell us that his country has a town that has about 53 letters in its name. We wonder how he will feel after reading this item. A letter to a magazine says, "You printed the name of a New Zealand village called "Taumatawhakatangihangakoauta-mateaturipukakapikimaungahoro-nukupokaiwhenuakitanataha" now could you please tell me where the accent goes?

So how would you like to be an election poll clerk in New Zealand? Or maybe a telephone operator?

(And for this, dad says he will have to apologize to your overworked typist for this one.)

Jeanne Edge
New Denver

Tying up dogs not the solution

I've been on both sides of the dog question — I've owned a badly behaved dog who had to leave town and I've been attacked and bitten by a wandering dog.

Let no one think tying dogs up is a solution! When my daughter was five, she was attacked and pinned on the ground by a neighbour's dog who broke its chain and jumped a fence to get to her. She's alive thanks to a friend who was able to pull the dog off. This dog was a retired police dog, presumably well trained. Once it was removed, the owner replaced it with two more, which he then kept tied up!

Breeds have purposes — jobs — and defend territory of a certain size, which has nothing to do with Village lot lines. Dogs with jobs and human company can make wonderful community members. This is almost entirely up to the human in the partnership.

Tying up unsupervised dogs is part of the problem, not the solution.

Eleanor Quirk
New Denver

Jumbo belongs in another location

There are three priorities, as you know, that every realtor and developer agrees with — location, location, location. The quality of the merchandise comes after where it is situated. I have even heard it said that one can sell ice boxes to Eskimos if they are in the right location.

Certainly the pro Jumbo resort people recognize the beauty, grandeur and even the mystical quality that is located (1) in the Jumbo area. It is a location (2) that is relatively easily accessed. And it is located (3) in a vicinity where the wealthy are investing in recreational real estate. That's three "locations," eh? They know they wouldn't and couldn't go wrong — smart businesspeople all.

Now let's look at the No Jumbo Resort people who know about location, location, location, but with far different emphasis on those same values. For the low impact recreationalist, the same beauty, grandeur, and mystical qualities bring such peace and contentment that the last thing in the world we would ever think of is developing that location (1). The Jumbo is relatively easily accessed from both the West and the East Kootenays, making the location (2) one of our favourites. And smart business has already taken advantage of the Jumbo location (3) as guided tours are common to that area. And, of course, it is the destination extraordinaire for locals, their families and friends.

Have you ever heard a No Resort person comment on the size of a lift cable? Or the angle of a townhouse roof? Or the dimension of a sewer pipe? No, you haven't and probably never will.

You have heard endless comments about the impact to the habitat on the resident fauna and flora; about the noise pollution and the glow of lights in the night sky pollution; and the absolutely absurd denial that the over 1,000,000 guests per year will have no negative impacts on that fragile environment that can't be taken care of with monitoring and mitigating.

Yes, it is our backyard. Yes, we

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The Valley Voice Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Phone: 358-7218 Fax: 358-7793 E-Mail:valleyvoice@netidea.com Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

Publisher - Dan Nicholson • Editor - Jan McMurray

Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.

Circulation is 7,200 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $55.64, USA $85.60, OVERSEAS $128.40. (Prices include GST)

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40021191

Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 6

want no resort or any development in our back country. Yes, Mr. Oberti et al, take your great idea, great design, great engineering feats to another location in the front country where you will, no doubt, be welcome.

Rowena Eloise Argenta
West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild

More tough decisions coming for Kaslo community forest

It was the first tough decision that Andy Shadrack had to make as the newly elected Regional District of Central Kootenay Area D director and he demonstrated a lack of certainty.

The decision to either re-appoint or terminate Ken Wapple as the RDCK representative on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society should have been made in December.

Instead, Shadrack dragged out his decision by forming a polarized committee which came up with the predictable results, temporarily suspending Wapple while he made his decision. His decision was to re-appoint Wapple for two months, at which time he would be replaced by Dave Russell, the other candidate vying for the position. Shadrack maintains that his process to select a new candidate was justifiable.

Wapple, frustrated that Shadrack would consider wasting his time, tendered his resignation.

A new gold standard for community forests has been set since Wapple was appointed three years ago. Now the KDCFS accepts memberships from the public, has opened up the contracts to public scrutiny, and has virtually eliminated the conflict of interest allegations. Also since Wapple's appointment, the board has demonstrated that Kaslo can break the mould when it comes to distributing the wealth by returning over $500,000 to community organizations and societies.

With the offer by the BC Forest Service to increase the Kaslo and District Community Forest's annual allowable cut from 10,000 cubic metres to 25,000 cubic metres, there will be many more difficult decisions to make.

One of the first will be the definition of area based forestry. Some define it as taking fewer trees out of a larger area and eliminating clearcuts. Those that disagree point out that this would create more expensive forestry with less money available to distribute to the community. Nevertheless, with the larger annual allowable cut there will be more money overall.

Unfortunately this additional money will generate a renewed power struggle for control of the society and Wapple won't be there as a watch-dog to prevent it from going back to the days when some called it the Secret Forest Society.

Stronger guidelines will need to be in place to control the discretionary funding, possibly with a model similar to the Columbia Basin Trust, but without the top-heavy bureaucracy.

Various consultants and contractors will be drawn to this easy money to provide their expertise on how to manage our money — somehow, the end result is usually that it becomes their money.

We need to avoid that and this will become a job for a new board without Wapple. This was made clear by Shadrack at the last AGM when he lobbied to remove the RDCK appointed position.

So what took Shadrack so long to make his decision? Could it be that he made too many promises to get elected?

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Mayor should learn to listen

It is regrettable when you see a person take on an office and soon realize that you cannot reach them anymore.

It is then that there is the appearance of them speaking down to you like school teachers in charge of a bunch of unruly children. This gives the impression that they are not interested in what you wish to say because it is not on their agenda. A previous Mayor once told me that, he didn't like letters from the public because he didn't care what was written.

What a rude attitude. I would hope that this council is not going to head in that direction. In the past, Kaslo council had made the process open for questions after the meetings from the public so that they could get answers. Now the impression is that Mayor Holland doesn't want this anymore. That effectively takes away our right to free speech and freedom of information. Perhaps the Mayor could take a lesson from the past USA president, Ronald Reagan. He was constantly referred to as, "The Great Communicator" for obvious reasons. You need to listen more and respond in a respectful manner.

What ever happened to your pre-election promises, and I quote: "Your mayor needs to have reliable stable communication skills." "Capacity to absorb ideas and inputs from all individuals of the community and incorporate those ideas into the needs of the whole." "Represent all villagers in a clear concise manner in order to be effective in communicating their needs and experiences to upper levels of government." And, your most important quote: "Your mayor needs to have very big ears; Not a very big mouth."

Please, take note that articles recently in the Nelson newspaper, where the Nelson city council expresses the desire to put more emphasis on public participation at regular council meetings.

Kaslo council should adopt the same process. After all, these are public meetings and therefore we have the right to ask questions and/or offer suggestions in the running of the village and how you spend our tax dollars.

The first meeting of this new council in December of 2005 was a travesty. The conduct of the mayor was shameful. The letter from Larry Braley in The Valley Voice of December 14, 2005 also expressed this with shock. By all means an apology is in order. However, thoughts expressed in Will Webster's letter in The Valley Voice, January 18, 2006 , indicate that the public will probably never see it, which is sad. It should be a public apology.

Remember, your honour, Mayor Holland, that you only received 199 votes out of 750 eligible residents which is a far cry from a landslide. There is much to learn while sitting in the Mayor's chair... Listening is one of them.

Many Kudos to Larry Braley and Will Webster.

Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

Benefits to Kaslo through community forest in jeopardy

I would like to respond to some of Mayor Jim Holland's comments about the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society.

Mr Holland asks why should we not have faith that council will make the very best decision for an appointee to the community forest board in the interests of the community. It is obvious to me that there is personal bias (even animosity) against Barry Rempel among some of the council members. The Mayor did not vote for Barry, yet he lavishes praise on the "outstanding job" that both Ken Wapple and Barry Rempel have done. If they have done such a fantastic job, why would you swap them out for people that will likely never be able to match their performance and with no practical experience with log sales and operations?

Mayor Holland speaks of a "win-win" situation if the KDCFS decides to hire Barry and Ken to carry out the important function of business managing. What kind of idiot dumps high value free expertise and then advocates hiring them back with what would be a substantial salary?! Is this same logic to be expected of our mayor in operating the business of the Village? YIKES!!!

As for disbursment policy, Mr Holland is under the impression that the society doesn't have one. Had he inquired, he would learn there has been a strong policy as to awarding funding to different organizations from the very beginning. This policy was the brainchild of Barry Rempel and has been improved upon with every additional round of disbursals.

Holland seems to think that there is no transparency to the disbursal process. Let me say that there is an open discussion within the disbursal committee as to the merits of each and every funding request that is submitted. There are occasionally some that are dubious or frivilous — we do not feel that "make work" projects should be subsidized with what belongs to this community. And yes, we do give certain organizations like the library and seniors hall, as well as others, ongoing monies as we support these organizations fully.

Some of the present board members are worried that the same group from the past will be re-installed on the board and that will be the end of productive returns for this community. The community forest needs authentic in-the-business people who really know what they are doing to operate this license, to oversee the contracts and the hired help with a critical eye. I am scared that the "goose that lays the golden eggs" is very much in jeopardy!

I think that I can state the sentiments of many of the present board members that if the community does not support what we have achieved in the last two years as we said we would do, then we will resign and let whatever take over. You get what you settle for.

I must say that I am very proud to have been a part of this community forest board that has contributed nearly $700,000 to the community just like we declared we would!

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

Going to hell?

In the Jan. 18 *Valley Voice*, Ron Bowman of Kaslo makes several sanctimonious statements in his letter "Victimhood". He takes issue with E. deBoer's Dec. 14 letter, and then purports to quote "the word of God" to justify his bigotry toward gay people by citing Leviticus, Romans and Genesis. Leaving aside that Bowman is quoting from one *interpretation* of a book written by men who *claimed* to be recording the words of an *alleged* "god", what on earth does that have to do with the civil laws of Canada? Is Bowman inferring that Canada ought to have a theocracy, rather than a democracy?

If so, I would hasten to point out to him that if we are going to base our laws on a 2,000 year-old, heavily edited and abridged book — even a god needs editors, I guess — there are a lot of other things he'd better concern himself with, rather than who someone else chooses to love. For instance, did you know you're going to hell if you: • eat fruit from a tree less than five years old. [Leviticus 19:23-25]; • cross-breed animals. [Leviticus 19:19]; • grow two different kinds of plants in your field. [Leviticus 19:19]; • wear a cotton-polyester blend T-shirt. [Leviticus 19:19]; • read your horoscope. [Leviticus 19:26]; • consult a psychic. [Leviticus 19:31]; • cut your hair. [Leviticus 19:27]; • trim your beard. [Leviticus 19:27]; • are tattooed [Leviticus 19:28]; • plant or harvest crops for more than seven consecutive years. [Leviticus 25:4, Exodus 23: 10-13]; • bear a grudge. [Leviticus 19:18]; • collect interest on a loan. [Exodus 22:25]; • insult a leader. [Exodus 22:28]; • mistreat a foreigner. [Exodus 22:21, 23:9]; • spread false rumors. [Exodus 23:1]; or even drive a Mercury. [Exodus 23:13].

I would also point out that for the handful of so-called "admonitions" regarding gay people, there are hundreds more "thou shalt nots" targeted at straight people. Does this mean "god" hates straight people? Or perhaps it simply means they bear much closer watching than gay people?

As Trudeau once noted, "the state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation." I would add, neither does Ron Bowman.

R.N. Riley
Rosebery

Seniors financial survival

by Craig Lawrence

Are you a senior living on limited resources? Is making ends meet becoming more of a challenge? Are you on the verge of retirement and wanting to get some direction through the maze of options you see out there?

The Slocan Valley Recreation Commission will host *Seniors Financial Survival* on February 9 at the Passmore Lodge at 1:30 p.m. The program is hosted by well-known certified financial planner, Deb Bayoff. Bayoff will share tools with seniors on how to maximize their after-tax income, assist in estate planning and take a good look at simple actions to give you peace of financial mind.

It's a timely program that promises to give seniors ideas and the much needed confidence to deal with the ever-changing world around them.

Admission for the afternoon is a food bank donation item. If interested in attending please contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008 by February 6..

APOLOGY

The Valley Voice apologizes for printing a letter in the January 18, 2006 issue entitled "Puppies killed in Silverton." Neither the RCMP nor the SPCA have received any reports of any such incident occurring in Silverton.

We are very sorry for any alarm caused by publishing the letter, and for any other consequence printing the letter may have had.

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Silverton council, January 24: Silverton Inn owners ask to buy Village land

by Jan McMurray

•Larry Murrell from the Silverton Heritage Country Inn attended as a delegation. He would like to purchase a piece of Village property that shows on maps as a portion of First Street. The property sits between the hotel and a block of four lots that Murrell also owns. The hotel's patio sits on the Village property in question, and the hotel's overhang that encroaches six feet onto the Village property is grandfathered. The hotel's septic lines are under First Street.

"The whole thing is a can of worms for the hotel, so we'd like to clear it up by purchasing First Street," said Murrell.

Murrell has plans to put six condominiums on the block of four lots he owns beside the hotel and would like to put in a treatment plant for the development. "Regardless of whether or not we put up the condos, we would like to buy the property to clear up the land titles," he said.

As this is a land issue, council will discuss it *in camera*.

•In his report, Mayor Everett thanked councillors for all their hard work. "I don't think people realize how much time you are putting in," he said.

•Mayor Everett gave an update on the amalgamation of the Silverton and New Denver fire departments. He said that in practise, the two departments were working as one and the hope was to finalize the arrangement by the end of March. He said New Denver had done some budgeting work and that the Silverton department's existing debt would not be carried forward into the joint agreement. As requested by New Denver, council passed a resolution to proceed with the negotiations regarding the amalgamation of the fire departments.

•Council passed a resolution consenting to the RDCK board adopting the bylaw to include a portion of Area A in the Kootenay Lake West Transit service area. Councillor Bell explained that this was in relation to the new upcoming bus service to Trail. She also expressed her concern that the service does not contribute to the growth of our communities, as it does not encourage people to come to New Denver or Nakusp for medical services.

Bell also reported on highlights of the January 21 RDCK meeting: staff will explore options to curtail indoor marijuana growing in the district; the Administration and Finance committee will continue working on a Regional Initiative Fund; Josh Smienk was nominated as the RDCK representative to the Columbia Basin Trust board until March 2007.

•Councillor Griffiths reported that she attended a training session hosted by the Area H Emergency Preparedness Committee on January 21 in Slocan. She also expressed concern about the amalgamation of the New Denver and Silverton fire departments when the Village of New Denver had opted out of this Area H emergency program.

•Councillor Laktin reported that she and some volunteers had moved shelving out of the former Free Store and into the Book Exchange space at Silverton Building Supplies. They had also done some painting. She was very appreciative of volunteer help from Cheryl and Bert Butchart.

•Administrator Junko Ida reported that appointments to the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission were, by policy, the regional district director with the mayor as alternate. Council had appointed Councillor Provan as alternate, so this was changed. Councillor Bell is the Village representative on the commission, with Mayor Everett as alternate.

•The week of February 20-26 was proclaimed Heritage Week. Councillor Provan reported that the Silverton Historical Society will host an open house at the interpretive centre from 1-4 pm on February 25.

•The Lucerne Writers Festival Committee wrote to ask for aid in the rental of the Silverton Memorial Hall for April 20 and 21. Council asked staff to contact the committee for clarification of the request.

•Council decided to invite the RDCK board to hold its June 24 meeting in Silverton.

CORRECTION

In the Silverton council notes published in our January 18 issue, we reported that council increased water rates to offset the repayment of the loans for the water system and breakwater. In fact, the increase only applies to the loan for the water system.

DENVER SIDING WATER USERS
BOIL WATER NOTICE

Denver Siding Water Users are reminded that the BOIL WATER NOTICE remains in effect. As the water does not meet Safe Drinking Water Standards, the Drinking Water Protection Officer recommends that water users boil their water for at least 1 minute for purposes of human consumption.

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WED. FEB 15, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
SILVERTON MEMORIAL HALL
SPONSORED BY THE HEALTHY HOUSING COMMITTEE IN NEW DENVER

Sandon Snow Day - Feb 11

submitted

Winter may be elusive in the lower elevations but in Sandon it's time to celebrate the season. Saturday, February 11 is Upper Sandon Snow Day, from 11 am to 5 pm. Sandon has lots of snow!

Organizers promise a day of outdoor fun: dust off your sleds, toboggans, slide carpets and cross-country skis or just come, have lunch and socialize. Cross-country skiing tracks will be groomed (courtesy of the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission).

There will be bonfires, marshmallows to toast, games and contests for the kids, so bring the whole family and shake off the winter blues.

A hot lunch and hot beverages will be available. Come and join members of the Silver Ridge Community Club, Sandon Historical Society and community volunteers for a great day in the snow.

Rail trail day brings out the best

submitted

They came by ski, horse, snowshoe and foot to the second annual *Day on the Trail* event held recently north of Perrys Siding on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Over 100 people ranging in age from seven months to 70+ years, came out during the afternoon to enjoy the trail that is now being groomed and trackset by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society.

"It was a fantastic afternoon," says Craig Lawrence, vice-president of the SVHTS. "Many times we looked down the trail and there was just a stream of people coming towards us. What a rewarding feeling it was! The increased accessibility, the happy faces, the positive comments and enjoyment that the groomed trail allows everyone to enjoy is amazing. We've taken another big step towards our goal of having a year round recreational facility running right through us all."

Much of the credit for the trail being groomed and trackset from Winlaw north goes to Clarke Smith, whose extensive background with park trail systems and trail grooming has been invaluable. Smith volunteered his expertise and equipment as well as rebuilding the Alpine snowmobile being used for much of the work. As well, thanks goes to Krispen Elder, who built his own groomer (aka 'the bunker') in short order and has been running it up and down the trail, and to Peter Leach for packing snow and Dennis Stefaniuk for digging out road crossings.

The SVHTS hopes to keep the north end of the valley groomed as snow allows and may head to points south if the opportunity presents itself. Their hope is that by next winter a valley-long grooming program will be in place.

For more information visit at www.svrt.ca. There's always room for more people to get involved.

The second annual Day on the Trail event was held January 22, north of Perrys Siding on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

New Denver council, January 24: Creative solution to taxation for Selkirk College Chair

by Leah Main

•The RDCK has asked New Denver and all communities on the west side of Kootenay Lake to contribute tax dollars for five years toward the Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development Research.

The Province has offered Selkirk College a $1.25 million matching grant to establish an endowment fund that will pay for the Chair position in perpetuity. The college, in its efforts to raise its share of the funds, approached the RDCK as well as many other groups. Funds have been conditionally committed to the college by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, the cities of Castlegar and Nelson, the credit unions, the Columbia Basin Trust and others.

The annual RDCK contribution would be the lesser of $41,000 or $1.60 per $100,000 of assessed property value. To raise $41,000 from all communities west of Kootenay Lake, the estimated contribution from New Denver is $395. From New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H together, the estimated amount is approximately $4200.

Because New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Area H residents already contribute tax dollars to economic development through the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC), Mayor Wright suggested that SVEDC taxation be reduced by the $4200 to offset the taxation for the Selkirk College Chair. This proposal was brought to the SVEDC meeting of January 27, where it was agreed to for 2006.

Before council consents to the taxation, Mayor Wright will meet with Selkirk College representatives for more information on how the Chair position will benefit our area.

•Council confirmed its approval of a contribution of up to $4,050 to go toward a Canadian office for the Selkirk Loop. The money will come from the Community Tourism Program grant of $15,000.

•Councillor Bunka reported that the Knox Hall oil furnace had been fixed but recommended investigating "green" funding through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to replace the oil furnace with a cleaner technology. She said it is becoming increasingly difficult to get oil furnaces serviced.

•The Parks Committee is doing a review of public amenities, including camping sites, Carpenter Creek trail access and playground equipment.

•A representative from council will attend a March 15 meeting with RCMP Inspectors Wilson and Curtain, who are conducting a tour of our policing area and wish to discuss community concerns or issues with local government representatives.

•Councillor Greensword agreed to attend the January 31 Connecting Communities Forum on broadband on behalf of council.

•A written complaint was received regarding noise generated by Don Wocknitz welding at his home, and expressing concern that he is operating an inappropriate business in a residential area. Administrator Gordon has spoken with Wocknitz, and is satisfied both that he is not running a business and that he will make every effort to comply with the Village's noise bylaw.

•Councillor Greensword reported that she has been looking into winter festivals in other municipalities across the country and would like to see such an event in New Denver. Council agreed to explore the possibility for the future, as it could be a good fundraising activity for community associations.

•Council granted Norbert Duerichen and Julia Greenlaw an extension until April 20 to move their goats outside of Village boundaries. By this time, the two pregnant goats will have given birth and can be safely moved.

Slocan River Streamkeepers

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday February 28
7:00 pm
Vallican Heritage Hall

It's a new season! Come out, renew your membership or join up, and help us set our priorities!

Contact Tom Bradley at 226-7792 for more information.

Central Kootenay Regional District

SOUTH SLOCAN WATER USERS
BOIL WATER NOTICE

South Slocan water users are reminded that the BOIL WATER NOTICE remains in effect. As the water does not meet Safe Drinking Water Standards, the Drinking Water Protection Officer recommends that water users boil their water for at least 1 minute for purposes of human consumption.

Public road access in Sandon area not in jeopardy

by Jan McMurray

A rumour that a land sale is in progress in Sandon that involves a large area of public lands and significant portions of public roads is "emphatically incorrect," according to Andrew Whale of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

"It is a small area of land that excludes roads. We don't sell roads," said Whale.

MLA Corky Evans says people have contacted him with concerns about the rumour and that he too had received assurances from the Ministry. "They informed me that the sale of Crown land never closes off public access, but I asked them to check that for me in this particular sale," said Evans. "So I expect a more legal position from Lands on this in the near future."

There are currently two parties negotiating land tenures with the Ministry — Silversmith Power and Light Co. and the Tin Cup Cafe. The rumour relates to the sale of land to Silversmith.

Area H Director Don Munro reports that the RDCK is interested in starting a community planning process for Sandon, and is looking into the possibilities of heritage site and regional park status in the townsite. He also said the RDCK was drafting a letter to the Ministry requesting that a reserve be placed on land in Sandon.

Slocan council, January 18: Skatepark land issues unresolved

by Don Currie

•At the request of Community School representative Corie Traenenburg, council revisited land issues around the skatepark project.

The original plan was to transfer the land designated for the park from the school district to the Village. However, under provincial law, school districts can no longer transfer land, but must sell it at market value.

This puts into question council's ability to insure the facility. Councillor Gates was adamant that council cannot insure a facility that the Village does not own. He recommended it be relocated to Village owned property.

Administrator Ludlow advised council that there would have to be a referendum on the issue since it not only involves the cost of insurance but also the cost of maintaining the facility, a requirement for insurance.

Traenenburg said that school board representative Bruce McCann was interested in doing whatever was necessary see the project move forward. Council agreed to meet with the Community School skatepark committee members and McCann to sort out the problems.

•Corie Traenenberg asked for an explanation of the doubling of water rates. He expressed concern that an annual bill would be a hardship for people on low income and would mean they would not be eligible for a discount.

Administrator Ludlow said that no water user would pay more than any other, but a discount was available to those who paid on time as an incentive to pay bills promptly. She explained that while water rates had increased from 33 cents per day to 66 cents per day, the water frontage tax imposed in 1982 was now discharged. As a result, most water users will pay per year approximately the same as in the past. Ludlow said that water users were not required to pay yearly and could pay on any schedule they wished. She urged any resident requiring information to come to the Village office.

•Works foreman Jerry Simmons was authorized by Council to estimate the costs of completing the washroom and lunchroom facilities in the new works building. Simmons reported that staff had constructed one new bus stop and another two would be completed shortly.

•Fire Chief Tim Hill reported that department volunteers had fallen from 16 to 12 due to members moving out of town for work. A drive for more volunteers is underway. An emergency response training course for 10 volunteers was organized.

•During question period Jean Patterson asked why there were so many office workers and what were they paid. Administrator Eunice Ludlow said that Village administrations, regardless of size, required a Clerk/Administrator and two part-time employees. Due to illness, office staff was down to the Clerk/Administrator and one part-time worker. Part-time employees were paid $12.65 per hour.

•Sabine Wolters-Garthe attended council on the advice of RDCK building inspector Max Hoedeman to discuss a stop work order on the construction of a roof over a walkway at the entrance to her home. The house was constructed in 1901 and was grandfathered to allow for its present road encroachment, a common problem for many buildings in Slocan. Wolters-Garthe said she constructed the roof for safety reasons. She offered to dismantle it and rebuild the structure to code if council would consider a variance to allow it to be built to the property line. Council reaffirmed that the structure would have to be dismantled but agreed to consult with the building inspector first and then consider a variance.

•Council agreed to meet bi-weekly instead of monthly. Bi-weekly meetings will commence February 1.

Slocan council, December 14

by Don Currie

•Council responded to a request from the Women's Institute (WI) for funds to upgrade the aging and unsafe heritage site building. Council suggested the WI consider sharing the Silvery Slocan Hall with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch until council can make the necessary repairs. Council will make application for funding from Heritage Canada to refurbish the building.

•Councillor Gates reported that the Slocan fire department had received a used ambulance and was in compliance with the requirement that a medical emergencies vehicle be on site when the fire department attended a fire. The ambulance has been refurbished, registered and licensed for use. The fire department now has a pumper, tender and ambulance in its fleet. Council agreed to a request from Riondel fire Department to lease the old fire engine for $200 per month until Riondel can acquire its own.

•Council tabled a request by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society for a $400 donation for grooming the trail for use by cross country skiers and hikers. Councillor Ellis reported that the Rec Commission was seeking volunteers who may own older snowmobiles to assist with trail grooming. The cross country set track is a proving to be a hit with local skiers.

•Doris Mercer, chair of the canine committee, reported that there was more compliance with the Village bylaw requiring dogs to be on leash. Eunice Ludlow reported that the bylaw control officer had issued warnings to dog owners. Council is moving ahead with the construction of a dog impound facility.

•Council appointed Margaret Markovic as Slocan representative on the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission and Councillors Joanne Ellis and Madeleine Perriere to the Recreation Commission.

Valentine's Special

3 days at Lemon Creek Lodge

Saturday, February 11
Sunday, February 12
&
Tuesday, February 14

featuring the music of "Two for Trippin"

Call 355-2403 or Toll-free 1-877-970-8090 for more information about our menu.

Reservations only please

JL LEMON CREEK LODGE and RESTAURANT

British Columbia Co-operative Association

The Slocan Social Co-ops Forum, presented by the BC Co-operative Association (BCCA), the Slocan Valley Co-operative Association and the Circle of Habondia Lending Society will be held on:

February 22 at the W.E.Graham School in Slocan from 7 pm to 9 pm.

The Forum will include an overview of co-operative enterprises, BCCA's video Civilizing the Economy: Social Co-ops and Social Care, and discussions about emerging social co-ops in the region. The event is free but pre-registration is appreciated.

Phone Laverne Booth at 250-226-7879 or email laverne@netidea.com to register.

SVEDC wants to assess the marketing of tourism-related businesses

Anyone with any connection to the tourism industry—or not—is invited to a meeting at Silverton Memorial Hall February 7.

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission, with the co-sponsorship of Slocan District Chamber of Commerce, wanted to assess the effectiveness of current marketing by and for tourism-related businesses in our community. One of the ways they did it was similar to 'undercover shoppers' hired by retailers—a look at the community through the eyes of a first-time visitor .

A consulting company called Destination Development assigned two people to plan a trip to this general area. They had no idea what specific community they were to assess, (in this case, the community is Slocan, Silverton, New Denver and area), and were instructed to plan a trip just as any visitor would with no preconceived notions of where to go. They were given some general guidelines regarding the type of getaway they might be looking for—for example, family fun. They used whatever means they typically would in planning a getaway or vacation—the Internet, AAA guidebooks and other privately produced guidebooks.

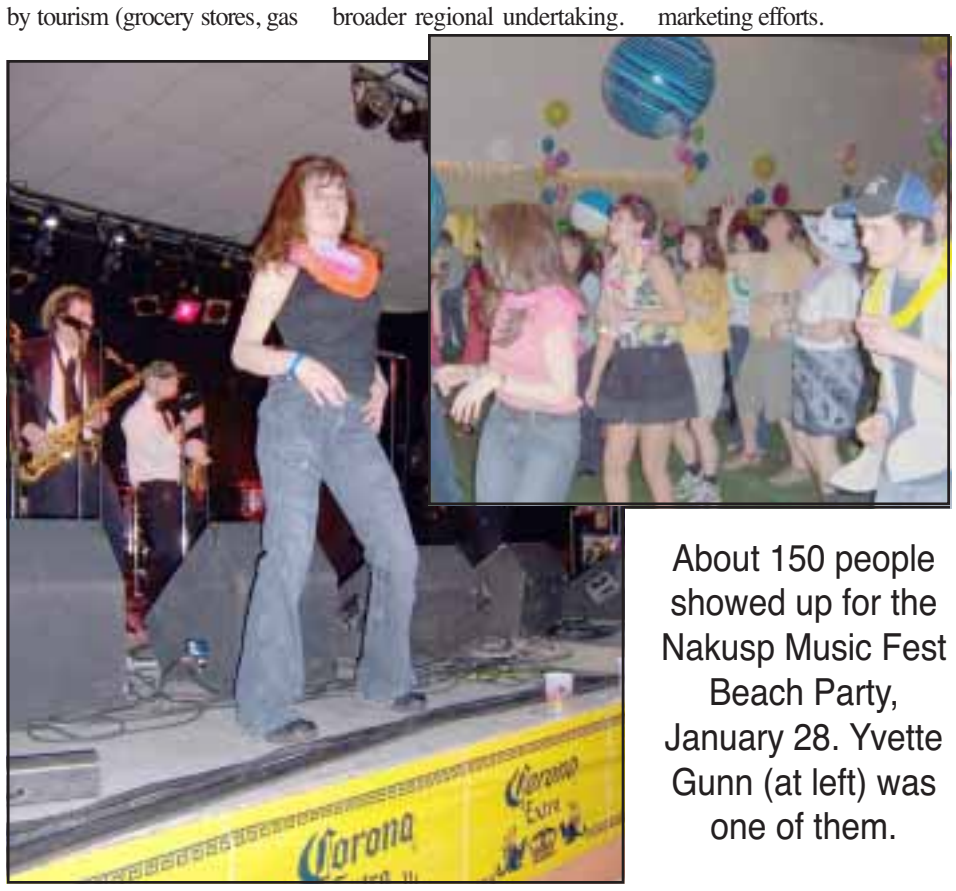
They call visitor information numbers and request information, and take notes and ask specific questions during the process. The idea is to determine the effectiveness of the community's marketing materials, taking into consideration seasonality issues, length of stay, etc. They will also take a professional look at marketing efforts: brochures, guides and printed materials, website(s), consumer and business marketing programs (e.g appearances at conferences and trade shows), to determine overall effectiveness.

The February 7 meeting will present the results of this investigation; organizers encourage people to discuss the role tourism plays in the local economy, and hope the meeting will lead to co-ordination of the varied marketing efforts undertaken by individual operators.

Representatives from all sectors are invited to participate in the discussion: local government officials and staff; tourism operators (hotels, motels, B&Bs, campgrounds, food service, gift shops, outdoor recreation guides, etc.); other business people who are affected by tourism (grocery stores, gas stations, retail stores, artists/artisans/craftspeople and entertainers, etc.); and, indeed, anyone who lives here

This assessment opportunity was made available through Community Futures and Western Economic Diversification, as part of a broader regional undertaking. WED is the major funder, with SVEDC contributing a small portion of the overall cost.

The assessment effort will be completed with a tourism assessment findings and suggestions report which includes information that will help increase our tourism marketing efforts.



About 150 people showed up for the Nakusp Music Fest Beach Party, January 28. Yvette Gunn (at left) was one of them.

CMH Galena would like to thank the following businesses for all their help with the installation of our hydro plant on Finkle creek:

- **Pope & Talbot, Nakusp:** Cam Leitch, Geoff Bekker, Len Stratton, Mike Harris, Mike Webster, and Adrian Dupuis
- **Fortech Forestry Consulting, Nakusp:** Don Johnson
- **R. Hopp Logging, Nakusp:** Russ Hopp and Bruce Command
- **Galena Contractors, Nakusp**: Shawn Fung and Doug Courage
- **Scarlett's Electric, Kaslo:** Don Scarlett and Ray Valentine
- **Revelstoke Equipment Rentals:** Trent Kapler and Gerry Cowley
- **Revelstoke Plumbing:** Wendy Kupser

CANADIAN MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS
CMH HELI-SKIING / CMH HELI-HIKING

www.CanadianMountainHolidays.com

Award-winning valley film to debut in Nelson

A Simple Curve, the award-winning first feature from writer/director Aubrey Nealon, will open at Nelson's Civic Theatre on February 3, the same day it will open in select cities across Canada, including Toronto and Vancouver.

Shot entirely on location in the Slocan Valley in the fall of 2004, the filmmakers were eager to have *A Simple Curve* open in Nelson.

"Not only was this film shot in the Slocan, it's a film proudly about the Slocan", says producer George Baptist. "We're very excited that the opening night audience will include the community that inspired the story."

The story is very personal to Nealon, who grew up in New Denver, and while not autobiographical, is an endearing reflection on life in this part of the world.

A Simple Curve premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2005, and won numerous awards.

On January 19, *A Simple Curve* was nominated for two Vancouver Film Critic Circle Awards, for Best British Columbian Feature Film and lead actor Kris Lemche is nominated for Best Actor in a Canadian Film. The winners of the sixth annual Critics award will be announced February 7.

A Simple Curve is an Idaho Peak Productions production, directed and written by Nealon and co-produced by Nealon, George Baptist and Lael McCall.

Micro-hydropower heats up CMH Heli-Skiing

submitted

The installation of a micro-hydro system at Galena Lodge has moved Canadian Mountain Holidays (CMH) one step closer to achieving its goal of being the leading sustainable tourism operator in North America.

CMH's Galena Lodge, located near Trout Lake, is one of the premier heli-ski destinations in the world and now one of only a handful of backcountry lodges in British Columbia using small-scale hydro technology. The new system relies on local resources—steep terrain and falling water—and is ideal for the area because all water used for power generation is returned to the creek above where it is needed by fish or other aquatic life. CMH worked closely with biologists Paul Seaton from Nakusp and Sylvie Masse from Nelson, along with provincial environment and federal fishery staff, to ensure the project met all federal fishery and provincial water quality and quantity requirements.

The hydro plant eliminates CMH's need for approximately 75,000 litres of diesel and 25,000 litres of propane on an annual basis, reducing the amount of CO_2 going into the atmosphere by 226 tonnes. By comparison, this is the same reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that would occur if 2,513 British Columbia households (with four people in each) changed all of their light bulbs from incandescent to energy-efficient fluorescent.

Galena staff first started investigating hydropower technology back in the early 90s but at the time it was not seen as a viable option. A second feasibility study was conducted in 2001 with favourable results, if CMH could create access to a very steep and remote portion of Finkle Creek. The Nakusp office of Pope and Talbot (P&T) was approached for support and their staff immediately stepped up to the plate to help out.

"The people at P&T were instrumental in helping us get our hydro plant installed at Galena," said Mike Welch, Galena Lodge manager. "From the very beginning they provided us with maps, information, field expertise, and were enthusiastic about making this project work. Without their support, the cost to gain access to the intake and powerhouse would have been too expensive. We eventually worked out a plan where P&T expedited the construction of a road that was already approved by government; this gave us the access we needed, when we needed it. We're really grateful for their help as well as the support we received from other local contractors. Don Scarlett, an engineer from Scarlett's Electric in Kaslo provided us with planning and engineering support throughout the project and R. Hopp Logging and Galena Contractors were also a big help. We couldn't have done it without them."

The total cost to install the micro hydro plant was approximately $500,000. At today's rates, CMH expect annual savings of around $70,000, and a seven-year payback period.

In 2004, CMH was awarded the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's Parks Canada Award for Sustainable Tourism, Tourism BC's Sustainable Tourism Award, and Travel Alberta's Alto Award for Responsible Tourism. As part of their on-going sustainability strategy, CMH continues to investigate other hydropower options and is engaged in a number of sustainability initiatives including wildlife management, energy conservation, recycling, composting, and community development projects.

Young Kaslo hockey players make the grade for BC Winter Games

Two young Kaslo hockey players have made Team Kootenay and will be playing in the BC Winter Games in Greater Trail February 24 and 25.

Amanda Turner & Cody Abbey have been chosen for Team Kootenay.

Of 50 young women who tried out, Amanda Turner was one of 18 chosen for the under 18 female team. Amanda plays on the Kaslo Midget House team and with the BC Outbacks (senior ladies AAA team). She also helps out with the Kaslo initiation program.

Cody Abbey joined 69 others to try out for the under 16 male team, and made it! Abbey is on the North Kootenay Falcon Bantam Rep team and helps out with the Kaslo Atoms.

Both Amanda and Cody have been involved with Kaslo Minor Hockey for a number of years. They would like to thank all the exective, coaches, trainers and volunteers for all their hard work.

Visit www.greatertrail2006.com for game schedules and more information.

Nakusp holds forum on seniors' issues

submitted

What activities and resources are available to Nakusp seniors? What is the latest on Halcyon Home? What about the Arrowtarian Phase 4 seniors housing project?

These questions and others are being asked in Nakusp. This has led to the planning of a community forum on seniors' issues which will review what is available for seniors and answer questions. Organized by Community Services with help from the Seniors Association and Community Co-ordinator Deb Austin, the forum will be held Friday, February 10 at 3 pm at the Seniors' Hall. Mayor Karen Hamling will emcee the event.

A panel of local service providers and organizations will tell you about their projects, services, activities and hopes for the future. Plans for Halcyon assisted living and Arrowtarian Phase 4 will be available for viewing.

Community members will have a chance to get information, ask questions, provide feedback, and mingle over coffee and tea. Elected representatives Area K director Paul Peterson, MLA Corky Evans and MP Jim Abbott have been invited to listen and participate.

If you are interested in, or affected by, seniors' issues, please attend. For more information, contact Laurie Page at 265-4542.

Writers Guild hosts coffee house

submitted

On Sunday, February 12th at 7pm, the Slocan Writers Guild will be hosting a Valentine's Day Coffee House at the Bosun Hall in New Denver.

Here is a chance to enjoy watching friends and neighbours bare their hearts in a celebration of love and nature. It is also a great opportunity to let loose some February cabin fever in a five- or ten-minute presentation of song, poetry, prose or drama. Draft friends to help with costumes, special effects, or to put on a skit.

The Slocan Lake Early Learning Society (New Denver Nursery School) will be providing coffee, teas and desserts. Presentations suited for a general family audience will be scheduled before the intermission. Those wishing to perform are asked to contact Carol Bell @ 358-2125, Don Law @ 358-2584 or Steve Lones @ 358-2775.

Admission is by donation, which will go towards the Stan Rowe Memorial writing award for Lucerne School grads.

Celebrate Spirit of BC Week in the Slocan Valley

submitted

It's smockey!

Where? In Slocan at the Loggers Sports field. Everyone from Summit Lake, New Denver, Silverton and Slocan is invited.

When? Saturday February 4, and like face-offs, it's at high noon. Bring your hockey sticks if you have them and have fun!

What is it? The event is part of the annual "Spirit of BC Week," which takes place throughout the province February 3-10. Spirit of BC Week offers communities a unique opportunity to join together and celebrate physical activity, literacy, arts and culture and volunteerism.

"This should be fun and it won't matter if it's snowing, raining or sunny," says Slocan Valley 2010 Committee Chair Bonnie Greensword. "There's a flag raising cermony, Spirit of BC pins, balloons, tattoos, hot cocoa, cake and games for everyone young at heart."

There's even a "Show Your Spirit Contest" for finding innovative ways to display the Spirit of BC logo. Show your spirit by developing a unique art project that creates a gigantic Spirit of 2010 logo. Saturday's gathering will showcase the unique ways the Spirit of BC logo can be worn or otherwise displayed. How about a Spirit of 2010 BC mascot for a day? Pictures will be taken and submitted to 2010 Legacies Now, where they will be judged for originality and innovativeness. The three winning pictures from throughout participating BC communities that best demonstrate the true Spirit of BC will be published in the Canada Place newspaper in Torino during the 2006 Olympic Winter Games as well as on the Spirit of BC and 2010 Legacies Now websites.

Spirit of BC

Free showing of the film *Being Caribou*

Two young Canadians follow a herd of 120,000 barren-ground caribou on foot, across 1,500 km of rugged Arctic tundra. They let the caribou guide them through a wild and remote landscape, from the central Yukon to coastal Alaska and back.

During the five-month journey, they ski and hike across mountains, swim icy rivers, brave Arctic weather and endure hordes of mosquitoes. They survive an encounter with a hungry grizzly bear that forces them to reconcile what it means to be a part of true wilderness. Hunger, fatigue and pain become routine, but the sacrifice is worth it when they witness the miracle of birth just metres from their tent.

Dramatic footage and video diaries provide an intimate perspective of an epic expedition. The film is 73 minutes long and is being shown free of charge courtesy of the Mountain Caribou Project.

The film will be shown February 4 at 7 pm at the Nakusp Legion lower club room (access via office door), and on February 11 at 7 pm at the Knox Hall in New Denver. Contact Lawrence Redfern at 365-5350 or lawrenceredfern@hotmail.com for more information, to confirm seats, or to arrange a viewing in your community.

Share the love with Kootenay Dancebeat

Kootenay Dancebeat's next evening of fun celebrates Valentine's Day, and dancers are requested to 'share the love!' by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Nelson Food Bank.

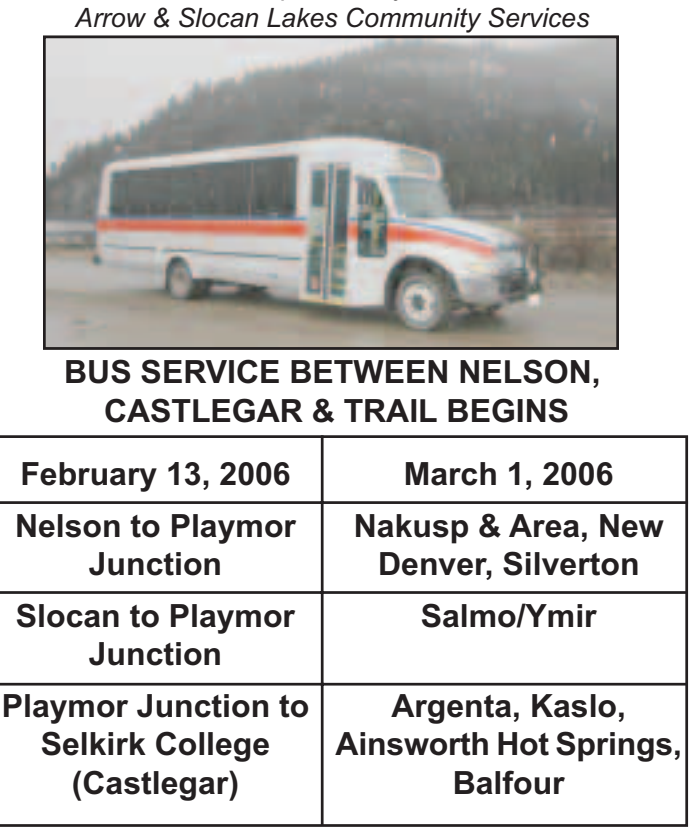
The dance event takes place February 11 at the Playmor Hall in South Slocan. While participants are enjoying themselves on the dance floor and sampling delectable edibles, they can also be contributing to those less fortunate.

The evening gets underway at 7:30 with a free mini-lesson in West Coast Swing by Nelson dance instructor Simon Earl. After that, a good mix of Latin, swing, country and smooth will be played until 11 p.m. with spot dances, door prizes and mixers to add to the fun.

Bring your sweetheart, along with your single pals and local newcomers plus your non-perishable food item, and dance away those remaining eggnog inches and those light-deprived blues.

Admission is $8/members, $10/non-members at the door.

Check out www.dancingbeat.org for details about the February 18 waltz and foxtrot workshops with Michael Wiebe of Calgary.



or, "Get a Grip on Yourself"

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

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

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

The Bus **→ CENTRAL KOOTENAY TRANSIT**
Operated by
Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services

BUS SERVICE BETWEEN NELSON, CASTLEGAR & TRAIL BEGINS

February 13, 2006	March 1, 2006
Nelson to Playmor Junction	Nakusp & Area, New Denver, Silverton
Slocan to Playmor Junction	Salmo/Ymir
Playmor Junction to Selkirk College (Castlegar)	Argenta, Kaslo, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Balfour

Adjustments have been made to regular bus schedules in all communities to accommodate connection to Castlegar/Trail. Please enquire how these changes may affect your bus schedule.

For more information call: 1-877-843-2877

Funded by: Interior Health, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, & BC Transit

Nakusp council, January 26: Library asks for help with expansion project

by Jan McMurray

•Evelyn Goodell, librarian at the Nakusp Public Library, attended as a delegation to speak about the expansion project. The library is applying for a Job Creation Partnership grant, which requires the library to have a partner. Goodell asked the Village to take on that role.

To be a partner, the Village has to contribute to the project in some way, be it in kind, with materials and/or with financial support. The library identified three items on the builder's quote to suggest as possible contributions from the Village. They are: dump/disposal fees including truck bin rental ($1800); flooring ($10,100) and an electrical upgrade (estimated $13,000).

Council did not make a decision on this at the meeting.

Goodell said that the library had saved $70,480 since 1993 for the expansion project, and acknowledged the Columbia Basin Trust grant it received with the largest number of votes from community members. She listed several grants they had researched to find out that the library was not eligible. Goodell also acknowledged the Village's considerate and generous ongoing support for the library.

"We think that your helping us would meet with the approval of residents who would be proud and thankful to the Village," she said. "Our mission is to provide quality materials and services which fulfill the educational, informational and recreational needs of the community in an atmosphere that is respectful, business-like and welcoming. We ask your help to do this and thank you for your help through the years."

•The RDCK asked Nakusp and all communities west of Kootenay Lake to contribute tax dollars towards the Selkirk College Regional Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development Research.

Council consented to the tax for Nakusp residents. It will be at most $0.016 cents per thousand of assessed property value, or $1.60 for a property assessed at $100,000, and will be collected for five years only.

Councillor Dahlen expressed some reservation about participating in the program because it was not crystal clear to her how the Chair would benefit Nakusp. Her understanding is that the Chair would establish a library that would help communities with their economic development. She also acknowledged that having the satellite Selkirk College in Nakusp was beneficial.

Councillor Mueller spoke in favour of participating, reminding council that it had previously passed a motion of support in principle for the service. "I think it could be a great thing for all the communities," she said.

Selkirk College was offered a $1.25 million matching grant from the Province to set up an endowment fund to pay for the Chair's position. In its efforts to raise its $1.25 million, the College approached the RDCK.

Funds for the Chair have been committed by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, the cities of Castlegar and Nelson, the credit unions, the Columbia Basin Trust and other private sector partners. George Penfold is the Regional Chair holder nominee.

•Spirit of BC Week (February 3-10) and Heart and Stroke Month (February) were proclaimed for 2006.

•Mayor Hamling will attend the Council of Forest Industries (COFI) Convention in Kelowna in April. COFI has generously offered to pay for the mayor's registration fee and for her hotel accommodation for the two nights. The Village will pay for her mileage and other expenses.

•The February 9 regular council meeting was cancelled as it conflicts with the seminar for newly elected officials being held in Nelson.

•Council moved to support a resolution made by the City of Coquitlam regarding RCMP funding arrangements. The resolution discourages downloading of policing costs onto municipalities.

•Council voted to send a letter supporting the North Shore Women's Centre's efforts to restore funding to women's centres in the province.

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Let Toastmasters take the fear out of public speaking

The fear of speaking before an audience, even a very small one, is regularly ranked as one of the top fears in life. But it doesn't have to be!

For more than 80 years, Toastmasters clubs around the world have been helping people improve their communication skills in a fun, supportive, and non-intimidating environment. Even if you don't ever aspire to be a professional speaker, effective communication is a vital skill, both in personal and career development. And with the new Arrow Lakes Toastmasters Club, it's no longer necessary to travel long distances to find a supportive environment in which to practice and strengthen your communication skills.

"The club only started last fall," says club coach and president Linda Kendall, who has been involved with Toastmasters since 1997, "but I am really impressed by the improvement I've already seen in each of our members."

The Arrow Lakes Toastmasters Club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, from 7 pm to 9 pm, at Selkirk College in Nakusp.

"We're off to a really great start," says club secretary Marilyn Rivers, "but we do need more members. We believe that Toastmasters has a lot to offer, and if people want to see this club continue and thrive, now is the time to come out and support it."

Club meetings are workshops where members work, at their own pace, from a manual of ten speech projects. Each of these speech projects, generally five to seven minutes in length, focuses on different aspects of speaking and members build on what they have learned in previous projects.

Members are asked to give written evaluations to speakers, noting strengths and offering suggestions for improvement. With encouraging and supportive feedback, club members quickly learn to speak with confidence, enthusiasm, and clarity.

To learn more about the Toastmasters organization and its benefits, visit www.toastmasters.org. In this area, in addition to the Nakusp club, there are also clubs in Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, and Revelstoke.

The Arrow Lakes Toastmasters Club will meet February 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12 and 26. For more information, Kendall can be reached at 265-3458.

Jesse McDonald and Carly Thorp at the top of the race before their final heats.

First place for Nakusp snowboarder

by Allison Alder

Nakusp's Jesse McDonald cinched first place with a dramatic photo finish in the closest heat of the BC Snowboard Association's snowboard cross at Big White, January 22.

Stepping up to FIS-level racing this year, both McDonald and Carly Thorp qualified in individual time trials to advance to the semi-final heats where boarders race four at a time down a course full of berms (banked turns), rollers, step-up jumps and straights. McDonald earned a place in the finals, racing for the top four positions against Ellie Richards of the New Zealand national team, Natasha McCormick of the BC snowboard team, and Chelsie Mitchell of the First Nations' Riders.

After the favoured New Zealand rider had a sit-down on the second berm, McCormick chased McDonald with a vengeance, catching her on the hefty step-up jump on the bottom third of the course. The two raced neck-and-neck toward the finish line, with McCormick pushing the younger, smaller McDonald the whole way. McDonald was determined and pumped hard on the last set of rollers to pull ahead to victory.

Thrilled, the 15-year-old sponsored by Alley Health and Fitness of Nakusp and assisted by Free Spirit Sports of Revelstoke, said, "I'm so happy with my finish; that girl was so close, I could feel her next to me. I can't wait till next race!"

With Thorp's semifinal results, she moved on to the consolation finals, competing for the fifth to eighth positions. The four stiff competitors from teams in both Alberta and BC jostled it out all the way down the course. Thorp, a 16-year-old rider in her second season of snowboard cross racing with the Summit Lake Racers, brought home a respectable seventh place finish.

Both Thorp and McDonald will accumulate valuable FIS (Fédération Internationale de Ski) points from this event; FIS points are tabulated for skiers and snowboarders to determine who will compete on provincial and national teams and attend national and international events. Each girl hopes to earn a berth to Nationals this year.

"With performances like these, these girls have a real shot at the Canadian top 20 this year," says coach Tim Markholm.

Alex Thorp competed in the 13-14 year old category against a field of gnarly riders from BC and Alberta. Out of the start gates, Thorp edged out his opponents on the first set of rollers in both his heats, but was later dogged by the icy second berm causing him to fall back to an overall fifth place finish.

Jessica Hogg competed in the 19+ ladies category, and, after two solid heats, took a nasty tumble as her board chattered in the rough at the end of first berm. She brought home a fourth place finish.

On February 5, Summit Lake Racers' 8-12 year old skiers race at Whitewater, while FIS snowboarders head to Banff to compete in slalom and giant slalom events.

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)

Wood Fire Pizza N'more

Valentines Menu

Early Reservations recommended

Complementary Glass of Campari/Orange

Starters:
Soup: Cream of Broccoli
Salad: Harvest Green with our homemade orange dressing

Main Course:
your choice of:
8 oz. Steak/Lobster Tail $ 30.00
Gems and Veggies

or

Chicken Breast Melba $ 27.00
Spätzle and Veggies

Dessert:
Vanilla Ice Cream with hot Raspberry Sauce

3 different kinds of German beer on tap
and a variety of red or white Wines are available!

For Reservations call: 265-0060

Interior Health officials meet in Edgewood on Outpost hospital

by Penelope Dewar

EDGEWOOD—January's meeting between Edgewood and area locals and Interior Health (IH) officials was the first opportunity for direct communication about the Outpost hospital controversy.

In mid December, management of the hospital was transferred to IH from the Red Cross. Locals are concerned that this change could lead to cuts in a service that has been a vital and important part of the community since 1947. There is a commitment that until March 2007, the facility will be operated as is.

"It was a non event meeting," says IH community administrator in Nakusp, Deborah Austin, describing it as an opportunity to "look at the building, meet a few people, introduce ourselves, and go through a few concerns."

The local residents expected more. "The meeting was rather inconclusive," says Fauquier resident Robert Shiell, whose family regularly uses the Edgewood facility. He was disappointed that "there was no commitment to maintaining levels as they are."

"They didn't say much and committed to nothing," says Edgewood Community Club President Robert Murray. "We wanted them to commit to not changing the service without talking to us."

Area K Director Paul Peterson, who is concerned about what will happen after 2007, asks: "What is the safety net for Edgewood if they close the hospital?"

"I have no doubt that the clinic will continue to exist," says Austin. "That [closing the hospital] is not an option. But I can't guarantee that it won't look different. That doesn't mean it will be substandard care. All of health care is changing."

For the moment, Austin is concerned about the hospital's almost $85,000 deficit. "I need to try to find out why," she says. "I want to make sure that the way we deliver the support there is the most effective."

She reports that a receptionist is now working at the hospital, "to answer the phone, fill out paperwork, do ordering — things a nurse shouldn't have to do. Perhaps a nurse and a clerk will accomplish as much as two nurses."

To improve the level of service in Edgewood, Austin is looking into remote site health opportunities, such as "Telehealth." This would give the nurse a videoconferencing link with appropriate physicians for specific care direction. She describes this award-winning computerized electronic service as an example of the "advantages to belonging to IH."

"We want to supply the best rural health care in BC," Austin concludes, adding that there will be many more discussion opportunities. The next meeting date has not yet been confirmed.

Midget Rep team comes second in home tourney

by Lee-Anne Marshall

"The smell of victory was in the air but its sweet taste would not touch their lips"

The North Kootenay Midget Rep team hosted their home tournament the weekend of January 6th in Nakusp. Four single 'A' teams and two double 'AA' teams took to the ice playing four games apiece, in the modified round robin tourney. Two teams met for a fifth game — the championship game — Kelowna Rockets and our very own North Kootenay Falcons. It was by far the most exciting game of the weekend. North Kootenay was the under-dog, having lost to Kelowna 5-2 on Saturday night.

It was end-to-end action and after a scoreless first period, Tyson Klein (Joel James) put the Falcons on the board at the 12-minute mark in the second. James (Laine Weighill, Rane Marshall) added another, but the Kelowna captain answered back and it was 2-1 at ice clean. Kelowna tied it up with five minutes left in the second period and nary a player could get the puck past the net minders for the remainder of regulation time. David Zilkie was solid in the net for North Kootenay and shut Kelowna out during the five-minute 4 on 4 overtime period. His glove was hot, he was stoked and he had the huge home crowd vibrating along with him. Zilkie only allowed two goals in the shootout, but Chris Orr's lone goal wasn't enough as the other Falcons shooters couldn't find the mesh. Zilkie played an outstanding game, taking home the player of the game award for North Kootenay. Captain Chad Hicks accepted the second place trophy.

Friday night saw North Kootenay beat Sicamous 5-2 with scoring from Hicks (Brett Zeleznik, James), Orr (Ben deWit), Francois Gagnon-Blackburn (Curtis Rogers, Klein), and two more from Rogers (de Wit, Zeleznik and Klein, James). The Falcons won against Nelson on Saturday morning, also 5-2 with goals by de Wit (Klein, James), Klein (Gagnon-Blackburn, Havill Leitch), Marshall (de Wit), Joe Wood (Klein), James (Hicks). Saturday evening's loss to Kelowna saw goals from Marshall (Klein, James) and Tavish McCuaig (Gagnon-Blackburn). In the semi-final game Sunday morning against Castlegar, goals were scored by Nick Reitmeier (Klein and Weighill) and McCuaig (Rogers, Leitch) to win 2-1. Our defensemen displayed strength and maintained focus consistently throughout the tourney.

The support from our fans was incredible! Some of the visiting teams commented on what nice fans we have; we totally agree. You're the BEST! Thank you one and all for your energy and support. The NK Midget Rep Falcons were up against Grand Forks January 14 & 15 at home and will be off to Armstrong for the North Okanagan Tourney on January 20.

In our Minor Hockey Week feature last issue, we got this team's name wrong, so we decided to run their photo again.
North Kootenay Falcon 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. Missing: Alex Pangburn.

Nakusp's Deane Horning chosen for two curling awards

by Jan McMurray

Our local Rock Island RV curling team did not qualify at the Interior Championships January 20 and 21 in Salmon Arm, but the team's skip, Deane Horning of Nakusp, has been chosen as the winner of two prestigious curling awards.

In December, he was chosen as the Curl BC 2005 Male Athlete of the Year. He will also be receiving the Premier's Award for curling. Premier's Awards recognize the top male and female athlete in the province for each sport. Award winners are featured in the Sports Hall of Fame for one year. Horning will be attending an awards ceremony in March in Vancouver to receive this honour.

The team made it all the way to the Brier (national championships) last year, placing fifth, and was aiming to top that this year. They won the regional finals in Castlegar in December, but came out just short at the Interior Championships.

"It was very disappointing and frustrating," said Horning.

The team lost the first two games of the tournament and "we should not have dug ourselves into a hole at the beginning," he said. They won the next three games, but lost the last one. They placed fifth overall. The first four teams continue on to the provincials.

Horning says the team has not decided yet if it will try again for the Brier next year. "It's a huge commitment to make," he said. "Everything comes with a price and we'll have to determine whether we want to pay that price."

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Or in person at Halcyon Hot Springs, Highway 23, 10 min south of Galena Bay Ferry

Nakusp Public Library
Renovation Project Supervisor

The Nakusp Public Library is looking for a construction supervisor to teach and supervise a group of individuals in renovating the Nakusp Library. The supervisor will be responsible for hiring workers, training those workers, contracting outside labour, working with volunteers, for compliance with regulatory agencies, and for completing the project within budgets and times frames to be negotiated

Position — This opening is for one individual only (A crew will be hired separately)

Requirements —
-Experience in teaching and skills development
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-Experience working with a Board
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High speed internet access to come to North Kootenay Lake

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo infoNet Society (KiN) is now an approved Internet Service Provider (ISP) under the Telus and BC government's Connecting Communities agreement.

The agreement means that the high-speed internet backbone or point of presence (POP) will be made available through KiN at a lower cost than it would through a private for-profit company. The Meadow Creek POP is slated for installation by July 2006.

KiN's Lardeau Valley Internet Committee held an information session on January 21 at the Lardeau Valley Community Centre in Meadow Creek to discuss its launch of high speed internet service to North Kootenay Lake communities. The group plans on setting up a wireless system.

KiN President Tyler Dobie reported that Dick Martin was elected as the new chair of the Lardeau Valley Internet Committee at the information session. "We strengthened and solidified the committee," he said.

KiN was unsuccessful in its application for the $20,000 Community Networking Infra-structure Grant for last mile infrastructure last spring. However, Dobie says he understands there will be another round of funding available this spring, and he is confident they will be successful this time.

Other groups in our area that have been given ISP status under the Connecting Communities agreement are Columbia Mountain Open Network for Winlaw and Red Mountain Internet Society for Silverton. The Red Mountain Internet Society was also successful in its application for the $20,000 infrastructure grant, as was the Burton Hall Board for Burton and the Edgewood Community Internet Society for Edgewood.

A workshop was held in Crawford Bay on January 27 and 28 for the various local groups interested in providing high speed internet to their communities. There will also be a Connecting Communities Forum in the Kootenay Room of the Sandman Inn in Castlegar on January 31 at 1 pm.

Kaslo infoNet is a non-profit society founded in 1996 with a mandate to create a community access network in the Kaslo area. Successes to date include: establishing free Community Access Program (CAP) sites at the Kaslo Library and JV Humphries School; creating summer employment for many students and youths; launching www.Kaslo.org as a community portal; and providing web-hosting services to non-profit societies. Today KiN members are focused on bringing the benefits of high speed Internet to North Kootenay Lake communities to overcome the urban/rural digital divide.

Kaslo council, January 24th: Delegation and Q&A period policies clarified

by Jill Braley

•In response to a request for council to review its delegation policy, council decided to limit the number of delegations at any one meeting to three. Requests to attend as a delegation will be directed to the administrator rather than to the mayor.

•Mayor Holland recommended that council conduct a 15-minute question and answer period following the adjournment of regular council meetings. Stipulations were that questions be directly related to issues discussed at the meeting, that the Kaslo Cable 10 reporter not film the question period, and that the period include only those council members who are able to remain after the meeting. The motion failed, with Councillor Hewat in favour and Councillors Jones, Vass and Leathwood opposed. Councillor Leathwood said she agreed with most of Mayor Holland's motion, but felt that the "camera should be kept running." The amended motion carried.

•Mayor Holland recommended that Robert Mitchell be appointed as the Village representative on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society board of directors. This motion was made by Councillor Leathwood and seconded by Councillor Hewat. It was opposed by Councillors Jones and Vass. Mayor Holland cast the deciding vote and the motion carried. There was no discussion on this.

A letter will be written to Mr. Mitchell informing him of the appointment and requesting a meeting to review Village of Kaslo expectations..

•Pat Mackle wrote to council, requesting to appear as a delegation at this January 24 meeting to discuss the city hall and provincial buildings. Council voted to invite Mackle to attend the Administration & Finance committee meeting on February 8 at 4 pm as a delegation.

During the Question & Answer period after the meeting, Mackle reminded council that the offer to purchase the provincial building expires on April 30 and strongly encouraged council to speed up the research into the purchase and the scheduling of public meetings on the matter. Mayor Holland assured Mackle that council was not trying to "drag our feet" on the issue and said he'd like to see a solid business plan on it.

•A brainstorming session will be held on March 1, 7-9 pm at the Community Hall to examine the possible purchase and uses of the provincial government building. The Valley Voice was unable to find out before our deadline if the brainstorming session was open to the public.

•Joyce Davidson, animal control officer, appeared before council as a delegation with some suggestions on how to curtail ongoing animal control problems. She suggested stronger bylaw enforcement, signage at the entrances to Kaslo, reminders on annual water bills to purchase dog tags, and advertising. Mayor Holland thanked Davidson and advised her the bylaw is being reviewed by legal counsel with respect to municipal ticketing. He said she would be kept informed of council's progress.

•The Kaslo and Area Youth Council/Kaslo Sk8park Committee requested a meeting with council to verify that they had met all of council's requirements and could proceed with the construction of the skatepark. The group will be invited to attend the February 14 meeting as a delegation, and will be sent a letter of congratulations on their fundraising efforts.

•When Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society correspondence came up, Mayor Holland declared a potential pecuniary conflict of interest and removed himself. Councillor Leathwood took the chair. The correspondence, regarding the 2005 festival and beer garden statement, was dated August 19, 2005. CAO Sawyer explained that council was receiving this so late because an unsigned document was received in August, and was misfiled.

Council also discussed the $2,000 owing by the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society for power installation work done in Kaslo Bay Park in 2002. Sawyer confirmed that another request for payment was made a month earlier. Council voted to send another request for payment to the society.

•Council granted Kaslo Library permission to do some painting and sink renovation work in the washrooms, with all costs covered by the library.

Permission was also given to the library to work on the floor that possibly contains asbestos, as documented in a WCB report done in October. The existing flooring will be encapsulated with a layer of ProPly underlay and new linoleum will be installed. The Village will share this cost.

•Logging will be permitted as requested by the Kaslo Golf Club, with the club to retain all values. Forty hours of volunteer time (after regular working hours) by the village crew on village owned equipment was approved, subject to insurance coverage for Village volunteer operators.

During Question and Answer period, Pat Mackle questioned the Village volunteering 40 hours of equipment time to the golf course, with the taxpayers subsidizing that expense.

Foreman Lang said that Village equipment had been used in the past for Jazz Fest and May Days, and that the improvements at the golf course would benefit everyone.

Mayor Holland said it would probably be a good idea to set guidelines and a policy around this.

Don Page also had a question related to the golf course. He asked if the greens could be watered with water pumped from Kootenay Lake rather than with treated Village water.

Foreman Lang said the last estimate he had to pump water from the lake was $250,000. Councillor Leathwood said the Village was working toward getting the golf course off treated water. Jill Braley suggested that the golf course look into grant funding.

•Council received an email from Blair Suffredine regarding airport improvement. Suffredine said he had some information that could be helpful, but first wanted to know if council wished to proceed with the project. Sufferdine will be asked to contact Mayor Holland at his convenience.

•Jamie Whitney, project co-ordinator for Kaslo Back to Earth Community Composting, wrote to ask about insurance as the group will be placing a composting bin on Village property. Whitney will be asked to add the Village of Kaslo as an additional insured in the amount of $2 million. The Planning & Development Committee will make recommendations to council on a potential Licence to Use and Occupy agreement with the group.

•Helen Woolgar wrote to council with concerns about the safety of the steps leading up to the Village hall. Her letter will be referred to the Public Works Committee for immediate action to keep the stairs safe and not slippery.

•Ralph Sinclair wrote to council regarding parking on 7th Street, across from the Victorian Health Centre. Sinclair requested a "residential parking only" sign for the area from the corner to the driveway. The matter was referred to the Planning & Development committee.

•Council received correspondence from the Kootenay Lake Independent School (Periwinkle Children's Centre), asking for a meeting with Village representatives to renegotiate their lease that expired on November 30. The school also asked for permission to erect an outside play structure on the side porch. Council voted to refer the requests to the Administration & Finance committee for recommendation to council.

•The agreement between the Village and Clearwater Environmental Services (water/sewer contractor) was renewed for a three-year term for additional consideration annually in the amount of $9,000.

•The Village will act as the event manager for the May Day celebrations, in concert with the Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce.

•Foreman Lang's suggested budget of $100,000/year to stay current with paving needs will be referred to 2006 budget deliberations, as will $10,000 for sidewalk repair/construction

•February 20-26 was declared Heritage Week in the Village of Kaslo.

•Accounts Payable in the amount of $45,420.83 were approved for payment.

Kaslo Midget hockey results:

December 10: Beaver Valley 6, Kaslo 4. Goals by Kirk Settle, assist Darryl Poznikoff and Paul Neufeld; Amanda Dyck, assist Shane Mckinnon, Neufeld; Neufeld, assist Matt Duschesne; McKinnon assist Amanda Turner and Dyck.

Dec. 11: Kaslo 4, Midway 1. Goals: Neufeld, assist McKinnon and Dyck; McKinnon unassisted; Kirk Settle, assist Turner; McKinnon, assist Neufeld.

Dec. 17: Kaslo 1, Nelson #1 1. Kaslo goal by Neufeld, unassisted.

Dec. 18: Kaslo 3, Castlegar #1 1. Goals: Mckinnon, assist Poznikoff and Cheryl Remple; Neufeld, assist Duschesne; Neufeld, assist McKinnon.

No league games this year to date, but in a very fast paced exhibition game against the Kaslo Oldertimers, the Midgets came out on top scoring 11-7. A rematch is in the works, with proceeds to the scholarship fund.

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Interested in the Kaslo City Hall Restoration Project? Plan to attend this informative workshop with local heritage expert Bob Inwood. Saturday, February 18, 9 am - 4 pm, Community (Scout) Hall, Kaslo. Pre-register at the Village Hall. $10 fee includes lunch.

Sponsored by Heritage Society BC, Government of BC, the Village of Kaslo.

Phone 353-9638 for more information.

Don Ross plays the Langham with special guest Brooke Miller

The Langham is very fortunate to have one of the best guitarists in the world, Don Ross, appear February 8 at 7:30 pm. With him will be Brooke Miller, a profoundly talented vocalist.

One of today's true innovators of guitar composition and technique, Don Ross has emerged as one of the most respected musicians in Canada and one of the top guitarists in the world. In September 1996, he managed to do what no other player has done: win the prestigious US National Fingerstyle Guitar Championship for the second time (he first won in 1988). The competition, held yearly in Winfield, Kansas, cannot be won only with immaculate technique; the player's music must also display a high degree of emotion and intensity—hallmarks of Ross's style.

The son of a Scottish immigrant father and a Mi'kmaq aboriginal mother, Ross was born in Montreal in 1960 into a musical family. He first started experimenting with the solo possibilities of the acoustic guitar at the age of eight. By age 10 he was playing in alternate tunings and exploring 'fingerstyle' technique, a right-hand discipline similar to classical guitar playing. Preferring to write original music and develop a personal style, his self-taught journey on the instrument has encouraged him to follow his musical intuition. The result is an unclassifiable musical style that borrows from jazz, folk, rock and classical music. When asked, Ross usually pigeonholes his music as 'heavy wood'!

Guitar virtuoso Don Ross plays the Langham on February 8.

Ross is touring his new CD *Music for Vacuuming*. There is a renewed optimism in his creativity thanks to his recent marriage to Prince Edward Island singer and guitarist Brooke Miller. Her thought-provoking lyrics are warmly fused to her enchanting vocal inflections, and her acoustic guitar style is fresh and intriguing. Gifted with a style that is forceful and energetic, yet tempered with soft passion and control, it's easy to see that Miller is definitely star-bound! Ross is producing Miller's second CD, tentatively titled, *All of the Lighting*. Look for that project to be released in early 2006.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Into the bright white light of Enterprise Creek

Most people seem to agree that this winter season since just before Christmas hasn't offered much for truly clear, bright sunny days. Some alpine areas have had at least partial shots of clear weather, but no blue sky Arctic fronts to clear the valleys. There hasn't been much of that low valley cloud especially, just day after day of odd cloud decks and snowstorms and showers down low and ragged wet clouds most places.

But this same unclear weather has laid down a good snowpack finally, and the dry powder conditions seem to be reliable everywhere above 800 metres. Skiing has been just fine between this elevation and the treeline and most of my day tours so far are confined to this zone. One of my favourite pastimes is to read up a bit about some mine or historic site, then ski up to it for a visit and enjoy the run back down.

After a visit to Winlaw recently, I was driving home up the valley midday and decided to tour up Enterprise Creek from the edge of the highway on my lighter cross-country gear. This valley is the main Slocan access to Kokanee Park and Blue Grouse Basin and is easy to locate between Slocan and Silverton. I remember skiing out from the Slocan Chief cabin 20 years ago on a minus-25 degree December day, and have ridden up the valley a few times since. There tends to be regular snowmobile traffic up the valley to reach a couple other backcountry cabins as well.

There are two pulloffs from Hwy 6 and after a brief climb up to the main road grade, the tour goes due east up the valley, climbing at a very gentle rate and at first higher than the main creek. This is a wide and well-kept road with no waterbars or brush to deal with, and is in good shape due to recent logging up around the five km mark. An older brushed-in wagon road from the south side crosses over and comes up to the main road, then climbs steeply upslope to somewhere, I guess…

I like to tell people where the worthwhile easy stuff to do is, so that mere novices may try a new sport or at least see something new. This road follows the north side of the valley and if there is any sun, you'll be able to soak it up for the whole way. On my visit, there were odd hits of sunshine dodging around the valley, and as I entered a low fog bank up about four km, the sun busted out strongly and lit up the fog with incredible intensity. Despite the bordering forest, the conditions were like a micro whiteout, and it seemed like being inside an incandescent lightbulb, or maybe on real good drugs! Well.

The sun faded out before I exited the fog, but then in the clear again I could see far up the valley to the cloud-clogged peaks in Kokanee Park and up the side drainages to odd old mine workings. The blazing bright fog reminded me of a late 90s week of touring I did at Durrand Glacier near Revelstoke when a large cloud rolled through as our party was traversing the Ruth Glacier. The lead guide was tossing snowballs ahead every 10 metres as we broke trail, to see if they dropped in open crevasses or showed the depressions of the ones bridged by snowdrifts. Full whiteouts in open terrain are very worrisome.

Around the five-km point there's large logging cutblocks that allow for some bigger vistas, and without some industry these roads and trails just wouldn't be here at all. I had a rest at one sheltered spot and then began the ski out. The road goes on lots further up the valley and does feature some minor hills, but that was all I needed that day. The road grade is perfect for an easy and rarely scary run down with some views to the west across the lake. The route is close to the creek for a couple km. and stays a bit higher otherwise, and crosses only small side creeks.

This simple out-and-back tour can be as long or short as you choose and can be done on lighter gear, but I sure like to have steel edges on all my skis anyway. Warm days in spring could leave a crust on the way out but again, the grade is never severe. Enterprise Landing and wharf down on the lakeshore were one of the early but less well known kickoff points for the mining and was tough access because of the steep shoreline cliffs at that section of the lake. With boat access you can make a summertime visit to the waterfalls and lower canyon at lakeside, where Enterprise Creek makes a final bow.

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

Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

Understanding estate planning

Estate planning is in many respects the process of preparing for the convergence of life's two most inevitable occurrences—death and taxes.

It will come as no surprise to readers that the Income Tax Act contains many varied rules dealing with the taxation of a deceased taxpayer. Lawyers, accountants and financial planners spend a great deal of time and effort trying to help their clients minimize the impact of these rules. Unfortunately, even with the most expert advice there may be tax liabilities that cannot be avoided

Taxation of property held at death:

Thankfully, at this time Canada does not impose estate taxes. Instead, a Canadian resident is generally deemed to have disposed of his or her property for fair market value immediately before death. This means the deceased is taxed as if the property had been sold to a non-related third party and of course, any capital gains or losses would then be filed for the year of death.

Properties with accrued gains can create significant tax burdens in the year of death. Usually, these capital gains are deferred when the first spouse dies as most assets are transferred to the surviving spouse. When the surviving spouse passes away or disposes of the property then capital gains will apply.

Taxation of different types of property:

- RRIFs and RRSPs: Unless there is a surviving spouse named as a beneficiary, amounts remaining in a RRIF or RRSP are fully taxed in the year of death. (This really bothers some clients, although it's hard to complain after decades of tax-deductible contributions and tax-deferred earnings.)

- Mutual Funds: Most mutual funds will buy and sell investments throughout the investor's lifetime, creating ongoing capital gains and losses. Upon death, any unrealized gains or losses will have to be claimed on the final tax return.

- GICs, term deposits and bank accounts: Technically, these assets are deemed to be disposed of like any other; however, they do not generate any gain or loss as they essentially represent tax-paid money. Interest earned in these accounts will of course be taxed in the year of death.

- Personal real estate: Gains relating to a house, cottage or condominium that was the deceased's principal residence are tax-free. If you own a summer cottage or recreational property that does not qualify as a principal residence, then this will generate a capital gain or loss on death.

As you can see, these are just a few of the assets you may own that could be subject to taxation upon your death. It may be your intent to pass on these assets to your children but what you may be doing is passing on a huge tax liability. Your children may be faced with borrowing money or selling your assets at a loss just to come up with much needed cash to pay off the tax man.

Needless to say, professional estate planning can forecast what the potential tax burden might be. One of the easiest and most economical ways to pay the tax is to use the proceeds of a life insurance policy. As long as you are insurable, insurance on your life payable to your estate can provide tax-free cash for the payment of these tax liabilities. In addition, insurance has the great advantage of being paid exactly when it is needed.

Tim Affolter CFP CLU ChFC, with more than 25 years of professional experience, specializes in comprehensive financial and estate planning for clients approaching or in retirement.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Extra Large Pigs In Space sighted in Kaslo

First off, I've been taking a lot of flack lately from people who remark that my restaurant 'reviews' are always so very positive. I have only this to say to these people: you're right!!

Meanwhile, yesterday I went to Kaslo to eat at *The Crooked Cafe*. On the way, I encountered two good buddies, so the three of us went into the café together. We were met by Serge, the cooking maestro, along with Randy and Sarah who do everything else including some cooking. The place has an open, cozy, and friendly feel to it. Seating includes booths, tables, and a long counter at the window offering a view of Kootenay Lake, and yes, the building is remarkably crooked, but it's the menu that had us laughing ourselves into big appetites. Some of the names of the pizzas are as follows:

Pigs in Space (lots of smoked ham and back bacon). Then there's one called *Rocket Fuel* (capicolli ham, pepperoni, onions, green peppers and hot banana peppers). How about a *Black Hole* or the *Hard Core Carnivore*? Why not try the *Cosmic Chicken*? Perhaps you're in the mood for the whole universe. There are many more including one that's as simple as pizza gets: the *Mozzarella*. You can toy around with your toppings on any of these, but Serge cautions not to put too many different toppings on a pizza.

"It's better to choose toppings with flavours that mix and meld well."

You can order small medium or large, but at The Crooked Cafe you can order an extra large too. I like that. There are lots more gourmet pizzas to choose from, but let's move on to other pages of the menu. There is a choice of four (count them) steamed mussel entrées. The mussels (of course) are from PEI. Serge also recommends the Montreal smoked meat sandwich. It's the real thing, and it comes on Serge's home-baked bread. Serge says the mussels and Montreal smoked meat are on the menu so that he can eat them whenever he wants. Right on, Serge!

You can tie into lasagna, spanakopita, enchiladas, salmon burgers and another favourite with the staff: poutine (baked spud wedges topped with real Quebec cheddar cheese curds and gravy). These are just a few of the great meals on offer. My friends and I ordered a medium Cosmic Chicken pizza, a Montreal smoked meat sandwich and the spanakopita, and while we waited we joked around with each other and the staff, and I even played the piano that sits in a corner. That may have been a joke too.

When the food arrived, its presentation was out-done only by its deliciousness. We shared with each other, and the food was simply wonderful. Maybe even fantastic. My pals will attest to that!

Through all of this Serge, Randy and Sarah would, in turns, join us in our booth to make sure we were happy. They're great folks. *The Crooked Cafe* also has a kids menu, a variety of gourmet coffees, soft drinks, and it is fully licensed. There's a dessert menu that includes yet another of Serge's creations: special oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. While we were there three different people came in just to buy some of these scrumptious delights.

My friends and I had a wonderful time. After all, friends, great food, and good people are what dining out is all about. Right? I asked Serge what his secret was.

"My secret is to put love into all my cooking," he said.

The Crooked Cafe is open every day and features live music on Fridays. It's on the main drag in Kaslo. If I were you I'd go there soon, but watch out for Extra Large Pigs In Space. You'll see them!

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

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WRITING AROUND THE BLOCK, with CJ MacKinnon, Feb. 11;
DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER CAREGIVER WORKSHOP, Sat. Feb. 18, Mar.11;
CHILDSAFE, Feb. 18;
SMART GROWTH 2 — KASLO COMMUNITY PLANNNING, Tom Lancaster, Feb. 16;

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Personal Classifieds start at $8

CARD OF THANKS

On behalf of me and my family, I would like to express my sincere thanks to this great little community, neighbours and friends, for the kind deeds and words of encouragement received during this difficult time, in the loss of my best friend and inspiration.

Olie passed away peacefully on January 3 in the protective arms of the Lord. *The Bayford family*

This is belated, but now that I am settled in my new home (with a view of the harbour, no less!) I can thank everyone for their kindness to me. Grades 1 and 2, Sue and staff at the Pavilion, the Apple Tree, St. Anthony's and "Golden Oldies" for letters. So many memories and lovely friends. God bless you all,
Mary O'Shea

COMING EVENTS

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.

HEY LUCERNE PARENTS!! HAVE AN EVENING OUT every third Thursday of the month. Please come out to Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings, held the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Lucerne School library. Next one: February 16. Parents have a voice in their children's education through PAC.

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

VALENTINE'S DAY COFFEE HOUSE. Bosun Hall, New Denver, February 12, 2006, 7 pm; hosted by Slocan Writers Guild. Admission by donation. Coffees, teas, desserts by Slocan Lake Early Learning Society.

GRADE 6/7 BOTTLE DRIVE, NEW DATE, Feb. 12. Due to illness, Lucerne students could not collect the bottles. We will try again on February 12. Sorry for any inconvenience.

BALLROOM/SOCIAL DANCE WORKSHOP - all levels. Instructor Michael Wiebe of the Slocan Lake Dance Camp. Feb. 17 Swing; Feb. 18 Waltz, Foxtrot & Rumba; Feb. 19 TBA or private sessions. $16 per couple per group class. Preregistration required. Call 358-2448.

VALENTINE'S DANCE Playmor Hall, South Slocan. 7:30 mini-lesson; 8 -11 Dance. Share the love, bring a donation for foodbank! $8/$10 non-members.www.Kootenaydancebeat.org.

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NOTICES

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

ROSEBERY BURNING INFO: MoF has issued a burning permit on the Rosebery clearcut property. Winter burning was chosen to minimize forest fire hazard and health problems. Sorry for any problems or alarm caused by these fires.

The AREA H NORTH TV SOCIETY will distribute an Opinion Form in February to all property owners in the area (except to the Red Mountain owners) prior to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in March (the date and place will be

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finalized following the opinion poll).

It is **absolutely essential** that these forms be completed and returned to the executive as soon as possible, but no later than **February 21, 2006**. To assist, you, names and phone numbers of the Executive will be on the Opinion Form.

Trevor Harrop, Chair
Area H North TV Society

The UNITED CHURCHES of New Denver and Silverton have alternately held joint services in their respective communities for the past two decades. This past year, both churches approved amalgamating. A committee was formed and as of Jan. 1, 2006 weekly services are being held at Zion, in Silverton. One Board of Directors was elected at the AGM on Jan. 2, 2006. We are hoping to have a new beginning, with fresh impetus to serve the community. May the Holy Spirit move among us to bring unity and wisdom. A dedication Service will be held at Zion, with members of the United Church of Canada present. We also extend an open invitation of the surrounding communities to attend.

Faithfully,
Donna Campbell

REAL ESTATE

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

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3.3 ACRE PROPERTY in Hills. Partially treed. Small pear tree orchard. $58,000. Treed 8.22 acre parcel on Red Mountain Road near Silverton. $140,000. Call Royal LePage Selkirk Realty, 250-265-3635.

SERVICES

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT I am looking into starting a licensed property management company in the 358 exchange area. If you have a home to rent or would like to know more about property management services. Please contact Myles Berney 358-2690.

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RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT includes: Vulcan deep fryer, propane stove and grill (used for five years), propane charbroiler, two double door coolers, one deli case, one sandwich stand with fridge, tables (23), chairs (44), one buffet table. $6,000 for everything. Will sell separately. Phone 358-2165.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

COUPLES SHIATSU MASSAGE - With Diana Paterson, Sat. Feb. 11th, Arica Gardens B&B

SENIORS FINANCIAL SURVIVAL - With Deb Bayoff. Thurs. Feb. 9th. Passmore Lodge

SAVE THAT CHILD - First Aid for parents with toddlers. Fri. Feb. 17th. CV Youth Centre

MOSAIC TILE ART - With Simone Schlichting. Sun. Feb. 12th Threads Guild Building, Perrys Siding

NOURISHING DESTINY - TCM With Gabriellla Toth. Wed. Feb. 8th Brent Kennedy School

THE PERFECT SLEEP - With Steve Mounteer. Thurs. Feb. 9th Stone Dragon Clinic, Winlaw.

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

FLOWER POWER PAINTING - With Karla Pearce. Begins Thurs. Feb. 16th at MSSS.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN - With Deb Bayoff. Wed. Feb. 15th NEW DATE, CV Youth Centre

NEW DENVER RESIDENTS - Did you know our Winter Leisure Guide is available at the El Dorado Market?

226-0008

The deadline for our February 1 edition is January 27

Initiation team earns Spirit Award

submitted by Allison Alder

Twelve Nakusp Scorpions skated their hearts out in the Initiation Novice 2006 hockey tournament in Castlegar last weekend. The hearty six, seven, and eight year olds were paired up with three teams of big, fast players, resulting in three losses, but their enthusiasm to play their best never dimmed. The team took home the tournament's Spirit Award for their great sportsmanship and drive.

The first game against Creston began with a goal against the Scorpions right off the face-off, but Dugan McInnes rallied in goal, making countless dramatic saves, for which he was awarded game MVP.

Later in the afternoon, the team went down to the Rossland-Trail Raves, but not without significant offensive pressure leading to Logan Hascarl scoring the solitary Scorpion goal. Logan took home a well-earned game MVP.

The next day the team met the Castlegar hosts in an action-packed match. With their many breakaways, the team kept the heat on, leading to two exciting Scorpion goals, scored by Everett Hicks and Kira Streliev. Kira's took away the game MVP for her skill and effort.

Coach Barry Streliev was extremely proud of his team's relentless drive and impressive improvement throughout the tournament. Watch for more young hockey action during the home tournament on February 11 and 12.

Earth Matters

Earth Matters is teaching about the connections between climate change and food choices. This engaging workshop and tour gets youth out and about, learning hands on skills for shopping with a local, global, social, and an environmental conscience.

Anyone who wants to help the group find interested classrooms, please contact Colleen Matte at colleenmatte@yahoo.ca.

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BC Hydro Operations presentation raises Nakusp concerns

by Penelope Dewar

About 30 people attended BC Hydro's January 26 Operations Overview and Update presentation in Nakusp.

Held in the Selkirk Inn's downstairs meeting room, an audience member mentioned that attendance would have been larger if one of the town's six wheelchair-accessible venues had been chosen: "We're talking about access to the lake, and we don't even have access to the room to talk about access to the lake." Sue Heaton, BC Hydro's public affairs officer for Kootenay/Lower Columbia, apologized. Accustomed to summer and fall presentations, she was surprised by the high demand for Nakusp meeting space during the peak ski season.

In addition to Heaton, representing BC Hydro were Alan Laidlaw, senior environmental coordinator for environmental and social issues surrounding Columbia Basin generation; Doug Robinson, reservoir planning engineer; Kelvin Ketchum, portfolio manager for BC Hydro generation; and Gillian Kong, senior engineer. Ketchum and Kong gave presentations, and all were available throughout the three-hour session to answer questions and absorb the audience reaction.

In his overview of BC Hydro's operations, Ketchum described their provincial power production (61 dams and 44 generating stations), the economics of power (we are a net buyer, ultimately dependent on often cheaper US power opportunities), as well as concerns (flood control, cheap power, fish, recreation, heritage sites, Treaty constraints) and tradeoffs (to address concerns, between reservoirs), all of which affect Arrow Reservoir levels.

"After four consecutive dry years it's hard to regulate all the constraints," declared Kong, presenting the snow-pack data that, in part, explain summer Arrow Reservoir levels. During the low snow-pack years of 2003, 04 and 05 the reservoir peaked at 1440, 1430 and 1426. (Full pool is 1444.) Although recent precipitation may increase this year's prospect, BC Hydro is cautious about predicting a reservoir peak higher than in 2005.

Local concerns revolve more around reservoir fluctuations than peak levels.

Throughout the evening, disillusionment was the mood of the audience, which ranged from several-generation-descendant to recent residents. Their voiced complaints, from access difficulty, when summer levels are low, to erosion, when summer levels are high, centred around the Arrow Reservoir norm — fluctuating water levels.

The reservoir drops and boats strand. The water rises and boats float away overnight. When levels are low, docks and ramps sit useless, high and dry. During early summer increases, birds and vegetation drown. During extreme high levels, steep banks slough, debris floats free. Many complained about the rapid decline from the summer peak. One local reported a four-foot drop during one August week.

Most of the audience felt that this area has sacrificed enough, isn't asking a lot, but has received almost nothing. "Why does it take 40 years to bring it back to how it should be done?" a frustrated audience member asked.

According to BC Hydro, whose agenda is "to keep the lights on in BC," the benefits of reservoirs, or "storage regulation," are long-term flood control and cheap energy production. "Reliable power, at low cost, for generations," is printed across corporation cards.

Judging by the comments and questions, much of the audience frustration is based in a perceived or real (depending on who you ask) absence of fair compensation for local losses resulting from the transformation of a vital system of river and lakes into a continuously fluctuating, crippled reservoir. Locally it is believed that, within the Arrow Lakes system, the brunt of the impact has been felt within the area between Beaton and Edgewood, centred around Nakusp. And most local concerns, raised by some on a regular basis since the flooding in the late 60s, have never been addressed. Not by BC Hydro. Not by the Columbia Basin Trust. Not even by recent Water Use Plan sessions, the potential benefits of which depend on the final "referral process." The decision, by BC's Water Comptroller, is expected in June.

At the meeting, local voices were raised, local tempers flared and, at the end of three hours, many local concerns remained unaddressed.

The response, by attendant BC Hydro representatives, was that the basis of most local concerns is beyond everyone's control. "Due to constraints of the Treaty," was the often-repeated corporate reply to audience queries and suggestions.

Ketchum's PowerPoint overview of the Columbia River Treaty explained the reason it exists — for flood control and power production (mostly within the US). The Canadian benefit is 50% of the increase in power generation capability at US plants due to the operation of Canadian Treaty Storage. The current value is around $300 million, which goes into provincial general revenue.

The fact that the Arrow Reservoir provides 45% of Treaty storage, which translates into a $135 million value, supports local demands for consideration. "We want more money spent here," was one response. "I'm sick of hearing about the Treaty," was another, followed by: "Can't we put a constraint on Arrow that would keep levels constant during the summer?"

"The only way we could do that is by running Mica hard, and that's uneconomic," Ketchum replied. "Our shareholders, the government and the BCUC (BC Utilities Commission), which regulates rates, would not accept this." In response to a heated audience reaction, he added: "We care about the people on the Arrow Reservoir, and we try to regulate accordingly."

Ketchum did indicate that recent completion of the Non-Treaty Storage Agreement could result in increased storage in the Arrow Reservoir over the next five years, although the effects of this operational change ultimately depend on other factors, including snow-pack, precipitation, and Treaty Storage.

Although there was a lack of consensus on how to manage the Arrow Reservoir, there was general agreement on the existence of frustration. Ketchum described BC Hydro-regulated operation tradeoffs, chosen to address community and environmental needs in BC's two largest power-producing regions: the Peace and the Columbia. Together these two relatively unpopulated areas produce up to 85% of BC's electricity. But attempts to balance the two to meet provincial power demands, while giving consideration to both Peace and Columbia (Kinbasket and Arrow) local concerns, has BC Hydro frustrated.

"All the interests compete against each other," said Heaton.

"As long as BC Hydro's goal is economic, there is a conflict of interest," responded a local.

In the end the largest determining factor for BC reservoir management is the economic needs of the lower mainland, where most of the generated power is used. Its population is large, growing rapidly, and demanding more and more electricity. "Plasma TVs take a lot of energy," declared Heaton. And the decisions that affect everyone are made at the provincial government level.

According to Hydro officials, the added constraints on the Columbia system, put in place by the Columbia River Treaty, can only be addressed through governments. Hydro will not "play the game with the US" in spite of California's constantly-appealed, still-unpaid $300 million bill for power provided by BC Hydro in 2001. "If you don't like the Treaty, write to your MP and MLA," said Heaton.

In 2014 Canada could approach the US with advance notice of a desire to terminate the Treaty on its 60th anniversary, ten years later. If you would like to see this happen, then start lobbying now.

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Hills Garlic Festival Co-ordinator

The Hills Recreation Society is seeking an enthusiastic, well-organized person to co-ordinate the 2006 Hills Garlic Festival. Duties for this contract position include publicity, outreach, vendor registrations, organizing entertainment and venue logistics, co-ordinating a cadre of volunteers from the Hills community — in short, you will be overseeing all aspects of this world-famous, garlic-themed fall fair.

This is a contract position, the co-ordinator will be paid in four installments. The co-ordinator will work from home and must have voice-mail, a computer and printer, and preferably a fax machine. In addition to the contract fee, the co-ordinator will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

Candidates must have excellent organizational, time management and interpersonal skills but need not have garlic breath.

For more information and a more detailed job description, please contact: Marion Bergevin, President, Hills Recreation Society, at 358-7253 or marionbergevin@hotmail.com

Candidates are asked to submit a written resume detailing related experience and skills, and two references. Resumes must be received by February 15th by Marion Bergevin, Site 2, Comp. 46, R.R. #1 New Denver B.C. V0G 1S0

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Summit Lake Ski Hill opens

submitted

Sunday saw the local ski and board teams practicing at the Summit Lake Ski Hill for the first time this season.

The school ski program is hopefully going ahead as early as next week.

According to everyone interviewed, the coverage is great. The fresh snow that fell during the past week was enough to blanket even the wet spots. A bit of machine grooming will cement it in place, and the new snow that is promised over the next few days will top it up.

Alcan Nancy Greene Ski League coaches Elizabeth Waterfield, Frances Swan, and Alistair Skey toured the hill with their racers. Due to local conditions, some had not been on the slopes much this year. The quality of the program and coaching staff, however, will brush up the racers' skills and they'll soon be ready to compete with the best in the zone. Many had been driving to Whitewater each week to practice.

The next practice will be on Sunday, February 5. Anyone interested should contact Merrilla Thorp (265-4353) or Allison Alder (265-4222).

Thanks to generous funding from the Columbia Basin Trust, our hill is open once again. It will be open on Wednesday at 10:00, and again on the weekend. According to ANGSL coach, Frances Swan, "there's lots of snow and lots of fun, and it's nice to be out there."

Season's passes are still available.

REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

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

Kaslo Detachment

• Two Kaslo residents have been arrested after RCMP executed a search warrant on a residence on Brennand St. Curtis Dueck and Tabitha Baker have been charged with production of a controlled substance and possession for the purpose of trafficking. Police seized a total of 137 marijuana plants, a quantity of dried pot, and grow equipment.

The investigation is ongoing and if anyone has any information on this, or any other crime, call the RCMP at 353-2225 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

• Police are looking for the public's help in solving three complaints of mischief which took place during the evenings of December 27 and 28. A small vehicle, probably red in colour, was driven over several fairways on the golf course, the Vimy Park playing field and the field at JV Humphries School. Damage to all these areas was considerable.

Anyone with any information on this senseless destruction of property is asked to call the RCMP at 353-2225.

Nelson rural detachment

•A marijuana grow op was removed from a residence in the 6200 block of Youngs Rd. in Winlaw on January 27. A total of 150 plants were seized. Street value is estimated at $20,000. A 22-year-old male and a 22-year-old female were arrested at the scene and are to appear in court on April 11. Police are recommending they be charged with production of a controlled substance.

•A head-on collision on Hwy 3A near the Playmor Junction on January 30 at 5:50 am totalled the two vehicles, but the drivers are OK. Both drivers, one from Winlaw and one from Thrums, were taken to Castlegar Hospital with non life threatening injuries. Road conditions were slippery and slushy at the time. Nelson RCMP, Tarry's fire department and BC Ambulance attended.