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

Honouring Joe McDonald, Doug and Brenda McQuair and Doreen Desrochers

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp's Citizens of the Year celebration on April 15 was a great tribute to volunteerism in this active community, and a really fun evening.

A delicious veal dinner was served by Nakusp Secondary School students, prepared by a kitchen crew which included Jolene Moroz, Agnes Parkes, John and Carole Moroz, Ron Nymeyer and others.

In Mayor Hamling's opening remarks, she said, "It's the volunteers who make our communities successful and a great place to live." She said she admired all four citizens of the year and talked about how each had touched her life. She also thanked the Rotary Club for giving the community a process to honour volunteers.

Area K Director Paul Peterson said it was great to recognize people who were an exception to the 'every man for himself' rule in our world today. "Congratulations to this year's recipients and to all the other volunteers who make this part of the world better," he said.

The Rotary Club has been sponsoring the Citizen of the Year for over 30 years. In the past, the recipient was always an outstanding senior. This year, the program was expanded to include three categories: youth, active and lifetime achievement.

Laurie Page was the nominating speaker for Joe McDonald, youth award recipient. The young man's nickname is 'Joe Amazing' and she explained why. Joe has been involved in Nakusp's skatepark project, the Nakusp Energy Corporation wood waste project, and has sat on the Columbia Basin Trust youth committee. He has coached sports, acted in Rotary plays and built houses in Sri Lanka for Tsunami victims. He took on the planning and fundraising for literacy programs for youth, was the only youth to attend the Rural Summit in Clearwater and scrutineered in the 2005 election.

She named some of Joe's most significant mentors, saying, "If Joe is amazing, we are too, because we have nurtured him." These folks include Wes Tolle, Nakusp's bookstore owner, Corky Evans, Nelson-Creston MLA, and Heather Dennill, NSS teacher. To wrap up, Laurie described Joe as a 'role model.' He will be graduating this year and then will be off to get his teacher's certificate.

Doreen Yano spoke for 'active' winners, Doug and Brenda McQuair. She described them as "ordinary people who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their community." Both have put a lot of work into Summit Lake Ski Hill, the Summit Lake Racers, and local Nancy Greene league skiers. "Their commitment has helped to create the ski hill family," she said. Both have also been involved in the soccer program.

Their Rotary exchange program daughters still call Brenda "Mom," showing that the McQuair sense of family has grown from our community to an international one. Yano said the couple welcomed all into their home, even when the worst tragedy happened. In closing, she said, "It's not what you have, it's how you share it."

Rosemary Johnson was nominating speaker for 'lifetime achievement' Citizen of the Year Doreen Desrochers. "It's amazing what you can do in a lifetime," said Rosemary, a statement that rang true as she listed Doreen's many achievements. She was an involved member of the Kinette Club until its demise. She helped establish the first Kindergarten in Nakusp. She raised money to install the first streetlights in the village. She raised funds to build the arena. She walked from New Denver to Nakusp in a Mother's March to raise money. She collected antiques and other memorabilia that would otherwise have been lost to fire at the time of the flooding, and donated these to the Nakusp and District Museum. She helped to get the funding and organization in place to build Halcyon Home, and she is still involved today. Doreen and Rosemary helped to organize the celebration of the incorporation of Nakusp in 1965. Doreen has always been on the committee that looks after the CBT funding. She is a Red Hat lady, sings with the seniors' group, volunteers at the Nakusp Music Fest.

Perhaps her most memorable accomplishment, however, was the Short People's Convention. The idea came to her while at a curling bonspiel, and although it promised to cause controversy and division within the community, she ran with it and hosted the convention two years in a row. Even with tall people picketing outside the first year, and trying to sneak in on their knees the second, she persevered in standing up for the rights of short people.

Doreen accepted her awards, thanked Rosemary for remembering all the things the two had done together over the years, and commented that there are so many people in Nakusp deserving of this award. She told the story of how she had always been asked to be the secretary of every organization she ever joined. "Someone would always say, 'Doreen, can you take the notes?' So I just hope that St. Peter doesn't need a note taker," she said.

The seniors' singing group put an Easter bonnet on Doreen's head, and sang *Ain't She Sweet*. When they faltered, Doreen quickly moved into the conductor's role and got them right back on track.

The four outstanding citizens honoured at the Nakusp Rotary Club's annual Citizens of the Year event were Joe McDonald (back right), Doug McQuair (back left), Brenda McQuair (front left) and Doreen Desrochers (front right).

Megan Leduc from New Denver participated in the annual Easter egg hunt with Birdo at the Silverton Gallery grounds.

Nakusp Hot Springs contract awarded

by Jan McMurray

The bids for the work required to re-open the Nakusp Hot Springs have come in — and they are all about $200,000 higher than the Village had expected.

The Village had budgeted $375-$400,000 for the work and the consultant's fees for the first phase of the project. That figure has now jumped to $610,000.

At a special meeting on April 24, council passed a resolution authorizing Fairbank Architects, the consultant, to award the contract to the lowest bidder, West Kootenay Mechanical Ltd. out of Trail.

A press release issued by the Village office explains that the $610,000 will be loaned by the Village itself, with money it has in reserves, to the hot springs reserve fund. The release says Village staff has confirmed with the Ministry of Community Services that this loan arrangement can be made as long as the funds are replaced with interest.

Mayor Hamling confirmed in a telephone interview that no tax money is expected to be needed to service this debt.

She commented on the importance of the facility to the business community and said, "It would be devastating for the community to shut the hot springs down."

The press release says that "council will make every effort to secure any available grants, will meet personally with several ministries in a bid for assistance, make representation to the Columbia Basin Trust, and will include discussions of developing and selling lots adjacent to the hot springs during the upcoming Official Community Plan review."

As far as timing goes, the release states that Fairbank will be negotiating with the winning contractor to ensure that the facility will re-open as close to July 1 as possible.

"Finally," concludes the news release, "Council wishes to advise its resident taxpayers that it has made this decision after substantial review and consultation with Fairbank Architects and Ministry staff and is confident that this decision is in the best interest of the health and sustainability of the community."

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Hammers pound at Nakusp Public Library

submitted

Libraries have a reputation for being quiet, serene places, but the Nakusp Public Library will not fill that bill for the next four months. Renovation and expansion at the Nakusp Public Library began on Monday, April 24 after 13 years of planning, saving and fundraising.

At the end of the project, the library will occupy the entire top floor of the Centennial Building.

This is an historic time for the library, which was first formed in 1921 and has been in its present room in the Centennial Building for 48 years. During this time the collection has grown from 2,000 books to over 16,000 books, magazines, videos, DVDs, and audio books. The 'new' library will be more than twice as big as the 'old' and will provide comfortable seating, places for study, more computer accessibility, space for artists to show their work, and more.

Guy Duchaine, local building contractor, is supervising the workers. A Job Creation Partnership (JCP) program pays the workers salaries and contributes funds towards materials. The Village of Nakusp and Area K of the Regional District of Central Kootenay are the library's JCP partners, and the library very much appreciates this support. JCP is a federal program administered by Human Resources and Skills Development..

There is yet another reason for celebration at the library. Trustee Beth McLeod has received a Super Trustee Award from the British Columbia Library Trustees Association. Only three trustees in British Columbia receive this annual award, which recognizes trustees who have made a major contribution to their libraries. Beth plays a very important role at the library; she has been a trustee for eight years, is the treasurer, organizes the Spring Auction, and is always a joy to work with. Cindy Lidstone, chair of the library board, had the pleasure of surprising Beth with this award at Saturday's Spring Auction.

Come and check out your library! Find out how you can play a part in this important community event.

Full review of area health services hoped for

by Rachael Kimola

A special five-person committee has been formed to come up with the terms of reference for an independent inquiry into health services in the Kootenay Boundary Health Service Area. The committee was formed out of the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District board. Kate O'Keefe, who represents Area D on the board, has been appointed to the committee. She says their hope is to have an agency outside of the system do a full review of area services.

"There's been a lot of concern that this region isn't getting the services we deserve," says O'Keefe." The committee will ask the Ministry of Health to conduct this review through an independent agency, with an eye towards how to improve the system, what changes would need to be made and a reasonable timeline for those changes.

REPORTS FROM THE RCMP

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

•John Poznikoff, 87-year-old resident at the Slocan Community Health Centre Pavilion, wandered off from the facility late Saturday night. His body was found floating in the lake behind the Pavilion at about 7:15 Sunday morning. His death has been deemed accidental and no autopsy is expected.

Slocan Lake RCMP were called at 1:10 am Sunday morning, and conducted searches overnight with the help of Nelson RCMP's K-9 section. New Denver Search and Rescue and New Denver Fire Rescue joined the search in the daylight hours. Police wish to thank all the volunteers that helped for a job well done.

• On April 16, Nakusp RCMP and the fire department were called to Mortens Beach about 7:30 pm. The fire department located and extinguished a burning truck that appeared to have been deliberately set on fire. Police spoke to several witnesses in the area. As a result, two adult females were arrested for arson and released later that night to appear in court in June. Charges are pending. The investigation continues and it should be noted that the investigation suggests this is an isolated incident.

• If you bought any household items from Nelson Edwin Law between November 24 and March 26, please contact the Kaslo RCMP. Police charged Law with theft over $5,000, uttering forged documents and mischief after a Kaslo family returned home from holidays March 26 to find household items had been stolen.

• Slocan Lake detachment's Cpl. Kerry Heidema says motorists should be aware of their responsibilities regarding parking in the villages. The police have received calls from concerned residents and business owners complaining about vehicles parking on the wrong side of the road, too close to stop or yield signs and marked sidewalks (six metres), and fire hydrants (five metres). Drivers parking this way can be ticketed, with fines ranging from $40 to $109.

"With the better weather on its way, and the influx of tourists to the areas, pedestrians—children and adults alike—are not always vigilant in relation to traffic on the roadways, and motorists need to be extra cautious in order to avoid accidents," Heidema says.

Woodbury Resort's Easter Dolly Derby was another great time. Here are this year's winners. On the left is third place winner Frank Van Neer of Riondel, who was also a winner last year. This year, his fish weighed in at 13.13 lbs. He caught the fish on Friday night, and held second place until 120 seconds before closing, when Don Curry from Elkford (far right) caught a 14-pounder and took second. In the middle is John Johanson of Libby, Montana, who caught his 14.2-lb. winning fish on Friday night.

CORRECTION

In our last issue, we reported on a grow op bust in the 6400 block of Hwy. 6. We assumed incorrectly that the bust occurred in the 6400 block of Hwy. 6 which is north of New Denver. In fact, it happened in the 6400 block of Hwy. 6 which is north of Winlaw. Hwy 6 has two 6400 blocks — and two of many other numbered blocks as well. Numbers start at 1000 at the junction, rise to about 9000 at Slocan, and then start falling again as the highway winds its way north. Why? Attempts to find out have been fruitless to date. Perhaps one of our readers can tell us.

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Ministry of Forests & Range

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A77733

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

Closing Date:	May 19, 2006 @ 11:00 AM (LOCAL TIME), BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area, Nelson, BC
Geographic Location:	Bulldog Creek, located approximately 45 km West of Castlegar, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District
Estimated Volume:	57,310 cubic metres, more or less
Upset Stumpage Rate:	$27.07 / cubic metre

The upset stumpage rate was determined in accordance with the Interior Appraisal Manual and is applicable to coniferous green sawlog grades.

Term: 2 (two) years

Estimated Species / Volume: Lodgepole pine 49,162 m^3, Larch 2,767 m^3, Balsam 2,621 m^3, Douglas-fir 1,079 m^3, Spruce 787 m^3, Cedar 723 m^3, Hemlock 132 m^3, White pine 39 m^3

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

The successful applicant will be required to implement and conform to the Kootenay Business Area Environmental Management System.

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

Please ensure that you check the expiry date of your BCTS Enterprise registration before submitting a tender. You may check the status of your registration at the BC Timber Sales Website at: **http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/**

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office, telephone (250) 825-1100 or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A77733.

All tender information provided for this timber sale is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on the above "../notices/init.do" site before the closing date of the timber sale. It is the applicant's responsibility to revisit this site to stay abreast of any changes that may affect their bid. If you would like to automatically receive a copy of any changes, please send your completed *"Notification of Package Receipt"* form to Forests.KootenayTimberSalesOffice@gov.bc.ca

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If you live in Nakusp, Kaslo, Salmo or Points in between call: Nelson CCRR 1-250-352-6678 Or 1-800-223-8966
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MP's forum in Kaslo discusses health care, political reform, development...

Among the issues discussed at the first MP's community forum, held in Kaslo on April 18, were health care, political reform, development, the new meat regulation, climate change and the community forest.

Alex Atamanenko, BC Southern Interior MP, will host these forums in communities around the riding. The difference between these and our former MP Jim Gouk's town hall meetings is that representatives from all levels of government are invited. Atamanenko thanked Area D Director Andy Shadrack for coming up with that idea.

Available to answer questions were the MP, Nelson-Creston MLA Corky Evans, Kaslo Mayor Jim Holland, Shadrack, and his alternate, Kate O'Keefe, who sits on the board of the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD).

On health care, people wanted to know how to have their voices heard by Interior Health Authority officials, and how to decentralize the system so that more services were available locally.

O'Keefe said the IHA and Ministry of Health was now talking about "community engagement," so "we have to hold their feet to the fire." She said she was happy to be in the political arena now, feeling she could communicate with the IHA more easily now that she was on the WKBRHD board.

Evans agreed that WKBRHD board directors had some capacity to deal with IHA, explaining that IHA needed WKBRHD to contribute 40% of the budget for equipment and other capital costs at IHA facilities. "So this allows the regional districts to have a debate with IHA on the only grounds they care about — money. You can't talk about beds or care, because they hide behind professionalism," he said.

He maintained that there were good people who worked for IHA, but said there was a culture that made their job "as difficult as our citizenship." A polling of IHA staff showed the worst morale of any health care agency in Canada, he said.

Evans went on to explain that the IHA has capitulated to the BC Medical Association, which is the doctors' professional association. "Specialists and surgeons have wrested the organization," he said, pointing out that centralization results in more business and more wages for them. "Your doctors could take back control of BCMA and control the IHA," he said.

One resident shared his experience with the system when he got double pneumonia and had to go all the way to Trail to get treatment. By the time he arrived, the doctor said if he had been another 15 minutes, he may have been too late.

O'Keefe said there was a lot of frustration around the centralization of services, and indicated that IHA was dragging its feet in its commitment to find a more central location for our regional hospital.

Shadrack spoke of his efforts to bring in First Responders for the north end of the lake. "Trying to get money out of the provincial or federal government for decentralized health care is virtually impossible," he said.

When someone raised the idea of political reform, Evans declared that change would never come from Victoria or Ottawa, but could only come from communities. Atamanenko said reforming the electoral system would be a step in the right direction. Shadrack agreed, saying that the new rule capping corporate donations to political parties during elections at $1000 was a good thing, and set us apart from the USA. He also mentioned that Kootenay Lake directors of the Regional District were organizing a resolution authorizing RDCK staff to set up three groups to work together to protect fisheries and land use along the foreshore of Kootenay Lake. The groups are the RDCK, the Ministry of the Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The politicians were asked to comment on the urban-rural dichotomy, and the trend of people from cities clamouring for property in Kaslo and Area D.

Atamanenko commented that people in cities forget they exist because of rural Canada, which provides resources and food. He said we need to protect and develop our local economies, suggesting a greenhouse industry for the area.

Evans said that traditional thinking does not fit with land based economies or small towns and re-iterated that change comes from communities. He gave two examples of positive outcomes for rural people — the Agricultural Land Reserve, which all political parties had in their platforms because the people wanted it, and the Columbia Basin Trust, where resource-based wealth is shared 50-50 with the people who provide the wealth.

Shadrack agreed that the only way to effect change was for rural areas to band together on rural issues. To facilitate that in Area D, he has created an Advisory Planning Committee to deal with land issues.

Holland said he thought there must be creative ways through tax initiatives to have people from away pay premiums to own property that was used only seasonally. A member of the public said he disagreed with this, pointing out that we should be trying to attract tourists rather than chase them away. He said that Development Cost Charges (DCCs) were the way to go. A DCC is money the municipality collects from developers to offset costs of infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads needed for new developments.

Holland acknowledged that the municipality was not prepared for development, and said it had "gotten under the wire before we've gotten our ducks in a row." He said he was embarassed to say how much the DCC was in Kaslo, and that council is in the process of determining what it should be.

Holland also spoke about the change in development plans for the Kaslo airport. He said that council now realized that the airport would not be able to be upgraded to the next classification. The Village had started airport development with a federal SICEAI grant. Holland explained that the Village had had such little notification of the funding opportunity that "we had to jump on the SICEAI grant without doing the planning."

Someone asked if the road to the airport could be paved and used to access the transfer station if the airport was not going to be upgraded. Holland answered that the Regional District is looking at relocating the transfer station, and this will save people tax money. He said the RDCK had an issue with the location because of the very steep, icy hill and assured that there would be lots of public dialogue on this issue. Shadrack agreed that relocating the transfer station was the best approach, indicating that he wanted to see recycling facilities in the same location as the transfer station.

Someone else brought up the new meat inspection regulation, which requires that animals be slaughtered in licenced facilities. He claimed this would have a serious impact on "rural homespun economics," and said that 200 pigs will not be bought in the Slocan Valley this year because of this new regulation.

Corky said that the same thing that happened with milk 40 years ago. "It's happening because we have decided to govern for the corporate classes," he said. "It's just another step in making us outlaws in our own home."

Urged to try to make climate change an issue that would be paid attention to, Evans informed that the province is now being operated by casinos and gambling, and the sale of hydrocarbons (coal and gas).

Erika Bird of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society encouraged the local politicians to get informed about the opportunity for area based tenure and to talk it up. "The Community Forest Agreement is the best possible type of tenure — where we would have that much input and control of our resources," she said.

Evans said that politicians need to take a stand because Kaslo's Community Forest is controversial. "It's a good thing, even when people argue. Argument is healthy discourse. You are lucky to argue. I am in favour because this community asked for it. I agree that it is the healthiest tenure, with the possible exception of the woodlot licence," he said.

Business plan underway for Slocan Valley high speed

by Jan McMurray

High speed internet for the Slocan Valley is getting closer, with the imminent signing of a contract between the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) on behalf of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) and the Columbia Mountain Open Network (CMON).

SVEDC has put together a working plan for a wireless network covering the area from Crescent Valley to the southern half of Slocan Lake, with the ability to link to the north.

The next step is for CMON to take that draft plan and to do a detailed engineering study and business plan.

Derek Murphy, SVEDC chair, says that they would like to be able to serve 80-90% of the Slocan Valley population. It will be CMON's job to determine how many towers will have to go up, and where, in order to achieve that.

He says the goal is to provide at least ADSL equivalent service, at a fee close to the market rate people pay for ADSL. They would also like to offer more services than high speed internet, like Voice Over Internet Protocol, which is a telephone option.

SVEDC would build and own the network, and CMON would manage it. Part of the CMON study is to identify who will be the service providers on the system.

The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. Public meetings will follow.

The draft plan assumes that tax money will pay for the construction of the network. Once up and running, it will be a user pay system.

The issue is hoped to go to referendum in the fall, to find out if people are willing to be taxed over the amount of time it takes to pay off the loan required to build the network.

The money to pay CMON to do the plan will come out of the SVEDC budget, which has built up a surplus over the last three years. Murphy did not have the exact cost of the contract readily available, but said it was $23-$24,000.

CMON was successful in its application for a Point of Presence (POP) or broadband access point in Winlaw under the recent "connecting communities" initiative through a partnership between the provincial government and Telus.

WATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

Columbia Basin Trust and local governments in the Columbia Basin region are hosting a Water Conservation Symposium at the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook on May 25 -26, 2006.

This Symposium will focus on how to design water conservation strategies, examples of successful water conservation initiatives, water conservation techniques and technologies and more. To view the Symposium agenda and complete list of topics and speakers visit http://water.cbt.org/announcements.html.

The deadline to register for the Symposium is Friday, May 5, 2006.

For more information, or to register contact Christina Hilborne at 1-250-344-7065, or at golden@cbt.org.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Thanks to the following organizations for their support:

District of Invermere
Central Kootenay Regional District
City of Cranbrook
City of Kimberley
Ministry of Environment
City of Trail
Regional District of East Kootenay
Town of Golden
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
College of the Rockies

Regional District of Central Kootenay

SALVAGE OPPORTUNITY

Written offers for salvaged stained cedar siding from the Winlaw Fire Hall will be accepted until:

Wednesday, May 3rd, 2006
4:00 p.m.

Siding must be removed from the site within one (1) week from the date it is available. For further information, contact Fire Chief Jon Wollenberg at Tel: 250-226-7130.

Please submit written offers by mail or fax, clearly marked "Siding Salvage" to:

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Voices from the Valleys

The opinions of youth...

Several weeks ago, I was approached to lead a workshop for the Lucerne Community Writers' Festival. Terry Taylor had this idea that I could teach sports writing to a gaggle of teenagers.

In my entire newspaper career, I have written one sports story. I was editor of my university paper. It was the spring of 1984. We had run an advertisement for the Native Students Association's Volleyball tournament. The ad was all screwed up, and it fell to me to make amends.

Three large men told me that I was expected to show up and cover the games. I was also expected to take photos and write an opinion piece on the role of minorities in sports. I capitulated, not, I hasten to add, because these guys had threatened to tie me into a pretzel, but rather because they had a point. You see, the ad layout person had used the word 'infamous' to describe the event.

I spent a few hours boning up on volleyball jargon, and I used the words set, spike, bump and dive at least three times each in my reportage. I threw in at least three dozen unnecessary adjectives. I took the pictures, wrote the copy, apologized in print, and made a solemn vow that I would avoid sportswriting in the future.

What did I learn from this experience? Quite a bit, actually. It's important to do the right thing, even if you lose face. Never refer to members of a minority group as 'infamous.' Drinking too much at the social afterwards doesn't make one more attractive to members of the opposite sex.

None of these valuable lessons have anything to do with sportswriting, however. I told Terry that maybe she should find someone else to lead the workshop, as I was an opinion writer, not a sportswriter. I might have mentioned that I could see my way clear to doing an opinion writing workshop.

A week or so later, she called me again. Apparently she was getting desperate, since she asked me to do a workshop on opinion writing. I readily agreed.

I love opinion writing - it's the best job on a newspaper. You don't have to worry about doing research, interviewing people or checking your facts. All you need is an opinion. If you can avoid libelling people or spreading hate literature, you're in business.

Terry warned me that my group would not be the 'keeners.' She quickly added the fact that I would be paid for my work. I thought it over for a minute or two, and figured that she was offering me a pretty good fee for baby-sitting a bunch of bored teenagers, so I said that I would do it anyway.

At one time in my life, I was of the opinion that schoolteachers were underworked and overpaid. I disabused myself of this notion years ago. While publishing a community paper in Souris, Manitoba, I volunteered to teach a 1/2 credit course in community journalism at one of the local high schools. The kids and I produced four editions of a school newspaper called *Small Talk*. After that experience, I was impressed at how much work teachers were willing to do for so little money. That three-hour commitment of volunteer time, once a week, ballooned into 11 hours, once my preparation and driving were figured into the equation.

I learned quite a lot through teaching this course. Kids can shred your lesson plan and notes in 10 seconds flat. Teaching is a lot more fun if you can engage the kids. Lectures on principles of journalism are a waste of time. You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.

I may have said some boring stuff at the beginning about the importance of opinions. How politicians spend thousands of dollars every year tracking public opinion. On the necessity of articulating opinion clearly, concisely and directly. On how opinion creates social change.

As soon as I saw their eyes glazing over though, I had them start writing.I told them that the best opinion pieces would be published in the Valley Voice. They appear on page 16 of this edition. I love brevity, particularly in the writing of others, so I told them that they would be consigned to the darkest pits of the dungeon if they wrote over a page of text. Many eyes brightened at this. Some grimaced.

In the end, they all complied.

What did I get? 20 marvellous letters to the editor. There was a wide diversity of opinion. Most of it was on local issues. A lot of it had to do with running the school - everything from extending the school lunch hour, to starting the day later, establishing dress codes, lowering graduation requirements, improving the student lounge and even merging the school with Nakusp.

I also received opinions on capital punishment, ATVs on the Galena Trail, lowering the drinking age, changing regulations around getting a driver's license, building a skatepark in New Denver (and in Silverton), language requirements for university admission, building a bridge across Arrow Lakes at Needles, university tuition fees, Jumbo Resort, legalizing marijuana, gay marriage, building a youth centre, putting a proper basketball court in Silverton.

We read the opinions to each other, and talked about them.

Then, sadist that I am, I told them to write the same thing in 25 words or less. That was easier for some of them than others. One fellow managed to get it down to 14 words. I gave him a metaphorical gold star.

I have less fear about the future of our country, knowing that we have the bright, articulate, thoughtful and fearless kids of Lucerne living in it.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Disappointing turnout to "Naomi's Road"

The other Friday the Vancouver Opera Touring Company portrayed a story of Japanese internment in Kaslo's Langham theatre, the very building where part of the history took place. It was disappointing to see that we are not interested enough in our past to have a full house at this very accessible production. More troubling is the fact that no school in Nelson, Kaslo, Nakusp or New Denver saw fit to have their students exposed to great music, entertaining story and significant local history.

The troupe felt it was very important to perform at the Langham and many BC schools have hosted the production. Naomi's Road is based on Joy Kogawa's novel of the same name. It is a children's version of her award winning Obasan.

Let's hope that local schools can find the funds to remind us of our history so we indeed "do not repeat it."

J. Macdonald
Nelson

Don't cut corners

I find it hardly surprising that the Fraser Institute has recently "discovered" that the ten best secondary schools in BC are all private institutions. Here is proof positive that you really can solve some problems by throwing money at them.

The people who administer private schools can concentrate on what they are supposed to concentrate on — providing the best possible education for their students. This is in marked contast to the trustees in the public system, who spend most of their time trying to find (largely non-existent) corners to cut in order to stay within woefully inadequate budgets.

There's an old saying that when you buy something cheap, that's usually what you get — something cheap. It's a principle that seems to be completely lost on the people who run our Ministry of Education. It's not lost, however, on the people who run private schools. They know that if you want the best, you can't go to the bargain basement looking for it.

John Banta
Fauquier

New Denver resident apologizes for dog's behaviour

I would like to apologize to the man who had an unpleasant encounter with my dog on Easter Sunday evening. I was walking her in the leash-free zone on the south dyke of Carpenter Creek when she went bounding towards a couple walking towards the lake.

Unfortunately, the man was terrified of dogs and reacted to her friendly overtures in exactly the wrong way. I was calling her back, but his actions signalled to her that he wanted to romp and play, and she ignored me. I pleaded with him to stop so I could catch her, but he was too upset to listen. Finally, I got the leash on her, but I'm sure it took a while for him to calm down.

To anyone who either doesn't like or is afraid of dogs, please read and remember this advice: yelling, waving your arms, and stamping your foot towards a dog tells the dog you want to play, and it will dart at you and run around you in joy. Try to kick it, and it will grab at your foot.

If you ignore it, and keep walking calmly, it will lose interest and return to its owner.

Yes, dogs off-leash are supposed to be under control, and usually she is. But Smudge is still a puppy, and occasionally has a lapse.

Again, I apologize.

Katrine Campbell
New Denver

Universal acceptance a great Canadian asset

It is interesting that a discussion which started with a protest against denying equal rights to gay and lesbian people evolved into a thought-provoking discussion about how to interpret the Bible.

Ours is a democratic country. We pride ourselves on our freedom of religion and freedom of speech. We accept, respect, and protect equally those who take the Bible literally, those who find God elsewhere or not at all, and those who follow the teachings of Judaism, Buddha, Mohammed or Charles Darwin.

How curious it is that those who profess to be the most ardent followers of the message of the universal love and accceptance Jesus preached should be the very ones to deny equal rights to the ten per cent of the population whose love is expressed in a different manner, and would impose upon them their own beliefs and practices.

Each of us is free to believe and to act according to his or her own conscience, so long as this does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others. We cherish this freedom and we have entrenched it in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

None of us, however, has the right to impose his or her beliefs or practices on others, be they gay, lesbian, First Nations, agnostic, Muslim, or fundamentalist Christian. Jesus embraced the leper, the adulterous woman and the tax collector and said: Love thine enemy. To me, this universal acceptance is one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity, and one of Canada's greatest assets.

Let's keep it that way.

E. de Boer
Fauquier

Independent inquiry into IHA called for

Now that IHA CEO Murray Ramsden has declared the gag order a "myth" (in a recent letter to the Trail Daily Times), employees are free to help restore public confidence in the health care system.

We would best start by having a truly independent inquiry into the concerns of Trail staff and IHA staff regarding communication and management in the system, as insisted upon by Marg Gauthier-Kempston, the recently retired community liason nurse. Front-line employees, managers and the public could then become a part of the solution to this crisis of confidence and getting healthcare on track.

Insisting that the IHA is an ethical, transparent organization, Mr Ramsden takes pains to accuse "some who would like to undermine our efforts to maintain public confidence" — it is not just the public who have lost confidence. Front-line and middle management employees, cut out of the decision making loop, have lost confidence in the system. Elected municipal and regional officials sitting on the regional capital planning board and physicians at Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital, also have lost confidence. One of the main reasons for this lack of confidence is the non-transparency and the unethical decisions made with no accountability. Dr. Ballems' and Martin McMahons' investigations into the Albo tragedy were not transparent, and included virtually no interviews of involved front-line staff or front-line managers. The IHA 'external operational review' is mandated and directed by the very organization that is being reviewed, plus it is not just operations at KBRH that are suspect. Let's get to the bottom of the Albo case and other serious problems by supporting Marg's call for an independent inquiry into the concerns of the staff in Trail and throughout IHA.

Making negative comments about the place you've worked in for many years, doing what you believe in, is not what I and other estranged IHA employees 'like.' Those of us within who expressed concern were ignored, treated as naive to the complexities of healthcare or received as 'against change.' Perhaps it is Ministry, IHA board and senior management who have undermined the public confidence in the health care system. This management culture was a major reason behind me, and several others I know, throwing in the towel and retiring early.

Scott Leyland, Physiotherapist
Rossland

Do homework before public criticism

In response to Rick Foster's letter concerning the Back to the Earth

continued on page 5

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

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

Community Composting Project, I would like to suggest that Mr. Foster do his homework before writing a public critcism.

If he had taken the time to investigate further, he would have found some very hard-working young people trying to establish a project which they believe will benefit our community. He would have found out that they have established many connections throughout our community. They helped several seniors last fall by raking and removing their leaves. They organized presentations in the school in order to share their enthusiasm and knowledge with students from Kindergarten to Grade 7. They presented a composting workshop for the community this winter which was attended by several participants. And they have been picking up waste material from several businesses downtown which would otherwise have ended up in a landfill site. These connections are not made without a lot of work and commitment.

Funding was granted initially from the Columbia Basin Trust to initiate the program and establish the site. Many volunteer hours have been spent trying to keep the project going while waiting on the results of grant proposals and obtaining local support so that this project will continue and grow. As of March, funding was granted by the Environment Canada's EcoAction Program which ensures that the project will continue. This grant would not have been possible without the promised support of many local businesses and organizations.

The people involved in trying to make this project a success are part of a young community in Kaslo who wish to raise their families here. To do so they must create employment for themselves. Too many young people leave this area because there are no jobs for them. It is all well and good to say that the money for this project should go to a "deserving, volunteer-run organization" but sometimes people need to make a living here and get paid for the work they do. If we are to be a vibrant, diverse community, we must support such positive actions.

Finding fault is just too easy. My wish is that, before anyone else feels the need to write a letter which publicly criticizes well-meaning members of our community, he/she takes the time to talk with them first to hear their story or, at least, does some research to ensure their attack is founded on facts and not rumour.

Marlaina Blanche
Kaslo

Headline challenged

The March 29 headline, "Green power project proposed in the Lardeau Valley," needs to be challenged on two counts.

First, just how green is this project? Nothing in the article indicates its environmental soundness. To the contrary, any energy project that needs to transport its electricity for over 100 km across a mountain range when that very energy could be used locally in the nearby Kootenay Lake valley is not so green. Going to the proponent's website, everywhere is splashed the words 'Green, Green, Green, Sustainable!'

The water quantity in the three creeks proposed for development is highly dependent on glacial melt. In a few decades, when the glaciers are entirely melted, there will not be enough water to keep the turbines spinning. Yet the proponents claim that the project is "sustainable."

In the meantime, as the glaciers continue to melt, the creeks will be diverted by this "small scale" project for kilometers through 2.2 and 2.4 meter diameter penstocks at a rate of 17.5 and 18 cu. meters/sec., respectively in Glacier and Howser Creeks. This large diversion of water would be devastating to the aquatic and canyon ecosystems.

No specs are listed on the website for East Creek. Just as well. Don't bore me with the details. East Creek is the largest undeveloped, unprotected valley in the region. In 2001, I organized exploratory expeditions in the Bugaboo Rainforest area for Western Canada Wilderness Committee and this resulted in putting the upper Incomappleux River on the environmental map for the first time. Since then, the Incomappleux has become well known as its ancient rainforest continues to be threatened by Pope and Talbot's logging plans. East Creek, on the other hand, also explored in 2001, has been protecting itself with its heretofore impenetrable canyon mouth. If a road finally becomes economically feasible for this valley due to energy exploitation, the logging companies will be hot on their heels.

We started our seven-day trek in East Creek in the spruce/balsam forest below the towering Howser Spire, then for five days we walked through grove after grove after grove of ancient cedar/hemlock forest with many trees measuring over three metres in diameter — some up to four metres. Filled with wildlife, magnificent scenery and ancient rainforest, the pristine valley of East Creek needs full park protection, not development.

Unlike the Incomappleux River, East Creek has not needed the headlines but now certainly deserves a better headline than it received. More appropriately, the headline should read, "Jewel of the Inland Rainforest threatened by green hucksters."

My second correction to the March 29 headline is that the project is proposed for the Duncan Valley, not the Lardeau.

Gary Diers
Argenta

War thrives on lies

In his letter, Mr. Banta assumes that making Afghanistan safe for its people is the way that coalition forces intend to also make it safe for Big Oil to build a pipe line. However, if the latter is the only serious objective, the human rights of Afghan peasants will not be respected and their lives will not be improved above a few photo-op projects. The frequent, casual murder of civilians by US forces, and the fact that very little of the money promised by the US for rebuilding Afghanistan has materialized, suggests oil is considered important and the people are not.

To justify the Canadian military being used as part of Big Oil's army, the whole story has to be repackaged as a simple good-versus-evil saga that Canadians can enjoy in their daily copy of the *National Post*.

Paraphrasing Mr. Banta, our enemy should be regarded as "vermin infesting a cesspool." Suitably dehumanized, suspects can be shot, tortured or locked away forever without any qualms because, like orcs in *The Lord of the Rings*, they have no reality for us except as deserving targets for our self-righteous violence.

We must forget that 20 years ago the precursors of the Taliban were our heroes, trained and funded by the CIA to fight the invading Russians. Forget too that the US's allies du jour, the war lords, have as bad a record on human rights as the Taliban. And please do not mention that part of the price of the war lords' allegiance is that they are left free to grow the record amount of opium coming out of Afghanistan these days. The Taliban greatly suppressed opium growing, but it's not polite to talk about that now.

I am certainly not batting for the Taliban, just trying to show that the gung-ho, bumper-sticker spin of Stephen Harper and our top military brass gives us a distorted and superficial picture. In reality, it gets hard to decide who are the "vermin" in Mr. Banta's "cesspool." Is it the war lords, the Taliban, the hypocritical governments of occupying forces, the men in suits at Big Oil, or all of the above. As I believe none care a flying duck for the people of Afghanistan, I think I'd check the last option.

Whether or not Canadian soldiers care about the opinions of the folks back home, we should certainly be interested in theirs. A percentage of our returning veterans will tell us their experiences, and we will have a chance of actually hearing the truth. Now that really will be worth listening to.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Kaslo community composter responds

I wish to bring some clarification to the concerns of Rick Foster's "Politically incorrect on composting" letter in the last issue of *The Valley Voice*, referring to the Kaslo Back to the Earth Community Composting Project.

Mr. Foster comments on "how costly the inevitable event of rotting leaves has become" and has "observed the little changes that have taken place." I feel frustrated and discouraged to hear such opposition when so much hard work and positive intentions have been put into this project.

Last summer, Columbia Basin Trust provided Earthworkers Community Organization (ECO) with a donation of $8,500 to initiate the Kaslo "Back to the Earth" Community Composting Project (KBECCP). The intention was to encourage a sense of community stewardship through meaningful work to improve the health of our local environment.

This pilot phase has established partnerships; compiled composting equipment and materials; identified the location and constructed the centralized compost facility; collected approximately 3000 lbs. of organic waste from local restaurants and grocery stores; collected over 100 bags of leaves to assist seniors with yard waste clean up, while reducing the need to burn, thereby improving air quality; developed a composting program at JV Humphries School; conducted a Residential Composting Workshop at the Langham; designed an informative brochure; secured future funding; and increased awareness of composting in the Village of Kaslo.

Mr. Foster also noted that ECO is "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." Sorry for the misunderstanding. To correct this statement — on March 23, ECO received confirmation from the Environment Canada EcoAction Program to contribute $32,840 for the next 12 months of operation. This is a huge success! Before this funding is secure, ECO needs to show matching support (in-kind or cash) for this amount. We are not, by any means, insinuating that the Community Forest Society match this amount. Other support has already been confirmed and we are currently seeking further assistance to match these funds.

In addition, the KBECCP is a non-profit project for the benefit of the community. It is not a business. Four part-time job positions will be offered for young people in the community to participate in positive community work. The Kaslo "Back to the Earth" Community Composting Project is all about building our community. We are working together with the seniors and the youth to help bring awareness of the responsibility that we have to ease the pressures on our landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by composting.

However, this cannot be accomplished without the collective support of the Kaslo community. We need your support if this project is to continue. Thank you, Mr. Foster, for expressing your concerns. I hope this helps to clarify any misunderstandings or questions about what we are doing with all of this money. In the future, I would appreciate you contact me directly. If there are other comments or questions that need to be addressed or if you want to participate and support this initiative please contact backtoearth@netidea.com.

Jamie Whitney
Kaslo

A vision for the Slocan Valley

The people who live in the Slocan Valley have been asked to direct inevitable change by telling local governments and politicians publicly and/or privately of their desired vision of this area's future. Nothing remains static, and this valley will change. I, for one, want to live in a healthy environment, which, to me, is an all-encompassing statement. Achieving that goal means taking at least an interest in the future.

Letting outside investors know what kind of services are wanted allows them to plan sustainable ventures, knowing that they will not have costly, unexpected opposition to their plans. This goes a long way towards sustaining a workforce and providing services.

I see a good future here for businesses that want to be part of a community that is naturally green, quiet, with clean air, excellent water and living within the sustainable capacity of its ecosystem. Most people want to live and vacation here because of those qualities.

If we maintain (or improve) those primal qualities there is a huge market niche available. I foresee the necessity of advance bookings and limited entries simply to control use. A heavy reliance on one industry (like tourism) would be unbalanced and therefore predictably unsustainable for the community. Putting your sustainable ideas on the public table could make good things happen, be they farming, information technology, light industry, special schools, services to special needs or other endeavours.

We have the option to choose now, but not for long! Option 1:Encourage a community that would compete with every other jurisdiction (like the Okanagan or Revelstoke and so ruin our unique assets through overload), or Option 2: Value our unique assets and allow only development that contributes over time to a healthy and sustainable community.

The options are not compatible, but we do have a choice. Reasons to support Option 2 follow.

Fossil fuelled machines are useful, and now we know they are our greatest enemy in global warming. Our heavy handedness on the landscape, the stink and poisons in the air, damage to our watersheds, and most noise can be attributed to fossil fuelled machines. I do not intend to be bullied by businesses for profit and individuals that want to recreate with fossil fuelled machines. Who can knowingly tolerate an inanimate object that would poison the air, soil, and water that we as animals have to use, just for the fun of it?

This narrow, rocky trench of a valley is often a trap for air and noise, and the animals herein are affected by it. People who don't recreate with fossil fuelled machines value clean air, and visual and aural quiet as a major part of their experience here. Machines must not be allowed to jeopardize or destroy this part of our economic sustainability.

The Slocan Valley is of limited size, and the "carrying capacity" of its ecosystems is too. We can facilitate more people, but not more machines. Machines would be the major demand in tax increases and land use (of which we don't have much). The other primal qualities would need protection as follows: recreational use of fossil fuelled power boats on the lake would not be encouraged by providing docking, etc.; fossil fuelled recreation vehicles would be left behind at the trailhead; machine users could access higher ground outside the Slocan by obtaining permit, as commercial ski areas do now.

I wrote before of studies demonstrating the wisdom of "going Green." I can see no justification for fossil fuelled recreation in this valley. Short-term gain is not sustainable planning — I find it archaic thinking! Machines are killing us! We need reason, creative thinking and awareness of our common goals to plan the future health of this valley.

Eric Faulks
Hills

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*.

Slocan council, April 12: Council urged to take hydro and pellet plant projects to a vote

by Don Currie

•Resident John Sarjeant wrote to council, calling for the adoption of an Official Community Plan (OCP) before pursuing "a number of very costly projects," referring to the proposed hydroelectric power plant on Springer Creek and pellet plant investment. Sarjeant said that it would be "extremely undemocratic" for council to commit the Village to costly "mega projects" of $1.5-$2 million without formal approval of the electorate.

Councilor Madeleine Perriere said that Sarjeant had raised a legitimate concern. She said the Village had budgeted for an OCP and it would be reasonable to put the proposed projects in the plan. Her motion to proceed with the OCP was not put to a vote on the grounds that council was already on record to proceed with the OCP. Council will deal with the OCP as part of the budget process.

•A letter to Springer Creek Forest Products from the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo), which has been invited to apply for a Community Forest Agreement (CFA), was discussed. The SIFCo letter lists the Village of Slocan as one of its member organizations.

The letter explains that SIFCo's board members were shocked when forestry officials presented them with Springer Creek's plans for a 120-hectare clearcut in the headwaters of four domestic use watersheds of the Elliot-Anderson-Christian-Trozzo drainage of the Slocan Valley. This area is in SIFCo's proposed land base, and the group had planned this area as the first one to be managed under its CFA.

The letter outlines SIFCo's concerns about Springer Creek's plans around road construction and harvesting methods in the cutblock, and lists eight recommendations that the group feels offers a "win-win solution for all parties involved and in a way for this issue to be resolved without conflict, thereby setting the stage for future collaboration between all parties and also creating a tone of trust in the community."

Commenting on the letter, Councillor Marc Septav said that while the content and eight proposals were good, the tone was not helpful and won't encourage partnerships with Springer Creek. Council supported his motion that a letter be sent to SIFCo expressing council's concerns.

•Works Foreman Jerry Simmons reported that a wood chipper costing $15,390 has been purchased. The chipper can handle wood waste up to six inches in diameter. A trash to treasure day is planned for April 23 and Village clean-up is slated for the week of April 24.

•Councillor Gates, Village representative at RDCK, reported that he voted against an RDCK motion directing its solicitor to collect $46,340 from the Village of Slocan. RDCK claims this payment was part of a February 26, 2005 memorandum of understanding with the Village. Councillor Gates asserted that RDCK owes the Village about $57,000 under the agreement.

Village residents attending council complained to Gates that RDCK fees at the Slocan Waste Management facility are not consistent. Complaints were also voiced about a $3 tire fee. Mayor Van Bynen wanted to know why a recycling fee is charged when new tires are purchased and then an additional $3 fee is charged by RDCK for recycling. Councillor Gates said the RDCK levy was to encourage residents to return used tires to the dealer, who is obliged to accept them. Councillor Perriere said RDCK should announce any rate changes in advance of imposing them on the public.

•Administrator Eunice Ludlow reported that Interior Health representatives Dianne Gagnon and Carol Markowski had toured the Wellness Centre and were very impressed. Ludlow said that doctors were willing to come to the facility on a pay-per-visit basis and that other health practitioners offering massage, acupuncture and chiropractic services would follow. Works Foreman Simmons said washroom facilities were being completed and an open house for the Wellness Centre is planned for mid-May.

•An application for a business licence by Gina Pickard and Kathy Pryor to operate an espresso coffee bar and small foods business in conjunction with Mountain Valley Service was approved.

•An application for a business license from Michelle Gordon to operate the Blue Moon Saloon was tentatively approved on the condition that a schedule of re-payment of $4,710.62 back taxes be adopted and paid by September.

•Council agreed to consider revising the bylaw that prohibits raising chickens in the village, after several requests to do so have come into the office. Mayor Van Bynen said the proposed amendment would only apply to chickens that were raised for meat.

Silverton council, April 11: Christmas market idea presented

by Jan McMurray

•Armand Lange attended as a delegation to present his idea for an annual Christmas by the Lake event in Silverton. He envisions a European-style Christmas market with food and craft booths in the Silverton Gallery yard. The market would be a boost to the economy and to winter tourism, he said. He asked for help with grant applications to get the project off the ground. Although council has too much on its plate to take this on, Councillor Bell and Administrator Junko Ida volunteered to help Lange on their own time.

•Fran Wallis was awarded the campground contract for the season. Council also increased campsite rates to $15 for regular sites and $18 for lakeside sites. There was discussion around putting five tenting only sites in the day park this season on a trial basis. This will come back to the next meeting. Staff was directed to look into improved directional signage for the campground and day park.

•Councillor Laktin reported on the Memorial Hall project. The Facilities and Recreation Committee was able to cut $100,000 from the total cost after going through the architecture's drawings and plans "with a fine-tooth comb." The total cost of the renovation project now stands at $175,000. The committee plans to apply for a 2010 grant, which would cover half the cost, and has until January 1, 2007 to come up with the other half.

•There were two requests for grants-in-aid — one from the Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM) and one from the Valhalla Summer Theatre Workshop. Council had only budgeted $200 for grants-in-aid this year, with the annual VSSM request in mind. After much discussion, each organization was granted $200, which will go towards bursaries for local students. Both will be notified that this grant may not be available in the future, as Silverton's budget is very tight. VSSM was also granted $400 (50%) in rent relief for the Memorial Hall during the week of the music school.

The Valhalla Summer Theatre Workshop for youth will occur during the week of July 17-22 at the Silverton Gallery. The program is administered by the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society, which also administers VSSM.

•Fire Battalion Chief Ron Provan reported that the amalgamation of the New Denver and Silverton departments is progressing. A draft contract has been written, and May 1 is the tentative date for finalization.

•Councillor Griffiths reported that she attended a Provincial Emergency Preparedness workshop in Castlegar and came away with a clear understanding of the Village's responsibilities and the resources available.

Administrator Ida will attend the Emergency Operations Centre Level 2 training in Nakusp May 6-7.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE – WATER DISINFECTION

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that the Village of New Denver Public Works Crew will be draining and disinfecting the water reservoir from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 7, 2006 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2006. Residents are requested to conserve water as much as possible during these hours. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

FortisBC Inc.

Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct and Operate the Big White Supply Project

Notice of Oral Public Hearing Process

The FortisBC Application

On March 9, 2006, FortisBC applied to the Commission for approval to construct and operate a 138 kV transmission line from the Joe Rich Substation in Kelowna to a new Substation at the Big White Village at an estimated cost of $20.3 million.

The Regulatory Process

The Commission has established that an Oral Public Hearing Process for the review of the Application is required.

Public Inspection of the Documents

The FortisBC CPCN Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the Utility's Head Office in Kelowna at the Landmark IV, 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, B.C., its Trail Office at 1290 Esplanade, Trail, B.C., at the Public Library in Grand Forks, B.C., and the British Columbia Utilities Commission, Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3.

Registering to Participate

Unless they have already registered, persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as **Intervenors** with the Commission, in writing, by **Friday, May 5, 2006**. Requests for Participant funding should also be submitted by May 5, 2006. Intervenors will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the FortisBC proceeding should register as **Interested Parties** with the Commission, in writing, by the same date. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

Location and proceeding details of the Oral Public Hearing will be published by June 16, 2006.

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date
■ Registration of Intervenors and submission of participant funding budgets	May 5, 2006
■ Commission Information Request No. 1 to FortisBC	May 12, 2006
■ FortisBC Responses to Commission Information Request No. 1	May 26, 2006
■ Intervenor and Commission Information Request No. 2 to FortisBC	June 9, 2006
■ FortisBC Responses to Intervenor and Commission Information Request No. 2	June 23, 2006
■ Oral Public Hearing (location to be determined)	July 5, 2006
■ FortisBC Final Arguments	July 14, 2006
■ Intervenor Arguments	July 21, 2006
■ FortisBC Rebuttal Argument	July 28, 2006

Further Information

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary and Mr. Robert Rerie, Senior Electrical Engineer as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
Telephone (B.C. Toll Free): 1-800-663-1385

What's New at the Slocan Community Health Centre

We would like to thank our many volunteers for their support. There are so many volunteers and it means so much to our residents, staff and community. On behalf of the residents and staff I want to thank the following volunteers:

Slocan Community Health Centre Auxiliary Society
Hospice Board and Hospice Workers
Residential Care volunteers
Gym Committee and the talented tradesmen who have donated their time
Recreation Commission #6
Meals on Wheels
Friendly Visitors who reach out to seniors in our community
The gardeners who maintain the Bill Jones Memorial Garden
The Slocan Valley Women's Institute
The Lucerne School grade 5/6 visitor Group
We would also like to thank the New Denver Quilters Guild for their Barbara McCoy Memorial Quilt and the Slocan Legion Branch 276 for a recent donation to our residents.

For information on services, please drop in to the Centre at 401 Galena in New Denver weekdays 09:00 to 15:00, or call 358-7911.

Emergency Services 24/7 Call 911

Diagnostic Services:

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

Interior Health

New Denver council April 11: Emergency preparedness activities planned

by Leah Main

•Council will make Knox Hall available for a Justice Institute course, 'Setting Up a Reception Centre,' aimed at training potential Emergency Social Services officers, during Emergency Preparedness Week, May 7-13. The Village will also prepare an emergency supplies checklist and distribute it to Village residents as a mailout.

Councillor Bunka reported on the April 4 Provincial Emergency Program meeting she and Councillor Greensword attended. She will present a review of the Village's emergency plan at the next meeting.

•Councillor Bunka reported on ongoing development of the Centennial Park plan, including potential installation by the Community Club of a bandstand to mark the May Days centennial next year. A temporary bandstand may be erected this year, but permanent siting, while supported by council, will be subject to public approval. Formal permission was granted to allow the club to use Village property for May Days celebrations this year.

•Mayor Wright spoke about the work being done by the Health Matters Committee. Grand Opening of the gym will occur during May Days.

He also reported that the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) now has a functioning Waste Management Chairs Committee, which helps co-ordinate waste management plans and practices throughout the district. RDCK is also involved in ongoing talks through the Union of BC Municipalities regarding future provincial/municipal cost-sharing of policing costs.

•Council approved expanding the part-time Cemetery Maintenance position to include Bigelow Bay maintenance. Billing to RDCK will reflect this additional cost.

•Talks regarding the expansion of fire service to include Red Mountain Road, and the contract with Silverton are both proceeding with contracts being set up through the Regional District.

•The request for a Facade Improvement Grant from John Powers (113 6th Ave.) was approved in an amount up to $500, with the requirement that the work be undertaken by August 1.

•Permission was granted to the Hills Garlic Festival to use Centennial Park for the festival Sunday, September 10.

•The annual report and financial statement were received from LACE (Lucerne Association for Community Education). Council will send a letter of thanks, and will query the group regarding the apparent change in its mandate.

•Councillor Bunka attended a Healthy Housing Committee meeting, and reported that the group is developing its mission statement, as well as undertaking various field trips and educational programs. She will attend another meeting May 3.

Community meal program

New Denver & Area Home Health Care Society invites everyone to attend a 'dinners at home' sample tasting May 10 at noon at Brouse Lodge.

There will be 16 different menu selections to choose from. Every frozen meal is an affordable, nutritious alternative to cooking at home.

FLIKS presents film in Nelson

FLIKS brings *What The Bleep?!- Down The Rabbit Hole* to the Capitol Theatre in Nelson, Wednesday April 26 at 7:30 pm.

A deeper exploration than the original *What The Bleep?!*, the new (and longer) D*own The Rabbit Hole* explores the links between quantum mechanics, neurobiology, human consciousness and day-to-day reality and moves into concepts of psychokinesis and telepathy.

Opening with an imaginative animation scene outlining the historical conflict between science and religion, the film suggests that quantum physics is the bridge between the two. As in the first film, Amanda (Marlee Matlin) finds herself transported from her mundane daily existence into an Alice in Wonderland-like quantum field hidden behind normal reality.

Fans and the uninitiated will appreciate the new material (95% of the interviews are new), new scientists, new animation, and new concepts presented in the re-cut director's version of the original.

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

If you can't communicate, who will make decisions for you?

A living will allows you to make decisions now about your personal or medical care in the future. On Saturday, April 29 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Silverton Gallery, Mike Sweeny and Kay Costley-White will explain legal and medical issues involved in living wills.

If you become unconscious, too ill to communicate or severely injured, the living will provides your family and caregivers with guidelines so that they may make appropriate decisions on your behalf. The burden of decision-making and planning is done in advance after careful consideration of the spectrum of options, rather than under the stress of the unexpected. Legalities, varieties of circumstances, interventions, and alternatives will be explored. The workshop will allow for questions and open discussion of the choices and processes involved in developing a living will.

Lawyer Mike Sweeny will explain the legal side of decision-making, and physician Kay Costley-White will discuss medical issues. Examples of living will formats will be provided with time allocated for filling out sample forms together.

The suggested donation is $5-10 and bring a bag lunch. This event is sponsored by The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group. For information call Costley-White at 358-7991.

Suzuki students prepare for celebration concert in Silverton

Suzuki string students from throughout the West Kootenays will join together for a celebration concert at Silverton Memorial Hall April 29 at 2 pm. The concert has been an April tradition for five years now, with performances rotating through the communities of Kaslo, Nelson and Silverton. It is a chance for students from different West Kootenay communities to come together and share in making music not only for each other but with each other. Suzuki students share a common body of repertoire, meaning that those from different places have their musical 'language' in common and can play together with ease and fluency.

The Suzuki approach has grown from its earliest beginnings in the West Kootenays over the past decade. The West Kootenay Suzuki Association, which sponsors this collaborative concert, is a non-profit society dedicated to supporting Suzuki music education in our region. The Suzuki approach is unique in its family-centred, holistic approach to instrumental study, in the importance it places on the child's musical environment, and in the way it models music learning on the process children naturally use to acquire language skills. The approach is non-competitive and is built on a belief in the ability of every child to achieve excellence.

As the years pass, senior students grow and mature as musicians, while new young beginners join and swell the ranks of the regional 'Suzuki family'. The concert will feature the very youngest children performing alongside the most advanced students. From folk songs to boogie numbers to a sultry Spanish tango to concerto repertoire by Vivaldi and Telemann, students at a variety of levels and from various regional groupings will perform on guitar, viola, violin and cello.

Admission is by donation.

The concert's youngest performer, Fiona Burkholder, age 3, is busy practicing to get ready.

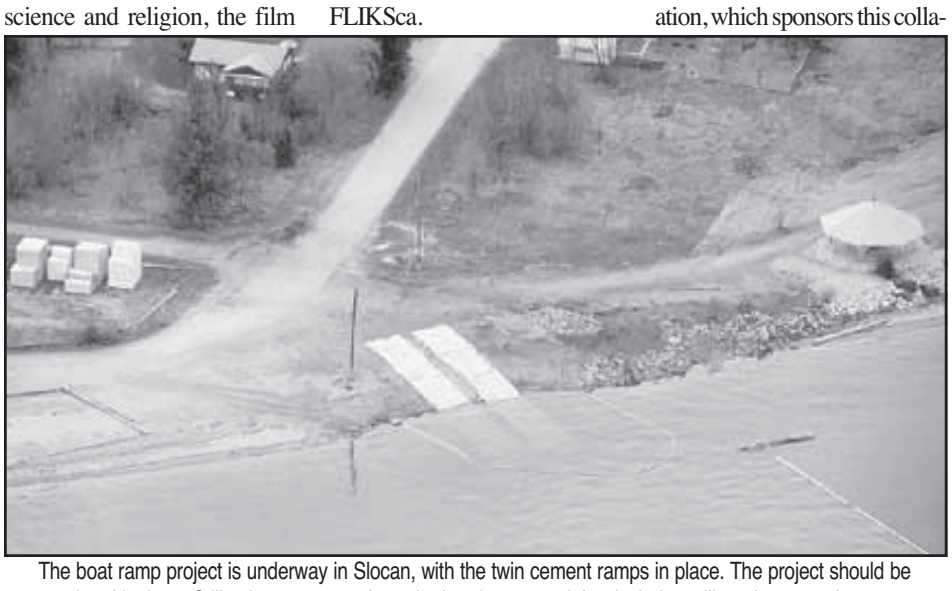


PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH CUMMING

The boat ramp project is underway in Slocan, with the twin cement ramps in place. The project should be completed in June. Still to be constructed are the breakwater and the dock that will run between the ramps.

Mayday in Winlaw is sooner than you think

submitted

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, fresh from Dr. Emoto's laboratory in Tokyo, head up a parade through the streets of Winlaw, and offer water consecrations to innocent bystanders.

All in gratitude to water, that precious life-blood that flows in pristine torrents through these Kootenay hills and valleys.

The silent auction, featuring artistic creations, garden supplies, bedding plants, and gift certificates, 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, weaving through its route in a water-like motion, carrying an urn full of creek water to the Slocan River where it will be blessed and sent on its journey to the ocean.

At 3:30, the opening ceremony will set the stage for an evening of music and dance. The silent auction culminates at 8:30 pm, so be sure to stick around for the excitement of the last minute bidding.

A pre-parade fun-shop will be offered April 22–23 at the ArtFarm in which local artists will guide and facilitate costume development, banner, and float creation. Please call 226-0065 or email watersong@netidea.com for more info.

CORRECTION

An inaccurate figure was reported in the article entitled "Slocan residents vote to support wood pellet plant in public meeting" in our April 12 issue. The article says that Springer Creek Forest Products would save $500,000 annually by using the pellet plant. Ralph Tomlin from Springer Creek called us to let us know that this figure is much too high.

Notice of Passing

Nancy Tedesco

October 11, 1931 – April 6, 2006

It is with great sadness the family announce that Nancy Tedesco passed away peacefully in her sleep on April 6, 2006.

Nancy was born on October 11, 1931 in Black Diamond, Alberta. She was predeceased by her parents Ed and Pearl Varney, her sister, Edna, and her brothers, Charles, Roy and James. She will be sadly missed by Roy her beloved husband of 56 years, children: Ernie (Linda) of Greenwood, BC, Yvonne (Willard) Clark of Ladysmith, BC, Noni (Ric White) Tedesco of Glade, BC and Ryan (Cindy) of Coquitlam, BC, 11 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Nancy was devoted to her family and was a pillar of support to each one of her children and grandchildren. Her love and support also reached out to each of her nieces and nephews. Each member of her large extended family held a very special place in her heart.

Nancy loved to play games and do puzzles with family and friends and often represented the seniors in Cribbage Tournaments. Her hands were always busy with knitting needles or crochet hook and her family and friends cherish the gifts she created specifically for them.

Nancy first came to the Slocan Valley in 1933, and lived with her family on a homestead at the dead of the Little Slocan River. A graduate of Nelson Business College, Nancy began her career with the BC Government in Nelson. Following her marriage to Roy, on July 1, 1950, she lived for a brief period in Quesnel and Garibaldi. They returned to the Valley where she drove a school bus and later worked for Erickson Lumber and Pacific Logging. In 1966 they moved to Vancouver Island. Nancy worked as the Bookkeeper/Manager of Home Hardware in Duncan, where she was an active member of the Duncan Business Association and taught a cashier training program at Malaspina College. In 1983 they relocated to Surrey where she worked for J.R. Fab & H&R Block. Following retirement Nancy and Roy returned to the Valley and have lived in Winlaw for the past 16 years.

Nancy actively supported her children's school and extracurricular activities and enjoyed participating in community organizations wherever she lived. In Duncan, she became President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In the valley, she was President of the South Slocan Chapter of the Kootenay Lake District Hospital Auxiliary, President of the Slocan Valley Seniors Association and Secretary Treasurer of the Seniors Passmore Lodge Committee. She participated in the "Circle Walk" fundraiser to build the Seniors Lodge as well as many other fund raising events. Nancy will be fondly remembered for the many Spaghetti Dinners she and her husband Roy have catered.

In a beautiful urn, her ashes will be interned under the lilac bushes of the Varney family homestead. As an expression of sympathy, friends or family may make donations to the B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation, 4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 2N5.

The family would like to thank all the relatives and friends who sent condolences, flowers and food and those who were able to attend the celebration of her life, April 8, 2006, in the Winlaw Hall.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Thompson Funeral Service Ltd.

Powerlifting champ from Burton aims for World Championships

by Jan McMurray

Local powerlifter Ebony Rutko is going to the World Championships in Bulgaria this September after a star performance at the Nationals April 4-9 in Chilliwack. The 21-year-old from Burton won a trophy for being best overall junior female power weightlifter in the country. She also received two gold medals for making national records in the bench press and three-lift. Rutko holds the Canadian national record in the squat lift as well.

This summer, Rutko says she plans to stay in Kelowna, work full-time, take summer classes and train for the big event.

Because it is not an Olympic sport, there is no government funding. Rutko relies on private and corporate donations, and scholarships and bursaries to pursue the sport. She is applying for a bursary through UBC, where she studies Social Work at the Kelowna campus.

Rutko's coach, Greg St. George, will also go to Bulgaria at his own expense. "He has donated so much of his time and energy. I'm very appreciative of what he's done for me," she said.

Rutko has given a talk and slide show about the mental and emotional challenge of the sport at a Women's Studies conference at UBC. She explains that she has to weigh 132 lbs. at most, and maintains her training weight at 141-142 lbs. The best way to lose the weight is to do it over two days. In that time, she says she has to completely deplete her body of water, by fasting, saunaing and spitting.

"It's very painful and mentally challenging. You have to focus your mind to overcome it," she said.

After weighing in, lifters can eat and drink, but must be very careful. Rutko says she eats carbohydrates and sugars, and drinks Gatorade. Her mother, Linda Peterson, makes her power bars.

"It's a feeling that I can't explain to train for a few months and put all my energy into my mind, body and soul and put my blood, sweat and tears into my training — then once I step up on the podium and receive a medal, or get my personal best for a lift, it makes it all worth it. It's a personal growth experience more than just lifing," she says.

She describes the feeling she has when she lifts as "a moment of pure focus. Nothing that can distract me. Instinct takes over and my body knows what it needs to do."

Burton's Ebony Rutko won two gold medals and a trophy at the Canadian powerlifting championships in Chilliwack earlier this month. This national champion is currently raising funds to go to the Worlds in Bulgaria.

Wanted

Vendors: Vendor applications are still being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. Get your application in soon before space runs out!

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed in all areas. All volunteers need to fill out an application from Music Fest's website in order to apply to volunteer. Even if you applied & volunteered last year, you need to submit your complete application again. Form is on the Nakusp Music Fest website, or stop at the Music Fest Office to pick one up @ 119 Broadway St.

Camping: If you have space for visitors looking for a camping spot during Music Fest, please let the Office know what kind of space you can offer (field, yard, driveway, etc. for tents or RVs) as well as your complete contact information. & rental cost.

Billets: If you have room in your home to billet Music Fest attendees, please contact the Music Fest office at 265-2141 with your contact information, type of space available, the rental cost, and the number of people you can accommodate.

Fundraising Raffles: Contact the Music Fest Office at 265-2141 if you would like to raffle tickets to fundraise during music fest. Local causes will be given priority. A limited number of raffles will be accepted so please apply now.

Nakusp Music Fest
Office: 265-2141
Toll-free: 1-877-265-5565

PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG BURTON

Adriana and Mason take a break from their Easter egg hunting in Slocan. Many thanks go out to the Slocan Legion Easter Bunnies for visiting town once again.

Learn to identify spring mushrooms

Join avid mushroom hunter Tyson Ehler for a voyage into the world of spring mushrooms. Morels are the main mushroom that are available this time of year.

On Sunday, May 7, join Tyson for 'Mad About Morels - The Spring Mushroom Foray.' The event is being offered by Slocan Valley Recreation and takes place between 10 am and 4 pm. It begins at the Threads Guild in Perrys Siding with a slide show and talk about how to identify and gather morels as well as about other mushrooms that may be in season. Then the group heads out into the fields nearby to apply the knowledge they've learned and hopefully reap the rewards.

Mirror Theatre produces *The Good Doctor*

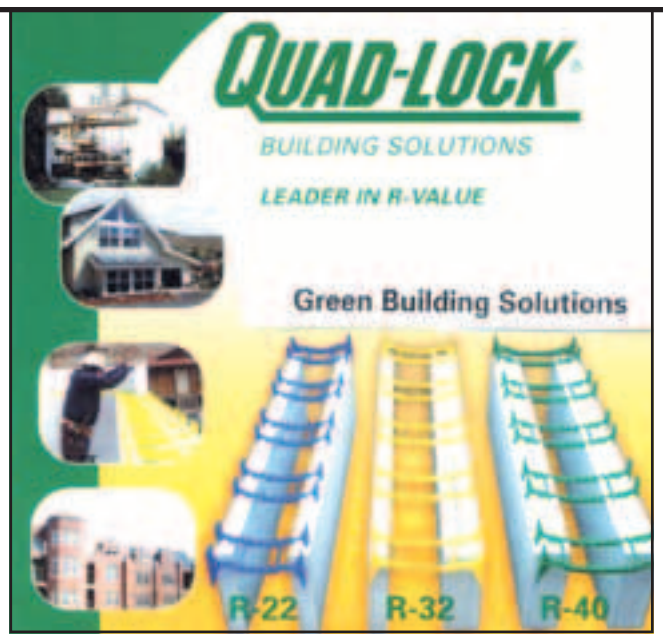
Mirror Theatre is currently working on the production of Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor*, a comedy with music based on the short stories of Anton Chekhov. The presentation contains a series of vignettes directed by five actor/directors (three of whom are high school students) who all recently attended a Theatre BC sponsored directors' workshop in Grand Forks.

As a developmental theatre production set in 1900 Russia, this unique show is sparked with humour and compassion. Performances will be in Fauquier on May 5, in Edgewood on May 6, and in Burton on May 7, with a possible later performance in Nakusp in June.

"When you need to become lost, find running water and follow it uphill."

from *Advice to the Great-Grandchildren of Montana*

Ken E. Wright
April, 1954 - April, 2006



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Nakusp council, April 13: Seniors housing projects on the horizon

by Jan McMurray

•Gene Nagy from the Arrowtarian Society attended to update council on Phase 4 of the Rotary Villa project.

Last June, council granted the society $100,000 for the project and at that time, ground-breaking was expected to start in the fall. Nagy explained that construction has not yet begun because a BC Gaming grant had not come through. He said the society would need about another $200,000 to add to the $400,000 it has raised to date before going ahead with the approximately $1.4 million project.

He reported that the society had hired Rosemary Hughes to apply for grants, and she had submitted seven applications for $100,000 each, plus one for $10,000. He also said that a lawyer had been hired to re-finance the mortgages.

Manufactured buildings were looked into, he said, but delivery takes 20 months. He also mentioned that building contractors are currently extremely busy, so the society would possibly not be able to find anyone to do the work even if it had the money.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the Halcyon Assisted Living Society met with IHA and BC Housing representatives on April 13. IHA has agreed that renovations can take place while there are still residents in the facility, and has approved two more beds for a total of ten subsidized assisted living beds at Halcyon Home. The renovation project should go out to tender in three weeks.

Hamling also reported that the Arrow Lakes Seniors Care Society is compiling information on people who have had to leave the area for care, and is looking into other health care concerns of seniors.

•More problems were found at the hot springs. Two WCB inspectors toured the facility on March 28 and listed 14 issues that need to be addressed in order to comply with regulations. A report from Jason Chernoff, Superintendent of Operations, estimated the cost of the work to be about $15-21,000. It includes a life line system from the roof, costed at $10-16,000, and insulation on water lines, relocated drain valves, plumbing work. It is all to be done by July 1, the target date for re-opening.

The Fairbank Architects plans for the hot springs upgrade have been submitted to the Ministry of Health. The company also sent the Village an email clarifying some insurance details.

•The proposed fire department budget for 2006 was reviewed. The proposed 2006 budget is $92,781; the 2005 actual budget was $88,934. Budget deliberations are ongoing.

An audit of the fire department was to take place April 19-21. Council approved an expenditure of up to $2500 for this. Mayor Hamling said this would be a very positive exercise, as some community members were worried about the cost of the department. "This will be unbiased, and will let us know if we need new equipment," she said.

Later in the meeting, Councillor Roberts reported that he attended the AGM of the fire department and was asked about the audit. He said he thought members felt much better after he explained what it was all about.

Council also voted to provide a letter of support to the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Brigade is applying for grants from regional, provincial and federal governments to purchase a road rescue truck, equipped for auto extrication and other road rescue tools.

•Council approved a proposal from the Nakusp and Area Co-operative Marketing Group to hire a Community Co-ordinator for nine months with the $15,000 Community Tourism funding available to the Village. The co-ordinator will address many of the issues raised by the 'undercover tourist,' Roger Brooks. After nine months, it will be up to the person hired to find funding to keep the position going.

•The Nakusp Public Library was scheduled to start its renovation project April 24. Council granted the library the use of the vacant building inspectors office. The Village will ask to be informed of all inspections throughout the construction.

•Councillor Dahlen reported on the RDCK's West Waste Management Committee, which toured all landfill and transfer station sites in the area March 21-22. On the tour, she saw a very large recycling bin for plastics in Balfour and was impressed by how much this cut down on garbage going to the landfill. She said the bin cost $14,000. Council decided to write to the Regional District, asking them to look into the costs of putting in a plastics recycling bin at Nakusp.

She also reported that the Recreation Commission had granted a total of $4,164 to five different groups.

•The Village will assist Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services in addressing the issue of homelessness by providing council chambers as a meeting place, providing staff time and expertise, and appointing Councillor Mueller as the liaison and committee representative.

•In response to a letter from Tammy O'Brien, urging the Village to make an appeal to Telus for wider ADSL service, council will write to Telus.

•Councillor Roberts reported that the Community Forest group had been offered an additional 10,000 cubic metres of wood "out of the blue" from BCTS. When the group was offered 10,000 cubic metres last fall, the government made it clear that was the most they could offer at that time. Roberts also announced that Jesper Nielsen, the group's registered professional forester, had returned from Sri Lanka, where he was building homes for Tsunami victims.

•Councillor Heppner reported on the Energy Committee. Ray Green has found a new boiler, which is energy efficient and will be eligible for funding. Also, the Green Door is looking at perhaps becoming a customer of this wood waste energy project. Nakusp Secondary School is also a potential customer.

•The Village will write to the federal government, urging that they maintain their commitment to the federal Early Learning and Childcare Agreement. The previous federal government committed $5 million over five years to establish a national child care program. The current federal government is replacing this with a payment to families of $100 per month per child under 6 years of age. Information from a meeting with Kim Adamson, Success by Six and Children First Co-ordinator, was that this payment will do nothing to further develop a national childcare program.

Nakusp council announces three-year plan

submitted

Nakusp council has come up with eight priorities it would like to address before the end of its term in 2008.

A review of the Official Community Plan (OCP), an exercise that has not been done for some 13 years, is first on the list. Council aims to have a publicly endorsed five-year revitalization plan after gathering input from the public, government, stake-holders and business. The plan acts as a guide to assist in decisions required for future growth and development issues.

Hand in hand with the OCP is a review of Village bylaws, which must be in keeping with the plan.

Council will meet regularly with Village employees and aims to come up with a plan which ensures harmony, productivity and wellness within the team.

Ensuring the hot springs is running efficiently and profitably is council's fourth goal. The fifth is to ensure that the facility plays an integral role in making Nakusp a destination, and that it develops into a profitable and popular resort.

Water and sewer infrastructure that will meet existing and future needs — a costly project — is a goal that council will work towards.

Grant applications are next on the list. Because grant asistance is becoming scarce and specific expertise is required to be successful with grant applications, council may employ a professional consultant to handle this.

Finally, council has decided to hold regular meetings devoted to planning.

The Tuques perform at Wylie's May 13

by Jan McMurray

The Tuques, a six-piece original Roots/Rock band from Rossland and Nelson, will be appearing at Wylie's Pub in Nakusp on May 13 for the first time. The band's stage show is an explosive display of talent, combining hot licks and foot-stomping rhythms.

A busy summer lies ahead for the band. They are booked for the Kaslo Jazz Fest, Creston Blossom Festival, Revelstoke Mountain Beats Festival, and the Grand Forks Freedom Festival.

Over the six years the band has been together, they have built up a repertoire of 50 original songs, produced two albums and one 45-minute video (aired on CBC national television), done two Canadian tours and performed 300 live shows.

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VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
NOTICE OF TOWN HALL MEETING

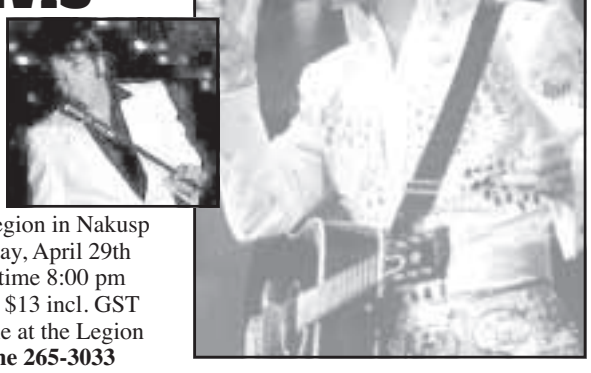
Council invites all interested residents to hear the Nakusp Hot Springs Charette Report, and to offer guidance to your council as they prepare to review and amend the official community plan.

Come and share your concerns and visions for the future of the Nakusp Hot Springs as well as the development of our town.

Date: Thursday, May 4th
Place: Arena auditorium
Time: 7-9 PM

Call 265-3689 for further details

In memory of the King
Starring Stuart MacLeod as "ELVIS"



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All Nakusp Columbia Basin Trust funding requests approved

by Karen Hamling

The April 18 deadline for funding from Columbia Basin Trust saw only seven applications for a total of $67,500. This is the first time in the nine years of the Nakusp and Defined Area K Community Initiatives and Affected Area Funding that the requests have been lower than the amount available of $78,101.31. The remaining $12,601 will be added to next year's funding.

The project committee met to review the applications and all but one were accepted. The projects now need to go forward for approval at the regional district level.

The Nakusp Fire Brigade: $20,000 towards the purchase of a road rescue vehicle to provide assistance for motor vehicle accidents and to provide emergency first responder service. The Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department has trained members, but must borrow the Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue vehicle.

The Nakusp Senior Citizens Association Branch 71: $5,000 towards the purchase and installation of a commercial dishwasher for the senior citizens' clubhouse.

The Nakusp Ski Club: $5,500 to install permanent lighting along the T-bar lift line and to illuminate the beginner ski area and handle tow.

The Nakusp Centennial Golf Course: $20,000 for a John Deere Gator utility vehicle to move personnel and equipment around the golf course ($12,000), a booster pump with emergency shut-off ($2,750) and clubhouse renovations ($5,250).

The Nakusp and Area Community Foundations: $10,000—$7,200 to complete the second phase of matching funds which will bring in $7,200 from Vancouver Foundation and $7,200 from CBT. This will complete their goal of raising $50,000 in the community which brings in $100,000 in matching funds. With this, the foundation total will now stand at $160,000 in capital. Only the interest is distributed each year. The other $2,800 will be used for education of the directors and insurance. This is a one-time request.

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society: $5,000 towards the publication of their latest book, *Caulkboot Riverdance*.

The applicationfor $2,000 from the Heritage Federation of South-Eastern British Columbia, from Rossland, was refused by the committee as it did not have a letter of support from the local museum group. The money was requested to produce, in partnership with Kootenay Rockies Tourism, a publication to heighten public awareness of heritage resources and attractions in south-eastern BC.

Argenta book project is almost complete

submitted

Bound Together, a project which brought people at the north end of Kootenay Lake (and beyond) together through a common love for books and writing is almost complete. One of the end products is an anthology about Argenta, which will be sold as a library fundraiser. At the same time as creating a book, the project has increased the use of the library by more than double the number of people visiting and books checked out.

With funding assistance from several sources (the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, the RDCK, the Kaslo and District Forest Society and the 2010 LegaciesNow Innovations grant) the project has been a success. It hosted some very popular writing workshops with authors Vivien Bowers, Rita Moir and Eileen Delehanty Pearkes, and also a workshop on book binding with PB&J Press, where participants of all ages learned tricks of the trade.

Through these workshops, other community events, media and word of mouth, we encouraged contributions of written work of all kinds, and we've been delighted with the quality and variety we've received. The book, appropriately titled *Bound Together—A Miscellany Of Thoughts On Experiencing Argenta*, is hot off Argenta Friends Press and almost ready for sale.

Please join us for our book launch, Saturday May 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Argenta Library (in the basement of the Argenta Hall.) Refreshments will be provided as well as a selection of readings by contributors. The book will be for sale for $20 at the launch; if you would like a copy and are unable to attend, you can reserve one by calling Lisa at 366-6808 or Susan at 366-0022.

Second annual Nakusp volunteer fair

by Marilyn Boxwell

Drop in to the Nakusp Arena April 29 to learn all about volunteers—who they are, how much they do for the community, and how you can get involved.

The event, sponsored by the Arrow Lakes Arts Council, runs from 10–3 p.m. The fair will provide an opportunity for people to learn details of the individual programs, groups and non-profit organizations which deliver a host of services throughout the year. Prospective volunteers can match their interest with a group which welcomes volunteer help. Admission is free, and lunch is available.

Alpha Guild returns executive, plans season

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Fine Arts (ALFA) Guild held its AGM March 12 and chose to let stand the executive from last year. Sharon Maxfield is president; Susan Janzen, vice president; Holly Woods, treasurer; Denyse Jones, secretary; the directors for this year are Betty Fahlman, Rosemary Parent, Audrey Jansen and Debra Rushfelt.

• It looks like another exciting season with five shows running for three weeks duration. The gallery will be housed in the same location as last year, 619 Broadway, with the same hours of operation, Wednesday through Sunday from noon until 4 pm.

The first two shows are already lined up, with Linda Dickson, an innovative textile artist new to our community, as the first show. The exhibit will start on June 7 and run through to June 25 with an opening reception being held the evening of June 9.

Next up is the ever popular *Local Focus* opening June 28 through to July 16 with the opening reception the evening of June 30.

Please come out and support and enjoy our local artists.

Michael Guthrie's benefit concert for the Langham

by Marlaina Blanche

The Langham is very excited about having Michael Guthrie perform April 29 at 7:30 pm. Many of you know him as the guy who, in 1974, had the crazy idea of turning a derelict building slated for demolition into a community cultural centre. The fact that the Langham Cultural Centre remains as a very important and vibrant part of Kaslo's arts community 32 years later is testament to Michael's foresight and motivational skills.

Some of you will also remember him as the guy who, with his wife Dare, ran a funky little restaurant in the 70s called the Village Green, where people gathered for great food, friends and music.

"We hosted a coffee house venue with live music, poetry and belly dancing, which brought a lot of talented song writers to our door…the highlight being when Bruce Cockburn stopped by one day and played for his lunch, then he and Dare played some tunes for a few lucky customers. The Village Green Café was a source of much inspiration for me to begin writing my own songs," says Guthrie.

Since leaving Kaslo in 1981 he has continued to play, record and perform his own music which might be described as influenced by bluegrass, blues, folk and rock. You may have enjoyed his music at the Jazz Etc. Festival, at the Langham's 30th anniversary celebration in Vimy Park, or at the Langham Theatre a couple of years ago.

Now, he has very generously offered to do a benefit concert for the Langham, the proceeds of which will go toward the purchase of much needed new sound equipment for the theatre.

Tickets are $10 and are available at Sunnyside Naturals and Portobella Interiors, or call 353-2122 for reservations.

Michael Guthrie plays the Langham, April 29.

Big Bike is back

submitted

NAKUSP—The Heart & Stroke Big Bike is coming through Nakusp on April 11, and co-ordinator Deb Guest has issued a challenge.

"We want to be the first community to have more than 30 people sign up to ride the bike," she says.

Last year, the community raised $1,199.50 and this year, Guest says the goal is to double that amount.

Now in its 14th successful year, this event provides a unique opportunity for people to work together and have fun while raising funds for a worthwhile cause. The Big Bike is a bicycle built for 30 travelling across Canada from April to September. The Bike will visit more than 200 communities across nine provinces and over 54,000 riders will share in the experience.

It's more than a bike and it's more than just a ride, because when the Heart & Stroke Big Bike rolls through Nakusp, it brings with it the support and hope of thousands across the country. When was the last time you gathered a team together for a really good time and a really great cause?

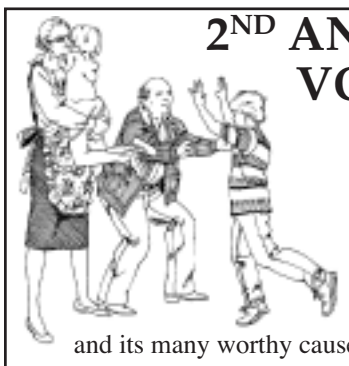
To register a team to participate in the Heart & Stroke Big Bike, contact Deb Guest at 265-3597 or at What's Brewing on Broadway, or call your local Area Office at 250 359-8198. Visit www.heartandstroke.bc.ca for details.

HUGE GARAGE SALE
[PALS]
May 13 - 9-4 pm
May 14 - 10-2 pm
Glenbank School
Alexander Rd, Nakusp
Homemade Lunch
Plant Section
Bake Sale

"I don't like to say I have given my life to art. I prefer to say art has given me my life."
- Frank Stella

www.wkarts.kics.bc.ca/
www.assemblybcartscouncils.ca/
www.bcartscouncil.ca/

BC Arts and Culture Week is sponsored by the Province of BC through the BC Arts Council and the BC and Yukon Comm. Newspapers Assn.



2ND ANNUAL NAKUSP VOLUNTEER FAIR
Saturday, April 29
from 11 am. - 3 p.m.
at Nakusp Auditorium
Honouring Volunteer Week and Local Volunteers!
...Learn more about our community and its many worthy causes ...Refreshments ...free admission.
Hosts: Arrow Lakes Arts Council and Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services.

THANKS, GALENA CONTRACTING!

Recently the SLOCAN LAKE BOATING ASSOCIATION hired GALENA CONTRACTING of Nakusp to work for 3 days at the New Denver Marina. I was most pleased with all aspects of the job which included peripheral dredging, road and parking lot development, pole relocation, shoreline fortification and much more. Ray Hascarl arranged the project delivery and Wayne Hascarl worked wonders with the mammoth CAT 330-C excavator - I'd recommend these guys for any larger earthmoving and landscaping work you may need in the West Kootenay.

Peter Roulston, S.L.B.A. Commodore

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)

Reiki Level 1, Level 2
Learn to lay healing hands on self & loved ones.
Reiki with Fran in Nakusp.
Fri. Sat. Sun. May 5,6,7.
Call to register 250-265-4123

WANTED TO BUY:
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John Shantz
• 250-308-7941 (cell)
Please contact: **Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.**
250-547-9296

Kaslo council, April 11: Logging issues discussed

by Jill Braley

•In future, all logging contracts to do with Village-owned land will be authorized by the Mayor and CAO, and all logging revenues generated from Village property will be deposited to a municipal account. Springer Creek Forest Products will be directed to remit all future payments for municipal timber mark wood to the municipality. These decisions were made following unauthorized logging on Village-owned land during work to improve the golf course.

•The Village of Kaslo will confirm its support, in principle, of the KDCFS initiative to secure a Probationary Community Forest Agreement and to increase the Annual Allowable Cut under the new licence.

•As recommended by Robert Mitchell, KDCFS rep for the Village, council decided to send a letter to BCTS which reiterates the Village of Kaslo's interest in maintaining the following values: viewscapes; tourism impacts; water quality; employment generation; local hiring practices; sustainability; long-term income stream; recreation; promotion of value-added manufacturing and fire interface.

•Council will inform Ursula Ringwald, who sent an email, that Michael Jessen is welcome to contact the Village office to arrange giving a presentation to council on the harmful effects of backyard burning. Council will also suggest that Ringwald might wish to facilitate a public presentation on the topic of air quality. Spring garden pick-up days are scheduled for April 26 and 27. Councillor Jones suggested that spring garden pick-up dates be scheduled earlier in 2007 in an effort to reduce the amount of backyard burning.

This was referred to the Public Works Committee.

•The Kaslo Senior Citizens' Association wrote to council with details and a quote for bathroom renovations to the seniors' hall, owned by the Village. The estimated cost is about $2,000. The letter was referred to the Public Works Committee for recommendation to council.

•A public information meeting regarding community bonds with Jim Craven of the Municipal Finance Authority will be scheduled for Tuesday May 2 at 7 pm at the Kaslo Community Hall (Scout Hall). Community bonds are a possible way that the Village could purchase the provincial building

•The recent informal poll regarding a dogs off leash area showed 105 people in favour of Lighthouse Beach, 21 in favour of Kaslo Bay Park and 46 opposed to the idea. The information was referred to the A&F Committee for recommendation to council.

•Local Government Program Services has awarded North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society one-time project funding of $10,000 for a crystal methamphetamine program. Council will sent a letter of congratulations and will ask the society to keep council updated on the program's progress.

•Jamie Whitney responded to CAO Sawyer's concerns about the messy appearance of the community composting site and her request that the area be cleaned up ASAP. Whitney apologized and stated funding from CBT was exhausted in February. He confirmed that funding from Environment Canada EcoAction would be available for 12 months starting May 15.

•RDCK Area D Director Shadrack wrote to council requesting to attend a Planning & Development Committee meeting with a rep from the Kaslo Area South Water Users. The request was referred to this committee for recommendation to council.

•The Kaslo & District Arena Association has applied for a DVP to reduce the front line setback from 24.61 feet to 7 feet to allow construction of improved access to arena lobby and dressing rooms. A letter will be sent to all affected property owners asking for input. The $100 fee for the permit was waived.

•The Victorian Hospital will be asked to send a staff representative to address the Planning & Development Committee with more information regarding parking on 7th Street. Ralph Sinclaire wrote to council previously with concerns about hospital staff parking in front of his home when staff have a paved, lighted parking area. Jacqueline Zilkie also wrote to council stating she wished to park closer to the hospital for safety reasons. Council wrote to the hospital administrator some time ago, but has received no response.

•The lease will be signed between the Village and the Kootenay Lake Historical Society for a five-year term for an annual cost of $1 for the purpose of operating a visitors centre.

•Council approved several requests from the Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the May Days celebration.

•The Kootenay Lake Historical Society's request for more sand for the upper portion of the beach, larger rocks to be pushed into the lake and open garbage cans to be replaced with animal proof containers were referred to the Public Works Committee for action.

•Jill Braley wrote to council about the burnt out announcers booth at the Kaslo Loggers' Sports site. Braley also expressed concern about the rotting timber benches and requested improvements to the entire area. A suggestion was made that some of the funds realized from the golf course logging could be allocated to this site. The request was referred to the CAO for communication with logging sport volunteers.

•The public wharf will be maintained for transient boat traffic only, and all boats parking for a longer term will be requested to make arrangements for parking elsewhere, or expect to be impounded by the municipality within 30 days.

•Terry Geche applied to council for a DVP to allow construction of a food service establishment. Council will send letters to all affected property owners for comments.

•The Village of Kaslo will write a letter to the federal government urging that it maintain its commitment to the federal Early Learning and Childcare Agreement.

Trailblazers aim to bridge the gap

by Jill Braley

The Kaslo Trailblazers Society's first annual general meeting was held on March 27 and attended by approximately 27 people.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack presented the group with a $7,000 cheque and also pledged volunteer hours. Shadrack encouraged the group to apply through the RDCK for CBT funding as well. Treasurer Val Koenig said an additional $25,000 is needed to match a $55,000 grant application from the Olympic Legacy.

The current bank balance is $22,743 and grants have been applied for from the RDCK, Kaslo's Columbia Basin Trust funding and Mountain Equipment Co-op. The group will partner with North Kootenay Lake Community Services for additional funding through some of the societies that are registered charities.

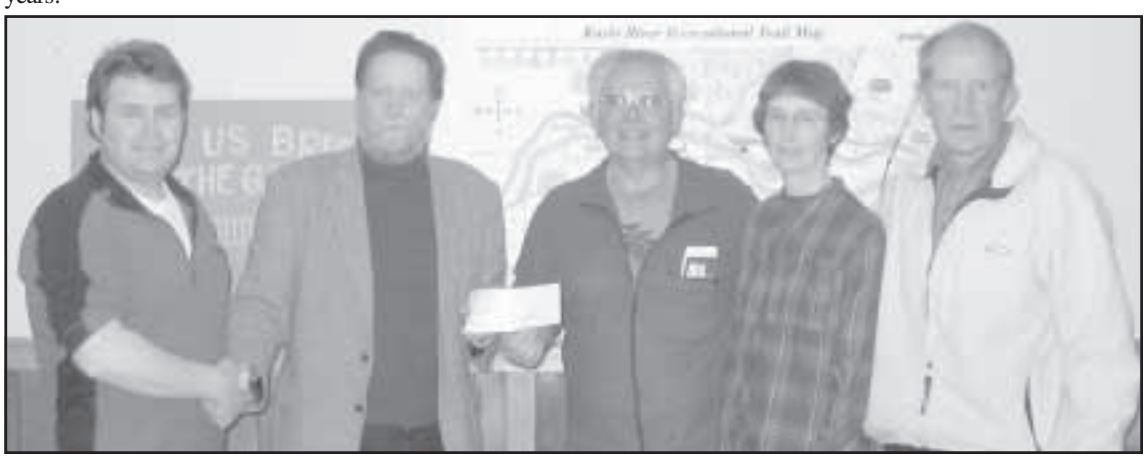
Work completed in 2005 included 1,143 hours from 60 volunteers on a 1.5-km wheelchair accessible trail on the north side. The group has completed one km on the south side with approximately 300-500 metres left to finish.

President Silvio Lettrari said a small amount of work is still needed on the north side of the trail, but this year, most work will be concentrated on the south, which is a more natural trail through the forest that follows the river. This side will not be wheelchair accessible. Both sides will be connected with a pedestrian steel bridge, in the late fall of 2006 or spring of 2007, once funding is received. The bridge will span 106 feet across the river at its narrowest gorge. Pennco (Nelson) engineered it, Hamill Creek Timberwrights drafted the construction plans, and expert volunteers are ready to build. Eventually, the trail will be expanded to include up to the airport.

The public is asked to consider purchasing a 'bridge tread' at $200 each which will be engraved with the sponsor's name. The group has sold 18 bridge treads, out of an available 100, as well as 10 benches and two picnic tables. To assist with fundraising the public can purchase memberships at $10/year, $45/five years or $90/10 years.

Kathy Sparkes will step down as director as she is moving in June and nominated Jill Braley to replace her; the members voted in favour.

The Kaslo Trailblazer Society motto for 2006 is 'Help us Bridge the Gap' — each donation brings them one step closer to building the bridge. For more information please call Val Koenig 353-2168 or Silvio Lettrari 353-2968.



Kaslo Trailblazer Society board members accept a $7,000 cheque from Area D director Andy Shadrack (second from left). President Silvio Lettrari, Shadrack, treasurer Val Koenig, directors Kathy Sparkes and Gerald Garnett.

A crowd came out to walk the Kaslo River dike on Sunday, April 9 in a 'Walk for Water.' Participants also signed postcards to the Prime Minister encouraging our governments to ensure access to clean, affordable water for the world's poor, and to strengthen the role of the public sector and individual communities in setting water policies and delivering and regulating water services.. This is part of a campaign by KAIROS - Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, and its local organizing group. For more information, phone Karen Pidcock, 353-7539.

Kaslo and Area Residents Association holds founding meeting

submitted

The Kaslo and Area D Residents Association (KARA) held its founding meeting April 4. The hall was packed with a cross section of the community, including councillor Richard Jones.

Randy Morse, one of the five founding directors of the association, and chair for the night, read the association's mission statement: "The purpose of the association is to preserve and enhance the livability and quality of life in Kaslo and Area D. This will be done by liaising with the Village of Kaslo Council, representatives of Area D, and any other government or non-governmental body or individuals in a non-partisan fashion on behalf of the residents of Kaslo and Area D."

The statement was approved by those attending the meeting. Issues discussed included the need to keep KARA impartial and to reach out to all people in Kaslo and Area D. Creating a web portal, a regular printed information and discussion newsletter and holding information sessions were all high on people's agendas.

One of the first roles KARA may play is host to a presentation of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Many local people said they knew nothing about the OCP and would like more information about it.

KARA will circulate information about its aims over the next few weeks and will carry out a membership drive. In early May the association will hold a membership evening and elections. Anyone who would like more information or to get involved can call Francesca at 353 2964 or e-mail karakaslo@yahoo.ca.

PHOTO CREDIT: SHEILA FALLE

Kaslo Public Library hosted a celebration of its new automated system on April 11, complete with ribbon cutting. Left to right: Debra Barett (librarian), Ann McNab and Irene Parker (both former board chairs).

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Public Information Meeting May 3

Find out where we've been.

Find out where we can go, and what a Community Forest Agreement can mean for our communities and our forestlands.

Find out how you can make a difference.

There will be opportunities for you to bring forth your ideas and comments. Help shape our long-term future in Kaslo and Area D.

Join us on May 3rd, 7 pm at JV Humphries School in Kaslo

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society www.kaslocommunityforest.org

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

It's trout time again at Gerrard

I'm always surprised at the number of locals who know all the great places to shop, stay or play in the Okanagan or at the coast, yet haven't really got to know the Lardeau Valley very much. Admittedly the shopping ain't great and there are not any big famous name attractions, but it is nearby and makes an interesting day's loop drive. I actually did the 295 km trip as an epic all-day bicycle ride eight years ago on June 21, but believe me, once was enough!

On April 20 I drove my little car around this loop clockwise after completing some minor jobs in Nakusp. Fine day, hazy sun and up to 16 degrees with the roads in good shape. I made a short stop at Halcyon for coffee and had a walk around to see the amazing amount of new cabin, cottage and dining room construction buzzing away. The road is paved highway nearly to Trout Lake and this part of the trip goes fast. Some snow remained at Galena Pass and some busted up timber and rocks remain from earlier avalanches to the roadside.

Trout Lake community itself still had a ton of snow everywhere, with some folks out puttering around in the bare spots, but it really is another climate zone there. After a sorta okay stop at the Windsor Hotel, I went down to the boat launch end of town. Here is an excellent and quite new concrete ramp and dock shaped like a T to act as a breakwater and offer moorage for probably 20 boats, operated and conceived by the Trout Lake Community Association, with Keith at the hotel as the guy to call.

The route, Hwy 31, is gravel now and goes along the east side of Trout Lake for 29 km down to Gerrard, where the Lardeau River drains south to join the Duncan River into Kootenay Lake. This is a fine good gravel road and climbs very high as you skirt the wild lakeshore. Truly breathtaking views to the west show massive snowfields and peaks of the Selkirks and north end of Goat Range Park. I met absolutely no traffic along here and stopped lots to gawk around and get oriented.

There's a narrowish bit of road just north of Gerrard and then you pop out into the small clearing at the long bailey bridge where the Gerrard trout come to court and spark and spawn. There's a viewing platform and info panel here and Rhonda (hope that's right) has been the fish biologist here for 26 years now, spending six weeks on site to monitor the fish, flow, weather and people, and she kindly spend some time explaining to me the patterns. The run occurs earlier nowadays than in the 70s, and milder winters with earlier runoff means that Mother's Day is getting towards the late end of the three to four week run. There were 130 trout hanging out there on April 20, and up to 400 of these horny honeymooners will frolic and fight for favours in the next two weeks.

From Gerrard southwards the road is dead flat, following a former railway bed. There are some long, very straight sections that beg you to speed, but keep in mind deer, bears, raven gangs and odd rocks. Around the 39 km sign is a south-facing sign for the John Fenger Cedar Grove, certainly worth a stop for a look and a good stretch. Way further on I like to detour at the Howser Station turnoff to go two km into Howser Beach, not far past the tiny settlement there. Suddenly the forest parts at the little park and the huge Duncan Lake truck way the hell down at the end of the boat ramp, and large sand dunes to the water's edge. Great rock and driftwood collecting as well. Shoulda brought the van…

Shortly south of here the road again is paved and you may want to make a stop at the large but low Duncan Dam, only a few minutes off route. From Meadow Creek to Kaslo is a beautiful scenic tour, on the west side of the valley and above the lake. There are worthwhile stops at Lardeau, Lost Ledge Park, Schroeder Creek Resort and just go slow and enjoy the cruise through Shutty Bench. This road always delights me and is a favourite day ride for bike riding out from Kaslo.

I stopped at the IGA in Kaslo for snack food and a copy of *Pennywise* to read and kicked back at the beach by the Moyie for food and a beer. The sand felt warm and the lake dead calm with a couple of boats heading out from the bay to go fishing. Over at Kaslo Marina the huge new condo thing actually looks not too bad, though new and out of context with the quiet dignity and serenity of the village proper. Already the jazz festival society is hard at work getting the 06 fest all geared up and tuned in.

Plan to devote a day to driving this loop and enjoy another of our roads less travelled.

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

Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

Pass the Torch or Blow it Out!

It's a chilling thought to most owners of family businesses, but the overwhelming odds are that not long after the founder dies, the company will close up shop or be sold. Unfortunately, the fate of the business is often decided by the banker and lawyer on the way back from the funeral—about four cars back from the flowers!

Tragically, 70% of family businesses do not make it through the second generation and only 10% make it through the third.

Consider the following facts:

-70% of jobs created in Canada are from family businesses.

-60% of the GDP comes from family businesses.

-More than 65% of tax revenues come from family businesses.

-More than 50% of all charitable contributions come from family businesses.

Given these facts, who cares if family businesses succeed? Well, ask any of the widowed, spouses, sons, daughters, employees, suppliers, customers, advisors, governments, charitable recipients—and the list goes on.

If the continuation of the family business is so important to a vital society, why is succession so difficult? Why are family businesses such an endangered species?

The preservation of a family business is the greatest single challenge facing middle-aged owners in this country.

The disappearance of the independent business owner would be a social and economic disaster. Not only is it the embodiment of the North American dream, but vital to our economy. Wealth is created by entrepreneurs.

For these reasons I feel that the single most important task of the president of a family-owned company is to prepare for succession so that the company will survive.

The family business can represent all the hopes and all the dreams, all of the challenges and all of the pain which man is capable of imagining. In order to fulfill the dream, one needs to know that what they created will live on after them.

Prior to beginning a plan for succession you should ask questions like:

Does the founder want to continue family ownership in the business?

Do the spouse or children want to become owners?

Are the children prepared for ownership/leadership?

Will the founder leave the business, or is he/she too attached to consider selling or liquidating?

Is the founder's wealth trapped in the business?

If you identify with these questions, you're not alone. Many families have faced these complex issues and have discovered there is a process that can lead to a successful succession. In some cases succession is not an option within the family. There are other alternatives for continuation of the business that are worth considering.

You had the dream, ability and the guts to build something from nothing. Do you have the courage to accept the fact that perpetuation is also your responsibility?

Don't wait until a rewarding challenge becomes an unnecessary crisis. A successful succession can be the founder's final test of greatness.

It is vital to put some planning and strategies in place. A team of advisors is absolutely necessary. If possible, try to harness the expertise of your accountant, lawyer and financial planner so they work collaboratively with you. This team approach ensures that everyone is working from the same page and that the advice given has been thought through carefully. By preserving your family business, you will create a future for your children, jobs for your community, wealth for yourself and you will leave a legacy instead of a mess.

Tim Affolter CFP CLU ChFC is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. who specializes in financial planning and tax minimization strategies for individuals, professionals and business owners.

GODDAMN GAS PRICES, EH?

Boy are we mad! We've had enough and we're not taking no more! But unless this petroleum profanity somehow ends, then maybe the idea could be to drive less, at least for those local errands...

Come by my place to consider your needs in a new or used bike, or let me show how that good old bike of yours can be made to ride better and feel more comfortable.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Good Food At The Fairway Café

Hello all you food fans. Sorry I didn't get a column in last issue, but I was in Vancouver hanging around at Galleries and in Vietnamese restaurants trying to pin down recipes for Vietnamese soup. More about that another time, but speaking of soup, I'd like to say without further delay that I've found the place which may well have the thickest, richest and tastiest cream of mushroom soup in the Kootenays… maybe in the world! Simply head north from New Denver on highway 6 'till you're approaching Nakusp. On the left you'll see signs for the Nakusp Golf Course. Go there. In the club house you'll find The Fairway Café, and that's where you'll find that fantastic home made soup. The Fairway Café is run by Matt and Heidi McKee. Heidi makes all the food and Matt looks after everything else. They are friendly folks. Between the two of them they have over fifty years of experience in the restaurant biz. You'll like them. The place is roomy and casual. Inside there is seating for thirty or more. Outside are three double size picnic tables under canopies and a covered patio with room for 25.

The menu is, as Matt says, streamlined. I like that because it keeps 'menu stress' to a minimum. There is, of course, the homemade soup. It varies from day to day, so you might have to call ahead if you want to know when the cream of mushroom is being served, but I assure you, all the soups are homemade and delicious. Salads include a big Caesar (yum), Taco salad, and something called a Chicken BLT Salad. There are several appetizers including a Combo Platter boasting five different selections. Sandwiches include the Monte Cristo and the Classic Rueben. Now lets talk about clubhouse sandwiches. Alright then. Heidi offers TWO, count them, TWO kinds of clubhouses. One with smoked turkey and one with roast chicken. On top of that, if you check out the wraps, you'll find a Turkey Club Wrap. So I guess that there are actually THREE clubhouses to choose from. That is just plain BEAUTIFUL. There are six kinds of burgers including a Cordon Bleu burger. There's fish & chips, and halibut to be had, steak and steak sandwiches. You can get a hot dog or a super dog and top it all off with homemade desserts. Breakfasts can be had throughout the day as long as there's room on the grill. What did I have??? Well I started with the large Caesar, then I had a bowl of the magnificent mushroom soup. Then I had the Cordon Bleu burger which was big, bold and delicious. After that, Matt and Heidi forced me to have a big piece of cheese cake dotted with raspberry coulis. I enjoyed every mouthful of this big meal and even had room for a beer.

The Fairway Café has lunch specials each day. Tuesday is Ladies' Night, Thursday is Men's Night. There are dinner specials on these nights and on the weekends. Drinks are served from a roving golf cart…cool! Matt says that many folks who don't play golf show up just for Heidi's cooking. I believe it! Matt and Heidi keep the place open every day from 9 to 7, and the hours expand as the season goes along. I still can't get over the fact that they have three types of clubhouse sandwiches. Next time I'm there I'm going to try all three. Oh yes I can!

"The thickest, richest and tastiest cream of mushroom soup in the Kootenays…maybe in the world."

- Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

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1998 SUBARU LEGACY BRIGHTON SW, AWD, 5 speed, 228,000km, well maintained, roof rack, trailer hitch, new windshield, 1 owner, $7900, 265-4161.

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

COMING EVENTS

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

COTTONWOOD FALLS COMMUNITY MARKET bursts into Spring April 29th, 9:30am-3pm in Nelson. Music by Heartfelt, Tons of Vendors. Come Celebrate (tables 354-1909) www.eco.kics.bc.ca.

WINLAW HALL, April 30/06 9:00am-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.

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

DRAWING & SCULPTURE SHOW @ the Silverton Gallery. Opening April 28, 7PM. The show will run from April 27 - 30, Noon-4PM.

FLEA MARKET Saturday, April 29, 9 am-1 pm, 210 8th Ave., Nakusp Seniors Hall. Indoor and outdoor vendors wanted. Inside if raining. Call Faye 265-0096.

LIVING WILLS WORKSHOP with Mike Sweeny & Kay Costley-White on April 29 from 10 am until 2 pm at the Silverton Gallery. Sponsored by The Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group.

SLOCAN VALLEY GARDENERS: Would you like to share your garden with interested visitors on Sunday June 25th? Slocan Valley Arts Council is seeking participants between Crescent Valley and Slocan City for our Garden tour. Call Pam at 359-7840 before May 20.

CALL FOR VENDORS! The Vallican Whole's Spring Market and Bazaar! Indoor/outdoor venue. May 20th. $10/table. more info - Jen 226-6791.

BOOKS FOR KIDS Parents and kids, come on out to the Success By 6 Book Giveaways and BBQ. Friday April 28, 11:30 - 1:30 in New Denver, outside the Kootenay Savings Credit Union and Saturday April 29, 11:30 - 1:30 at the Crescent Valley Community Centre.

People have donated hundreds of good quality, used children's picture books at their local credit unions. We hope families will drop by and pick up books for your kids, have a bite to eat and learn more about Success By 6. Hope to see you there!

FREEBIES

FREE: Working Microwave Sears 226-7880.

REGISTERMATE 1920 vacuum frame. Call 358-7218.

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THE SILVERY SLOCAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY is now accepting applications for a Curatorial Assistant for summer employment 2006. Eligible applicants must be a registered full-time student during the proceeding academic year and intending to return to full-time studies in the fall. Eligible applicants must be reliable, have good communication, public relations and organizational skills, have computer experience, and work independently with minimal supervision. Position subject to pending approval from HRDC.

Send resumes to Silvery Slocan Historical Society, PO Box 301, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. All applications must be received by Friday, May 26, 2006.

THE SANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY is looking for employees for the position of museum host for the 2006 summer season. Candidates are invited to send cover letter and resume to Box 52, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. OR call Lorna for more information at 358-7965. Transportation available.

NOW HIRING part-time grill and prep cook. The 19th Hole Restaurant. Drop off resume or mail to Box 296, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

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

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International celebration of healing comes to the Kootenays

submitted

For the first time, Canada has won the bid to host the International Breathwork Foundation's annual Global Inspiration Conference (GIC) to be held July 14 to 21 in Nelson.

Local leaders in the field of wellness bid for the conference under the theme of the Hopi Prophecy that says "It is time to speak your truth. Create your community. Be good to each other. And do not look outside yourself for the leader. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration. We are the ones we've been waiting for."

This 13th annual conference will feature inspired speakers, dynamic workshops, spiritual teachers, dance leaders, entertainment, artists and healers from over 25 countries along with time-honoured ceremonies led by inspired Indigenous teachers. Confirmed presenters include Andrew Harvey, Anodea Judith, Saniel Bonder, Dr. Duncan Grady, Dr. PMH Atwater, Karuna Erickson, Master Ou, Amit Goswami, Shayla Wright, the Canadian film premiere of *Sacred Activism* and dozens more!

The organizing group hopes all presenters are conference participants and all participants are potential presenters.

Kaslo's Rubinsky reads at the Langham

submitted

Sometimes running away seems like an attractive solution. In Kootenay author Holley Rubsinsky's new book, *Beyond this point*, it is running away that, ultimately, brings her characters together. Rubinsky read from her novel at the Langham on April 12 as part of a Writers in Libraries tour sponsored by the Public Library Services Branch, BC Ministry of Education and the Kaslo Public Library.

Rubinsky's dazzling debut novel explores, with cleverness and wry wit, the hopes and despair that can surface when we are faced with unavoidable change. *Beyond This Point* (McClelland & Stewart, March 2006) explores the impact that running to the fictional town of Ruth, British Columbia has on the runners and those they run into.

Holley Rubinsky lives in Kaslo. She is the author two published collections of short stories. Her second book, *At First I Hope for Rescue*, was chosen for the Barnes and Noble 'Discover Great New Writers' program. The title story in her first book, *Rapid Transits and Other Stories*, won the inaugural $10,000 Journey Prize and the Canadian National Magazine Award Gold Medal for Fiction.

Kaslo author, Holley Rubinsky gave a reading at the Langham, April 12.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

SPRING REC' GUIDE - Is now out. Available all over the valley if you didn't get one in the mail.

WINLAW PARK CLEAN-UP PARTY - Sunday April 30th 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MAD ABOUT MORELS - Spring mushroom hike. Sunday, May 7th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register today!

TENNIS LESSONS AT MT. SENTINEL - Begin May 16th with Bruce Jackson. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fee: $40/6 weeks

VOLLEYBALL - The game continues at Mt. Sentinel School every Tuesday and Thursday.7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It moves to the outdoor courts as the weather permits.

SPRING RAIL TRAIL BIKE RIDE - Saturday, May 13th. 9:30 to 1:30 between Passmore and Perrys Siding

FROG PEAK PAINTING DAY - Paint the Peak for all around. Sat. May 27th. 10 a.m. to 4p.m.

GOING FOR A ROCK WALK - New instructor, new locations - Sat. May 27th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at Slocan Park Hall.

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Voices from the Writers' Fest

Tuition fees too high

To advance anywhere today, we need to further our education. But with the lack of government support, the rising cost of tuition fees, and the rising cost of living, the cost of getting an education is getting to be too expensive. Going to university for one year costs at least $15,000. Even with a $10,000 government loan (if you qualify), at least $5000 remains to be paid.

Parents have other bills and usually other children to look after. Students have to compete for already hard-to-get scholarships. If students go to school the same year they graduate, they're at a disadvantage. This leaves only the summer to work, putting a great burden on students. Even then, most are under-trained, getting paid low wages. The government should step in to reduce the cost of constantly rising tuition. Then, more students would be able to get an education and would graduate without a heavy debt, currently averaging about $50,000 for four years of study.

As the saying goes: "Our children are our future." Without a sufficiently educated work force, the country begins to lose a grip in new areas of all sectors — technology, health, etc. — thus reducing the country as a whole.

Brian Magnuson

BOOMTOWN EMPORIUM SPORTS
GRAND OPENING PARTY
Friday, May 5
Hot refreshments till 7 pm
Saturday, May 6
pancake breakfast 9-11 pm,
coffee all day

University French?

Although the use of both English and French promotes tolerance and cultural understanding, the necessity to learn both for entrance into university is absurd.

I understand that Canada will always have both English and French. I respect that. In government, I realize it is necessary. But, needing a second language to even apply for most univer-sities is unnecessary. True, universities accept almost any second language: German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, etc. But oftentimes, in rural areas such as our own, the only feasible option is French. However, the ability to speak and understand French in areas where English is very much the primary tongue has little purpose. It is unfair that students are not able to attend university just because they failed to complete French 11 — especially in the English-dominated west.

Basically, the question boils down to: why? Why do I, or any other student, really need to know French? Yes, I admit that learning the language is both very practical and valuable. It is certainly a good thing to know. But it should not be a necessary thing to know.

Kezia Deacur

ATVs should be allowed on Galena Trail

I don't see a problem with ATVs on the Galena Trail and I'm wondering why it isn't allowed. I know ATVs can be dangerous, but there are people who really know how to ride these machines, too.

Having the Galena Trail open to ATVers can be helpful. It can help people save money on gas. It also could be easier on parents. For example, kids on the golf team could get to the golf course by ATV and save the parents the trip and the gas. Not only can it be helpful, but also lots of fun. I'm sure plenty of people would enjoy it.

As long as ATVers drive at a reasonable speed and are cautious of people walking the trail, I think ATV riding should be allowed on Galena Trail.

Nick Reitmeier

Extend lunch hour at Lucerne

Lucerne Secondary School's lunch break is far too short.

If you are unfamiliar with the school's timetable, you will be surprised to know that lunch is only 45 minutes! This abbreviated lunch break is only long enough to go get lunch from downtown or at home, eat at a reasonable pace, and relax for ten minutes.

I would propose two options. The first is that the school drop two minutes from each class. This would make classes 60 minutes long instead of the strange 62. Then they should take that extra ten minutes and add it to lunch.

If my first proposal doesn't fly for whatever reason, then my second is that the school drop our ten-minute recess and add that to lunch.

Allan Shepherd-Maika

New Denver needs a skatepark

Throughout the years, kids have been getting in trouble for biking or skateboarding on people's property. A skatepark would take kids away from the streets. Every now and again, I see kids riding the barricade at Mountainberry. This pulls customers away from the local business.

Teenagers in this little community are always complaining about the lack of things for them to do. I'm sure that even people who don't ride a bike or skateboard would be more than glad to hang out at a skatepark and watch.

Across from the school would be a great location.

Darrin Hicks

Dress code?

Lucerne School should have a written dress code that everyone abides by. Either this or students wear what they like, or we get uniforms.

Eva Shandro

Get rid of the N

The driving age in British Columbia should be lowered. Get rid of the N system because it makes no difference. Teens need freedom and responsibility.

Amy Schpakowski

Scrap Jumbo Resort

Wildlife aside, there isn't enough water for 10,000 people. Hike or ski to the glacier if you want to ski in August.

Ray Schuff

Lower the drinking age

I believe the drinking age should be lowered. I think most people are mature enough at 18. So therefore, please lower the age.

Daniel Delaney

Drinking age

I think that the legal drinking age should be 14 because most people start drinking at age 13 anyway.

Ryan Pownall

Improve school lounge

The school needs to improve its lounge. If they put effort into it, then the overall look of the school would improve.

Erika Turner

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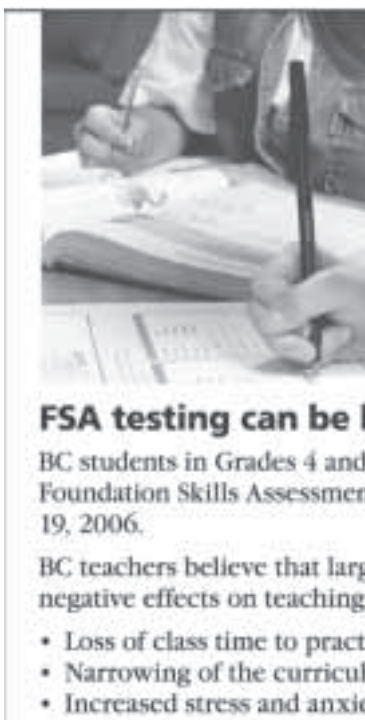

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BC students in Grades 4 and 7 are scheduled to take the Foundation Skills Assessment tests between May 8 and 19, 2006.
BC teachers believe that large-scale tests have many negative effects on teaching and learning. These include:
• Loss of class time to practice tests
• Narrowing of the curriculum and teaching methods
• Increased stress and anxiety among students
Teachers are so concerned that we are advising parents to withdraw their children from the tests. All it takes is a written request to the school principal.
For more information, visit bctf.ca/FSA
A message from the concerned teachers of the Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association