The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Kaslo man sues FortisBC for allegedly excessive interest rates

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo resident and electrical contractor Donald Scarlett has initiated a class action suit against FortisBC, claiming that the company charged customers illegally high rates of interest for decades.

Prior to November 2004, FortisBC (West Kootenay Power at the time) charged its customers a "prompt payment discount" amounting to 10% of their previous balance. According to Scarlett, the company was in fact collecting an illegally high rate of interest in the eyes of the law. Section 347 of the Criminal Code of Canada states that interest charges larger than 60% per annum are illegal. He claims he paid an effective rate of interest of 3,650% per annum for an overdue electric bill.

On February 12, 1999, the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) forwarded a legal opinion to the company, which concluded that its practice of charging 10% of a customer's overdue balance as a "prompt payment discount" would probably be judged in violation of the Criminal Code. A 2004 Supreme Court decision firmly established the illegality of the tariff.

Scarlett wonders why the Commission "turned a blind eye" to the company's practice, even after notifying FortisBC in 1999 that it was probably violating the Criminal Code.

"This case also raises questions about utility regulation in British Columbia," said Scarlett.

Scarlett says that tens of thousands of FortisBC customers were charged a rate of interest greater than 60% per annum. He says that FortisBC collected more than $6.3 million dollars from this practice from 1999-2004, but "its illegal late payment penalty scheme dates back decades." He claims the company received a total of $13.9 million from 1987 to 2004.

Scarlett is taking legal action "as a matter of principle, not because of personal loss," he said. He says he has seen the company be sued and lose money before, and it always makes whole by raising customer rates. "So why would I sue if we all had to pay for it back again? I would like the politicians to get involved and tell BCUC to uphold the public interest.

"The Criminal Code of Canada protects the most vulnerable members of society from the economic abuse of excessive interest rates. When there is evidence that a large corporation — a monopoly electricity utility, in this case — has illegally abused its customers to increase its profits, the courts must be used to seek redress and prevent such behaviour in the future."

What he'd like to see is a group set up by and for customers of the utility, like a Citizens Utility Board in the US. The board would be able to communicate to the group by inserting information with the monthly bills sent out in the mail.

Scarlett said recently, there have been similar legal actions against Enbridge Gas Distribution in Ontario and VanCity Credit Union in Vancouver. In each case the company either lost the case or settled out of court.

Scarlett helped set up the Kootenay-Okanagan Electric Consumer Association in 1986, when West Kootenay Power was being sold to Utilicorp, an American company. He was an active member of the association for 20 years, up until it disbanded just a few months ago.

FortisBC is a privately owned utility company which provides electricity to more than 85,000 residential customers in the southern interior. Formerly called West Kootenay Power, this company had a series of name changes prior to 2004. Changes of name or ownership do not affect the company's liability for its actions.

Slocan Valley snow sculptors won a gold medal for Canada at the Olympic Festival of Culture and Art in Italy. See story, p. 16.

Valhalla Wilderness Society applauds increase in protected areas

by Jan McMurray

Two areas that the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) has been calling for to be protected for nearly 20 years are included in the recently announced Land and Resource Management Plan for the north and central coast. The plan is for an area of about 6.4 million hectares, or more than twice the size of Belgium, and protects about 1.8 million hectares, or more than three times the size of Prince Edward Island.

"We're all deeply happy with the decision as an excellent first step toward coastal protection," said VWS chairperson Anne Sherrod. "We're very happy that the protection is focused on the richest, most important habitats. Many of our members and supporters are from the Slocan Valley and we want them to know that they were all part of this."

The two victories in particular for VWS are that a new Spirit Bear Conservancy will be created and the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary will be tripled in size.

Eighteen years ago, VWS Wildlife Biologist Wayne McCrory and a few of his colleagues were awe-struck by their first sighting of a white bear on Princess Royal Island. "We saw bears and salmon in every big and little valley, cathedral groves of giant Sitka spruce and wolves on the beaches," says McCrory. "It was unlogged and about as close to a wild bear heaven you could ever find on this earth."

That night, they sat down and drew the first rough lines of the sanctuary on the map. What followed was 18 years of scientific studies, mapping and presentations. VWS biologists participated in over 20 film documentaries on the area.

The recently announced Spirit Bear Conservancy is over half a million acres (208,000 hectares) — about half the size of Yellowstone National Park. It represents about 80% of VWS's original proposal area of 262,000 hectares.

When the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary was created in 1993, it was too small to contain the home ranges of the 60 or so Khutzeymateen grizzlies. VWS fought for expansion of the sanctuary. The new land use plan triples its size.

The Central Coast planning area will see 29% of Crown land set aside for protection, 68% for all resource uses, and 3% for mining and tourism development. The North Coast planning area will have 24% of Crown land set aside for protection, 66% for all resource uses and 10% for mining and tourism development.

McCrory says that the government's scientific panel recommended that 44-50% of the central and north coastal areas be protected or grizzly bears would disappear over the long term.

"The BC government has made a major step in that direction," he said, but points out that there is still work to be done. "VWS would like to continue dialogue with First Nations and government on these areas. Maintaining the bears over the long term will require the most stringent guidelines possible in the areas where logging will occur," he said.

The agreement reached on these areas represents an unprecedented collaboration between the provincial government, First Nations, industry, environmentalists, local governments and other stakeholders.

VWS recently experienced a victory when the government announced the Spirit Bear Conservancy. The society has been fighting for the conservancy for almost 20 years.

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John and Gale Ludwar win $1000 on CNIB Lottery Calendar

by Vince Salvo

If you are like me, you say "I never win anything, but it's for a good cause" and buy the thing anyway. Well, for years, Gale and John Ludwar, owners and operators of Slocan Park Service, said that as they bought a Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) lottery calendar.

This year is different. Gale and John are the happy winners of the January 16 draw, which earned them $1,000. Every day there is a draw, usually for $50, but January 16 was special, and the Ludwars are the lucky winners.

Last year there were eight winners drawn from calendars sold by the Kootenay-Slocan Lions, but none were for more than $100 each.

"Of course I'm happy for Gale and John, but their win will make it easier to sell 2007 Calendars," said Vince Salvo, who organizes the sale for the Lions. "Calendars will be available in late October or early November and people interested in helping sell or in purchasing calendars should contact me or any Lion before then."

In British Columbia and the Yukon the CNIB provides services to over 17,000 clients. Proceeds from the lottery calendar sales, other fundraising efforts, and donations are the only means of financial support CNIB has to support its blind and visually impaired clients.

Gale and John Ludwar display their check for $1,000 from Canadian National Institute for the Blind lottery calendar.

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Hired Equipment Registration
West Kootenay District

We are now completing our Hired Equipment lists for the upcoming fiscal year. **All individuals or companies who are currently registered through the Ministry of Transportation office in Nelson or Grand Forks will be receiving invitations to re-register their equipment for the coming fiscal year by mail by the end of February.**

Individuals or companies who were NOT registered in 2005, and wish to have their equipment listed, are hereby invited to visit the Nelson or Grand Forks office to obtain the appropriate registration forms. The Nelson office is located at 4th Floor, 310 Ward St., Nelson, BC. The Grand Forks office is located at 7290 2nd St., Grand Forks, BC. Alternatively, you may phone 1 800 665-2515 (Nelson) or 1 800 665-2699 (Grand Forks) to have the forms mailed or faxed to you. You may also re-register your equipment, or register new equipment electronically at: www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca

You will be required to have Commercial (Comprehensive) General Liability Insurance with minimum $2 million third party liability, and a WCB clearance letter prior to starting work on any ministry projects. Dump trucks must provide a current weigh slip, front tire size, and manufacturer's front axle rating.

Equipment can only be registered in one area in any given year, and must be "owned or lease-to-own" in order to be eligible for registration. Seniority is not transferable from area to area.

The deadline for new registrations for fiscal year 2006/2007 is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2006. Late registrations will be accepted, but may appear at the bottom of the Open list. Note that there is no charge for registering new equipment, or for changing or deleting equipment already listed.

Jacques Dupas,
District Manager, Transportation
West Kootenay District

BRITISH COLUMBIA
www.gov.bc.ca

Co-operatives forum focuses on health and social care

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 library 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.

A series of forums throughout BC will introduce social co-ops—a social enterprise model in which both caregivers and care recipients can be member/owners—and assist communities to find ways to use the social co-ops approach to address local service issues. Co-ops are different from traditional non-profits and voluntary organizations modeled on the principle of charity since co-ops are founded on reciprocity—the production of a good or service is conceived as an economic enterprise that provides a benefit to its members both as service recipients and as owners.

Western Economic Diversification and VanCity Savings support BCCA's Social Co-ops and Social Care Project. The project seeks to build awareness of social co-op enterprises and to identify groups and communities interested in piloting social co-op projects. For more information about the BCCA Social Co-ops Project, contact Cheryl Hewitt at c_hewitt@bcca.coop or 604-662-3906.

Ministry of Forests

BRITISH COLUMBIA

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A77729

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

Closing Date: March 2, 2006 @ 11:00 AM (LOCAL TIME), BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC

Geographic Location: Worthington Road (Johnston Creek), located approximately 33 km south-west of the Needles ferry landing on Lower Arrow Lake, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

Estimated Volume: 9,219 cubic metres, more or less

Upset Stumpage Rate: $13.01 / cubic metre
The upset stumpage rate was determined by the Market Pricing System, and is applicable only to coniferous sawlog grades.

Term: One (1) year

Estimated Species / Volume: Lodgepole pine 8,458 m^3, Larch 331 m^3, Cedar 216 m^3, White pine 102 m^3, Spruce 46 m^3, Hemlock 28 m^3, Douglas fir 27 m^3, Balsam 11 m^3

Comments: Harvesting methods are clearcut with reserves and shelterwood, utilizing ground-based equipment. The licensee will be required to construct approximately 0.9 km of road within the timber sale area.

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Enterprise, Category 1, 2 or 3.

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

The upset stumpage rate was determined by Variable Rate Calculation. The Bonus Bid applies to ALL coniferous sawlog grades including Gr. 3.

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

Applications will be accepted by the BC Timber Sales Manager, Kootenay Business Area, 1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6K1 no later than 11:00 AM (Local Time), March 2, 2006.

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A77729.

New avalanche control system

submitted

A $4 million remote-controlled avalanche control system is now protecting Kootenay Pass, the eight km. section of highway 3 between Salmo and Creston that is responsible for almost a quarter of the avalanche closures in BC.

The 'Gaz.ex' system, installed prior to this winter, has reduced road closures from 170 hours/year to less than 100. Technicians monitor snow conditions and trigger an avalanche when the snow pack becomes unstable, by detonating a mixture of oxygen and propane. The shock wave sets off an artificial avalanche, clearing an area above the highway that otherwise might slide when vehicles were on the road.

The old artillery systems required technicians on-site, and could take up to eight hours to clear the same area the new system does in an hour.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Arts, Culture & Heritage Funding Programs 2006-2007

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, in partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust, invites individuals of all artistic disciplines, arts, culture and heritage groups in the Canadian Columbia Basin to apply for project funding.

For a brochure outlining funding programs, call the CKCA:
250-505-5505
toll-free: 1-877-505-7355
e-mail: wkrac@telus.net
info on-line: www.basinculture.com

Deadlines: March 24 & April 7, 2006

Managed by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

Undercover tourist provides lots of practical advice

by Jan McMurray

An "undercover tourist" was hired to come to Slocan, Silverton and New Denver to see how we look through the eyes of a tourist.

Roger Brooks of Destination Development Inc. in Olympia, Washington, came to do his assessment on February 6 and 7 after his co-workers had researched the area from his office. During the evening of February 7, he presented his findings to a group of about 25 at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

"This area is stunningly beautiful. You have a world class destination here — I could even tell in February. These little towns are really cool — you don't want to turn it into Whistler and I hope you don't," he said in his concluding remarks.

What he said we need to do is to find a "lure" that will bring people here and to market ourselves together.

A lure should be experience oriented, he said. "People want experiences — promote the experiences. You have to be different or the best to make you worth a special trip." He suggested an arts tour as our lure because he found a lot of interesting arts-related information in the brochures that were sent to his office.

He also explained that tourist destinations have to be able to provide things that will take four times the amount of time it took to get there. For example, if it takes one hour to get here from Nelson, we have to be able to provide four hours worth of activity.

"This is why your communities need to be joined at the hip," he said. "The more you have to offer collectively, the further people will travel and the longer they will stay."

One suggestion for a collective effort was to put together a "treasure hunt." Visitors would have to find unusual things like the model T-Rex on the highway in front of the Winje property south of Slocan. Visitors that find all the items on the list would then get a 10% discount at any restaurant in the three villages, for example.

He also encouraged collective brochures. He gave an example of nine golf courses in one area of the US and another example of several museums in an area that created brochures together with a map and a tour. The golf courses and museums saved money this way and experienced an increase in business.

Brooks also provided a lot of practical feedback regarding our signage. "Every community should develop a signage plan and program for gateways, way finding, attractions and amenities," he said.

He described our gateway or "Welcome" signs as "nicely designed and they say who you are," but stressed the importance of maintaining them and placing them where there is the best first impression. "First impressions are lasting impressions," he said. "Travellers will always judge a book by its cover."

He found New Denver's pullout area on the highway with the map and list of businesses to be very attractive, but suggested businesses be marked on the map. He also suggested adding a place for brochures on the signage, saying he could not find brochures anywhere in the three villages.

For individual storefronts, he said that perpendicular blade signs were the best type and that signage should focus on what you can get in the store rather than on the name of the store. He said lettering should be about 8" high and there should be only one graphic and about four words per sign. He recommended posting hours of operation so that they are visible from the street as people are driving by. If the business is closed for the season, signage should say when it will re-open to entice visitors back.

Brooks felt we had good directional signage on the highway, but once off the highway, he said he could not find anything. He stressed the importance of good way finding signage. "If it's not convenient and easy, travellers will move on," he said, adding the obvious — "Real men don't ask for directions." Brooks also mentioned that RVers need to know where to park and it should be within two blocks of the shopping area. He said RVing is the fastest growing portion of tourism in North America and RVers have the highest household income of all travellers.

Generally, Brooks noted a sorry lack of information in our communities and suggested more interpretive signage for our attractions.

The other lack Brooks noted in all three villages was public restroom facilities. "Believe it or not, restrooms are an economic development tool," he said. "They are the number one reason that people stop."

Brooks' full report will soon be found at www.destination development.com.

The assessment was made available through Community Futures and Western Economic Diversification (WED), as part of a broader regional project. WED was the major funder, with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission.

Family relationships workshops: aging parents and mid-life children

As parents age and die, the lives of mid-life children are often transformed in unprecedented ways. Family relationships and communication are challenged by dilemmas not faced before.

The *Family Challenges* workshop February 15 from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Castlegar campus will be of particular interest to families of aging parents. The workshop explores how and why aging parents affect the lives of mid-life children and their families. Common dilemmas are detailed, and the approaches contemporary families are taking to solve these dilemmas are discussed. The fee is just $12.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for the college faculty and students, regional health professionals, and members of the public to broaden their understanding of the problems families face as parents age and die.

Award winning educator and family therapist Clarissa P. Green brings decades of research and experience with family relationships to Selkirk College and the region. The career of Green—RN, BSN, MSN, *Professor Emerita* UBC—spans more than 30 years of research, education, consulting and counselling for middle and older generations.

For more information or to register, please contact Community Education at 250-365-1208.

KSA & Selkirk College set to merge, July 1

Selkirk College and Kootenay School of the Arts are merging, with help from the province to the tune of nearly half a million dollars a year. KSA director Laura White says the merger "will provide certainty and new opportunities for students, and will lead to greater transferability and to enhanced course and program choices."

The two schools have been working on this for some time; the formal agreement will take effect July 1 when KSA faculty and staff will become Selkirk employees.

Two thirds of peak snowpack is already in place

submitted

Heavy snowfalls throughout January have ensured record snow accumulations in many areas of the Southern Interior, the Environment Ministry announced last week.

Current snowpack levels throughout the province will only require average snowfall from now until early May to reach normal peak levels for the year.

Higher snowpacks reduce the risk of forest fires and help ensure adequate water levels for agriculture. At the same time, there is nothing yet to suggest a significant risk of flooding this spring, the ministry says.

Selkirk's film program is in demand

Selkirk College's new *International Digital Film Program*, coming in September, is already generating excitement. The intensive two-semester advanced diploma program, designed with the assistance of leading film industry figures, is appealing to people who have always dreamed of making their own films.

The new IDF program, at the 10th Street Campus in Nelson, will focus on the growing trend toward smaller, independent and documentary filmmaking. Students will study everything from writing a screenplay, to directing and shooting a film, through to the editing process. The often-overlooked area of the business side of filmmaking will also be covered.

International content and delivery is central to the program, with global film and documentary studies making up a fair portion of the course. As part of their final project, students will also have the option of a study-abroad experience.

Award-winning filmmakers with international experience have indicated interest in teaching modules in the program. Velcrow Ripper, well-known creator of *Scared Sacred,* and Michelle Mason, writer and director of *The Friendship Village,* are both keen to work with Selkirk IDF students, as is Nancy Rosenblum, multi-Emmy award-winning Los Angeles editor.

As it is an advanced diploma program, applicants must have completed at least two years of post-secondary education, preferably related to multimedia and/or fine arts. Those with equivalent training and/or experience will also be considered. Students lacking sufficient computer skills will have the opportunity to upgrade during an intensive orientation session.

Congratulations
MP Jim Abbott
for yet another Election win.

Special thanks
to our supporters
who allowed us to run a strong campaign.

Federal NDP candidate
Brent Bush

CBT wants to fund environmental projects

The Columbia Basin Trust's (CBT) Environmental Initiatives Program is now accepting applications for community-initiated and community-supported environmental projects which will address current and future impacts of human communities on local and regional ecosystems in the Columbia Basin.

The CBT wants to encourage understanding, appreciation and direct benefits towards the basin's valuable natural attributes through community-supported education, stewardship, conservation and restoration projects.

"This year we have been able to enhance the available technical support and expertise in the proposal development stage with the aid of two stewardship advisor positions," said Sabrina Curtis, Community Liaison. "Stewardship advisors can provide one-on-one assistance to help develop technically feasible projects, promote environmental stewardship, and encourage collaboration throughout the entire Columbia Basin."

For further guidance regarding a project idea, contact stewardship advisor Paula Rodriguez de la Vega, (250)254-0070 or PRVega@conservancy.bc.ca

The Environmental Initiatives Program has approximately $300,000 available, with a $20,000 maximum allowable for any one project. In past years, CBT has funded project activities such as species-at-risk recovery, riparian protection, grassland restoration, local environment-focused planning and Basin-wide school programs.

For detailed program description, eligibility criteria, and an application guide and form, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org, or contact the CBT at 1-800-505-8998.

Applications must be received no later than Friday, March 10

Call for Applications

CBT Environmental Initiatives Program

The Columbia Basin Trust's Environmental Initiatives Program is now accepting applications for community-initiated and supported environmental projects in the Columbia Basin. The Environmental Initiatives Program accepts applications for projects that address current and future impacts of human communities on local and regional ecosystems.

Completed applications must be received no later than March 10, 2006 at 3:30 pm PST/4:30 pm MST. The digital copy can be emailed to golden@cbt.org. The hard copy can be mailed, couriered, or hand delivered to any CBT office. Faxed applications will NOT be accepted.

For a detailed program description, eligibility criteria, an application guide and form, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org, or phone 1 (800) 505-8998.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Experts hired to make forestry safer

submitted

The Province says it's concerned about deaths and injuries in the forestry sector and will hire several experts to try to make the job safer for workers.

A dedicated safety officer for the Ministry of Forests and Range, a senior manager for safety in the BC Timber Sales Program, and a coroner will complement the new Forest Safety Ombudsman position announced recently by the BC Forest Safety Council. Minister Rich Coleman says his ministry wants to join the industry to "create a culture of safety" to get forest workers home safely at the end of the day.

The coroner will help identify common circumstances and underlying factors that could be contributing to forest fatalities, by conducting inquiries into all fatalities, and holding public inquests, if necessary.

The ministry and BC Timber Sales will develop an action plan to complement the activities of the BC Forest Safety Council. This will include reviewing legislation and policies to determine if there are gaps or conflicts; adopting the industry's Health and Safety Accord; and working with the industry to establish industrial forest road maintenance standards by spring 2006.

Voices from the Valleys

KOOTENAY CHARACTERS: J.C. HARRIS *BY R.N. RILEY*

Bosun Hall, a gift of principles

If you suddenly came into a small fortune, completely by chance, would you turn around and give most of it away? That's what J.C. Harris of Silverton did, over 100 years ago, and evidence of his generosity can still be found in New Denver to this day. Harris built the Bosun Hall over 100 years ago. This is the story of how the Bosun Hall came to be, and the man behind it.

Joseph Colebrook Harris was born in England, son of a well-to-do merchant. Raised with wealth, he rejected its trappings, and in his late teens joined the Fabian Society, a socialist debating group that included such luminaries as George Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells. This early political activism was to have a life-long effect on Harris, and would be a direct cause of the decision to build the Bosun Hall. Born into "high society", Harris had broader horizons, and around 1890 he emigrated to Canada, where he enrolled in Guelph Agricultural College. From there, he moved to Vancouver Island, but it was an invitation from an old friend from the Fabian Society, New Denver lawyer R.B. Kerr, that brought Harris out to the Slocan Valley.

Accompanying Harris was a man named George McWhirter, a boatswain Harris had befriended who had jumped ship on the coast after quarreling with a ship's officer. Arriving in the valley, Harris soon had visions of transforming the area with fruit orchards, and he and McWhirter began scouting out locations. The land they settled on was located on the bench between Silverton and New Denver, and so Harris purchased the property which he was to name for his partner, the "Bosun Ranch". From there, Harris and McWhirter ran a number of business enterprises, such as hauling, "rawhiding" ore from the mines, cutting wood, and selling blocks of ice to hotels and butcher shops. They also began to plant and cultivate fruit trees, hoping to supply the miners and townsfolk who were flooding into the area. Eventually, Harris would supply apples, cherries, pears, plums and more to not only area mines and businesses, but also in later years the Doukhobor jam factory in Brilliant.

However, in the spring of 1896, Harris came into a windfall, and not in the orchardist's traditional sense. He discovered an outcropping of silver-lead ore near one of his trees, and he staked the Bosun Claim on the property — after 1893, mineral rights and property rights were separate, so Harris had to stake his own land in order to retain the mineral rights.. As it turned out, the Bosun claim was rich, but Harris had no interest in mining himself. He sold off the mining rights for $7,500, close to a quarter million dollars in today's funds. However, Harris' socialist principles would not allow him to keep the profits from his discovery to himself. Harris had been deeply influenced by the writings of American political economist Henry George, particularly his 1879 book "Progress and Poverty". Harris decided he was going to be different, and use his sudden wealth to benefit the greater community.

So, with his $7,500 Harris commissioned the Bosun Opera House in New Denver. In addition, Harris also paid to have New Denver's first waterworks system installed. The Bosun Hall (as it came to be known) was a two-story concert hall that opened the night of Dec. 9, 1898, and was to host all kinds of community gatherings from plays to Christmas concerts for many years.

Later, Harris married, had four children, and continued to farm at Bosun Ranch for many years. Today the Ranch is owned by his granddaughter, Nancy Anderson. His orchards are mostly gone, although many fruit trees that came from his stock still grow wild. And the Bosun Hall, recently saved from demolition, still stands, a tribute to a Slocan pioneer, and a builder with a vision and a commitment to benefit the wider community.

Japanese-Canadian internees on the Bosun Hall stage, c. 1940s.

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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*.

Afghanistan is not Canada's business

Will Webster is absolutely correct. Canadian troops should not be in Afghanistan fighting the Taliban any more than they should have been in Germany fighting the Nazis. If the people in these countries don't like the governments they have, they should change them by themselves. It is no business of ours.

John Banta
Fauquier

Against skatepark on Kaslo's waterfront

One of Kaslo's greatest assets is its undeveloped waterfront. Please do not spoil this for future generations by allowing the skateboard park to be built in its present proposed location. Ten thousand square feet of concrete should not be put on the beach.

Could not the skateboard park be built in the recycling and public works area?

Please have all of Kaslo's waterfront designated as a protected area, free from all unnatural development.

Olwen and Tristan Byatt
Kaslo

In praise of Peter Blacklock

My mother taught us to tell people the nice things you're thinking about them. I try to do this and would like to extend the idea by saying in public a few nice things about retiring school administrator and teacher Peter Blacklock.

Peter has been well suited to the jobs of administrator and teacher—he likes and therefore listens well to students, parents, and teachers. He can make the tough decision and bring people along. He dealt with problems that had been evident for years at Lucerne. He is creative, very positive, fun, and has a ton of energy.

Peter welcomes honesty and asks for it, even if he can tell the input won't make things easier. He is insightful, but be prepared — it could be about you.

Peter has an easy way with children, maybe especially teenagers. He reduces tension and can defuse a situation, saving peoples' dignity. He has fun with kids but does hold authority. Peter doesn't look for trouble, but he knows how to handle it.

I'm not saying Peter Blacklock is perfect. But he was wonderful for Lucerne and deeply appreciated by the community. We shall miss him in School District #10, thank him, and wish him a happy retirement.

Evelyn Goodell
Hills

Loki's lot

Our relationship with the Earth should be based on the notions of stewardship, not exploitation. To bring the Earth back to blossom we need a right political system which fosters life-enhancing values. Green politics based on ecological democracy is imperative if we are to be good stewards, preserve and enhance.

The new Regional District representative, Andy Shadrack, has made it his profession as a teacher of political science and fortunately supports the values that the Green Party mandates.

Everyone agrees that the political climate can be difficult to bear at times. Promises made, promises broken, usually after one has given more attention to details in the company of the board, committees and council; however, change of mind is allowed.

The stewardship of the Forestry Society of Kaslo has been cut-throat all the way and it doesn't surprise me, not only because I know that "for the love of money is the root of all evil" but because of Loki's lot... Kaslo... land of the jealous gods.

Jana Harmon
Kaslo

Think before buying a dog

I would agree with Eleanor Quirk's comment in the last issue of *The Valley Voice* — tying up dogs is not the solution.

However, containing your dog on your property is. Walking your dog is part of that, or getting someone to walk it for you.

But most importantly, before buying a dog, think about it. Can you keep it on your property? Can you give it proper exercise?

In the UK nobody is allowed to own a dog if they cannot keep it on their property. This is achieved through kennels, fenced yards or keeping the dog as a house dog and walking it regularly. As a result (proportionately) there are considerably less dog attacks on children in the UK compared to British Columbia.

Please, when you consider owning a dog, think about the realities of a dog's needs. I know I would go crazy if I was left alone all day unable to go for a walk! So why inflict it on man and woman's best friend - the dog!

Francesca Blishen
Kaslo

Let's let go of Roxie incident in New Denver

I am a current resident of New Denver and it seems to be that the people of this village are very caring people. That's what I like about the town — you feel safe when you're here. The people of the community and the RCMP all work together.

However, some people seem to not be letting go of the Roxie incident. Tanya has found another place for Roxie for now.

I am a mom of a six-month-old baby and I know that my child's safety is the most important thing to me. As people in the community know, Roxie was shot by one of our "decorated officers" because he says Roxie tried to attack him. Now that may be so, but I can't see that from 40 yards away he couldn't go up to Tanya's and say that Roxie was scaring him.

I have had my child around Roxie and he has pulled the dog's ears and skin and she has never hurt him. So if a dog deemed vicious won't hurt my son, why would he attack an RCMP officer? That's one thing I'm concerned about.

Another thing that bothers me is that this friendly little town is giving Tanya a hard time through the paper. Tanya has had to put up with this for a month and you at the paper keep on printing these letters. Tanya is doing all she can and every time she turns around you publish letters of concern about Roxie. What about the concerns we have for who's policing our community? He could have used other means to control the situation but instead he chose to shoot.

Tanya has paid for this already and yet members of this supposedly friendly community are just blaming her and not letting it go. Roxie's not here anymore. Let's let this lie.

Mandy MacDougall
New Denver

And the gullible shall be shafted

The standard response of the Canadian public to an unsatisfactory government is to vote in a worse one. The predisposing factor is an amazing tendency in too many people, despite centuries of evidence to the contrary, to believe what politicians say rather than be guided by their personal track record and the ideological beliefs of their party.

Our system of democracy allows us to elect people whom we trust to represent us, but we don't get to specify how. They are not legally obligated to do a single thing they promise to do, with the result that the unscrupulous among them (which historically means nearly all) say what people want to hear before elections, then do the entirely different set of things they always intended to do afterwards — if they can.

Which brings me to the present minority Conservative federal government, which because it is a minority cannot do what it wants to

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

do. First it has to convince most of the electorate that it doesn't want to strip mine social programs to pay for big tax cuts for the rich and the corporations, or make Canada effectively a province of the USA, or dismantle public health care, or commit Canadian soldiers to the next Blood-For-Oil war Bush has lined up, or contribute billions of dollars towards a missile shield which doesn't work to protect against nations which don't want to nuke us.

Once the polls tell the Conservatives that they have persuaded enough Canadians that they definitely won't do these things, it's time to get re-elected as a majority party, break cover and follow their true ideology to the letter.

So currently the Conservatives' best tactic is to come across as smiling, very honest, and dedicated to doing only good things. And of course the current brutal US government and its wannabe *Fuhrer* must be told to cool it and not act too delighted or friendly in public. Will it work? Barring the Neanderthals in the party slipping their muzzles and barking too much, yes. Collectively, we're that gullible, and the PR firms have got our number to three decimal places.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Proposed location of Kaslo's skateboard park an issue

The skateboard park is ready to move ahead. We congratulate the committee for hard work in fundraising over the past three years. The question remains, however: is a 10,000 sq. ft. concrete skateboard park the highest and best use of this lakefront property?

Many questions remain unanswered.

The reasons given for locating the facility on the beach rather than at the designated recreation area near the arena seem weak to many. Some of the comments I have heard are:

-It's too far form town. The kids won't use it up there.

-They may get hurt riding skateboards down the hill.

-The youth have as much right to be in Vimy Park as the rest of us.

-If you oppose the Vimy Park location, you are against youth.

Local youth and other citizens have been hoofing it up the hill for many years. Hockey players, skaters, curlers, tennis players, etc. have not found it too inconvenient to have these facilities located where they are.

We see youth proceeding down the school hill all the time on all manner of wheeled contraptions. Perhaps parents and other concerned citizens could take a more active role in letting the youth know that this is not acceptable behaviour.

Of course! Young people have as much right to Vimy Park as the rest of us. It's just the massive concrete structure that is beyond both the scale and character of this small heritage park that is in question.

This is the weakest argument of all, and barely deserves response.

A petition circulating for less than a week has attracted much attention. Many citizens want to have more dialogue before this important land use issue proceeds. A few years ago a sewage treatment plant was placed in a controversial spot. There has been talk recently of a campground near the mouth of the river. What do we want the lakeshore to look like in 20 years?

The natural waterfront is a huge asset to all of us in Kaslo and Area D and beyond. There are not many places left with so much public access to the water. An undeveloped natural lakeshore is a huge draw for both locals and visitors. A priceless asset now and forever.

The question is not whether Kaslo should have a skatepark. Location is the issue. This requires long-term, big picture thinking by all of us. Council needs to hear from you. Let's keep talking.

Donna Cormie
Kaslo

What ever happened to Gordon Campbell?

The federal opposition parties decide they don't want to wait for the Gomery Report and defeat the Liberal government, sending Canadians to the polls in winter.

Christmas comes along and sends everyone into consumerist hyperbole.

Our local Conservative candidate gets in a car crash and fails to notify his party that he's been busted for smuggling.

Gilles Duceppe wins all the debates and makes people wish he was a federalist because he'd make a good prime minister.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffers a major stroke and slips into a coma.

Osama bin Laden shows up, offering to make a deal with the US.

George W. Bush starts talking about a new word he's learned — "diplomacy" — although it seems awkward rolling off his tongue.

The new mayor of Kaslo gives a speech that sounds oddly similar to the speech Napoleon gave just after he seized the royal crown of France.

Asked to open up their wireless signal to library members with portable computers, the Kaslo Public Library responds with a flat out no, offering no reason why they're refusing to make the most of technology they already have.

Stephen Harper, who many fear is a right wing tool of the US, becomes Prime Minister of Canada and immediately picks a fight with the US over Arctic sovereignity.

The Liberal Party of Canada gets dissed, but not dissed as bad as the Conservatives in the mid-1990s.

A Canadian diplomat is assassinated and several armed forces personnel injured in Afghanistan.

Canadians are informed their peacekeepers are being turned into an attack force.

The Canadian dollar rises to over $0.87 US.

Winter fails to appear in the west and householders are stunned when they only have to go shovel the walk twice all season.

The US media finally gets on the Bush administration.

The Gomery Report is released in its entirety and barely anyone bats an eye.

Paul Martin resigns as leader of the Liberal party saying he's proud to leave government while the wind is in Canadian sails.

Correta Scott King, wife of slain civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, dies in her sleep at age 78.

More mad cows are discovered in Canada.

The avian flu spreads to Iraq.

Iran comes under intense scrutiny for its nuclear program.

Scores of gays rush to marry before the new federal government gets a chance to change the marriage laws, again.

Scores of baby seals are swept to their deaths in stormy waters near Prince Edward Island.

Dear Editor, I only have one question: What ever happened to Gordon Campbell?

Will Webster
Kaslo

Jumbo needs to be left in peace

I am writing to once again join the voices of the people who oppose the Jumbo Glacier Resort. I have lived on Glacier Creek for 13 years this May, and Jumbo Glacier is in my backyard. This is not the only reason I would like to halt its development (even though it may increase my property value).

There are some things that are priceless and the proposed resort is just another aspect of the assault on the wild places all around the Duncan Lake reservoir area. The Jumbo developers are looking towards Invermere, but that does not mean much to the animals using the game corridors from the Duncan Lake side, going up and over. The Jumbo area is a rare jewel worth more than we can imagine. Jumbo mountain is not far from Duncan Lake as the crow flies. As a backwoods horsewoman for 25 years in this area, I have witnessed massive assaults on Mother Nature. Jumbo is not isolated. If you look at the clearcuts that seem to grow exponentially in this area when you google Earth, you can see that wilderness is itself becoming endangered.

In 2004, although a handful of people protested, huge clearcuts took place up the Westfall River at the north end of the Duncan. What should have been a serene setting with bears fishing the spawning kokanee in fall, getting ready to den up in the enormous 1800-year-old trees that had provided their shelter for eons, (where in fact problem bears had been shipped) became a heli-logging war zone. Not only bears were displaced. The rare mountain caribou have been faced with extinction because much of this essential shelter is now history. The Westfall was magical ancient forest, quiet and peaceful and majestic. There are a few such pockets left but they too are under pressure to be logged. (The Incomappleux is just over the ridge, next on the Pope & Talbot old growth hit list.) Jumbo can also be described as peaceful and majestic. It should remain so for future generations to experience with awe. to give this jewel to multinationals to exploit for another unnecessary ski resort is sheer folly. We cannot afford to lose more world class wild places. Jumbo needs to be left in peace.

The jewel that is Jumbo Glacier belongs to future generations to enjoy with awe and fascination just the way Nature made it. To build a virtual city up there would also threaten/destroy the integrity of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy right next to it. this would be more than just a shame since the Conservancy is one of the most special places on the planet simply because there is little noise or sign of human interference. Quiet places are hard to find these days and forest creatures everywhere are under pressure to relocate or die. When is enough enough already? Helicopters really disappear wildlife from an area. They're frightening. Please stop this development. Nobody needs more pollution and helinoise. Three are other places to ski and play around in helicopters. Please just say NO! Jumbo is a priceless and rare area. Cherish it, and leave it alone. The best things in life are free.

Gabriela Grabowsky
Meadow Creek

For the Love of God

My previous letter ("Victimhood") stated my objection to the statement of E. deBoer that "Sexual orientation is innate. This is what God created, this is what God intended." I disagree with this statement and quoted Bible verses which state that homosexuality is strongly condemned in the Bible. My comments were not directed at any person nor were any assumptions made about deBoer or anyone else. Obviously, the two responses from deBoer and Riley indicated that they did not like the message and reacted to their alleged victimization by attacking the messenger. The source of the message, (the Bible and God), was also attacked by Riley.

It is these accusations I would now like to address. It is true that the primary lesson of the New Testament is love as stated in the quotation by deBoer. It is also true that all people are sinners, including myself. Therefore, it would be foolish of me to condemn others for their sin and I have not done so. God loves every person to an extent that probably none of us can comprehend but He is also a just God who will not tolerate sin. The Bible is not compartmentalized into "straight" sin and "gay" sin. Sin is sin and it all leads to death. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12). The good news is that God has provided a means that we may be forgiven for our sins through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, on the cross.

Regarding the comments made by R.N. Riley, the Bible is the most authentic piece of literature that exists. The oldest copy of the Old Testament is the Dead Sea Scrolls which date from the time of Christ. The original Hebrew copy is 95% identical to the one we have now. The rest contains only minor variations. There are tens of thousands of manuscripts of the New Testament, the earliest of which dates back to 125 A.D. There are a total of 66 books written over a period of 1500 years by more than 40 different authors. In spite of this, the Bible remains unified from beginning to end with no contradictions. There is a vast amount of verifiable evidence available that will confirm this and much more for anyone that is interested in seeking the truth with an open mind.

The Bible is the true Word of God. First of all, because that is what it claims to be. (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Secondly, hundreds of prophecies that foretold the future of mankind and the coming of Jesus the Messiah have come true with 100% accuracy. No other book can claim this. Thirdly, the Bible has a unique power and authority which can transform lives and build character. Fourthly, historical records in the Bible have never been proven to be false. As far as archeological and other written documents are available they confirm its historical truth. Finally, in spite of thousands of years when spiritual forces of darkness have attacked it and tried to destroy it, it remains just as strong and relevant today as it always has.

Ron Bowman
Kaslo

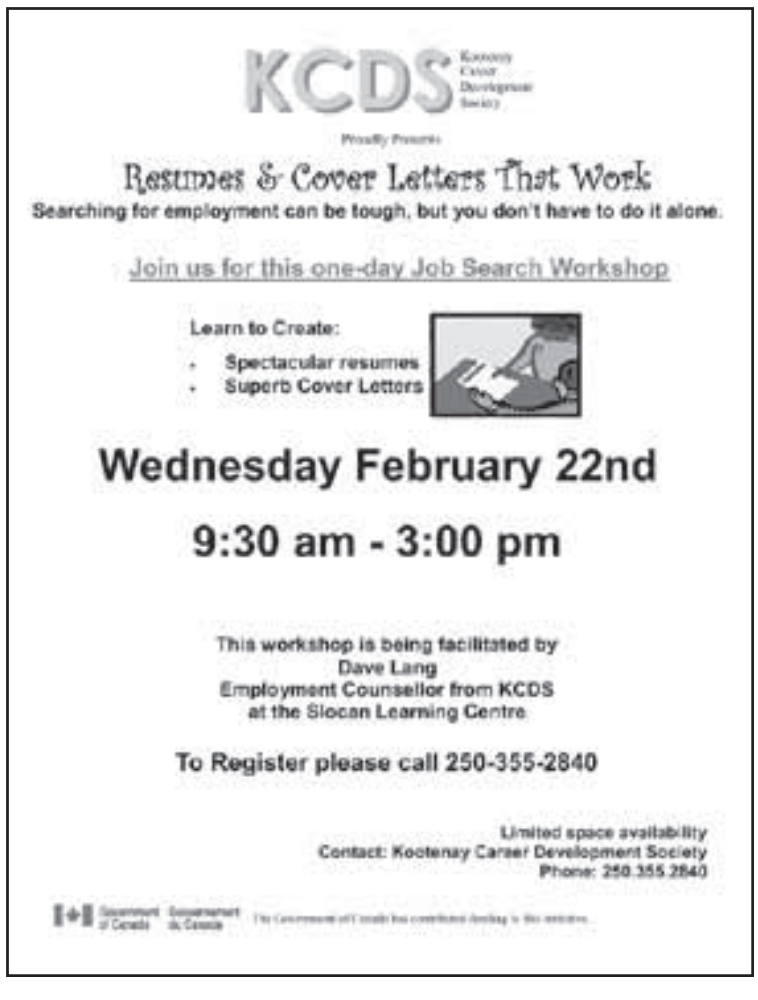
Community forest appointments not made in good faith

From 1996 until March 2004 the Kaslo and District Community Forest literally lurched from crisis to crisis and was almost always on the verge of financial collapse.

From March 2004 to present the only things the community forest has lurched into have been roving packs of nit-pickers, process gurus and most recently, in my opinion, two spitefully dishonest politicians.

Whereas, in the past, appointments were always made for expertise and experience because it was so obviously needed, they now appear to be made to satisfy "backroom campaign promises." Thanks, Andy. Thanks Jim. I didn't have enough to do.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo



A Simple Curve; A Coming of Age Story in the Slocan Valley

by Leah Main

A Simple Curve is a coming-of-age-in-the-Slocan-Valley tale told with humour, respect and an uncanny eye for the things that make the Slocan Valley uniquely the Slocan Valley.

Many of us who came here in the early and mid-70s, looking not only for refuge, but also for a place to build our families, our homes, our lives, can see ourselves, our children and our friends in the characters and the situations in which they find themselves.

Director Aubrey Nealon, born and raised in the valley, has managed to balance the imperatives of story-telling with a subtle and acute memory for the things he grew up with—the somewhat blurred lines between parental authority and childhood obedience; the recognition of differing, and somewhat bewildering, approaches to spirituality and creativity vs. pragmatism; the utter loyalty of a child to his parents while growing up, and sometimes beyond; the tangible safety provided by a small town and the relationships that grow in such an environment; and the utter, undeniable beauty of where we live.

Nealon set a level of emotional engagement and a delicate balance between truth and story at the beginning of the film, and never wavered from it. Each piece of the film—the characters, the costumes, the sets and props, the buildings and vehicles, and, overwhelmingly, the scenery, the backdrop to our lives—was deliberately placed and carefully nurtured to fulfill its part in telling the story.

One wonders, of course, how much of the story is autobiographical, how much of each character was based on someone we know, how much of each scene is an actual memory played out with just a slight variation of setting. And, after living here for more than 30 years, it is difficult to set aside my interpretation and look at the film with unprejudiced eyes. But in the end, I have to say, I was fascinated with how the tale played out, with the integrity of each character, and with the wonderful spider's web of relationships that Nealon captured so well.

CREDIT: PHOTO, MICHAEL DORSEY

Civic Theatre during cast and crew preview showing of A Simple Curve.

With his first feature film, Nealon demonstrates an impressive grasp of the complex medium of film making. Producer George Baptist's faith both in the script and in Nealon's talent has paid off; this film is solid, charming and satisfying on every level. The visuals are stunning (shot entirely on location right here in the Slocan Valley); the acting is solid, sensitive and believable; the soundtrack suits the story beautifully.

Reports from Nelson indicate that the week-long run of the film at the Civic Theatre was successful, and critics in Toronto and Vancouver are greeting the film with appreciation.

A Simple Curve opens Canada-wide on February 10. If you missed it in Nelson, look for it in other theatres in the near future.

Every Child Ready to Read program

Every Child Ready to Read provides parents with information about how to help preschoolers develop early literacy skills by taking advantage of opportunities in our every day life.

Evelyn Goodell, librarian at Nakusp Public Library, will offer the program and provide information about sharing books with children, and demonstrate examples of quality books, rhymes, games, and more.

Every Child Ready to Read will be offered Friday, February 24 from 11 to noon at the Lucerne school library. There is no charge for this program which is offered by Nakusp Public Library and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. For more information call Evelyn Goodell at 358-2355.

Storytelling returns to the Slocan Valley

by Craig Lawrence

Expect another exceptional cast of storytellers to be featured at the fifth annual Slocan Valley Word of Mouth Storytelling Festival. This popular event will take place on February 26 at the Passmore Lodge from 1 to 4 pm. Word of Mouth brings together area storytellers and authors to share some history—local, personal and otherwise.

This year Slocan Valley Recreation has once again brought together a collection of stories to enthrall and enchant both young and old. The featured performers and their stories are as follows:

Greg Nesteroff: *The Enigmatic Eli Carpenter*. He started the Slocan silver rush, walked a tightrope above the boomtown of Slocan and had his death rumoured long before he died.

Carolyn McTaggart: *Constabulary Crisis/The Siege of Farwell*. When Jerry Hill rode into 1885 Revelstoke with eight cases of whisky and a provincial liquor license, little did he know it would end up with the NWMP and BC Police trying to out-arrest each other!

Barry Gray: *The Sheriff of Rossland*. Over 100 years ago John Kirkup ruled this lawless pioneer town with an iron fist. Weighing in at over 300 lbs, he's said to be the inspiration for two well-known modern figures.

Ray Kosiancic: *When Steam Power Ruled*. Before electricity and gas, steam powered the Slocan Valley and signs of its being here can still be found in Ray's workshop and stories.

Jennifer Craig: *Life As I Found It*. It's all in how you look at it. Humorous readings from this local author.

Mark Mealing: *The Enormous Radish*. This folklorist shares traditional Doukhobor stories including Atty-Atty-Attic, *Winter Strawberries* and just how did they get that big radish out?

Are these stories factual? Are they tall tales? Are they somewhere in between? All ages are welcome to enjoy the afternoon at the Passmore Lodge and find out for themselves.

The Passmore Lodge is located on the Old Passmore Road which parallels Hwy 6 in Passmore. It is approximately 15 km north of the highway 3A junction and 2 km north of Slocan Park. Watch for signs.

Admission is $8 in advance and $10 at the door. Last year the event sold out so advance tickets are recommended. Tickets are available at the Slocan Valley Recreation office and at the Silver King Campus of Selkirk College. Phone 226-0008 for more information.

Winlaw School gets grant

submitted

Winlaw Elementary is one of 60 schools across BC to receive an extra $3,000 to support excellence in the classroom. The provincial government announced that the school is getting a School Improvement Excellence Award "to support the exceptional work [it is] doing in classrooms."

Winlaw Elementary received the award for its improvement of student reading and writing and for its innovative plan to further improve student comprehension of texts through a program based upon "visual thinking."

Schools had to apply for the grants, and prove their improvement program was working or had a high potential to work.

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SLOCAN VALLEY STORYTELLERS
WORD OF MOUTH 5
Join us for a magical afternoon as storytellers and writers share some history. Local, personal & otherwise...
Local Performers include:

Greg Nesteroff — The Enigmatic Eli Carpenter
He started the Slocan silver rush, walked a tight rope above the boom town of Slocan and had his death rumoured long before he died.

Ray Kosiancic — When Steam Power Ruled
Before electricity and gas, steam powered the Slocan Valley and signs of its being here can still be found in Ray's workshop and stories.

Carolyn McTaggart — Constabulary Crisis/The Siege of Farwell
When Jerry Hill rode into 1885 Revelstoke with eight cases of whisky and a provincial liquor license little did he know it would end up with the NWMP and BC Police trying to out-arrest each other!

With performances by celebrated West Kootenay storytellers Jennifer Craig, Barry Gray and Mark Mealing.
PASSMORE LODGE
Sunday, February 26th 1:00 to 4:00 pm
TICKETS: $8 advance, $10 at the door (family rates available)
Tickets are available at the Slocan Valley Recreation Office 226-0008 & Selkirk College, Silver King Campus 352-6601 Local 227 and at the door.
This event is a joint effort of the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission and Selkirk College. With grateful assistance from the Slocan Valley Arts Council and the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

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The Canadian FLIKS Festival set to roll March 3-5 in Nelson

submitted

From March 3-5 Film Lovers in the Kootenays presents the Canadian FLIKS Festival at the Civic Theatre in Nelson. This annual festival, formerly known as The Kootenay Moving Pictures Film Festival, showcases the best in Canadian film. The line-up includes guests that have reached national and international success with their first feature films, and includes films not yet released in the theatres.

If Julia Kwan can juggle the production schedule of her next film, she will be here in person to open the festival with her big hit *Eve and the Firehorse*, a semi-autobiographical drama about two young Chinese-Canadian girls' confusion over religion. This film's great script, production values and acting, made it the most popular Canadian film at the Vancouver International Film Festival. It was also Canada's only feature entry into the prestigious Sundance Film Festival with film critic Roger Ebert giving it a rave review.

Some sneak-preview films which Kootenay audiences have a chance to see before their theatrical release are: Thom Fitzgerald's *3 Needles* which takes place on three continents and stars Lucy Liu as a mobile blood collection worker in rural China, Chloë Sevigny as a nun in South Africa, Olympia Dukakis and Sandra Oh; *A Whole New Thing*, voted Best Canadian Film runner-up in both the Atlantic and Vancouver International Film Festivals. Director Amnon Buchbinder is flying in from Whitehorse with his own 35mm copy of the film. *Rhinoceros Eyes* won the Discovery Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and is Aaron Woodley's directorial debut.

The multi-award winning *Familia* by Louise Archambault marks the first film in a series of monthly francophone films that FLIKS presents one more Wednesday a month at the Capitol Theatre. This may be the only chance to see *Familia* so don't miss out on this hilarious French comedy about family dynamics.

In Metal: A Headbanger's Journey Sam Dunn, a 30-year-old anthropologist and heavy metal fan from Victoria BC explores why heavy metal music has been consistently stereotyped, dismissed and condemned and yet is so passionately loved by its millions of fans. This film is a great fun ride and an interesting window into the spectacle that is heavy metal. Even self-avowed metal-haters will enjoy Sam's investigative rigor and infectious enthusiasm as he travels the globe unravelling the fascinating history of Heavy Metal. *Lord of the Brush* is a fascinating documentary on John Howe, the conceptual artist and illustrator for *Lord of the Rings*. Now living in Europe, John grew up in Keremeos BC!

The schedule will also include short film programs that focus on two themes: *The Short Is Your Business Card & Community Shorts*. The shorts programs will include award winning offerings from local youth and emerging filmmakers. Julia Kwan and Amnon Buchbinder will share their insights on the transition from shorts to features to film enthusiasts and emerging directors.

The festival is supported by Moving Pictures, a non-profit dedicated to promoting Canadian films and giving Canadian audiences a chance to see their own stories on the big screen.

Other films will be added over the next few days. Film tickets and festival passes are on sale at Otter Books in Nelson. Full festival passes and 3 film passes are limited, so pick yours up early. Tickets and passes can also be purchased at regular FLIKS events throughout the Kootenays. For festival information, schedule, film descriptions and trailers go to www.FLIKS.ca.

Adult tutor training workshop

Volunteering to work directly with adult learners who have difficulty reading is a great way to help your neighbours to move ahead with their lives. Literacy skills include reading, writing and numeracy, all needed for everyday life at work, in the home and community. When adults have barriers in these areas, they are limited in what work they may seek, may feel excluded from the society around them and their children are at risk for having reading problems themselves.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) is pleased to hold an adult tutor training workshop this weekend at the W.E. Graham Community School in Slocan. By volunteering your time to work with an adult learner, you can help them to step up to a more satisfying life and benefit their children as well. All services are confidential and offered free of charge, and are entirely flexible to fit with your schedule.. Tutors can set the amount of time they are able to give and are rewarded by seeing how a small gift of attention can make changes in someone else's life. Literacy levels are directly linked to the health of a society; in this work we can actively create a healthier community.

The course will be held Friday, February 17 from 5-7 pm and Saturday, February 18 from 10-2 pm at the W.E. Graham Community School in Slocan. For more information, please call Chris Nichol at 355-0062.

CBAL is a registered non-profit group working for adult and family literacy in the Columbia Basin in partnership with Selkirk College, public libraries, public health and other agencies.

The Slocan Valley 2010 Committee organized a Smockey game in Slocan on February 4 in celebration of Spirit of BC Week. The weather unfortunately did not co-operate, so everyone gathered inside for hot chocolate and cake.

Slocan Park Community Hall garage sale

Have you figured out what to do with the old lamp Aunt Matilda gave you years ago that doesn't fit in your house any more? Why not support the Slocan Park Community Hall by donating those saleable items that you no longer want for their garage sale on April 22? The Slocan Park ladies are having this garage sale to raise funds to upgrade the hall and they hope you will bring lots of good stuff to sell. Items (no clothing, please) can be dropped off at the hall between 8 am and 8 pm on April 21.

In addition to donated items there will be home-baked goodies, coffee and tea for sale. For more information about the garage sale call Verna at 226-7208. Please come out and help the ladies with their fundraiser for historic Slocan Park Hall.

BC Hydro helps youth recycle

BC Hydro is contributing $1,000 to the Crescent Valley Youth Centre to help purchase and install a bottle recycling bin.

Local residents can contribute to the youth centre by dropping off recyclable bottles in the bin, located at the Crescent Valley Community Hall, beside the recycling station. Youth can make extra money by helping to sort and price the bottles, while the rest of the money goes back into the youth centre to help maintain the various programs it offers.

BC Hydro Columbia Basin Generation general manager Willi Friml presents the cheque to Crescent Valley Youth Centre co-ordinator Cathy Spears.

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.

HIRING NOW

EXPERIENCED TREE PLANTERS

LOCAL PLANTERS NEEDED

WORK IN THE SLOCAN VALLEY & NAKUSP

COMMUTE FROM HOME !!

10 WEEKS OF WORK

APRIL TO JULY

CALL 226-7611

Evergreen Forest Services
P. O. Box 100, Slocan Park, B.C., V0G 2E0
Phone: (250) 226-7611 Fax: (250) 226-7374
Email: egn@netidea.com

NOTICE
VILLAGE OF
NEW DENVER

Subject to section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of New Denver invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village's 2006 Five Year Financial Plan. Council will begin holding budget meetings in the near future and welcomes public input from members of our community with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the budget. Please submit your comments to the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, PO Box 40, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC, or call 250-358-2316 by March 9, 2006.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Slocan Valley Cooperative Association

1:00 pm • Sunday
March 12, 2006
Passmore Community Hall

Reports
- Directors
- Auditor
- General Manager
- FCL District Director

Nominations and election of Directors

New Business
- Distribution of earnings
- Appointment of Auditor
- Other

PUBLIC NOTICE
VILLAGE OF
NEW DENVER

Pursuant to Section 127 and in accordance with Section 94 of the Community Charter the Village of New Denver is required to post notice at least once a year of dates, times and place of regularly scheduled Council Meetings:

2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings - held at 7:00 pm in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC

January 10th and 24th	July 11th and 25th
February 14th and 28th	August 8th and 22nd
March 14th and 28th	September 12th and 26th
April 11th and 25th	October 10th and 24th
May 9th and 23rd	November 14th and 28th
June 13th and 27th	December 12th and 26th

The Grand Hotel was a Nakusp landmark from 1892 until it burned in 1925

by Rosemarie Parent

Before 1892, work had begun clearing Nakusp's waterfront. Because of the need to find ways into the rich mineral finds, Captain Robert Sanderson, William Cowan and Frederick Hume formed the Columbia Transportation Company to provide boat service on the Arrow Lakes from Revelstoke to Sproat's Landing in 1888. The CPR sent out engineers and surveyors to explore the country lying between Nakusp and Slocan Lake in 1891. Early in 1892 estimates for the cost of a railway from Nakusp to Three Forks were submitted as well.

All this activity brought the need for accommodation at Nakusp for the entrepreneurs and workers. The Grand Hotel, originally named the Nakusp House and later the Madden House, was the first to be built in Nakusp. The Leland Hotel, formerly called the Rathwell House, was built very shortly after the Grand was erected in 1892. These were followed the same year by the log Prospect House, some distance away from the waterfront; the Columbia House, on Broadway St. next to the Bon Marche; and the Hotel Nakusp, which sat just above the boat landing and burned about 1902.

Conditions were quite primitive but the hotels were mainly used in those early days by construction workers and business people. There were no children and women on the scene for a few more years.

Alan McDougald brought Nakusp's first piano and by 1894, many dances were held at the Grand Hotel and Prospect House. There was a Valentine's Ball held at the Leland to help pay off the school debt and McDougald hosted a men's supper in celebration of Burns Night.

The Grand's Hugh Madden took on James McNeil as a partner in 1894, then sold his interest in the hotel to J. McGeary. The upper storey was finished, more rooms were added, and a new verandah was put across the entire front of the building. In 1897, the hotel had added a three-storey block on the south side to cope with the increasing traffic. It was a frontier-town-like hotel, artistically adorned with scallops, cornices and fancy window trim. The roof was crowned with ornate fretwork while the balustrade posts of the upper balcony were all topped with perfect round balls. This large balcony provided an escape route in case of fire, as well as a fine resting and viewing area from the west and south walls. The ground and lower floors were also extended on the south side in the same manner, to provide seating space for their guests. Mrs. Manuel and her daughter were in charge of the dining room and Mr. Cummings ran the bar. On viewing his hotel, which resembled a wedding cake, McNeil, the sole owner of the hotel since 1897, felt the name should be changed to the Grand Hotel.

McNeil lost his wife Sadie, just 20 years old, in childbirth in August 1897; their daughter, Sadie Eileen, died about a month later. To honour his wife and child, he purchased a lot on the south side of the west Broadway extension, fenced it and designated the area as a Catholic cemetery. You can see their graves at the top left of the cemetery; the baby's grave has a little lamb on top. In 1899, McNeil surprised his many friends when he decided to leave. Thomas Abriel had taken over the proprietorship and hired Lyle McDougald as his bartender. Mrs. Leduc came to run the dining room.

John Hector was the next owner when on June 20, 1902, he bought the hotel from Tom Abriel. He had come to Nakusp about 1984, worked as a bartender at the Prospect House, and married Augusta Nillson, on 6 May 1895. By 1897, Hector was the proprietor of the Columbia House. He was involved with other businesses as well before he took over the Grand in 1902.

In January of 1906, Michael McCarthy, a station agent at Rosebery, bought the Grand Hotel and Addie, his wife, ran the business for him, while he remained at his job. The CPR transferred McCarthy to Chalk River, Ontario, where he was accidentally killed. Addie was devastated and could no longer continue at the hotel so her mother, Lila, and stepfather, Harry LaBrash, bought the business from her.

For a short time in 1910, the names Haigh and Dougall show as proprietors of the Grand. Late that year John (Jack) and Agnes Latten Thew took over. Agnes was a go-getter and a seasoned hotel and bar operator. She had won an award in Revelstoke from a liquor company for having sold the most of their product for all of BC. She tolerated no abuse or profanity and often had to serve in the dining room because of a lack of help—local girls were reluctant to mix with some of the less appealing guests. Room and board at this time was $1 per day. Whiskey was $1 per bottle, sugar $5 /100 lbs. and flour $2.50/100 lbs. They had a well but bought water from Abriel for 25 cents a barrel.

In 1913, Frank Hughes bought the hotel from the Thews. Harry and Lila LaBrash took over the hotel again a short time later but in May 1919, Frank Hughes' son, also named Frank, took over the management. By 1924, Eastman and Swanson were the proprietors.

On the morning of 2 September 1925, a fire started in the cellar of the Grand and quickly burned through the thirty-year-old structure. Though the fire brigade worked valiantly, they were not able to save the building. However, they prevented the fire from spreading to nearby buildings and there was no loss of life.

From that day in 1925 to the present time, in spite of the value of the property both commercially and esthetically, no one has sought to re-establish a business there—a mystery indeed.

The Nakusp Museum — Keepers of the Past

by Sharon Montgomery

If Heritage Week ushers in a time to reflect on the pioneers of our area, then the Nakusp & District Museum has some sweet entertainment for you.

Do you know the history of Nakusp? Of the hot springs? Of the aboriginals? Of the sternwheeler days, or the mining, farming or forestry? Have you seen our famous eight-legged Siamese pig?

As keeper of the past, our museum is home to more than 5,500 artifacts attractively displayed for visitors who come from all over the world to learn about us and our story. Some locals shamelessly admit they've never been to our museum, or at least "not for a lot of years."

We are cosily nestled between the Chamber of Commerce and the public library, occupying the basement of the Centennial Building. Because we are off the beaten track, we hope to incorporate some downtown Broadway St. advertising this summer letting tourists know where to find some great entertainment.

Our contribution to the tourism industry and the community is through the dedication of our museum volunteers with the exception of a paid student attendant in the summer.

The winter season is always exciting at the Nakusp Museum. It's a time for creating new displays, rearranging old ones and planning summer projects and events. This winter, we received on loan a portion of the Bruce Rohn collection of Sinixt artifacts and tools from the Renata area of Lower Arrow Lake. This addition to our aboriginal display is of particular interest to the Nakusp grade 3 class as they study local history, and they will make their museum tour soon.

We also had a huge shuffle in our sternwheeler room, bringing the models *SS Minto* and *SS Bonnington* much closer to the younger viewers to examine the craftsmanship of these marvelous boats.

At present, we are working on introducing some natural history to the forestry display to help bring awareness of the beauty, fragility and unique habitat of our own inland rainforest.

This spring we will apply for a government grant to allow us to hire a summer student. Often this can mean a high school student's first job, or an opportunity for a university student to come home to Nakusp and be gainfully employed. Mentoring is a valuable activity that our volunteers share with the student as they complete projects. We are currently scouting possible candidates in anticipation of the student grant.

Fundraising is always challenging and this year we are still diligently working toward an outside display. As well, we are appealing to the public to donate Overwaitea points so we can acquire a digital camera to record artifacts. So far, response has been slow, so now is your opportunity to support your local museum by sharing just a small portion of your points.

We would like to remind people the museum has a complete Women's Institute anthology on Nakusp and district pioneers, for reference and for those doing research on family trees.

Watch for the museum's presence at the Rotary dinner theatre, the volunteer fair, the Legion meat draw in June, and the fall fair. And don't forget to come and visit us and bring your out-of-town guests. We are open mid-May to September and available for private tours in the off season by phoning Gerald at 265-4483.

HALCYON HOT SPRINGS

The road that goes from Revelstoke
Is yellow, dusty gravel,
Past clover clearings where the bloom
Is ripening tawny red:
And all day long are earthen clouds
Pursuing those who travel
The winding sun-scorched windless road
That leads to Arrowhead.

The road that goes to Halcyon
Is on the shining waters
That break before the Bonnington
Quicksilvered in the sun.
Fir clad, the mountains rise in green,
Olympia's mighty altars,
Cloud incense floating at their tops,
Their feet at Halcyon.

The road that ends at Halcyon
Ends in a place Elysian,
Where nature offers treasures
Unknown in city marts.
The gentle Pan to worshippers
Is ever a magician,
And brings his stream of healing
To aid Aesculapian arts.

When sets the sun of Halcyon
The misty shadows showing
No longer mirrored pinnacles
Along the farther shore,
The war god's feathered shaft and barb,
Athwart the sund path glowing,
A bow and arrow spent, proclaim
The god comes there no more.

by Ian McPherson, from a Halcyon Hot Springs booklet of the 1930s

265-3554

Celebrate Heritage Week, February 19-25

Hiway 6 Service

BCAA Towing

Nakusp 265-4644

We would like to thank our local historical societies and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

MARVIN'S SMALL MOTOR REPAIR

98 1st Ave NW • Nakusp • 265-4911

HERITAGE HOTEL (1892)

-CATCH A BIT OF HERITAGE-
JAM EVERY 3RD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 4-8 PM
FEB 19 HOSTED BY KIKBACK

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We would like to thank our local historical societies and all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

ARROW LAKES READY MIX

Nakusp, BC • 265-4615

Thank you to all the local Historical Societies.

Area H Director
Don Munro

Thanking all the volunteers who dedicate their time to our local historical societies in New Denver.

Panini Bistro

Main Street New Denver

THANKING ALL LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.

Pope & Talbot

www.poptal.com

We would like to thank the Arrow Lakes Historical Society and the Nakusp and District Museum Society.

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

Bon Marché
DOLLAR $ DOLLAR

would like to thank the Nakusp Museum for their continuing effort to keep our local heritage alive.

416 Broadway Nakusp
265-3644

"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."
George Santayana

ROYAL LEPAGE
SELKIRK REALTY
NAKUSP, BC • 265-3635

The Apple Tree Sandwich Shop

Main Street
New Denver, BC
358-2691

Ann's Natural Foods

would like to thank all the local historical societies for their continued efforts and dedication to promote our local heritage.

Village of New Denver

thanks the Silvery Slocan Historical Society and the Kyowakai Society.

"History is a vast early warning system."
Norman Cousins

Glacier View Service

PETRO-CANADA

Hwy 6
New Denver
358-2445

The Kootenay Lake Historical Society of Kaslo

Preserving our precious and irreplaceable historical items—that's what the Kootenay Lake Historical Society (KLHS) is all about. With the SS Moyie as the central focus, KLHS also oversees Kaslo's archives. These are housed in the basement of the provincial building. Since these premises also include the old jail, as well as newspapers, articles, artifacts, and memories from Kaslo's history, it is well worth a visit. Want information? Knowledgeable volunteers will do their best to find it for you. Hours are: Monday from 7- 9 pm; Thursday from 9 am - noon.

On Kaslo's beach sits a proud 107-year-old lady—the SS Moyie, providing insight into a more leisurely and grand mode of travel in the past. Concerned and dedicated citizens have saved it twice: initially in 1957 when it was taken out of service, and again in the 1980s when it was falling into disrepair. Now gleaming with constant care and upkeep, she invites you to see realistic freight on the lower deck and to pretend you are sailing along Kootenay Lake in the comfort of the main deck. Intricate details have been uncovered during restoration—more signs of a time when superb workmanship was the order of the day.

Purchased from Canadian Pacific (CP) for $1 by the Village of Kaslo after she was taken out of service, she was handed to the care of the newly formed KLHS. Many more dollars have since been spent providing jobs and unique experiences for locals. An initial matching grant from Parks Canada got restoration off to a good start. Now all monies come from a variety of grants that have to be applied for each year. This one-of-a-kind ship still belongs to the village and its citizens, and is one of our main attractions for visitors from all over the world.

You enter through the visitors' centre which replicates the CP station that stood near the Kaslo Boat Club until it was torn down in the 1980s. KLHS works with the Kaslo Chamber of Commerce to keep the centre open all year. The friendly well-informed staff provide information not only about Kaslo's attractions and services, but also about the rest of the Kootenays. The heritage theme is echoed in the items for sale in the gift shop, BC books and memorabilia among them.

It's Heritage Week. Check out the history of your area and make a pledge to visit sites that tell about its past. By learning about that, we can see how things came together for this moment in time—and we can make informed decisions on how to proceed into the future.

The S.S. Moyie has been the central focus of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's restoration efforts for many years. The Society is also resonsible for maintaining Kaslo's Archives.

Silvery Slocan Historical Society and Museum

by Webb Cummings

The Silvery Slocan Historical Society was formed to preserve the history of the Slocan Lake area and educate the public about our history. We do so by collecting artifacts, photographs and archives and displaying them in the Silvery Slocan Museum.

The museum building, which is owned by the Village of New Denver, was built by the Bank of Montreal in 1897, six years after the discovery of silver on Payne Ridge near Sandon. The community was five years old, and the bank was built at the centre of town, near the boat landing. It is still a substantial building, and was restored to almost original condition as a heritage building 10 years ago. The restoration was funded by the provincial Heritage Trust, the Village of New Denver and others such as BC Hydro, the Bank of Montreal and individuals. Labour was funded by grants from Human Resources and Development Canada.

Exhibits are shown on the main floor (the banking area), upstairs in the rooms which were living quarters, and in the annex, which was the area used by the BC Security Commission when the Japanese-Canadians were interned here in 1942. One room has been restored for proper storage of archives and photographs.

Some artifacts related to farming, lumbering and mining are stored outside, as is the 'Lancet'. Restoring this launch, built by Dr. Brouse in the old hospital, is one of the society's current projects. Another is digitizing the photograph collection for preservation and research. More than 2,100 photos are available this way. Thanks to Trevor Harrop, good photographs and short biographies of our older residents have also been preserved.

The museum is usually open full time in July and August with a student attendant funded by the Challenge program. If funding permits, it opens in June, and is also operated by volunteers at other times. In recent years, the Infocentre operated by the Chamber of Commerce has been located in the front of the building, which has been good for the museum.

Silverton Historical Society proudly celebrates BC Heritage Week

by Rick Tegeler, president, Silverton Historical Society

In celebration of BC Heritage week, the Silverton Historical Society cordially invites you to our Interpretive Centre open house on February 25, from 1 pm to 4 pm. Come see the dynamic new renovations to the centre. Learn of our exciting new oral history project and hear about the plans already underway for 2006. Take a tour of our updated outdoor display and enjoy some refreshments.

2005 was yet another productive year for the society, which reached many goals and completed noteworthy projects. One of the most visible was the move in September of the tram tower from the south end of town to the outdoor mining display in front of the gallery. Tramlines were the lifeblood of our communities during the mining heydays. A second tower, which will be connected to the first, is planned for 2006, finalizing our tramline exhibit.

Highway signage for the centre was finally put in place; duplicate archival images became available for sale; a liaison with the Ministry of Forestry was created in order to help protect local historical sites; our web site (www.silvertonhistoricalsociety.ca) was created and is currently up and running; a video library of local historical sites was established; membership doubled; a semi-annual newsletter was first published, and much more. At the open house you can also find out about our ongoing plans to re-publish *Old Silverton* by local author John Norris.

The historical legacy of our area, and of BC, is extensive. Its protection, preservation and display are vital to the economics of Silverton and that of the area. It is the Silverton Historical Society's hope that by an increased presence in the community our citizens and visitors will become aware of the importance of our efforts in this regard. Please join us for the fun at our open house. Better still—become a member.

G. O. Buchanan sawmill owner and one of Kaslo's early pioneers, once said, "Wood surrounds us from the cradle to the grave"...

As true today as it was then.

Eric's Meat Market

A Kaslo tradition, since 1943!

- Meats
- Cheeses
- Deli

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Thank you to our local historical societies for their valuable contribution in preserving our history.

HCT Wood Products **366-4310**

Thanks for keeping our history alive!

FALKINS INSURANCE GROUP

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The Council of the Corporation of the Village of Kaslo hereby proclaims the week of February 19th to 25th, 2006 as HERITAGE WEEK within the municipality.

Mayor and Council
Village of Kaslo

Thanks to the staff, the board of directors and the membership of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for keeping the S.S. Moyie alive!

Kaslo Mohawk
405 4th Street
353-2205
MOHAWK

Ainsworth HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Thank you to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for their ongoing restoration of the S.S. Moyie.

Ainsworth Hot Springs, 229-4212

Thank you to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for all their fine work!

Cornucopia "The Natural Choice"

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"History is the only laboratory we have in which to test the consequences of thought."
Etienne Gilson

Kootenay Savings Where You Belong

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Nakusp	265-3605
Kaslo	353-2217

We carry a great selection of local history books!

Fern's Flowers &...

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"You have to know the past to understand the present."
- Dr. Carl Sagan

Kaslo Drugs

403 Front St. • Kaslo • 353-2250

"Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts."
Edward R Murrow

FRIA BUILDING CENTRE
True Value Hardware

Silverton Building Supplies

Silverton 358-2293

"History is a guide to navigation in perlious times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are."
David C. McCullough

North Kootenay Lake Veterinary Services
Pat Haegedorn, DVM and staff
9580 Cowan, Kaslo • 353-7125

History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are.
- David C. McCullough

Kootenay Slar Museum
Featuring Mining Displays
402 Front • Kaslo • 353-2115

We are not makers of history. We are made by history."
Martin Luther King Jr.

SILVERTON HERITAGE Country Inn

SILVERTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OPEN HOUSE

In celebration of BC HERITAGE WEEK 2006, please join us at the Society's Interpretive Centre on the first level of the Silverton Gallery on Saturday, February 25 from 1-4 pm. See the improvements to the Centre along with the new displays; learn about our 'Oral History' project and the many other exciting plans for 2006. Become a member and join the fun! Refreshments served.

The Forest Our Heritage, our Future

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society

Anne De Grace's *Treading Water* well received in Nakusp

by Penelope Dewar

On the evening of February 2, Nakusp's librarian Evelyn Goodell welcomed an enthusiastic audience of 40 to a book reading by Nelson author Anne DeGrace, who spoke about and read from her recently published novel, *Treading Water*.

DeGrace, who is also a librarian, described how she got the inspiration for her novel from a small publication, *The Last Ordeal*, which she discovered during an archival study. "It was full of small anecdotes, about peoples' lives, that needed to be told," she said. Written by Rose Rohn, the slim book, a copy of which DeGrace carries with her, is about the once-thriving South Arrow Lake community of Renata. The "last ordeal" was the 60s flooding that drowned much of its land and forced its residents to leave.

"There's a freedom in fiction," DeGrace said, describing her book as a collection of personal stories. "The stuff of life, seeded in something that happened, taking off into flights of fancy."

Choosing the probable name of "Bear Creek," the author created a believable West Kootenay lakeshore community. A skilled curator, she takes the reader back to the turn of the last century. She then leads you through lives, touching just enough on each event — slipping in and out of light moments, slowing where reflection is required — past well-researched details to an end that could be a beginning. "Obviously life goes on because we're here," she told the attentive crowd, many of whom felt a familiar poignancy in her rhythmic passages.

"I wanted this book to resonate with anyone who lost their land to progress," DeGrace said, adding, "It's a story that happens all over the world. Communities happen all over the world too."

The self-confessed "google addict" took the time to search facts to support her stories, then took liberty with chronology to bring her stories to life. "I figured there were lots of heavy snowstorms," she laughed, feeling some need to justify shuffling noteworthy events through the years.

DeGrace, who is the original "Packrat Annie," moved to Nelson more than two decades ago. Finding no used bookstores in town, she decided to open one, then was amazed at how the books appeared. "People dropped them off on my doorstep," she said. And friends built shelves, and looked after the store when she needed time off.

During her two years writing *Treading Water*, the author drew from her friendships and family relationships to create her characters — to know what they would know, feel what they would feel, to give them appropriate actions and reactions. Sometimes she surprised herself. "I didn't think I could be a nine-year-old boy," she confessed. But Tommy is real, as is Gus, the trapper, and George Hartmann, his wife Frieda, and their daughter, the first born in Bear Creek, appropriately named Ursula, whose life threads through the book.

"My mom was more of a storyteller than a reader," DeGrace told the audience, describing this influence as her "foundation." *Treading Water* reads like a storyteller's tale. Fact and fiction blend seamlessly into a reality that seems familiar, that we want to keep alive. We can thank Anne DeGrace for doing just that.

Held in the space that the Nakusp Public Library soon plans to expand into, the reading was well received. "A literary event," one audience member declared. "We should have more of them," she added, accepting the librarian's delicious proffered homemade refreshments, then joining the long line-up to buy a personally inscribed copy of Anne DeGrace's excellent book.

The event was sponsored by a "Writers in Libraries" grant.

ALAC presents an evening of piano with Robert Silverman

On Saturday, February 18, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council (ALAC) presents Vancouver pianist Robert Silverman at the Bonnington Arts Centre, the third concert in this season's series.

In a world that sees *wunderkinder* come and go, Silverman has reached a level of musical and technical authority that can only be accomplished after years of deep commitment to the instrument and its vast literature. Many aspects of Silverman's playing are frequently noted: a polished technique, an extraordinary range of tonal palette, an uncanny ability to sing his way into the heart of a phrase, and his probing interpretation of the most complex works in the repertoire.

In 1998 Silverman was named the first winner of the *Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry*, administered by the Ontario Arts Council Foundation, in recognition of "his high level of artistry, his moving interpretations of a wide range of music...and his commitment and contribution to music in Canada."

Robert Silverman's discography includes 25 CDs and a dozen LPs. His recording of Liszt's piano music received a *Grand Prix du Disque* from the Liszt Society of Budapest, while his widely-acclaimed 10-CD recording of all 32 Beethoven sonatas was nominated for a Juno award.

Come and join us February 18 at 8 pm in the Bonnington for an evening among friends, who enjoy listening to the beautiful piano music of Mozart, Debussy and Chopin. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door the evening of the concert. ALAC offers special tickets for piano students at $10. Please get your coupon from your piano teacher or call Marilyn Massey at 265-4087.

ALAC thanks the Selkirk Inn for hosting this concert.

Summit Lake Racers — little hill, big things!

submitted

The Summit Lake Racers spent the weekend of February 11-12 at both Kimberley and Big White.

Bryar, Dane, Amber, and Megan competed in K1, K2 and J1 races in Kimberley. According to Bryar McQuair, "it's an awesome ski hill. The snow was good and so was the grooming."

Meanwhile, at Big White, Tim Markholm coached his racers through the Honda Nor Am Tour of Champions which is the North American FIS level Snowboard Cross race. There was talent here from all over Canada, Australia, and the USA, including the racer who took first at the World Juniors in Korea last week.

Carly Thorp, who qualified 14th, got the hole shot in her heat but went down on the technical approach to the first berm. Carly commented that "this was a big, intense course. I was first out of the gates; my speed after the first set of rollers was huge, but too much for the first berm with those three other girls on my tail. I'm happy in spite of my wipe out."

Jesse McDonald, meanwhile, qualified 9th. She took first in the quarter finals against Sarah Hunter, one of Canada's top three junior riders. During the semi-finals, she and Natasha McCormack of the BC Team strategized to shut out the other two riders so they could both advance to the finals. Jesse had the hole shot again, but left Natasha to tangle with Sarah and crossed the finish second.

In the finals, Jesse got behind in her start, caught the third place and vied for second through the tight berms in the mid section, only to be knocked back to fourth mid-air on the last step-up jump.

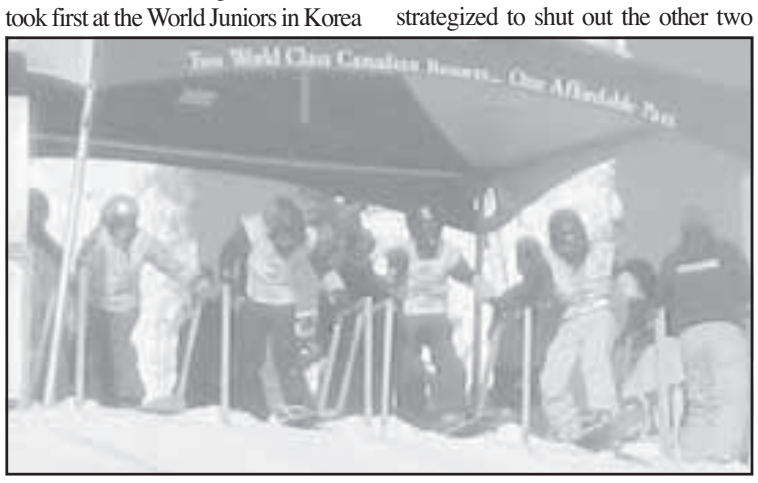
Jesse said, "I'm thrilled with fourth place. These girls were within my reach; they know who I am and I look forward to meeting them again in two weeks."

Flynn Seddon, head of snowboarding at Big White, was thrilled to see Jesse, in her first season FIS racing, as the only BC girl on the podium.

Coach Tim Markholm, meanwhile, worked on analyzing the other racers' styles, perfecting his waxing, and pumping the girls up. He said, "I'm so proud of both these girls. They may come from a little hill, but they can do big things! Guess they'll have to learn how to say 'Nakusp!'"

The race airs on Global TV later in the season; watch for notices here.

Summit Lake Ski and Snowboard Area is holding its annual club races on February 18. This is always a fun day at the hill. Come on out for a great event at Summit Lake!



Jesse McDonald (far left) and her competitors come out of the start gate in their final heat at Big White on the weekend. Jesse finished this heat in fourth place.

Prima Materia
Global Gift Discoveries
Inspiring Arts & Crafts
textiles . objects . artworks
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

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)

Graphic design business moves into downtown Nakusp

by Owain Peach Nicholson

Cliff Woffenden has moved his graphics design business out of his home to join the bustle of Nakusp's downtown. "Howling Moon's Digital Bliss" is now located down by the Leland Hotel.

Woffenden can do up business cards, logos, letterheads, brochures, flyers, newsletters, etc. and can help with ad campaigns and publishing projects. He also offers photocopying, faxing and photo scanning. People can call Cliff if they are looking for a used Apple computer or are having technical problems with their Macintosh.

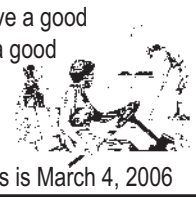
Woffenden has been in the graphic arts business since 1968. He started out as a draftsman before entering graphic arts school in Montreal. He has always been an artist, working mostly with pen, ink and watercolour. Illustration is his favourite work.

"I have illustrated a few of my own books and would love to illustrate someone else's," he said.

He has published six books, four of which are currently available at the store.

Wanted to Hire

The Fauquier & District Golf Club is looking to hire an Assistant Greens Keeper. This is a seasonal position, full time, April to October. Wages are negotiable and based on the experience of the applicant. Job entails working under the direction of our Greens Keeper, duties include golf course landscaping and operating grass cutting equipment. Applicants, who have a good understanding of the game, are physically fit and with a good mechanical aptitude are the most desirable. Work is outdoors and may include weekends.



Send resumés to PO Box 117, Burton, BC
Attention: President Bill Hilton. Deadline for applications is March 4, 2006

Computer Slow?
Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

Seniors' forum very well attended in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A hall packed full of people on February 10 found out that there are a lot of services available to seniors in Nakusp.

Twelve people spoke about the different services they offer, with Mayor Karen Hamling emceeing the event. MLA Corky Evans was also in attendance and made some closing remarks.

Deborah Austin, community administrator at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, spoke about a welcome change within Interior Health (IH) to recognize the importance of aging in place.

"This is a battle you've all been fighting," she said. "It used to be hard for community administrators to defend some of IH's decisions, but now decisions are being made on a community by community basis. Now they realize Nakusp doesn't have enough beds for people in Nakusp."

She assured the crowd that more residential or complex care beds would be coming to the hospital. "Three years ago, we had four residential beds. Now we have eight. We're looking at doubling that," she said, but would not give a timeline.

As for the conversion of Halcyon Home into an assisted living facility, she commented, "We never imagined it would be this long," and said that when there were just three people left at Halcyon, they would be moved to the hospital and renovations would start. There are currently five patients at Halcyon.

She also said that they were using home support as much as possible to keep people in the community for as long as possible. Home support includes personal care such as bathing, helping with pills and settling clients in at night and is available through Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services.

She said that there were other things such as dementia cottages on Nakusp's list, but that "we will ask for them when they become available. What I've learned is you take what you can get and then get back into line for the next thing," she said.

Austin also informed meeting goers that there was a fundraising drive towards purchasing a HandyDart bus. This bus would be totally separate from the transit bus run by ASLCS. She estimated another year until the HandyDart purchase price of about $100,000 would be raised. Once the hospital acquires the bus, however, IH will pay the insurance and maintenance costs.

Barb Chwachka gave more detail about the Halcyon Home assisted living project, showing a schematic drawing. Each 300-square-foot suite will have a small kitchen area with sink and bar fridge, a living room area, a bedroom and large bathroom with a shower that can fit wheelchairs. Three meals a day will be served, and there will be personal care, laundry and housekeeping services available on a weekly basis or more often if necessary. It will be subsidized by IH and the rent can be subsidized by the SAFER program.

The big difference between what Halcyon Home is now and what it will be after its conversion to an assisted living facility is that people living there will have to be able to be mentally competent enough to make their own life decisions.

Chwachka explained that ASLCS has accepted responsibility for the re-development and management of the facility. She said it would take 4-6 months to renovate once it was ready to go.

Gene Nagy talked about Phase 4 of the Arrowtarian Villa project, which will provide 12 more independent living units once completed. There are 23 people on the waiting list for these units. The three-floor building will be attached to the Phase 3 building. Although the group has raised $500,000 to date, it must raise more before going ahead or the mortgage will be too high. He said the Arrowtarians had hired a fundraiser and would welcome donations of cash, material or labour.

Nancy Stewart from the Nakusp Seniors Society Branch #71 talked about all the fun that goes on at the seniors hall. Wednesday morning from 10-11 is hopping, with coffee upstairs and line dancing downstairs, followed by singing practise by the newly formed Nakusp Senior Serenaders. There is a bridge group every Monday evening, quilting downstairs Thursday afternoons, a flea market every last Saturday of the month with lunch available, and a pool table available every morning except Wednesdays.

"We do fundraising to keep running the building, so please come out and support us. We'd love to see more interest from the seniors of this community — we'd love to have you all join," she said.

She concluded with, "Most seniors are active, vibrant residents, able to offer what others can't — years of experience. Together we have a wealth of knowledge. I'd advise anyone in a position of power to take our advice."

MLA Corky Evans picked up on Stewart's comment in his closing remarks. "The whole mess we're in today is because people didn't take wisdom from the seniors and other people who live here when they made their decisions four years ago. I hope people from the other side of the Monashee will learn from what you are doing today. Every good idea has come from the people, and the leaders follow."

Other speakers were Mike George of the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation, Judy Adams, seniors' activities co-ordinator, Jan Fujibyashi from the Hospice Society, Darlene Driediger, government agent, Evelyn Goodell, librarian at Nakusp Public Library, and Marilyn Boxwell, seniors' counsellor.

Laurie Page, ASLCS board chairperson, organized the event in response to the many questions being asked in Nakusp about seniors' issues.

Sandon Snow Day was held February 11th. Like these kids many people enjoyed tobogganing the snowy sloppes.

Pilates studio now open in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

People looking for a fitness program might want to check out Susan's Pilates Studio in Nakusp.

In Susan Mackie's eight years of experience in fitness instruction, she has done mostly cardio and weight training. In 2000, she became one of the first 20 people in BC to be certified in Mat Pilates.

"It's a different type of workout and I'm really enjoying the benefits and calmness of it," she said.

Pilates is a mat based workout, designed to help participants develop longer, leaner muscles. It establishes core strength and stability and heightens mind-body awareness.

Although Pilates has been around for over 90 years, Susan's is the first studio in the area to offer this kind of workout.

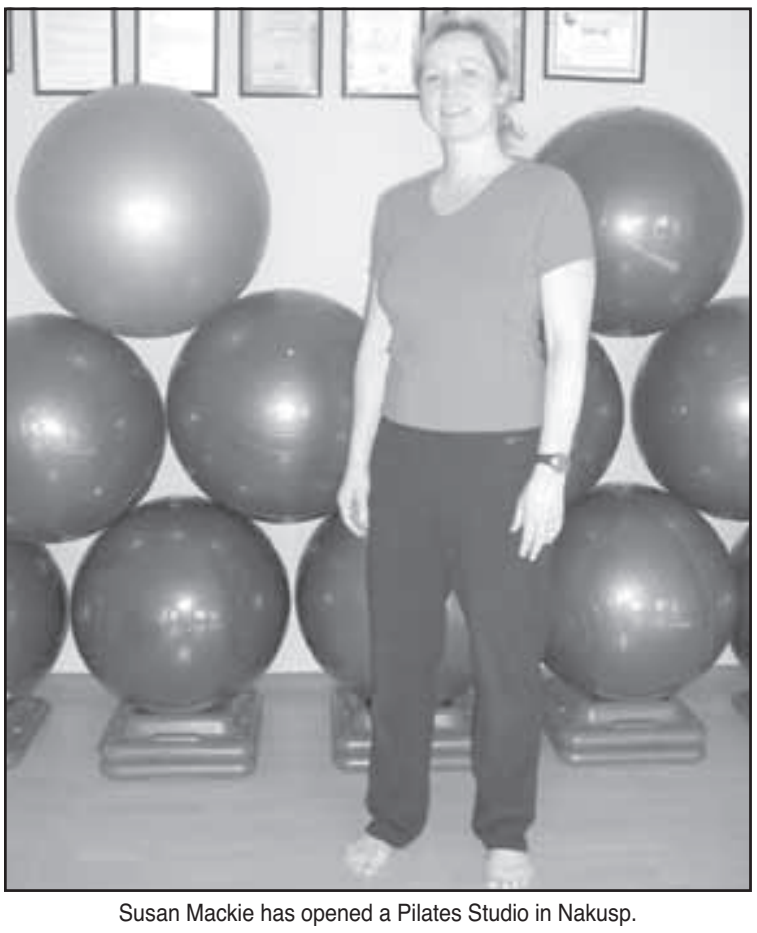
Mackie says that Pilates can be done by anyone at any fitness level. "You don't need any fitness background at all," she says.

The whole workout is done on the mat. It focuses on the "core" of the body, or the abdomen area. In Pilates, this part of the body is called the "powerhouse."

"All your movements start from the powerhouse and then you incorporate the movement in your arms and legs to increase intensity," she explained. "You only move your arms and legs as much as you can according to your core strength. So it's do-able for everyone and everyone gets a workout that challenges themselves."

Mackie also uses some props in the classes such as stability balls, dyna band exercisers, toning balls and Pilates resistance rings.

Mackie is offering nine one-hour classes per week and 25 people are participating. Located at 112A Cotswold Road, the space has been beautifully renovated by Mackie herself. Give her a call at 265-1149 or 265-4952.



Susan Mackie has opened a Pilates Studio in Nakusp.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

A Dynamic Evening of Piano Music With Robert Silverman

SATURDAY, FEB. 18th at 8:00 pm

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Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host: Selkirk Inn

Abbott appointed parliamentary secretary

Jim Abbott, Member of Parliament for Kootenay Columbia, has accepted the appointment by the Prime Minister as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

On making Abbott's appointment, Prime Minister Harper said, "A smaller cabinet will result in these parliamentary secretaries taking on larger, more important roles. They will be a key link between Ministers and parliamentarians and will help ensure our relations with all Members of Parliament are effective and productive."

Abbott has previously served as critic for Canadian Heritage.

He said he looked forward to the post, describing the department as "an enormous portfolio, including responsibilities for broadcasting, copyright, cultural policies, and strengthening Canadians' connections to each other."

He said the government would begin immediately to implement the five priorities Prime Minister Harper outlined during the election: restoring accountability, creating a wait time guarantee, expanding choice in child care, lowering the GST, and reforming the justice system..

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Kaslo residents unhappy that FortisBC will not pay for damages

by Jan McMurray

The BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) decided in November that it could not order FortisBC to pay for damages from the June 13 power surge in the Kaslo/Nelson area last year. That decision is not satisfactory to some of the affected residents.

Margaret Dallyn of Kaslo wrote to FortisBC CEO John Walker on behalf of 22 Kaslo and area FortisBC customers who were affected in the June 13 event. She says, "According to *Kootenay Business Magazine*, your company is one of the 50 top companies in the Kootenays, making sales of over 174 million dollars in 2005. How can you, in good faith, refuse to reimburse those citizens/customers of yours who suffered financial loss because of your negligence?"

In Walker's reply, he states, "As a regulated utility, FortisBC's priority is to provide safe, reliable electricity to its customers in the most cost effective manner possible. For this reason, we cannot provide compensation for events outside of our control, as all FortisBC customers would have to bear those costs."

All FortisBC (then West Kootenay Power) customers did help bear the costs back in 1999 when the same type of power surge, called an "islanding event," caused about $480,000 damage to customers in basically the same geographic area. The company paid their customers for the damage, but partly recovered that cost by increasing rates by about 0.15%. The company's self insurance reserve covered $300,000 of the losses, while $180,000 was recovered by the rate increase.

FortisBC communications manager Natika Sunstrum pointed out that damages in the 1999 event were much more extensive (1701 claims) than in June of last year (184 claims). She said that in 1999, the company decided to compensate customers even though the events were beyond its control, because damages were at least contributed to by the old system it had at the time. Following the events in 1999, the company upgraded its system and installed new protection devices. In 2005, all this failed because of "an abnormal series of events," she said, "including a series of lightening strikes that took place while a portion of the system was undergoing servicing by BC Hydro, which placed the electric system in a vulnerable state."

In letters from FortisBC and from BCUC to the complainants in the June 2005 case, both mention that the company is in compliance with its applicable tariffs, particularly with FortisBC tariff sheet TC18. This tariff sheet outlines FortisBC's responsibility in the case of interruptions and defects in service. It states that FortisBC is not "responsible or liable for any loss, injury, damage or expense caused by or resulting from any interruption, termination, failure or defect in the supply of electricity, whether caused by the negligence of the Company, its servants or agents, or otherwise..." It goes on to state, however, that customers have to pay for any loss or damage to FortisBC property through misuse or negligence.

Dallyn wrote to Robert Pellatt of the BCUC on January 11 to say that BCUC was responsible for the damage if it had truly agreed to the tariff.

"It is beyond my comprehension that the power commission would agree to such a tariff," she says.

Dallyn goes on to say that if BCUC has any concerns for the citizens of BC, it could refuse all rate hikes until FortisBC accepts responsibility for the damage caused by the surge.

Effective January 1, BCUC approved a 5.9% interim rate increase for FortisBC. Pellatt has not responded to Dallyn's January letter.

On February 5, 115 hockey players hit the ice in the Kaslo Winter Hawks Pee Wee House Spirit of 2010 Hockey Tournament. In a ceremonial puck drop, Jayce McKenzie stood in for the chair of the Spirit of 2010 committee, PJ McKenzie, and dropped the puck for Kaslo team captain Jake Rempel and Castlegar team captain Gessy Saunders. Councillor Molly Leathwood and Kaslo PeeWee House team manager Sylvia Guttensohn held the Spirit of BC Week banner.

Community Composting Project becomes a reality in Kaslo

submitted

The Kaslo Back to the Earth Community Composting Project (KBECCP) is no longer merely a great idea or a spark of inspiration. It is a factual phenomenon, actively decomposing organic materials in the Village of Kaslo. The KBECCP has begun cycling heavy loads of compost in a trailer. This is our mode of transportation—pedal power. That's right, no fossil fuels! We are reducing our footprint on the earth by diverting compostable food waste out of the landfill and into our gardens, recycling the nutrients back to the earth.

The Earthworkers Community Organization (ECO) has developed this dynamic project to encourage a sense of community stewardship through meaningful work to improve the health of our local environment. A feasibility study will be conducted to offer a weekly compost pick-up service for the residents of lower Kaslo. The JV Humphries grades K-6 have joined on board for a Classroom Compost Educational Program.

KBECCP offers a free composting workshop at the Langham February 19 at 2 pm. Also, it will build and sell indoor worm composters as a fundraising program to sustain the project and our landfills.

ECO has received initial funding from the Columbia Basin Trust Environmental Initiatives Program, administered by the Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, to help support the KBECCP.

A brochure will be available soon to help you understand more about this initiative and how you can get involved. As a non-profit project in the initial phase of development, we are limited with funds. Please help us to create a foundation in community stewardship. For more information call 353-7751 or backtoearth@netidea.com.

The Kaslo Commmunity Composting Project is underway. The Earthworkers Communtiy Organization has developed the project to encourage a sense of communtiy stewardship to improve the health of the local environment.

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REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

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

Kaslo Detachment

• Cooper Creek resident Doug Vollick was busted for bootlegging after an RCMP investigation into the unlawful sale of alcohol. Vollick pled guilty in Nelson court, was fined $600 and forfeited a large amount of liquor.

• Following a complaint of erratic driving, police charged Kaslo resident Vaughn Maurice Blais with one count of dangerous driving. He will appear in Nelson court March 14.

• On February 3, RCMP raided a home at Mirror Lake and dismantled a grow op. They seized 144 plants and the growing equipment. The investigation is ongoing.

LET'S GET ORGANIZED!!!

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.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Riding out through sunny Syringa Provincial Park

Having done some short local bicycle rides lately, I decided to take along a bike on a recent trip to Castlegar and do a ride up along Arrow Lake from Robson. With the lack of snow at low elevations, and the west aspect of the route, I was pretty sure the ride would be fairly dry and be a satisfying early season tour.

There's good parking in Robson at the east side landing of the old ferry crossing that was in use until the early 90s, before the huge new concrete bridge was put in. The road up the lake is called Broadwater Road and is dead flat and wide enough for locals to use for relaxed dog walking and good for kids to ride along. I took a nice older rigid fork mountain bike, and a hybrid could be put to good use as well. Passing through residential areas, you get a dramatic view of the huge pulpmill across the river, and later on the Keenleyside hydro dam. The paved road climbs somewhat passing the dam and beyond there you can see lots of further dam developments and step off at a good lookout pullout.

Broadwater Road carries on past Scotties Marina and later Syringa Park Marina, then after a couple more curves you come to the main park gates. Locals drive the 12-odd km out here for walks and picnics in the large and fully developed park. The boundary goes up the lake maybe 10 km and the road is now gravelled, but very smooth and used by both public and logging traffic. It's really a beautiful ride, with steep hills to dramatic bluffs and many little pullouts with good looks down to the lakeshore far below. The road clings to the hillside and demands attention, sorta like the old Slocan Bluffs route, but there's little traffic, and you can ride or drive quite casually.

This side of the lake is a real drybelt climate, with Ponderosa pines dominant and lofty fir trees leaning out into space. Feels like the Okanagan minus the crowds and busy lake traffic. Sadly, the lake is—and likely mostly will be—very low, with the high water mark glaringly clear everywhere. Midslope on the west side you can spot the trestles of the Columbia/Western rail trail and see some of the rock walls and rock cuts. Several old burns scar the hills over there as well, but are offset by expansive sandy beaches all along the way. I saw none of the mountain sheep that day, but the loggers dodge them daily as a matter of course.

The good road goes at least to Deer Park (which is not actually just for deer) where a colony of summer homes and cottages dot the shoreline. From the park gates to Deer Park may be 15 km, but I stopped short of there due to the late time of day, plus I was kinda tired on this first decent ride. From the high corner where I turned back I could see Renata further up the lake, then way beyond that you'd end up in Edgewood if you had a boat.

There's an incredible natural rock arch across the lake from Deer Park that has a good trail leading up to where it sits prominently some 300 metres above the lake. I motor-boated down here from Fauquier some years ago, beach camping and did the stiff hike up to the natural 'bridge'. Later this spring I plan to drive to Deer Park over the same route as this ride, and then kayak the short distance over to once again see the immense arch.

One nice stop to make on this ride is back at four km from the park gate. There's a small sign on a fir tree saying 'Tulip Falls', and a five minute walk up a path deposits you in a spectacular small canyon with a veil of water gushing down into it from the cliff above. It tasted just fine as well, and I generally drink water from remote creeks like this if there's little chance of activity uphill. Otherwise, this is a dry side of the lake, and you'll not find much elsewhere if you're thirsty.

The sun slid down behind the ridge across the lake and the ride back to the car got pretty chilly. After stuffing the bike into the car, I grabbed a couple Ponderosa branches to take home for an arrangement and was pleased by their distinctive pine aroma. During the ride I met three cars and three trucks, and everyone waved back. From the park gate back to town was a bit boring after the scenic gravel portion of the ride so you may choose to drive to the park gate to unload and then enjoy the shorter but higher quality 15 km distance.

As the days of spring draw closer, more of us are out on our bikes and happily getting back to seasonal routines. Remember to dress in visible colours if riding near dusk and watch out for traces of sand or new potholes from the past winter season. If the bike doesn't seem quite right, often a simple tuneup and checkover will ensure another spring, summer and fall of fun cycling experiences.

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

My computer is broken, the wood pile is getting ominously low for February, the septic tank is smelling like it requires some serious attention and I soon have to start my part-time teaching position, so time for chores is at a premium. I think I'll go work on the boat.

We have all heard the clichés: owning a wooden boat is like having a hole in your pocket; the definition of a wooden boat is a vessel that holds time commitments and leaks money. I had heard them all too, but when Dan showed me his cute little antique boat that he had for sale, I foolishly pulled out my cheque book, and with the help of some friends, moved it into my shop where it now sheds sawdust and wood shavings all over everything.

It's always a revelation to me how dirty it is to work with wood. It covers your clothes, and your exposed skin, and gets into the cracks and crevasses of all the machine tools that stand sentinel to your foolishness. It fills up your nose and ears, covers the floors and fills your lungs more than a dedicated smoker could ever wish. By comparison, working with engines and metal is positively surgically clean.

Most of the dirty work of sanding and scraping is now done, and if the truth is to be told, Dan already had completed most of this by the time he had passed the project on to me. There was enough left, however, to keep me smothered in sawdust for days. The wood shows itself naked now, all patched, strengthened and ready for finish. The teak transom is just dying for a coat of expensive Dutch spar varnish to bring it back to life after many years of obscurity under coats of peeling finish. The dense African mahogany that trims out the boat needs to be shaped and fitted into place and this is to be one of today's jobs. I was pleased that Darren at the hardware store was able to supply the proper stainless steel screws that I need for this job, as the only rot in the boat is associated with the iron screws that someone had used in the transom many years previously.

Although the boat will show some heightened shine after the finish is applied, I still have the daunting problem of finding the authentic one-lunger, exposed flywheel engine that powered the craft, long before outboard motors were invented. Fortunately, there is one down at the museum, put aside for the eventual restoration of the *Lancet,* a historical Slocan Lake boat. At least I now know what one is supposed to look like and I am trawling the Internet in search of something appropriate for my own boat.

I do have the correct brass propeller and shaft. This is actually a shaft within a shaft that not only spins the prop, but also has the ability to change prop pitch and even direction. I will need to find the mechanism that actuates this movement, but I am confident that if I can see one, I will be able to make something up from scratch.

There are many months of work left on the boat and my time commitments may require that it sit on the back burner for quite a while, but my past experience tells me that this may be just as well as it will give some focus to my dreams, will allow me to meet new and different people as I learn new things about antique boats, scrounge the parts that are needed and organize the myriad tasks that await its eventual return to the water. I'll keep you posted.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Harold Street Cafe...

On this past Sunday, which was a beautiful day, my fearless publisher sent me to far away exotic Slocan City down there at the south end of Slocan Lake to enjoy a meal at The Harold Street Cafe. The drive was sunny and bright, and when I got to the cafe I was met by Pat and Jerry Simmons who are also sunny and bright and own and operate the cafe. They took the place over around eight years ago, took one day to add counter service and stools and spruce the place up, and since then they've been open seven days a week.

Alright then. The first thing I noticed in the Harold Street Cafe was the fireplace. It gives the place not only a warm feel, but it makes the cafe feel friendly as soon as you walk in. The next thing I noticed was the 11-page menu. Wow! Let's begin, shall we? First there is a full page of breakfasts. There are lots of hearty sausage and eggs type meals, and also the Tofu Scramble, the Veggie Eggspress, a Breakfast Burrito, French Toast, and Pancakes. Maybe you'd like an omlette. There are seven beauties to choose from. There's Eggs Benny, with variations, and with homemade hollandaise. Maybe it's past breakfast time, but Pat and Jerry serve their customers these breakfasts and lighter breakfasts till 4:00 pm! If you like burgers, there are ten to choose from, including The Cajun Deluxe, The Salmon Burger and yes, The Tofu Burger. It was the sandwich menu, though, where I found my dilemma. Clubhouse Sandwiches have always been my beloved favorite, but when I'm writing about a restaurant I often feel that I should have something fancier, or a full dinner, but there it was— the very first one on the list — The Clubhouse. What was I to do? Keep reading. There was a Veggie Club, BLT, Steak Sand, Roast Beef, Corned Beef and Swiss and the Ruben. I tore myself away from the sandwiches and stalked the salads. Lots of them. There is Borscht to be had and other soups too. Another page revealed favourites like Fish and Chips, Burritos, Toquitos, and Perogies, a Cajun Chicken Melt and four mouthwatering melts! I turned the page again and saw the Dinners ranged from Rib Eye Steak to Filet of Salmon. Prawns too for Jose.

My eyes were popping by now. I turned another page and saw that Pat and Jerry serve up a variety of good lookin' pizzas in four sizes with fifteen toppings to play with. Holy Pizza! There is also an impressive kids menu, milkshakes, juice and organic coffee, beer and wine. I was at a loss. I didn't know what to order. So I yelled for help and asked Pat what her customers' faves were. She said the Perogies are popular, as are the Fish and Chips and the Greek Salad. Then she said the magic words. "Lots of people come here for the Clubhouse." So guess what I had. It was the best I can remember, and I've eaten hundreds. This one came on giant slabs of sour dough, and my fellow food fans, it was LOADED. (I had to take half of it home 'cuz it was so big.) I also had the Caesar salad which was tangy and garlicky and wonderful. I had a beer too, and I must say it was a hugely enjoyable lunch. Thank you Pat and Jerry! The HAROLD STREET CAFE… is located in Slocan on (for you detectives) Harold Street. Go for the Clubhouse or whatever you fancy. I assure you it'll be great!!

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INTRODUCTION TO WINDOWS, Feb. 21, 28;

SOCIAL COOPS, SOCIAL CARE, Cheryl Hewitt, BC Co-operative Association, Feb. 21;

IMPORTANT MOMENTS, Life Story Writing/Scrapbooking Workshop, Feb. 25, Mar. 4;

MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE, Feb. 23, 6:30-9:30pm;

DRIVER TRAINING, GRADUATED LICENSE PROGRAM, starts Feb. 26;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

CORE Hunter Training, Feb. 25, 26;

MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE & TECHNIQUES, Mar. 4;

OFA LEVEL 1, Mar. 18;

CREATE A HOME DATABASE using Microsoft Access, Feb. 25;

CREATE A MAIL MERGE USING Microsoft Word & Outlook, Feb. 28;

FOODSAFE, Mar. 1;

AIRBRAKES, Mar. 3,4,5;

BASIC ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS USING Microsoft Excel, Mar. 6;

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CARD OF THANKS

The Winlaw Hall Assoc. would like to say thank you once again to all that came out and supported our Valentine's Brunch Feb. 12. The Slocan Valley Churches were so helpful and made our work load so much easier, thank you very much it was great working with you all and look forward to doing it again soon.Thanks again to Fomi's Bakery for the wonderful supply of buns and bread. Carey Gahimer once again went above and beyond with her ideas and drive with the menu and her kitchen expertise. Her husband Mike, Jill, Carolea & Bob, Brent, Bob & Lil, you always amaze me with your tireless efforts to pull something like this off and I thank each of you very much, we seem to make a good team with each of us having our own strengths and I'm glad to be a part of the team. Thanks again to all who volunteered their time, we really appreciate it. Please watch for other upcoming events such as our Outdoor Country Jam hopefully in June. Any questions on hall rental, upcoming events please call Carey 226-6779 or Lorna 226-6779.

The family of Les Weisbrich would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all the Doctors, nurses and staff of the Arrow Lakes Hospital and also at the New Denver Pavilion, for the kindnesses shown and the excellent care that was provided to Les during his times of illness and in his last days. We must also thank the professionals who assisted and the many friends who sat with Les and supported him in some way. We are grateful that you were there.

COMING EVENTS

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

PIE BINGO & USED BOOK SALE. Mt. Sentinel Russia trip fundraiser. Friday, Feb. 17 at Brent Kennedy Elementary School. Doors and concession (hot dogs, drinks and more) open at 5:30 pm. Games start at 6:00. Admission $4 adults, $2 child, includes one bingo card for each game.

LUCERNE PARENTS are encouraged to 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.

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ Program for parents of preschoolers on Friday, February 24th from 11 to noon at Lucerne Library. This is a free program offered by the Nakusp Public Library and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy. For more information call Evelyn Goodell at 358-2355.

ST. PAT's B-FAST at Passmore Lodge, Sunday March 19. Enjoy Rita's famous breakfast and buy a raffle ticket for an Alf Crossley original painting to be drawn at the breakfast. To benefit the Vallican Whole Community Ctr. Info 226-0097.

THE MOUNT SENTINEL GRADS are hosting a Grad Fashion Show, Sunday, February 19, 2006 from 1:00-4:00 at Mount Sentinel School. Admission is $10.00 and includes a light dessert, a beverage and an entry for an opportunity to win a door prize. In addition to the Fashion Show there will be a number of raffles throughout the afternoon and a silent auction featuring a number of items donated by members of the community. Tickets for this event are available in advance at Fabricland in Castlegar, The Sewing Room in Nelson, at the door, or by contacting Mt. Sentinel School at 359-7219.

FLEA MARKET Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 am - 1 pm. 210 8th Ave., Nakusp. Seniors Hall. Everyone welcome. Free admission. Vendors wanted. Call Faye 265-0096.

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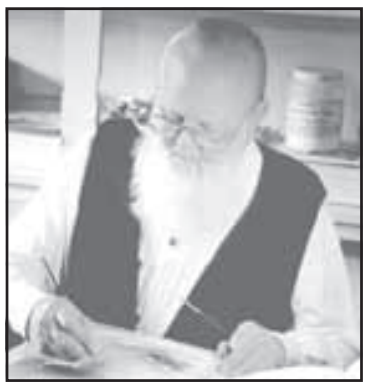
OBITUARIES



Weisbrich, Robert Leslie (Les), internationally renowned artist, passed away peacefully in New Denver, B.C. on Feb.2/06. Les was born in New Jersey July 27/27. He spent many years running his graphic arts studio in Los Angeles before moving to Canada with his family in 1972. He devoted his time to running his gallery and filling it with his beautiful art. Les had a wealth of friends and thoroughly enjoyed his visits with them. He will be sadly missed by his family and those who had the pleasure of knowing him. Les is predeceased by his wife Darlene, son Kevin, daughter-in-law Debbie, and is survived by sons Karl (Mel), Mike (Heather), Paul (Mary), Tim, Terry (Kathy), and daughter Erin.

A memorial to celebrate Les's life will be held at Silverton Memorial Hall, Silverton B.C. on March 18th at 2:00PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please make donations to the Valhalla Wilderness Society, Box 329, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0.

Personal Classifieds start at $8

OBITUARIES

OSIS, MARIE - December 22, 1911-January 20, 2006. Aged 94, Mary (to most) passed away peacefully in her sleep on a clear winter morning at Nanaimo Traveller's Lodge where she resided for the last six months. She was pre-deceased by Adolph, her husband of 60 years, in January 2000, and by Joanne, her daughter-in-law, in 2004. Marie is survived by three sons: Jerry, Vic (Capri) and Ed; granddaughter Lauren; step-grandchildren Janille and Jarrod; brother Paul Fusick in Saskatchewan; and numerous nephews and nieces. Marie and Adolph moved to Slocan, BC from Northern Saskatchewan in 1944, and for 56 years lived in the same house until Marie moved to Nanaimo to live with family. She loved the outdoors and the beauty of nature and volunteered freely while living in Slocan, having been a member of the Women's Institute of BC since her arrival in 1944. She took up bowling, golf and badminton in her senior years and still played a spirited game of badminton after turning 88!

Marie would want to thank the nurses and attendants at Traveller's Lodge and the home care workers in Nanaimo and Slocan for their care and kindness. Flowers are gratefully declined in favour of a donation in her memory to a charity of your choice.

NOTICES

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

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH DRUGS? Narcotics Anonymous meetings at Slocan Community School, Slocan, 6:30 Thursdays. Miles 355-2519.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

PRO-D DAY FEB. 24TH - With Bo Conlan. We've Got The Beat (Ages 6-8 yrs); African Dance&Drumming For Youth (Ages 9 to 12 years). Crescent Valley Hall.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT FOR HEART - Sunday, March 5th. Mt. Sentinel School. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry Fee:$5 person. All skill levels welcome. We create teams from who shows up. Draw prizes, trophies.

SLOCAN VALLEY STORYTELLERS - Word of Mouth 5.Sunday, Feb. 26th 1:00-4:00p.m. Passmore Lodge. Admission $8(adv)&$10 at the door.

BAT HOUSE BUILDING DAY - With Juliet Craig. Has been postponed from Sunday, March 5th to Sunday April 2nd at the Winlaw Hall. Still time to reserve your bat house!

SAND & SNOW - An evening with the World Champion Snow Sculpting Team that just won gold at the Turin Winter Olympics! Thursday,March 2nd, Slocan Park Hall.

TOT'S GROUP CLOTHING EXCHANGE - Tuesday, February 28th. Slocan Park Hall. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Childrens (and adults) clothing welcome.

SLOCAN VALLEY YOGA - Mondays at the Slocan Park Hall with Penelope Shanti. Tuesdays at the Mt. Sentinel School with Gabriella Toth.

SLOCAN VALLEY FITNESS CLASSES-Cardio&Muscle Works with Wendy Van Der Kurr. Mondays&Thursdays 6:30-7:30 p.m. Brent Kennedy School Gym.

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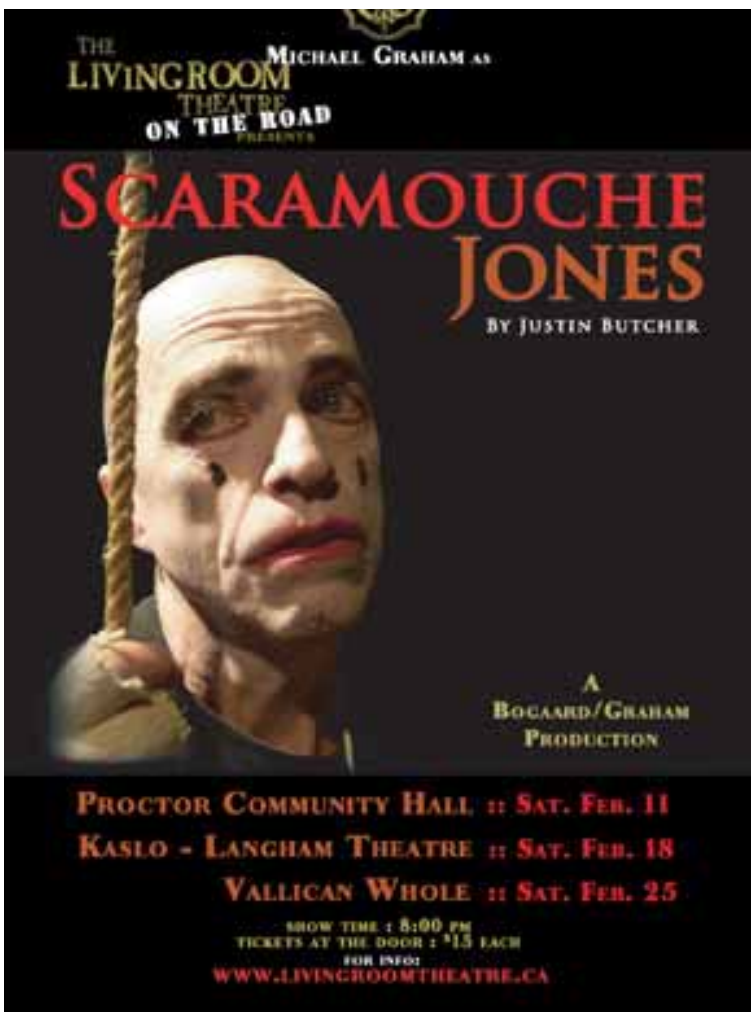

Slocan Valley team wins gold at Olympics!

The first prizes at the Turin Olympics have gone to Canadians—to a team from our very own Slocan Valley! Peter Vogelaar, Carl Schlichting, and David Ducharme travelled to the mountain venue of Bardonnecchia to represent Canada in the International Snow Sculpture Competition, part of the Olympic Festival of Culture and Art.

On arrival, their first challenge came upon realizing that the beautiful sculpture they had planned would be impossible to carve in the sometimes above freezing conditions. A whole new plan was necessary. On the spot, with little time to go, they retreated to their room for a brainstorming session.

According to Captain Peter: "We did a piece with a last minute plan because when we arrived in Bardonecchia last week, it was raining, and plus five degrees, so we felt our original design was unworkable.

"As we despaired as to what might be a good idea, Carl threw another wadded ball of paper on the bed…That's it! So we sculpted it 11 feet tall, with stylized versions of ourselves, heads in hand, searching for our muse. The Italian for 'creator's block' is *'blocco mentale'* which also had a wonderful pun aspect to it.

"As well as winning the first prize from the jury, (yes, that is correct, we are Canada's first Olympic champions of this winter), we won the People's Choice Award. There were 14 other countries competing, Sweden won second and Artists' choice.

"We had a wonderful time, with fine accommodations and great food."

What started as playing with snow in the Slocan Valley has grown into a planetary occupation for members of the Canadian National Snow Sculpture Team. Their unique talents have taken them from sculpting snow north of the Arctic Circle in Sweden to carving ice in a giant freezer in the summer heat of the French Riviera.

The three won the right to represent Canada by winning the National Championship in Quebec City last winter. They travelled to Italy at their own expense, stopping in Winnipeg on the way to carve some demonstration pieces for the *Festival du Voyageurs*.

Team founder Vogelaar began entering snow competitions in 1992 but it wasn't until their resounding sweep of all the major prizes at the 1997 Quebec Winter Carnival that the team confidently stepped out onto the world stage. The team has grown from a core of three people to a floating group of six to eight members who now pursue sand, ice and snow-based events and competitions on a global scale, but they always bring their adventures home.

Slocan Valley Recreation is hosting *Sand & Snow* on Thursday, March 2 at the Slocan Park Hall beginning at 7 p.m. It's an evening for everyone to join members of the team and experience some of their unique adventures through slides and stories.

Admission for the evening is a donation of a non-perishable item to the Slocan Food Bank. For more information, contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

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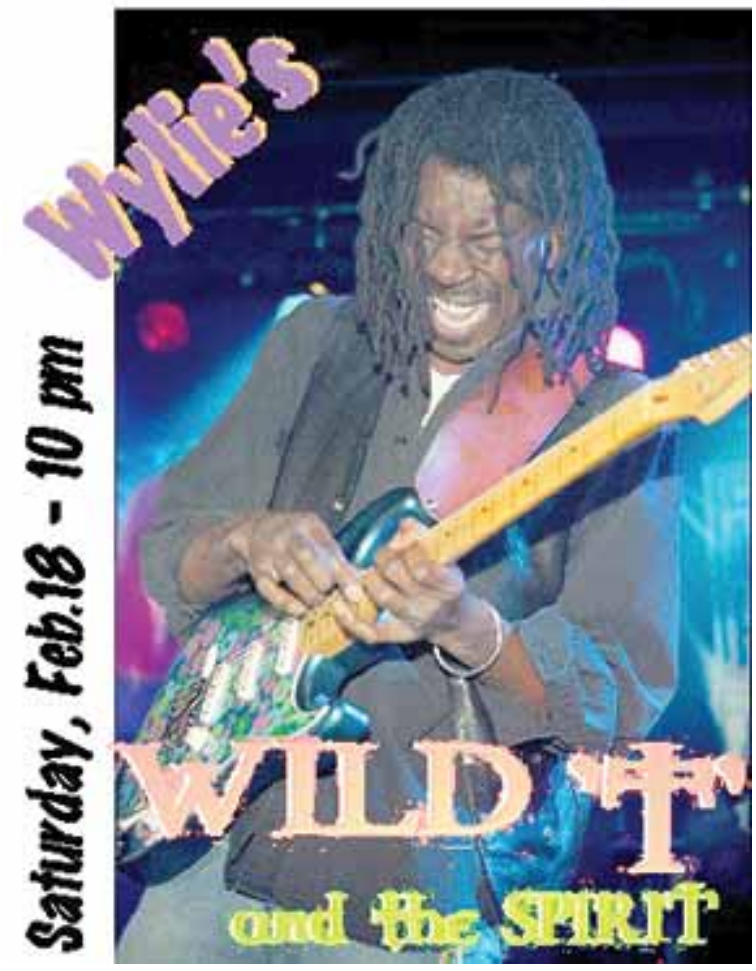

Nakusp Rotary dinner theatre a delight

by Jan McMurray

The Rotary Club of Nakusp partnered with Mirror Theatre this year to bring us another fantastic dinner theatre.

The roast beef dinner was excellent and the play, "Wynn Fairly - Champeen Rassler or Get a Grip on Yourself," was a laugh a minute. Mirror Theatre has created a winner yet again.

The play featured 16 of our best local actors and a different mystery guest star each night. Corky Evans, MLA, made his debut in the last scene on Friday night. On Saturday, the mystery guest star was Nakusp Secondary School Principal Kees van der Pol.

The play also showed off the beautiful singing voices of Lisa Thiessen, playing the part of Doe Ramey and Wren Hobson, playing Bertha de Blooze.

Winners of the several 50/50 draws throughout the evening were announced by the entertaining Guy Duchenes and the charming Frank Moroz. Larry Parkes emceed the evening and presented ticket draw prizes. Lori Mackenzie and Hans Suhr won the best costume awards on Friday night, receiving free tickets to next year's dinner theatre. People are encouraged to dress in theme for the annual show.

MLA Corky Evans played the husband of Bertha de Blooze (Wren Hobson) in the Nakusp Rotary Club / Mirror Theatre dinner theatre February 10.

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VILLAGES OF NEW DENVER, SILVERTON, SLOCAN AND ELECTORAL AREAS H AND K - ARROW PARK

CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS & NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives Funding Program

The Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan and Electoral Areas H and K - Arrow Park (*North Side of Adshead Road, up to but not including Idler Road*) are all accepting proposals for funding consideration from the Community Initiatives Program sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust. Funding for **2006** is to be used for new initiatives or the enhancement of existing programs and must conform to the goals and objectives of the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

Application packages are available at the Village Offices of New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, **or** the Regional Recreation Commission Office in Slocan Park, **or** at the RDCK, 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson BC **or** online at www.rdck.bc.ca. For Arrow Park residents, you can also contact Bill Mitchell at 1-250-265-0040.

Completed Applications must be submitted *no later than* **4:30 pm, April 18, 2006** to the RDCK, attn: Trish Gerald, PO Box 590, 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson BC V1L 5R4.

For further information, please contact Trish Gerald, RDCK. Phone: 1-800-268-7325 / 1-250-352-8190 Fax: 250-352-9300 e-mail: tgerald@rdck.bc.ca **or** contact your local Village Office

Public Meetings to review proposals will be held as follows:

New Denver: **Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 7 pm**
New Denver Council Chambers
115 Slocan Ave., New Denver, BC

Silverton: **Tuesday April 25, 2006, 7 pm**
Village of Silverton Council Chambers
421 Lake Ave, Silverton, BC

Slocan: **Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 7 pm**
Silvery Slocan Social Centre / Legion #276
502 Harold St., Slocan, BC

Area H: **Thursday, May 4, 2006, 7 pm**
Winlaw Community Hall
5897 Hwy 6, Winlaw, BC

Area K - Arrow Park: TBA – please contact Bill Mitchell