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

Fire chiefs against changes to fire commissioner's office

by Jan McMurray

Local fire chiefs have been sounding the alarm at their Village council meetings recently with concerns about the reorganization of the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC).

They believe the reorganization could result in less training opportunities, less support to fire chiefs, diminished public safety and higher costs to local governments. They say that the office is shifting from a service delivery model to a governance model, and has reduced its regional staff throughout the province from 17 to 4. Regional staff for our area has been reduced from four to one. These changes have been taking place with no meaningful consultation with the fire service or local governments, they claim.

On April 1, the regional fire chiefs' association for the Kootenays held a special meeting on this issue in Cranbrook. In attendance were many local government representatives, MLA Corky Evans and the fire commissioner himself, David Hodgins.

Evans says he was "dismayed by the determination of the ministry and the fire commissioner to continue along this reckless path." He raised his concerns with Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety John Les in the legislature on April 3, as did Columbia River-Revelstoke MLA Norm MacDonald.

Both MLAs pointed out to Les that pretty much all fire chiefs were against the restructuring. MacDonald asked him if he'd reconsider the plan and listen to the people on the ground. Evans asked him who would now be co-ordinating fire crews in the event of a wildfire, and who would be liable. He also asked who would be paying for training the firefighters and who would be liable if mistakes were made.

Les did not answer the questions directly, dismissing them as "rhetoric" and "fearmongering." He said more than once that the reorganization was going to provide more fire safety officers in more locations across the province, and that the office would continue to provide training, investigative support and information to fire departments.

"It's rare that we see such a monumental disconnect between the experience of people on the land and a minister down here in the pointy buildings," said Evans.

In the legislature on April 12, MLA MacDonald read Les a note he'd received from Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren that said: "I personally have reached a point in my life where I am wondering why I am still volunteering to be on call 24-7, 365 days a year to have my face slapped and to have more work thrown at me. These changes cost local taxpayers more and affect the saving of lives and property."

MacDonald urged the minister to recognize the "fundamental problem" with the restructuring and asked him to commit to fixing it.

Les again stated that the government was "taking steps to ensure that there are more people on the ground...so that more advice and more support are available to the various fire departments of BC." He went on to say that if there is a fire department somewhere that doesn't understand the changes, the fire commissioner is travelling around the province to explain them.

Fire Chief Warren wrote the note after the April 1 meeting in Cranbrook, where he heard the fire commissioner's explanations.

Fire Commissioner David Hodgins, in a telephone interview April 7, said, "I can understand the chiefs' point of view. From the outside looking in, they see vacant positions in the field and new positions in headquarters in Victoria. So the challenge now is to explain what we're up to and where we're going."

He admitted that the OFC could have done a better job of communicating at the grassroots level, and has responded to the communications challenge with a new position — manager of stakeholder relations.

He said another problem has been that there was a provincial election in the midst of the restructuring and the office moved from the Ministry of Children, Aboriginal and Women's Services to Public Safety, and this has slowed the whole process down.

"So the fire departments saw us reducing the numbers in the field and not replacing them. This [replacement] will happen, but we need a chance to reorganize," he said, adding that it would take a year to get back into the field to the extent they would like to be.

He explained that the rationale behind the restructuring was to "focus their resources." He said they are centralizing in order to strengthen certain areas of service delivery and to streamline the operation. Also, they want to improve fire investigation services.

"We used to have regional fire commissioners providing our services. Now, we have expertise in Victoria who specialize. Under the new model, there will be people in Victoria working on the curriculum for the public education programs that fire departments deliver, and on policy development. Now a chief can call a 1-800 number and get answers. Our regional advisors don't have to be on the phone, or worry about emails. Other people are managing administration for them," he explained.

In order to improve fire investigation services, the restructuring calls for a specialized fire investigation unit, although Hodgins said it would take time "to grow" that unit. He says that fire investigation can be complicated when there is a fatality or when fires are suspicious.

"Our advisors in the field were doing it, but off the side of their desks. Atrophy becomes an issue if they are not doing investigations on a consistent basis," he said.

The four regional offices have been closed, and there is now one regional advisor in the field in Cranbrook, Kamloops, Prince George and Victoria. The advisor in Cranbrook is working out of the Fire Protection office.

"So we save money and are closer to the people we work with during wildfires. All savings realized will be put back into advisory services," he assured.

Hodgins says he wants seven advisors in the field plus two in Victoria, and 16 staff people at Victoria headquarters: the fire commissioner, two deputy fire commissioners, two code advisors, a fire protection engineer, a training advisor, two public educators, a website and information manager, a fire reporting systems person, a budgets and finance person, the manager of stakeholder relations and three administrative support staff.

"The reality is that we have 25 people and there are 400 fire departments in the province, so we have to be strategic. We have never been able to meet all the demands. Restructuring isn't going to make it so we can meet every request, but we will make sure we're there to meet the basic needs."

Darren McCoy from Slocan Lake Home Hardware was the Apple Tree's first celebrity waiter last week. Unlike the unfortunate souls who were served by Darren that day, readers have been spared a glimpse of what is underneath his apron. What we would like to know from Rob, the restaurant owner, is this: Just what IS the dress code at the Apple Tree?

The Anniversary Dinner in New Denver was another great success. New Denver Queen Amber Brown-Dahl poses with Jim Bayford, an important guest of honour at the dinner. Jim Bayford, a much loved citizen, is moving to Claresholm, Alberta after 20 years in Silverton and 5 years in Hills before that.
Bayford served the community in many ways and has been recognized for his dedication to two organizations. At the dinner, he was honoured with a lifetime membership to the Silverton Historical Society. He was also awarded a lifetime membership to the Silverton Volunteer Fire Department at the March 30 fire practise. Another volunteer project of Jim's was keeping Silverton's day park clean and beautiful.
We will all miss you, Jim, and we wish you all the best in your new home.

Construction on the Kaslo skatepark began on April 3, off-road at Vimy Park. The Village signed the agreement with the Skatepark Committee on March 30. The skatepark committee would like to thank everyone who has helped make the project possible.

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Kaslo pilot lands with a crash in a Slocan Valley farmer's field

by Jan McMurray

A very unusual accident happened in the Slocan Valley on April 3. At about 3 pm, a pilot found himself out of fuel on the return trip to Trail from Revelstoke, and was forced to make an emergency landing in a farmer's field in Crescent Valley.

Pilot Vaughn Blais of Kaslo brought himself and his two passengers down to safety, but the plane was not so fortunate.

"Thank God everybody is alive," said Blais. "It was a bad situation. I made some bad choices. I will never run out of fuel again, that's for sure," he said.

The four-seater 1967 Cessna 177, the only aircraft owned by the Trail Flying Club, was a write-off but fully insured, reported club secretary Larry Evans, "so we will replace it with a similar one." He says it was available to members with the proper pilot status.

According to the report done by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB), when Blais left Trail, the gauges showed the tanks to be just under 3/4 full. At Revestoke, Blais tried to fuel up, but couldn't because he didn't have a credit card with him. However, with the gauges showing just under half full, he believed he had enough fuel.

"I didn't bring a credit card and they wouldn't take cash, but that wasn't really the problem anyway," related Blais. "I had enough fuel to get back — I just encountered weather and had to sneak through the valley, so I used up another half hour of fuel.

"I will never leave home without my credit card again," he added.

The TSB report describes how Blais encountered a headwind and cloud, so he had to fly at a lower altitude and on an indirect route because of terrain. He realized he may not make it to Trail, but was hoping to make it to Castlegar. About 11 nautical miles north of the Castlegar Airport, the engine failed from fuel starvation. He set up for a forced landing, but during the approach to his chosen field, the aircraft stalled and landed hard, breaking the right main wheel and sustaining substantial damage.

Although this was the first emergency landing Blais has ever had to execute, he says it did not scare him away from flying again — "not one bit," he said.

He says he knew that once the motor shut off, he'd get five more seconds of power from the propeller, and four more seconds from the electric fuel pump.

"I knew I had four seconds of power if I needed it, and I did need it to land in the field," he said. "I was just a foot above the power line when I fired up the electric fuel pump. It allowed me to make a left hand turn for the field. I turned the prop into the middle and landed."

Nelson RCMP, Passmore Fire Department and BC Ambulance Service all attended the accident scene.

Nelson RCMP, Passmore Fire Department and BC Ambulance Service attended the crash of a 4-seater Cessna.

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Silverton considers buying prime downtown lot

by Jan McMurray

Silverton council invited the public to come to the Memorial Hall on March 28 to discuss three land issues in the village. Most came out to hear about Mayor John Everett's idea to purchase the large corner lot on the highway, at 310 Lake, from Silverton Building Supplies.

Everett explained he sees an opportunity here to set a precedent for development in the village. He envisions a mixed development, with commercial space and affordable housing. He also sees an urgency to protect this downtown property, which he feels will be bought soon after going onto the market.

BC Housing has a grant program that would pay 50% of the purchase price of the land if the development has an affordable housing component. Everett said that if the Village got that grant, the rental revenue from the storage and apartment buildings on the property would cover the mortgage while the Village and community came up with a plan.

Some in the crowd felt there was a need for seniors' and affordable housing.

At least three people protested that the Village was not in a financial position to purchase the property.

Claudia Jupp reminded that not enough money was generated from the rental of the Memorial Hall to maintain it, that the curling rink was "falling apart," and that it costs money to maintain the ball park which no one uses. She suggested using the baseball field for a housing development rather than taking on more property and inevitably more debt.

Former Mayor Wiseman felt that private and non-profit sectors should be the ones to take on such projects, and said that another idea for the property would be to seek out a business that would employ 20-30 people.

Someone said it was important to consider the Village's financial situation, but also the changes in land use.

Other councillors made their views known. Councillor Laktin is not in favour of the idea, but would like to have a referendum. Councillor Provan said she needs more information to make a decision, but has concerns around finances and is interested in improving the facilities the Village has now. Councillor Griffiths sees an opportunity to buy something that could permit economic development and answer some of the housing needs. Councillor Bell said she was in favour of the idea, and is concerned with the lack of young people in the community and real estate being bought up by people who don't live here.

A show of hands at the end of the meeting showed a clear majority wanting council to research the idea further and to come back with more information.

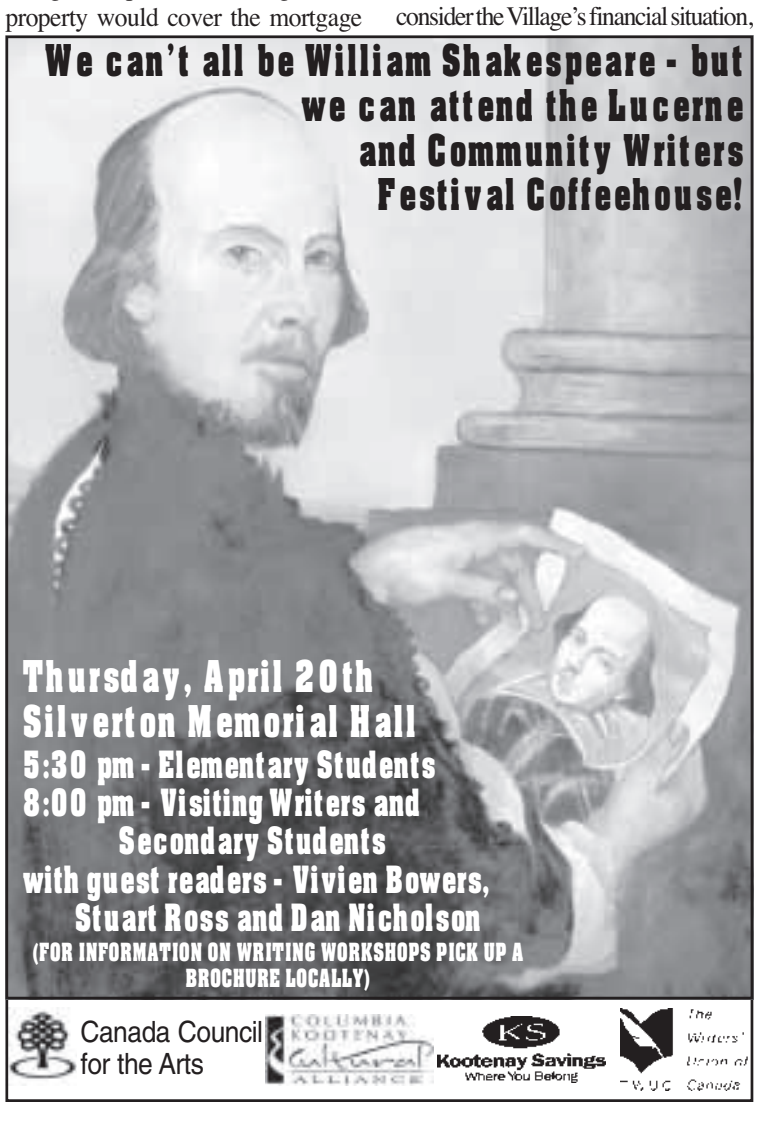
Other land issues discussed were the closing of First Street between the hotel and its septic field and the idea to sell the Village-owned creekside properties on Leadville Street.

Selling the creekside lots seemed good to some, to put some cash into Village coffers. Mayor Everett said there would be restrictions on the revenue so that it would go toward capital items, such as improving facilities, streets or paying down debt.

With such a nice location, one resident suggested it would make a nice picnic area with a foot bridge. Everett replied that the Village feels it has plenty of recreational property and would like to have some money to put into improvements.

A concern around septic being installed on the creekside property was raised, with Everett replying that due diligence would be up to the owner. Tim Wiseman reported that in 2000/01, an engineer had indicated that a septic system could be put on the property. Everett said the septic regulations have changed, and said the Village preferred that the buyer purchase all five lots as one parcel, partly because of the septic issue.

Everett confirmed that there were currently no requests or proposals before the Village for condominium development. Former Mayor Vern Hartman informed the crowd of the 35-foot height restriction in the village.



Kaslo Golf Club does unauthorized logging on Village land

by Jill Braley

In its efforts to improve the golf course and build a new clubhouse, the Kaslo Golf Club has been clearing trees — to the tune of 11 loads of logs, worth about $30,000. The club was authorized to harvest only three loads.

After two representatives of the golf club attended a Planning & Development (P&D) Committee meeting on April 5, the committee decided to make two recommendations to council. First, that all logging contracts on Village-owned land be authorized by the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer. Second, that all logging revenue generated from Village-owned property be deposited to a municipal account.

The committee will also bring forward the issue of suitable restitution to the Village by the golf club at the upcoming April 11 council meeting.

In January, the Village gave the club permission to log three loads of timber (approx. 100m3) to clear land for the new clubhouse and to remove danger trees, and to keep the revenue to put towards the clubhouse construction. Council also agreed to add a piece of land to the golf club's lease for a new par 3 hole. As well, 40 hours of Village equipment was donated, to be operated by Village staff outside regular working hours.

During February and March, the 11 loads of logs were harvested and sold to Springer Creek Forest Products for a total of about $30,000. Councillor Hewat said she had been in touch with Springer Creek for exact valuations.

The first three loads (114.53m3), the amount council donated to the golf course, had a value of $8,589.87.

Earl Zilkie and Bryan MacMillan from the golf club appeared before the P&D Committee of council on April 5 to address council's concerns. They explained that it made sense to log the par 3 hole land at the same time they were clearing the new clubhouse site. They said three people with logging experience had estimated harvesting volumes at three loads to make way for the clubhouse, plus two other loads. They said the trees were marked and Councillor Jones had walked the site, assuring it was never their intention to deceive council. Their books are always open, and every cent from the logging will go back into the course, they said.

Councillors Leathwood and Hewat made it clear they were not questioning the work being done at the golf course. The issue, they said, was that the golf club was authorized to receive the value of three loads of logs — not 11 — to build a new clubhouse. Leathwood said council had received written concerns from the public and these needed to be addressed. After the first three loads were trucked off the course, the golf club should have come back to council for permission to log more trees, said Leathwood.

Councillor Hewat pointed out that the Village had in effect donated over $30,000 to the Kaslo Golf Club by way of logs and the use of Village equipment. She said they usually set aside $5,000 each year to distribute among all community groups that apply for grant funding from the Village.

Music Feeds to tour again with 40 years of Canadian music

Consistently sold out in previous years, *Music Feeds* will tour the region this April, showcasing the talents of Selkirk College contemporary music students and community performers. This year's dynamic music and multimedia show will feature 40 years of Canadian music and pay tribute to the 40th anniversary of Selkirk College.

Five Music Feeds performances will take place April 18, W.E. Graham Community School, Slocan; April 19, Light House Theatre (JV Humphries School), Kaslo; April 21, Trail 7 Charles Bailey Theatre, Trail; April 22, Studio 90, Tenth Street Campus, Selkirk College, Nelson.

Note that the April 13 show in Nakusp has been cancelled.

The first half of each program will feature local performers from each community. After the intermission, it's the Selkirk music and multimedia students presenting their very best, coming off of recent successful performances like the Selkirk Gala, Rossland outdoor stage and BC Games.

More than just good tunes, *Music Feeds* is an educational opportunity for both Selkirk students and community performers. It also supports local charities through donations of non-perishable food.

Admission is $12 to cover expenses, plus a can of food for charity.

To reserve tickets for your local *Music Feeds* concert, please call 1.866.368.9669.

Province looks to bust more grow ops

The province, concerned about the safety of homes which contain grow ops, is introducing amendments to the safety standards act to "help communities bust grow ops." The amendment will require electricity companies to give municipalities information on homes with unusual levels of power consumption.

John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, claims the $7 billion/year industry is "largely controlled by organized crime."

"Grow ops are more likely to catch fire, more likely to have guns inside and are more likely to be robbed," says Minister Responsible for Housing Rich Coleman. "They pose a danger to our neighbourhoods and we're determined to shut them down."

Daylight savings to be extended

Starting next year we'll have one more month of Daylight Savings Time. In 2007 DST will start the second Sunday in March and end on the first Sunday in November, or three weeks earlier and one week later than it runs now.

The move came to keep BC in tune with the US, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and New Brunswick.

Guatemalan relief effort has a local connection

submitted

Six months after the devastating damage of Hurricane Stan in the beautiful Guatemalan highlands, the local Mayan residents of Lake Atitlan are again digging themselves out of the mudslide disaster that left more than 700 dead and thousands injured and missing. With the help of many volunteer organizations such as BC based 'Poco a Poco' (Little by Little) the resilient Guatemalan families are working their way back towards the lives they had toiled for so many decades to finally get and begin to enjoy.

Rod and Debra start the fund with a donation made from Prima Materia.

If you feel it in your heart to help this worthy cause with a donation of any size please drop by Prima Materia in Nakusp and add to our growing Poco a Poco fund.

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society News

Kaslo and Area has long sought to gain greater local benefits from the forest resources in its surrounding area. In 1996 the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society was established. Its vision was to take responsibility, on behalf of the community, for a forested area that could be managed over the long term for a diversity of environmental values, while at the same time generating local jobs and prosperity. The 15 year licence that was granted in 1997 (a licence that expires in 2012 and will not be replaced) was seen as a good first step toward these goals.

The New Offer to Kaslo & Area D

The Ministry of Forests and Range has offered the Community Forest Society a Probationary Community Forest Agreement. This type of licence agreement has been pursued by this community since the 1980s. The new Agreement on offer differs from the licence we already have in that the new licence will be area-based (ie. the licence boundaries are defined). The allowable annual cut will be determined by calculating the sustainable rate of harvest for the defined area. We have been invited to apply for a licence area that can support a cut of up to 25,000 cubic metres annually. Our current cut is 10,000 cubic metres per year.

The Agreement has a probationary period of 5 years before the assessment to award a long-term Community Forest Agreement with a term of 25-99 years, replaceable every 10 years. As long as the licence requirements are met, the licence can be rolled over in perpetuity. If we are successful in our application, the new Agreement will replace our existing licence. The current Board believes that this offer represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the citizens of Kaslo and Area D.

Benefits of an Area-based Licence

- With a long term licence on a defined operating area, we have the security needed to make long-term investments in and carry out long term planning on the forestlands surrounding our communities.
- Our communities will be the stewards of our forests.
- Ongoing public consultation is an essential component of a Community Forest Agreement. Local people will have more input into management and be better informed about what's going on in their back yards.
- The recognition of a diversity of values, including social objectives, is much more possible under a Community Forest Agreement than any other kind of tenure.
- The licence holder, the Community Forest Society, is a not for profit Society committed to returning surplus revenues back to the community. This new form of tenure has the potential for returning more revenue to the community indefinitely.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 7 pm
JV Humphries School
For members and non-members: Find out more about what the Community Forest Agreement will mean to your community. Bring your questions, your concerns and your ideas.

What If We Don't Apply? or if our Application Is Not Successful?

Our current forest licence expires in 2012 and will not be replaced. If our licencing arrangement with the Crown **does not change:**

- The Community Forest Society will continue to harvest 10,000 m3 annually until the forest licence expires in 2012 (about 50,000 m3 in total).
- The Society will maintain reforestation obligations on the areas harvested under the forest licence until these areas are "free-growing" (approx. 12-15 years after harvest commencement).
- The public will continue to be informed of forestry activities and Society initiatives, and the Society will continue to elect new Board members annually to direct this process until our obligations are met.

In 2012, when our forest licence expires, our operating area will be reallocated to another licensee.

What Will Happen to the Offered Area if KDCFS Does Not Apply?

If KDCFS chooses not to apply for this new tenure, the allowable annual cut associated with this expansion area will go to another licensee.

Check out our website! It has been updated with new maps, donated by Dave Collier of Upwest Geomatics, Kaslo, of our current chart area. You will also find information on our licence, the Society, the PCFA application, past Board minutes and much more.

www.kaslocommunityforest.org

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Voices from the Valleys

The razor's edge...

Normally I don't respond to letters to the editor, particularly when they refer to my bi-weekly column. The letters page is, after all, the reader's last word, and I'm generally thick-skinned enough to deal with criticism. If people don't like my opinions, they can write their own. When people want to comment on what they've read in *The Valley Voice*, it seems only fair to accommodate them.

Last issue, however, I may have inadvertently opened a can of worms with my comments on how crushed I was at not being chosen to wait tables during the Appletree's Celebrity Waiter Week. I made what I thought was a reasonable offer to allay Rob's concerns about my beard - I offered to shave it off for next year's event.

I've never been particularly attached to my beard. The main reason that I wear one is that it's easier than shaving. Whenever I go for a haircut, I get it cut back, because that's easier than brushing it every day.

I had no idea what a furor my comments would create - ranging from one extreme to the other.

On the one hand, we have Rob (the proprietor of the restaurant in question) urging me to take the beard off with haste - offering to hold a special Celebrity Waiter Day in my honour. We'd have to negotiate a date sometime in late April or early May, or else put it off until the fall. This really isn't something that anyone wants to do at the height of the tourist season. No one wants to be a celebrity that no one knows. It sort of defeats the purpose, what? There's going to be enough people that don't recognize me without my whiskers, without adding a bunch of strangers to the mix.

Lorna Obermayr, on the other hand, would sooner have me keep it on indefinitely. She's the president of the Sandon Historical Society, for whom I would be engaging in this fund-raising effort. Lorna is a formidable woman - she rules the historical society meetings with an iron fist. She would probably chase me away from our monthly meetings with a poker until such time as I had a decent couple weeks growth of beard again. Or at least until the money from this fund-raising effort was in the bank.

I'm flattered that both of these worthy people took the time to set their thoughts on paper for publication in this issue of *The Valley Voice*. I've also received a large number of comments on the street both in favour of me shaving and against.

I'll probably take Rob up on his offer, if I can get Lorna's permission, that is. There's a few details that need to be worked out. I've often thought that if I was to shave my beard, I'd want a proper straight-razor shave. I've been interviewing local hairdressers, trying to find someone who is proficient in this dying art. So far, no luck.

Mayor Wright has offered to perform the honours, but I'd like to have someone who's wielded a straight-razor more than once, or at least didn't leave his face a bloody mess on that single occasion. His worship did note that he'd learned a lot from that experience, but all the same...

Speaking of the mayor, I note that he retained his moustache throughout the entire Celebrity Waiter gig. Presumably I could do that as well.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

The mustachioed Mayor of New Denver took his celebrity waiter duties at the Appletree very seriously last Friday

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*.

A challenge to the publisher

After reading your editorial in the March 29 issue, I say, "Why wait till next year? Perhaps you seek a challenge?"

I will hold a special Celebrity Waiter Day on any day that you choose, with your esteemed self as waiter, if you shave your beard. A donation of 10% of the day's receipts would be made to the Sandon Historical Society. Up for it? We'd love to have you, beardless.

Just for the record, there is no "n" in "restaurateur." The word derives from French, means "to restore" and refers to the proprietor of a restaurant or hotel.

Rob Ochsendorf
New Denver

Don't do it, Dan!

It was with dismay that your recent editorial on beard shaving affected me.

The masculine beard is the greatest gift the Creator ever bestowed on womankind. Observing the opposite sex for over three quarters of a century, I have never seen a man who has not been wonderously improved by growing a beard. The weak chin, the overbite, the Hapsburg jaw, the sagging jowel, the sallow cheek, the pruney skin — all become private matters between themselves and their owners. The loving companion, and the public at large is protected from these aesthetic transgressions. Men are notoriously indifferent to their looks, but we who observe them daily certainly are not.

We must admit that the manly beauty pool of our little community is already shallow enough. You will reduce it to a swampy bog with an epidemic of fundraising beard shaving.

While your intentions are certainly to be commended, surely there are other less disruptive ways to raise funds for our worthy Sandon Historical Society — say a small grow op, a tastefully appointed brothel or even the dreaded carwash/cookie sale. Anything would be preferable to a shorn publisher. I beg of you, do not subject us to that. Rather, let us rally in the name of beauty. Men, enhance the environment — grow a beard!

And you, sir, leave well enough alone.

L. Obermayr
New Denver

Afghanistan worth a try

Keith Newberry seems to think it would be a bad thing if Canadian troops (along with those of some 30 other nations) succeed in making Afghanistan a stable enough country in which to build a pipeline. Better, I assume, in Mr. Newberry's estimation, that the country should remain poor, backward and divided, thus sparing it the evils of capitalistic exploitation.

Do I have concerns about our mission in Afghanistan? You bet I do. I'm not sure that what we are trying to do there can even be done. If we have to slink out of the country in three or four or five years, having lost 100 or so people in the meantime, and it is still the same vermin-infested cesspool that it is today, history's indictment will be harsh. But I think we have to try. And so, I believe, do most Afghans.

On one subject Mr. Newberry and I would agree. This business of troop morale being adversely affected by a debate in Canada is seriously overstated. The soldiers have much more critical and immediate things to think about than their mission's popularity among Canadians. They get little enough sleep as it is; you can bet that they won't be losing any of it worrying about the state of public opinion at home.

John Banta
Fauquier

Politically incorrect on composting

At the risk of being deemed politically incorrect, I'd like to comment on how costly the inevitable event of rotting leaves has become in Kaslo's earth-workers' composting extravaganza.

I have been visiting the compost site sporadically since November and have observed the little changes that have taken place. Right now there is approximately four pick-up loads of organic material, accumulated by a bicycle and a tot trailer that holds about a bushel of leaves.

The group was awarded an $8,500 grant from the Columbia Basin Trust last year.

They are presently requesting $32,000 from the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society in order to qualify for the same amount that Environment Canada EcoAction Program promised them if they found matching funds. It goes without saying (but I will anyway) that this will be money that won't go to the many, many deserving, volunteer run organizations that increase our safety, health and quality of life.

If the community feels there is a necessity for communal composting, why not have a cost efficient system that would be easy to maintain? The Village could donate an area, as they do now, and allow yard debris and all the fall clean-up to be heaped there. Half an hour every month turning it over with the front-end loader, some starter worms and there you are. As for the more controversial fruit and kitchen garbage, feed it to the pigs, perhaps within movable fences. They are the most efficient composters (and cultivators) existing. I would suggest that maybe one of the local farms might take on the responsibilities and perhaps share the wealth of the end of product; pork. There I go again, at risk of being politically incorrect.

Rick Foster
Lardeau

The Bible is believable

Recently a very confusing letter appeared in the Voice. A retired minister stated that the Bible is an important part of his life and that he is a follower of Jesus Christ. At the same time he claims the Bible is not the Word of God and we cannot actually believe what it says! He also believes the Bible says one thing but God another! How can this be possible?

Would this not be like an earthly father writing a letter to his children but doing so in such an obscure manner that they could not understand what he meant? — but left it up to them to try to figure it out?

What if an inventor of a wonderful and complex machine also supplied a book of instructions on how the invention would best function, and someone proclaimed it to be a wonderful book, but then declared that we should not actually believe what it says?

And would not the 'danger' regarding the Bible be in not believing, rather than believing it? The Bible claims to be God's inspired Word (2 Tim. 2:16). Surely it is wise to treat it as such!

I have to wonder if it is not this approach to the Bible that leaves many either confused or thinking the Bible is too difficult to bother with.

I know Archdeacon Pidcock personally, and I find him to be a kind and caring gentleman. But it escapes me why he cannot accept that a God who is the most kind and caring of all, would not have written a book of instructions that means what it says. When these are followed they bring the most meaningful life possible, here and a promise of the same for the hereafter!

Pastor O Sorenson
Kaslo

"The lie became the truth"

Maybe I'm just being impatient for peace as each flag-draped military casket is paraded before me. Maybe I'm just a stickler for sane reflection, due care and diligence, before risking our children's lives too far from home.

We've been struggling for millennia to achieve some small hope that we, the People, could all rise up together so no person goes without basic necessities and rights. These tentative achievements, overcoming the absolute tyranny of humankind, have been stripped from the Masses who have sacrificed their lives and their children's futures for centuries — stripped in less than three decades. The US Constitution, Canadian Charter of Rights, the Magna Carta, for God's sake, have fallen! In Orwell's words, "Everything faded into mist. The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth."

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

Harper's right-wing brain trust, even with its American PR consultants, could only come up with more nauseatingly cliched, political vacuousness and five lousy points: GST reduction (a middle class family might be able to buy a really nice dinner in a fancy restaurant, while the rich get enough to buy a second Mercedes), an ambiguous child credit (which, like their hidden health care plans, is another misguided application, that doesn't work, of a capitalist business model to a societal necessity), fast cash to "have-not" provinces (to placate Eastern fears of being dumped on by an uncaring neo-conservative Western tyranny pandering to Ontario and Quebec for votes, nothing to do with building one uniformly wealthy, vibrant country from sea to sea to sea), accountability (well, we've already seen the neo-conservatives conniving, predictable, Americanized re-interpretation of Government as usual in their first few hours in power) and, as a final solution, "deep integration"....

Mr Harper clearly states Canada intends to pursue the neo-conservative, multinational corporate policy of "deep integration" with the US which includes: merging customs and arming border guarding agencies, requiring numbered identification papers and digital information cards (at what was always proudly proclaimed the longest undefended border in the world), increasing and maintaining Canada's military presence in Afghanistan and with US/UK/UN occupation forces everywhere else, privatizing US access to all Canadian natural resources "in perpetuity" through NAFTA, acquiring new Canadian sources of nuclear materials for expanded US nuclear development, support for permanent US "Star Wars" military missile bases in and under the Far North, abrogation of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaties...

"Take care, beware of greedy leaders, who take you where you should not go..."

Joel Harris
Passmore

Privatizing power is the name of the game

It's not easy being green. Developments like the Glacier Power hydroelectric proposal featured in the last Valley Voice sound at first like a public relations dream — local entrepreneurs bringing jobs, fibre optics, and green power to the North Kootenay Lake communities. But in addition to questioning the environmental impact this scheme would have on Jumbo Pass, area residents should know what sort of game is really being played.

The name of the game is "privatizing the commons," i.e. converting public resources into private profit. Successive BC governments have looked to private investors to build new power generation after being embarrassed by (publicly-owned) BC Hydro's mistakes. The fact that Hydro's mistakes were generally a result of government meddling in the power business — dating back to the disastrous handling of the Columbia River Treaty — seems to escape their notice. Victoria wants the private sector to take on the economic risks and keep the government from being held accountable for the environmental and social costs of power generation.

About 20 years ago, moneyed interests became aware that BC could be a gold mine for power sales into the US and began an intense lobbying effort to have BC Hydro privatized and every stream in the province opened for development. They've done well for themselves. BC Hydro has been broken up and partially privatized, much of the province's future power generation has been reserved for private developers, and nearly every potentially profitable creek in the province has been claimed by numbered companies.

Glacier Power and like-minded companies always start out by contracting to sell power to BC Hydro, but their real prize is the insatiable US market, which they will sell to as soon as they can persuade a BC government to finish deregulating the power market and make British Columbians pay "North American" rates for electricity generated from their own water resources. The oil and gas industry got their wishes granted first, but the hydro developers are eager for their turn at the money trough. Meanwhile Canadians lose control over yet another strategic resource: affordable, clean and abundant electricity — the underpinning of our economy.

So Glacier Power says Jumbo Resort never crossed their minds. Sure. They'll hire local engineering and consulting. Oh, yeah. Their two-kilometre "tiny tunnel" through Jumbo Pass and power corridor along Glacier, Jumbo and Toby Creeks will have minimal impact. Right.

Small, run-of-the-river hydro plants are great for serving remote homes and businesses, for strengthening the provincial grid and for generating power with minimal impact when properly designed and built. But for larger projects, the citizens of BC should actually realize some benefit from the use of their water and see that their environment has not suffered.

Donald Scarlett
Kaslo

JVH staff excellent

On March 8, I attended the meeting at JV Humphries School in Kaslo for parents of Grade 8 students. Principal Andy Leathwood opened the meeting by saying very positive things about our children, and citing four ground rules for the meeting: be respectful; no individual cases; listen without interrupting; remain positive.

We then did a "collaborative inquiry" exercise called a "walk-around survey" to focus on the socially responsible behaviour we want to see in our children. I was delighted with this and expected it to be a positive, productive, problem-solving experience.

I was appalled when the meeting turned into a kangaroo court with a small, but loud group of parents demonstrating many of the socially unacceptable behaviours that are of such concern in our children. They insisted on airing their personal complaints and criticisms in a very aggressive manner even though Andy repeatedly offered to meet with them to discuss their issues at an appropriate time and place. Some parents talked among themselves while others were speaking to the whole group. Some people raised their hands and waited patiently for the opportunity to speak, but were often interrupted or ignored.

When I finally tried to say how offensive I found this behaviour and point out the guidelines of the meeting, I, too, was interrupted — yelled at by several people simultaneously. I felt shocked, humiliated, bullied and intimidated.

If we, as parents, aren't capable of listening without interrupting, speaking respectfully, or following instructions (see ground rules), thank goodness we have the faculty of JVH to teach our kids!

I am not interested in children behaving well because they're afraid not to. I want them to learn how to learn, and become capable, decent adults. I want them to have healthy relationships, and to have solid enough self-esteem to always treat others with respect.

People tend to confuse "discipline" with "punishment." Controlling behaviour through punitive measures makes life easier for the adults, but people who are oppressed have a tendency to become oppressors and bullies. They characteristically have very low self-esteem and can be prone to addiction and risky behaviour. Being blindly obedient to authority also sets people up for abuse.

Teaching children to have control of themselves, giving them choices so they can experience the outcome of those choices, fostering their creativity and honouring their individuality takes much more time and energy. It also gives them the skills they need to be productive, healthy adults and life-long learners.

I am very grateful that my daughters, nieces and nephews attend JVH and I salute and celebrate the administration and staff who do so well with such a difficult job. The school's record of success speaks for itself and I honour the expertise of the professionals we have the good fortune of employing at JVH.

Keep up the good work!

Elaine Smith
Kaslo

Health Care compromised

My recent experience with the health care system has certainly brought home to me how much our health care in the Kootenays has been compromised and has deteriorated.

The other day, my leg gave out and down I went to a strange snapping sound. My husband took me to the emergency department at the Kaslo Health Centre to have my rapidly swelling ankle looked at.

The nurse was very responsive and called for one of the doctors working downstairs to attend to me. Also, recognizing the need for x-rays, she and the receptionist started tracking down someone to take them. Kaslo only has a few nurses who are trained to run the x-ray machine and none were on duty at that time. One nurse who lives 10 km out of the village came in to take them.

I'd broken both bones in my leg just above the ankle and the broken fibula was displaced. The Kaslo doctor decided to consult with the orthopaedic surgeon in Trail, who said I should drive down to Trail where he'd be expecting me and would do surgery.

We drove out of Kaslo around 4:30 pm. We got to Trail shortly after 7 pm. The emergency room was crammed with many people ahead of me waiting to be seen by the triage nurse. At nearly 9 pm, the triage nurse came and said that the surgeon knew I was there, but he was in surgery. The operating rooms were all in use and they didn't have any beds. They would do the best they could to locate something for me to lay down on. If all went well the surgery might get done that night but it would be a good idea to book a motel room. Of course I'd had nothing to eat or drink because I might have surgery, but neither had my husband. Finding that the hospital cafeteria is only open between 9 am and 2:30 pm, he went off in search of food and a motel.

At about 9:45 my husband returned, saying there were no motel rooms in Trail at all. After much searching he'd been able to reserve a room at a motel on the far south end of Rossland. Some mill was doing some refitting and all the motel rooms in Trail and Castlegar and area were occupied by contractors working on the job.

By this time the hospital had located a gurney that I could lay down on and they had me stashed in the casting room waiting to be seen by the surgeon. Eventually the surgeon arrived, saying the operating rooms were still busy and I might have to come back late the next afternoon when all the scheduled surgeries were done. At 12:30 am, the surgeon said it's a "go" and the anaesthetist agreed to stay on too. The operation went smoothly and I was in the recovery room by 2, Tuesday morning. After a couple of hours in recovery I was put back in the casting room, this time in a bed that had been freed up while I was in surgery. I was discharged from the Trail Hospital around 1:30 that afternoon and told I should arrange with my family doctor for follow-up.

I must commend the staff in Kaslo and at the Trail hospital. They were very kind and caring and did their very best given the inadequate staffing and facilities that they must work with. Such is health care in the Kootenays these days. I chalk it up to the Liberal government providing inadequate resources and the IHA's poor management and policies.

M. L. Thomson
Kaslo

Skatepark belongs in Vimy Park

When my family and I first came to Kaslo, fall of '59, the economy was zip. Lots were selling for $15 and the best house in town was about $8000. The only paving in town was the highway through town. The Village crew spent their time in summer grading and filling in pot holes and on dust control. In winter, they spent their time repairing the water lines, 4000 feet of wood stave pipe, full of leaks. In order to provide water, we had our own electrical system and when the water froze or was low, the lights turned orange and the fridges groaned, starving for power all over town. Our little village was a dust bowl. The soot from the sawmill gathered on the women's fresh washing. Many of the old buildings were so dilapidated that they were becoming a fire hazard and needed to be torn down. (The Langham was one, hence the cultural society). When I first got on council, I found out the assessment was so low, half the people in town paid $1 for property tax. There were no zoning bylaws. Someone could open a sawmill in a vacant lot. Practically all our entertainment for both young and old centred around the Legion Hall. The Legion sponsored most sports. It seemed every family in Kaslo owned a boat and fished. One can just imagine what our little village was about. It was like that till the late 60s.

As our economy picked up, we managed to pave Front Street to Second. The Kinsmen Club was formed (20 years of service to our village, hence Abbey Manor). A few dedicated citizens (T. McKinnon for one) got on the hospital board and spent 46 years of his time in order to get our fine health care facility we have today. I could go on and on and write page after page about how our community has come to the point that there is something in our village for everyone. There is a story behind every project. I could write of the unselfish community of churches, businesses, organizations, societies, senior citizens, the newcomers to our village, of the people that dug down deep in their pockets whenever asked, in order to support and help fund these projects. Our arena project was something else. Everyone in our village was involved: teenage kids who drove nails, girls who made cookies and sandwiches and served them to the volunteers. All of these projects are what our community is all about, to serve all. Kudos to the many volunteers who deserve the accolades.

THE SKATEBOARD PARK: I served on council, the best part of 20 years, and served on many committees, as did my wife (note the plaque at the school in her honour). We, like all our community, worked toward the many improvements in our village, as it is today. During one of my terms of office, we introduced the zoning bylaw and a land use plan. When this plan was accepted, it clearly set the guidelines, although not set in stone. Vimy Park and beachfront was zoned recreation and park land and to be built up and developed and improved as such. The young people's skate park, in my opinion, is well within these guidelines and council has made the right decision.

If I am not mistaken, the location of the park is about 100 yards from the beach, adjacent to the ball park, located in a dense, forlorn part of Vimy Park that needs a face lift. I would also point out this area was once approved for a tennis court. Some of the evidence is still there. The project fell through because the prime mover was transferred. Now, is there a difference between pounding balls and children enjoying themselves?

In my closing, I would put forward to the Friends of Vimy Park this suggestion: Why not start a landscape project to landscape the skate park? I will kick it off with a $200 donation and also $50 toward a sign that reads "Landscaped by the Friends of Vimy Park." Also, purchasing a few benches from the Trailblazers to help that project along would be a huge start in the beautification of the park. The skate park may not pan out at some date in the future, but if we would be so pessimistic, our village might well be still a dust bowl!

Quite frankly, I do not know what all this fuss is about. (Possibly someone could explain to me.) Council makes decisions for us. There are four councillors and one mayor, elected or not, who speak for the community. One person does not speak for all, which is the reason there are so many. They represent all of the community — the babies, the children, the youth, the working class, the seniors, the businesses — anyone who is a member of our community. I also do not believe in petitions in a case like this, as anyone can sign a petition.

The opinions in this letter are mine alone and reflect no one else's.

Stan Leathwood
Kaslo

Martha Stewart sightings at the Hidden Garden Gallery!

by Anne Champagne

Okay, Martha impersonators. Get your aprons on and come host an art show at the Hidden Garden Gallery this summer. Admit it—you always wanted to supervise the quaffing of tea in flowery china cups. Fantasized about rubbing shoulders with artsy types. Yearned to Make a Significant Contribution to The Arts.

Come to a gathering at the gallery April 18 at 7:30 p.m. to learn the mysteries of hosting art shows and ponder whether you'd like to host one yourself for a week or two with a partner. Find a partner there or bring a buddy along. There will be food.

As a host, you'd put on an opening night, complete with libations and munchies (which the gallery pays for); help artists put up and take down shows (if they want help); and plug the nail holes in the walls after the paintings etc. are taken down. Someone else books the show, finds gallery sitters. You'll be under the wing of a friendly and experienced gallery director or volunteer.

Go on. It's fun. Honest.

If you aren't a Martha wanna-be, come to the gathering anyway and consider volunteering for something. Like writing an ad for *The Valley Voice* or pulling weeds in the garden or sitting a show or baking cookies for an opening night. Or come to suggest an artist (yourself maybe?) for a show.

Artists: Why not have a group show at the Hidden Garden Gallery? Contact Eleanor at 358-2145, spangler@netidea.com or Gretchen at 358-2180.

The gallery is at 803 Kildare St., New Denver.

Mayday in Winlaw is sooner than you think

We're so excited for Mayday, we can't wait for May! Join us April 30 for the third annual Mayday in Winlaw Celebration. Once again, the Valley Llama will grace the hamlet of Winlaw with her divine presence. This year she will unveil a crystal water photo of Winlaw Creek water, head up a parade through the streets of Winlaw, and offer water consecrations to innocent bystanders. The silent auction opens at 1 pm at the Cedar Creek Café, followed by the Water Crystal Unveiling at 1:30. At 2, the parade will depart from the Sleep is For Sissies coffee bar. At 3:30 a ceremony will set the stage for an evening of music and dance. Please call 226-0065 or email watersong@netidea.com.

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Silverton is intending to close a portion of public highway known as **1st Street**; AND remove its highway dedication (*adjacent to the Silverton Heritage Country Inn*) as shown on the village map:

Comments on the proposed street closure may be submitted in writing to:

The Village of Silverton
412 Lake Avenue
Silverton, BC V0G 2B0
E-mail: administration@silverton.ca

To ensure the consideration of your views, your letter must be received before **Monday, April 24, 2006**. Interested and affected persons may present their concerns at the regular meeting of Council to be held on April 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2006
Ms. Junko Ida, Administrator

Lucerne student writers honoured

by Jan McMurray

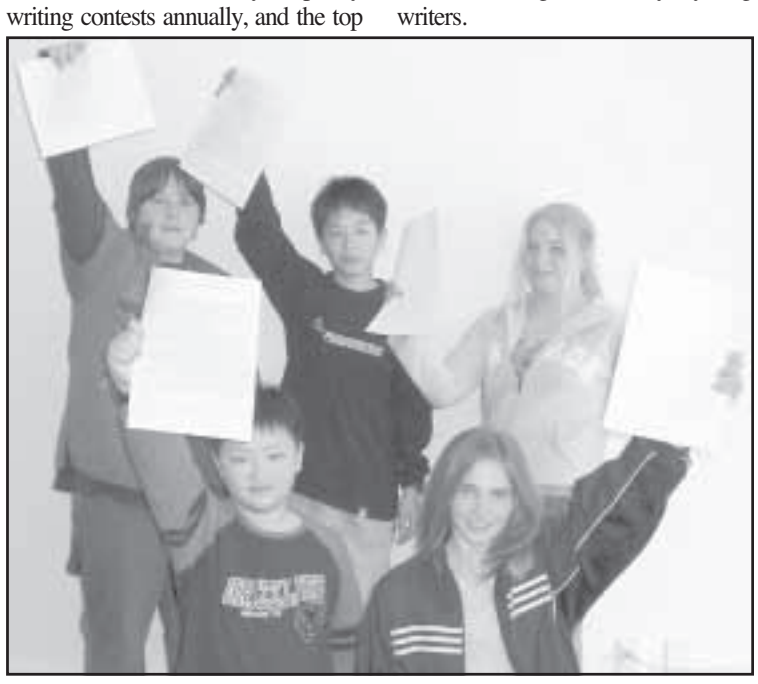
Five students in Lucerne School's Grade 6/7 class have written winning essays.

Congratulations to Darnell Stephens, Yuki Miwa, Michael Ryu, Carolynne Carruthers and Michelle Magnuson, who will have their essays published in an anthology entitled *Celebrating What is Important to Me*. The five essays are now also eligible for a "Top Ten Essay Award."

"My class this year is a dynamite group of kids," says teacher Katrina Sumrall. "This is just another feather in their caps."

In the letter informing Sumrall of her students' winning essays, editor of the anthology Thomas K. Worthen writes, "The fact that you have students accepted makes a strong statement about your school. Being published represents a lot of talent, hard work and dedication from teachers and students."

The contest was held by Creative Communication out of Utah. Creative Communication holds essay and poetry writing contests annually, and the top entries are published in anthologies that record the insights of today's young writers.



Darnell Stephens, Yuki Miwa, Michelle Magnuson, Michael Ryu and Carolynne Carruthers will have their essays published in an anthology.

New Denver council, March 28: Public hearing date set

by Michael Dorsey

•The Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw was given two readings. The required public hearing was set for Monday, April 24 in council chambers. This is in regards to Tracy and Francie Oldham's request to operate tourist rental houses in a residential zone.

•Fire Chief Leonard Casley asked council to write a letter protesting the closure of the regional Office of the Fire Commissioner in Cranbrook. Council agreed. •The Public Works Utility 1 position will be filled by Steve Deakoff, and council will hire Tim McCrory to do the required wiring in the gym at the health centre. Recreation Commission #6 and Hospital Auxiliary will contribute to wiring costs at the gym.

•Councillor Greensword reported items from the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District meeting, including the board's support of an independent review of Interior Health, and a review of IH's capital plans.

•Councillor Brookfield and Greensword attended a policing meeting with RCMP on March 15. Councillor Greensword expressed concerns about community policing.

•Council approved expenses for Mayor Wright to attend the Columbia Basin Water Conservation Symposium.

•The Animal Control Amendment Bylaw was given three readings, and a request by the West Kootenay Model Club to use Centennial Park for two float-flying events was granted.

•Angie Finlay asked council for a letter of support for the Valhalla Summer Theatre Workshop, a theatre program for youth, administered by the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society. Council agreed.

•Council agreed to Ms. Junko Ida's request to live in a trailer on the same property as her to-be-built home for 18 months.

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Future development discussed at community meeting

by Jan McMurray

As a follow-up to the recent SmartGrowth BC presentation in New Denver, a community meeting to discuss New Denver's Official Community Plan (OCP) was held April 4 at Knox Hall.

New Denver Mayor Gary Wright described OCPs as "guidelines for a vision of the future."

"I think they are a pretty good thing," said Wright, explaining that local government cannot adopt zoning or bylaws that go against the OCP without going to the public. "I think that's important," he said.

Although the plan is supposed to be reviewed regularly, Wright says he's "not a big fan" of that, because once the OCP is set, the local government should follow it. He said New Denver met over two or three months in 1992 to put together its OCP, and gathered input from the community by sending out questionnaires. He said the hard part was not defining the vision, but rather sticking to it.

As an example, he said the businesspeople wanted the downtown core to have a heritage look, and "that has cost us business," he said.

He also spoke about how New Denver's OCP relates to housing. Secondary suites in the same building the owner lives are allowed, but not in outbuildings. The idea was to keep down on the number of buildings in town, he explained. However, he said resident Art Joyce had come to council and asked the Village to consider suites in separate buildings on the same property, so "we'll ask the public this during our OCP review."

He also said that B&Bs with two rooms were allowed in a residential area, but had to be in a commercial zone if there were more than two B&B rooms available.

The OCP can also be used as leverage to get something positive for the community, Wright explained, as Nelson did when the Prestige Inn came in. Nelson told the company that it could develop on the waterfront if it built the public waterfront walkway.

"I have been waiting for 18 years for a developer to come to New Denver and ask for a change to our OCP," said Wright.

Silverton Mayor John Everett took Wright's invitation to talk to the crowd about Silverton's opportunity to purchase a downtown lot. The owners of the lot, Silverton Building Supplies, have agreed to give the Village some time before they put it on the market.

"My concern is right now our communities need to be very pro-active and protect what we want to see in the future," said Everett. "Five years from now, I don't think these communitites will be what they are today.

"I've seen three developers come through Silverton in the last week. Houses are being bought up and sitting empty most of the year. Real estate prices are skyrocketing. Let's be proactive and grab a piece of property when we have the chance."

His vision is a mixed use development, including affordable housing, market housing, artists' lofts, and commercial space.

Everett said some community members did not think the Village should be involved in development, and that the NIMBY (not in my backyard) syndrome always surfaces when affordable housing is mentioned. Some oppose the idea because they feel Silverton cannot afford to purchase the property, but Everett says it can if it gets a BC Housing grant.

Wright pointed out that one of things that will always limit growth here is our septic. He said the last time he checked, a sewage system for 300 houses cost just under $4 million. "So the septic helps keep us small and rural," he said.

Julia Greenlaw, from New Denver's Healthy Housing Committee (HHC), asked about the possibility of Crown land along the waterfront being sold off. Wright said that in theory, the Province could sell it, but that in practise, the lakefront land in New Denver was not suitable for building.

Area H Director Don Munro was at the meeting and said he was initiating an OCP process, which would help if the Crown decided to sell off land in his jurisdiction. "The Crown will consult with you more if you have an OCP, zoning and bylaws in place," he said.

Greenlaw also said that the HHC had its eye on the lot across from Bosun Hall and asked if the Village would be interested in partnering with the committee in a development there. Wright said the committee should write to council, and said the owners of that property had put forward proposals for a mixed use development there, but nothing had come of it. He said that due to septic limitations, the owners could not put enough units on the lot to make it worthwhile.

Laverne Booth from the new Habondia Housing Office in Winlaw wrapped up the meeting by inviting all to drop into the new office at the Spicer Centre. Information sessions will take place there, and people are encouraged to let them know about housing needs and ideas.

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Silverton Mayor's Report

John Everett

Four months have past since the municipal elections and Silverton council has been hard at work. Being that most of us are newbies to government it has been, and continues to be, an interesting learning curve. Rules, procedures, bylaws, taxes, budgets, staffing, land issues, official community plan, emergency preparedness and community concerns are just part of our daily life now.

The electors chose a bright, energetic, and diverse council which is dedicated to serving the people of Silverton. Councillors attended a two day seminar in Nelson sponsored by the Union of BC Municipalities to learn the basics of municipal government and build relationships with our neighbours.

Right from day one this council rolled up their collective sleeves and got to work, each councillor taking on many responsibilities. Carol Bell: regional district, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission; Stephanie Griffiths: emergency preparedness, personnel committee and finance; Kathy Provan: facilities and recreation chair; Linda Laktin, facilities and recreation, personnel, finance and health liaison.

Councillors Provan and Laktin have been working with the many groups and societies who make use of village facilities to ensure their needs are met and help with grants that are available to upgrade, maintain and repair these venues.

Finances and Land issues have been in the forefront of council's agenda. Administrator Junko Ida, the village accountant, the finance committee and I have been taking a long hard look at the current cash flow of the village and, as pointed out by residents at a recent public meeting, Silverton definitely does not have any surplus funds for improvements to village properties that are not already in the budget. We hope if the village is successful in selling two parcels of land we can put the money towards a facilities improvement reserve fund.

A New Denver/Silverton and Area Fire Department is almost a reality and will encompass Rosebery to Red Mountain. We expect to have agreements signed and the reorganization completed by summer.

Lastly, land issues are of utmost importance to council. With our booming real estate market in the valley the village office gets almost daily inquiries and requests around land. It is important to make the right choices for the village to protect our quality of life, the look of the village and yet deal with the rapidly changing landscape.

Hills Recreation Society gets grant for community centre/firehall

by Art Joyce

There's good news in them there Hills! A $45,000 grant has been received by the Hills Recreation Society for the construction of a new community centre/firehall.

The money has come from the Gaming Policy and Enforcement branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, also known as BC Lotteries. The announcement was made at the society's AGM on Sunday, April 9. Lorna Visser, Hills Recreation Society director, says 2003's 'summer of fire' was the catalyst for residents living in the forest fire 'interface zone.'

"It's amazing when you think that in the summer of 2003, we had that fire scare and no emergency preparedness, and by the summer of 2006 we'll have a fire truck and the beginnings of a firehall."

A pledge drive last year garnered $4,500 in cash for the centre. A further $15,000 from funds raised by the Hills Garlic Festival was authorized for the project in a vote by society members. RDCK Area H Director Don Munro pledged $10,000 from regional district funds. Silverton Building Supplies has offered a 15% discount on materials — a cash value of about $6,000. Further in-kind donations of materials and labour have been promised by Hills residents.

A decommissioned fire truck was donated to the society's fire committee last year thanks to efforts by Don Munro. Fire preparedness training has been coordinated by Wayne McCrory and Lawrence Schiavon, with many hours of fire truck and radio maintenance by Stan Bohnet.

A detailed building plan must now be drafted, with community input. A 10-year financial plan will be designed to ensure all expenses of maintenance and projected revenue are properly managed.

Visser says there are outstanding pledges to collect and more fundraising to be done. She emphasizes the 'fun' in fundraising—one suggestion was a fireman's ball complete with 'pole-dancing', although the building will likely be too small for a fire pole. Visser acknowledges that there are a few skeptics of the project, but that the vast majority have been supportive.

"We've had fantastic support for such a small community. Our position is: a simple firehall and fire truck is better than none. Our first stage is to have a basic level of fire preparedness and a core of volunteers. Beyond that, time will tell. It's up to the community how far we take it."

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AMENDMENT TO OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, New Denver, BC to receive representation regarding the Proposed Bylaw cited as "Being a Bylaw No. 597 to Amend Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 414, 1993."

The intent of Bylaw No. 597 is to amend Section 11 Temporary Commercial and Industrial Use by:

1. Deleting Section 11 of Village of New Denver Official Community Bylaw No. 414, 1993 and adding the following section 11:

11. **Temporary Commercial and Industrial Use**

The Council of the Village of New Denver will consider the granting of Temporary Commercial and Industrial Use Permits within the Village of New Denver on a case by case basis. All applications for a Temporary Commercial or Industrial Use Permit shall be in written form and shall state the type, duration and location for the permit.

Copies of the aforementioned Bylaw may be inspected at:

Village of New Denver, Municipal Hall, New Denver, BC between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, from the date of this notice to the 24th day of April, 2006.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administator

Slocan residents vote to support wood pellet plant in public meeting

by Don Currie

A well attended March 23 public meeting of Slocan residents voted to support village council negotiations to secure a wood pellet plant near town and to construct a hydro-electric plant on Springer Creek. The meeting also considered proposals from the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society.

• John Van Bynen reported Best Way Enviro Fuels, headed by Mark Best and Sam Conkin of Thrums, asked the village to buy a $250,000 investment share in the $3.5 million wood pellet plant. The project developers claim to have signed contracts with buyers in Denmark for 95% of production. The project is supported by Springer Creek Forest Products, which stands to save $500,000 annually by sending sawdust and hog fuel to the pellet plant as raw material, eliminating the need for a burner.

Van Bynen reported additional raw material may come from the Meadow Creek and Kalesnikoff operations, the project would create 14 full time jobs and council had secured a three acre site for the plant south of the village next to the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society site. The village will have to go to a referendum on the land issue, and a construction start is planned for May or June 2006.

Responding to questions, mayor and council said lawyers acting for the village were scrutinizing the proposal and the provincial government was monitoring the project for compliance with provincial regulations covering municipal participation in P3 (public-private-partnership) projects.

Resident Richard Smedbol, a contractor, observed that it was important to know if the company was an existing and public company, warning that if it was it could be subject to a takeover at any time. Sylvia Currie wanted to know how the town would benefit and how funds would come back to the village if the company was successful.

The mayor said any benefits would come to the village as a shareholder and could be applied to taxes or used in capital and general projects. Van Bynen said the $250,000 investment would be borrowed by the village and paid back over five years. Councillor John Gates said the investment would provide a 10% ownership position in the company with an optional escape clause after five years. Councillor Madeleine Perriere cautioned that a deal would not be signed until all facts are known. Councillor Marc Septav, while endorsing the proposal, said it was conditional on approval by the village lawyers. He was optimistic that a 10% position in the project could, over time, provide significant benefits to the town.

• Van Bynen introduced the hydro-electric proposal for Springer Creek, estimating it would cost $1.7 million paid for over five years. Its advantage was the rising demand for power and ready buyers with either Nelson Hydro or Fortis; the power would be sent over BC Hydro's existing grid. A license application has been made and a feasibility study—presented to council by Don Scarlett P. Eng. and Jeff Ankenman of Homestead Hydro Systems at its meeting on January 14 2004—would have to be updated.

Septav said power was selling at 5¢ to 7¢ a kW and prices were rising. Smedbol said small producers usually receive one half of what is sold by large suppliers to customers. He wanted to know if Fortis owned the lines in the valley and asked if council was aware that all power transmission in the province is controlled by BC Transmission Core.

• Jamie Ingram and Mike Naylor of the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society said a new board was elected one and half years ago and had not made the desired progress on the original concept of an arena, swimming pool and gymnasium. The society had considered going to the membership to dissolve and move its assets to another project. Ingram said the society had four and half acres of land, assets worth $96,940 and $1,026 in liabilities. The board was approaching Human Resources Development Canada for another log house project that would employ persons on EI. Springer Creek had committed to donating the logs. Ingram estimated that with a partner $200,000 could be generated towards a scaled down project.

Ingram mentioned a proposal that had been floated by the mayor and others to construct a roof over the existing tennis court site and link it to the ice making equipment in the curling rink for a skating rink facility. He said it merited discussion and called upon council to set up a planning committee to work jointly with the society.

"We want to go the table with a plan and look at how we can all get involved" on a project. Ingram said a recreation project would be a natural for 2010 Legacy funding. He concluded, "If we're going to make it go, now is the time."

Owners of Adams Oil Furnaces and Dragon Fire Distributors welcome Doug Burton of Kootenay Furnace as a new team member at a national trade show in Toronto in March. Burton is now the only dealer in Southern BC for this energy efficient oil-fired furnace.

Local furnace company honoured

by Jan McMurray

Kootenay Furnace (KF), a 29-year-old company owned by Doug Burton of Slocan, has been honoured twice in the last few months.

As it has every year since 1999, the company has once again received the prestigious Award of Excellence for Customer Service from Valley Comfort Systems Inc. out of Penticton. Valley Comfort supplies KF with wood and electric furnaces.

Also, KF has just become the first dealer in Southern BC of the world's most efficient oil-fired furnace (no chimney required). This furnace qualifies for Energuide grants and is "Energy Star" rated. For more information, contact Burton at 355-0088 or kfurnace@netidea.com or check out www.edragonfire.com.

With this new dealership, KF is able to offer its customers a viable alternative to natural gas and electricity.

The company specializes in the sale and installation of wood, electric and oil forced air furnaces. KF also does consulting work, training and troubleshooting for Valley Comfort dealers.

Abbey Manor looks at expanding its housing units by adding up to 10 rooms

by Rachael Kimola

Kaslo's Abbey Manor wants to expand its housing units by adding up to 10 new rooms within the next few years. At the Manor's annual general meeting March 27, chair Dennis Jensen announced plans to begin the process of expansion, an announcement met with great approval from area residents. The first step will be to approve the motion at the next board meeting, near the end of April.

Abbey Manor is owned by BC Housing, so before any new building can begin, the government must grant permission, a process which can take a fair amount of time, says Manor treasurer Val Koenig.

"We are corresponding with BC Housing, we don't want to be a nuisance, but we don't want this issue to be side-tracked either," says Koenig.

Built by the Kinsmen Club in 1979, the Manor currently houses nine seniors, and has a waiting list of 12. One benefit of creating more senior housing is enabling seniors to stay in the village. Concerned area senior Jessie Herreshoff says one of the most disruptive things that can happen to a senior is to be forced to move away from family and friends due to lack of appropriate housing.

"If elderly persons have to be shipped somewhere else [to live], the village loses something valuable—having them stay in town makes for a more stable population," says Herreshoff.

Expansion plans are still in the very preliminary stages, so don't pack your bags just yet.

Threads Guild holds annual sale

submitted

The Slocan Valley Threads Guild hosts its fourth annual 'yard and yardage' sale fundraiser Sunday April 23 from 10 till 2 . There will be great bargains in craft supplies and fabrics, and a tea room for a light lunch. Outside, choose from a selection of local hardy perennial plants, while enjoying the music of a brass quintet. Raffle tickets will be on sale for a beautiful quilt.

Guild member Sheila Griffiths working on a quilt

This year marks the Threads Guild's 25th anniversary. Located in the heritage one-room schoolhouse at Perry's Siding on Hwy 6 between Slocan and Winlaw, it was started by a group of women interested in fibre arts, and incorporated as a society to maintain the building. Members meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm to share ideas and show current projects, pick up books from the guild library; and plan classes and shared activity days. Anyone interested in spinning, weaving, dyeing, cedar baskets, felting, rag rugs, quilting, or any fibre craft is welcome to join.

The Yard & Yardage Sale is a rain or shine event, so plan to be there, regardless of the weather.

Slocan Valley Vision for Education Meeting

by Scott Frederick

Forty-seven people met at the Slocan Park Hall March 30 to discuss visions for the future of public education in the southern Slocan Valley. They included parents, teachers, and support staff from the four lower valley schools, and public officials.

Laura Moll, principal of Winlaw Elementary, introduced the school principals, and Penny Tees, school trustee for area H; Bill Reid, School District #8 superintendent; and Susan Wilson, SD #8 District Parent Advisory Council president.

Moll explained the financial implications of reconfiguring and/or closing some schools in the Slocan Valley. The district would not save any money, she said, and in fact would lose money if schools were closed.

Reid showed a *Planning for the Future* Powerpoint presentation, which included projections showing continuing declining enrolment for SD #8. The presentation also outlined some possible scenarios for changes in school configuration and school closures.

After the presentation, participants discussed catchment, open boundaries and pupil/teacher ratio (PTR), and the school calendar. There was discussion about changes in the district population, and the valley's population in particular, and how this might affect schools.

Moll directed the group to fill out a '3, 2, 1' sheet: three things I value about education in the valley… two constructive recommendations… one thing I want to know more about.

The responses were tallied and grouped into similar categories. The top six items valued were: community/family orientation (21); Small Classes (12); teachers (variety of qualities) (7); setting (7); small schools (4); Russian/French programs (3).

General discussion at the end included happiness at hearing the schools and their configuration will remain the same for the upcoming school year, and that the Russian language program is not at risk of cancellation.

There was some suggestion the schools focus on different aspects of learning, to attract new families and students. It was pointed out that the Kootenay Lake school district schools already offer a wide range of learning options. The evening ended with the discussion around economic development and promotion of students and school programs already in place.

Participants were generally pleased with the meeting; with a suggestion the Parents' Advisory Councils (PACs) of the four schools get together for a year-end barbecue to further discuss education in the Slocan Valley.

More details can be seen at the Winlaw PAC web site at: http://winlaw.dpac.kics.bc.ca/

Nakusp Rod and Gun Club's banquet and awards night a success

by Jan McMurray

The cup runneth over every year at the Nakusp Rod and Gun Club's banquet and awards night, and this year was no exception.

Emcee Hank Scown acknowledged all who had donated wild game and fish to the April 1st feast, including the Ministry of Environment, Bruce Andrews, Jesse Cann, Hank Scown, Ben and Cory Bruneau, Hoss Cann and Paul Seaton. Everyone who attended the banquet is without doubt forever grateful to these folks, but probably even more so to the women who prepared the food — Anne Volansky and her crew.

Projects brought to us by the club include the Hill Creek Spawning Channel, the Summit Lake Campground and Park, the annual fishing derby on Arrow Lake, the Dieterman Derby on Summit Lake, and the Rifle and Archery Ranges.

Helmut Klughammer was recognized for his undying dedication to the Nakusp boat ramp issue. In his wisdom, Scown also recognized Ruth Klughammer for "keeping Helmut focused and calm." The couple looks after the paperwork and communication with the government for Summit Lake Provincial Park, and Scown described the pair as "the best examples of good citizens in Nakusp."

Helmut also won the long-time membership award, and a door prize.

But it was Kelly Hascarl who won the most coveted prize of the evening — a rifle worth $2500. Club members sold three decks of cards for $20 a card to the frenzied audience. Hascarl's Queen of Spades was the lucky card that night.

But not all was good news. Scown related the story of the Hills Creek Spawning Channel shutting down last year, indicating the club should have done more to stop this from happening. However, new president Hoss Cann has assured that this has not been dropped and is in fact high on the project list.

Paul Seaton poses with his award-winning elk at the April 1 Rod & Gun Club dinner.

Scown announced the executive members of the club: Hoss Cann, president; Paul Seaton, vice president; Selina Allard, secretary; Dave Buckrell, treasurer; and directors Helmut Klughammer, Bill Reigner, Harry Anderson and Ray Robson.

The Dedication Award was presented to Didace and Caroline Wilcott, who had just stepped down as president and secretary. Scown said Didace had gone "above and beyond" in setting up the archery range, and Caroline had set the standard for the club's secretary position.

Awards for 2005 were presented, as follows.

Senior Awards: #1 Moose - Rick Beingessner; #2 Moose - Anthony Cowan; #3 Moose - Tammy reimer; #1 Non-Typ Whitetail - Kevin Schiller; #1 Whitetail - Reg Reimer; #2 Whitetail - Mike Smith; #1 Mule Deer - Kevin Schiller; #1 Mountain Goat - Aaron Anderson; #2 Mountain Goat - Cory Bruneau; #1 Elk - Paul Seaton; #2 Elk - Glen Seaton; Archery Award Black Bear - Ray Robson; Out of Province Whitetail - Howard Cann; #1 Rainbow Trout - Hank Scown; #1 Bull Trout - Charlie Wurst.

Junior Awards: #1 Whitetail - Jesse Cann; #2 Whitetail - Lance Beingessner; #1 Non-Typ Whitetail - Brad Dupuis; #1 Mule Deer - Lance Beingessner; #1 Rainbow Trout - Mike Wanstall; #1 Bull Trout - Mike Wanstall; Largest Kokanee over 3 lbs. - Jody Nelson; 2004 Senior Moose - Nolan Beingessner.

Sri Lanka WORK project update

by Khya Saban

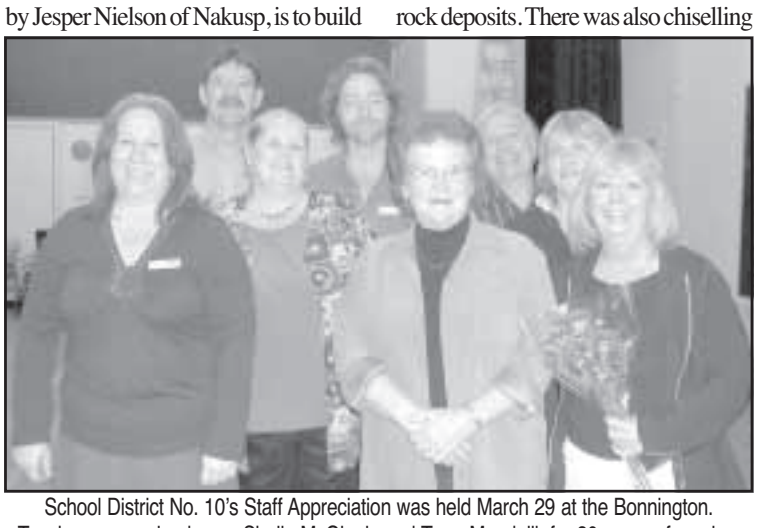
Three weeks flew by faster than Godiguy could shovel. He was one of about ten Sri Lankan guys on the building site, where it was 33 degrees Celsius with 100 per cent humidity every day. The site is located just inland of Galle, a three to five hour drive South of Colombo depending on the traffic. The traffic is a tapestry, a chaotic weaving of motorcycles, cars, trucks, busses and roto-tiller driven trailers, carrying anything from firewood to eggplants to sandal straps; a disorganized hierarchy all beeping and vying for the best position on the road. On the shoulders of the narrow two lane highways are bicycles, pedestrians and sleeping dogs.

The W.O.R.K. project, spearheaded by Jesper Nielson of Nakusp, is to build six houses for families whose homes were destroyed by the 2005 tsunami. The project is being carried out in a relay like manner with participants from Canada, the States and England.

The houses start with a concrete and rock foundation, Karen Anderson's specialty, and then the walls are built of concrete bricks and mortar. The walls are plastered, whitewashed and painted. The roof is made out of coconut wood rafters holding jack wood strapping and clay roof tiles. The roofers had the task of levelling wavy, non-dimensional timber, and because the wood is so dense, predrilling the nail holes.

Amongst the other tasks on site were digging septic holes six feet deep, four feet wide through red clay with iron rock deposits. There was also chiselling through concrete walls to place electrical conduit.

As respite from the constant heat there was tea time twice a day. A neighbour would walk down the hard packed dirt steps with a green ceramic jug of sweet Ceylon tea spiked with cardamom seeds. Overall, the site ran incredibly smoothly.



School District No. 10's Staff Appreciation was held March 29 at the Bonnington. Teachers recognized were Sheila McGinnis and Terry Mandalik for 30 years of service, Shelly Thring for 20 years, and Christine Dixon, Lila Strand and Barb Lewis for 10 years. CUPE employees were Raynelle Posnikoff and Chiyoko Reitmeier for 10 years' service, and Linda Williams, Alice McKee and Susan Bampton for 20 years. Kees van der Pol was recognized for his 10 years, as was Peter Blacklock, who is retiring soon.

Local girls compete at Nationals

Jesse McDonald and Carly Thorp, both of the Summit Lake Racers snowboard cross team from Nakusp, competed with athletes from across the country last week at the Canadian Nationals Snowboard Championship in Mont Avila, Quebec.

The young racers pitted themselves against the likes of Olympian Dominique Maltais and Junior World's champion Christelle Doyon for an exciting competition. Thirty women entered the Senior Nationals on Saturday, first racing the clock in time trials to determine the fastest 16 who would move on to race in the heats of four. McDonald and Thorp qualified 10th and 14th, respectively, and advanced to the heats.

In the heats, only the top two riders advance, and neither girl moved beyond the first heat that day. McDonald placed third in her first heat; while Thorp was fourth. The girls' final standings for the day were 12th and 14th.

On Sunday, the 14 best juniors (15-18 year olds) in Canada raced in the Junior Nationals. Only eight would move on to the heats, with Thorp qualifying seventh and McDonald eighth. Again, McDonald placed third and Thorp fourth in their first heat, moving them on to compete in the consolation final, in which McDonald was first for fifth position overall and Thorp was fourth for eighth overall.

The head coach of the BC Team applauded both girls' accomplishments throughout the season and commended their coach, Tim Markholm, on the calibre of riding and sportsmanship coming out of the Summit Lake team. Both athletes are hoping to make the BC Snowboard Cross team.

Nakusp Minor Hockey recognizes players, coaches and referees at March 29 ceremony

Atoms

Esso Medals: Most Sportsmanlike - Tyson Cann; Most Improved - Kylie Gardner; Most Dedicated - Max McCoy. Trophies: Playmaker - Connor Reimer and Greyson Reitmeier; Best Defenseman - Colton Dachwitz and Immanuel Ens-Palmer.

Pee Wee Rep

Esso Medals: Most Sportsmanlike - Dylan Homis; Most Improved - Jade Streliev; Most Dedicated - Ryan Bateman. Trophies: Playmaker - Bryce Cann; Best All Around - Andrew Likness; Best Defense - Brody Simpson.

Ron Palmer receives the Coach of the Year Award from Coach Co-ordinator Ralph Dachwitz.

Bantam Rep

Esso Medals: Most Sportsmanlike - Jesse Cann; Most Improved - Danielle Hascarl; Most dedicated - Shane Abbey and Taylor Reitmeier. Trophies: Playmaker - Satoshi Yano; Best All Around - Cody Abbey; Best Defenseman - Brad Dupuis.

Midget Rep

Esso Medals: Most Sportsmanlike - Havill Leitch; Most Improved - Brett Zeleznik; Most Dedicated - Curtis Rogers. Trophies: Russell Jones Playmaker - Joel James and Tyson Klein; RCMP Goalie - Dave Zilkie and Luke Krbyla; Defenseman of the Year - Rane Marshall and Chad Hicks; MVP - Dave Zilkie and Luke Krbyla; Randi Obayahsi Most Sportsmanlike - Havill Leitch.

Jesse Hornby was honoured with the Junior Referee of the Year Award, presented by fellow referee Paul Roberts.

Pee Wee House

Esso Medals: Most Sportsmanlike - Avery Palmer; Most Imporved - Jacob Balske; Most Dedicated - Mateus Dachwitz. Trophies: Playmaker - Kody Marks; Best All aRound - Ray Brown; Best Defenseman - Kayla Yoshida.

Coach Co-ordinator Ralph Dachwitz presents Ron Palmer with the Coach of the Year Award.

Jr. Referee of the Year was Jesse Hornby. Senior Referee of the Year was Paul Roberts.

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Kaslo Minor Hockey Awards presented April 5

Kaslo Winter Hawks Minor Hockey awards night took place on April 5, and awards were presented as follows:

Presidents Choice - Graduating player Tavish McCuaig

Dallas Benwell Memorial - Chris Orr

Outstanding contribution to Minor Hockey - Jeff Davie

Recognition of retirement - Ronnie Martin, President

Outstanding Junior Ref - Angus Collie; Senior Ref - Andy Tyers.

Atoms - West Kootenay Division runner-up!

Most Improved - Braelyn Patton

Most Sportsmanlike - Sam Weber

Most Valuable - Cole Arcuri

Tudor Rutherglen Heart Award - Jordan Davie, Heidi Haegedorn

Best Defenseman - Ryan Tate

PeeWee

Most Improved - Devon Veldenhuizen

Most Sportsmanlike - Leah Aasen

Most Valuable - Jake Rempel

Tudor Rutherglen Heart Award - Jake Rempel

Best Defenseman - Liam Mitchell

Bantam

Tudor Rutherglen Heart Award - Cheryl Rempel, Nick Jones

Midget

Most Improved - Amanda Dyck

Most Sportsmanlike - Matt Duchesne

Most Valuable - Tyler Aasen

Tudor Rutherglen Heart Award - Amanda Turner

Best Defenseman - Jared Berry

North Kootenay Falcon Rep teams

Bantam Rep - MVP and Tudor Award - Cody Abbey

Midget Rep - Tudor Award - Francois Gagnon Blackburn

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE MCCUAIG

Tavish McCuaig ends his minor hockey career with the president's award, presented by outgoing Kaslo Minor Hockey Association president Ronnie Martin.

HELP WANTED

The Nakusp Public Library will participate in a Job Creation Partnership Renovation/Expansion Project beginning this spring. The project will run from April 24 to late August. Successful candidates must be receiving Employment Insurance, or have received Employment Insurance in the last 3 years, or have received Maternity or Parental Benefits in the last 5 years. Please forward resumes to Outreach Employment Services, PO Box 100, Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0 before April 17th.

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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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Kaslo council, March 28: Council puts priority on reservoir rehabilitation

by Jill Braley

•Council will ask Urban Systems for assistance in applying for a $7,000 study grant for Kemp Creek Reservoir rehabilitation. The liner at the storage pond has outlived its design life, and the study will look at options on how to deal with this. As the study will cost $9,000, the Village will include $2,000 for it in the 2006 budget.

•The Regional District of Central Kootenay wrote to council as part of the RDCK's water supply study for the residents in the South Kaslo Water Supply Commission. The RDCK asked the Village to clarify whether or not it would provide bulk water to South Kaslo if it remained outside the Village boundary, and if the Village would require fire hydrant protection for the South Kaslo area if it came within municipal boundaries. Council referred this to the Planning & Development Committee and the Public Works Foreman for recommendation to council.

•In light of the volume of logs coming off the Kaslo Golf Club property, council will invite club representatives to the Planning & Development Committee meeting. Council had authorized 100m3 or about three loads of logs. Councillor Hewat reported that 8 loads had been removed and work was ongoing.

•Council received congratulations on being selected as a pilot community for the Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE) initiative. The CAEE draft agreement and information on energy efficiency bylaws, policies and programs was referred to the Admin & Finance Committee for recommendation to council.

•Donna Cormie wrote to council, asking when a public meeting would be held on the possible purchase of the Provincial building. She said the majority who attended the recent Think Tank session at the Scout Hall were interested in taking this to the next level. Cormie also expressed concern about the recent plane accident at the airport and the vandalism that has occurred since.

Council will ask the owner of the Provincial building to provide a current building report.

•Pat Mackle wrote council to recommend that road upgrades be tendered. He noted that last year's expenditure of $30,000 for roads went over budget by $6,500, and said he believed this could have been avoided by tendering these projects in the local media. Council referred the matter to the Public Works Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received four letters concerning the skatepark, from Jana Harmon, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Rae Johnson, Surveyor and Ministry of Environment. During Q&A, Paula Butler asked if an archaeological assessment had been conducted at the skatepark site. Council advised that the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency had visited the site and sent a letter to council stating the agency had no problem with the project.

•Jacqueline Zilkie wrote to council, opposing a No Parking zone for a portion of 7th Street across from the entrance to the health centre. Zilkie, a hospital employee, said she preferred to park on 7th Street for safety reasons. Council referred this to the Planning & Development Committee for recommendation to council.

A 7th Street resident wrote to council several weeks ago, requesting that hospital staff be asked not to park in front of his home. Last year, the hospital provided its employees with a paved and lit staff parking lot, along with a covered and lit set of stairs, but it is rarely used.

•The Village will place a "notice to airman" (NOTAM) advising that Kaslo's airstrip is closed to air traffic when any snow is visible on the ground at airstrip elevation. The Kaslo Flying Club will be invited to explore the costs and technical aspects of winter maintenance at the airport, and make reports to council for consideration.

•The Kaslo and District Arena Assocation wrote to council requesting a development variance permit to reduce the setback from the front property line from 24.61 feet to 7 feet to allow for construction of improved access to the arena lobby and dressing rooms. This was referred to the Planning & Development Committee for discussion with President Jeff Davie and recommendation to Council.

•Helen Woolgar wrote to council expressing concern that the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society had not yet paid a $2,000 electric power bill to the Village. During Q&A, Mayor Holland said that the cheque from the Society was in the mail. Woolgar also asked who would be paying for the additional power poles the Society has asked to install in Kaslo Bay Park. The Village will incur no costs in this project.

•The North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council was granted permission to erect a storage shed on its leased lots on Front Street (the former Bowling Green).

•Constable Andrew Luukko wrote to council advising the detachment has received numerous complaints of dogs chasing deer and turkeys. The RCMP and Conservation Officer Len Butler will respond and any offending dogs will be impounded and charges laid against the owners.

•A municipal grant of $200 to Kaslo Area Health Advisory to go towards a volunteer fair was approved.

•Surplus fill stored on the south side of the Kaslo River will be made available to the Skatepark Committee.

•The Village will include $50,000 in the 2006 budget for paving.

•The interior renovation of the Seniors Hall and exterior door location change were approved, subject to conformation with heritage design guidelines. The Public Works Committee will further investigate the cost of sewer connection.

•The CAO was authorized to attend the Local Government Management Association Annual Conference in Kelowna June 13-15 with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy.

•Accounts Payable of $39,875.20 were approved.

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Kaslo and area residents are invited to attend an evening of open discussion of issues with their local representatives and guests.

M.P.'s Community Forum

Tuesday, April 18th 7:00 pm
JV Humphries School in Kaslo

Panelists:

Alex Atamanenko, MP, BC Southern Interior
Corky Evans, MLA, Nelson-Creston
Jim Holland, Mayor, Kaslo
Andy Shadrack, Area D Director, RDCK
Kate O'Keefe, Alternate Director, WKB Reg. Hospital Board
Myriam Duschesne, President, JV Humphries Student Council
CHAIR: Andy Leathwood, Principal, JVHumphries

Hosted by Alex Atamanenko, MP, BC Southern Interior
For more information: 1-800-667-2393

Kaslo & Area D Emergency plan implemented

by Rachael Kimola

Would you know what to do in the event of a natural disaster?

The provincial government has required that all municipalities have a working emergency plan in place by January of 2006. The newly implemented Kaslo and area D Emergency Plan has brought us into compliance with that order. The plan was based on existing ones in the Regional District of Central Kootenay, with adjustments made to suit Kaslo and Area D.

"The plan covers in detail twelve different emergency situations that could arise in Kaslo and Area D," says Emergency Plan Co-ordinator Noreen Clayton. "it describes what steps would be taken in response to each of these events."

Some of the emergencies covered in the plan include wildfire, earthquakes, hazardous waste spills, severe storms, explosions, disease and epidemic, air crashes and landslides. The plan details what steps local emergencies services must take to ensure the safety of people, livestock and property. For example, should the lake flood, the plan states that the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation, and the Provincial Emergency Program are the key provincial agencies to be involved. Before an evacuation notice can be given to residents, a state of local or provincial emergency must be declared. The plan then gives a detailed checklist of duties of what each function in the emergency operations centre would do. For example, one of the first priorities of the "operations function" would be to establish the Emergency Social Services (ESS) position, who in turn will open reception centres for evacuees.

Luke Crawford represents Kaslo's ESS and is currently working on securing funding to establish a group of ESS volunteers in the Kaslo area.

"ESS provides food, clothing and shelter to victims of an emergency event for a 72 hour period immediately following the event," says Crawford.

Although the Plan is mainly designed for use by emergency response personnel such as fire, police and ambulance, Clayton encourages everyone to create their own emergency preparedness plan. This can be as simple as having a bag of basic supplies ready to go should you and your family need to evacuate quickly, or having a stock pile of batteries, candles and a radio in case of a massive power outage.

For more information on Kaslo and Area D's Emergency Plan, a copy is available for public viewing at the Village Office in Kaslo.

Woodbury Resort is where it's at on Easter weekend

Come on out to Woodbury Resort's annual fishing derby on Easter weekend.

They'll be going for Dollies, rain or shine, from Friday at 6 am till Sunday at noon. Will anyone beat last year's winning fish, weighing 14 lbs. 2 oz.?

The three cash prizes are attractive, but the real reason people from all over BC, Alberta and the States come out year after year to Woodbury's derby is to enjoy a weekend on Kootenay Lake.

Sunday at 1 pm, the party really gets going, with a fantastic lunch spread featuring barbecued oysters. Derby winners are awarded their trophies, and door prizes are given out.

Thank you
Valley Voice

The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.

Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch in support of the Valley Voice

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Bustin' out into springtime riding

First off, I want to offer you a bird bulletin of sorts. I'm no bird watcher but see plenty of them and lately have been impressed by several of them. While kayaking the West Arm at Balfour last week I saw an eagle sitting right beside a raven in the top branches of a big fir tree below the Balfour Superette. The raven did all the talking, of course, but it was nice to see them not sparring as usual. Then at Hills, just out from Bonanza Marsh at the north end of Slocan Lake, I saw up close three swans trolling around, part of the flock of a dozen that I've seen only from afar previously. And then I saw my first local magpie in 30 years in Ken and Carol Gordon's field above New Denver. Finally, I endured a mass invasion of robins in my yard two weeks ago and by midday all the mulch was scattered everywhere from under my shrubs and flowerbeds. Damn!

With warmer weather and now the long spring evenings, nearly everyone who wants to ride bikes has dug them out and is getting in some fine rides. As a rule you can just hose the dust off your bike, air up the tires some and blast off. If you stored the bike after a gritty wet ride last fall, corrosion may be a new problem for you but again, some oiling and wiggling stuff around may be a quick cure. If things are real rude, then talk to the local bike dude or dudette to rectify any problems.

Couple of things to be aware of. If you take the flat-tired bike to the garage to use the air hose, realize that the air line may have very high pressure/volume to do car stuff and may explode your little bike tires if you aren't quite attentive. A manual floor or hand pump with a gauge is a good idea. The other thing is that it seems the newest gotta-have home improvement device is the pressure washer, which I guess will give you a spic-and-span world, but isn't the best choice to clean that scuzzy bike. All you need is a bucket of water and an old car wash brush to clean up your ride. Shoot in a squirt of nice lemony dish soap and wash each side of the bike as you lay it on the lawn in a spot that needs watering anyway. Hose off lightly and look things over for loose or broken parts. The whole process can take just five minutes.

Before your kids rush off on their first ride, or any time they try another bike, you oughta do more than just yell at them to wear their helmet. Many, many children's bikes are heavy and crude affairs with really poor brakes. If the gears are off, the seat bent and the handlebars crooked, most kids ride anyhow and adapt to these shortcomings. But if weak brakes are not even set up well, then a tragedy may take place. Take a minute to walk the little bike across the driveway and squeeze both brake levers to see if the thing can stop when the need arises. They're easy to adjust and should be well set up when they're not that great to begin with. Foot/pedal type brakes usually seem pretty good.

Road riding is good now, with the only downside being dust and grit still around from winter road maintenance. Most roads have been swept now, however, and a few good rainy days will flush things all clean again. As always, wear some sort of colourful gear or helmet and assume that cars don't see you right away all the time. I think a rider coasting on a bike can almost blend into the scenery at times, and if you turn the pedals slowly, even on a downhill, you'll be way more visible to the driver's peripheral vision.

Talking locally, the snow is melting back into the hills quickly with mild overnight temperatures and lengthening days. The local paths and trails in the main valleys are clear and rideable, through some wet areas are easily rutted up and then turn muddy. The popular Galena Trail at New Denver is rideable upstream to the cable car over Carpenter Creek at Alamo, with only odd patches of snow and icy pockets. Carpenter Creek lower trail from the bridge in town is clear and dry right through to the old canyon power plant, thence up to Galena Trail via Capella Creek uptrack. Local rider Johanna Weintrager said the Old Sandon Road from Denver to Alamo up Carpenter Creek is open with odd patches of snow and some erosion and slides down. Beyond Alamo to Three Forks remains snowbound.

The riding's great, and if you prepare for it just a bit, you'll be glad to be out there. You can save some gas, work your heart and lungs a little, and free up traffic, too. Look out for dozy deer, watch the birds as they fly, float or sit, and enjoy the day.

Peter Roulston has owned The Bicycle Hospital since 1992 and now lives in New Denver. 358-2133.

Wired for consumption

Somehow, humans seem wired for material consumption. I suppose one could try to rationalize causes, but it probably wouldn't be too instructive to know—better to just accept the statement as fact, and carry on with our lives. A common foible of motor heads is to somehow try to conjoin their love of things mechanical with their love of making money. Voila!—we have the investment collector. I wonder how much different this is from other types of enthusiasts trying to gain materially from their hobbies? Probably a difference of semantics rather than of kind.

I would like to say that, knowing the problems, I am immune from this pitfall, but like all the rest I find myself thinking that the clapped out motorcycle or car that I am contemplating buying will be "a great investment" once I have done a bit of work to it. My experience tells me that this seldom works out, but even so, it is difficult to see this fact when one spies a beauty in the rough.

Some people seem to make it work though, so perhaps there is a systematic method to making your hobby work for you. In an effort to see my way through this muddle, I put my own noodle to work, talked to afflicted friends and did a bit of reading. There seem to be some guidelines.

The first rule seems to be that a hobby is just that—an enjoyable way to spend your time. Keep this in mind and don't get to thinking that the moneymaking role should be at the forefront. While it may be theoretical that one can buy a vehicle at a low price, tweak it a bit and then sell it for a nice profit, some things seem to get in the way. For one thing, you will probably fall in love with it through the process of restoration and won't want to sell it. Garages are full of these projects all over the country and are getting fuller all the time. You can't make money if you don't sell.

Secondly, everyone seems to forget the piles of money that often gets dumped into projects along the way. You would be surprised if you were to keep track of every dollar and cent that was spent through the work process. Don't forget to include all the incidentals such as the specialty tools you bought and the heat and lighting for the workspace. It is tempting to say to yourself that you bought the vehicle originally for $300 and sold it for $500, but you have to keep in mind the total outlay. Don't even try to keep track of the hours that you will spend on the project—better to just look at these hours as enjoyment spent rather than as money in the bank. Most projects will barely recover the monetary outlay; you can usually forget about the time.

Thirdly, be careful about the type of project you undertake. It often costs as much to restore an inexpensive vehicle as one that may turn a tidy profit. Don't be influenced by your personal biases as much as hard and fast research into expected values. A four-door, 1957 Chevy costs as much to restore as a two-door, and they vary widely in their probable selling price. You also have to keep in mind the investment curve. Vehicles increase and decrease in value according to demand. Buying an Indian motorcycle for restoration today would probably be a bad investment—20 years ago, it was a great one. Successful investors have the ability to determine what the next hot commodity will be and sell on the upswing rather than the downturn.

Lastly, if you are really interested in turning a profit rather than simply fixing up what you want, for whatever reason you want, it is usually better to purchase a vehicle that is already restored. Pay the going price and hope to sell on the upswing. Search out unusual models that have special collector value. Let someone else incur the financial loss of restoration. The best quality restoration available is usually the best investment.

It's tempting to be seduced by the opportunity of making money from your hobby, but it may be more realistic to see investment removed from your free time—after all, a hobby is just another name for what you would rather be doing. Sometimes it's not wise to get the two mixed up.

Voices from the Valleys

Here be Angels

Although very fit, a non-smoker and not overweight, my husband suffered a heart attack on March 10.

Today, in BC, the health care system has been vandalized, raped and plundered to the point that it is no longer recognizable as that wonderful societal benefit that was provided for us even as little as 20 years ago. I do not intend to lay blame here. Any informed individual living in our province knows that history well. No, my intention is to applaud and give recognition to those dedicated health care workers who continue to perform their work with pride, care, skill and compassion.

I must first give credit to the ambulance attendants, dispatched from Nakusp, 35 km north of our home. The vehicle pulled into our yard only 14 minutes after getting underway. The two attendants had my man on oxygen, a blood pressure cuff around his arm, strapped in and en route to Arrow Lakes Hospital before I could catch my breath. Kudos to you two! I will never forget you and I will always be grateful that you took risks to transport my husband so quickly to the help he so desperately needed.

Then there was Nurse K, who received my husband at Arrow Lakes Hospital. She was not even supposed to be working that day since she and her husband were moving (the following day!) to Vancouver Island, but she was there filling in for someone. She laboured tirelessly to stabilize my husband's condition and see to his comfort. Wherever you are, my dear, you have my utmost thanks and you deserve a medal for your care of my loved one.

Doctor A, a locum at Nakusp's Saddle Mountain medical clinic, made the decision to consult with the Chief of Cardiology at Kelowna General Hospital, even though there appeared to be signs of only slight damage to my husband's heart muscle after his attack. My husband was airlifted to Kelowna the next morning and had an angiogram that should have been performed two years earlier. Doctor A gets a gold medal from me as well.

Following only a nine-day wait in Kelowna, my man was once more airlifted, this time to the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. I anticipated having to take a costly hotel room, but once my husband had settled in at the Victoria hospital, a Nurse J phoned me long distance and took the time to give me the phone number of the First British Columbia Open Heart Society's "Heart House." This is a bed-and-breakfast available to the relatives of cardiac patients and within walking distance of the hospital. Thank you, Nurse J, from the bottom of my heart!

The managers of the Victoria Heart House were also exceptionally helpful. Thank you, D! Thank you, B! I will remember you forever and hope that I can repay your kindness and your hugs when you are in need.

The Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at the Royal Jubilee performed the operation and is highly and widely respected for his knowledge and expertise. I thank you, Doctor D.

My husband's intensive care nurse, M, embodied all the qualities of anyone who has a passion for their work. She was poised, deft, capable, self-assured and compassionate.

On day three of my husband's post-operative recovery period, I encountered yet another angel in the guise of a health care worker.

I was sitting in a restaurant, unable to finish my meal and feeling sad, lost and alone. A delicate looking young woman came up to me and told me she was a nurse at the Royal Jubilee and that she, also had had a bad day. She asked if we could exchange stories. In retrospect, I never did hear about her "bad day" — she only listened to my story. When I readied to leave the restaurant, I found that Nurse E had paid for my meal and left a note that said: "Best wishes to you, Pat, and your lucky husband."

All this compassion and dedication still exists under what, to my way of thinking, is a counterproductive, insular, cold and cost-effectiveness-driven hierarchy of increasingly juggernaut proportions. That there still exist, within that fragile near-ruin of the system, individuals who transcend their personal stress and fatigue in order to help those that are in physical or emotional distress, speaks well for humankind.

Captain Ahab would say: "There be whales here!"

I say: "Here be angels and let's give them the reverence they're due!"

Pat Wind
Burton

D'YOU STILL SELL BIKES, PETE?

Yup, always several on hand and new NORCO models available on request. Currently I've got 2006 NORCO WOLVERINE, 2006 NORCO PINNACLE, 2004 NORCO TERRENE (ROAD) 2005 CCM HYBRIDS, and some cheaper stuff.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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.

27th KOOTENAY-BOUNDARY Regional Art Show - Images & Form, May 20-June 19. Silverton Gallery. Entry deadline: April 28. For more information, phone 250-358-7965 or 250-358-7269.

CARD OF THANKS

Thanks Rob from the Apple Tree for the idea of Celebrity Waiter Week and Cheers to Darren McCoy for donating his part to the New Denver Nursery School. THANKS SO MUCH!!

COMING EVENTS

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.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT - Before the school year ends, come out to a PAC meeting! Next one: April 27, Lucerne Library, 7:00 pm. All Lucerne parents are warmly invited. Parents have a voice in their children's education through PAC.

WRITERS FESTIVAL - Lucerne School and Community - 4th annual - April 18th to 21st. Stuart Ross Adult Evening Workshop April 18. Festival workshop schedule now available in local businesses. Call Morgen at 358-7733 to register. Don't miss the coffeehouse at Silverton Memorial Hall, Thursday, April 20: 5:30 pm - Elementary, 7 pm - Secondary and Visiting Writers.

BALLROOM/SOCIAL DANCE CLASSES, April 14, 15 at the Silverton Gallery. Swing, Foxtrot, Waltz- all levels. Instructor: Michael Weibe of U of C Dance Club. Preregister 358-2448 allus!@uniserve.com.

GLOBAL INSPIRATION CONFERENCE Nelson July 14 - 21. Get inspired.... Breathe... Evolve...! Held for the first time in Canada, take a healing holiday - at home - with world-renowned teachers, breath practitioners, healers & entertainers from over 25 countries! Andrew Harvey, Anodea Judith, Amit Goswami, Dr. PMH Atwater, Dr. Duncan Grady, Saniel Bonder, Shayla Wright and dozens of workshops, alternative therapies, organic food, marketplace, entertainment & dance. Embodying the Hopi Prophecy theme: "We are the one we've been waiting for: A Time For Quantum Change" REGISTER By APRIL 20TH for EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT (250) 505-1255; info@gic2006.com; www.gic2006.com.

SRCC AGM - The Silver Ridge Community Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Tin Cup in Upper Sandon at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2006.

THREADS GUILD Yard & Yardage Sale - Sun., Apr. 23, 10 am - 2 pm. Fabric and Craft Supplies, Tea Room, Plants. Hwy 6 at Perry's Bridge Rd. snowsculpture.com, winlaw, bc, canada.

Last chance to see **UNDER MILKWOOD** - A Play for Voices by Dylan Thomas. Dynamic local cast directed by Judith Ceroli. Vallican Whole Community Centre, Saturday, May 6, 7:30 p.m. Tix $10 at the door. Come early for the best seats and kitchen treats! 226-0097.

DRAWING & SCULPTURE SHOW @ the Silverton Gallery. Opening April 28, 7PM. The show will run from April 27 - 30, Noon-4PM. All work was created during a winter series of community Drawing & Sculpture classes with Boukje Elzinga & Elly Scheepens. Come meet our local talent and enjoy free Entertainment and Refreshments. This show is part of BC Arts & Culture Week, a celebration of all arts throughout the province. The classes were also sponsored by the local Rec. commission.

SOULGARDEN WORKSHOPS: "Listen to the body's wisdom" - Thursday, April 13 (7-8:30 pm) $7; "Intuitive Painting" - Monday, April 17 (6:30-9:30) $20; "3-week Expressive Arts Group Series" begins Monday, April 24 (6:30-9:30) $60. Call Sue at Hand and Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. 358-2177.

GARAGE SALE up Rosebery Park Road, 10:00-4:00 April 22 and 23. Includes tables, chairs, buffet table, refrigerated sandwich table, stainless steel warmers, dishes, cutlery and more. Phone 358-2165.

FOR RENT

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

MODERN 3-BEDROOM, 2 bath house in New Denver. No smoking. References required. $650/month. Available May 1. 250-348-2245.

FOR SALE

JOHN DEERE hydrostatic 314 garden tractor with 48" mower and 33" tiller. Runs well. $3200. View at Marvin's in Nakusp. 265-4911.

LOST & FOUND

MUSIC STAND in case found in Hills on Thursday, March 30. Call 358-2351 to claim.

Please help us find Flophead the cat, missing since April 10/06 from 719 – 9th Ave. (east of Columbia), New Denver. Call Art or Anne at 358-2666. Large, black, long-haired Persian.

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BOAT PRO, Sun., April 23;

PRENATAL CLASSES, Sun., April 30, May 7;

FOODSAFE, Fri., May 5;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

MUSIC FEEDS PERFORMANCE CANCELLED IN NAKUSP for April 13;

BUILDING A RUSTIC TRELLIS, Sat., April 22;

BUILDING A RUSTIC ARMCHAIR, Sun., April 23;

BOAT PRO, Sun., April 23;

BEGINNER DRIVER TRAINING, Sun., April 23, 30 - in class;

ORIGAMI - Not Just the Paper Crane, with Rosemary Browne, April 29;

MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE, Sat. April 29 - NEW DENVER

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLISHER, Fri. May 12;

CPR "C," Sat., May 13;

INTRODUCTION TO POWER POINT, Fri., May 19;

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HELP WANTED

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.

SUMMER STAFF: Kitchen, servers. Picardo's/Wylie's in Nakusp. Must have some exp. Drop off resumes from 2 to 5 pm.

SILVERTON HERITAGE COUNTRY INN is accepting applications for part-time bartenders, waitress, kitchen help and housekeeping. Please apply in person to Larry and Shirley at the hotel.

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NOTICES

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

NOTICE!! Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submit 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.

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OBITUARY

PAULI (UJIYE) INOSE

October 7, 1919 - March 29, 2006

Pauli Inose passed away peacefully at the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver, B.C following a short illness.

Pauli was born in Surrey, B.C. and was interned in New Denver where she spent time in the Sanitorium for tuberculosis. Subsequently, she moved to Toronto and worked as a dressmaker in her brother's dry cleaning shop. In Toronto, she met and married Sho Inose and they lived together there until he passed away in 1970. Two years later Pauli returned to New Denver to care for her mother and many friends within the community.

Pauli is survived by her sister, Mary Ujiye, of Vernon, and her brother, Dick Ujiye of Toronto as well as many nieces and nephews.

Pauli will be sadly missed by members of the Kyowakai Society, the United Church and the Slocan Lake Garden Society and her many, many friends in New Denver.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Slocan Lake Garden Society, Box 331, New Denver, B.C.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SPRING BIKE SWAP - Sat. April 22nd. 10 a.m. to 12 noon Slocan Park Hall. Free Bike Clinic at 11:30!

P.A.L PROGRAM - Sat. April 22nd & Sunday. April 23rd, Winlaw School. Instr. Ivan Hawley. Formerly the FAC program.

CREATE A HANGING BASKET - Sat. April 22nd Noon to 2 p.m. Four Seasons Greenhouse, Winlaw. $17/basket. Register today.

WINLAW PARK CLEAN-UP PARTY - Sunday April 30th 10 a.m. to ??? Come join us as we spruce up the park for the summer.

MAD ABOUT MORELS - Spring Mushroom Hike with Tyson Ehlers. Sunday, May 7th.10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at Threads Guild Building.

SENIORS COMPUTER BASICS - A four week program to get seniors comfortable with using a computer. Gebins May 11th at MSSS.

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RDCK board meeting notes, March 25

by Jan McMurray

•RDCK staff is looking into merging the seven existing Emergency Planning Service areas into one regional service. It is also developing a regional septage management plan.

Area H

•The possibility of a regional park in Sandon is being investigated by staff. Also, a request will go out to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands that there be a moratorium on all Crown Land applications in the Sandon area until the RDCK investigates the feasibility of a regional park or implements an Official Community Plan.

•The Perry Ridge Water Users' Association would like the Perry Ridge area to be included in Valhalla Park. This will be considered during the Area H Official Community Plan process.

•Village of Slocan Administrator Eunice Ludlow wrote to the RDCK about costs associated with the Slocan fire hall.

Slocan signed a memorandum of understanding with the RDCK in February 2005, agreeing to pay $46,340 towards the construction of the fire hall. The RDCK still has not received this money.

Ludlow indicates that Slocan would like the amount to be adjusted, pointing out in her letter that Slocan paid $56,038.15 between January 1, 2004 and May 1, 2005 in expenses to do with the fire department and fire hall, and in taxation for the service. The fire hall was not operational until May 2005.

The board passed a motion to consult with its lawyer concerning collection of the $46,340 from the Village, and to charge the associated expenses to the Slocan Fire Department.

•Gord Ihlen was appointed Fire Chief for the Passmore Volunteer Fire Department. Outgoing Fire Chief John Ludwar will be sent a letter of appreciation for his service.

•Walter Popoff and Gordon Potter were re-appointed to the Slocan and Valley South Regional Parks and Recreation Commission.

•Clint Parker, Junko Ida and Karen Forsythe were apointed to the Area H-Slocan Valley Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Area D

•An engineering survey will be done on the cost of repairing the Ainsworth Wharf and the feasibility of including the wharf as an RDCK service. The $5500 study will be paid for out of the Feasibility Study Reserve and the other half from Area D BC Hydro Grants-in-Lieu.

•RDCK staff will apply for a grant under the 911 Service Contract for radio and communication equipment for the Area D First Responders Program.

•A $40,000 fund that has been set aside for a Lardeau Valley fire service will be loaned to the Kaslo infoNet Society. The funds will be used as bridge financing in the Society's efforts to build a wireless high speed internet system. They will be paid back at $1,000/month.

Area K

•BC Hydro Grants-in-Lieu will go to the Nakusp Public Library ($3500), Fauquier and District Golf Club ($3,000) and Mirror Theatre ($250).

Ken Butler (right) has retired after 18 years on the bridge of the SS Moyie. The Kootenay Lake Historical Society (KLHS) announced last week Butler is stepping down as general manager of the Moyie and the Kaslo Visitor Centre. He will continue to contribute to KLHS as a consultant. As of March 10, Mark MacKenzie (left) is the new site manager.

Diane Andrews, President of the New Denver Quilt Guild, presents this quilt to Ann Weir of the Slocan Community Health Centre, in memory of Barb McCoy. Barb McCoy, a long-time crafter, donated her fabric to the guild. Also present were Barb Lahner of the guild, and Barb McCoy's son Darren and daughter-in-law Debbie.

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REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

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

Slocan Lake

• Police seized 1,500 marijuana plants worth about $1.5 million March 24 after an investigation that began in December 2005. Members from the Slocan Lake and Nelson offices of the Central Kootenay Regional RCMP Detachment executed a search warrant at the home in the 6400 block of Hwy 6, north of New Denver, and found a "sophisticated" indoor grow op. A 38-year-old man was taken into custody and released to appear in court June 6. Police have recommended he be charged with marijuana production and theft of electricity.

Kaslo

The Kaslo Logger Sports announcer's booth burned to the ground in the early morning of April 2. When the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department arrived on the scene, the structure was fully engulfed in flames and could not be saved. Kaslo RCMP say the fire is "suspicious in nature" and is investigating. Anyone with information can contact Kaslo RCMP at 353-2225 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

• A reminder that if you let your dog chase wildlife, it can be shot. The RCMP are getting an increasing number of complaints of dogs being at large and harassing wildlife, and ask pet owners not to let their animals run loose.

Nelson

• Now that the weather is getting better, RCMP will step up patrols of known bush party areas. They've already responded to two complaints, both near Mt. Sentinel School, dispersing the youth and emptying their liquor bottles.

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