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

Kevin Steele gets six years for fraudulent investment scheme

by Jan McMurray

Kevin J. Steele, who defrauded 229 people of approximately Cdn$10.3 million in an investment scam that swept through the New Denver area, was sentenced to six years imprisonment on June 19 in the Nakusp courthouse. Steele pleaded guilty to the fraud charge on May 16.

While handing down the sentence, Judge Sperry of Rossland described Steele as "an economic predator" who "devastated people emotionally and financially, divided families, and caused guilt, shame and anger." He said that Silverton and New Denver were "pillaged" by Kevin Steele.

For restitution, Justice Sperry said that the Cdn$70,000 plus US$20,000 Steele delivered to his counsel after the scam had been exposed should be paid out pro rata to the investors.

Although the Justice acknowledged the restitution orders made by the federal district court in Illinois last year, Sperry said, "I am going to decline to make a restitution order other than monies I know the victims can get. I feel compelled because of the length of the sentence, and the limited likelihood of his [Steele's] ability to fill the order."

When the fraud was discovered in May last year, a total of about $242,000 in Steele's US accounts was ordered to be paid to the Receiver General of Canada to be paid in restitution. Defense counsel, Leonard Doust, told the court that this arrangement was not legally workable and suggested the American court change the order so that the money would be paid to the court in Nakusp and distributed pro rata to the investors. Last year, the US court also ordered that Steele pay over US$7 million in restitution.

Crown counsel, Michael Van Klaveren, gave the circumstances of the case, going back to 2000-2002 when Steele was living in Mexico with his wife at the time and her family. Steele told the family he was a financial planner, and then lost over US$450,000 the family gave him to invest. Steele admitted to the family he lost it all, but said he would go to Canada and make the money to pay it back.

In July 2002, Steele returned to Victoria and met with his old friend, David Shannon. Steele told Shannon he was a successful commodity pool trader. They formed a partnership whereby they would split the profit 50-50. Shannon invested $40,000; Steele contributed his "expertise." Steele opened trading accounts in the US through a brokerage company, Interactive Brokers (IBL). Shannon and 11 others from Vancouver Island invested further, with Steele fabricating monthly statements using IBL letterhead.

David Fulkco, originally from New Denver, was also an old friend of Steele's and was a key member of the Vancouver Island group. Steele formed another partnership with Fulkco, who got his father and other family members involved. David and his father, Wally, who lives in New Denver, mortgaged their houses and over 2003-2004, invested about $355,000. Between November 2003 and May 2005, Fulkco signed up 200 customers from the New Denver area, the US, Japan and Europe, and collected US$7 million.

Van Klaveren said that David Fulkco did very well by the partnership, to the tune of $500,000, sharing in what he believed to be profits.

During the sentencing, Judge Sperry said, "Shannon and Fulkco were the duped agents of Steele."

Steele collected a total of US$8.1 million in investor funds from all sources. Of this, US$7.7 million went through the IBL trading account, so some of the money never made it into the system. Steele lost $4.3 million trading, and US$3.6 million went to Steele in withdrawals from the trading account.

The forensic audit revealed that Steele's expenditures between february 2004 and June 2005 included dining ($386,065); jewels and clothing ($258,000); home decor ($128,000); entertainment ($87,000); trips to Hawaii and California ($31,000), trip to Mexico ($31,000) and payments to his girlfriend, Natasha Beckow, of $150,000.

Crown counsel argued that Steele should get 6-8 years in prison. Van Klaveren said the fraud was premeditated and/or deliberate and that personal greed was a significant factor. He also said it had a devastating, catastrophic impact on the victims, who filled up three large binders with their Victim Impact Statements.

Van Klaveren read eight of the statements, a videotaped statement was shown, and four victims read their statements to the court. Their stories told of how the fraud had affected them financially, emotionally and physically. Many lost their retirement or life savings. Many cited loss of self confidence and self respect, feelings of shame, suicidal thoughts, broken marriages and health issues.

David Fulkco's statement, read by Van Klaveren, described his past year as "one of living hell," with investors targeting him for their anger because Steele could not be contacted. "I have lost my home, all my possessions. I am financially ruined...I have lost the trust and respect of friends," his statement said.

Defense counsel Leonard Doust argued that Steele should get 4 or 5 years, painting Steele as a naive young man with no court record, who was not a true fraudsman. As ridiculous as it was, he really believed he could recoup his losses and make good on his promises, claimed Doust. He argued that if Steele had just wanted money, he would have simply taken the cash instead of continuing to trade and lose on the market.

During the sentencing, Judge Sperry said it can be just as well be argued that Steele was enamored with being a day trader, had sold people on that image, had taken $2 million of the investors' funds and purchased all the material things that go along with the job, so he had to keep trading.

"How many Kevin Steeles are out there that think it's worth doing time to wear a Cartier watch and drive a Porsche? I want to prove it's not worth it," said Justice Sperry.

Also, defense argued that Steele did not know the people contributing to the pool and assumed they were sophisticated investors who were aware of the market. Justice Sperry said he could find no rationale for this assumption, and even if it were correct, the investors would expect honest and correct statements.

Doust told the court that Steele had recognized he had a problem before the scam was discovered, and sought counselling. During counselling, he did an exercise where he wrote out apologies to his victims, but these were never sent.

Justice Sperry likened this to "paying a debt to a dead man by placing a cheque in his coffin," and noted that Steele had "only gotten around to apologizing this afternoon in this courtroom."

Steele delivered his apology at the end of the afternoon session. He said he felt remorse and shame, and would always carry the pain caused by his actions after reading the Victim Impact Statements and hearing them in the courtroom. "My conduct makes me sick," he read. He stated that he had taken full ownership of his actions, was taking a personal moral inventory and seeking professional help.

Burton School to stay open in 2006/07

Decision on outdoor education program to come soon

by Jan McMurray

After overwhelming public oppposition to the closure of Burton Elementary School (BES), the school board has decided to keep the school open for next year. It will be re-configured from K-4 to K-5, to help the school maintain its current enrollment of 11.5 students. The board will also begin a district-wide community consultation process in the fall to look at "educational service delivery within a diminishing financial reality within the district."

Although the decision to keep the school open and to do extensive public consultation in 2006/07 was not made official until a special meeting June 13, board chair Pattie Adam announced it at the outset of the June 7 public meeting on the potential closure of BES.

"This is the beginning of a dialogue we will have with the community because it's not just enrollment in Burton that's declining, but in the whole district," she said. "Everybody is excited about the outdoor education idea and so are we, and we will commit to doing it properly and that takes planning and time."

Many people at the well attended meeting thanked the board for its decision to keep the school open another year, but also urged it to go ahead with the outdoor school in the fall.

Since the meeting, the board has directed administration (superintendent Walter Posnikoff and BES principal George Harding) to report on the feasibility and viability of a pilot outdoor education program at BES by June 22.

At the June 7 meeting, trustee Judy Struck said she had reservations about making next year's class at BES a K-5 with one teacher, describing it as "not my optimum desire personally" but promised to vote to keep it open another year while looking at options. "History shows that parents want the opportunity for larger social groupings," she said.

Harding, BES principal, replied that perhaps the multi-grade class was not the best, "but it is workable and it will keep this school open another year." Adam added that the district was lucky to have a teacher who could take on the challenge.

A letter from teacher Ben Sopow was read out, as he was not able to attend the meeting. He thanked the board for keeping the school open another year and for planning the community consultation process. He also said "the board needs to act now" on the outdoor education school.

Several members of the public spoke up to agree with Sopow, including a mother who has been searching for alternative education for her 10-year-old boy, who "wants this so bad" and another mother who asked for a decision by the end of the month to quell the "emotional roller coaster" for her family.

A survey of Nakusp, Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood parents of current grades 4/5 students showed 30 parents in favour of their children attending an outdoor education program at BES. A total of 80 surveys were distributed, with 47 returned.

A preliminary look at the costs of running an outdoor program at BES showed that bussing children from Nakusp, Edgewood and Fauquier to BES would be the biggest cost, at about $45,515. This translates into the loss of about .8 of a teacher's position between Nakusp and Edgewood Elementary Schools.

Lucerne teacher Katrina Sumrall gave a quick summary of the outdoor school program she and Leslie Leitch had planned. She said the two classes would read the same novels, communicate with one another through telecommunications, and meet up with one another at Summit Lake for activites such as frog studies. "We will make it rich and wonderful for the students, showing them how they fit into this world," she said. "We have planned a year, DPAC has surveyed the parents, and there is a lot of enthusiasm."

Leitch added that the program did not represent a radical change. "The bussing is the change," she said. "Lots of people teach this way all the time, emphasizing the outdoors."

Katherine Drobot was among the 50 graduates from Nakusp Senior Secondary School, June 10. Mt. Sentinel held their graduation exercises on June 16. Details inside, pages 9-12.

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Long-awaited ambulance meeting a let-down, say local mayors

by Jan McMurray

After trying since February, Nakusp mayor Karen Hamling was finally able to set up a face-to-face meeting with BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) senior staff on June 13. Hamling arranged the meeting because there has been much concern about the level of ambulance service in Nakusp and New Denver in recent months.

In attendance were mayors Hamling and Wright, BCAS staff members Bob Gallaher, Norm Bickel and Tony Arimare, and the president and vice-president of the paramedics union. MLA Corky Evans was unable to attend because of a scheduling conflict.

"We discussed matters ranging from local management issues to how to best provide improved ambulance service to rural and remote areas like ours, and their implications for the province," said New Denver mayor Gary Wright.

When asked if he felt any progress was made at the meeting, Wright answered, "Phyllo of Alexandria once said: 'Be kind, for everyone is fighting a great battle.' After meeting with BC Ambulance Service, I'm honestly not sure yet if they are fighting a great battle for us."

Hamling said, "I left the meeting feeling that the management issues in Nakusp were going to be dealt with, but I have since found out that that only part of them are. It feels to me like some backtracking is happening here. They can bring in as many people as they want and train as many as they want, but until they deal with the management issues, we will not retain ambulance people in this town.

"I am very disappointed and will be taking this further," she added.

Recruiting and keeping people on the job has been a challenge for both communities. The unit chief position for the Nakusp station has been vacant for quite some time. Hamling has spoken out at a few Nakusp council meetings about the unacceptably low number of ambulance shifts covered.

At the May 9 New Denver council meeting, it was brought to council's attention that the New Denver ambulance crew was down to just three active members, making it very difficult to deliver adequate round-the-clock service.

As a stop gap measure in Nakusp, BCAS has recently asked paramedics from surrounding stations to cover four-hour shifts in Nakusp and get paid about $100 for it. This has created a morale issue within the Nakusp crew, said Hamling, because workers in our "remote" communities are paid only $2 per hour to be on call. "I appreciate them trying to do something, but if the money is there to do that, why isn't it there to pay our local workers decently?" she asked.

Paramedics in "rural" communities receive an on-call rate of $10 per hour, but have to be at the station while on call. In "remote" communities, workers on call carry the pager while going about their daily lives. The distinction between rural and remote depends on the annual call volumes. Hamling reported that Nakusp has 379 call outs annually, and the threshold to become classified as "rural" is 400.

Local government officials and others have made many suggestions on how to attract more people to the job in our communities.

"I think we have to look at everything from paid training, new recruitment policies, review of standards for attendants, more flexible working conditions and on-call pay issues," said Wright.

The paramedics union representatives at the meeting suggested that remote communities could have 'community paramedics,' who would visit elderly people to help them with things such as medications and dressing changes while on call.

Hamling also reported that Deb Austin, site manager at Arrow Lakes Hospital, has suggested that paramedics work at the hospital while on call.

MLA Corky Evans recently spoke out in the legislature on the issue. He pointed out that the population of our villages swells during the tourist season, and asked if the government would consider "a seasonal adjustment for smaller communities to serve them with a contractual allowance..." Minister of Health George Abbott replied, "We're prepared to look at it. But again, we don't have all the money in the world, and it's important that we allocate resources appropriately."

Hydro cosults public about Arrow Lakes boat ramps

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro (BCH) officials visited Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood last week to get ideas on how and where to build boat launches that would be useable year-round, at all water levels, in the three communities. Public meetings were held June 12 and 13.

At the Edgewood meeting, community member Jim Forbes presented the plans for the solution the community supports, and Area K director Paul Peterson provided BCH reps with the engineer's plans for the project. At the Burton and Fauquier meetings, community members gave suggestions for a few possible new locations for launches in the two communities. Hydro reps said they would be back in about two months to present their findings about the community's ideas. Reps were also able to visit the suggested sites with Area K director Paul Peterson while they were here.

Since the reservoir was created in the late '60s with the building of the dams, people in these Arrow Lakes communities have been unhappy with many aspects of living with reservoir levels that fluctuate about 60' from high to low water. One of their complaints for all these years has been that the boat launches BCH built for them become useless at low water levels. So, although the public was generally happy to have some dialogue on the boat ramps, there was a distinct feeling of mistrust. There was also confusion over the recent Water Comptroller's order and the Water Use Plan (WUP) process.

The confusion comes from the fact that the Water Comptroller issued an order to BCH to provide access to the reservoir [i.e. boat launches] under clause m of BCH's water licence on January 23 of this year. Meanwhile, over the past three or four years, there has been a water use planning process that has resulted in recommendations for improving or replacing the boat launches on the reservoir.

Although the two things seem to be very similar, BCH officials tried to explain that they were in fact different, and that these meetings were more relevant to the WUP than to the order. They acknowledged that it was confusing, and tried to get the public to focus on what they wanted rather than on the order or the WUP.

"The fact that we got the order during this process is bad timing," explained Harry Brownlow, BC Hydro rep from Burnaby. "From our perspective, we are just trying to meet the needs of the public, and we are hoping the Water Comptroller is too."

He explained that the Water Comptroller was now working on a second order to tell BCH to act on the WUP recommendations. "The old order is one thing, and the new one is everything we want," said Brownlow.

The "old" order under clause m requires the company to submit "terms of reference" by July 23. Brownlow said BCH planned to submit the original plans for the existing boat launches built in the '60s and '70s to satisfy this requirement. He indicated that plans for the new ramps would be part of the second order under the WUP, and BCH was trying to prepare in advance for this by holding these community meetings. He said that once the Comptroller had issued the second order, there would be a 60-day public consultation period. He encouraged people to contact the Water Comptroller during that period with their input, and said the Comptroller had been invited to these meetings, but had declined, indicating he would come at a later date.

When pressed for a timeline for dealing with the boat launches, Brownlow said he really did not know, but hoped the order under the WUP would be issued soon, followed by the consultation period, and then tendering and awarding the contract. However, he said, water levels during the work would have to be taken into consideration, and we might have to wait for a low water year.

Community members also asked about liability and budget issues, but were told these are decisions to be made by the Water Comptroller.

And of course, the question "Shouldn't you guys leave us some water?" was asked once again. Brownlow explained that BC Hydro had to look at power and flood control needs, and work within the terms of the Columbia River Treaty. He said we should see slightly higher water levels until 2011 because the non-treaty storage agreement had expired and 100% of the water has to be replaced into storage.

The Edgewood solution

by Jan McMurray

In Edgewood, the existing ramp is in the bay at the park/campground with a creek on either side of it. During low water, a very large peninsula appears, jutting out into the bay beside the ramp. When there is a south wind, dirt from the peninsula is stirred up and silt settles in the harbour, covering up the ramp. The peninsula is thus eroding away.

"The only way to make the current boat ramp feasible would be constant ongoing dredging of the bay and I doubt the Department of Fisheries and Oceans would let you do that," said Area K director Paul Peterson in a telephone interview.

Edgewood's idea for a solution is to build the boat ramp on the peninsula, shoring it up with rock riprap. The community successfully applied for $5,000 in grants and hired WSA Engineering out of Castlegar last year to draw up the plans.

The plan addresses not just year-round boat access, but also the erosion of the peninsula. It also addresses the problem that the one creek (Eagle) does not reach the lake during low water, making it impossible for the kokanee to spawn. To fix this, part of the plan is to build a channel for Eagle Creek.

Peterson and community member Jim Forbes reported that Bruce MacDonald from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) had come out to the site, seen the plans and drawings, and was very positive.

Gordon Boyd, BC Hydro plant manager for Keenleyside and Duncan Dams, said he had seen the plans last August and had some concerns. First, the rock riprap material is on the other side of Eagle Creek and a road would have to be built to get the rock to the sandbar. He was also concerned about how much riprap it would take to stabilize the eroding peninsula. The WSA study says 330,000 metres, but Boyd questioned if that would be enough in low water. He was also concerned about how much the project would cost. The WSA plan estimated the cost at $886,000.

In the end, BCH reps took the WSA plans and promised to submit them to the Water Comptroller. They also said they would have a marine engineer with experience with fluctuating water levels have a look at the plan and cost it out. They would also talk to DFO and the Ministry of the Environment.

McDonald Creek Park boat launch extended

A partnership between BC Hydro and BC Parks has led to the completion of the McDonald Creek Park boat launch extension. Completed at the end of May, the McDonald Creek Park boat launch now extends an additional 224 feet into Arrow Lakes reservoir. The newly extended launch now totals almost 430 metres in length.

"Since the boat launch is located in a class A provincial park, BC Parks was the lead on this initiative," said BC Hydro environmental and social issues specialist, Harry Brownlow.

BC Parks organized the project, and BC Hydro paid for it.

"Because BC Hydro needed to make some improvements to the McDonald Creek Park boat launch as part of our Columbia River Water Use Plan, we were pleased to be able to partner with BC Parks on this project." said Brownlow.

Zeisman charged in car accident

by Jan McMurray

One charge of dangerous driving has been laid against Derek Zeisman in connection to a serious motor vehicle accident on December 20 last year, just south of Castlegar.

Zeisman was the Conservative Party candidate for the Southern Interior riding in the federal election last fall. He was all over the news in the election campaign because it was uncovered that he allegedly tried to smuggle a 1989 Mercedes-Benz and 112 containers of liquor across the border from the US into BC in 2004.

The December 20 car accident put Zeisman in Trail hospital with a broken femur, pelvis and ribs and a collapsed lung. The young woman in the other car involved in the accident was also injured.

Zeisman will appear in Castlegar court in July.

Central Kootenay Regional District

The next Regular meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Central Kootenay will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2006 at 9:30 am at the Silverton Memorial Hall, 203 Lake Avenue, Silverton, BC.

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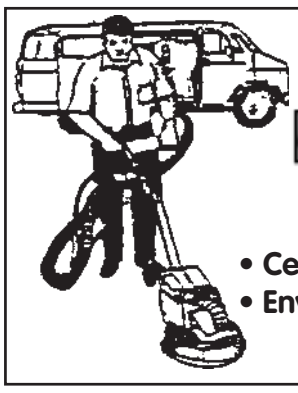
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Klondike Silver to bring mining back to the Slocan Valley

by Jan McMurray

Klondike Silver Corporation is gearing up to put the mill at Sandon into first-class shape and to launch an extensive exploration program, according to senior managers who were in town last week.

Richard Hughes, president of the company, explained that the company has started a $300,000 preliminary geophysical, geochemical assessment of its properties. Aeroquest International has just completed flying key areas of the holdings. Dr. Trygve Hoy is lead geologist and is very familiar with all of southeastern BC, including the Slocan area, and Dan Wehrle is the onsite geologist in charge.

There will be three geological exploration crews. Ten local people have been hired to date and the company will need another ten. They are looking for mill operators, backhoe operators, miners and field staff.

Leonard Palmer is mine manager, and he has been busy purchasing equipment needed for the work. He is still looking for a dump truck, a loader and electrical generators to supplement the company's six diesel generators.

"We anticipate that we will be utilizing BC Hydro in approximately 60 days and will use as much electrical power as possible to avoid using diesel fuel, which will be a major cost and environmental savings," said Hughes.

Hughes is very optimistic about his Slocan land holdings. "We have acquired 80% of the best land in the Slocan Valley, extending from the Enterprise/Arlington property near Enterprise Creek north to adjacent to Whitewater," he said.

Hughes said a geochemistry survey done on the south side of Carpenter Creek in the summer of 2004 found eight new perspective silver zones to trench. Two have been trenched and sampled, with positive silver results of up to 130 ozs of silver per tonne. The other six zones will be trenched this season. "And we expect to find many more potential silver/lead/zinc zones to trench," added Hughes.

"Historically, there are 10 mines on our properties that government records in Victoria tell us produced 24 million ounces of silver, plus the same dollar value of lead and zinc. And they only had hammers back then. With modern exploration methods, we expect a high degree of success in finding new zones and potentially new ore bodies," said Hughes.

He added that 80% of the ground is covered by overburden (trees, gravel) and has never been looked at. "Out of eight zones to trench two years ago, the two we trenched hit very good silver values," he reminded.

Hughes said he first came to the area 25 years ago, and has been quietly acquiring land here for the last 7-8 years.

Hughes owns Golden Sceptre and Goliath Gold Mines, the companies that made the Hemlo discovery. The stocks of the two companies went from 25¢ to over $90 in two years. His companies have also put into production Belmoral Mines and the Sleeping Giant gold property in Quebec, as well as Alamo's Gold in Mexico.

Klondike is now focusing on silver, and has over 65 other projects in Canada. The company is also involved in silver and gold exploration in Mexico.

"We're here to stay and to develop mining in southeastern BC," said Hughes. "We have been well received by the community."

Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts outdoes itself again

submitted

The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society (VSSFAS) is getting ready for another busy summer.

To start off with, the society's fundraising concert series *Sounds in Silverton* wraps up with its final concert — The Garland Trio & Friends – June 25, 2006 at 7pm at the Silverton Gallery. Admission is by donation. The performers are all from New Denver or Silverton, and have played together in a variety of combinations over the past few years. The program will include music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Mozart, A. Rowley and Tchaikovsky.

There will be a special reception following the program. Once again, there will be a selection of fabulous German cakes made by community members that people can purchase to enjoy at the event, or to take home. All proceeds go directly to help keep our programs running. Please note the change in time (7 pm, not 4 pm) and the concert will take place at the Silverton Gallery.

VSSFAS has expanded to a four-week long event this summer. It starts off with its newest program, entitled ViSTA (Valhalla School of Theatre Arts), a drama program for 8-14 year olds at the Silverton Gallery from July 17–22. Wonderful instructors from Calgary and Nelson should make an exciting addition to the VSSFAS family of summer events for kids. The application form is available at www.vssm.org.

The Suzuki Valhalla Institute (SVI) will be held during the week of August 6–11. This is the program's second year and it is full to capacity. Observers are welcome and all performances will be open to the public.

Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM) will run for its eighth season August 13–18. This originally small music camp now attracts students from as far west as Japan (the first overseas participant), as far east as Ontario and Connecticut, as far north as Edmonton and as far south as California. This year VSSM has several fun and exciting classes that are open to the community at large. There is the Children's Music Program for children ages 3-9; Family Choir for parents and their children (no singing experience required); Orchestra and Chamber Music Class, open to kids or adults who only want to do a part of the VSSM program; Music Appreciation Class – a one-hour class open to any interested students and adults who wish to expand their knowledge of musical periods, forms and composers; Adult Choir, for people who have had some previous singing experience. The fabulous Allison Girvan is back again this year for both choirs. For those who just like to listen to great music and/or great musicians in the making, you can purchase Faculty Concert Tickets, General Auditor Passes or Observer Day Passes. Admission to the rest of the concerts during the week is by donation. To register for any of the above, contact Heather Huether at 358-2261, ASAP.

The Valhalla Intensive Performance Program (VIP), held from August 21-25, rounds out this summer's events. This is its fifth year, and is a program that lets students hone their skills as soloists or as chamber musicians depending on which class they choose to attend. An exciting addition this year to the VIP Program is a Fiddling Workshop. It is a two-hour class and is accepting any violin student (adult or child) at any level. This class will be team-taught by Ben Plotnick and Brie Faulks. Contact Heather Huether for information at 358-2261 – leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as she can.

VSSFAS wants community members to be a part of these wonderful programs. The instructors are world class and the students are absolutely inspiring – so come out and join in!

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Voices from the Valleys

Why can't we get real food in our hospitals and health care centres?

On the few occasions that I've been confined to hospital over the course of my life, I have not been favourably impressed with the quality of their food. Most of the time, it's rather bland, and generally overcooked. As a general rule, I don't like institutional food, so I try to avoid spending much time in places where people try to make me eat it. One of the few things that I like less than hospital food is TV dinners.

I must admit that I grew up in a TV dinner-deprived household, so I never had an opportunity to taste these strange 'meals within a microwavable package' until I was an adult. I have only eaten three TV dinners ever, so perhaps I'm not an expert. Actually, the figure is only two and a half, since I threw out half of the first one that I tried. The other two were eaten in social situations where that was not an option.

That's probably why I was so happy to foist the task of reviewing the IHA Dinners at Home™ program onto my intrepid food editor, Andrew Rhodes. It has always been my opinion that these TV dinners for hospitals are a bad idea and I felt it would be better to send in someone without my editorial bais.

If hospitals are places where we send injured people to get better, wouldn't it make more sense to feed patients locally-grown fresh food, prepared on site? Instant potatoes (grown and processed God only knows where), reconstituted in Penticton, flash frozen and shipped to our local health centre to be microwaved and served to unwitting patients hardly strikes me as an inspired policy for health-care reform. As a cost-cutting measure, it only succeeds because of cheap oil. When one considers the cost to patients' health from eating this junk, one can't help being outraged that our tax dollars are being wasted on this.

I'm not sure why the IHA is trying to flog these 'meals,' to the general public. If you're in a hospital, you generally have to eat what they bring you. If institutional food was really that good, private enterprise would have found a way to package and market it to us long ago. I'm not convinced that freezing it in some distant factory and shipping it to New Denver will make it any more palatable than making it in the institution.

What I do know is that you can buy TV dinners for less money than a Dinner at Home™ from IHA. And all the ingredients are listed on the package.

Furthermore, I can walk into any of the fine restaurants in town and buy a meal for less than the $6.00 that IHA charges for one of their Dinners at Home™ . And I get a choice of bread.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Open letter to Kaslo council: don't shut down Crooked Cafe

If Kaslo wants to earn the title of the most uptight little town in BC, if not in Canada, then go ahead and revoke the Crooked Cafe's liquor license.

What right do you, who do not frequent the place, have to spoil everyone else's fun? If noise level is the problem, the solution is simple: set an acceptable decibel level and equip the RCMP with a decibel meter.

I enjoy the Crooked Cafe and everything it has to offer, including its availability to people of all ages. What I do not see to be very fair is the fact that an RCMP officer is frequently literally standing beside the door, waiting with notebook in hand, to commit to paper all and any minor infractions, and telling me that the Crooked Cafe is treading on thin ice. For what? For trying to make a living and offering good service to its many patrons.

Is fun in Kaslo always to be *verboten*? Smarten up council. You've already trashed our beautiful wild beach, now you are forbidding free enterprise because people are having too much fun.

Olwen J. Byatt
Kaslo

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor on any topic of interest to our readers. All letters must be signed and have a daytime phone number.

We will not publish anonymous letters, nor may you use a pseudonym, except in extraordinary circumstances. We will not knowingly publish any letter which is defamatory or libellous.

Please type your letter, and e-mail it if possible. Many handwritten letters are impossible to read. Any letter may be edited for brevity.

Opinions expressed in published letters are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Valley Voice*.

No Questions Asked

Recently our Conservative defence minister, Gordon O'Connor, made the fascinating announcement on the radio that Canada is not at war in Afghanistan.

When queried, he made an unintentionally very funny attempt to define "being at war" in a way that excluded Canada. He failed, of course, and had to bluster his way out.

This is an example of why Stephen Harper has to neutralize our journalists. He will increasingly do things that most Canadians are against (e.g., involvement in the US missile shield fiasco, even more military spending and warring for Bush, cutting down on public access to information) and he'll want to do these things as swiftly and silently as possible, no questions asked.

For the same reasons, neo-conservatives here and in the US can't wait to have the internet under their control. They will give other high-sounding excuses, of course, but it's really about removing the major platform for dissident opinion.

One of the essential foundations of a democracy is an informed citizenry. By trying to tame the press, and at the same time spending millions on public relations firms, the Conservatives are trying to kill the truth of what they are doing and substitute an acceptable fantasy in the public mind. They are therefore not champions of democracy, but enemies of it. Are these the people you want to govern Canada ?

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Ambulance understaffed

Our local ambulance detachment has been seriously understaffed for several years, and New Denver is not alone in this predicament. In fact, our crew has often been called on to be on standby for Nakusp due to its own staffing problems. The predictable end result of this is that the remaining skeleton staff are reaching 'burnout' stage and are just not able to carry on being on-call 24/7.

The result is that New Denver has had significant periods of lack of coverage by our local crew this spring. Like many other communities, we have had ambulance responders from other communities, with a longer response time.

Unfortunately, I understand a small minority of people have chosen to further magnify the stress by scapegoating the remaining, loyal crew members who have been doing their best for a long time with little support. Some of them are patients of mine and I know the adverse effect this can have on their health. I would like to give my thanks to these crew members who have been doing what is essentially volunteer work with little recognition for many years. I also support their right to a safe and reasonable work environment with adequate training and compensation for the job they do.

To those who would abuse our ambulance crew members for not further sacrificing their own health due to overwork: please consider what these people have done for our community over the years. Better still, volunteer yourself to get the training and become part of the solution.

Dr. C. Burkholder
New Denver

It's all about the pipeline

Many Canadians are understandably worried about the open-ended nature of Canada's military commitment in Afghanistan. In spite of Conservative MP Jim Abbott's assurance that our objectives are to create "peace, freedom and development," the reality is as always, a little more complicated.

In 1997, the American based oil company Unocal was negotiating with the Taliban to construct a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Afghanistan to Pakistan. This Central Asia Gas (CentGas) pipeline was temporarily abandoned in 1998 due to the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan.

In December 2002, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan signed an agreement to build the Trans-Afghanistan pipeline (TAP) that would see gas from Turkmenistan flow to energy hungry markets in Pakistan and India.

My understanding is that this new pipeline will follow the Herat-Kandahar highway through Kandahar City then on to Quetta and Multan in Pakistan. Not coincidentally, the pipeline route passes through British controlled Helmand Province, Australian controlled Oruzgan Province and Canadian controlled Kandahar Province .

In addition to maintaining American air superiority over the pipeline route, for the project to succeed there must be a stable security situation on the ground. I believe one of the primary objectives for NATO in southern Afghanistan is to provide security for the pipeline route.

NATO has now been co-opted by the Bush Administration as part of America's geopolitical oil objectives for the oil-rich Caspian Sea basin and controlling pipeline corridors through Afghanistan and Pakistan is critical.

I would be curious to know which, if any, Canadian oil and gas companies have contracts to build/service the Trans-Afghanistan pipeline as part of Canada's "development" assistance effort. Given Stephen Harper's oil connections in Calgary I would not be surprised to find a Canadian oil connection in Afghanistan.

Brent Bush
Kimberley

Wake up, America

John Bolton's feathers have been ruffled. The deputy secretary general of the UN accused the US of bashing the UN. Bolton has made a career out of UN bashing. Therefore he was handpicked by Bush and surreptitiously slipped in as US envoy to the UN.

John is miffed because this English UN guy is aiming his comments at the great midwest. The deputy secretary general accuses right wing broadcasters of swaying the hearts and minds of hardcore America with anti-UN propaganda. John's ticked off because the guy is directing his wrath on the American people not the American government. According to John, this is the worst thing the UN has ever done. The worst ever.

Maybe it's time the American people did accept some of the responsibility for its government. These guys have been in for six years. They've steamrolled their agenda across America, promoting big business and slashing civil and human rights. They've taken over the congress, the senate, the supreme court and established a unitary executive. Yet the people have elected them three times. I think it's time the American people shouldered a bit of the responsibility.

Sure the elections have been rigged. But no one has done anything about it. The country is still run by the corruptible counties that decide who gets to vote. The counties also decide what system of voting is used and the counties decide what electronic equipment is used. How low does it go. If the right people are greased at the lowest levels the outcome of an election is a foregone conclusion.

John Bolton has every right to be worried. If the blame is focused on middle America, maybe they might wake up and realize how they've been bamboozled by Rove and his right wing radio buddies.

Tom Coombs
Kaslo

Bears in Kaslo!!

There are a pair of bears within Kaslo Village limits, a bear in Fletcher Creek and a bear in Shutty Bench. These black bears are in our community because they are finding food.

Food sources include garbage, bird feeders, pet food, compost, barbeques. If the bears do not find food, they will not hang around. Bears who become conditioned to human food sources are often killed.

You can help to save these bears' lives!!

To avoid the unnecessary destruction of bears, please store garbage and pet food inside, remove bird feeders between April and November, and feed pets inside.

Never compost meat or dairy products, rinse eggshells and cover each addition to your compost with soil or

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Voices from the Valleys

leaves. Adding dolomite lime to your compost will reduce smells and turning it regularly will speed up the composting process. If you are unable to manage your compost properly, consider not composting.

Cleaning your barbeque by leaving it on high with the lid closed after cooking and storing your grease can inside will reduce smells and protect your barbeque and property from damage by hungry bears. Storing garbage or other attractants in a shed that is not bear proof only teaches bears that they can break open structures to find food.

To report an aggressive or dangerous bear call the provincial RAPP line (1-877-952-7277).

The Kaslo Bear Smart Program aims to reduce bear/human conflicts by reducing bear attractants. The program is expanding to the North Kootenay Lake area and works in conjunction with the Fruit Tree Project to manage excess fruit in the area. This program is funded by Bear Aware, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, the Village of Kaslo and the RDCK.

Gillian Sanders
Kaslo

KDCFS: reality check

First I'd like to say I'm in favour of the proposed Community Forest Agreement for Kaslo & Area D in principle.

I would like to know if the board plans to use the application to list specific details relating to all of the values it will be addressing in the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for the area. Many of these "priority values" are being posted in the form of questions from community members on the KDCFS website. The application is the first step but it is not the right vehicle in my opinion.

It seems to me this "priority values" approach that many members want to see embedded in the application is a waste of time and money as the application asks for more general information. Water is a good example. It's addressed at every level of forest planning and at the operational stage. Do you know anyone who does not care about water? If there was a majority of community members who said water should not be a priority you would still be required to operate in full compliance with all regulations at a minimum and their opinion would have no relevance. Do you need to continue to spell this out?

I hope the directors are able to proceed with the application without getting bogged down in detail. The Ministry of Forests and Range has advised the directors and the woodlands manager to "keep it simple." The FSP is the best vehicle for detailed commitment and in fact you can address areas in separate geographic parcels. The FSP creation and the related public consultation can take place when and where it will really matter and have weight.

Finally, I would like to ask the board: do you feel that you have informed residents of Kaslo and Area D that any commitments you make in the application that you cannot meet during the probationary period will potentially forfeit the Agreement? Do these same residents know that you have been looking at timelines and if you delay the application process by trying to incorporate detailed information that belongs in the FSP or in stand level prescriptions you will fall behind — and probably be 50,000 cubic metres behind when you are prepared to harvest? Do these same residents understand the complexities that the board/future boards and woodlands staff face as the first years of this new agreement unfold?

Time for everyone to start thinking long term. Over the next 99 years this agreement area can become something everyone is proud of. All we have to do is start working together now, meet required deadlines and ensure the application commitments do not handcuff future directors. Future boards may have more current and accurate information to work with. This is long term thinking.

Dave Collier
Kaslo

Save Perry Ridge

We appreciate Philip Pedini's letter "It is Not an Act of God." It is true what Philip says about the difficult times and the vilification of those of us who stood and continue to try and protect what little is remaining of intact forests in the Slocan Valley watersheds and the forests that protect us from flooding and landslides. The NDP government of the day refused to acknowledge that the citizens on Perry Ridge did not accept the increased risk to their water, lives and homes and we were indeed called the "enemies of BC."

It has been almost 10 years since the Perry Ridge protest and we have not given up hope to protect this unique geological landscape. We have continued to work voluntarily to gather scientific information from experts and inform all levels of government about these findings.

We wanted our Slocan Valley friend, past neighbour and supporter Philip to know we have not given up and would like others in our community to know that we continue to work for the protection of Perry Ridge. The watersheds are not protected. Our association has been clear that we do not accept the government putting us at risk nor would we accept the community putting us at risk through any planning table.

With the onset of watershed logging in 1997 throughout the Slocan Valley, as well as extensive cut-and-run private land logging, the scenic and wildlife values of the Slocan Valley are being seriously degraded. Valhalla Park is becoming an "island of extinction." The Perry Ridge Water Users Association is proposing adding Perry Ridge to Valhalla Provincial park as a solution that protects the citizens and protects other values that serve the local and the international community.

Forest cover maps, recently commissioned by the Valhalla Wilderness Society show that one of the largest intact forested areas left in the whole southern interior is Perry Ridge, a 15-kilometre long, steep mountain ridge adjacent to Valhalla Park. Perry Ridge also provides connectivity of Valhalla Park to Kokanee Glacier Park and areas south towards Nelson.

The Sinixt Nation has identified Perry Ridge as an important cultural wetland and is the location of many identified and unidentified significant archaeological sites.

Perry Ridge is in the visual corridor of a major section of the Rails to Trails and Highway 6. offering an outstanding panoramic view to hikers, cross country skiers and mountain bikers. The Slocan River is gaining notoriety for its canoeing, and kayaking.

Mr. Trevor Jones, P. Eng did a benefit/cost analysis, which showed that money would be lost on this landscape unit. This critique, however, projects a financial loss of over $2 1/4 million. "Consideration of other costs would result in substantially greater economic loss." (Perry Ridge Benefit/Cost Analysis, Sept. 16, 2000).

The proposed park addition would protect residences and save the government millions of dollars while enhancing Valhalla Provincial Park at the south end. Petitions are circulating and available on request from the association.

Marilyn Burgoon
President, Perry Ridge
Water Users Association

Moral certitude?

I don't know Mr. Banta (Moral Certitude, *Valley Voice* 6/7/06) and he certainly doesn't know me, so I took great umbrage at being compared to a war criminal!

He was disturbed by my "moral certitude," evidently expressed in my letter critical of Stephen Harper's love affair with all things American. Bush and Harper's shared, neo-conservative, born-again personal values hold sway over their diabolical, autocratic tactics. Coached by expensive American spin-doctors and overpriced Republican media consultants, Stephen Harper plunged Canada and all Canadians deeply into America's current wars to destabilize and dominate the Middle East. Harper's knee-jerk reactions transformed Judeo-Christian Canadians (probably Muslim and Hindu Canadians too) into 'legitimate' enemy targets, like Afghani Muslims and Taliban families are suddenly 'legitimate targets' for our heavily armed, highly trained Special Services troops actively and aggressively pursuing, terrifying and killing them in their own countries, in their own homes while the US quietly withdraws. Stephen Harper has declared war on Afghanistan and promised to help his American corporate buddies, whenever and wherever the American military tells him to deploy more crack Canadian combat troops. Some other country will have to send the peacekeepers.

Then, as if on cue, Canada unearthed our own home grown amateur "Howie" bin Ladens with their Teenage Taliban Wannabes ("Death to Canada Tour, Eh?") from some spider-hole in Mississauga, with a massive Americanized show of force and co-ordinated media blitz, dramatically switching public attention away from our real war in Afghanistan at the same time super-heating fears and bigotry throughout Canada, even though the alert Canadians caught these careless villains, totally neutralizing them before anything happened or anybody was killed! Is this just another super secret, American orchestrated, bait and switch national security con job with no substance? Or is it Canada's rude awakening to the consequences of merging Canada's military forces and fate with this unconscionable American obsession for total control, brutal aggression, extreme violence, obscene torture and, apparently, deadly vengeance. Shock and awe or shuck and jive?

Iraq floats on a sea of oil, while Afghanistan and its surrounding, morally bankrupt, 'balkanized' governments generate revenue providing 'unimpeded' secret US military bases, land access for pipelines to deep seaports and opium. In their Chicken Hawk War Fantasy, the occupied countries will prosper, "opposition will be marginalized or neutralized" and eventually the vanquished will see the light, capitulating to continuous NATO 'protective' military occupation, genetically modified Western Consumerism and 'superior' Judeo-Christian beliefs. Amen.

What "compromises" can we come to, what multiple points of view do we need to "comprehend and appreciate" about Canada's developing leadership role in the Middle East Crusades? Maybe I'm missing something. You can't get much more complex than Canada's intimate war in Afghanistan and its global implications for all 30 million Canadians who are now viewed internationally as co-opted into, complicit with and/or empowering America's heinous oil wars: another Judeo-Christian 'Crusade of Children' in the Islamic Holy Lands.

Clever banter about my social democratic opinions is insignificant compared to stopping Harper's madness. I am, however, absolutely certain of a senior journalist's war weary impression: "War is not about winning or losing. War is about Death!"

Joel Harris
Passmore

Misconseptions about ambulance service

I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a number of misconceptions about the BC Ambulance Service and the issues that are facing us in the Nakusp and New Denver areas.

In February 2005, the BC Ambulance Service introduced a new deployment model that classifies ambulance stations in one of four categories: metropolitan, urban, rural, and remote. This system complements the existing call-out shift which has been successfully ensuring coverage in communities throughout the province for the past 31 years. It also takes a significant step towards bridging the gap between large and small centres in British Columbia with the addition of the standby shift in higher call volume communities. One major misconception is that the pay for the on-call rate is limited to stations classified as remote, when this is simply not the case. On-call shifts can still be found throughout the province in all station categories except metropolitan.

The current challenge staffing cars in Nakusp and New Denver has reached new heights during the month of May and the BC Ambulance Service is committed to exploring and adopting appropriate short- and long-term measures to address the issue. However, in the two

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The Community Liaison will work with communities, groups, organizations and individuals and support their efforts by developing programs and projects which promote social, economic, and environmental well-being in this part of the Basin.

The successful candidate must be a dynamic individual who is comfortable dealing with the public. A background in community and/or economic development may be an asset.

For more information about CBT and to get a detailed description of duties, skills and qualifications for this position, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org or call Debra Stewart at 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-365-6633.

The deadline to apply is July 7th, 2006 at 4:00 pm

Submit your resume to: Debra Stewart, HR Coordinator, Columbia Basin Trust, 445 – 13 Avenue, Suite 300, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1 or via email to: dstewart@cbt.org

Voices from the Valleys

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months prior (March and April 2006) the BC Ambulance Service was not able to staff shifts on only one day each month. In New Denver, we staffed every single shift in the same period. A number of factors were stacked up against us in May which created a unique situation where no paramedics were available to work in Nakusp which we addressed by offering the opportunity to paramedics from other area stations. It is important to point out that the paramedics covering the vacant shifts in Nakusp are only doing so after the schedule in their community is fully staffed. This ensures that the priority is their home community before assisting the Nakusp station. Once enough staff has been recruited locally, the BCAS will no longer ask for outside help to staff ambulances in Nakusp.

We have made significant progress on that front already this year with 12 new staff members hired since February 2005, six of which are still working in Nakusp. And, we have just completed interviews with two potential members and will be progressing to the next stage with their recruitment.

It also can't be ignored that New Denver paramedic crews respond to about one call every three days on average while Nakusp crews respond to less than one call per day. The present system used to call out paramedics when an emergency medical response is required represents best use of taxpayers' dollars. The BC Ambulance Service remains fully committed to providing high quality emergency medical services to the residents and visitors to the area. We have made some progress on these challenges and will continue to work with local stakeholders and the paramedics union to explore opportunities such as integration work and training to enhance our recruitment and retention efforts over the long term.

Fred Platteel
Chief Executive Officer
BC Ambulance Service

Community Composting Project shuts down

Last year, an exciting idea was put into action with a grant from Columbia Basin Trust Environmental Initiatives Program. The idea of a community composting project was originally developed by Earthworkers Community Organization (ECO) as a much needed community program. The Kaslo 'Back to the Earth' Community Composting Project (KBECCP) began collaborating with local residents, businesses, and JV Humphries School in a sincere effort to reduce the amount of waste material being disposed of into the landfill and recycle the nutrients back into the Kaslo community and our gardens.

There were many wonderful moments that stand out in my mind — riding my bicycle through town with a trailer loaded with food waste, people waving and honking horns as I passed on the way to the compost site. I remember teaching the children at JV Humphries School (Grades K-7) about worm composting. A kid made it all worth it when he said, "This is the best day I've ever had at school!" The day 17 community members volunteered during Leaf Collection Week, raking 100 bags of leaves, assisting seniors to clean up their yard waste, while providing a source of carbon for the compost piles. Another moment came from the feeling of satisfaction in submitting the EcoAction proposal and later receiving a letter in the mail from Environment Canada stating that the KBECCP has been approved for funding in the amount of $32,840. Subsequently, an additional $7,910 was contributed by Columbia Basin Trust. Also, a personal phone message was received from Alex Atamanenko, NDP MP for Southern Interior, to offer congratulations and expressed interest in visiting Kaslo for a tour of the project in operation.

In the beginning, I was under the impression that the community supported this initiative. Unfortunately, it seems that some people do not want this money to benefit our local economy. Upon initial consultation with the Village of Kaslo and the Public Works Committee, a site was identified and approved near the recycling transfer station and on route of the Kaslo River Trail. Due to a recent petition signed by 12 community members, the Village Council has requested us to remove everything from the compost facility and to find a new location. Letters have been publicly posted stating that this project is a waste of money. The money was coming into our community to employ four people for 12 months. As well, approximately 45,000 lbs. of organic waste was anticipated to be diverted from the landfill annually. Various funds were anticipated to identify local support and to match the EcoAction contribution (i.e. Kaslo & Area Community Forest Society, RDCK, and Village of Kaslo). However, this funding was not granted. This community project cannot function without the support of the community. I feel discouraged and have chosen not to fight this opposition any longer. The compost site has been disassembled and the funding from Environment Canada and CBT has been sent back.

There has been many that have shown their support for the KBECCP. To every person that came over with a reminder to "keep up the good work," thank you for you encouragement. I cannot say more of my personal appreciation for those that care about the environment where we live and have chosen to actively conserve the integrity of our home place. I have enjoyed putting positive energy into this community.

Jamie Whitney
Kaslo

Thanks to the flood volunteers

Thank goodness the water is finally going down. I know everyone is sick of hearing about the water, but I have an opinion that I would like to get out. This letter is not about who was right or wrong, who lives where and the area they built their houses. This is about the men and women that came out and did their best to help our homes and community.

Because I work at our SV Co-op in Slocan Park, I see and meet many different people. I am very proud to know many of these people that went out to help with the evacuations, sandbagging and the many other tasks.

We had all of the valley's fire departments on hand, and the search and rescue. They were all working together — where I came from, that's called community unity. All the volunteers didn't have to come out, but they did. I was not directly affected, but I do appreciate the fact that the roads and bridges that I travel on were being monitored so I could get back and forth to work to spread cheer to one and all — all right, pester — the incoming customers I deal with every day.

We did have a hand from the forestry guys and gals and boy oh boy talk about seeing a group trained to work as one! From all I heard they could have a truck of sand unloaded and bagged in no time flat — thank you for coming. Our biggest feat was to keep you fed as the energy level you expel is amazing! I must also give our manager at the co-op, Bob Rode, credit for setting things up so quickly for the emergency teams to get supplies and energy food for the workers. All the local businesses extended themselves so much and we should all thank them as well.

Would you — who got your noses out of joint because these people were there trying to help you and keep you informed — have liked it better if they did nothing? How would you have felt if we had something that turned out much worse? So you had a knock on your door in the middle of the night to tell you to be prepared, so what!! Would you have liked it better if you were left on your own and things got worse? Those same people you were bellyaching about would be the first ones you'd be screaming for if you needed help!!

We had more coverage about this valley of ours over the last few weeks than we might have liked, but could you imagine what it is like to live in a place where your neighbours wouldn't come out to help each other nor would they care if your house flooded or property was destroyed?? I have lived in places like that, as many of you have, and that's the reason we moved here.

I'm glad that we have volunteers who come when called. I'm even happier that I can call most by their first names, and even if there is a few miles between us all we are still each other's neighbours. I applaud your efforts, keep up the good work, thank you for all you've done.

Lorna Burns
Winlaw

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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

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.

The hearing date and location are as follows:

Date: Tuesday, July 4, 2006
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: The Grand Okanagan Lake Front Resort and Conference Centre
1310 Water Street, Kelowna B.C. V1Y 9P3
Telephone: (250) 763-4500

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
Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
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New Denver council, June 13: Rezoning process to begin for Oldham Cottages

by Leah Main

•Councillor Campbell chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor Wright, who was attending a meeting regarding ambulance service.

•A report was received from Mayor Wright on land use options for SW Eldorado Street, specifically regarding the temporary commercial zoning request from Francie and Tracy Oldham. The report outlined three courses of action council could take to address the issue:

1. Amend the OCP and zoning bylaw (which includes a public process) to create a narrowly defined new C4 zone for the subject properties;

2. Review the OCP and zoning bylaw to change the permitted uses in residential zones to include opportunities for short-term vacation rentals (this is a more complex policy decision, and pre-empts the major OCP review scheduled for 2006-07);

3. Amend the temporary commercial and industrial permit policy to allow such permits for up to two years, with a renewal, and to issue one to the Oldhams (which does not have a mandated full public process).

Council decided to initiate the process for Option #1, which will take two to three months, and to issue the temporary commercial permit applied for, allowing the Oldhams to operate their business this season, with the potential for it to become permanent upon creation of the C4 zone.

•Council accepted the terms and conditions for Community Tourism program funding. With the grant money, the village plans to install a rest area on 6th Avenue, stairs on the south side of Carpenter Creek, and cribbing on the lakeside trail for a total of $12,208.41.

•Gordon Butt and Trevor Harrop attended as a delegation from the New Denver/Silverton Seniors Group, asking for exemption from the recent increase in annual rental of Knox Hall from $200 to $300. They explained that the seniors group has contributed significantly over the years toward the maintenance and furnishing of the hall. In discussion, council commented that though the group has indeed made significant contributions, the hall operates at an annual deficit of around $7,000, and the village needs to recoup some of this cost. A letter of thanks for its ongoing contributions will be sent to the group, with a suggestion that it apply to Recreation Commission #6 for a grant to offset the rental increase.

•Daphne Hughes of the Suzuki Valhalla Institute asked to reserve five campsites in Centennial Park for August 6-11 inclusive for families attending the Suzuki music session. Council agreed to suspend its 'no reservations' policy for this event, providing the full rental amount is paid in advance, and will undertake a complete review of the policy in the fall.

•Administration was directed to proceed with an application for a Community Excellence Healthy Living Partnership Award toward costs of the gym project.

•The 300 block of 6th Avenue will be closed for the July 23 Antique and Artisan Faire, as requested by Linda King.

•Councillor Bunka volunteered to remain as New Denver's representative to Columbia Mountain Open Network (CMON).

•A Development Variance Permit application was received from Tom Hemken and Margarete Haas for 923 Josephine St. This property is already 'legal non-conforming' and no approvals can be given that would make it further non-conforming. This has been explained to the owners. The aspects of the work they wish to do that falls within existing zoning regulations will be addressed under the Building Permit.

•Council gave three readings to a bylaw to appropriate $3,430 from the 9-1-1 Emergency Service Equipment Reserve Fund so the village can participate in the RDCK 9-1-1 emergency service. New Denver has until now utilized the Nelson 9-1-1 service, but must switch to the RDCK 9-1-1 service to facilitate the contract fire service with Silverton and the Red Mountain portion of Area H, which officially came into effect on June 1.

•Council received a letter from Katimavik, a program that sponsors youth to travel throughout Canada and work as volunteers in the communities they visit. This letter will be shared with community groups that could benefit from such volunteer assistance, and a meeting will be set up to explore the possibility of having a Katimavik group spend time in this area.

Silverton council, June 13: Day park campsites ready for trial

by Judith Maltz

•Public Works reported that the five new campsites at the day park were completed and would be available for the 2006 season on a trial basis.

•Battallion Chief Provan reported that the amalgamation of the New Denver and Silverton volunteer fire departments was now complete with Chief Casley and Deputy Chief Doug Fisher's appointments confirmed. The department has inspected access to Red Mountain Road properties.

•Mayor Everett reported on a Red Mountain Internet Society meeting. The contract with Telus has been signed off and the village's test connection as part of a 'pilot project' is working without problems. The Society has applied for additional funding from CBT and hopes to have high speed service available to residences by the end of July on a user pay basis. He explained Telus only has an obligation to provide the pipe from New Denver to the 'front door' of Silverton but doesn't bear responsibility for distribution.

•Councillor Bell was funded by the RDCK to attend the Canadian Federation of Municipalities convention in Montreal. She reported the general concern regarding fiscal downloading onto municipalities and attended numerous workshops such as Women in Politics and Low Income Housing.

Councillor Bell also attended the CBT Water Symposium in Cranbrook where many water issues were highlighted including chlorination, development pressures on rural water supplies and the benefits of water metering.

Numerous publications from these two events are available at the village office.

•Councillor Laktin reported that plans for July 1st celebrations were moving along. A banner has been ordered and a challenge has been issued for contributions from both businesses and residents.

•Administrator Ida reported attending the MATI II Municipal Administrator course on Bowen Island, where she networked with municipal officials. Ida and council expressed their thanks and appreciation to Anne-Marie Hogg for her excellent work in Ida's absence. Megan von Krogh has been hired as summer student. She will split her working hours between Public Works and the village office, where administrative assistant Hogg will train and supervise her.

•Council congratulated and welcomed Councillor Griffiths back from her honeymoon.

•Council asked Administrator Ida to pursue the logistics of Selkirk College 40th anniversary banners. Councillor Bell will clarify hardware issues with regard to the banners.

•Two items were brought forth out of in *camera* and were tabled pending further information being obtained — Mr. Gustafson's request for access at the end of Leadville St. and Mr. & Mrs. Smart's application for a variance for their property on Silver Street.

•During public/press time a resident asked about the official meaning of a 'grandfather clause' in regards to village building bylaws. Mayor Everett explained that under the existing bylaw, if an existing parcel doesn't meet the 1996 building bylaw but the application meets all the rest of the criteria of the bylaw, ie square footage, setbacks, etc., it may be approved.

•The June 2 accounts payable item of $286,979.61 was explained by Administrator Ida as a transfer of money borrowed in 2003 to upgrade the village water system and breakwater. The short term loan with Municipal Finance Authority had expired, so the loan was paid out and now is a 10-year long-term loan with fluctuating interest rates.

Art and garden tour in the Slocan Valley

submitted

On Sunday, June 25, the 9th Annual Slocan Valley Art and Garden Tour takes place between 11 am. and 4 pm. This unique event features some of the most stunning Slocan Valley gardens at their early summer peak of bloom and colour. In each garden, works of visual artists offering an array of styles, from ironwork to oil paintings will be shown. As well, the Winlaw Community Band will perform and guided meditation sessions will take place. The Art and Garden Tour is organized by the Slocan Valley Community Arts Council.

This year's gardens can be found in Perry's Siding, Winlaw, Vallican, Slocan Park, Pass Creek and Bonnington. They range from the artfully terraced gardens of Victoria Carleton and Steve Mounteer to the eclectic artistic gardening eye of Rabia.

Some of the featured art on this year's tour.include the oil paintings of Peter Corbett, the stone sculptures of Jules Delaney, Patrick McIvor's ironwork and the natural material craftsmanship of Lynnda Moore and Sharon Block.

Art tour brochures can be found at all stores throughout the Slocan Valley as well as the libraries in Nelson & Castlegar. Highway direction signs will be in place to make sure you get there. For more information on this popular event call 226-7347 or 226-0021.

The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society

presents

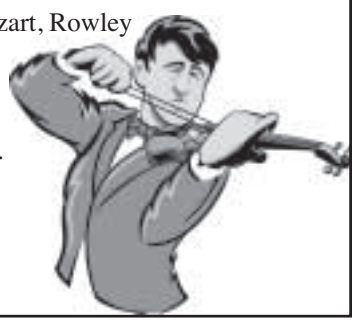
Sounds in Silverton

Final 2006 Fundraiser Concert

THE GARLAND TRIO & FRIENDS

Daphne Hughes – violin
Erin Burkholder – violin
Miranda Hughes – viola
Heather Huether – cello
Judith Maltz – piano

Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Rowley & Tchaikovsky. Special Reception to follow with wonderful German Pastries. All proceeds go directly to help keep our programs running.



June 25, 2006 – 7pm
Silverton Gallery
Admission by Donation

New Denver / Silverton

Community Forum

Monday, June 26 7:00-9:00 PM

KNOX HALL NEW DENVER
(Hwy 31A / 6th Ave.)

New Denver and Silverton area residents are invited
to an evening of open discussion of issues with your local representatives and guests!

PANELISTS:

Alex Atamanenko	MP, BC Southern Interior
Corky Evans	MLA, Nelson Creston
Gary Wright,	Mayor, New Denver & RDCK Chair
John Everett	Mayor, Silverton
Don Munro	Area H Director, RDCK

AND OTHER GUESTS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
1-800-667-2393 OR 358-2316

WE Graham school celebrates achievements of Jordan King

by Margaret Markovic

Jordan King, a blind and autistic 19-year-old, was honoured June 15 at WE Graham, in a celebration of his completion of his program at the school.

King, a gifted musician, treated teachers, students, family and friends to his music on the electronic keyboard.

It was evident that parents Maureen and Al King are very proud of their son, his accomplishments and abilities.

WE Graham staff and students said that Jordan had taught them compassion, and that his music had been a gift to the school.

Jordan's graduation event was high profile, with a Global TV cameraman there filming. Decorations, pizza and cake added to the festiveness of it all, as did the tears of sadness because Jordan is leaving the school.

At WE Graham, Jordan had touch, light and music therapy. Carol Fehr described King as an "electronic genius" and spoke of how wonderful it was to see him fully integrated into the school. She said that he did job experience last year, and that his dream is to record music.

A trust fund has been set up for Jordan at the Slocan Park branch of Castlegar and District Credit Union to help ensure he can continue with his music therapy. A challenge has gone out to CUPE and teaching staff to meet Marion Hunter's donation of $50. All community members are welcome to donate to the fund. Contact person is Carol Fehr at 250-266-7924.

Jordan King

Munch More FOODS 226-7779

Woodoven Pizzas & Much More
Food Delivery or Pick Up
Summer Hours:
Wednesday thru Sunday 3:30 - 9:30
Catering Available

PUBLIC NOTICE

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER – 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that pursuant to Sections 98 and 99 of the Community Charter, the Village of New Denver's 2005 Annual Report will be available for public inspection as of June 21, 2006, at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C. between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 99 of the Community Charter, Council will consider the 2005 Annual Report at its Tuesday, June 27, 2006 Regular Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C. Council will accept submissions and respond to questions from the public at this time.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Once Upon a Time...

a woman who lived in New Denver realized the village needed a dessert shop. And an ice cream parlour. And a place on Main St. to buy Sappho's Bakery bread. And pizza. And—most importantly—a place to buy Really Good Chocolate. So the woman rented an excellent location at 801 Union St., on the corner where Main St. , Highway 6 and Highway 31A all come together, and started planning her new business. She decided to call it *Fat Kat's Sweets*, because she is (ahem) somewhat weight/height disproportionate, to be politically correct.

A lot of people told her the building was cursed, but she was determined to work hard and be successful. At first, things went smoothly, but then a water pipe burst, and the propane hook-up was incorrect, and the pizza oven needed a whole bunch of new parts, and the door leaked, and the equipment was late in arriving (if it arrived at all), and finally the building attacked her, dropping her on her tailbone in the parking lot and thumping her on the skull for good measure.

And all the while, people kept asking her, "When are you opening? We want to Indulge Ourselves Shamelessly!"

So, to remove the curse from the building, she asked her friends of various religions and persuasions to smudge or bless or exorcise the building, and make it a happy and successful place. And she's asking everyone of good will to smile and Think Good Thoughts to wish *Fat Kat's* well as they walk or drive by.

And if all goes well, *Fat Kat's Sweets* will be open very soon.

Fat Kat's Sweets • Main St. & Hwy 6 • New Denver

Hidden Garden celebrates colour and culture in two photo exhibits

submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery will be showcasing two distinct photo exhibitions to start off the summer season.

First, Margaret Raymond will exhibit her fascinating and colourful photos of southeast Asia from June 21 to June 26. See the exotic world of the east through Margaret's photographic eye. A native of the Kootenays, she and her husband lived in China and Hong Kong for three years from 2002 to 2005. Her extensive travels throughout southeast Asia have inspired this show. Margaret has just finished a photography showing in Nelson, and is planning a fall exhibit in Hong Kong.

Photo-based artists Myles Berney and Chillia Zoll will be exhibiting their latest work at the gallery from June 28 to July 10. With the "Rust Project", Myles strives to create beautiful, thought provoking images from the remains of British Columbia's industrial past. Using precise composition, he focuses on texture and colour in subjects that are more often seen as ugly reminders of the industries that have forever changed our natural landscape.

Chillia uses her photography as a vessel to share with others her acute awareness of the natural environment that surrounds her. Her photographs explore and portray the ethereal elements of nature, resulting in compositions that clearly convey the unique way she sees the world.

The opening reception with refreshments and music by Jeremy Down, will be Friday June 30, from 7-9 pm.

The Hidden Garden Gallery is behind the orange door at 803 Kildare St., New Denver, next to Ann's Natural Foods. For more information, contact Anne Champagne at 358-2666, annec@uniserve.com.

Munch More Foods : Food delivery hits the valley

An innovative and exciting service to valley residents is now being offered by Munch More Foods of Passmore."We deliver food from Appledale to Crescent Valley!" says (Sita) Christine Koster, who's been working in the hospitality industry for over 20 years and is co-owner of the new business. "It's been our dream for many years to have a commercial kitchen with a german style woodfired oven.That dream is now a reality! Our speciality wood-oven pizzas are created to satisfy a wide range of tastes from the 'Veggie Valhalla' for the adventurous vegetarian to our delicious loaded 'Meatlovers' to our spicy hip 'Westcoast Chicken' to our devilishly hot 'Hell's Half Acre' we have a pizza for every taste and every occasion. And of course we'll make the pizza of your own creation."

"Besides pizza we also offer chicken wings, spanakopita, hummus and pita, Greek and Caesar salad, garden salad, vegetarian and meat lasagna and yummy homemade desserts. Our newest addition to our menu is the daily dinner special," states Douglas Wearing, husband and business partner of Christine. Doug trained as a chef in a Swiss restaurant in Edmonton and has a lot of experience behind his belt. "We just love to cook. Another service we offer is catering. No event is too small, from a pizza party for the kids to a more elaborate 5 course dinner perhaps for a family reunion, wedding, anniversary or birthday. We'd be more than happy to discuss your specific needs with you."

Munch More Foods also provides local stores and coffeeshops with treats, one of them being their popular Breakfast Bar, a caramel flavoured oatbar with fruit and seeds.

People are welcome to come and pick up their food on 3635 Tonislane in Passmore and take a peek at our woodfired oven. Or stay at home, relax and let us bring our creations to you!

Our summer hours are Wednesday thru Sunday 3:30 - 9:30. Call us at 226-7779.

Have a Hankering for the Handcrafted?

submitted

Robin and Eden DuPont have just set up a new artisan shop, The Kiln Craft Gallery in Winlaw. The gallery features a wide selection of functional and decorative pottery as well as a diverse selection of local fine craft in other mediums, including soap, jewelry, textiles and wood.

"With our gallery we hope to contribute to sustaining this culture of craft in the valley by offering an outlet for residents to showcase their creative works."

A studio potter, first trained at Kootenay School of the Arts and graduating with a degree in ceramics from the Alberta College of Art and Design in Calgary, Robin has recently completed the building of a wood-fired pottery kiln. Woodfiring is an ancient process of firing clay to a very high temperature using wood as the sole source of fuel. This atmospheric method of finishing pots creates unique surfaces on the work as each piece is marked by the flame in a distinctive way.

Currently the gallery is carrying the work of textile artist Tracy Fillion (Rare Bird), jewelry artist Cathy Terepocki (Horn of Plenty), woodworker Dan Lee (DNJ Fine Woodworking), blacksmith Patrick McIvor, weaver Diane Carter (Carter's Weaving) and paintings by Tanya Pixie Johnson.

The Kiln Craft Gallery is just off Hwy 6 in Winlaw, open Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 6pm. For more information please call the gallery at 250-226-6968.

SILVERTON SUNDAY MARKET

VENDORS WANTED

Starting up with the Solstice Celebration June 25th located by the Silverton Country Inn

10:00 until 3:00

Celebrate the Solstice with us!

DELICIOUS FOOD
FRESH PRODUCE
CRAFTS
FREE GIFTS
WORKSHOPS

SILENT AUCTION
featuring Limited Edition prints and much more

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY
CLASSICAL CONCERT IN EVENING

Contact Madeleine 358-2475
madeleine@vws.org

Slocan Valley Rec offers eclectic blend of summertime fun

submitted

This summer, Slocan Valley Recreation continues to offer their usual eclectic blend of summer programs for all ages.

For the kids, there'll be gymnastics with Rhonda Saunders and art camps with Karla Pierce in Crescent Valley. Meanwhile, Angela Safire Jones will be offering her circus skills workshops in both Bonnington and at the Vallican Whole.

Swim lessons will be taking place at Slocan Lake in late July and the Olynyk kids will be offering a summer basketball week and a soccer week at Bonnington Park. Pre-schoolers can take advantage of the Kindermusik summer camp with Lea Ferguson in both Slocan Park and Slocan.

A wide range of kayaking programs will be happening based out of Crescent Valley. Week long sessions are planned for youth as well as women. There's also a weekend intensive being offered for couples and families. All kayaking courses are being offered in conjunction with Endless Adventures.

Care to trebuchet? This summer those with a medieval bent can spend July 22 building a catapult with Andreas and Carl Schlichting. All parts are pre-made and the finished product is big enough to fit in a pickup truck and call your own! Watch for the group launch details.

Other programs for adults include a yoga retreat weekend at the Little Slocan Lodge with Eliza Gooderham, and creating a bulrush hat with Lynnda and Sharon.

For the family there are still spaces available for 'Travels in Bear Country' with Erica Mallam. The telescopes from the HR MacMillan Space Centre return to the Appledale Hall on July 24. And no summer in the Slocan Valley would be complete without the 12th Annual Poker Float which takes place on Sunday, August 13.

Nakusp Valedictorian's Speech

by Brent Wanstall

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Brent Wanstall and on behalf of the grads of 2006 we thank you all for attending this special event. Each and every one of us has just accomplished something to be really proud of. We are all graduating and that means that we have spent the last thirteen years working towards this day. So what are we left with now that those thirteen years are over: memories, stories, lessons, knowledge, and of course most importantly, friends.

Our friends have made this journey through high school one to remember. They have left us with memories that can never be forgotten, and some stories that should never be repeated. Friends are the people that we have the most amazing times with. No matter what is happening with our lives, we can always trust our friends to drop everything and be there for you. I know I could not have made it to this day without the support of my buddies.

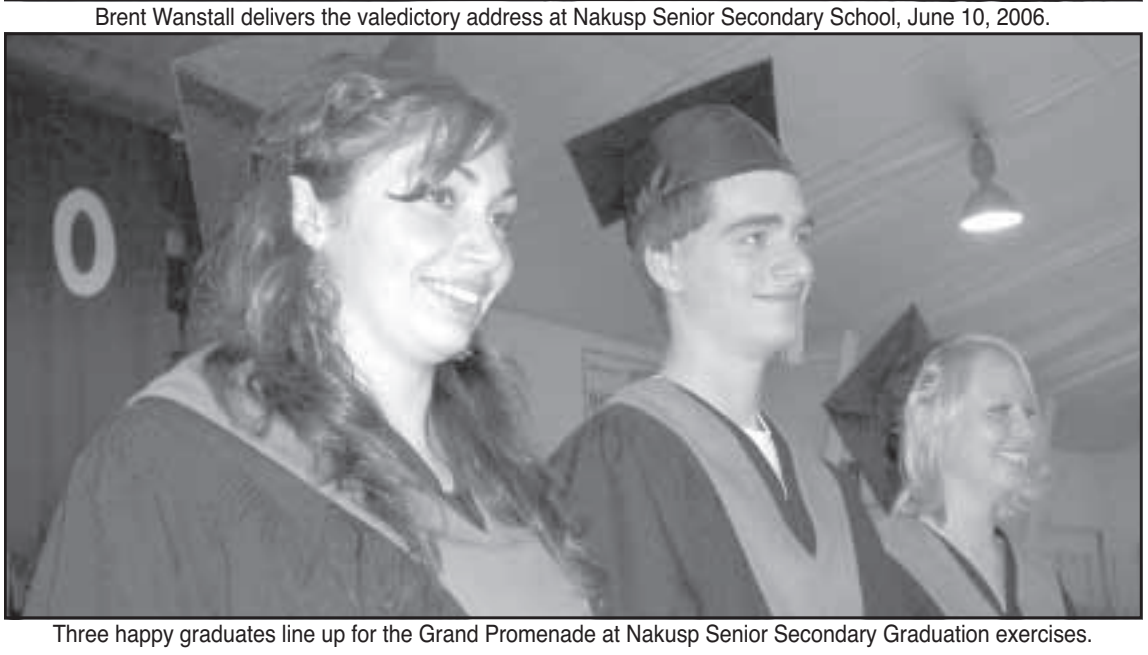
Watching the Kindergarten videos now is really something else. It's amazing how much we have all grown and accomplished. Throughout all of high school we have changed and developed into the people that you see before you. Yet we all still have a great deal to learn as we become competent members of society, which I think may take some time.

The teachers of Nakusp Secondary have taught us a lot over the years, trying to prepare us for the real world by drilling useful information into us, such as how to play the game. They shared their knowledge with us in hopes that we might learn from their experiences. They have done a good job and they should be proud of us.

Our parents deserve a lot of credit, I mean they raised us. They are the ones who have logged the real hours. Working hard to make sure they can make our lives the very best. They have been here for us every day of our lives, now that's what I would call a full time job. They have taught us the life lessons, hoping that we will use better judgement than they might have. Our loved ones that have raised us are responsible for influencing us into the young adults you see today, and for that we thank them.

Finishing school is most exciting event in our lives right now. Unfortunately with the end of school brings the parting of ways. Some of us will go on to continue our education in everything from arts to trades. Others will be soon joining the work force and I'm sure there might be a couple of us that might take some time off to travel and relax. However, no matter where we end up, we always have to remember where we are from. We are the 2006 graduates of Nakusp.

Brent Wanstall delivers the valedictory address at Nakusp Senior Secondary School, June 10, 2006.



Three happy graduates line up for the Grand Promenade at Nakusp Senior Secondary Graduation exercises.

Marsha Roberts was called upon to deliver the speech to 2006 Valedictorian, Brent Wanstall. Having done so much to ensure a successful Grad Ceremony, how could she refuse?

Best of luck in your Future Endeavours!
Broadway Deli Bistro
408 Broadway, Nakusp

Good Luck to all the grads of 2006!
Best wishes from Dr. Norm Lea, Dr. Diana Kelland & Staff at
Saddle Mountain Medical Clinic, Nakusp

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS OF 2006
POPE & TALBOT LTD.

Congrats to the 2006 Grads of Nakusp Secondary School!
from Nakusp Esso

Best Wishes to the 2006 Graduates!
Wylie's Pub
401 BROADWAY NAKUSP

Congratulations to all the 2006 Graduates!
The Valley Voice

Congrats to the 2006 Grads
consider a career in forestry
TRUE NORTH
FORESTRY CONSULTING LTD.

Congratulations & Best Wishes to the 2006 Graduates!
Barton Insurance Brokers Ltd.
NAKUSP
HUB

KS
Kootenay Savings
Where You Belong
Broadway St
Nakusp

Congratulations graduates of 2006!
Best Wishes from Warren and the staff at
NAKUSP AUTO PARTS
NAPA

Arrow Lakes Ready Mix
IN NAKUSP
WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2006!

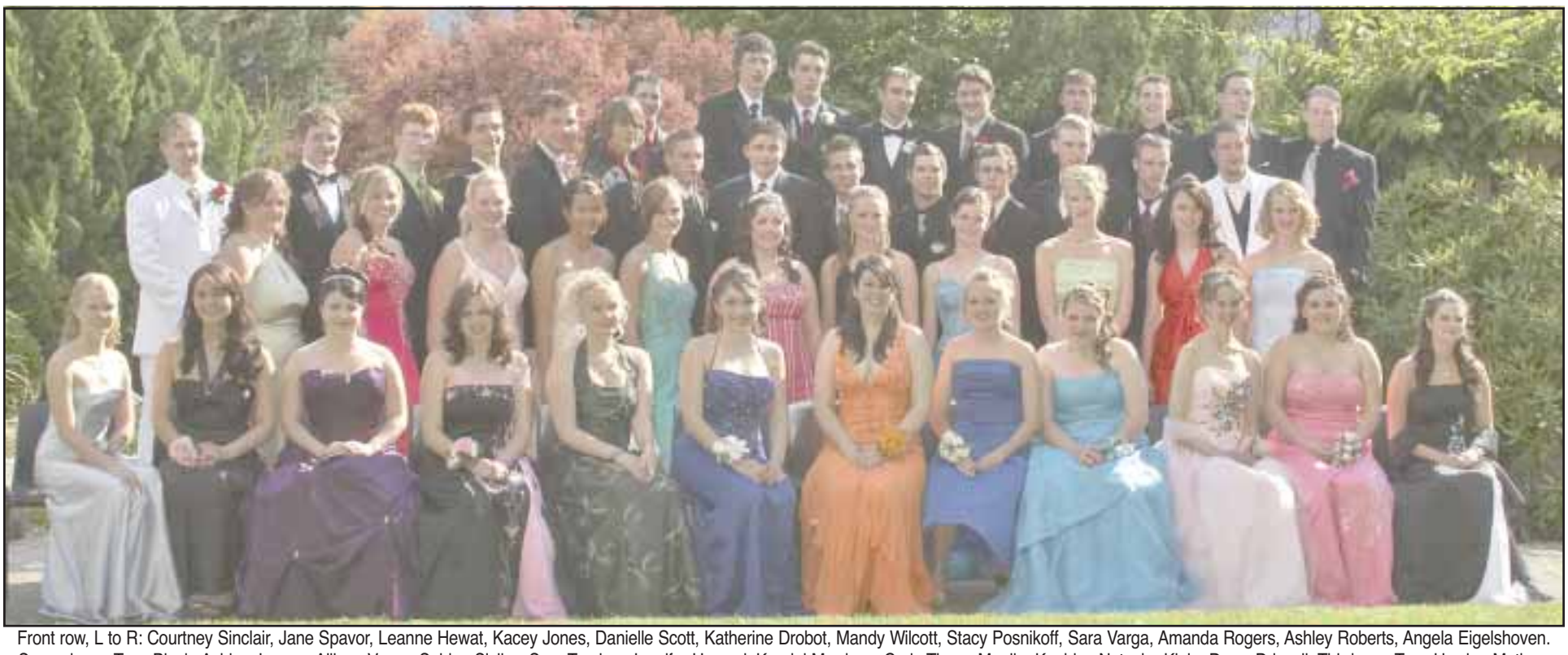
Congratulations from
NAKUSP GENERAL STORE
Broadway St. Nakusp

Congratulations to the Class of 2006
Marvin's Small Motor Repairs
1st Avenue
Nakusp, BC

Congratulations to the 2006 Graduating Class from
BDO
BDO Dunwoody
Nakusp

"You're a cut above all the rest"
Cut Rite Meats
212 Broadway
NAKUSP

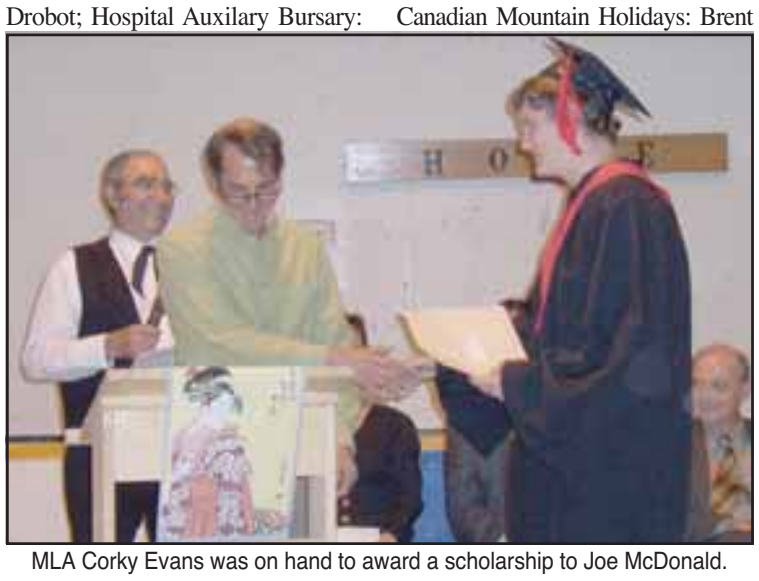
Congratulations to all the 2006 Graduates!
Nick's Place
93-5th Ave. Nakusp



Front row, L to R: Courtney Sinclair, Jane Spavor, Leanne Hewat, Kacey Jones, Danielle Scott, Katherine Drobot, Mandy Wilcott, Stacy Posnikoff, Sara Varga, Amanda Rogers, Ashley Roberts, Angela Eigelshoven. Second row: Taya Black, Ashley Jensen, Alliese Varga, Soidao Sivilay, Sam Toering, Jennifer Hascarl, Kendal Mardsen, Carly Thorp, Monika Koehler, Natasha Klein, Dawn Driscoll. Third row: Tony Hawke, Mathew Collens, Jared Kew, Patrick Charles-Lundaahl, Eric Emary, Kyle Currie, Lance Beingessner, Reuben Buerge, Brent Wanstall, Andreas Lorchner, Kalvin Perfitt, Casey Young, Cody Fidek, Ephriam Raboud. Top row: Kody Fellows, Sean Strachen, Zac Wethal, Luke Buis, Joe McDonald, Brandon Allard, Tristin Sinclair, Matt McCready, Ryan Hart. Missing: Jo Blackman, Jackson McKee, Kris Neftin and Kale Zatylny.

Nakusp Graduates receive Awards, Scholarships and Bursaries

Arrow Lakes Arts Council: Monika Kohler; Kootenay Savings Credit Union: Ashley Jensen; Royal Canadian Legion Br 20: Jennifer Hascarl, Jackson McKee, Taya Black, Sara Varga; Poppy Fund: Katherine Drobot; Legion Ladies Auxilary: Ashley Roberts; Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation Scholarship: Jane Spavor, Katherine Drobot; Hospital Employees Union Bursary: Katherine Drobot; Hospital Auxilary Bursary: Katherine Drobot; Joe Lee Bursary (CUPE Local 2450): Katherine Drobot; Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government: Amanda Rogers; Canadian Millennium Excellence Award: Joe McDonald; Selkirk College Board of Governor's Secondary Graduates Award: Jennifer Hascarl; School District #10 Trustee Mission Statement Award: Joe McDonald; Canadian Mountain Holidays: Brent Wanstall; Columbia Basin Trust: Joe McDonald; Arrow Lakes Tugboat Society: Zac Wethal, Mandy Wilcott; Arrow Lakes Teacher's Association: Amanda Rogers, Joe McDonald; Rotary Club of Nakusp: Jackson McKee; Columbia Power Scholarship: Jennifer Hascarl; Music Festival Award: Brent Wanstall, Kacey Jones; Pastor's Award: Natasha Klein; Robyn Pazurik Memorial: Carly Thorp; Overwaitea: Carly Thorp; Yellowhead Road and Bridge: Stacy Posnikoff; Pope and Talbot: Jared Kew; Ron Aldridge Citizenship: Amanda Rogers; Reunion '80: Dawn Driscoll; Class of '94: Brent Wanstall; Class of '95 (Sports Bursary): Dawn Driscoll; Class of '97: Kacey Jones; Class of 2000: Katherine Drobot; Class of 2001: Dawn Driscoll; Class of 2003: Dawn Driscoll; Skills and Trades Bursary: Andreas Lorchner, Brandon Allard, Reuben Buerge; Jason Ambrock Memorial: Luke Buis (Andrews); Joan Fowler Memorial: Dawn Driscoll; Sarah Jackins Memorial: Amanda Rogers; Sarah Stykel Memorial: Sara Varga; Trinity McQuair Memorial: Brent Wanstall; Erling Johnson Memorial: Joe McDonald; Vera Johnson Memorial: Patrick Charles-Lundaahl; Arrow Lakes Historical Society (Harry Murphy Memorial): Jane Spavor; Debbie Samuelson Memorial: Leanne Hewat; Janice Buerge Memorial: Carly Thorp; Donna Wong Memorial: Soidao Sivilay; Clark Kessler Memorial: Jo Blackman; Garth Haggart Memorial: Joe McDonald; Needles Reunion: Patrick Charles-Lundaahl; Logging Contractors Bursary: Eric Emary; NSS Scholarship Society Bursary: Eric Emary, Samantha Toering (Bednarz), Courtney Sinclair, Soidao Sivilay, Natasha Klein, Alliese Varga



MLA Corky Evans was on hand to award a scholarship to Joe McDonald.

Ernie Knecht's scholarship committee raised $7,500 for local graduates.

Major Trophies and Awards

Glen Joseph Farrer Award: Patrick Charles-Lundaahl; Senior Citizen of the Year: Katherine Drobot; Science Council of BC Achievement Award: Stacy Posnikoff; Principal's Award: Amanda Rogers, Patrick Charles-Lundaahl, Carly Thorp, Stacy Posnikoff, Katherine Drobot; Student of the Year: Amanda Rogers; MVP Girls Basketball Trophy: Stacy Posnikoff; MVP Boys Basketball Trophy: Jared Kew; Teanne Jones Trophy: Stacy Posnikoff; Top Male Athlete: Jared Kew; Top Female Athlete: Dawn Driscoll; Free Spirit Award: Brent Wanstall; Allan Taylor Award: Brent Wanstall

Amanda Rogers was Student of the Year.

Overwaitea Foods
B.C.'s very own food people.
NAKUSP
We wish the graduating class of 2006 all the best in their future endeavours.

KAL TIRE
Congratulations to the Class of 2006
"You'll like us for more than our tires"
6th Ave. NW Nakusp

Congratulations to all the Grads from
Bon Marché
DOLLAR $ DOLLAR
Broadway Street
Nakusp

Congratulations to the Class of 2006
Touch of
FASHION
309 Broadway, Nakusp

Congratulations to the Nakusp Secondary School graduating Class of 2006 from
School District 10 Arrow Lakes

Best Wishes to the 2006 Grads from Dr. DeSandoli and staff at
SADDLE MOUNTAIN DENTAL CLINIC
84 Broadway Nakusp

Best Wishes to the 2006 Grads from
HALCYON HOT SPRINGS

Congratulations to the Class of 2006
LOMA LUMBER
88 - 3rd Ave NW
NAKUSP
True Value Hardware
IRLY Building Centre

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2006 from
ROYAL LEPAGE
Selkirk Realty
Nakusp

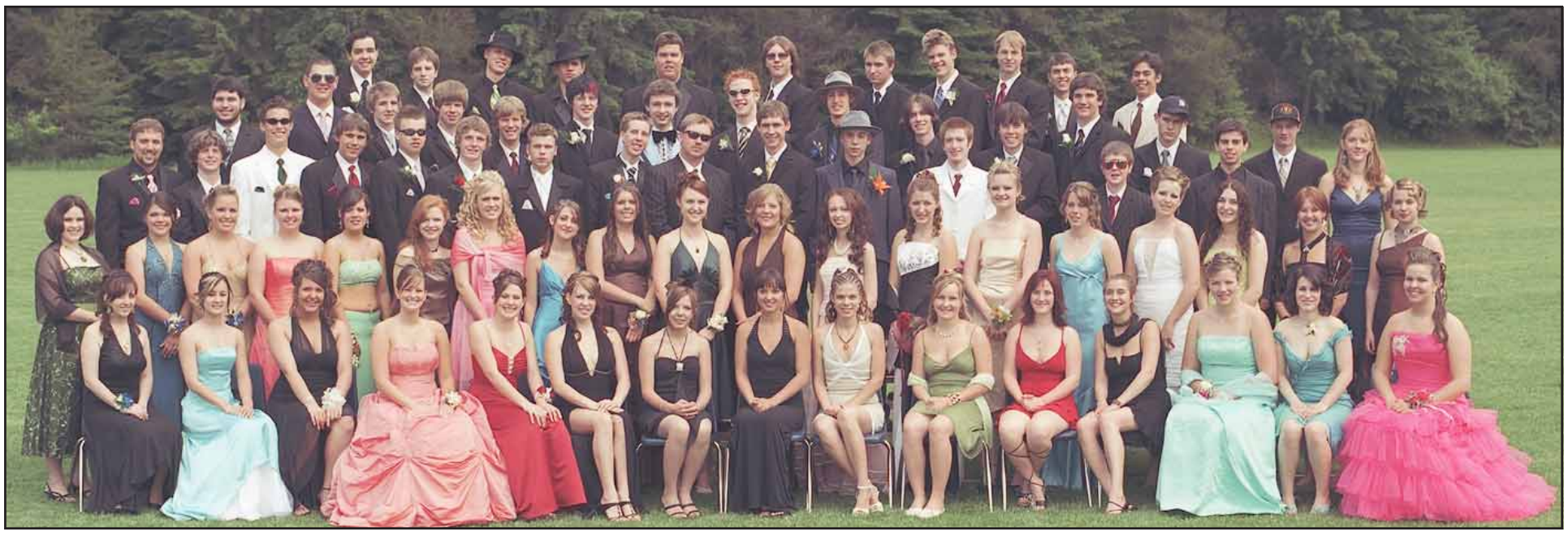
We are proud of the entire Graduating Class of 2006 from Nakusp Secondary School! Good Job!
Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association

Congratulations to the 2006 Nakusp Secondary School Graduates from
VALLEY FOODS
BROADWAY NAKUSP

Congratulations
Nakusp
HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS
Village of Nakusp
Nakusp, BC

To all the 2006 Graduates Best Wishes for a happy & successful future!
PEOPLES DRUG MART

Shaggyz Hair Care
Tracy would like to congratulate the 2006 Graduates. Best Wishes!
92 Broadway Nakusp



Front row, left to right: Taya Voykin, Tianna Wong, Brittney Soobotin, Kali Hill, Katie Trace, Ashley Tarasoff, Stacey Markin, Alicia Inwood, Viveka Lancaster, Rhianna Williams, Miryam Bishop, Lewana Benson, Janice Burns, Amanda Moreira, Ana Nazaroff. 2nd row, left to right: Saskia Werner, Alex Konkin, Kayli Manner, Terra Perepolkin, Keira Angus, Catherine Courson, Nicole Pereversoff, Maya Zeabin, Nina Balchewski, Rhea Stoochnoff, Rhian Solecki, Cheyenne Conrad, Casey Postnikoff, Meagan O'Sullivan, Jennifer Olynyk, Lauren Seminoff, Nichole Flynn, Jana Poohachoff, Melaina T odd. 3rd row, left to right: Jamie Shaw, Clayton Marr, Devon Nazaroff, John Shkuratoff, Tanner Hlookoff, Josh Mcpherson, Michael Voykin, Eric Zoobkoff, Kyle Niminiken, Michael Saliken, Mitch Clark, Logan Forsythe, Kane Pickard, Magee Drisdale, Michelle Griffiths, 4th row , left to right: Josh George, James Forsberg, Justin Tydeman, Dallas McGowan, Andrew Lamb-Paul, Michael Amstutz, Shawn Mysko, Thomas Affolter, Spencer Bourne, Jared Overholt, Shane Gagnon, Kyle Verigin, Gordon Lekepoy, Tristan Thickett. 5th row, left to right: Andrei Makortoff, Trevor Beauregard, Dale Ray, Noah Bick, Travis Dowes, Sam King, Micah Chobanuk, Sam Mackinnon, Nathan Burrell, Ryan Hoodicoff, Phillip Lapinski.

Mount Sentinel honours Class of 2006 at Graduation Ceremonies

by Jan McMurray

The largest Mt. Sentinel graduation class ever assembled onto the stage in the school gym on June 16 to celebrate with the many who came to see the ceremonies.

Vice principal Glen Campbell spoke of the talent in this group of 75 young people. They are musicians, actors, singers and dancers who produced *Fame* this year, he said. They raised money to build homes for people in Mexico and raised money and awareness for people in Africa. They finished second at the Moscow Jazz Festival, and brought home 15 of 17 awards from the Red Carpet Film Festival. For the first time, every sports team finished in the top 10 at the provincials this year.

The grad band players played one last time with the stage band. They played a song that music teacher Mr. Lingard described as "something that takes us back to our beginnings" — Sesame Street. Thomas, Sam and Rhian gave a very entertaining Valedictorian address and Heather Shippit, guest speaker, mentioned each grad in her warm and wonderful speech. "You are provincial champions, poets, firefighters, artists, humanitarians...and you are all lovers," she said near the end of her speech. The class gave her a standing ovation.

After the diplomas were presented, Justin Tydeman, Sam MacKinnon, Sam King and Keira Angus performed Eric Clapton's *You Look Wonderful Tonight* for the class.

Mt. Sentinel Secondary grads receive Scholarships and Bursaries

Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department Bursary: Casey Postnikoff; Phil Malekow Peace Award: Keira Angus, Alex Konkin, Eric Zoobkoff; Castlegar and District Fire Chiefs Association Bursary: Mike Saliken; Richard Memorial Bursary for Music: Nathan Burrell; CocaCola Bottlers' Scholarship: Jenny Olynyk; West Kootenay Toy Run Association Bursary: Josh George; Castlegar Savings Credit Union - Slocan Park Branch Bursary: Janice Burns; Kootenay Lake School District Employees, CUPE Local 748 Scholarship: Brittney Soobotin; Kootenay Savings Community Foundation Bursary: Nathan Burrel; Kootenay Slocan Lions Memorial Bursary: Eric Zoobkoff; Columbia Power Corporation Bursary: Ana Nazaroff; Kootenay Lake Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association Scholarship: Dallas McGowan; Nelson & District Credit Union "Student Spirit" Scholarship: Thomas Affolter; Mt. Sentinel Parents' Advisory Council Awards: Kayli Manner, Catherine Courson; Nelson & District Teachers' Association Scholarship: Amanda Moreira; Royal Canadian Legion Scholarship (Slocan Vallley Branch #276): Lewana Benson; Johnny Hadikin Memorial Award: Katie Trace; Mt. Sentinel Administrators' Bursary: Saskia Werner; Slocan Valley Women's Institute Bursary: Jenny Olynyk; W.E. Graham Parents' Advisory Council Award: Michelle Griffiths; Kootenay Columbia Teachers' Union Scholarships: Josh McPherson, Sam MacKinnon; Carol Sing Music Bursary: Sam King; Rotary Club of Nelson Scholarships: Miryam Bishop, Lauren Seminoff; Mt. Sentinel Student Council Awards: Terra Perepolkin, Rhea Stoochnoff; Masonic Lodge High School Bursaries: Keira Angus, Sam MacKinnon; Fortis B.C. Scholarship: Shane Gagnon; Springer Creek Forest Products Scholarship: Clayton Marr; Ernie Gare High School Scholarship: Thomas Affolter; Selkirk College Board of Governors Awards:($200 each) Maya Zeabin, Nina Balchewski; Trades, Careers, or Diploma Awards of $1500 each: Janice Burns, Nichole Flynn; University Arts and Sciences Awards of $3000 each: Catherine Courson, Josh McPherson, Nicole Pereversoff, Lauren Seminoff, Brittney Soobotin; External Scholarships and Awards: Dallas McGowan, University of British Columbia Entrance Scholaship ($500); Amanda Moreira, Mt. Allison University Entrance Scholarship ($1000); Jenny Olynyk, Thompson Rivers University Entrance Scholarship ($3000); Kayli Manner, University of Calgary Entrance Scholarship ($1500); Ashley Tarasoff, Elizabeth City State University Athletic Scholarship ($10,000); Columbia Basin Trust Youth Service Award: Katie Trace; Locally Awarded Ministry of Education Scholarships: Sam MacKinnon, Thomas Affolter; Governor General's Academic Medal nominees: Catherine Courson, Jenny Olynyk, Dallas McGowan, Sam MacKinnon, Thomas Affolter.

Congratulations to the Grads of 2006! From Ken & Diane at p&r archery & Sport 5146 Pedro Ck. Rd. Winlaw

School District Kootenay Lake Congratulations to Class of 2006

BEST WISHES! Mt. Sentinel Graduates from EVERGREEN NATURAL FOODS

Playmor POWER PRODUCTS LTD. Congratulations Class of 2006 on your success!

Congratulations to the Mt. Sentinel graduating class of 2006. May your future endeavours take you places! Mountain Valley Station 355-2245

Congratulations to the 2006 Grads from Floyd & Natasha

Congratulations to Mt. Sentinel's 2006 Graduating Class Eldorado Market AG FOODS

Congratulations to all the 2006 Graduates! The Valley Voice

Congratulations to the Class of 2006! KS Kootenay Savings Where You Belong South Slocan

SMOKEY CREEK SALVAGE Good luck in your future endeavours!

Congratulations to Mount Sentinel's 2006 Graduating Class Springer Creek Forest Products Ltd.

The Harold Street Cafe Congratulations Grads of 2006

Congratulations to Class of 2006 CO-OP Slocan Valley Co-op

SLOCAN PARK SERVICE Congratulations 2006 Graduates!

Congratulations to the 2006 Grads from Barry & Judy at LEMON CREEK LODGE

Mt. Sentinel's Valedictory Address: Cheers to the grads of 2006

by Thomas Affolter, Sam MacKinnon and Rhea Stoochnoff

So honestly, what is the theme of this year's grad? We started with a bold, masquerade/the '80s movie *Labyrinth* type deal. Which I only voted for because I expected to see some serious David Bowie action!

That quickly evolved into some kind of forest, autumn, tree thing. Which was nice. Oh, very nice, very nice! But unfortunately we lacked a good idea. Something to tie it together.

So it turned out to be masquerade/the '80s movie *Labyrinth*/forest, autumny thing/ *Fame* the musical. That's right, we painted the *Fame* set blue. A nice blue. Why? Because we could! And it was easy! So, happy graduation! FAME!!!

Speaking of easy, that really seems the trend this year. It's appropriate to dub us the most unenthusiastic grad class EVER. That's not to say we don't want to graduate. We just don't want to have to do any work.

Take us for example. We're barely giving this speech. We wrote it like, an hour ago. Luckily we got time to rehearse while we were putting on the cap and gown. We could've met a week ago, but what are we, grad '05? No thank you!

We're here to do as little as possible, as rarely as we can, until they give us the boot. Then we'll leave. FOREVER!

Now, in order to give a speech about graduation, we realized, first we must understand what graduation really is. We had to step inside the mind of graduation. We had to become it. Built it up, and knock it down! Lose a few pieces, and steal our neighbors' so that we can finish.

We realized it's a lot like Lego. And then we realized, no it's not. It's more like jumping off a huge cliff! You spend 12 years climbing to the top, only to hurl yourself headlong into the real world, which is a lot like hitting every single rock on the way down. You finally get to the bottom, only to be skewered by a large pointy tree called a career. And then you die.

We realized that's slightly depressing, so we came up with something even better! Graduation is like finally getting your license so that you can drive down the road of life. You have freedom! You have independence! You have no 'novice' sign being displayed and you've got too many passengers. There goes graduation for three more months!

That's not a metaphor anymore, that's bitterness! How was I supposed to know there'd be a road block?!? Whatever. We landed on the final delicious idea. The metaphor to end all metaphors.

Graduation is like a homemade smoothie! There's so many different ingredients that must work together, or blend together, if you will, to make the ultimate experience. Now, let's make this grad smoothie!

The first ingredient is water. That's us. The core. Pure, innocent, clear. No BHT. We have to add some ice, because all the members of this graduation, basically, got along with each other. There's been no major conflict between us this year. That's not something all grad classes can say. So what's that got to do with ice? We're all just 'chill.'

Good one. Next up we have two essentials. Salt and pepper. Salt is here representing intelligence. Because this class, man, sometimes we're brilliant! Pepper is here representing naiveté. Because this class, man, sometimes we're brilliant!

Of course, how could we leave out something like yogourt. It's old, lumpy, you don't get the good stuff until you mix it up a bit — all characteristics of the teachers.

Next up, maple syrup. Here so that the group of us always stick together. And it's a pleasant little symbol of nationality. We should add some pancakes. No! What would that represent? I don't know, fluffiness? Moving right along, we're gonna add some peanuts. Why, because our class is so nutty? No, they represent those of us with allergies!

We also have some brewskies. Pretty obvious what that represents. We thought we might as well put it in, probably woulda snuck in somehow anyways. Legally, we never added that.

There was a lot of hard, hard work put into this graduation. And we wanted to recognize that somehow. So we got some bubble gum here. How is hard work related to Hubba Bubba in any way, shape or form? You know, you chew it lots. It hurts your jaw. It's incredibly tough to digest. Seven years tough, I heard. Prove it!

Stop fighting, we got a smoothie to make here. Weren't you listening when I added the maple syrup? This is supposed to bring us together!

The last three ingredients — all equally as important. And appalling. Firstly: leaves. Because living around here really gives one an appreciation for all our glorious surroundings. They represent our respect to Nature.

Next is the wildcard. Welcome to ingredient X. No one knows what this one is! Obviously it's representative of things to come. (Opens the jar and smells it.) Oh, man!! Where'd you get this stuff? I got it from the future! Well, the future stinks. Stinks bad!

Last and certainly not least. The egg. This one egg, is completely whole. It's unity. It's us spending our final year of high school together. And now we go our separate ways! (cracks the egg)

Let's blend this graduation!

Look at it. That's what our grad year has amounted to. In all its swampwater-ish glory! Bottoms up? You read my mind. Cheers, to the grad class of 2006!

Mt. Sentinel's Valedictorians mixed up a strange smoothie to toast their class.

Heather Shippit, guest speaker, mentioned each grad in her warm and wonderful speech.

Justin Tydeman, Sam MacKinnon, Sam King and Keira Angus performed Eric Clapton's You Look Wonderful Tonight for the class.

Slocan council, June 14: variance issues discussed

by Don Currie

•A request for a variance from Peter and Linda Taylor was first approved and then rescinded when Councillor Gates objected that council was departing from its procedure of first viewing a property where a variance was requested before deciding on the request. Council agreed to view the property first.

Council referred a letter from Administrator Eunice Ludlow to Sabine Wolters regarding her application for a variance to an in camera session of council.

Councillor Perriere insisted that council must set up a variance board to deal with requests and "stop going back and forth." She said that a decision had been taken to set up a variance board and five citizens had been listed for interviews. She urged council to act on the matter.

•Councilor John Gates, reporting on the May RDCK meeting, said a survey revealed that Slocan has 752 non-resident owned parcels, of which 27 are owned by people from Alberta, 15 from other provinces and 4 from the USA. Gates said that building permits were up throughout the RDCK, including Slocan, and ridership on the West Kootenay Transit bus service was rising. Gates said it was the goal of RDCK to achieve zero waste management. Work is proceeding on a plastic disposal bin for Slocan and council agreed to consider a blue box system for village seniors who are finding it difficult to take recyclables to the new location. Gates reported that Slocan has $2,202 in RDCK grant-in-aid funds for distribution. Groups seeking funding should apply to village council in writing.

•Gates also attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) convention and reported on concerns expressed to Industry Canada by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs that bandwidths in the 150 MHz range now used by fire departments and municipal governments would be changed. The FCM adopted an emergency resolution petitioning the federal government to retain the bandwidths, arguing that they were particularly well suited to use by fire services and that changes would be expensive for municipalities to implement.

•Gates also reported on discussions on water conservation and the merits of water metering to reduce consumption. Gates said modern water metering devices ranged from $300 to $425 per household. He added that Slocan has adequate water at affordable rates when compared to Calgary, where homeowners pay a flat rate of $1100 annually.

•Councillor Joanne Ellis, village representative on the Recreation Commission, reported that 170 young people were enrolled in soccer. Ellis reported that an historic building on the Barber property in Vallican would be moved to a Rails to Trails site and converted into an interpretive centre.

•Ellis reported on a May 30 meeting of the Slocan Community Forest working group. Ellis said the deadline for the final agreement with the Ministry of Forests was the end of June, and the group had formally requested a six-month extension to complete the application. The new deadline will be November 2006, but the group aims to complete the process by September "in order to deal with the beetle kill area of Elliot Anderson and Trozzo watershed." Ellis said the application to form the governing body for the community forest licence is being prepared and when agreed upon will be forwarded to the ministry. She said the land base being offered consists of contentious areas and was significantly reduced from the area the group had originally hoped for. A 'cell by cell' analysis is being done of the areas under consideration to provide hard data to proceed with the application and business plan. Ellis said the group continues to meet regularly with the ministry and provided council with a map showing the areas in question.

•Madeleine Perriere reported that the Community Complex Society had surveyed villagers about proposals for a recreational facility. She said there was a good response but some members of council had not participated. She said there was new energy in the society and meetings were open to the public.

•Council contributed $50 to the WE Graham annual award ceremonies on June 28 and a member of council will attend the event. Council agreed to include the Loggers Sports Day to include the event in the village's insurance coverage. Council also agreed to requests for village equipment, picnic tables, water, bathroom facilities and safety signs for the event on July 8.

Beth McLeod is Nakusp's new Community Projects Co-ordinator

by Jan McMurray

Beth McLeod, Nakusp's new Community Projects Co-ordinator, is the perfect fit for the job.

She has been involved in the community as a business owner, parent and volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce and many other groups.

"I like to be well informed and I want to make it easier for both residents and visitors to learn of entertainment and recreational opportunities that our area has to offer," she says. "I'm encouraged by all the positive feedback that I've received since being chosen for this position. I'm really enjoying working on the various projects and being involved in the positive changes in the community."

The village of Nakusp decided to create this position with community tourism grant funding that was available to all municipalities this year. It is a part-time position for nine months, but McLeod will try to find funding so that the position can continue.

The job involves addressing the suggestions in the Visitor/Tourism Assessment report done by 'undercover tourist' Roger Brooks and his company, Destination Development, earlier this year. This includes co-ordinating the redesign of the websites for the village and hot springs, improving visitor information signage at the entrances to town and improving wayfinding signage within town. McLeod will also participate in the 2006/07 review of the Official Community Plan by sitting on the Downtown Revitalization Committee, and will work with the Nakusp Marketing Committee to co-ordinate joint marketing efforts. She hopes to improve the online community events calendar and the Coming Events sign at the pullout on Highway 23 north of town. She will also co-ordinate Canada Day celebrations and the Christmas Light-up, and perhaps additional events on the BC Day long weekend.

She says that the report done by Roger Brooks of Destination Development provides straightforward and practical suggestions, many of which can be easily addressed right away.

"Council was wise to use its community tourism grant to this position, so there is no delay in acting on those great suggestions," she says, pointing out that it also coincides well with the review of the OCP and the establishment of the joint marketing committee between the village, chamber and development board.

McLeod has begun distributing Brooks' report to Nakusp businesspeople and can email it to anyone who contacts her at cpc@nakusp.com. Copies of the report are also available at the village office.

Canada Day plans are just about finalized, she reports, with many groups planning to participate in the parade and the celebrations at the park afterwards. Watch for some new things this year, like a 'Find the Toy in the Haystack' game and frisbee golf in the area behind the skatepark.

Tees to serve third term as BCSTA president

by Jan McMurray

BC School Trustees' Association (BCSTA) president Penny Tees of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) was acclaimed to serve a third term as president at the recent AGM held in Prince George.

"Over the past year, we've achieved 100% membership of the 60 school boards in the province for the first time in over 20 years," Tees proudly reported. "I think what we are seeing is that school boards want to work collectively in advocacy, and support each other in sharing successful practices."

Penny Tees will serve a third term as BCSTA president.

She says the association's goals are to continue to support school boards with professional development and district services, and to be at the forefront of the provincial voice of school boards.

She said that being involved on the learning roundtable with the premier was very exciting. "Our rural districts are right in there with an equal voice helping to shape education for BC," she said.

Slocan Outdoor Market

The Slocan Outdoor Market is starting up again on June 25 at the old Elementary School on Harold St.

• Fruit & Veggies
• Food Vendors
• Arts & Crafts
• Home Baking
• Snacks Available

Featuring a "Live Stage" with performers from throughout the Kootenays.

Sundays from 10 to 3 pm

Vendors Wanted
Contact Ella @ 355-2592 or
market@slocancity.com

Prima Materia

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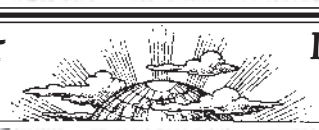

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For comfortable and unique accommodations in downtown Nakusp, check out our Casa Mandala Guest House at www.casamandala.ca

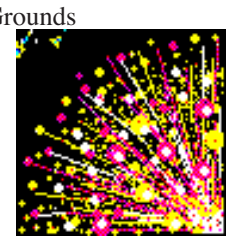
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

Come Celebrate Canada Day in Silverton!

June 29th
7:00 pm — **BINGO** — Memorial Hall

July 1st

7 am to 11 am	**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**	Memorial Hall
7 am to 11 am 12 noon to 4 pm	**SILENT AUCTION** • Eric Renk: "Down from the High Country" Print • Bouk Elzinga "Hills Cabin" Brush & Ink • Tsuneko Kokubo: Original Water Colour • Much Much More	Memorial Hall/ Bocci Court Area
8 am to 6 pm	**BOCCI TOURNAMENT**	Bocci Courts. Contact Dick at 358-2596 or Dave at 358-2456
11 am to 2 pm	**FLEA MARKET**	Gallery Grounds. Contact Pat at 358-2441
11 am	**CHILDREN'S PARADE**	Starts at Silverton Country Inn
11:30 am	**CHILDREN'S GAMES**	Dewis Park. Treasure Hunt, Gold Panning, Fish Pond
11:30 am to 6 pm	**CONCESSION BOOTH**	Bocci Court Area
Noon to 6 pm	**BAVARIAN GARDENS**	Bocci Court Area
Noon to 4 pm	**COTTON CANDY**	Bocci Court Area
Noon to 4 pm	**MINING MUSEUM**	Gallery Grounds
12:30 pm	**PET SHOW**	Gallery Grounds
1:00 pm	**HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT**	Bocci Court Area. Contact Smitty at 358-2876
2:00 pm	**DUNK TANK**	Bocci Court Area
4:00 pm	**DUCK RACE**	Silverton Creek Foot Bridge
Mid day	**BLACKSMITH SHOP**	Fingland Cabin Area
Mid day	**ANTIQUE ENGINE DISPLAY**	Gallery Grounds
8:00 pm	**COMMUNITY FAMILY EVENING:** Music and Dance	Day Park
8:15 pm	**YOUTH AWARD**	Day Park
8:30 pm	**CANADA DAY CAKE**	Day Park
10:00 pm	**FIREWORKS**	Day Park



For more information: phone 358-7283 or 358-2852

Nakusp council, June 8: Aiming for mid-July hot springs opening

by Jan McMurray

•Councillor Mueller reported that the hot springs committee had met on site with the contractors and architect. "It's amazing the work they have done," she commented. The tiling was underway, she reported, but because the grout needs to cure for two weeks before the pool can be filled with water, the facility will probably not be open until mid-July. "Our staff is doing a great job painting railings and change rooms. The place is getting a face lift," she added.

Superintendent of operations Jason Chernoff reported that the ozone systems were in and that everything downstairs was on schedule. He said that as soon as the tiling was finished, at least a week would be needed to get the pool's pH, chlorine, etc. levels balanced properly and the facility totally cleaned up. He said the staff would also need time to be trained on the new equipment.

•Councillor Roberts reported that the community forest group had met with Springer Creek Forest Products and the company was very supportive. "They realize they have to give up 10,000 cubic metres, so they are willing to work with us every step of the way." He said they provided the group with some great maps and would meet with them again soon to finalize the area.

The Valley Voice made a follow-up call to Jesper Nielsen from the community forest group, who said that the area under consideration is Slewiskin Creek, better known as McDonald Creek.

"It's close to town and has some good growing sites," commented Nielsen. "By mid-July, we'll have a good idea how the drainage looks in terms of its viablity for us."

The drainage is within Springer Creek's forest licence. The community forest group has applied for an extension to December 15 to submit its application.

•The Village would like to hang the Canadian, BC and Nakusp flags on separate poles. One pole and one flag will be purchased each year for the next three years.

•Administration was given the authority to deal with requests for grants and reductions on rental fees, in accordance with the three existing policies. Only requests for 100% complimentary use will be brought to council.

•Mayor Hamling reported that one of the main messages at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Montreal June 2-6 was the need for redistribution of funds from the federal and provincial level to the municipal level.

CROWN LAND

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC OFFERING

229 Cemetary Road
Edgewood, BC

Upset Price - $29,000
Offers close 9:30 am Tuesday, July 4, 2006

This is a level residential lot (.41 acres) located near the end of Cemetary Road. Serviced with water, hydro and telephone. There is an older registered manufactured home on the lot. Sold "As Is." The parcel is buffered from the neighbouring lots by mature trees while the remainder of the lot is cleared. For further information and to submit offers, please contact the Realtor who has been contracted to conduct this public offering on behalf of Integrated Land Management Bureau.

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www.royallepage.ca/selkirkrealty

ROYAL LEPAGE

New business opens in Nakusp

Studio Connexion has its roots, like its owner, in Quebec.

Anne Beliveau believes her culture is not only her French language, but much more, from literature, visual arts and music to food, architecture and furniture...

Beliveau has always loved home decoration and furniture. During one of her trips back to the heart of Quebec, she saw a product that she thinks will appeal to the western population.

The product she found is Quebec antique reproduction furniture. The collection is called *Idantique* and includes armoires of various sizes, tables and chairs. All are made of recycled pine from old homes, or from new pine. Chairs are made of maple with sinew seats in the style of the Bellechasse county.

"It is unique furniture and will complement any decor," said Beliveau. "If you are looking for that special piece, come to Studio Connexion and see the high quality of craftsmanship in this furniture."

Beliveau is also selling number one grade maple syrup from her hometown.

Studio Connexion is opening July 1.

"It is a small, quaint space," says Beliveau, "and so as not to be disappointed, make sure to call ahead for an appointment."

For information and to make an appointment, call 265-3586.

Congratulations to NSS athletes

submitted

Nakusp Secondary School athletic teams had tremendous success this school year, as nine of the ten senior teams competed in provincial competitions, and the NSS student athletic team participation rate continued to be one of the highest in the province.

In November, the NSS senior boys soccer team hosted the boys "A" provincial championships. Despite having the youngest team in the competition, the NSS team finished a respectable eighth out of the 12 teams.

In December, the NSS senior girls volleyball team finished second in its Kootenay playoff and became the first Nakusp team ever to compete in the provincial girls "A" volleyball championships.

In March, the NSS senior girls basketball team captured its third consecutive Kootenay girls "A" championship, and competed in the girls provincials in Kelowna. The NSS girls were competitive in every game and finished eighth out of the 13 teams that qualified.

At the same time as the basketball team was competing in Kelowna, the ski and snowboard teams travelled to Invermere for their provincials. The boys snowboard team finished 12th in its division. The boys and girls ski teams both had strong results, finishing sixth in their respective events, and the girls snowboard team almost captured their provincial championship, finishing in second place.

In June, the spring provincial championships took place and NSS was represented in the boys "A" golf provincial in Creston, where the Nakusp team finished in fifth place. The NSS senior girls soccer team captured its second consecutive girls Kootenay "A" soccer championship, and followed this up with a strong fifth place finish in the 12-team provincial tournament in Duncan.

Over 65% of the students at Nakusp Secondary participated on a school athletic team this year. In addition to their competitive success, the NSS students were singled out at several provincial competitions for their sportsmanship and effort.

Congratulations to all the student athletes on a very successful year.

Canada Day 2006 Celebrations in Nakusp

Saturday, July 1st

7:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Hall

9:00 Farmer's Market - 5th Avenue at Broadway

11:00 Parade
- Line-up is at 10:15, judging is at 10:30
- Line up on 1st Ave NW north of Broadway
- Prizes for Kids' Entry, Pet Entry and other entries!

After the parade head over to the Park for the afternoon!

Noon Opening Ceremonies at the Gazebo
- Welcome from Nakusp Mayor and Queens
- O'Canada
- Prize winners - parade & business decorating

Get your Canada Day button! $2 at downtown stores

12:30 p.m. Rotary Concession Stand
Antique motorcycles and classic cars on display
Mini Golf for BC Children's Hospital
Fish Pond
Kids' Haystack Toy Search
Kids' Face Painting
Kids' Parachute Game
Frisbee Golf (self-guided)
plus vendors and more!

Lots of family fun at the Park!

Get your duck for the Duck Race on Kuskanax Creek! $5 each at Overwaitea. 1st place: $1000 2nd place: $600 3rd place: $400

1:00 Kids' Races
Skateboard/BMX Competition
Legion Bingo at the Legion Hall

2:00 Ducks are released- watch for the helicopter with all the rubber ducks in the net!

3:00 Rotary Mountain Bike Draw
Bocce - sign-up ahead of time at the gazebo
Tai Chi demonstration

4:00 Duck Race Winners announced

10:00 Fireworks

SPECIAL NOTE:
This year the fireworks will be set off from the breakwater south of town. Spectators can line the waterfront walkway for viewing them.

For more information call Beth McLeod at 265-0024

CAROL'S GARDEN CAFE
- Ethnic Specialty Nights
- Live Entertainment
- Galleria

Sunday, June 25
Thomas & Daveki of Samsara
Jamaican Curry Dinner
Friday, June 30
Lent, Fraser & Wall
(Blues Trio)
Mexican Dinner
Edgewood • 269-7494
June hours: Wed-Sun 5-8 pm

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Anne Béliveau
Proprietor

Studio Connexion
(by appt. only)

203 5th Ave
Nakusp, BC
V0G 1R0
tel/fax (250) 265-3586

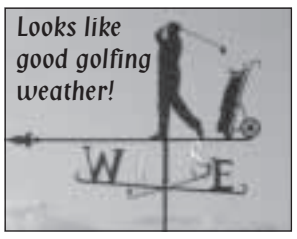
Pictured here are the winners of the Slocan Valley Legion Branch #276 West Kootenay Zone Fun Golf Tournament, held June 4 at Slocan Lake golf course. L to R: Men's Low Net - Bob Thommasen (74), Nelson; Women's Low Gross - Linda Henke (80), Nakusp; Women's Low Net - Joyce Marchisuk (75), Nakusp; Men's Low Net - Don Campbell (85), New Denver. Other results - Women's Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin - Linda Henke; Men's Closest to Pin - Bob Shillito; Men's Longest Drive - Ken Braithwaite; Most Honest Golfer: Women - Pat Hendrickson; Men - Glen Hodge. Hidden Hole - High Score: Women - Pat Hendrickson, Men - Richard Abfalter; Low Score: Women - Linda Henke, Men - Don Campbell.

GOLF COURSES

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,

New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$16.00**/9-holes, **$25.00**/18-holes,
Day Pass: **$35.00,** Weekly Rate: **$160.00**
RENTALS: Clubs and Pull carts available.
Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
RESTAURANT: 8 AM TO 8 PM (LICENSED)
2006 TOURNAMENTS:
- VSA (Private) Sat. June 10 • $15.00
- Johnny Tier, Sat. June 18: $15.00
- Club Championship, June 24-25: $15.00
- Club Open, Sat. Aug. 13: $40.00 members / $50 non-members*
- Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 9: $20.00/couple
- Club Closing, Sat. Sept. 24: $15.00.

(* fee includes dinner)



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NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

Stop in at *The Valley Voice* office in New Denver (across from the Credit Union on Main St.) to pick up a copy of *THE SILVERY SLOCAN HERITAGE TOUR GUIDEBOOK*, or a *SANDON PAYSTREAK* newspaper, and maybe even some helpful advice and handy tips about things to do in the area!

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May 1-Sept 30. Serviced ($19) Unserviced sites ($14) Water and power hook-ups, fire pits, picnic tables, restrooms and hot showers. Downtown location, close to park, beach, playgrground, SS Moyie infocentre and great shopping! Pets on leash welcome.

• Centennial Campground

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• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023

65 sites, full/semi hook-ups, tenting, boat launch, paddle boats & canoes, pets welcome, children's playground, firewood, fishing, hiking trail, confectionery, sani-station, showers, laundry facilities, large gazebo with BBQ pits.

• Springer Creek RV Park & Campground (250) 355-2266

Open mid-May to Sept. 30. Located at 1020 Giffin Rd., Slocan. Turn right immediately off of Highway 6 entrance to Village of Slocan. Full hook-ups, partial hook-ups, tenting sites, sani-dump, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

• Nakusp Village Campground (250) 265-1061

Open May to October. 35 shady sites, hot showers, flush toilets, sani station, fire pits; close to sandy beach, tennis courts, play area, downtown shopping. Pets on leash, reservations. $18 per night, $21 full service.

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472

Situated on Slocan Lake at Leadville & Turner Streets. Lakeshore and Creekside Tent and Trailer Sites. Fire pits and firewood.

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• Halcyon Hot Springs •(250) 265-3554 •1-888-689-4699 •Fax (250) 265-3887

www.halcyon-hotsprings.com e-mail: info@halcyon-hotsprings.com Halcyon Spa opens June 2005. Always fresh, natural, mineral hot springs with own lake shore comfortable chalets, cabins, full RV hook-up, camping, Bistro-Restaurant, historical chapel, bodywork, horseback riding, tours and much more... Have some happy Halcyon days!!! Big swimming pool now open!

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ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

• William Hunter Cabins (250) 358-2844 www.williamhuntercabins.com

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• Selkirk Inn Ph: 1-800-661-8007 / (250) 265-3666 Fax: (250) 265-4799

CAA & AAA approved 210-6th Ave. West, Nakusp, BC www.selkirkinn-nakusp.com email: selkinn@columbiacable.net Located in the heart of Nakusp, we are close to the Nakusp Hot Springs, Halcyon Hot Springs, the Nakusp Golf Course, and only a short walk from the shores of Upper Arrow Lake. All 39 deluxe rooms have a TV, phone and fridge. 30 units with air conditioning, some units with kitchenettes, wheelchair accessible unit available, pets allowed in select units.

• Villa Dome Quixote: Award-winning Lodge & Cottages (250) 358-7242

602 6th Avenue New Denver www.domequixote.com

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O'Brien's on the Lake, 1710 Hwy 6 Nakusp,
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THINGS TO DO

Chiaroscuro Photographic Gallery Tel: (250) 358-2569

Patrizia Menton's fine art photography includes black & white and colour, with particular focus on cibachrome. She values traditional darkroom skills and two of her favorite themes have been the natural world and Italian architecture. Visit her studio: 123 Reibin rd. Hills (north of New Denver) Open May till October

BED & BREAKFASTS

• Mistaya Country Inn Ph/Fax (250) 358-7787

www.mistayaresort.com email: mistayaresort@netidea.com

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• Sweet Dreams Guesthouse & Licenced Dining Phone (250) 358-2415 Fax 358-2556 www.newdenverbc.com / sweetdreams@newdenverbc.com

B&B in historic building by the lake. Licenced dining & patio by reservation. Ethnic style meals.

MUSEUMS

• Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre (250) 358-7920 www.slocanlake.com/sandon

Open 10:00 to 5:00. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy. 31A in historic silver mining ghost town. Collections of stunning photographs and fascinating artifacts including the famous "two story mousetrap." Admission: 18 & over, $4.00 •12-17 yrs. $3.00 • Under 12, free.

• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288

The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the WWII internment story. Located in *The Orchard* in New Denver, open 7-days-a-week 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

• Arrow Lakes Historical Society Ph/Fax: (250) 265-0110 265-3323 alhs@netidea.com

e-mail: alhs@columbiacable.net Location: 92B - 7th Avenue NW (BC Hydro building). Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 3:00. Archives and publications. Best source for area history and family research.

Doukhobor Discovery Centre
(250) 365-6622 www. Doukhobor-Museum.org

Doukhobor Culture of BC 1908 to 1937. Over 1000 artifacts represent the arts and crafts, customs and religion of the Doukhobors. Music, Films & Art Gallery. A.V. Gallery features documentaries, photo archive & new exhibits yearly. 112 Heritage Way, Castlegar – May-Sept 10-6 Daily

• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201

The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of Main Street, restored to circa 1900. Open Monday to Friday in June. 7 days/week in July and August. Special tours welcome. Please call 358-2201, 358-2478 or 358-2656 for further information. **A MUST SEE MUSEUM WITH DAILY TREASURE HUNTS FOR CHILDREN!** Hope we see you there.

Kaslo council, June 13: Council asks Crooked Cafe to respect noise bylaw

by Jill Braley

•Chris Burk, owner of the Crooked Cafe, appeared as a delegation. He spoke about the importance of the cafe to the community, discounted complaints about noise and asked council to amend the Noise Abatement Bylaw.

All council members agreed it was not council's intention to see the Crooked Cafe shut down, but asked that the 10 pm noise bylaw be adhered to.

Jim Booth of the Liquor Control Board and Constable Lorne Anderson attended an administration and finance committee meeting on June 14. Booth stated he had received several complaints from citizens on various issues surrounding the cafe. He said he tries to work with the owners before entering into any enforcement action, which can result in a $7,500 fine and a 10-day shut down.

Councillor Leathwood suggested a compliance meeting take place that same day between Jim Booth and the Crooked Cafe, with an effort made for immediate improvement and more dialogue between the Liquor Board and the cafe. Councillor Hewat asked Booth to send council the list of remedies that Booth will suggest to the Crooked Cafe.

Council received 25 pieces of correspondence regarding the cafe.

•Council approved two development variance permits (DVPs): a deck for the Gillis residence and a garage/workshop for the Lynch residence. Councillor Jones voted against these permits, stating he felt council was setting a precedent by always granting variances with little or no setbacks, and urged council to look at all DVPs very closely to avoid any problems down the road. Councillor Leathwood disagreed, suggesting that maybe the process needs to be changed. Mayor Holland pointed out that no properties were impacted.

During Q&A council members were asked if they attended residences to view the areas where variance permits were being requested. Mayor Holland said normally he relies on village staff to view the sites. In this case, about half of council viewed the two locations.

•Council received a letter and plans for a proposed one lot subdivision of the land associated with the condominium building in Kaslo Bay from Peter Ward of Ward Engineering. The plan was referred to Urban Systems for comment.

•RDCK treasurer Barry McLean wrote to council, enclosing correspondence from Royal & Sun Alliance describing risk management concerns at the Kaslo & District Arena. Some of the concerns were: exit lights missing or not illuminated; temporary wiring to the time clock in the curling rink presents a fire hazard; cover plates missing on several electrical receptacles; storage area above the arena houses combustible debris. The public works department will review the concerns with the arena association and report back to the village with plans for addressing all concerns.

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BC hydro

Arrow Lakes Reservoir Operations Update
June 2006

Arrow Lakes Reservoir reached a minimum elevation for 2006 of 425.9 m (1397.3 ft) on March 31. This is slightly lower than the minimum elevation for 2005 of 426.1 m (1397.9 ft) on January 25. The peak level in 2005 was 434.6 m (1425.9 ft), recorded on July 1.

Currently, the Arrow Lakes Reservoir is forecast to reach a peak elevation between 436 m and 439 m (1430 – 1440 ft) by early July. The reservoir is expected to draft, or decrease throughout August and September, and is forecast to be between 433 – 436 m (1420 – 1430 ft) by the end of August. The reservoir is then expected to continue drafing slowly until the end of September. The forecast probable reservoir elevation ranges provided are for reference only; they are not guaranteed. Weather variables, Columbia River Treaty and BC Hydro system requirements could potentially require reservoir levels that are outside the indicated ranges.

This summer Arrow Lakes Reservoir levels are forecast to be higher than last year's summer elevations. Some of the contributing factors are:

- Lower than normal snowpack in the Canadian Columbia region for the sixth time in seven years. However, overall basin runoff (U.S. & Canada) is expected to be near-average this year.
- The Columbia River Treaty requires that Treaty storage, primarily in Kinbasket and Arrow reservoirs, be operated according to plans which provide flood control and power benefits for both countries. These operating plans depend on a number of factors, including actual and forecast runoff throughout the basin. Due to the past several years of low runoff, Treaty storage levels during the spring and early summer of 2006 are currently lower than during 2005. However, treaty storage should continue to refill throughout the latter part of the summer.
- Operations under the Non-Treaty Storage Agreement (NTSA) also impact reservoir levels for Kinbasket and Arrow. While the release provisions of this agreement were terminated in June 2004, the storage provisions remain operative. In fact, under the terms of the agreement termination, the NTSA storage space must be completely refilled by June 2011. During the January 2006 to March 2006 period, NTSA storage was partially refilled, and this translates into additional water in Arrow and/or Kinbasket. This additional water will provide longer-term support for Kinbasket and Arrow reservoir levels.
- Williston Reservoir, in the Peace River region, is again forecast to be near full this summer with a risk of spilling water. To avoid spill, BC Hydro's Peace River generating facilities will be operated in preference to the upper Columbia River generating facilities (Mica and Revelstoke) until the Williston spill risk is manageable. At that time (likely July), the upper Columbia plants will be operated to produce more power, therefore discharging more water to support Arrow levels.
- BC Hydro has recently signed the short-term "Summer Storage Agreement" with the Bonneville Power Adminstration for 2006. Under this mutually-beneficial arrangement, a portion of the water that was to be released from Arrow Lakes Reservior during the May-June period will be delayed until the August-September period, thereby improving Arrow levels during the summer months.

BC Hydro is committed to working with interested parties across the region to understand and address issues resulting from reservoir levels. We have met and will continue to meet with community leaders and the public in an effort to understand and appreciate the impact of our facilities in the region. Please note that:

- The repairs recently completed at the Arrow Lakes Generating Station had no impact upon the operation of Arrow Lakes Reservoir.
- It is unlikely that BC Hydro will enter into an agreement under the Treaty to initiate a swap to support Koocanusa Reservoir levels by reducing Arrow Lakes
  Reservoir levels.
- To supply domestic customer demands in the most economical manner, BC Hydro purchases lower priced electricity from the U.S. and Alberta markets. These purchases are made primarily during the April to June period and overnight when market prices are lower.
- BC Hydro monitors weather and snowpack conditions on a regular basis and will continue to provide updates as information becomes available. Further to this, BC Hydro will hold its annual Operations Update meetings in Nakusp on June 20 and Castlegar on June 21.

Additional sources of information on water levels can be found at:

- BC Hydro's toll-free number, 1 877 924-2444, which provides water level information for the Columbia Basin area. The information is updated Monday to Friday, except holidays.
- Water Survey of Canada at: **http://scitech.pyr.ec.gc.ca/waterweb/fullgraph.asp**
- BC Hydro detailed reservoir information: **www.bchydro.com/info/res_hydromet/data/bir.txt**
- Kootenay Lake levels, call FortisBC at 250 368-0544

Please note that forecast information **is subject to change at any time** if there are changes in the projected weather patterns, load requirements, Columbia River Treaty provisions and other variables.

A06-215

www.bchydro.com

for generations

Should Kaslo buy the courthouse?

by Jill Braley

On June 8, approximately 30 members of the public, including mayor Jim Holland and councillors Suzan Hewat, Rich Jones and Molly Leathwood attended a public meeting at the Kaslo Community Hall to discuss whether the village of Kaslo should buy the provincial building.

Mayor Holland opened this second public meeting on the possible purchase, commenting that not a lot of ideas have come forward from the public.

Councillor Jones said he felt that purchasing the building was possible as long as it could pay for itself. Current operating costs to maintain the building come to about $44,000 per year. Revenue from the existing tenants of the building was not readily available during this meeting.

Councillors Hewat and Leathwood were both in favour of purchasing the building, but agreed that revenue to service the debt on the building was an important consideration before moving forward with this project. Both agreed that a public referendum would be needed.

Mayor Holland voiced his personal opinion that he was not in favour of purchasing the building when the current village hall is in dire need of some $1.3 million in renovations.

In response to questions from the public, Holland said that the village had offered $120,000 for the building but that offer was no longer on the table because of a ministry shuffle.

It was pointed out that the fire hall will have to be relocated when renovations begin on the city hall building, and a drawing was presented to council showing the fire department adjacent to the provincial building. The emergency operations centre could be housed in the building, as could a museum, learning centre and seniors' housing. There could also be space in the building for arts and crafts, meetings and conferences.

There was a comment that increased taxes would not be welcome. Although it was stated that the building is in fairly good condition, it was noted that the front stairs are not senior or handicapped friendly, and an elevator alone would cost approximately $500,000.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Slocan Valley heritage trail nearly done

Over the past couple of seasons, there's been a great deal of time and money invested in the old rail grade down the valley. It has now been converted into a first class rail trail for use by walkers, cyclists, horses, and non-motorized recreationalists. The last train to use this route left the Slocan mill on September 14, 1993.

The half million dollar funding has resulted in an outstanding trail going 50 km down the centre of the valley. Although last year I found it to be rocky and uneven in many places, I am glad to say that things have changed for the better. Much of the ballast rock foundation of the rail grade has been moved to the edges of the trail and in many places a mix of sand/fine crush has been laid over the base layer.

With summer starting, it seemed like a good time to revisit this valley destination. I rode my supension bike down the grade from Slocan City south to Winlaw, then enjoyed the scenic tour back along the highway. The rains held off nicely and I set off from the gazebo at the boat launch in Slocan around noon.

The new surface of the trail is firm and smooth and triples the speeds I rode last year. Hopefully a prolonged dry spell won't cause it to loosen up or get those deep soft ruts, but time will tell. For now the fine granular material has blended well into the sub-surface.

June is a nice time to ride this route. I personally like scotch broom and there is a spectacular patch as you leave Slocan near the Valhalla Unit Crew camp. With the river still high, the bird sanctuary section of the river was going crazy with activity, and all manner of flapping, squawking, and chirping. Flooded fields and drowned trees and fenceposts added to the mood of this stretch.

Within an hour, I'd reached the bridge at Lemon Creek. There are two very long and level sections of trail through here that contrast with the curves of river and road. The rail trail enters a tiny prairie at Larson Ranch with barns, cattle, horses, and the route going arrow straight and due south. The river provides a serene landscape as the trail curves along again approaching Perry's Back Road and that great bridge over the main river.

Last year the route from the Thread's Guild to Winlaw was awful, but now you can tour along nicely in higher gears, not needing to focus only on the trailbed. I saw the sign for Fomi's Bakery and rode up the short connector path for a snack and to see the cats, ducks, chickens, geese and friendly staff inside.

In no time, I rolled into Winlaw and carried on a bit further. I doubled back over the fine bridge over Cedar Creek, then left the rail trail to ride into uptown Winlaw for a coffee. Really dark clouds were moving up the valley from Passmore so I got out and started motoring up the highway back to Slocan, barely even getting wet and completing the return ride in four hours.

This ride was less than half of the northern section of the trail and was sure nice with the new surfaces. Some minor gravelly parts remain, and the grasses and weeds could become a maintenance factor, but I'm sure the valley folks will keep sections in good shape through some program of stewardship and simple goodwill. I met no other trail users at all for the 2 1/2 hours I was riding it, and really hope that after the coming official opening ceremonies, that greater participation will ensue. However, I think if use of this high cost corridor is minor and if it starts to get grown in and neglected, then the idea of motorized users and some memos of understanding would be the way to go.

On another matter entirely, I've had various calls and questions about how the road up to Idaho Lookout near New Denver is, so I decided to ride up and see for myself. I drove to Sandon and unloaded my lighter weight hardtail bike and pedalled on up the road. The local cyclists and mine surveyors have cleared many fallen trees off the lower sections to the Queen Bess Mine turnoff. The road is pretty good up to the 8 km point, just to where you descend into Wild Goose Basin. The roadbed is in okay condition and it's likely the Forest Service will do some touchup work if time allows.

I met several people in cars and SUVs who had hoped to get up to see the flowers and such, but as usual, that is best done in mid-July and later. Even so, you'll be walking over late snowbanks for awhile yet. There ought to be a big sign in Sandon with the current road status so people don't spend a lot of time and gas needlessly.

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

Financial Forum

with Collin Ludwar

Gardening Season – Watch out for the Deer!

I have a small acreage up in Slocan Park and I've been spending time getting my garden ready for the season. The other day I realized how gardening could be compared to good old fashioned retirement planning. Historically, the main purpose behind gardening was to provide enough food to get through the cold winter season. This is no different than ensuring you have enough money to make it through your retirement years.

Gardening - like retirement planning - has two components. These components are controllable events and non-controllable events. The controllable events are the things that we can make decisions on and plan for, like what seeds/investments to buy, when do we start to plant/invest, when do we harvest/retire? Some of the timing may be uncertain but the desires and goals will be known. For example, I know that I will be picking my last bunch of tomatoes sometime in the fall but the exact date depends on how well the tomatoes are ripening. Obviously, I need to be flexible with my plans.

Whether you are an amateur gardener like myself, or a seasoned veteran you realize much of your harvest yield is dependent on factors you cannot control. The weather is like the general economy which effects your investments. There are sunny days and there are rainy days. Nobody can predict the weather on July 26th but you can make the general assumption that there will be more sunny days than rainy days during that month. So while we cannot control the weather we can generally predict patterns.

What I worry about with my garden is not necessarily the weather but the problems I have with the deer and the elk. The deer certainly could destroy my whole garden. I cannot predict when they will happen to come into my garden but I know sooner or later they will walk in and eat whatever they can. If they get in early, I may have enough time to replant. If they come in later, I may have harvested enough vegetables by then that it wouldn't affect me too much.

In reality, I am at risk right from the beginning of the gardening season to the very end. I have no control if or when the deer may discover my garden.

Since I cannot do anything about the deer, I need to find ways to protect these garden-raiders from entering my property and destroying my food supply. I can build a fence, but how high and how strong do I build it? A low fence might be cheaper than a tall one but chances are, the deer will just jump in and destroy things anyways. I could use lightweight or heavyweight fencing material but cost will be a factor in determining what choice I make.

When people think about retirement planning they tend to focus on the sunny and rainy days ahead and they don't even think about the deer. The deer in this case being a disability or a critical illness.

Disabilities and Critical Illnesses affect one in three Canadians. The length and the severity of the disability will directly affect your retirement plans. You can build your fence by purchasing a disability or critical illness insurance policy. The cost of the policy will determine the strength or the amount of coverage of your personal fence. But even a low fence is better than no fence at all!

If you have group disability coverage, you may feel that you already have a fence built. Although a company LTD plan can be a basic structure, these plans typically only continue past the two year mark under extremely severe cases. In most instances, this leaves the household struggling financially and without the means to continue contributing to their retirement assets. One way to solve this problem is to purchase a disability policy that will pay money into a retirement account while you are disabled.

Everyone's garden is different therefore you should talk to a fence professional (financial advisor) to ensure that you have an effective and affordable retirement protection barrier. Everyone should have a discussion about their disability insurance with a professional. Being aware of the strengths and weaknesses of your fence are as important as knowing when the first frost is coming!

Collin Ludwar B. Comm. is an insurance financial advisor with The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in risk management for individuals, professionals and business owners.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

A rose is a rose is a Wild Rose

Some time around 1906, in Rosebery BC, a building went up in which some Swedish folks opened a 'trading post'. Maybe that was when the building acquired the name Rosebery Trading Post. Since then it has had a rich history as a post office, a butcher shop, a 'little store', and through the '50s and '60s, a private home to various good folks including local legend Mabel McCrory.

That was all before my time.

I remember the building from the '70s as home for Goat Mountain School by day, and a rehearsal hall for the Valhallalujah Rangers by night. Then suddenly it was 1980 and Andrea Wright moved in with her daughters Lilliana and Ava, aged five and three. Andrea and her friends began sponsoring Sunday Waffle Breakfast, Tostada & Games Day, which was a well liked community event that inspired Andrea to open a restaurant. Thus was born, The Wild Rose, a Mexican-style restaurant right in Rosebery BC.

Lilliana and Ava grew up above the restaurant and remember sitting on the stairs watching the restaurant operate. They especially liked 'Coffee House' nights when they would put on their 'finest' and giggle as they watched the grown-ups singing songs and carrying on. The girls grew up with the restaurant business, and at age 16 Lilliana became the general manager, and soon after, the head honcho and head cook of a very busy Wild Rose Restaurant.

She says, "I absolutely love the restaurant business. We put on a show every night, providing a festive atmosphere where guests are served delicious homemade Mexican-style entrees while they listen to meringue, salsa and romantic Latin crooners, and forget about their work week."

The Rose uses rich, high quality spices to create flavourful dishes to please those that like it hot and those who like it mild. Whichever you choose, the food is delicious!

"The key to achieving this," says Lilliana, "is to pay attention to detail, be dedicated, and be willing to work in the nutty world of restaurants."

Speaking of nutty, crazy things happen at the Rose. Once during a blizzard in the winter of '85, a guy dressed as a Mariachi walked in, claiming to have made a wrong turn in Revelstoke and to somehow have ended up in Rosebery where he saw a beckoning light that turned out to be the restaurant.

"The guy had on all the Mexican mariachi stuff with sombrero and guitar. The whole bit. It was a restaurant night, and he entertained us with his music till we closed. Then he disappeared back into the blizzard." So the story goes!

I went to the Rose for dinner with a friend last week. I have a favorite dinner there, the taco salad grande with extra chicken and buttermilk dressing. Always fantastic. My friend had the special feta quesadilla. We traded bites, sat back, and were very happy to be there.

Sandy, our server, looked after us with lots of smiles and Randy, Lilliana's partner, came over to say, "You can't possibly have a real Wild Rose experience without trying one of our margaritas." We didn't argue!

Another famous Wild Rose dinner is the pollo cashew quesadilla with chicken, golden cashews, mushrooms, tomatoes and cheese, served with Spanish rice and a dinner salad. That's what I'll have next time. The Wild Rose serves a variety of appys and salads, tostadas and tacos, including the DJ special shrimp taco. There are special quesadillas and another TEN full dinners including the burrito veracruz and the almond shrimp flauta.

At the Rose, you can go vegetarian or meat. There is a kid's menu and an ever-changing dessert menu. If you want to taste heaven, try the blueberry cream cheese pie. No wonder the Rose has so many repeat customers, some of whom travel long distances to get there.

The Rose is fully licensed and they are open seven nights a week from five till nine - Canada Day till Labour Day. And if you need your hair styled, Ava has an excellent salon in an adjoining building.

Andrea still holds that Rosebery is the "heart of the universe which gets better every day." Go to the Wild Rose and enjoy!

YOU SELL THEM NORCO BIKES, PETE?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LIQUIDATION AUCTION SALE July 8, 2006, 10 am. Hummingbird B&B, 7530 Hwy. 6, Fauquier, BC. Contents of house, shop, yard and garage. 24' Cabin Cruiser, plus much, much more. Lunch stand on site. Come spend the day! 1-250-269-7436 for info.

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CALL FOR ENTRY

KOOTENAY ARTISANS CHRISTMAS MARKET Call for Entry applications available at 250-352-2402 or www.ndac.ca, ndac@netidea.com. All product must be quality handmade. This year's Market is at the New Nelson and District Community Complex! 5 booth sizes and 70 Booths from BC and Alberta!

A call for donations to the ALFA GUILD GALLERY "Silent Auction 2006" (Featuring Miniature Artworks) fundraiser. The auction will run from June 28 to July 16th - with an opening reception June 30th from 6-8PM. All works, maximum 6'X6', to be delivered to 619 Broadway, Nakusp, BC, between 9-12 on Monday, June 26/06. Call Holly @ 265-3732.

CARD OF THANKS

Our Outdoor Jam was a huge success and the Winlaw Hall Committee would like to thank the following businesses and and people that donated so much. S.V. Co-op, Harold Street Cafe, Winlaw Mini Mart, Castlegar Dairy Queen, The Greek Oven, Pony Espresso, Gaberiels, MDT Mold & Die, Mtn. Valley Station, Hair By Teth, Nelson Overwaitea, Napa, Nola Carter, Don Streeter, Barb Wilson, Helga Gfroerer, Carolea, Lil, Four Seasons Greenhouse, Spirit Quest, Shirley Munro, Legendary Meats, Fomi's Bakery. A huge thanks to the WINN traveling group, all the musicans that came from far and wide, Brian for the use of the stage, Alf Anderson and John Cresswell for looking after the sound and set up. All the ones that just offered helping hands by picking stuff up and getting things put away. Thanks so much to all the folks that like the older music and always support the dances and jams. If you would like it a yearly event all you have to do is let us know and support us, we'll be there. Thanks again

Winlaw Hall President, Lorna P. Burns

COMING EVENTS

THE FRIDAY MARKET happens in New Denver every Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Local produce, flowers, herbs and artisans wares. fridaymarket@netidea.com or 358-7733.

SLOCAN CITY OUTDOOR MARKET every Sunday 10 am - 3 pm starting June 25. Interested vendors call Ella at 355-2592 or Email market@slocancity.com.

EDGEWOOD LEGION COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE Sunday June 25, 9 am - 2 pm. Rain or shine. Rent a table or a space for $5. Call Connie 269-7293.

ALFA GUILD GALLERY presents our second show of the 2006 season, "Meanwhile Here on Earth," Linda Dixon, as well as a Silent Auction of miniature artworks by various local artists including a Les Weisbrich limited edition print (11x14). June 28th to July 16th 12-4PM at 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp. Opening reception Fri, June 30th 6-8pm.

THE GREEN BUILDING FORUM Can we create a sustainable building network in B.C.? Wednesday, June 28th and Thursday June 29th, Mary Hall, Selkirk College Campus, 820 10th Street, Nelson BC. Learn about: alternative energy, sustainable home building, straw-bale construction, Forest Stewardship Council timber and lumber certification and the growing market for sustainable building products. Check the exciting line up of speakers and workshops and register at: http://selkirk.ca/services/Conferences/events.html For inquiries or to reserve a display table for your product or business contact John Cathro Phone: 250-353-2234 or Email: cathro@netidea.com. A project of The Harrop-Procter Watershed Protection Society.

PHOTOGRAPHY by Myles Berney and Chillia Zoll at the Hidden Garden Gallery June 28 to July 10. Opening reception with refreshments and music by Jeremy Down, Fri. June 30, 7-9 p.m.

MOTHER & BABY WELLNESS YOGA in New Denver! A variety of short yoga workshops are being offered by Marina Locke. Partner yoga, Baby massage & yoga, Menopause yoga, Strengthening the pelvic floor. Look for posters for details, or call Elly for registration or information. 358-2689.

ART & GARDEN TOUR 8 gardens, lower Slocan Valley. Brochure with map at local businesses, & at each garden. SUN., JUNE 25, 11-4.

RARTS (Rural Alternatives Research & Training Society) AGM. Tuesday July 11 at 7 pm. Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Slocan River Road. All welcome. 226-0097.

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WINLAW PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT Tenders are requested for summer maintenance in Winlaw Regional Park. Approximately 60 hours of work over 3 months starting July 1 2006. Riding lawnmower is required for job. On site viewing June 26, 5:30 pm at Park. Attendance at viewing is mandatory for those who wish to bid. Written materials can be obtained at viewing, or in advance from http://www.woodfor.com/park. Deadline for submission of bids is June 28, 2006.

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NOTICES

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

INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO "MEDITATE EFFECTIVELY"? Look before you leap. Check out these websites- http://home.comcast.net/~dkmuir/index.html; http://members.shaw.ca/darkthirty/; http://plumtree444.livejournal.com/; http://www.rickross.com/reference/rc/rc1.html; http://harrahsahara.livejournal.com/

SLOCAN LAKE GARDEN SOCIETY invites members of the community to join with us in the dedication of an ornamental lantern and the planting of a Japanese Maple tree in memory of Pauli Inose, a founding member of the society. The memorial will take place on Sunday, June 25, 2006 from 1 pm until 3 pm at the Kohan Reflection Garden, New Denver. Refreshments will be served.

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OBITUARIES

Notice of Passing of Mrs. Catherine Margaret Wiens

On Tuesday June 13, 2006 Catherine Margaret Wiens of New Denver passed away at the Slocan Community Health Centre, New Denver, BC, at the age of 65 years. Cremation has taken place at the Nelson Crematorium.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 1, 2006 at 11 am at the Bosun Hall, New Denver, BC, with Pastor Danny Law officiating.

As an expression of sympathy family or friends may make donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, Nelson Unit, Room 103, 715 Vernon Street, BC V1L 4G3. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Valley Funeral Home Ltd.

Notice of Passing of Mrs. Anna Louise Spencer

On Thursday, June 15, 2006 Anna Louise Spencer of New Denver passed away in the Arrow Lakes Hospital, Nakusp, BC, at the age of 91 years.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 11 am in the Silverton United Church, Silverton, BC with Rev. David Boyd officiating. Interment will follow in the New Denver Cemetery.

As an expression of sympathy friends or family may make donations to the Candaian Cancer Society, Nelson Unit, Room 103, 715 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4G3. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thompson Funeral Service Ltd.

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Alysia Garmulewicz wins Silver Canadian Environment Award

Lucerne graduate Alysia Garmulewicz was awarded a Silver Canadian Environment Award for her climate change work at a gala evening held at Vancouver's Pan Pacific Hotel June 5.

The evening was hosted by broadcasting personalities Vicki Gabereau and Robert Groulx. Representatives from three levels of government were on hand to congratulate the winners.

"These extraordinary Canadians are making a real difference in communities across Canada," says Clive Mather, president and CEO of Shell Canada, founding partner of the Canadian Environment Awards. "We hope their stories will inspire many others to become involved in activities to improve our environment."

Mather presented the Gold and Silver recipients with prizes of $5,000 and $2,500, respectively, which they will donate to the environmental cause of their choice. All winners also received framed plaques donated by Canada Post and expressly designed for the Canadian Environment Awards.

Garmulewicz donated her $2,500 prize to Changing Climates Environmental Society.

The experience that changed the course of Alysia Garmulewicz's life, and perhaps the future of the planet as well, was the trip to the Antarctica she earned through Canadian Geographic's Students on Ice program.

"The Antarctica is like nothing you can imagine," Garmulewicz says. "It's huge and magical and seems untouched. But it hits you at an emotional level to learn that such beauty is being destroyed by climate change."

Back home in Hills, Garmulewicz was eager to take climate change action to another level. "I decided to hold a conference," she says.

Wooing sponsors such as Bell Canada, BC Hydro, TD Bank Financial Group and Mountain Equipment Co-op, Garmulewicz raised more than $150,000 and won the support of environmental powerhouses Elizabeth May, Severn Cullis-Suzuki, the David Suzuki Foundation, Environment Canada and the Rocky Mountain and Pembina institutes.

The result was the 2005 Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3), which welcomed 85 youths, ages 15 to 20, from across Canada to the Royal Roads University in Victoria.

"The conference brought youth together as future leaders for positive action," Garmulewicz explains. "It challenged us to rethink how society operates and to encourage the search for sustainable alternatives."

Today, Garmulewicz is a student in environmental studies at Carleton University in Ottawa. Continuing the work of YC3, she has founded the Changing Climates Environmental Society and a website that allows her to maintain a vibrant dialogue with an evergrowing list of youth activists. "It's important that we break out of the doom-and-gloom scenario," says Garmulewicz, "and start to create exciting new ways of doing things."

Lucerne graduate Alysia Garmulewicz was awarded a Silver Canadian Environment Award for her climate change work at a gala evening held at Vancouver's Pan Pacific Hotel June 5. With her are her family, from left to right, Nicolas Garmulewicz, Peter Collins, Alysia Garmulewicz, Liza Ireland and Annie Collins.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

YOGA RETREAT AT THE LITTLE SLOCAN LODGE - With Eliza Gooderham. July 7th to 9th.(Fri. to Sun.). Fee:$160 (inc. accomodation).
KID'S SUMMER ART WEEK - With Karla Pearce. July 4th to 7th, Crescent Valley Youth Centre. Fee: $88/4 days
SUMMER HOOPS CAMP - With Mike & Darcy. July 4th to 7th at Bonnington Park. Two age groups.
GYMNASTICS WEEK - With Rhonda Saunders. At Brent Kennedy School. July 10th to 13th.
CIRQUE DU PLAY - Run off and join the circus! With Safire Jones. July 17th to 21st at Bonington Park; July 24th to 28th at Vallican Whole. Two age groups
WORLD CUP SOCCER WEEK - With Jenny Olynyk. July 24th to 28th. Bonnington Regional Park. Two age groups.
SUMMER KAYAKING LESSONS - Youth - July 10th to 14th; Women - July 10th to 14th; Couples & Families - July 22nd & 23rd.
LAKE SWIM LESSONS AT VILLAGE OF SLOCAN - July 24th to August 4th. Pre-School + Red Cross Swim Kids. Instr: Randall Milton.
BUILDING YOUR OWN CATAPULT (TREBUCHET) - Sat. July 22nd (Sat.) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Instr: Andreas & Carl Schlichting. Fee: $500 inc. everything (some assembly required!)

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Mountain High 'Saddle Mountain'

BLUE RODEO
ROGER HODGSON (formerly of Supertramp)
APRIL WINE
THE ROAD HAMMERS
MerQury
Skavenjah
Wild T & The Spirit
Paul Kype & Texas Flood
Sleddogs
Sugakane
Five Alarm Funk
IBO & Kindread
Tal Bachman
BC/DC
I Witness
Last Day Lost
Sobeit Union
Valdy & Gary Fjellgaard
UNIT 731

Ticket office: 119 Broadway St., Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0
Online Ticket info: www.nakuspmusicfest.ca
Phone / Fax: 250-265-2141 1-877-265-5565

Early Bird
3 day pass $129.00
Sat/Sun $99.00
Sat $69.00
Sun $69.00
Youth 1 day $45.00
Youth 3 day $65.00

After July 1st
3 day pass $165.00
Sat/Sun $135.00
Sat $80.00
Sun $80.00
Youth 1 day $55.00
Youth 3 day $75.00

Children 12 & under FREE with Guardian
Youth (13-18 years old) qualify for youth tickets

Last chance to buy early bird tickets is July 1!

JULY 14 -16 2006

Welcome Señor...
Ricardo RESTAURANT
Fully licensed and covered patio

401 Broadway Street
Nakusp, BC
Wylie's

Friday June 23
FreeFlow
• played @ last year music fest
• no cover charge • 9.30 pm •

RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD-FAMOUS LONELY PLANET TRAVEL GUIDE

Don't Miss the 26th Annual
Loggers' Sports Competition starting at 11:00 AM
Sat. July 8, in Slocan City

with the Best and Fastest Male & Female Competitors from Canada and around the World!

THIS YEAR FEATURING
3 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

With all the usual exciting competitions:
- **Choker Race:** Obstacle race with cable
- **Double Buck:** 2-person crosscut saw
- **Single Buck:** 1-person crosscut saw
- **Jack & Jill:** Man & Woman double-buck
- **Axe Throw:** Just what it says!
- **Birling:** 2 men trying to log roll on one log
- **Springboard Chop:** chopping top off 9' tree from springboard
- **Tree Climb:** Race to top (and bottom) of 80' tree
- **Dot Split:** Precision firewood splitting
- **Underhand Chop:** Between-the-feet chopping
- **Stock Saws:** Cut a round with Stihl saw provided
- **Hot Saws:** same as above, but the saws are REALLY JUICED UP!

Over $8,000 in prizes!

Refreshments & Food available
ADMISSION: only $2.00

Please DO NOT bring pets with you!