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

Green power project proposed in the Lardeau Valley

by Jan McMurray

If all goes well for a West Kootenay father and son team, Neil and Sean Murphy, there will be a small run-of-river hydro power project in the Lardeau Valley in a few years time.

The pair got the water licence on Glacier Creek about three or four years ago, formed Glacier Power BC Ltd. and responded to BC Hydro's December 2005 Open Call for Power.

The proposed Canada - Glacier/Howser/East (CGHE) project involves developments on Glacier and Howser Creeks, with the possibility of future work on East Creek. All three creeks drain into Duncan Lake.

Power produced from the CGHE project would travel from a powerhouse at Howser Creek to a powerhouse at Glacier Creek via an interconnect power line along the Duncan Lake Service Road. From Glacier Creek, it would travel via an overhead line along the Glacier Creek Forest Service Road, a buried line through Jumbo Pass, and an overhead line along the Toby Creek Forestry Road to the BC Hydro substation in Invermere. Along the entire 102-km power line length, there would be fibre optic cable.

"The route of the power line was the most discerning part," said Neil.

He says he looked at different routes for the power line — to Nelson and to New Denver — but found out that using either of these would be way too costly. He concluded that the route through Jumbo is the only feasible one.

As there were too many environmental issues with an overhead line over Jumbo Pass, Murphy hired a Calgary company with expertise in horizontal drilling. They helped come up with an innovative plan to drill a tiny tunnel through Jumbo Pass for the power line.

Also because of the route of the power line, there is a possible perception that the project is affiliated with the Jumbo Glacier Resort project. They want to make it very clear that this is not the case.

"We have not spoken with Jumbo Glacier Resort Ltd. We have no affiliation with them. Under the BC Hydro program, we can only sell power exclusively to BC Hydro," said Sean.

The other company involved in the CGHE project, AXOR, listed on Glacier Power's website as 3986314 Canada Inc., holds the water licences on Howser and East Creeks. This large corporation was very happy when Murphy contacted them.

"They had realized that power projects on these creeks would be economically viable only if they could be interconnected. So we put Glacier and Howser in under one bid because financially, it makes sense and the power line costs become manageable," explained Neil.

Although this is Glacier Power's first attempt to do an independent power project, Neil has been looking into it for many years. He says he became aware of the potential as an independent power producer (IPP) about 19 years ago, and has watched the situation heat up considerably in recent years.

He says BCH had to buy 12% of its power last year from outside the province at very high prices, so there have been more and more calls for power from IPPs.

Murphy got the water licence on Glacier Creek about three or four years ago, after several unsuccessful attempts to get licences on other creeks.

"Somebody always beat me to it," he said. "The guys were out in earnest trying to get water licences."

However, he came back to the Kootenays, where he was raised, and discovered it was one area everyone had missed.

Sean, the son, lives in Nelson and is qualified to run power plants. He is a stationary power plant engineer and a marine engineer.

Neil, the father, is a businessman. He founded Kootenay Tugboat Ltd. and owned all the tugboats on Slocan Lake at one time. He now lives on the coast but says he will move back to Nelson if BC Hydro awards the company with a power purchase agreement.

Sean commented on the amazing wealth of expertise in hydropower that there is in the area. "We're hopeful that if our project is approved, we can provide some jobs," he said.

Neil says that if their Lardeau bid is successful, Chant Construction would be hired as the project manager. This company has worked on the Brilliant project.

BC Hydro has announced it will offer the contracts to successful bidders after August 8 of this year. There were 81 project proposals submitted under this call for power.

If BC Hydro offers the company a power purchase agreement, there will be public consultation meetings. For now, the company is inviting public comment by email at glacierpowerbc @glacierpowerbc.com or by mail at 2115 Perrier Rd., Nelson, BC V1L 6Y9. Visit www.glacierpowerbc.com for more information.

PHOTO CREDIT: RORY MCLEOD

On March 11th the Summit Lake Ski Club held its races. This is Dave Jackson on snowboard (40 + mens' category co-winner). Details on page 10.

Action to begin this summer at Trout Lake molybdenum mine

by Jan McMurray

With the MAX molybdenum (moly) mine in Trout Lake expected to go into production in September, there will be lots of action on the site this summer. The company will be setting up its recently acquired concentrator mill.

"We're just waiting for the snow to leave to do the foundation work for the mill," said Scott Broughton, President and CEO of Roca Mines Inc. out of Vancouver.

Roca's wholly owned subsidiary, FortyTwo Metals Inc., is developing the Trout Lake molybdenum mine. Moly is used as an alloy in steel. It is experiencing a bit of a boom because of increased demand for steel, particularly in China, and for specialty steel in the oil and gas industry. It currently trades in the US$25/lb range, up from US$4/lb in 2003.

In January, FortyTwo Metals Inc. purchased a mill, complete with buildings and equipment, for US$325,000. The mill, now located about 380 kms from Trout Lake near Colville, Washington, will be dismantled, moved to Trout Lake and reconstructed at the mine site this summer.

"We'll be hiring a project manager to oversee the whole construction phase, and they'll be looking for local contractors," said Broughton. "We've met lots of capable contractors in Nakusp, Revelstoke and the New Denver area, and we've been receiving lots of applications. We haven't hired anybody — that is pending financing for the project." He added that once the mine is up and running, it will employ 25-30 people.

The MAX project was awarded a mining permit from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources in November of 2005, allowing the development of an underground mine and onsite concentrator. The company intends to develop a 500 tonne per day mining operation that would produce up to 72,000 tonnes per year. Roca aims to be the first new primary molybdenum producer in Canada with this mine.

The estimated total capital cost of the project is US$15 million, which is considered to be quite reasonable. This is because significant exploration and engineering work was done on the site in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Newmont Mines Ltd. and Esso Minerals Canada Ltd. Despite the work they did, they never put the mine into production.

"It's a very exciting deposit," said Broughton. "It was identified back in the 60s, and most of the work was done by companies in the early 1980s. They focused on a significant sized deposit — there is lots of high grade within that deposit. There is an opportunity to find more, to add to the size of the deposit, by drilling deeper, but it is a very good deposit now. There is a great exploration opportunity there."

In 2003, with molybdenum prices on the rise, Roca began negotiations and ended up with a 100% interest in the Trout Lake Deposit, now renamed the MAX Molybdenum Deposit.

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Forest Safety ombudsman appointed to address industry hazards

Roger Harris, former Skeena MLA and Minister of State for Forestry Operations, has been appointed Forest Safety Ombudsman by the BC Forest Safety Council. The position will enhance safety in BC's forest industry as an impartial, confidential agent for change, the council says.

In appointing an ombudsman, the BC Forest Safety Council says safety issues and concerns can be raised with the confidence that they will be listened to and acted on.

As ombudsman, Harris will provide a forum to hear about safety issues and solutions from those who work in forestry.

"I hope to create an environment where people can talk to each other to air concerns and find solutions," he says.

While welcoming the appointment, the NDP says that in order to improve safety in the forests, the ombudsman should be independent and report directly to the legislature. Forest and range critic Bob Simpson, the MLA for Cariboo-North, questioned the job going to a former BC Liberal cabinet minister, given his instrumental role in implementing the forest policy changes that many have suggested may have negatively affected safety performance in the forest sector.

"With the number of forest deaths and injuries on a dramatic rise, BC needs a forest safety ombudsperson to help protect forest workers," said labour critic Chuck Puchmayr, the MLA for New Westminster. "To be effective however, that person must be fully independent and report to the legislature. Ultimately, however, the appointment of Mr. Harris begs the question of independence and whether or not he can be openly critical of policies that he helped implement."

Harris started work in the forest sector at 18 as a logging camp dishwasher and worked his way up through the harvesting sector. He is familiar with safety issues—he nearly severed his right hand in a chain saw accident while working as a faller 20 years ago.

Harris's appointment will begin in early April of this year and the office will be fully functional by May 1st.

Silverton Fire Department held their annual car wash on Saturday, March 25.

New interior log grades to be introduced

Effective April 1 the Ministry of Forests and Range will introduce new log grades for the Interior to better reflect the quality of timber affected by the mountain pine beetle, based on the log's size and quality at the time it is scaled. In addition to fairly reflecting the quality of beetle-killed timber, the new grades will create simpler and more consistent assessment of timber harvested.

As a result of the mountain pine beetle infestation, about 25 per cent of the Interior harvest is currently being assessed as dead and dry. Under the new grades, the majority of this timber will be assessed as saw logs, recognising their potential to produce good quality lumber. Saw log stumpage will apply. Logs not capable of producing lumber will be charged minimum rates.

The Ministry of Forests and Range is working with licensees to ensure a smooth transition to the new grades, including training more than 800 individuals. The new log grades have been designed so they do not significantly increase or decrease stumpage revenues to the Crown, or impact the flow of timber to processing facilities.

More information and a table showing the new grades can be found at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/loggrade.

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Applications close April 7, 2006
Grant co-ordinator
S. Watt, 265-3438

Ecosociety hosts environmental awards gala

On April 1, the EcoSociety invites the public to a gala to celebrate its 10th anniversary and present the first annual West Kootenay Environmental Awards. The trophies will be awarded to a West Kootenay individual who has made a significant contribution to our environment. Designed and built by local artists Brent Bukowski, Ian Johnston, Naomi Lewis, Ruth Prosser and the folks at Our Glass, the trophies will spend a year in the homes of those individuals honoured at the ceremony.

The nominees for the awards are:

Community Environmental Activist of the Year: Jennie Barron (Nelson), Ramona Faust (Harrop-Proctor), Terry Lowery (North Shore), Gord McAdams (Nelson)

Wilderness Protector of the Year: Eloise Charet (New Denver), Rowena Eloise (Argenta), Linda Van Damme (Creston).

Environmental Educator of the Year: Juliet Craig (Nelson), Nancie Dohan (Nelson), Tim Hicks (Passmore), Terry Lowrey (North Shore), Andrew Mark (Nelson), Cheralynne Kennedy (Nelson)

Resource Recovery Award: Donna McDonald (Nelson), Karina Gregory (Nelson), Jimmy and Sylvia Hamilton (Nelson)

The gala evening will feature desserts, coffee and teas and will be emceed by Michael Graham; the individual awards will be presented by local luminaries. *Nikko* will serenade the dessert eaters with mellow Latin jazz and the *Mad Combo* will step up the beat with eastern and klezmer music for dancing afterwards. There will also be a cash bar.

The EcoSociety Gala and Awards Evening will take place at the Anglican Church Hall, beginning at 7 pm. Entry is $8/members and students, $12/individuals, $20/couple. Tickets available from the EcoSociety or Otter Books.

PHOTO CREDIT: LEAH MAIN

Has gardening season snuck up on us again? Donna Hicks and son Ezra had seeds to swap at the Hidden Garden in New Denver on March 26. The seed swap was hosted by GRUBS, a family gardening club.

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Final Notice!!
The **Annual General Meeting** of the Area "H" North TV Society will be held in the Hidden Garden Gallery on **Thursday, March 30, at 7:00 pm**.
Here is your chance to make suggestions, hear the results of our recent poll concerning the possible addition of a new channel this year, and make suggestions for the future. Looking to join the Executive? Have any concerns? Now's your chance to be heard!!
Refreshments will be served, so we'll see you there — right??

Joint fire service coming to New Denver area

by Jan McMurray

The process to amalgamate the New Denver and Silverton fire departments, and to bring fire service to Red Mountain Road is moving forward.

About 63% of Red Mountain property owners signed the petition in support of the fire service. At the RDCK board meeting on March 25, the bylaw to bring Red Mountain into the service area was given three meetings and forwarded for approval of the Inspector of Municipalities.

Also at that meeting, the board accepted New Denver's proposal to join the RDCK 911 service. This clears up the logistical problem of Silverton and New Denver having different 911 arrangements. Up to now, New Denver's 911 service has been provided through a contract with Nelson, while Silverton joined the RDCK service when it was set up in 2002.

At the time the RDCK 911 service was set up, the RDCK board agreed to take $500,000 out of the building reserve fund to go towards the cost of equipment needed for the service. Because New Denver decided not to join at that time, the RDCK transferred New Denver's portion of the building reserve fund to the Village. The Village put that money into a reserve fund. That fund amounts to about $3430 today, and will now be transferred back to the RDCK as New Denver's contribution to join the service.

In a letter from New Denver Mayor Gary Wright to the RDCK board, he explains that the amalgamation will be set up as a contract service through the Village of New Denver. "It is essentially an expansion of the existing joint New Denver-Area H contract which has worked well for both parties for more than a decade," he says.

Tribal council okays Kaslo skatepark site

by Jan McMurray

An Archaeological Impact Assessement for the proposed Kaslo skatepark site in Vimy Park is unnecessary.

This is what Robert Williams of the K'tunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council relayed to Don Page of the skatepark committee and to the Village office following his visit to the site on March 24 .

"He [Williams] surveyed the site and the proposed borrow pit areas, where we could get extra fill. He walked the beach, took some pictures, did some GPS positioning and said he could see no problem with putting the skatepark there," reported Page. "After he was finished with us, he went to the Village office at our request to tell them it's fine."

He said he expected the tribal council to follow up with a letter stating this.

Page informed us that the terms of the agreement between the Village and the skatepark committee regarding the facility were "ironed out" at the March 22 Administration and Finance committee meeting. The agreement, which was modelled on the one signed by the Village of Nakusp and the Nakusp skatepark group, is expected to come before council on March 28 for final approval.

CLARIFICATION

To clarify some confusion around the petition in favour of the Vimy Park location for the skatepark that was submitted to the Kaslo Village office about two years ago, we spoke to Susan Van Zandt at the Village office on March 27. She reported that there were a total of 492 signatures submitted in the same package at that time. The package included a "youth survey" signed by 132 students, as well as a document containing 360 signatures of people in favour of the location.

Nakusp Rotary Club honours Citizens of the Year

The Nakusp Rotary Citizen of the Year selection committee has announced the winners for 2005.

From an outstanding field of nominees, Doreen Desrochers, Doug and Brenda McQuair, and Joe MacDonald have been selected for their exceptional community service. They exemplify the Rotary motto, 'Service above Self'.

Doreen Desrochers is Nakusp's Pioneer Citizen of the year.

An awards banquet to honour them will be held at the arena the evening of April 15.

Doreen Desrochers is receiving recognition in the *Pioneer* category. The award comes for her role in establishing Nakusp's first Kindergarten, her many years of work with the Kinettes, arena building, Mother's March, Lakeside Singers, hospital support and the establishing of Halcyon Home, as well as her continued work with seniors' groups.

A new category this year opens up the opportunity to honour those who are currently achieving exemplary community service to our area. The McQuairs are jointly recognized for their tireless efforts to maintain and improve the Summit Ski Hill as well as encourage young people through training and racing. They work for Nakusp Minor Soccer, have been involved in the Rotary exchange program and Brenda is currently serving on the Arts and Writer's Festival.

Joe MacDonald is the first recipient of the newly-introduced *Youth Award*. A grade 12 student, he maintains a high scholastic average while serving as president of the Arrow Lakes Youth Society. He organized the 2005 skateboard competition, developed *Project Inspire*, a youth literacy program, and fund-raised for *Project Work*, a Sri Lanka rebuilding program, where he is currently volunteering his service.

The Rotary Club of Nakusp has been sponsoring Citizen of the Year awards for more than 30 years. Rotarians believe it is important to give recognition for those who have given selflessly for the betterment of our community. In past years there has been a single award each year honouring the contributions over many years of an outstanding senior. This year, for the first time, Rotary has expanded the awards to recognize the contributions of youth and active volunteers, as well as our pioneers.

While the Rotary Club sponsors these awards, a separate committee of non-Rotarians reviews the nominations and decides who will receive the awards. This year selection was difficult with the number of excellent nominees received.

Tickets for the banquet are available at Barton Insurance Brokers Ltd for $20 per person.

Joe MacDonald is the first recipient of the Youth Citizen of the Year award. In this photo, he's digging a septic field in Sri Lanka.

Doug & Brenda McQuair will be recognized for their ongoing work in the community.

Halcyon Home project gets the go-ahead

by Jan McMurray

After about four years of hard work and many delays, the Halcyon Home renovation project is finally going out to tender.

At the March 23 council meeting, Mayor Hamling assured council that "we've had official confirmation" of the news, and commented that it was well worth her while to go to the IH meeting in Trail on March 13.

Hamling says she presented a plea to the IH board on March 13 to start on the Halcyon project right away and to allow the five current residents to stay while the work is being done.

"I pointed out to the board that they have permission from the residents, their families and the community to let them stay during renovations," said Hamling. "Also, I pointed out that they say they want to have engaged communities, and part of that is listening to what the communities say."

IH had been hoping to move Halcyon residents up to the hospital during the renovations, but there has never been enough room there.

In a follow-up letter to IH Chief Operating Officer Carol Markowsky, Hamling re-iterates Nakusp's position: "We have a real concern with clogging up 50% of the acute care beds with [Halcyon] residents, and losing the ability to provide respite in our community."

Hamling says her impression is that IH is coming around to the idea of having the residents stay. "After IH received a letter from the residents and their families saying there was no problem with having them stay, IH said they didn't want to give the residents a poor quality of life. Well, it's a poor quality of life for five of them in that huge building. Getting started on the renovations will at least give them some hope," said Hamling.

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services is overseeing the project, and Administrator Marty Lewis says he was very happy when he heard the news.

"We're very excited about it," he said. "Karen [Hamling] was very instrumental in moving it forward, and compliments to Deb Austin [IH community administrator], who has believed in the project and has promoted it."

Lewis says it shouldn't take long to get the tender packages ready. "It just needs to be costed out for today's market," he said, adding that Fairbank Architects completed the drawings and specifications some time ago, and Hil-Tech Contracting out of Trail is the project manager.

Hot Springs job set to go

by Jan McMurray

At Nakusp's March 23 council meeting, an update from the experts confirmed that the Hot Springs job would go out to tender March 30, and that the Village could be reasonably confident that its $375,000 budget for the first phase of work would be adequate.

Chris Fairbank, who is managing the project, recommended that the Village hire a general contractor. He said the contract would be awarded April 20, giving contractors time to complete the job by the end of June.

Walter Schredl of Yoneda and Associates, the mechanical contractor, showed council the drawings he was almost ready to send off to the Health Engineer in order to get a permit to proceed.

In Schredl's explanation of the drawings, it became apparent that there were some changes to the plan as outlined in the recent Fairbank report. Schredl acknowledged that these changes would end up costing more up front, but would result in huge savings in the operation of the facility. To accommodate the higher costs within the budget, Schredl recommended deferring the fire separation of the basement to the second phase of the job.

An ozonation system to complement chlorination is now in the plan. He did not have any hard and fast figures for this, but guessed that the two units that need to be installed for this would cost about $11,000 each. The savings in operation here would be on chemicals.

New plumbing problems have been discovered to the tune of $10-12,000. The piping system under the concrete slab that uses hot springs water to heat the change rooms and lobby is not functioning. Once this is fixed, there will be great savings on heating the building. Schredl also recommended looking for funders interested in energy conservation, and suggested the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

The other plumbing problem that must be fixed is the lack of backflow prevention on the cold water supply to both pools, causing filtered and non-filtered water to cross-connect in two separate locations.

Schredl also announced that no gutters would be required, as long as the deck is heated and de-iced. The de-icing system will also save energy, pumping hot springs water through tubes embedded in the concrete.

He said that the $20,000 saved by not having to do the gutters could be added to the budget for the pool liners, making it possible to line them with ceramic tiles.

Parent Congress to be held

The provincial government plans a 'parent congress' later this year "to ensure parents have a say in how to improve BC's education system," says education minister Shirley Bond.

The 60 chairs of district Parent Advisory Committees met with Bond March 25 to discuss the congress and the proposed Parents' Education Network. This network, announced in the throne speech, will give parents the latest information on programs and research to help children do their best in school, the ministry says.

No date or location has been announced for the congress.

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Voices from the Valleys

Trying to not be bitter...

When Rob Oschendorf of the Apple Tree approached me about his Celebrity Waiter Week (advertised on page 7), I was enthusiastic. What a great idea! A bunch of well-known locals will be waiting tables, and a portion of the day's receipts will be donated to the local charity of their choice. I immediately started planning my waitering outfit. I have this wonderful navy blue vest, a ruffled shirt and a bowtie that would be perfect, I thought.

I don't have lots of experience in the food service industry. In fact, my only experience was at an establishment where I had to end every order with the question, "Would you like fries with that?" I didn't last very long at that job, but I figured, "What the heck, Rob's keeping his regular staff on. If there's any kind of problem, I'll have back up."

Rob is one of my very favourite local restauranteurs. Not only does he believe that life's too short for bad coffee, he makes the best Reuben Sandwich west of Winnipeg. His brownies are the finest in the West Kootenay. As part of this publisher gig, I get a free coffee every couple of weeks when I deliver his stack of *The Valley Voice*. Imagine my surprise when he comes in with his ad copy, and I see that I'm not on the list. "It's the beard, Dan," he explains. "I couldn't find a beard net on short notice. I didn't even know if you'd wear one."

Trying not to look crushed, I scan the list of names. I note that none of the celebrities has a full beard (although there is at least one moustache). I say some nice things about the local charities that they have chosen to support.

I haul my battered and bruised ego back to my desk. I didn't want to be a celebrity waiter anyway, I tell myself. But as I lay out the ad copy, I find myself musing on which local charity I would donate this huge windfall of cash to, if I had a chance. Probably the Sandon Historical Society, I decide. I serve on the Board of Directors, and at one time they employed me in their wonderful museum.

This gets me thinking about what I would do to become an Apple Tree celebrity waiter. I could take my beard off, I think. I must confess to a certain idle curiosity about what my face looks like under my beard anyway. It's been twenty years since I've been cleanshaven. If Ken Hart can do it in Kaslo, why can't I? Then I recall that he raised a bunch of money for the volunteer fire department by shaving in front of a crowd on Front Street.

I'm desperately hoping that Rob will make this an annual event, and that next year he'll have the good sense to include me, so that I'll have a chance to put this scheme in motion. I'll get one of our local hairdressers to shave my beard off on Main Street, the day before I'm to be a celebrity waiter. Admission by donation - all proceeds to the Sandon Historical Society.

In the meantime, I'll concentrate on being strong, but not bitter (just like Rob's coffee).

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Health Issue

The introduction of the feared bird flu here in British Columbia is a real possibility.

This is what several of us have been watching. The possibility of it being transmitted via the several migrating flocks of shore birds from Asia to Alaska and the Yukon thence south into British Columbia and other continental areas is now very real.

If this arrives here, people with safety clothing and face masks should be the only ones contacting any dead birds of the several migrating species and dispose of the remains as soon as possible by incineration. Please note that the fecal matter can cause the disease for up to 2 weeks. If this means that we cannot go near the water, or flocks or their nesting places — so be it.

People should be warned and aware that the feeding of water fowl may become very hazarous to their health. As in any small lake side town here in Kaslo a number of folks find pleasure in feeding the pretty birds in lake shores and even in residential areas, but the droppings, if the creature is infected remain very dangerous up to two or three weeks after being deposited.

People and especially children walking in/on this manure can track the disease not only to distant places but to their homes and schools, placing theselves and others at risk.

In Eurasia and even to China this virus has changed enough to infect family pets killing them in a very short time.

In Germany even house cats are quarantined to the confines of their owners homes.

Not wanting to cry Wolf,... yet....

Paul Woolgar.
Kaslo

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*.

Preserve Kaslo's waterfront

It often happens that very rich people do not fully value what they have because it is what they have always known. This applies to some people in Kaslo who overlook the treasure they have in owning pristine waterfront at Vimy Park. Covering a section of the waterfront with a concrete structure is progress, they say. Once the skateboard park is highlighted in the skateboard magazines, look at all the tourists it will bring, along with sales of equipment and repairs. That's progress! I am saddened that Kathleen Elder's wisdom is being ignored.

Beverley Gaal
Kaslo

Would the real KJES president please stand up?

Now I really am curious to learn just who is the President of the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society (KJES).

Larry Braley's letter to The Valley Voice of March 1st told us Jim Holland is the President of the KJES, yet Gusti Callis' letter of March 15th stated, "Jim Holland was president of the board for 11 years, he stepped off the board 3 years ago to become an employee of the KJES board."

When viewing the "new" Kaslo Jazz Fest 2006 website, I see it shows Jim Holland as the President and Gusti Callis as the Vice-President under "The Board of Directors."

Anybody care to tell me who really is the President of the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society?

Jill Braley
Kaslo

Polygamy is sexual abuse

The pregnancy rate for teenagers at the Mormon community of Bountiful being three times national average is no surprise. The "Missionary-position" seems to be the favourite way to "worship" there.

Most mainstream religions have a male-dominated hierarchy that views women in a subservient role and exploit it to the utmost.

It is very convenient for Mormon men to hide behind a religion to condition young females and breed as early as possible with a multitude of "wives."

These girls are brainwashed and not capable of breaking out on their own without outside help. Sexual abuse of children within a religion is nothing new; it took decades to bring out the awful truth within the Catholic Church.

Without an intense investigation, and strong legislation regarding polygamy, these breeder-colonies will continue under the guise of religion.

One way or another, children are used here. American Mormon women come across the border, quickly get pregnant, and resist deportation using their passport-babies as a reason to circumvent immigration rules.

Why has this been tolerated for so many years? Why is there such a reluctance to go after this phony polygamy set-up?

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

On power

As Keenleyside dam sputters past the average 70-year life expectancy of similar structures, planning for a future scenario is called for.

In the USA, no new dams are being commissioned, and all the old ones are being decommissioned, for the simple reason that they all fail.(source: Suzuki-Dressel, "Good News for a Change.")

Furthermore, big power projects don't pay off the interest on their investment capital, let alone the principal.

New technology — inline / non disruptive generators, etc, make it possible to reconstruct the small generating facilities which existed here before the Hydro monolith devoured them, and our valley's civilization.

Worse yet, 60-cyle alternating current is disruptive to human biorhythms, which is why it is not used in Europe.[see Tesla vs. Edison, circa 1900].

All in all, a great future is possible!

g.turner
Edgewood

Skatepark support overstated

Having seen yet another reference in the last issue of *The Valley Voice* to the petition carrying 500 names in support of locating the skateboard park in Vimy Park, I feel compelled to respond.

Fact: the above mentioned petition actually presents around 350 names.

Fact: 86 of the names are those of non-residents showing either no address or an illegible one.

Fact: Two dozen or so names are those of minors of varying ages. Although youth are important members of the community, including these names is not a legitimate use of a petition presented in response to a controversial land use issue.

Fact: Another two dozen or so names appear twice on the petition.

When this information is taken into consideration, the numbers change drastically. In order for a petition to be taken seriously, it must be tightly controlled. As was the recent one presented to council with the names of 100 registered voters from the Village of Kaslo expressing support for locating the skatepark elsewhere.

Anyone wishing to confirm the above information should view all the petitions at City Hall. See for yourself. There is not overwhelming support for locating this facility on the beach in Vimy Park. Too much rumour and innuendo is flying around this extremely important issue. Let's get it straight.

Donnie Cormie
South Fork Road

Jumbo update

It was with great joy and jubilation that we learned the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) had voted overwhelmingly to keep the fate of the Jumbo area local. And we eagerly look forward to participating in the public hearing in Invermere at the time the proponent requests to have our beloved backcountry re-zoned to accommodate his ridiculous resort and disastrous development.

Psyche Brown, Manager of Major Projects, guesstimates that the wad of red tape will be untangled about the end of summer.

Between now and then, government techies and turncoat biologists-against-wildlife are dressed in their most creative thinking caps in order to contrive goose greased mitigation measures that will slickly slide by all legal ramifications. But fear not, folks, it seems that closing drainages adjacent to the Jumbo Valley is no longer part of the plan. Yet, alas, the public will have no opportunity to comment on the surprise endings for the mitigating procedures which will address the concerns in the Environmental Assessment Certificate's 99 commitments and conditions under the Canadian Alpine Ski policy.

In the end, the resort proponents will receive a Master Plan approval and after that a Master Development Agreement. It is at that time the application to re-zone will be submitted to the RDEK.

Rowena Eloise
for the West Kootenay
Coalition for Jumbo Wild
Argenta

Self empowerment

In 2002, the Liberal government announced the health care budget cuts and now the world is faced with Avian Flu, strain K5N1 and a possible pandemic. Has this left one to take responsibility in health awareness? My personal research on the Avian Flu strain H5N2 revealed that it hit the US in 1983 and became highly pathogenic with a high mortality rate costing $65 million to destroy 17 million birds. The Tami Flu vaccine had reduced the duration of days sick, but actually contributed to more lethal viral mutations of the flu, of which we are experiencing in the progressive years.

After WWII, men returning from overseas brought back disease and viruses — so much to be said about war causing endless, useless suffering. Instead of building a strong immune system a National Immunization

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

Program was introduced and sadly many people have since suffered from the long-term side effects. These vaccines place a questionable dead virus directly into the bloodstream, an unnatural entry of a virus that shocks the immune system, lowering tolerance. These vaccines contain small amounts of toxic substances that have caused the mutations of disease and viruses. It is no wonder why one's initial reaction to facing a needle is traumatizing, as has been recently proven with the unborn fetus.

The only way to succeed against health threats is to build a strong immunity through diet. It is known that disease/viruses thrive in acidic bodily environment caused by habitual consumption of too much sugar, caffeine, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs and fruit.. to create an alkaline environment, thus building a strong immunity, one must eat organic clean food, dark leafy greens, whole grains, stay away from pesticides and genetically modified products. Produce grown in dead soil results in dead food as vitamin and minerals are lacking and produce is tasteless.

With all the above taken to heart, one can only gain personal empowerment as well as starve the large corporations that only thrive in capital gains at the expense of your health.

Jana Harmon
Kaslo

Albos bring health care problems to forefront

Thank you to the Albo family, who, despite their grief, were able to speak out about health care in the interior.

There is no doubt in my mind — the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Albo were shortened by the policies of this government, from the premier, to the minister and deputy minister of Health, to the IHA.

The least expensive care, home care, was drastically cut back by this government. Not only was it cut back, but workers were not allowed to do the very things seniors needed to remain in their homes. Home care support should be restored immediately.

Residential care homes for seniors were closed and are still being closed. Some residents were moved to hospital beds. Is this the best use of health care dollars??

Interior Health officials insist these homes were in poor repair and unsafe. Instead of fixing the problems, they kicked the residents out. Families were left scrambling, trying to find adequate housing for their ailing, often frail loved ones.

Little consideration was given to the people involved. Only dollars were considered. Instead of big bonuses for officials for reducing costs of health care, look into the most efficient use of health care dollars.

The number of hospital beds were reduced, resulting in serious waits for surgeries. Recently some dollars have been injected into the system, but no more beds have been opened. Those waiting will continue to wait, get worse, require more care and cost the system even more.

Some hospitals were closed and some had services reduced. This resulted in increasing loads at other hospitals and losing doctors and other health care staff, especially in the interior. Moving costs from one health care provider to another is not a saving.

Interior Health officials are saying more beds are coming. WHEN? They are concerned about not being able to find enough staff. Who has any confidence in them?

The number of hospital beds and residential care beds must be increased immediately, not only to fix a serious backlog, but to address the increasing populations.

I encourage everyone to write letters expressing your concerns to the premier, the health and deputy health ministers, and IHA officials Murray Ramsden (CEO), Chris Mazurkewich (Corp. Administration), Carol Markowsky (COO), Alan N. Dolman (Chairman). Keep writing until we see more beds and a more cost effective system.

Cathy Watson
Edgewood

Prepared to keep marching

In 1958, in solidarity with a worldwide appeal led by Bertrand Russell and the International Committee for Non-Violent Action, I nervously marched with 100 brave souls from Randolph Park to the federal courthouse in Tucson, Arizona calling on all world powers to "Ban the Bomb." We were surrounded by hundreds of red-faced, sweating hecklers. Cars painted red, white and blue careened by with people hanging out the open windows in the blazing heat calling us "commies" and "traitors," accompanied by 50 FBI agents who officiously scribbled notes and took pictures.

In 1968, in solidarity with the "International Peace Movement," I marched through downtown Portland, Oregon in muffled silence with my daughter on my shoulders, pregnant partner at my side and 10,000 other silent souls, to end the American War in Viet Nam and "Ban the Bomb." Just as the silent, somber march was dispersing, we were attacked by a flying wedge formation of baton-wielding riot police, who drove the bewildered beaten "peace-niks" to a chain link fence bordering the freeway. Bloody havoc ensued.

Around 1978 I stood in protest in Genelle, BC with my friends and neighbours joined by other peace loving people gathered from around the region, after it was discovered 'uranium extraction' was being seriously considered there. The crisis was eventually averted, bureaucrats and CEOs went away, but they never forgot that uranium.

Due to the militaristic pomposity of born-again chickenhawk Harper and his utter inability to distinguish between the unnecessary suffering of real people and the set of toy soldiers he played with as a privileged child, further complicated by his mistaken right-wing, neo-conservtive, capitalist belief that "the ends justify the means" and his almost sexual obsession for "deep integration" with the obscene American Multinational Industrial Military Complex, Canadians — you and me and all our silent non-voting neighbours — are being inexorably manipulated towards a Doomsday precipice we are ill prepared for.

To competently understand the suicidal issues we will be discussing when the Canadian government, elected by only 36% of the voters, commits 100% of Canada's 30 million citizens to the US policy of continued nuclear weapons development and proliferation, I offer a short list of essential terms that have been out of popular usage for only a couple of decades: uranium test core drilling, radioactive half-life, radon gas, strontium 90, enriched, weapons grade uranium, over ten thousand megaton first strike, nuclear fallout, (MAD) Mutually Assured Destruction Policy, thermonuclear pulse, radiation poisoning, genetic mutation, fire storm, Nuclear Winter. Boomers remember the pervasive Cold War fears, young people can Google the list.

Harper and his Conservative chickenhawk cabal aided by neo-conservative Liberals and a Fortress North America gone crazy will profit handsomely from our miseries. This drift into North American insanity must be stopped by us, the citizens of Canada, who elect our government to represent the will of the people — us. It is not too late and it must be stopped before it begins or I'll be marching again in 2006.

Joel Harris
Passmore

Losing our rights and freedoms

I am a farmer that, in addition to other crops, raises a small number of pigs. I raised six last year, and I was going to raise ten this year because I had people that wanted a pig because they heard it was so good. These pigs get a balanced pig formula from the local feed store. In addition the pigs were excellent cultivators. These pigs actually lived a life of good food, lots of natural greens and roots. You see, I made a deal with them that I would provide them the best life, a king's life, in trade for their life. So that is why these pigs taste so good — they were happy and I was happy. The pigs were slaughtered, cut, and wrapped by the local butcher, whom I know, and I see his shop when I pick up my meat. I know how he butchers; I have watched him cut and wrap my meat. My customers get him to butcher and cut up their meat. They were happy, I was happy, the pigs were happy, the feed store was happy, the butcher was happy and our local politician was happy with getting elected.

Then along came the great and wonderfully knowledgeable meat inspection department of the great and wonderful houses of politicians and bureaucrats. Now the only person who is happy is the politician. Don't play me any Opposition role, Corky — if your party was in government it wouldn't be any different. The almighty professional bureaucrats know best and you are just there to give lip service to the public.

My butcher has advised me that he can no longer butcher my animals. Our great and wonderful government has decided that all meat has to be slaughtered in a government inspected slaughterhouse, just to protect us from ourselves.

If we lived in a society that had any concern for individual rights I would be able to hire whoever I want to represent me in a court of law and pay them. I would be able to hire whoever I want to conduct medical procedures on me and pay them. I would be able to purchase any drugs for my use without a prescription. I would be able to grow my own food or hire anyone I want to grow my own food and process my food. I would be a free man, not transgressing on the rights of others, only living in peace and freedom in an atmosphere of a truly free marketplace.

As it stands now, I can do none of the above. Between Big Business and Big Government, the marketplace is becoming a monopoly of the rich and powerful. Your government and its bureaucrats are promoting the corporate agenda and you are losing your rights and freedoms. It doesn't matter what political party is in power, our elected officials soon find out that they are controlled by the bureaucrats and the corporate agenda. The problem is the professionals cranked out by our higher institutions of education and arrogance. They are the "aristocracy of the professionals," and they are here to look after you because you are a mindless consumer incapable of self-determination.

Ed Nixon
Winlaw

Canada being manipulated?

Stephen Harper's war-like rhetoric is beginning to sound just like Bush's. The utterances of both are designed to mislead, not inform, and to charge the listener with the appropriate emotions to carry the erroneous opinions that have just been formed for them. We are told that querying the deployment of Canadian troops in Afghanistan would demoralize our soldiers. This is designed to guilt us out of thinking for ourselves, and conflates two distinct topics: "support of our troops" and "criticism of government policy." We can support our troops by urging that they get everything they need for their maximum safety and comfort on any mission (improvement is certainly possible here.) But it is the government's decision, not the troops', as to how they are deployed, and as concerned citizens we can and should criticize that as much as we wish.

We are also told that we should fight terrorists in Afghanistan so we don't have to fight them here. (Press the fear button.) However it is universally recognized that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have produced more anti-western terrorists than there were before. Studies have shown that most terrorists are not the psychopathic religious fanatics we are told they are, but ordinary people whose lives have in some way been destroyed by war. The US army's current procedures of arbitrary arrest and indefinite detainment in hell holes like Guantanamo Bay, brutality and torture, indifference to civilian casualties, and massacres like at Fallujah, ensure that more and more normal people are being brutalized into becoming anti-US terrorists every day.

The over-riding piece of misinformation is that Canada is helping in the war against terrorism. There isn't one. What we have are US wars for oil and empire, poorly masqueraded as wars on terrorism. The invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq by the US were both planned before 9/11. That's why Bush & Co. have to lay down such a heavy barrage of lies all the time, to try and pass off one motivation for their wars as the other. The support for this idea includes the recognized counterproductivity of these wars as regards terrorism, as mentioned above; the failure to guard stockpiles of weapons found before the war by weapons inspectors in Iraq, which were left to be looted by insurgents; the continuing indifference of the Whitehouse to port security or that of giant chemical factories, the proven lies told to justify the attack on Iraq, and Osama bin Forgotten.

It is often difficult to distinguish abysmal incompetence from a hidden agenda, but the Bush administration has been very effective at removing all possible restraints from corporate profiteering, cutting taxes for the ultra rich, and pushing for a police state, so we can conclude it is good at doing what it wants to do. It genuinely cares as much about the terrorist threat as it did about the hurricane threat to New Orleans or the rebuilding of it. In fact a new big terrorist incident in the US would probably finish the job 9/11 started, and lead to the legalization of Bush as de facto dictator, and the complete demise of an effective Congress. (Please convince me that the neoconservatives in charge wouldn't like that.)

So why did our politicians put Canadian troops in Afghanistan? Well, there is a very important oil pipeline to be constructed across the region which needs protecting. In a nutshell this may be what all of this is about, and all the other talk is just window-dressing and hot air. Whatever the politics, are Canadian troops on a mission that will do good there anyway?

I'm sure they want to, but against such a deep background of misinformation and hidden agendas, the chances are that they are being manipulated for ends that neither they nor we would want.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Come and hear rising star Yael Wand perform her songs at the Hidden Garden Gallery April 12 at 7:30 pm (admission by donation)

New Denver council March 14: Zoning variance considered

by Leah Main

•Tracy and Francie Oldham attended to ask for a variance for their three-house tourism rental business, which they established in an area zoned residential. They would like the variance at least for 2006, while exploring the possibility of rezoning the properties to commercial. The houses had previously been operated as residential rental housing, which did not conflict with established zoning. Now that the Oldhams rent them on a weekly basis only during the summer months, and sustain a website advertising them as holiday rentals, this constitutes a business and is in conflict with the zoning.

Later in the meeting, council determined that Section 11 of the Official Community Plan (OCP) does not allow for temporary designation of an area as commercial. To grant this variance, Village administration is required to solicit input from surrounding property owners.

Administrator Carol Gordon will notify surrounding owners of the request, with the intention of allowing operation to continue this year, and to initiate the process to seek input on potentially changing Section 11 of the OCP "to allow temporary commercial designation on a case-by-case basis."

The Oldhams were to be notified of this decision.

•Administrator Carol Gordon reported on the "Gas Tax" workshop she attended in Kelowna. This program returns a significant amount of money to municipalities, but severely limits how the money can be used. Allowable projects include those designed to reduce greenhouse gases, and to improve air or water quality, but do not include such things as street paving, bike paths, fleet conversion to biodiesel fuel, etc. The good news is that the money does not have to be used immediately, and that municipal associations (such as the Union of BC Municipalities) intend to lobby the federal government to open the criteria for project approval, especially for smaller communities. Meanwhile, council will consider projects such as community composting and various improvements to the water and drainage systems.

•Councillor Greensword reported on the March 13 meeting Interior Health had with elected officials. She said that residential and assisted living housing were not adequate in our region, with only 75 residential beds available per 1,000 population. This is the lowest ratio in the province. IH Chief Operating Officer Carol Markowsky indicated that IH is reviewing policies affecting how people get placed in these facilities and how flexible the system is in meeting people's needs. She also said that she would look into the 75:1,000 ratio.

A number of other issues were raised at the meeting, including asking for a commitment to a two-hospital approach, as the regional hospital in Kelowna is a four-hour drive from some of our communities. IH indicated that a regional hospital is included in the 10-year plan.

•With thanks to Councillor Bunka for previous service, Councillor Greensword was appointed to the Health Matters Committee.

•The Reading Centre's financial statement and annual report were received, and Council extends a big thank you to all the volunteers who run the Centre.

•Administrator Gordon was authorized to attend the Local Government Mangement Association Rocky Mountain/West Kootenay Boundary Joint Chapter Meeting in April, with appropriate costs covered by the Village. Gordon is currently Vice President of the West Kootenay Boundary Chapter.

Kyowakai Society seniors Kay Takahara, Pauli Inose, Nancy Mori and Sumi Matsushita share tea and stories with Parks Canada historian Catherine Cournoyer. Cournoyer recently visited the the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre because it is being considered for designation as a National Historic Site.

Kootenay Boundary Friendships

There is a program to meet the socialization needs of isolated seniors—the Friendly Visitor Program. Designed specifically to help seniors feel connected to their community through weekly visits, Friendly Visitor volunteers reduce loneliness by giving support and encouragement to the elderly. Generally visits are at least one hour long and include going for a walk, playing cards, reading, or chatting over a cup of tea or coffee. The frequency of the visits, their length and regularity are mutually agreed upon by client and volunteer.

Research shows that 80% of people would volunteer if asked... so we are asking. Call Eileen MacLeod at 304-1299 or 1-866-304-1299.

South Slocan student wins tourism bursary

Dayna Kanigan, a resort and hotel management student at Selkirk College, has been awarded a $500 bursary from go2, the BC tourism industry's human resources association. Kanigan, one of eight bursary recipients from across the province, is a people person who was looking for a change from her challenging job of lifeguarding. She chose tourism because of the diverse experiences you can have and the many people you meet.

"It's not a sit-down, day-to-day kind of job," she says.

After completing her studies at Selkirk College, Kanigan hopes to pursue a further two-year diploma in bridal consulting.

"The bursary is a great help because I have to pay for my schooling on my own and it has been hard work going to school and working full time," she says.

The annual scholarship and bursary program for post-secondary studies in chef and cook training and tourism and hospitality management was established by go2 to support and encourage student enrolment and training in these high-growth areas.

The selection criteria is based on overall attitude, industry aptitude, relevant industry experience, academic record, financial need and references. Applications are reviewed and final selections are made by a panel of industry representatives in conjunction with go2.

For more details and to apply for the bursary program, visit www.go2hr.ca/

Kids' Zone Buy & Sell returns to the Slocan Valley

by Craig Lawrence

On Saturday, April 1, the *Kids' Zone Buy & Sell* returns to the Slocan Valley. This popular event, hosted by the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission, is held at the Slocan Park Hall and runs from 10: a.m. to noon. It's the perfect place to find all things kiddish!

Just what is the *Kids' Zone Buy & Sell*? It's a swap meet where nothing but kids' stuff is bought and sold. Clothes, games, toys, books and sporting goods are just some of the items which can be found. On top of that, kids are asked to run the tables and make the sales! Parents can assist at the tables if they wish and all ages are invited to come out and look for some great deals.

Every year table space at this event sells out, so if you are interested in reserving a table you better call Slocan Valley Recreation real quick so you don't miss out. After March 27, there may not be any left.

This year, organizers are asking for a non-perishable food donation for the Slocan Food Bank as an admission fee.

For more information or to book a table contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

Easter Bunny looking for company

by Craig Lawrence

Kids are invited to a special pre-Easter event coming up in the Slocan Valley. On Saturday, April 8, Slocan Valley Recreation and the Grade 12 class from Mt. Sentinel School will host the fourth annual Easter Bunny Hop at the Passmore Seniors' Lodge. There'll be games, Easter crafts, a bunny snack and of course, the Easter egg hunt.

The students will run all the activities with the help of a senior or two. Kids of all ages are welcome to come join in the fun, so parents bring the young ones and grandparents grab the grandkids, because we want you all there.

Last year a huge crowd of kids showed up, to everyone's delight. To help event organizers, pre-registration is mandatory and must be done by April 4. Call the Rec office at 226-0008. The event runs from 1 to 3 p.m. Admission is $3 per child with proceeds going to the grad class. The Passmore Lodge is located on the Old Passmore Road which runs parallel to Highway 6.

Rising star sings at Hidden Garden Gallery

by Anne Champagne

Come and hear rising star Yael Wand perform her songs at the Hidden Garden Gallery April 12 at 7:30 pm (admission by donation.) Yael (pronounced Yah–elle) is in illustrious company on the just-released *Canoesongs Vol. 2* CD, including Ian Tamblyn, Tanglefoot, Nancy White, Dave Essig and Cindy Church: some of the best folk musicians we have in this country.

Born in Israel and raised in Vancouver, Yael moved to the central interior several years ago. She navigates the political terrain of the Middle East with the same ease and passion as she does the wilderness of the Cariboo Mountains. Yael covers a lot of ground lyrically and musically: her sound is contemporary folk, infused with jazz and world elements. Her lyrics have been called "intense, sensual and mysterious."

Songs from her 2004 CD *Antinomy* have played on radio stations across the country and have been featured on CBC radio. She has travelled the country performing at music festivals, clubs and cafés. Two of her songs were chosen for compilation CDs *Grrrls with Guitars* Vol. 3, and *Canoesongs* Vol. 2. You can hear an excerpt from her song *One Stroke* at www.canoesongs.ca/artists/YaelWand.php.

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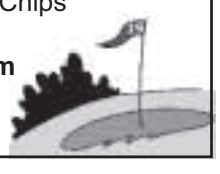

ALL VALLEY RESIDENTS INVITED!

Conversation with New Denver Mayor and RDCK chair, Gary Wright:
What is the official community plan (OCP)? What are the current housing by-laws in New Denver?

KNOX HALL • NEW DENVER
With tea and treats

APRIL 4TH, 7 TO 9:00 PM

This community meeting thanks to: Interior Health Healthy Living grant, Circle of Habondia and the Healthy Housing Committee.

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Silverton council, March 14: Process to sell property to Silverton Inn begins

by Jan McMurray

•The bylaw to close a portion of First Street, which runs through the Silverton Heritage Country Inn property, was given the first two readings. Hotel owner Larry Murrell attended the January 24 council meeting to ask to purchase this part of the street, as it is not used as a street but rather as part of the hotel property — the hotel's patio, overhang and septic lines are located there. The hotel has recently been purchased, with the new owners to take over April 15. Mayor Everett reported that the new owners want to proceed with purchasing this property as well. A public meeting to discuss this and other property matters was held at the Silverton Memorial Hall on March 28 and will be reported on in the next *Valley Voice* (April 12).

•The fire department was called out to attend a chimney fire on March 11. Fire department battalion chief Ron Provan reported that the fire was contained and put out. A non-functional fire hydrant, and a communications problem with New Denver were discovered during the incident. The communications problem has been solved, and Public Works Foreman Len Casley is working on the fire hydrant. As there are two other hydrants closeby, there is no safety issue.

•Casley spoke about cutbacks to the regional Office of the Fire Commissioner in Cranbrook, and the negative impacts this has on our local fire departments. He said that departments in our area could always count on advice and training from the regional office, but now there is only one out of four staff left. He said it looks like the office may be closed eventually, and everything will be done out of Victoria. He will be attending a meeting for all fire chiefs in the region on April 1 in Cranbrook, where this matter will be discussed.

•Mayor Everett acknowledged Ron Provan for the "enormous amount" of community work he does. "It is very much appreciated and it is noticed," he said.

•Council received a letter from resident Ken Poznikoff asking the Village to build a turn-around cul-de-sac area at the top end of Victoria Street, which is a dead-end street. He explains that the property at the end of the street used to be used as a turn-around, as well as a place to pile excess snow. However, since the property has been purchased and construction has started on it, people are using private driveways to turn around. Administrator Junko Ida reported she had spoken with the owner of the property, who is open to a turn-around area and a place for snow on his property. Ida and Casley are working on this.

•Council has decided to have two opportunities for public and press to ask questions at meetings. The new public and press time will be towards the beginning of meetings. The one at the end of the meeting will remain. The bylaw to allow for this was given first two readings.

•Administrator Ida will attend the LGMA Joint Conference and GFOA Gas Tax Funding Workshop in Kimberley on April 19. Silverton, along with all municipalities, has been given money from federal gas taxes. This conference includes a workshop which will outline how that money can be spent. Council authorized a $500 budget for Ida to attend.

•Council voted to send a letter of support to the Healthy Housing Committee for its Slocan Valley Water Assessment project.

•Council decided to streamline its committees, making it necessary to revise some of the 2006 appointments. Appointments are as follows: **RDCK/ Economic Development Commission:** Councillor Bell, Mayor Everett (alternate); **Chamber of Commerce:** Bell; **Court of Revision:** Everett, Councillors Laktin and Provan; **Municipal Emergency:** Councillor Griffiths (Chair), Everett and Administrator Ida; **Rec Commission #6:** Laktin, Provan (alternate); **Village Facilities and Recreation:** Provan, Laktin; **Finance Committee:** Everett (chair), Laktin and Griffiths; **Board of Variance:** Roberta Nesbitt (chair), Robert Mills and Stuart Nelson; **Community Advisory Committee (advisory to IH):** Laktin, Griffiths (alternate); **Staffing Committee:** Ida (chair), Everett, Laktin, Griffiths; Signing authority: Everett, Laktin and Ida.

Olympic athlete has valley connection

If you followed the results of the Paralympics from Torino, Italy, you will have heard the name Brian McKeever.

The legally-blind cross-country skier won four medals—almost a quarter of Canada's total of 13. He finished with two gold, one silver and a bronze. And although he calls Canmore home, McKeever has a strong valley connection—his mother, Jean (Yokoyama) McKeever grew up in Rosebery. Brian and his brother Robin spent their holidays in the family's cabin there, and the elder McKeevers still come out for the summer from their home in Calgary.

McKeever represented Canada at the world junior cross-country championships for able-bodied athletes before being diagnosed in 1999 with Stargardt's disease, the same genetic disorder his father Bill has. He then switched to disabled skiing, with Robin—a competitor at the Nagano Olympics—as his guide.

Spring Dance

Spring is here! Time to kick up your heels on the dance floor at Kootenay DanceBeat's social/ ballroom event April 8 at Playmor Hall. The hall is located near Mt. Sentinel School at the junction of Highway 3A and 6.

The evening gets underway at 7:30 with a free mini-lesson instructed by Barb Wallington of Kaslo. The flavour this month is Samba, a high energy Latin dance.

Following the lesson, dancers can work out to a great selection of swing, Latin, smooth music and some country tunes until 11 p.m. There will be a few mixer dances along with door prizes and refreshments to add to the fun.

Admission is $8 per person at the door for non-members.

The Wild Rose Restaurant
REOPENS APRIL 21, 22, 23
SPRING HOURS:
FRI. SAT. SUN. 5:00 - 9:00 PM
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS
Loop Rd, Rosebery 358-7744

Public Notice

Since word got out that the Silverton Hotel has sold, rumours have been a-plenty.

So here's the truth. Yes, the hotel has sold. A very nice couple from Kelowna, who hope to retire here, bought it.

Everything at the hotel is going to continue as normal. The 'world famous' 2 for 1 steak night will continue Fridays, with summer hours now in effect (5 to 9 pm).

Reservations highly recommended. The kitchen will remain open, 7 days a week as of April 5th. Our current staff will be here to serve you as usual.

The gym will continue to be open as usual.

Larry & Shirley

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

ARBOR DAY

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take note that the Arbor Day scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2006 has been rescheduled to **Monday, April 24, 2006**. Rescheduling was necessary as April 17th is Easter Monday. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) are bagged. **No household garbage will be picked up.**

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administator

The Apple Tree Sandwich Shop
New Denver
presents
Celebrity Waiter Week
April 3–8, 11 am - 1 pm
(10% of the day's receipts will be donated to the local charity of the waiter's choice)

Monday - Darren McCoy - Home Hardware - New Denver Nursery School
Tuesday - Cpl. Kerry Heidema - Slocan Lake Detachment - Slocan Community Health Centre
Wednesday - Shelly Welch - KSCU - New Denver Hospice Society
Thursday - David Harley - Valhalla Pure - Slocan Lake Boating Association
Friday - Gary Wright - Mayor of New Denver - S.L.U.G.S.
Saturday - Donna Vaughn - Canada Post - New Denver Reading Centre

Will the government keep its promise to BC kids?

No progress yet on class size
No mention in BC Throne Speech or Budget

BC's teachers ended their strike last fall with a government promise to resolve class size issues. Unfortunately, there is no progress to date.

Even the government's own statistics show the problem:

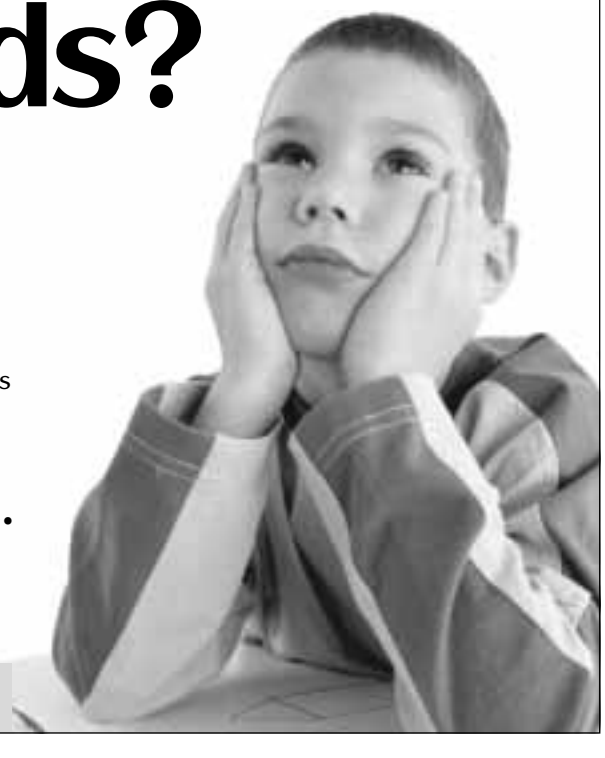
- 9,253 classes have 31 or more students
- 10,942 classes have 4 or more students with special needs
- 3,598 classes have 6 or more students with special needs

Teachers are working hard to cope, but all students suffer when classes are too large and special needs support is inadequate. That's why teachers want class size limits and guaranteed support for special needs.

It's time to find solutions now.

Kids matter. Teachers care.

www.bctf.ca



IMPORTANT NOTES ON SPECIAL NEEDS: 1) in many cases teachers have no special needs support in their classroom, 2) the government recently narrowed the definition of 'special needs' so fewer students have access to support, and 3) numbers only reflect identified students with special needs – thousands more are waiting for assessment.

Food security group holds seminar

by Rachael Kimola

It's 6 pm: do you know where your dinner came from? If you are like the majority of Canadians, your main source of food is the local grocery store. While the Safeways and IGAs of the world are always reliable in their variety and availability, they may not be the best choice for healthy, organic food. The newly formed Kaslo and Area Food Security Project (KAFSP) held an information seminar on Saturday to educate area residents about food safety issues.

On the menu were topics such as genetically modified food, food as a trading commodity and the health differences between imported and locally grown foods. One workshop, *The Right to Food,* discussed issues both global and local. As an example, the average item in a grocery travels some 1,500 km before ending up on your table. This means when you buy a banana, you aren't just paying for the fruit; you are paying for its travel expenses, which in some cases can account for up to two thirds of the total cost.

In many countries, food is considered a commodity, not a right, says Aimee Watson, co-coordinator of the seminar.

"International poverty is perpetuated by our global food system," says Watson. "Every day, farmers around the world produce enough food to give everyone approximately 4.3 lbs of produce and grain, but due to international trade restrictions, it is illegal for them to sell it within their own country."

One way to combat this on a local level is by becoming more involved with the food we consume. By reclaiming a connection to our food, we increase the security of it. If you know exactly where an item came from, then you are secure in the knowledge of its organic, pesticide-free state.

KAFSP is aiming to help us rediscover the connection to our dinners that our agriculturally inclined forebears had. One project they hope to have running soon is a community kitchen where everyone is welcome to share in the social atmosphere of food.

"Food is the most social thing done on earth—by building [a community kitchen] we are creating a major community bonding initiative," says seminar organizer Gillian Sanders.

Another point the KAFSP wants to hit is how to educate youth on food issues. Living in a society where the majority of youth would rather eat a candy bar than a carrot, KAFSP hopes to include area youth as much as possible in fun, educational events that encourages them to get their hands dirty. One possibility is a garden contest, where young people will actually get to grow their own gardens and be judged in a professional capacity.

Seminar participant Elizabeth Scarlett thinks this is a good start.

"People don't know how to get their hands dirty because it is so easy to go to the store," she says.

If you would like more information about food issues in the area, or would like to make a donation to help KAFSP's local initiatives you can contact Gillian Sanders at 353- 2002.

Audrey Repin, Manager of Community Relations for CPC (left), presents a cheque for $2,500 to Denise Chernoff, Community Education co-ordinator for Selkirk College and John Reed, facilitator for the Fresh Air Leadership Program.

Columbia Power Corporation supports Fresh Air Leadership Program at Selkirk College

Columbia Power Corporation has contributed $2,500 in funding towards Selkirk College's Fresh Air Leadership Program.

The program targets youth aged 17 to 25 years and will focus on defining value-based leadership styles, effective communication skills and personal strategic planning. The week-long outdoor program will be held at a remote wilderness base camp and participants will have the opportunity to discover their true potential and leadership style.

For information on the Fresh Air Leadership Program, call Selkirk College at 365-7292 or visit their website at: www.selkirk.bc.ca.

Slocan Valley author nominated for book prize again

by Jan McMurray

Slocan Valley author Rita Moir's latest book, *TheWindshift Line*, has been shortlisted for a BC Book Prize.

Her book, a very personal father and daughter story, is up for the Hubert Evans Non-fiction Prize. This prize is awarded annually to the author of the best original non-fiction literary work.

"I had a party at my house the minute I heard," said Moir. "I won this award in 2000 with *Buffalo Jump* so of course I had some egomaniacal subterranean belief I could pull it off again. Then a few days later they let us know who else was shortlisted and I knew for sure I couldn't win."

She is up against four other contenders, two of which have already won high profile awards. *The Golden Spruce*, by John Vaillant, has won the Governor General's Award, and JB MacKinnon's *Dead Man in Paradise* has won the national Charles Taylor Award for non-fiction. The other two are Michael Kluckner's *Vanishing British Columbia* and Stan Persky's *The Short Version: An ABC Boo*k.

So Rita went out and bought the books and is reading them now. "They are beautiful books, and I'm in awe to be in their company," she said.

The Windshift Line has received much praise since it was published in August last year. It's been called "beautifully written" and "deeply moving." In her review of the book, critic Anna Mobile says of Moir: "She has the courage to lay herself bare. That kind of honesty can be frightening. To have that reaction not only says something about Moir, it tells us something about ourselves."

Moir gives us a hint of how she achieved such frightening honesty. "So much of this book is about my father, Ross Moir, and my nephew, William McLaughlin," she says. "After their deaths, I lived with them, odd as that sounds, for almost two years, writing their stories into this book. I wish they could know they've been honoured by this prize nomination."

Moir will travel to Vancouver for the Awards Gala on April 29, hosted by writer and humourist Bill Richardson.

Shari Ulrich returns to Nakusp

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council has a special treat for the final concert of the Concert Series. Shari Ulrich, the multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, will play at the Bonnington on Saturday, April 8.

As a recent BC Entertainment Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Juno Award winner, Shari brings a wealth of life experience to the tales she tells in her finely crafted songs. A multi-instrumentalist with a golden voice, she takes her audience on a melodic journey of wonder. Shari is well known for her integral roles in some of Canada's best known folk groups: Pied Pumkin, UHF, and the Hometown Band.

As well as performing solo and with UHF, Shari is touring with The Pied Pumkin, which reunited in 1989 and has been touring nationally since then. Shari released a new CD in the spring of 2005.

Shari is performing with her partner, Bill Runge and her daughter, Julie Graff. This will be Shari's second appearance in Nakusp. Her first one was in 1991.

Get your tickets early for this show — her first show was sold out!

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank Murphy's Landing for hosting this concert.

Come and join us on Saturday, April 8 at 8 pm in the Bonnington for an evening among friends. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at Broadway Deli. If there are any left on the evening of the concert, they will be available at the door.

Shari Ulrich plays the Bonnington, April 8.

Central Kootenay Regional District

PART-TIME POSITION
(up to 20 hours weekly)

Clerk Typist – Nakusp
Building Inspection Services

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Regional District of Central Kootenay is seeking an individual for a part-time position as a Clerk-Typist, working in the Nakusp Building Inspection Services Office.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Ability to interact with the public in a positive and effective manner. Excellent typing, clerical and organizational skills. Experience in Microsoft Office and ability to learn and use new computer programs with minimal supervision is essential.

A detailed Job Description is available on the RDCK website at www.rdck.bc.ca.

Resumes will be accepted by the undersigned until 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2006:

Max Hoedeman, Senior Building Official
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
NELSON, BC V1L 5R4
Phone: 1-800-268-7325 Fax: (250) 352-9300
email: mhoedeman@rdck.bc.ca

The Child You Hold Today May Be The Doctor You Need Tomorrow

Are you currently caring for children in your home?
Would you like to care for children in your home?

Child Care Resource and Referral Programs (CCRR) are looking for suitable, compassionate caregivers to provide quality home-based childcare.

By registering with a CCRR you will have access to
- increased subsidy rates
- toy and resource lending library
- workshops and networking meetings
- support
- newsletters
- a professional childcare community
- start up funds
- and so much more!

If you live in Nakusp, Kaslo, Salmo or Points in between call: Nelson CCRR 1-250-352-6678 Or 1-800-223-8966
www.childcarechoices.ca

ccrr Child Care Resource & Referral

The CCRR recognizes and supports the invaluable service that caregivers provide!

Stars for Success program aims to support children's early education

Success by 6 is excited to announce a new program in the West Kootenays called *Stars for Success*.

This program distributes community-raised funds (matched by the provincial government) to help support children under six to attend early childhood, recreation or arts programs. Monies, up to $400 per child, are paid directly to the organization or program providing the service.

Applications can be made year round. This program is designed for children to attend community programs that their families would not normally be able to afford. The application is easy to complete and parents need only to be sponsored by someone who knows them, who works with children and families. This can be a school principal or teacher, doctor, nurse, social worker, preschool or day care teacher or others.

During its spring fundraising campaign *Success by 6* asks every household to donate $6 to *Stars for Success*.

If you know of any children that would benefit from this unique program, please encourage their families and sponsors to fill out an application form and return it to the Castlegar and District United Way office at 1995 6th Avenue, Castlegar, V1N 4B7.

For more information, contact either Kim Adamson at .354-1005 adamsons@telus.net or Kate Skye at .364-1610 kateskye@shaw.ca.

The application will soon be available for download online at www.successby6wk.com.

• Credit unions are collecting gently used children's picture books for *Success By 6*. Books are being collected in colourful displays in most Castlegar Savings, Kootenay Savings and Nelson and District Credit Union branches.

Specifically needed are good quality picture books for children under age six—Dr. Seuss, Mercer Mayer, and Robert Munsch are always favourites.

Good children's books have nice clear pictures with easy to read and understand text. Research shows that children who are read to early in life develop better skills in language and cognitive development.

For those who don't have used children's books around the house, the campaign welcomes people donating new books that can be purchased from local bookstores.

Winlaw School fundraises for year-end trip

submitted

Winlaw Elementary School PAC will be hosting its first annual Thrift Store fundraiser on Saturday, April 1 at the Winlaw School gym from 9:30 until 3:30.

Come down to the school and fill a grocery bag full of clean gently used clothes for only $5. There will be something for everyone in your family. There is a huge selection, all sizes and styles. Goodies and refreshments will be available.

All proceeds go towards the school year-end trip. Get there early to get the best selection!

Pattie Adam elected vice chair of provincial education committee

by Jan McMurray

Pattie Adam, chair of the board of trustees for School District No. 10, was elected vice chair of the education committee of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) on February 23.

"It was quite an honour because there was an election, with two of us running for the position," she said.

This is the third year that Adam has sat on the education committee as representative of the Kootenay-Boundary branch, which includes six school districts.

The committee discusses current issues, and successes and challenges school districts are facing throughout the province, she explained. "For example, we're working on a policy on gay and lesbian rights for students. We bring out issues that many districts may be having problems with, so each district doesn't have to re-invent the wheel."

The BCSTA website says that the education committee "maintains BCSTA's focus on the heart of education – student achievement." Adam says that as far as she is concerned, student achievement is the focus for all trustees. She also stressed that student achievement does not only mean academic achievement.

"Students achieve through what they are passionate about — sports, trades, academics. To me, that is the full sense of student achievement," she said.

School District No. 10's school board Chair, Pattie Adam, has been elected vice chair of the education committee of the BC School Trustees Association.

Student perspective

by Zoel Thibault

I am the student representative on School District 10's Committee of the Whole.

I volunteered for the position because my school, Lucerne, does not currently have a student council, and I have always had an interest in school government. I have seen how necessary it is for students to have a voice in their own learning experience.

As student rep, my job is to give input from a student's perspective and relay ideas or problems that students are having to the trustees and the school board.

A topic of particular importance to me and to the committee is the video conferencing pilot program initiated this year. This program uses technology to bridge the gap between Nakusp and New Denver. The students meet in their own classrooms at Lucerne and Nakusp Secondary, and are able to see and speak with each other through the use of the software.

Because I am a student of both the Chemistry 12 and English Literature 12 classes that are utilizing this unique means of both teaching and learning, the discussions surrounding this pilot program are of special interest to me during my graduating year. I am able to give my opinion on how the courses are proceeding at the Committee of the Whole meetings — and my contributions to these meetings are hopefully taken into consideration.

This pilot is a good example of the changing face of education in a small community, and allowing students to have input on subjects such as these is the goal of the Committee of the Whole.

Zoel Thibault is a senior at Lucerne School, and student representative to School District 10's Committee of the Whole.

Public schools create citizens

by Penny Tees, School Trustee, SD#8

Education Week is a great time for communities to reflect on the primary purpose of public education: to create citizens who can contribute to a healthy, democratic society, and live fulfilling personal lives. This is no small task. At its core is community commitment to build an education system for the public, governed by the public, that shapes the way our society evolves.

From the earliest kindergarten days, to the cap-and-gown finale, students are expected to gain knowledge and skills in core academic areas, but are also expected to demonstrate increasing understanding and commitment to social responsibility, to personal health, to appreciation for culture and the arts. They develop their abilities to work together on creative, focused problem solving, and to communicate in a wide variety of ways that suit our current society. Public schools bridge the gaps in society to provide opportunities to all students.

Kootenay Lake School Board celebrates the commitment of teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and communities to support our students to be the best they can be. We are proud to have:

•Students active in community and international projects

•Graduation rates higher than the province

•High levels of student achievement in sports, arts, debating, and more

•Academic results higher than provincial averages

•A wide range of program offerings and locally developed courses for students.

If you haven't been in your local school lately, consider a visit. As public education evolves with society, so have our schools. If your memories of school are from a decade or two ago, you may be surprised at the vibrant, focused learning environment and the competence and enthusiasm of our young citizens. You may discover a new way that you can contribute to public education.

COST-SHARE FUNDING FOR FARMERS

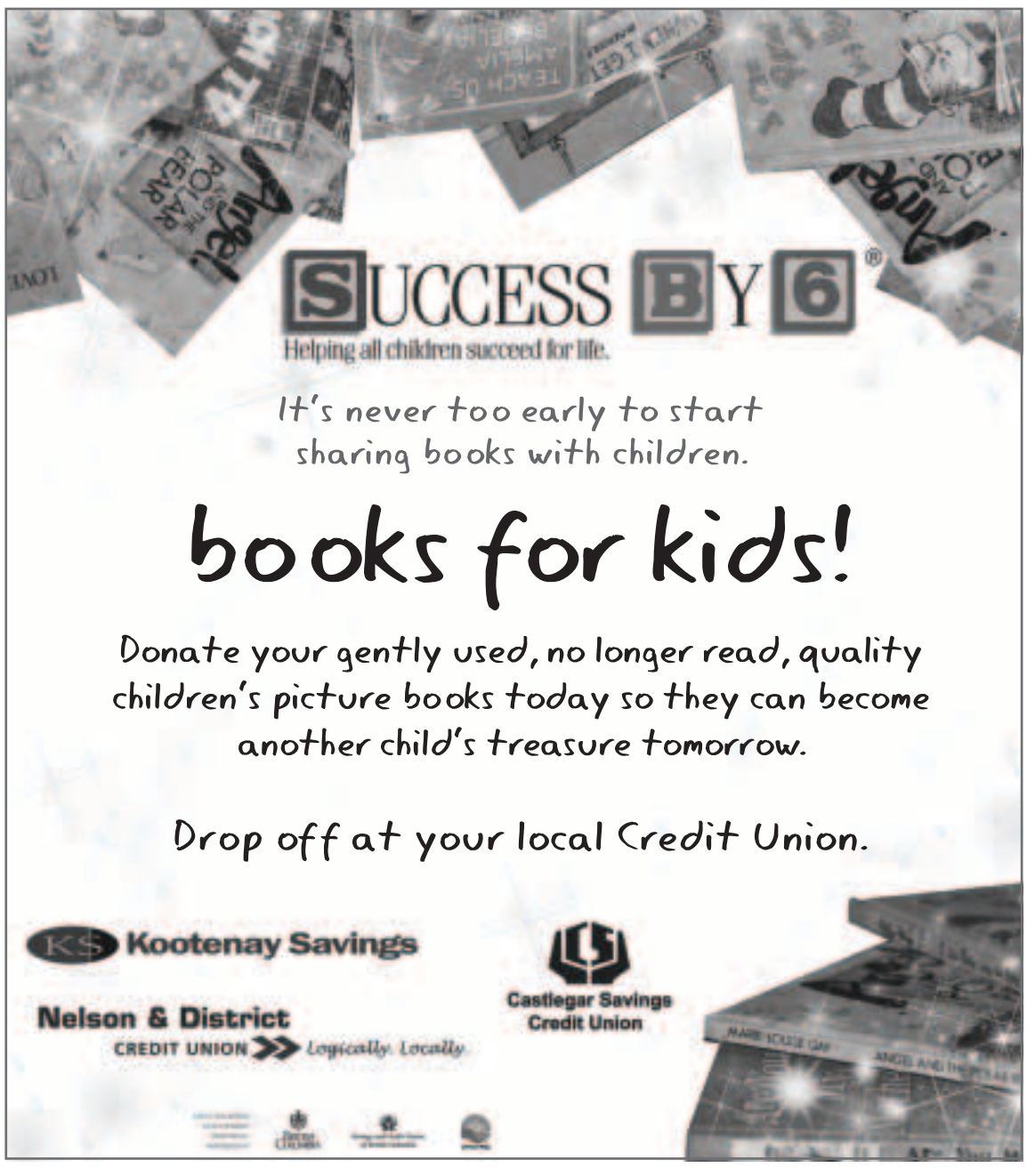
Central Kootenay
Environmental Farm Plan Program
Provides service to ALL agriculture commodities within the RDCK

What can this program do for **YOU**?
The EFP program helps farmers -
- recognize environmental strengths
- identify potential risks
- develop action plans
- access eligible funding to improve practices

For more information contact:
Val Miller, PAg
Environmental Farm Planning Advisor
Tel: (250) 229-5313
Email: kootwild@shaw.ca

Voluntary, Confidential, and Free!

Creston Valley Agricultural Society Box 87, Creston, BC V0B 1G0 · Canada · Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia · BCAC · British Columbia



Nakusp council, March 23: Water and sewer upgrades needed

bu Jan McMurray

•The water and sewer systems in Nakusp must be upgraded before any significant development can happen in the Village. This was the general consensus around the council table.

Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff gave an update after having met with Dan Sahlstrom of WSA Engineering on March 17. Sahlstrom recommended completing the two wells near the arena, as this will provide enough water to allow for future development. It also eliminates the need for a water treatment plant, which would be the case with the current surface water system. Sahlstrom also said the Village's estimated budget for the well project was not adequate. He will forward a revised estimate, and said he would help with an infrastructure grant application.

As the Kuskanax has not been a dependable back-up water source, Sahlstrom recommended phasing out the pumping station there.

Water mains in Glenbank need to be upgraded and a pressure reducing valve must be installed on Shakespeare Road. The estimated cost of this is $10,000-$20,000.

Problems with the sewer system are showing up in the settling ponds, the final phase of the sewer process. These have become plugged and are not filtering water adequately. Costs associated with addressing this problem are not yet available, as staff and Sahlstrom are still working on a solution.

•Council amended the Business Licence Bylaw so that anyone starting a business after January would pay a licence fee that is prorated on a monthly basis.

•Council authorized the Centennial Building 2005 reserve transfer of $20,000 to be used for flooring and electrical upgrades to the building.

•The Village will send a resolution regarding the BC Ambulance Service to UBCM and AKBLG, resolving that there be no difference in pay for standby attendants in "rural" and "remote" communities, and that all areas of BC be entitled to equal service.

•The Village received information on the "new police financing model" where municipalities with populations under 5,000 will pay 50% of their policing costs. The information states that in most communities, the owner of an average single family dwelling will be taxed less than $75 per year to go towards policing. These changes are to be introduced in the Spring 2006 legislative session.

•Council granted Arrow Lakes Arts Council's request for the use of the arena auditorium at no charge on April 11 for the Nakusp and Area Volunteer Faire.

•Dead snags and leaning trees in the campground will be removed and a reforestation program will begin this spring.

•Council proclaimed April 28 as the Day of Mourning in honour of workers who lost their lives as a result of a workplace injury.

Nakusp shutterbug offers photography services

by Jan McMurray

If you liked the photo on the front cover of The Valley Voice last time, check out www.visualexposures.ca. Nakusp resident Dani Tschudin has lots more of his work on display on his website.

Tschudin has recently decided to make his passion for photography into a business.

"I want to specialize in doing portraits of people and families in their natural environment," he said.

Tschudin offers his photography services to capture special events — graduations, weddings, anniversaries and sports events. He will do photography for promotional materials such as brochures, posters and websites. He can also photograph people's artwork.

Prints of Tschudin's photos on the website are available for sale. His photos on the site can be viewed as a slide show, and people can leave comments on any of them.

"Comments from visitors to my site are much appreciated," he says.

Mountains and photography are Tschudin's passions, and he loves to combine the two. He was born in Switzerland, where his father introduced him to the mountains. His life journey took him to Jasper, where he became interested in photography, partly because he befriended professional photographer Edi Klopfenstein. Now he finds himself in Nakusp, where "the outdoor activities are endless and one could spend a lifetime and not see all the beauty the area has to offer," he says.

Nakusp photographer Dani Tschudin specializes in portraits done in a natural environment.

Stellar week for Summit Lake Racers

The local stars are rising! Summit Lake snowboarders Jesse McDonald and Carly Thorp have been selected to represent BC at two Canadian National Championship events. The first, at Crystal Mt. in Washington, is an alpine competition, with both parallel GS and parallel slalom courses. The second, at Mt. Avila, Québèc, is a snowboard cross. McDonald and Thorp will attend the SBX Nationals in Québèc April 1-2 to represent BC and Summit Lake. The races are NorAm Cup FIS events; the next step is the World Cup circuit.

"The kids have had an amazing season," says coach Tim Markholm. "They've worked hard and have earned a berth at the Nationals."

• Summit Lake Club Races were completed March 11 to the cheers of encouraging spectators. It was a great day with no technical problems.

Three items are worth mentioning: The Brown-Dahl family cleaned up, winning in all the categories they entered; Eric Waterfield bravely competed in all three events; the largest category of skiers/boarders was the 40+ age group!

The winners are as follows:

Nakusp Curling athlete Deane Horning recently went to Vancouver to accept the 2005 Premier's Athletic Award from Premier Gordon Campbell on March 20. A commemorative plaque with his photo and list of achievements will be displayed at the BC Sports Hall of Fame for one year. His 2005 accomplishments include: 2005 Region 1 Men's Champion; 2005 West Kootenay Super League Champion; 2005 BC Men's Provincial Champion; Represented BC at the Tim Horton's Brier - 5th Place.

Ski: 6-8 girls: Katelyn Horning; boys: Greg Markholm. 9-11 girls: Caroline Carruthers; boys: Nolan Brown-Dahl followed closely by Tyler Hascarl. 12-14 girls: Megan Brown-Dahl followed closely by Kristin Likness; boys: Cameron Carruthers. 15-18 women: Amber Brown-Dahl followed closely by Liz Waterfield; men: Dane Olsen. 19-39 women: Nicole Nicholson-Chodat; men: Alistair Skey. 40+ women: Tracy Brown; men: Doug McQuair followed closely by Eric Waterfield

Telemark: Eric Waterfield

Board: 9-11 girls: Kylie Gardner; boys: Gareth Douglas. 12-14 girls: Chelsey Groffen; boys: Alex Thorp. 15-18 women: Jesse McDonald follow closely by Carly Thorp; men: Mike Hicks. 19-39 men: Tim Markholm. 40+ men: tie to Dave Jackson and Matt McKee.

The Teanne Jones Memorial Trophy for the fastest elementary school racer went to Megan Brown-Dahl, the John Gleboff Trophy for the fastest high school skier to Dane Olsen, and the trophy for the fastest high school snowboarder to Alex Thorp. Olsen was the fastest male skier, while Amber Brown-Dahl was the fastest female skier.

• Alcan Nancy Greene Ski and Snowboard League Zone Finals were held on March 12, at Salmo Ski Hill. Coaches Liz Waterfield, Alistair Skey, Frances Swan, and dedicated parents took 13 racers to the competition. According to Swan, the single slalom event was a "nice course with a challenging steep pitch out of the start gate, leading into flats before coming through some fast-banked turns to the finish."

Racer Solomon Tupper said, "the first part of the course was very steep, but on the second run they changed the first two gates, probably because they thought it might be easier. Quite a few kids wiped out on the first two gates."

As usual, coaches, parents, and racers enjoyed the race-to-awards gap with sunny free skiing on great hard-packed runs. Tupper's advice to people who might want to join the ANGSL next year is that "it is very fun and you learn a lot and you almost go to every ski hill for races!"

Summit Lake Racers' season wind-up event took place March 25 at the ski hill. More information will be posted at www.skisummitlake.com.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 10 ARROW LAKES

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) has the following position available:

Journeyman Tradesman

The following description is meant to be informative as to the general duties and responsibilities expected of a journeyman tradesman.

SUMMARY:
Under the direction of the Maintenance/Custodial Working Foreman, is responsible for the construction, repairs and decorative work in schools and school district buildings, and for the construction and repair of furniture and structural equipment.

DUTIES:
- Constructs, renovates and repairs district equipment, furnishings, fixtures and removing or building walls, ceilings and doorways.
- Repairs and/or replaces windows, doors, mirrors, furniture, chairs, tables and desks.
- Builds and/or installs mounting boards, cupboards, book shelves, blackboards, door closures, locks and hardware, notice boards, tables and various holders.
- Applies paint and other liquid coatings to interior and exterior of district buildings, equipment, furnishings and fixtures.
- Sands and varnishes woodwork.
- Estimates cost of materials and timelines for completion of district projects.
- Maintain and use equipment such as table saw, hand saw, radial arm saw, planer, shaper, router, drill, ladder, scaffolding, etc.
- Operates district vehicles and equipment used in construction and painting.
- Performs other duties which can be considered reasonable and as assigned by the Maintenance/Custodial Working Foreman.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:
- BC or Interprovincial Carpenter/Joinery trade certificate.
- Valid BC Class 5 driver's license.
- Completion of grade 12 or equivalent.
- Ability to read and interpret plans and blueprints applicable to the trade.
- Knowledge of building codes, restrictions, safety regulations.
- Ability to estimate costs of a project and materials.
- Physically capable of performing the job duties.
- Experience in trade and/or other trades.

RELATIONSHIP:
Responsible to the Maintenance/Custodial Working Foreman. Courteous and co-operative manner with students, other employees, and the general public.

This is a 40 hours per week position commencing May 1, 2006. Actual hours of work will be in consultation with the Maintenance/Custodial Foreman. The salary for this position will be $25.61 per hour as per the Collective Agreement between the Board of School Trustees of School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 2450. All interested employees must apply in writing to the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes), Box 340, Nakusp, B.C., V0G 1R0 by 11:00 a.m. on April 7, 2006.

"Global Learning In A Rural Setting"

Spectrum Evolution
Specialty Store
Bags & Purses, Wallets, Jewelry Boxes
Pillows of all shapes, sizes & colours
Soy Candles by Nature's Spa
Mon-Sat 10-5:30
86 4th Ave. Nakusp 265-3717

Prima Materia
Global Gift Discoveries
Inspiring Arts & Crafts
textiles . objects . artworks
Add some colour to your Spring with our gorgeous new accessories from Central America
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

Remembering Harry Griswold, long-time Kaslo resident

by Penny Dewar

I had the pleasure of meeting Harry Griswold last September at the Nakusp Fall Fair. I was part of a crowd of mostly children watching him load logs onto a truck. Not usually a novel activity for Nakusp; however, this was inside the gymnasium, the logs were only a few inches in diameter, the truck was no more than four feet long, and Harry was seated on and skillfully maneuvering the logs with his 'mechanical log loader, hand crank operation'. He had created the logs, as well as every part of his equipment, in his Salmon Arm shop, and for 11 years had devoted his time to using his creations to revitalize a part of our woods history.

At the fair I also met Harry's wife, June, in charge of the photography and artifacts section of their display. She gave me a tour of her gallery of old logging photos, including one of a 1917 GMC open-cabbed, wooden-wheeled logging truck with an unstaked load of massive logs, held in place by the choices made by a skilled loader and two chains fastened with 'fid hooks'. Then June brought me an actual hook: a flattened inconsequential-looking curved device, not what one would consider capable of such a critical task. When Harry and June visited schools, malls and fairs they brought turn-of-the-last-century logging back to life.

"I get nice letters from the kids," Harry told me. "Watching this," he said, waving a strong arm across his logs and models, "is more interesting than their curriculum."

June called me recently to tell me the sad news of her husband's passing. I was impressed by how much she wanted to talk about him.

"It began in 1995," she said. "Our daughter Julia, a teacher, asked Harry to bring his model to her class. He was always interested in machines, and had built a model loader that sat on a table. The kids loved it."

Harry, a retired logger, was so well received that he returned to his shop and modified his static display, adding a base so he could sit to work the levers, as with a real loader, and building a truck to receive the logs.

"He was always making improvements, evolving," June said. "The day he passed away he was in his favourite spot, in his shop, building a grapple."

Harry Griswold demonstrates his scale model of a log loader.

Green Door Youth Centre will be rebuilt

by Jan McMurray

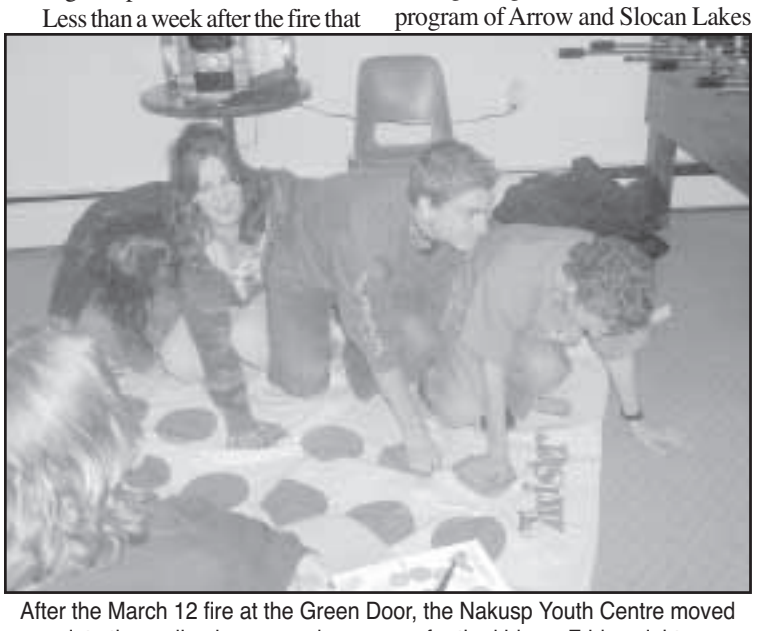
The folks at the Green Door just never give up.

Less than a week after the fire that did extensive damage to the building, the Youth Centre was set up in the curling lounge. So was the Skills Link program of Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services.

"The Village was just awesome, offering us the use of the curling lounge," said Jason Rogers of Straight Arrow Youth Op Society (SAYOPS), which owns the building. "And I can't tell you how marvelous it's been to see the community support and encouragement."

Brett Fee of the Youth Centre echoed Rogers' sentiments. Some of the many donations from Nakusp businesses were given out as door prizes on the first night the youth centre met at the curling lounge.

Rogers reported that "there will definitely be a rebuilding program." He says they are working with the insurance company to determine a construction budget, and that most of the contents in the building were insured. He estimates that the project could take about four months to complete.



After the March 12 fire at the Green Door, the Nakusp Youth Centre moved into the curling lounge and was open for the kids on Friday night.

New Slocan Valley housing office offers workshops

submitted

The Habondia Housing office at the Spicer Centre in Winlaw is offering a safe meeting space where people can find community solutions to housing and related issues.

If you or a loved one lives with chronic health issues, mental illness or addictions, you are invited to come out to hear about community supports available to you. Friends and caretakers are encouraged to come meet with others in a similar situation.

On Wednesday April 5, from 1 to 3 pm join two women who share their story about mental illness. Sandi McCreight from Castlegar, after the birth of her last child, went into two years of post-partum depression. Sandi now dedicates herself to building community support for caretakers and people suffering with mental illness, self-neglect and isolation.

On Wednesday April 12, from 1 to 3 pm Holly Jack and friends from Freedom Quest Youth Addiction Services will share stories of how people have come through addiction and about parent and community support groups for people who love someone living with addiction issues.

On Wednesday evening, April 12 from 7 to 9 pm, join Lisa Farr and hear about an ongoing workshop opportunity for people who want to live a healthy life with chronic health issues.

Homeowners and landlords are invited on Saturday, April 8 from 1 to 3 pm to speak to Bill Lynch of Lynch Inspections about secondary suites and energy upgrades. There are a number of government programs meant to help elders stay in their own homes, to build secondary suites to house more people, and energy efficiency programs to lower utility costs.

"Housing is a complex issue," says Laverne Booth, co-ordinator of the Habondia Housing project. "We are looking for solutions for better living conditions in the Slocan Valley. Land is being sold quickly now and our low-income residents find it increasingly hard to find housing in the valley."

If you have a solution or housing to offer please call 226-7011 or drop in to the housing referral office at the Spicer Centre in Winlaw on Saturdays from 10 to 4 pm.

Celebrating the opening of the Habondia Housing Referral Office in Winlaw on March 25, L to R: Michelle Cole, Administrator of the Circle of Habondia Lending Society, Paula Neglia, Jacob Neglia, Laverne Booth, Habondia Housing Co-ordinator, and Ida Kosiancic.

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We are currently seeking 3 team players to fill the following positions, Sales Clerk, Yard/Warehouse Assistant and Accounts Payable/Receivable Clerk. We need individuals who are self-motivated, energetic, customer service orientated and who can cope well under pressure.

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Must have retail sales experience, the ability and drive to learn new skills and must be comfortable working with computers. Building Supply knowledge/experience an asset. This position is seasonal Full-Part time.

Yard/Warehouse Assistant

Must be physically fit, experienced in receiving products and posses a clean driver's abstract with a class 5 driver's license. Forklift operator's license and computer skills are an asset. This position is seasonal Full-Part time.

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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)

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HELP WANTED

The Fauquier & District Golf Club and Service Canada have partnered in a job experience project for this summer. Project will run from May 1st to Oct 13th, full time hours. Successful candidates must be either on an Employment Insurance claim or have been on a claim in the past three (3) years or have received Maternity or Parental benefits in the last 5 years. Please forward resumes to Outreach Employment Services in Nakusp @ PO Box 100, V0G 1R0 before April 17, 2006

Kaslo council, March 14: Village chosen for energy efficiency program

by Jill Braley

•The Village of Kaslo has been chosen as one of 14 communities across BC to participate in the Community Action on Energy Efficiency program. Grant funding of $10,000 will be provided to support activities that will have a long-term positive impact on energy efficiency. Possible projects include reviewing local building bylaws, delivering public outreach programs or introducing green building policies. Fraser Basin Council is delivering the program on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The program will be operational until March 2007. Regular performance reviews will be done, and funding may be re-allocated at the end of each fiscal quarter, should the program not prove to be successful in Kaslo.

•Tom Humphries wrote to praise the Kaslo Public Library and to express support for a tax increase for the service. He will be advised that the budget increase proposed by the library was approved.

•The Development Variance Permit to allow for the construction of the new golf course clubhouse was approved.

•The new campground attendant, Patricia Bennett, wrote to council with a list of work that needs doing in preparation for the upcoming camping season. The public works foreman will meet with her and report back to council.

•Council received correspondence from Ward Engineering regarding developments to Marina Ridge properties at Kaslo Bay. Correspondence included a request to amend a previous subdivison application, and a summary of all six applications the company has submitted on behalf of Marina Ridge since December. The correspondence was referred to Urban Systems for comment to the Planning & Development Committee as soon as possible.

•Paul Woolgar wrote to council expressing concern about the widespread bird flu epidemic among domesticated fowl and wild birds. Council asked staff to send a letter to all B Avenue residents between 4th and 5th Streets, discouraging the feeding of wild fowl, and to post signage in Vimy Park prohibiting the feeding of wildlife. During Q&A time, resident Cheryl Benson suggested that council call the Health Inspector in Nelson, as these birds can carry disease. Helen Woolgar also expressed concern about attracting other birds such as crows and ravens into residential neighbourhoods by throwing grain for the wild fowl.

•Council received a letter from Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society, outlining electrical distribution problems the society has had during past Jazz Festivals, and a proposed solution. To eliminate the safety issues and "brown outs" of the past, the electrician has proposed that four power poles be permanently installed in Kaslo Bay Park. The overhead wires, however, would be hung only for the event, then removed. In its letter to council, the Society asked to meet with the Village foreman to discuss the proposal. This was referred to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•Council decided to spend its Community Tourism grant funding on Vimy Park campground improvements.

•The Village will provide a letter of support to the Kaslo & Area Residents Association for its application for Columbia Basin Trust funding to renovate the Kaslo Community Hall.

•CAO Sawyer provided information on the new School Community Connections program. Councillor Leathwood reported she had spoken with JVH principal Andy Leathwood. The school is interested in supporting the community use of the outside basketball court through the program.

•The Mayor and CAO were authorized to ratify the annual service agreement with iCompass Technologies for webhosting and publication updating services for the Village's webpage.

•A letter of support will be written in response to Zone 4 Fire Chiefs Association recent correspondence, expressing concern over the restructuring of the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

•The Kaslo Senior Citizens Association wrote to request a plumbing upgrade to the Seniors building. This was referred to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•The Village intends to designate either Kaslo Bay Park or Lighthouse Beach to the Kaslo River as an off leash area for dogs, and is seeking public opinion on this.

•Bylaw 1028, authorizing the expenditure of funds for water system disinfection improvements, was given three readings. There is $63,591.47 remaining from the original borrowing and council voted to spend $55,000 of it in 2006.

•Accounts Payable of $35,501.23were approved.

Women's gym opens in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Here's some good news for women in the Kaslo area who would like to get into shape and/or experience the benefits of an infrared sauna. Twins Wanda Turner and Wendy Orr have opened up Ladies Fun and Fitness on 4th Avenue in Kaslo, just down from NAPA.

Both women are certified circuit trainers, so they train their clients to do a 30-minute hydraulic circuit training program. Once trained, clients can come to the gym and do the work-out themselves. Either Wendy or Wanda is always there.

"'Let's work together' is our motto," said Wanda.

"The circuit training program is designed for today's busy lifestyles and meets women's unique needs," she said. "Women can lose inches, tone muscle and increase cardiovascular endurance. We only train women, so it's a non-intimidating atmosphere."

Women can also book 30-minute sessions in the infrared sauna at the gym. This dry sauna provides Vitamins A and D, detoxifies, provides pain relief, improves the skin, and boosts immunity, among other wonderful things. "It's good for your overall health," said Wendy.

Wanda Turner and Wendy Orr have opened Ladies Fun & Fitness in Kaslo

Give them a call at 353-2020 or drop by to get more information or make an appointment.

Kaslo golf club members approve new clubhouse and course layout

submitted

Kaslo golf course may not yet be open, but nonetheless it's already buzzing with activity.

The membership has approved construction of a new clubhouse to replace the current one, which is failing due to its age. The new facility will be a beautifully designed 2,200 sq. ft. timber frame building with a full basement and large deck overlooking Kootenay Lake. It will be built in the area of the present parking lot, so the old building will still be in use this year, and the current club house operators are back to provide fine food and service once again. Operation of the course itself will not be disrupted by construction activities.

The planning for this clubhouse led to consideration of fresh options for course layout, and as a result changes are underway. These changes, which will take place over the next couple of years, are aimed at reducing the hazard of possible injury due to errantly struck golf balls, as well as improving the challenge of the course. They incorporate the use of adjacent land for construction of a new par 3 hole and make it possible to extend one of the existing par 3s into a par 4. Some 'shared' fairways are being eliminated, and others widened. A water hazard featuring a waterfall is also part of the planned changes. Club employees and volunteers have already removed a number of trees as part of the preliminary work.

All these changes require funding. While there is still work to be done, the club has been most appreciative of the fundraising activities of members, the grants provided by community improvement entities, and the extent of volunteer assistance and 'in kind' donations proffered.

Meanwhile the membership renewals are being processed, and club activities planned. Kaslo is off to a flying start this year as the host of both the men's nine-man scramble on April 30 and the women's six-person scramble on May 7. If you belong to another club in the West Kootenay region, contact them for information on participating in these.

For those wanting to take up the game, or take it more seriously, it is still not too late to take advantage of the introductory membership being offered—$260 for the year to anyone who has never belonged to the Kaslo Golf club.

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Kaslo plays host to Volunteer Fair, April 22

Volunteers are everywhere. They weave the fabric of our communities, contributing more than the world can afford to pay for the services they provide. Without them communities would not enjoy the rich diversity of amenities and activities we take for granted. Arenas, community halls, hiking trails, hospitals, equipment, community services, food banks are all part of our everyday lives.

You are invited to showcase your volunteer organization, find out about volunteer organizations in your communities, or sign up to be a volunteer at the Kaslo Legion Hall on Saturday April 22 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Kaslo Area Health Advisory, the Kaslo and Area Seniors Association, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, North Kootenay Lake Community Foundation, the Langham, Meadow Creek Community Hall, and an impressive list of other groups have joined together to celebrate volunteers in Kaslo and Area D.

The Volunteer Fair will feature information table displays by the myriad of organizations operating in the North Kootenay Lake Area. The fair is not confined to Kaslo and Area residents, as Castlegar Community Services will also be there. There will be an opportunity for the community to talk with volunteers, bring ideas forward, find out about projects and programs, make donations and become a volunteer. There will be a gift draw at each table and at the end of the day your favourite volunteer might win a draw for a grand prize to honour their contributions.

There will be fun activities and we are expecting some surprise entertainment. The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary will provide lunch at a reasonable cost.

Please book a table to showcase your group. Tables are free and are going fast—reserve yours by April 10.

For more information: contact billandfe@telus.net or 353-2090.

Kaslo infoNet awarded grant for Meadow Creek high-speed internet

by Tyler Dobie

The Kaslo infoNet Society (KiN) has received a grant of $20,000 from Network BC, a division of the provincial Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services to assist it in delivering high-speed internet service to Meadow Creek residents and businesses.

This community networking infrastructure grant is awarded specifically for the purchase of 'last mile' infrastructure to give small rural communities access to high-speed internet and overcome the 'digital divide'.

This summer KiN will build a wireless distribution network to connect homes and businesses in Meadow Creek, Cooper Creek, Lardeau and eventually Argenta, Howser and Johnson's Landing to high-speed Internet. KiN's point-of-presence will be installed at the Lardeau Valley Community Hall, with the primary radio tower on Grey Horse Ridge.

The network build will take place while the weather is good so that everything is working in fall. Service can begin within 12 weeks of the broadband backbone installation by Telus, which currently slated for third quarter 2006.

KiN will also connect the unserved communities of Woodbury, Fletcher Creek, Mirror Lake and Shutty Bench through a point-of-presence in Kaslo this spring. If you were a Mountaintop Wireless customer, KiN wants to hear from you.

If you live in an unserved area of North Kootenay Lake and are interested in accessing high-speed internet, or to volunteer, please contact tyler@kaslo.org.

Kaslo Library automates

The Kaslo library's circulation is now fully automated and everyone is invited to celebrate the new era with a ribbon-cutting April 11.

The automation means many labour-intensive and time-consuming tasks have been eliminated, says library spokesperson Anne Malik. Statistics will be more reliable, offering a good source of information for future planning.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 3 p.m.. Former board members Ann MacNab and Irene Parker—who took the initiative to secure funding for the project—will do the honours. Refreshments will follow the ceremony.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Appreciating World Water Day everywhere

I always make a point of getting two or three copies of the great calendars from the Kootenay Savings Credit Union. For four years now the credit union has created a delightful calendar featuring paintings done by schoolkids of places in the West Kootenay, and awarded scholarships to the best illustrators. I love this bright bold art and hang them up in my house with gratitude. On the March 22 space, there's a notation about World Water Day, and we're all aware of the need for clean, pure water.

Additionally, water in its many forms is the biggest influence in all outdoor work and play that we do, from logging to gardening and skiing to boating. I'd already laid plans to get out in the kayak for a spell that day, and it seemed a fitting way to celebrate this World Water Day, which I'd actually never even heard of. Slocan Lake is the main feature that finally attracted me to settle in New Denver, and water levels are at the winter ebb.

Driving to Silverton to launch I noticed how snow still hid in the shadows, and puddles lay in wait in pretty well every low spot. The ramp in Silverton was clear and the wooden dock dry but crookedly sitting partly on the beach. I spent a couple hours paddling down to Bannock Point, which I've talked about lots before, and always look forward to. Water under the hull, likely just six or seven degrees for now, so you plan these things for calm days and mind your movements. Water way overhead in the form of towering cumulus clouds and even the odd dark stormcloud that will soon help restore the lake level.

Water all around the valley in the form of a now-generous snowpack that will seep into the lake through a hundred watersheds to start the return flow to the ocean where it likely all evaporated from in the first place. Water weighs 62.5 pounds/cubic foot, 10 pounds/.gallon and one kilogram/litre. I once told somebody that a litre of water will in turn make a puddle one metre in diameter, though I was making up that part…That weight of water is what makes our local electricity and gravity water systems work.

Water is also the universal solvent, though I feel pretty safe in my plastic boat. Water sure does dissolve the roads and trails around the Kootenays when it comes too fast, and needs to be managed at least a little for our safety and comfort. In the years I worked seasonally for the Forest Service I was always shocked at how neglected culverts and water-bars could end up causing all sorts of disasters.

Water conducts sound remarkably well due to the density of those H_2O molecules and will also faithfully transmit the wake of a motorboat up the lake for miles and great periods of time, to finally slosh up on some shore without particular invitation. Even a brief squall at Silverton will send ripples down to Slocan City where it may otherwise be calm. Sound certainly seems to carry well across the water, and oftentimes from the serenity of Valhalla Park beaches you realize how noisy it gets back on the settled side of Slocan Lake.

• I was down in Slocan City (I've always like the 'City' part) the other day to have some breakfast and also to check the authenticity of the food editor's recent report. After oinking out I walked down to the public beach there and was impressed to see the progress on construction of the new boat launching ramp. This is to the left of the swim area beside the river outlet and will feature a breakwater setup and fine concrete landing. Part of the older dock beside the mill will remain for casual moorage, I think, but the new location will get traffic away from the beach/bathrooms and there's great parking at the old railhead around the new gazebo shelter.

Then I walked over to the Slocan City Village Office (funny!) and there the very pleasant staff let me see a couple of diagrams of the new boat ramp which was funded by the former mill owners Canfor in the amount of $100,000 which will ensure a lasting and sturdy structure. Good year-round lake access is desirable from both a recreational and safety standpoint and if we honestly want to attract tourism activity and revenue to the valley, then this new boat launch oughta bring in more users from down the valley and points further south.

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

Financial Forum

with Collin Ludwar

Bad news for baby boomers

There is only bad news for baby boomers when it comes to a disease which kills one third of all Canadians. Recent reports from the Heart and Stroke foundation have found that the baby boomers—the generation currently aged 46-60—are more unhealthy than people 10 years older than them.

What does this mean for all of us?

Heart disease can be the most serious for those who have an unhealthy lifestyle of drinking, smoking and obesity (which happens to be more than half the baby boomers).

There are other people who live a healthier lifestyle and exercise regularly but they'll still feel the affects of those who are in the higher risk category.

Health care costs and hospital waiting times are already increasing. There are two distinct factors causing this trend: the large baby boomer population base is at that age when health issues—like heart disease—are becoming more frequent, and many doctors are also nearing retirement age and finding quality physician care is becoming increasingly difficult.

It is no wonder that the health care system will continue to be under a lot more stress. There is the likelihood that many costs previously covered under MSP will be pushed onto you. Health care items that you've already been paying for are likely going to cost more.

You might expect changes to your company's extended health care coverage. Chances are it will become more expensive as time goes by. Companies that have traditionally covered the cost of extended benefits for their retired employees may not be able to continue doing so for future retired employees.

Retired seniors will be forced to withdraw more from their retirement savings. The low income seniors, with little or no savings, are going to be most greatly affected.

There is going to be a greater need for people to self-insure to fund some of their future health care costs. Such insurance products will include critical illness insurance, long term care and private extended health coverage.

No doubt, insurance companies will be looking to increase their prices in the near future. I also believe they will be making insurance harder to qualify for as they will be looking more closely at height/weight, lifestyle and health concerns than ever before. It all comes down to trend factors and averages. If the insurance companies see that, on a whole, the population is becoming more unhealthy than their predecessors, prices will increase and more people will be rated higher or denied coverage altogether.

This new information presented by the Heart and Stroke Foundation will be taken into consideration as part of the insurance underwriting process. Chances are, if you have slightly elevated blood pressure you probably can get insurance with a slight premium increase right now.

Next year you may be told you cannot get insurance in view of these rising statistics and alarming health trends.

In summary, people need to be looking at their retirement planning and estate planning now. People need to ensure that they can take care of themselves and have the necessary insurance coverage in place. Postponing is most likely going to lead to higher costs and possible holes in your financial future.

Collin Ludwar, B. Comm., is an associate insurance financial advisor with The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in life and health insurance and risk management.

HEY HONEY! LOOKIT WHAT I FOUND!

And a flood of fond memories gush forth as you inspect your good old bikes, which now look a little dusty and neglected...

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Nice buns at Sappho's

Hey there all you food fans. I was in Calgary two weeks ago, and you may have noticed that my fearless and rather scruffy publisher covered for me in this column. Thank you Dan.

By the way, I hitch-hiked home from Calgary, and after I froze for about a half hour someone stopped for me and took me all the way home to my front door. One ride! It's true! So I'm back, and the first thing I did was go over to Sappho's Bakery, cuz they are the featured Cool Eatery for this issue, and besides that, I happen to like Karen and Katrine.

Sappho's is owned by Karen Stevens and operated by Karen and her partner Katrine Campbell. They opened the bakery, out of their home, 15 months ago without any help from grants or government give-aways. It took them three years to get all the equipment, licenses, and permits together. They did it all themselves, and it has paid off big time. Karen says: "In less than two years the success of the bakery has far exceeded all our expectations. It took off so fast. We are working at capacity and now need a second oven to keep up with orders." They have actually had to turn down contracts because of a lack of oven space; however, they have ongoing contracts with Kuskanax Lodge, Ann's Natural Foods, the Silverton Hotel, the Golf Course and the Apple Tree.

Karen is the "head bread babe." She makes about a dozen kinds of bread. My faves are honey-garlic (yum), sourdough rye (yum yum), and chunky cheese (yumskis). She makes them in small batches so that the bread for sale there is always "fresh daily!" Katrine looks after the confectionary stuff. You've gotta try her Dazzle Bars: white chocolate, cream cheese and raspberry jam on a cookie base with chocolate topping. Or try the popular New Denver Bar, much like a Nanaimo Bar, but with a lemon centre. She also makes something called French Silk Pie, which is a concoction of chocolate, brandy, coffee, almonds and hazelnuts. Great Hagions! Katrine also makes pies (no canned fruit), cream puffs, cheesecakes, cookies, muffins and a whole lot more. She is always experimenting.

But what about pizza? Oh my goodness yes! In the eternal debate over thick or thin crusts, Karen and Katrine have opted for thin, but of course they will make a thick crust if you like, and one size — twelve inches — fits all.

A few words about the house they live in and operate out of. The living room has become the main bakery; the spare bedroom is for storage; the dining room is the office; and there are big bags of flour stacked everywhere.

When I was there the other day Karen made me a pizza. She doesn't have tubs of ingredients sitting around. The meat and the veggies are sliced as the pizza is ordered. Mine had a rich sauce that included salsa, an entire half pound of cheese, a tight layer of back bacon and one of pepperoni and black olives. I've had excellent pizza before, but never one as fresh-tastingly delicious as this one. Also, to take home, they gave me a heavenly quiche, some dreamy confections and two loaves of bread. I have a good gig!

The bakery was closed so we stood around drinking my favourite cheap red wine and chatting. Did you know that Karen is a world-class arm wrestler with a box of trophies from world championships? She also has piloted a snowplow truck down Red Mountain — backwards. I asked if that scared her. She said "Yes, but I was just as scared when we opened the bakery." Katrine was co-founder of *The Valley Voice* and has also worked for five years as a postie in Calgary. They both love Sappho's, and so do the happy campers that are lined up outside their door from May through October. During those months their work days begin at 3:00 am so that all the baking is done by 8:00 am.

In the couple hours I spent with them we ate, drank, and laughed a great deal. I don't have enough space to tell you what a great bakery Sappho's is, but you'll be missing out if you don't drop in. Sappho's is located in New Denver about two blocks south of Carpenter Creek. Go there! And by the way, GREAT BUNS!!!

Sappho's Bakery

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Why shop anywhere else?

Rear entrance, 309 Kildare St., New Denver. Open Wednesday and Thursday, 11 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday to 8. Pizza orders require one hour's notice.

358–2119

ANNOUNCEMENT

NIFTY, NIFTY, GUESS WHO'S 50?
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WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS? Community Futures offers business counselling and start-up information. Appointments available in Nakusp and New Denver. Contact Farhana at 265-3674 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca

CALL FOR ENTRY

NELSON AND DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL announces their call for entry to artists for their annual Artwalk in downtown Nelson July 7 to September 16. Two five-week exhibitions will be held over the summer at 12 downtown businesses. Please call Pat Henman at the Nelson and District Arts Council, 250-352-2402 or email her at ndac@netidea.com for applications to participate as an emerging or professional artist or as a gallery/venue. Deadline for applications is April 14, 2006.

CARD OF THANKS

A sincere thank you to all of you who supported us in the recent loss of our loving wife, mother, and nan, Grace Palmason. To everyone who sent flowers and cards and who brought donations of food to our house, we thank you for your kindness. To the caregivers and home nurses who helped Mom when she was still at home, your warmth and vitality touched all of us. To the nurses and staff at the Slocan Community Health Centre, your laughter, energy and compassion are the wonderful gifts that you gave to Grace and to her family and friends. A thank you to the Legion for setting up the hall and providing refreshments. A special thank you to Mike Mills for officiating, with compassion, at the memorial service. To all of you, please accept our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude from the Palmasons.

COMING EVENTS

WHERE THE ACTION IS - March 30, Lucerne Library, 6:30 pm, Lucerne School PAC meeting. All Lucerne parents are warmly invited. Parents have a voice in their children's education through PAC.

COMING EVENTS

SUMMIT LAKE SKI HILL AGM March 30, 7 pm, Nakusp Secondary School Library. (Originally scheduled for March 16.)

CALL FOR PERFORMERS! Vallican Whole's 8th annual Coffee House will be on April 1st. 5:30 - 10 pm (or later). Any Musicians that would like a space call Bevan @ 359-6654. Featuring an Indian Dinner, Local Performers, Silent Auction and Delectable Desserts. Admission is $5, childcare is $2. Call 226-7737 for more info.

GARAGE SALE - The Passmore Hall and the Slocan Park Hall are having their annual garage sale on Saturday April 22 from 8:00 am till 3:00 pm. These communities are minutes apart so come on out and join us.

DONATIONS NEEDED for the Passmore Hall and Slocan Park Hall Garage Sales. They can be dropped off at Passmore Hall April 21 between 1:00 and 7:00 pm. If needing an alternative time contact Norm at 226-7745 or Margie at 226-7506. The Slocan Park Hall will be open from 8:00 am till 8:00 pm on Friday. Contact Verna for alternative time at 226-7208. Passmore Hall is also renting tables for $5.00.

KOHAN REFLECTION GARDEN It's a Work Party! Each Wednesday, starting April 5th at 6 p.m. at the Kohan Garden in Centennial Park. Pull a few weeds and hava cuppa tea! Everyone Welcome. 358-2478.

COMING EVENTS

MAY DAY MARKET, Monday, May 22. For info/space, call Anita at 358-7731.

WINLAW HALL, April 30/06 9:00-3:00pm Outdoor Flea Market (weather permitting, otherwise inside) Kitchen open. For info please call Carolea 226-7230.

WRITERS FESTIVAL - Lucerne School and Community - 4th annual - April 18th to 21st. A literary line-up not to be missed. All workshops are open to the public, so watch for the schedule. Also plan to attend the writers' coffeehouse on Thursday, April 21: Elementary 5:30 pm, Teens and Visiting Writers 8:30 pm. To register, call 358-7733.

HILLS COMMUNITY DOUKHOBOR SOCIETY Annual General Meeting, Sunday, April 9, 2006, 1:00 pm, Hills Community Centre.

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CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY, Sat., April 22;
(date change) FOODSAFE, Fri., May 5;
NAKUSP: 265-4077
FELDENKRAIS METHOD, Sat., April 8 - New Denver;
INTRODUCTION TO MICRO-SOFT PUBLISHER, Fri., April 7;
OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID LEVEL 1 & TE, April 8, 9;
TOASTMASTER Meeting - Everyone welcomed, April 12;
INTRODUCTION TO POWER POINT, Fri., April 21;
BUILDING A RUSTIC TRELLIS, Sat., April 22;
BUILDING A RUSTIC ARMCHAIR, Sun., April 23;
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES. For more information and registration call your local learning center. Mon., - Thurs., 9am-3pm

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HELP WANTED: The Fauquier & District Golf Club and Service Canada have partnered in a job experience project for this summer. Project will run from May 1st to Oct 13th, full time hours. Successful candidates must be either on an Employment Insurance claim or have been on a claim in the past three (3) years or have received Maternity or Parental benefits in the last 5 years. Please forward resumes to Outreach Employment Services in Nakusp @ PO Box 100, V0G 1R0 before April 17, 2006.

PART-TIME CASUAL position available for homemaker. Please call 265-3273.

Personal Classifieds start at $8

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.

NOTICE!! Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submits applications to Box 293, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0 by the deadline of April 30th, 2006. Application forms are available at: Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Lucerne School and My Aunt's Place. Please note that the appropriate application form must be used or the application will not be considered.

MAINTENANCE MYLES - offering maintenance services in the 358 exchange area including renovations, yard and garden and interior/exterior painting. Call Myles at 358-2690.

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FIRE DANCING - With Safire Jones. Sat. April 8th Slocan Park Hall.

POSSESSION & ACQUISTION LICENSE (P.A.L.) - April 22nd&23rd (Sat/Sun.). Winlaw School. Instr: Ivan Hawley

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CBEEN offers bursaries for environmental educators

The Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN) is offering bursaries of up to $500 to support educators attending workshops and conferences which will further their expertise in environmental education. A total amount of $5,500 is available between now and June 16.

"CBEEN's mission is to support and encourage environmental education initiatives and foster environmental stewardship and sustainability in the Canadian Columbia Basin," says executive director Eli Baker. "These bursaries will assist educators in their professional development, and the new knowledge and skills that they will acquire will benefit all residents of the basin. You see, that's the catch. Anyone can apply for the bursaries, but all recipients must promise to share what they learn."

Baker expects that recipients will contribute an article about the conference to CBEEN's website, and hopes that some recipients will also give a brief presentation at the AGM April 7. Beyond that, the sky is the limit. Educators can submit articles to their local newspapers, post information on a website, or offer workshops in their own communities.

Guidelines to apply are simple: applicants must be members of CBEEN (membership is currently free, and new members can register at www.cbeen.org), must reside in the Columbia Basin (as defined by the Columbia Basin Trust), and must be prepared to share the new skills or knowledge they acquire. For a detailed information sheet and application form, e-mail Eli Baker at cbeen0506@telus.net..

CBEEN is a non-profit society that fosters environmental education initiatives, environmental stewardship and sustainability and supports networking amongst environmental educators to share information and collaborate on projects. CBEEN works to achieve its goals through three priority areas: information sharing, capacity building, and on-the-ground environmental education projects. CBEEN publishes a quarterly newsletter, hosts a website, and has recently launched a water stewardship education program for grades K-11. For more information or to join, visit www.cbeen.org.

A marathon 12-hour scrapbooking and stamping workshop at the Bosun Hall was attended by about 28 people from the New Denver area, Nakusp, Castlegar and Enderby. Louise Scheerschmidt of New Denver enlisted the help of Karen Forsythe, Carol Heidema and Jenny Bolsachuk to help with organizing the event, which included two meals. There were demonstrations, classes, supplies for sale and lots of space to sit down and get those pictures and stories into special acid-free scrapbooking albums.

With honour and respect - In memory of Eva Orr

by Marilyn James

In memory of Eva Orr, Sinixt
August 31, 1911—February 15, 2006

I submit these words from my long and loving relationship with Eva Orr. I have been an activist all of my adult life. Whether an activist or a plain every day indian, it is difficult to find an example of someone or something that not only represents injustice in life but one that represents what it is that life should be.

There are many examples of life's injustices for indian people, but to find an example that represents one's self and the front line of moral and spiritual being is a rare thing.

I was introduced to an issue of ancestral remains being dug up and indian people's struggle to repatriate remains. There was also something about a declared extinction of this group, but only extinct in Canada and existing as one of the tribal groups of the 11 confederated tribes of the Colville indian reservation. This is a bit of that story of discovery.

Eva's life spanned from 1911 to 2006 and I have witnessed a small part of the integrity she carried. About two decades ago Eva learned of ancestral remains being unearthed in Vallican. Eva was relentless in her pursuit to discover what had become of those ancestors' remains and sent her son, Bob Campbell, to investigate. That began a legacy that has brought all Sinixt a piece of honour and respect. Under Eva's guidance and encouragement, many have became involved in the reclaiming of Sinixt homelands in Canada and the repatriation and reburial of 61 ancestral remains.

It is rare to find someone in this day and age that represents one aspect of the complexity of life but one that represents a doorway of discovery to many of those meanings in a complexity of relationships. There were many who knew Eva and I was fortunate to know her through a profound spiritual connection to the winter dance ceremony, as mentor, as matriarch, as friend, and one who represents a goal in life and being.

I am humbled to say I followed her guidance and even more humbled to have just lived in the shade of her being. I am so grateful that I had this example and even more grateful that my children and grandchildren have been able to have know her.

Eva is the last of many who have perished in this Sinixt struggle. In honour and respect of them all:

Alvina Lum
Leonard George
Annie Kruger
Francis Romero
John Marchand
Charlie Quintasket
Corrine Marchand
Joseph Ignace
Jim Stelkia
Koos Swan
Gilbert Stewart
Marianne Gledden
Warren Taber
Don Blanchard

I know this is not all of those who have passed, who have connected with the Sinixt in their homeland of Canada and the struggles that have touched our lives. We as Sinixt people must carry on in the memory of all of those who have given a part of their lives to bring us memory and life, and honour.

REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

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

Kaslo Detachment

• RCMP were called to an aircraft crash at the Kaslo airport March 19. American pilot Lyle Turner lost control of his single-engine Pilatus while attempting to land on the snow covered airstrip, hit the north bank and came to an abrupt stop. Turner wasn't injured; the plane's prop and landing gear were damaged. The Canadian Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

• The detachment is receiving an increasing number of complaints about people and vehicles trespassing at the airport. Under the Transportation Act, the grounds are federally controlled property, and it is an offence to trespass on airport property—violators are subject to fines or jail time. Police say they are committed to ensuring the area is kept safe for people and plans, and will enforce the act.

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Sealed Tenders from General or Mechanical Contractors will be received at the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Nakusp, 91 - 1st Street NW, Post Office Box 280, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0 on or before Friday, April 21, 2006 at 2:00 P.M., local time. Tender Revisions may be faxed to 1-250-265-3788.

The project includes, but is not limited to, ceramic tile pool finish, replaced concrete decking, hydronic de-icing, new skimmers, main drain, water inlets, sand filters, circulation pumps, chlorination, ozone treatment, associated valves, piping, electrical connections and equipment grounding.

2 sets of Tender Documents are available to General and/or Mechanical Contractors between Friday March 31, 2006 and Wednesday, April 12, 2006, from Fairbank Architects Ltd., 404 Vernon Street, Nelson, B.C. V1L 4E5, upon receipt of deposit of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) per set, certified cheque or money order, payable to Fairbank Architects Ltd., refundable upon return of documents in good condition within ten days of Tender closing.

A Bidding Contractor is a company capable of performing all the requirements of the Construction Contract CCDC 2 1994, Supplements thereof, 10% Bid Bond, 50% Performance and 50% Labour and Material Payment Bonds and in compliance with the "Instructions to Bidders" issued with the Tender Documents.

A mandatory site meeting and inspection for General and Mechanical Contractors will occur on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, commencing at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Building, Nakusp Hot Springs.

Tender Documents may be viewed at:

Village of Nakusp
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