The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Kootenay Savings Credit Union Playmor junction branch robbed

by Art Joyce

The Kootenay Savings Credit Union (KSCU) at the Playmor junction was robbed last Wednesday, July 26. In connection with the robbery, Chance McGregor Ingram, a 20-year-old Slocan resident, has been charged with two counts of robbery and one count of having his face masked with intent to commit an indictable offense.

On July 26 at 9:54 am, Nelson RCMP were called out to the KSCU branch. A male wearing a mask had entered the bank about 15 minutes earlier with a weapon and obtained an undisclosed amount of cash from tellers. Police response was immediate and comprehensive: the police dog unit, RCMP helicopter unit, highway patrol, integrated road safety unit, and forensic identification.

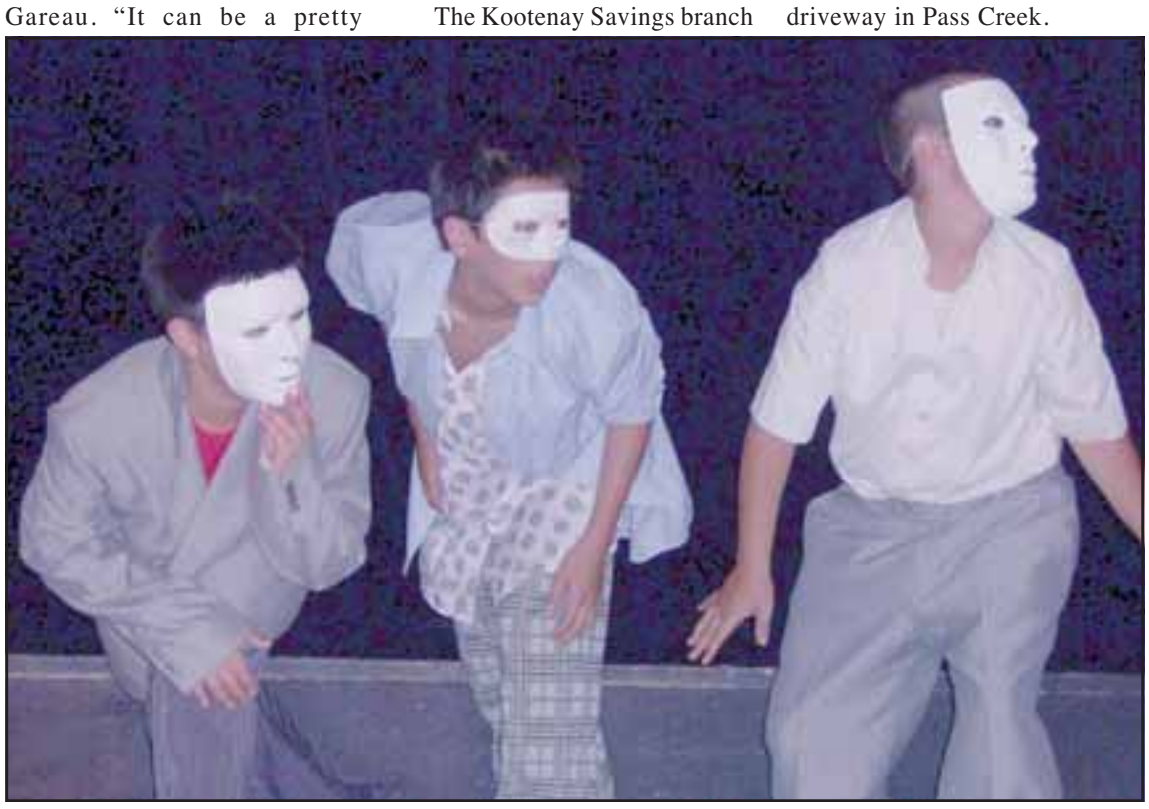
Traffic checkpoints were established with the help of both the Castlegar and New Denver RCMP detachments. Credit union staff told officers the suspect had fled in a vehicle stolen from the parking lot. A Nelson City Police officer located the vehicle within a kilometre of the credit union and a police dog was used to track the suspect's movements from there. Acting on a tip, police were able to track a second vehicle. The road safety unit stopped the vehicle at Crescent Valley bridge, and a 20-year-old male was taken into custody at 11:15 am. Police report that they seized "exhibits" from the male that were stolen from the bank, and that a small amount of cash was recovered from another location.

As it turns out, the weapon the culprit was brandishing during the robbery was a pellet gun. However, Crown counsel may still consider adding charges based on the use of a weapon in committing the offense.

Ingram was in Nelson Provincial Court July 27, 28 and 31 and was in custody pending a decision by the judge regarding bail. Based on police recommendations for a crime of this magnitude, Crown counsel may argue for continued custody without bail. However, according to Corporal Riordan Bellman of the Nelson RCMP detachment, Ingram has been very co-operative and has no prior criminal record.

The Nelson RCMP detachment's victim services unit attended the scene with counsellors to elicit details of the crime from witnesses as well as offer debriefing for trauma. Kootenay Savings also dispatched a counsellor from the Warren Shappell firm as part of its employee benefits program, says VP of Finance and CFO Mike Gareau. "It can be a pretty traumatic experience, but our staff handled everything professionally. I think they're all okay." Gareau said security protocols for robberies is part of every credit union staff member's standard training process.

The Kootenay Savings branch was also the victim of an ATM robbery on July 14, 2004. A chain was wrapped around the bank machine and attached to a cube van to remove the ATM from the building. Both the van and ATM were later recovered from a driveway in Pass Creek.



The first Valhalla School of Theatre Arts (ViSTA) was a smashing success. There were 36 7- to 14-year-old participants in the six-day program, held at the Silverton Gallery July 17-22. The theatre school culminated in a performance of three short plays to a packed hall. Here, Michael Ryu, Yuki Miwa and Marcus Mellen play in The Curse, directed by ViSTA instructor Heather Shippit, who is a drama teacher at Mt. Sentinel.

Cooler temperatures provide some relief for fire situation

by Jan McMurray

The cooler temperatures and higher humidity since July 30 have helped to slow the growth of the fires burning in the province, and have kept the number of new lightning fire starts low. However, winds on July 30 fanned the flames of fires throughout the Southeast Fire Centre, making some of them very visible. As of July 31, none posed any threat to communities or structures.

Three small fires on Goat Mountain northeast of New Denver were reported on July 24 at 4 pm. All were caused by lightning and were under one hectare. However, one of them had grown to 5 hectares by July 28. It was 100% contained on July 31, with ten firefighters on site to mop up. The two small ones were out by Monday (July 31) morning. The Rosebery log dump was the site of a staging area for helicopters and air tankers on July 29, which seemed to be the busiest day for fighting these fires.

On July 29, several fires in the Kaslo, Lardeau and Trout Lake areas were reported. All but one were lightning caused. The Healy Creek fire in the Trout Lake area was human caused and officials are still investigating. It grew from 0.5 hectares on July 29 to 2 hectares two days later. By Monday (July 31) morning, it was 40% contained, with six firefighters and one helicopter on site.

The Davis Creek fire up in the Lardeau started out as two fires. One was 70 hectares and at high elevation and was being monitored, according to a July 29 press release from the Southeast Fire Centre. The other was 8 hectares, burning in a steep ravine, making it unsafe to fight. The smaller fire had taken over the larger one by July 31, and the size had grown to 270 hectares. High winds forced crews to stop work on the fire on July 30. Officials are actively monitoring the growth of the fire and will dispatch 20 firefighters once it is safe. This fire is visible from Kaslo.

The fire on Mount Kaslo was contained and into mop-up by July 31, with 14 firefighters on site. It was threatening one of the fire centre's radio transmitters on July 29, but extensive air tanker action prevented damage to it. The fire is very visible from Kaslo, but is at a high elevation. Fire Information Officer Corwin Odland reported that there were a couple of smaller fires in this area as well.

Other fires of note are a 3-hectare fire south of Salmo, 100% contained by July 31 with five local contract firefighters on site to finish mop-up; a 12-hectare fire at Tye Creek on southern Kootenay Lake, human caused, was 100% contained by July 31; and a 50-hectare fire on Mount MacPherson near Revelstoke on very steep terrain was threatening a set of power lines on July 31, with six firefighters and four helicopters on site.

The Southeast Fire Centre has seen 2,223 hectares burned by 339 fires so far this season. Lightning has caused 285 of the fires and humans have caused 54. People who cause fires can be fined, and can be charged for the entire fire suppression effort of the fire they caused. The Forest Service is asking that everyone be extra vigilant in preventing human caused fires. Human caused fires are completely preventable and take resources away from fighting nature caused fires.

As of July 31 province-wide, there had been 1,708 fires this season, burning 108,777 hectares. The total cost of fighting the fires was $71,591,447.

Anyone having trouble breathing because of smoke from wildfires is encouraged to visit a medical professional. Many wildfires have been reported by member of the public and everyone is asked to continue reporting all new wildfires to 1-800-553-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks.

The Southeast Fire Centre encompasses the area extending from the US Border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands / Monashee Mountains in the west to the BC / Alberta Border in the east. This includes all of the Arrow, Boundary, Kootenay Lake, Cranbrook, Invermere and Columbia Forest Districts.

Helicopters were picking up 'bambi buckets' of water on Saturday, July 29 from the Rosebery log dump to 'action' fires on Goat Mountain.

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BC Hydro awards contracts to two local power projects

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro has announced the results of the 2006 Open Call for Power, awarding 38 contracts to independent power producers throughout the province.

Two projects in our area were successful in their bids: the Canada - Glacier / Howser - Project (CGH), proposing a run-of-river hydro system in the Duncan Valley, and the Brilliant Expansion Project near Castlegar.

CGH project regional manager Neil Murphy says, "We're smiling, that's for sure." However, he acknowledges that the work has just begun. "The clock started ticking yesterday [July 27] and we have four years to get through the studies, permitting and enter into construction and have it completed, commissioned and online. There will be at least one-and-a-half to two years of environmental impact studies and approvals," he said.

Murphy says that in anticipation of the tight timeline, they started "way back" to line up resources, work out environmental and human relations problems, etc.

"We've put a lot of money out without a guarantee, but now that we have one, we're ahead of the game," he said, adding that the estimated project cost is up past $300 million now.

"One of the first orders of business is our presentation to the Regional District of Central Kootenay board of directors. That's very important as far as we're concerned. The tax base we'll provide is nothing to sneeze at because 34% of our gross revenues will go back into provincial and local taxes – and mostly local. The projected revenue stream is approaching as high as $40 million per year, so that provides substantially to the region, which it rightly should. The resource should be a benefit to the citizens of the region," he said.

The contract to build the system will go to Chant Construction, which has been working on the Brilliant Expansion project. The CGH project will provide about 300 local jobs during the construction phase, and 8-15 jobs to operate the plants for the next 40 years, Murphy says. "There is a huge amount of expertise in the Kootenays. Having grown up there myself, I am well aware of it."

All environmental studies are being done by local firms. Eric Miller of Mass Miller Consulting out of Nelson has completed initial studies on blue and red species, and harlequin ducks. The firm will start on a fish study very soon. "Nothing has come up in those studies so far that have raised a red flag for the consultants, but that's not to say that nothing won't," he said.

The project will involve developments on Glacier and Howser Creeks. Although the original bid included the possibility of future development on East Creek, Murphy says his company no longer has any intention of developing East Creek. Power produced from the project will travel from a powerhouse at Howser Creek to a powerhouse at Glacier Creek via an interconnect power line along the Duncan Lake Service Road. From there, it will travel via an overhead line along the Glacier Creek Forest Service Road, a buried line through Jumbo Pass, and an overhead line along the Toby Creek Forestry Road to the BC Hydro substation in Invermere. That comes to a total of 102 kms of power line.

The buried line through Jumbo Pass "is a daunting task," he said, explaining that it was the only way to go "in order to avoid any environmental impact on Jumbo Pass, which is a must." He said that six companies with expertise in horizontal drilling want to help them with that part of the project. A Castlegar company has been hired to do environmental and geological assessments in regards to this tunnelling part of the project.

"Basically, we have to identify whether the project will have an adverse impact or potential adverse impact on the environment. Then we'll have to revise the project so it's not detrimental," he said.

Murphy will be moving to Nelson from the coast soon, and will be here to do some "last-minute work" in the next two weeks.

Murphy says that since they put in their bid under BC Hydro's Open Call, further engineering studies have indicated that the CGH project will be able to supply more electricity than originally estimated. He says the plant capacity could be as high as 120 MW, providing roughly 450 GW hours per year, or electricity for about 45,000 homes.

Because the plant capacity is over 50 MW, Murphy says BC Hydro required them to enter into a federal environmental certification process through TerraChoice in Ottawa. The green certification is not given until the plant is built, but they have gone through the process and have a letter stating that the CGH project qualifies. "The list of permitting you need is in 100 different categories, so it's not a walk in the park," he said.

Murphy acknowledged that there is some opposition to the project, and assured the public process would begin soon.

"Just about every environmental group in the Kootenays is opposed," said Colleen McCrory of the Valhalla Wilderness Society in New Denver. "This energy is renewable, but it is not environmentally friendly. There will be damage not only to creeks, but also to fish populations. These projects can warm creeks up to 2-3° and that's enough to do damage. We want to see bulltrout studies for Howser and East Creeks. And no one wants to see a tunnel through the mountain for a hydro project. Sure, they'll be selling the power to BC Hydro, but ultimately BC Hydro will most likely use this power for the Jumbo resort."

McCrory says this is the beginning of private energy and a big giveaway of our water resources. She says the government is trying to tell us we don't have enough power, but "an energy conservation program would give us plenty of power in this province."

The Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation's successful bid was the result of a parallel tendering process. The company had already reached an agreement with BC Hydro in 2003 to sell 40% of Brilliant Expansion Project power to BC Hydro under Hydro's Green Power Generation procurement process. This new contract allows for another 50% to be sold to BC Hydro, for a total of 90%. The remaining 10% will be sold into the short-term power market.

The 2006 Open Call process was initiated in December 2005. Of the 53 bids, 38 were awarded contracts, including 29 hydro, three wind, two biomass, two waste heat and two coal/biomass projects. There are 22 small projects of 10 MW or less and 16 large projects. Of the successful bidders, 23 are already developing projects for BC Hydro resulting from previous calls. The awards represent long-term purchase agreements with an average term of 30 years. The CGH contract will have a term of 40 years; the Brilliant Expansion contract will have a 20-year term.

Local cyclist places eighth in Transalp Race

submitted

For the third year in a row, Jorg Becker from New Denver competed in the Jeantex-TOUR Transalp, a seven-stage bicycle road race through three countries and over some of the highest passes in the European Alps. This time, Becker teamed up with Bill Yearwood from Vancouver. Yearwood and Becker have cycled together in numerous local races.

Starting in the Grand Masters category (age of both riders combined over 100 years), Team Maple Leaf finished in an excellent eighth position in their age group and within the first quarter of 570 teams.

"Our goal was to place in the top ten. This we achieved through great team work," says Becker. "Our hard training through the past six months really paid off."

Starting in Oberammergau near Munich, Germany and finishing in Riva del Garda in Northern Italy, the race was 838 kilometers long, with an average of 120 kilometers a day. This course also included 21,700 metres (approx. 70,000 feet) of climbing.

"To put it into local perspective, it's something like riding up from New Denver to Idaho Peak twice a day for seven days straight," says Becker.

This very well organized race, following the traces of pro races like the Giro d'Italia or the Tour of Germany, gains popularity every year and draws teams from all over the world. This year, 570 teams of two from 22 countries signed up, many of them consisting of professionals and Olympians.

As in previous years, the weather went to the extremes during the week. Temperatures ranged from a blistering 38°C down to 6°C. "The fifth stage over four grueling passes in pouring rain and through the cold was an enormous physical and mental challenge," recalls Yearwood, adding that over 60 teams quit the race during that stage due to hypothermia.

However, Becker says, the event does not consist of hardship only. "Riding in such a big field of international cyclists on roads closed to traffic is an unforgettable experience. Also the scenery of the Alps, especially the Dolomites with their dramatic peaks and rock formations, compensates for the efforts," he says.

Will Becker return for a fourth go-around? "I definitely will be back to Europe next summer," says Becker. However, instead of being a competitor, he will share his experience and passion as a coach, assisting other Canadian teams.

Bill Yearwood (left) of Vancouver and Jorg Becker (right) of New Denver were Team Maple Leaf at this year's European Transalp race.

Increased occurrence of Whooping Cough in Kootenay Boundary

by Jan McMurray

In the past month, approximately 50 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) have been diagnosed in Kootenay Boundary. As of July 27, there were 35 cases in Nakusp, two in New Denver, one in Nelson and 12 in the Grand Forks area.

Pertussis is a contagious bacterial disease of the lungs and throat that is spread by an infected person coughing or sneezing. According to an Interior Health (IH) media release, it can be treated with antibiotics, but is best controlled through vaccinations that are part of regular childhood immunizations.

Dr. Horne, Medical Health Officer with IH, did not yet know why the outbreak has occurred, but assured that IH would be consulting with the BC Centre for Disease Control "to see if they can shed more light on the outbreak."

"It is not a complete surprise, because we know that the vaccine is not 100% effective in preventing the disease," he said, adding that some people recently diagnosed with the disease were not immunized. He says that those who have been immunized may have illness which is less severe.

The IH media release explains that pertussis starts like a common cold, with sneezing, runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild cough. Over the next week or two the cough gets worse, leading to severe coughing spells that often end with a whoop. The cough can make a person gag or spit out mucous, and make it hard to take a breath. The cough can last up to a month or two, and is worse at night. Babies less than six months old, teenagers and adults often do not make the whooping sound. If left untreated, pertussis can lead to more serious health complications.

People who have had face-to-face exposure for five minutes or more, or who have shared confined air space with a person who has pertussis for an hour or more, are at increased risk of developing the disease. Infection in pregnant women and infants can lead to severe disease in infants and newborns. The IH media release says antibiotics following exposure can sometimes prevent infection.

For more information, call Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Health Officer at 250-851-7330, BC Nurseline at 1-866-215-4700 or visit www.bchealthguide.org.

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Inland Rainforest Conference held in Silverton, July 28 and 29

by Art Joyce

We are fortunate to live within the range of the world's only inland temperate rainforest, but unless more is done to protect it, this global eco-treasure and its unique plant and animal species could be lost forever. That was the message discussed by delegates from a dozen environmental organizations, two government ministries, and Marilyn James of the Sinixt Nation at the Inland Temperate Rainforest (ITR) conference held in Silverton July 28 and 29. The conference was organized by the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) and moderated by award-winning environmentalist Colleen McCrory.

Most true rainforest only occurs in coastal zones in eight places on the planet. In North America, it is limited to a narrow strip on the Pacific Coast from Alaska to the midcoast of California. In the southeastern quarter of BC, the high western slopes of the Cariboo, Monashee, Selkirk, and central Rocky Mountains capture moist air as it moves inland from the Pacific Ocean. The result is a climate of rain and snow, what scientists call the 'interior wet belt.' It extends into northern Washington, Idaho and Montana on the south and as far north as the Robson Valley and McBride area. Only 7.5% of this inland rainforest has been protected in parks.

Stands of western red cedar and western hemlock occur inland together nowhere else in the world. In both the Robson and the Incomappleux Valleys, there are still old-growth cedar groves up to 1500 years old. The Incomappleux Valley near Beaton is part of a timber license held by Pope and Talbot. There has already been logging in the valley, but there are still intact stands in the northernmost portion.

Conference presenter Rick Zammuto, a biologist with Save the Cedar League, said the current collapse of the Amazon rainforest and subsequent release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere has a potentially devastating made-in-BC parallel if the ITR is allowed to be destroyed by logging.

Conference delegate Lance Craighead, of the Craighead Environmental Research Insitute, was instrumental in producing detailed habitat mapping of the entire ITR range based on scientific data. The maps identify what parts of the ITR are vital habitat zones and travel corridors for populations of wolverine, grizzly, wolf, and the remaining herds of mountain caribou, now endangered. Craighead said a minimum 50% of the ITR must be preserved in order to maintain current wildlife populations.

Biologists brought in by VWS have identified lichens peculiar to rainforests, including the discovery of previously unknown species. These lichens are a vital food source for caribou, especially during the winter months. Logging of old-growth rainforest is therefore a direct threat to their survival.

Pat Field from the BC Species at Risk Coordination Office briefed the conference on the government's progress in coming up with a caribou recovery plan. Field said this fall his agency will be hosting a province-wide series of information and public input panels on their proposed action plan. Delegates were dismayed by this news in the face of a crisis situation, "fiddling while the caribou get burnt," as one delegate put it. Field admitted government scientists are unanimous that "if we continue with current land use plans, every herd will face extirpation." However, these same scientists propose culling predators such as cougars and wolves, a controversial tactic "proven to have failed 100% of the time in 48 states trying to recover woodland caribou," according to Zammuto. Sinixt spokesperson Marilyn James said an international appeal may be the caribou's only hope.

Craig Pettit, a professional forester with VWS, guided delegates through a series of maps detailing the parts of the ITR range that currently have caribou habitat zones set aside in land use plans. He said the government's policy of logging beetle-kill timber is disastrous for caribou, since dead wood provides food for lichens. The emphasis on predator control is just a way of avoiding the logging issue, in his view. "Essentially what the land use plans did was hand prime caribou habitat to the loggers," he concluded.

A declaration for the protection of the ITR was recently signed by the environmental groups represented at the conference. The declaration calls for the federal and provincial governments to stop logging all old-growth forest over 140 years of age, reduce annual allowable cut, and legally protect habitat zones and wildlife travel corridors. A pro-active approach is urged by creating 'habitat recovery zones' in areas already logged, and full protected status for subpopulations of species at risk. Marilyn James said the Sinixt have also signed onto the protection plan for the ITR.

Riverwatch focuses on summer safety

submitted

For the past year, Riverwatch, a group of Slocan Valley volunteers, has been focusing on keeping the Slocan River safe for summer floating and the river free of unwanted litter.

If you've driven around the Slocan Valley lately you've seen large signs which give folks insight on how to enjoy the Slocan River to the fullest while having the least amount of impact. The signs offer water safety tips when using the Slocan River as well as floaters' entry and exit points and where risks such as log jams may be found (and should be avoided). These signs (and a smaller version of them) are being put up in Crescent Valley, Slocan Park, Passmore, Winlaw and Perry's Siding.

The larger signs also contain a panel alerting the public to the fish habitat structures placed by Columbia Power Corporation in the river south of the Winlaw Rapids. These homes for juvenile fishes are an innovative approach to restoring the fish balance in the Slocan River, but do pose a threat to anyone floating down the river.

As well as signs being put up, litter barrels have been put in near the high use areas, to help discourage littering in the pristine Slocan River. Several stores in the Slocan Valley are also selling mesh bags which floaters can attach to their tubes and put any garbage they accumulate while floating.

To get connected with Riverwatch or if you have questions, phone Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

Kathy Provan, Robin DaRosa and Sarah Bergevin welcome people to the Silverton Interpretive Centre at the gallery. The centre's displays are well worth a visit.

Silverton's interpretive centre is worth a visit

by Jan McMurray

Silverton Historical Society's interpretive centre in the Silverton Gallery building is a going concern this summer, with two archivists and a student attendant. The centre is open 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm.

Student Sarah Bergevin is attending at the centre, helping with displays, and sprucing up the outdoor museum. Kathy Provan and Robin DaRosa are doing the archiving.

"Our intention is to concentrate on the photos, organizing and cataloguing them," said Provan. "Scanning and digitizing them is probably a longer term project."

Service Canada's Job Creation Partnership program, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and Columbia Basin Trust were all funders of the archiving project, which will continue through to the end of November.

Provan says that some archival work has been done in the past by valuable volunteers such as Nancy and John Anderson, Frank Mills, John Morris, and many others. However, there is a large collection of photos to get through, not to mention the artifacts.

The staff invites people to visit the centre and have a look at the society's collection. "We have these wonderful, fabulous photos that we want people to come in and see," said Provan. She added that they are encouraging people to come and help identify people and things in the photos, and that they are happy to help people researching their family histories.

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- Do not overuse disinfectants such as laundry bleach or toilet bowl cleaner.

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Voices from the Valleys

Planning for communities

It's summer. Traditionally this is a time when very little happens on the local political scene. Village councils meet less frequently, and their meetings tend to be more laid-back affairs. Local editors are reduced to writing about how great it is to have all these festivals in the area, or forced to turn their pens to international affairs in order to have a subject worthy of attention.

Don't get me wrong, it's wonderful that we have all of these excellent summer festivals. I'm not sure that it's worth devoting an entire column to, though.

There's plenty happening on the international stage that is worthy of comment. Lots of people are commenting on it.

I prefer to talk about local issues anyway. My editor wants me to write about rural gentrification, and how it's making it impossible for local families (particularly young families) to buy a home. (She's against it.) I'm going to write about the Official Community Plans (OCPs) that most municipalities in our area will be discussing this fall. (Which may turn out to be the same thing by the time that I get to the end.)

What's an OCP? At its most basic, it's the rules under which a community agrees to live together. The places in which there will be industry, homes, parks and institutional buildings and what these facilities shall look like.

Planning often gets a bad rap, and let's face it, it goes against the grain of the free-spirited folk of the West Kootenay. My dear friend, and former Area H RDCK director, Eric Nygren launched his political career by running against planning in the Slocan Valley. By the time that he successfully ran for office the second time, he'd reluctantly been converted.

It's the only way to influence the development of the region. If we want to keep the quality of life that we enjoy, and the vibrant mix of people that make up our communities, we've got to plan how we'll do it. Otherwise we'll just end up being 'tourist amenity areas.' Most of the homes will be owned by non-residents, who come here to vacation for a few weeks in the summer. The West Kootenay has been discovered, and property prices continue to climb. The influx of retiring baby-boomers will continue to put upward pressure on the price of 'recreational' properties for at least the next ten years.

I'm not advocating a policy of parochialism nor am I being ageist, far from it. Our communities are richer places because we've welcomed a wide variety of people with a diversity of backgrounds. Retired people have always been an important part of the cultural weave that binds us together. Our lives would be much poorer without the contributions of newcomers and elders alike.

However, as we plan for the influx of an older, retiring population, we cannot forget the needs of the young and those who already live here. We need to find ways to house people displaced by the real estate boom. We need to give young families more options. We need playgrounds and schools, not just hospitals and assisted living centres.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. Please mark your letter "LETTER TO THE EDITOR." Include your address and daytime phone number.

Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters may be edited. Please email your letter if possible.

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

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

Editorial Advice

Allow me to suggest that the editor offer a little stiffer editorial advice to some of the letter writers. For instance, Mr. Greenlaw of Meadow Creek should be obliged to describe where he has been beyond the Kootenays and which of those experiences were such that he was actually walking around in reality as opposed to, for example, having been on a sea cruise. Further, "economic progress" requires some statement of definition, and oddly, Mr. Greenlaw is opposed to his concluding sentence of "Stop economic progress at any cost," instead of stating clearly that he advocates "economic progress (undefined) at any cost." This very philosophy appears to be killing the planet although invisibly so to Mr. Greenlaw in Meadow Creek, and hence I further suggest *The Valley Voice* offer more than only two entertainment stories on the front page, and show as well perhaps a photograph of people flaunting their marvelous denial of global warming and destruction by entertaining themselves burning off a barrel of oil driving around in a three-storey boat.

Dennis Martin
Nelson

Jumbo Recreational Area

Let's work together towards a Jumbo Regional Recreation Area

I am writing in response to a letter in the July 19 issue titled 'Jumbo Park proposal criticized' written by Larry Greenlaw.

I support and was involved in making this presentation to the RDCK board of directors. Our intent is to protect ongoing uses and provide an alternative to allowing the closure of public access to Howser and Glacier Creeks. This proposal would allow all existing economic and recreational activities to co-exist. The Jumbo Regional Recreation Area has not been proposed as a park, but as a recreational area that would grandfather in all existing tenures including logging, mining, heli-skiing, trap lines and hunting, snowmobiling, ATVs, backcountry mountaineering, hiking and skiing etc.

Having lived in the Lardeau Valley for many years I have enjoyed the natural beauty of Glacier and Howser Creeks and I would suggest that all existing users and residents of Area D consider participation in the implementation of this recreation area.

Let us all work together to build an economic, social and environmental future that works for everyone in our region. Since 1995, Area D taxpayers benefited from ongoing RDCK financial assistance ($63,080) for the improvements and maintenance of Glacier Creek Park, which is located within the Jumbo Regional Recreational Area Proposal. Obviously, this is a good example of local community support for accessible recreation areas in Area D.

In closing, I would suggest we take control of our own destiny within the West Kootenay rather than continue to let outside interests dictate whether or not we can have access to the spectacular backcountry wilderness areas of Howser Creek and Glacier Creek.

Grant Trower
Howser

MP forums wrapped up till fall

I would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in our MP and jointly-sponsored Community Forums over the past few months. It was a pleasure to see so many attend our forums in Kaslo, New Denver, Castlegar, Nelson, Keremeos, Oliver and Princeton. I certainly found them to be most informative, as did others who were there.

As the Member of Parliament, the forums are one way for me to keep in contact with our diverse riding, and also to learn what issues people are faced with on a day-to-day basis.

I would like to thank our four MLAs and the many regional directors, municipal councillors and other community leaders who took time to serve as panelists and answer the many questions that were posed by members of the community. Thanks to Andy Shadrack, Area Director from Kaslo, for suggesting this format.

A special thanks should go out to the youth panelists and attendees who participated and shared their concerns.

Thanks also to the media, for reporting the concerns and ideas that citizens raised to the panelists from all levels of government. Some of the federal issues mentioned include: development pressures affecting affordable housing in many communities; the need for more recreation and employment opportunities for youth in our interior towns; living up to Canada's Health Act with service standards to ensure decent care for seniors in our communities; our changed role in Afghanistan; and much, MUCH more!

My staff and I will be planning another series of meetings in the fall. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions or ideas. Democracy is alive and well in this riding of BC Southern Interior!

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

More mosquito drudgery

I dredge up this subject once again because everywhere I go people are complaining about the mosquitoes and wondering what can be done. For me, it's not a four-year cycle – it's bad, badder and in some years tolerable as long as I only go outside when it is 30-40°C and sunny, not humid and hazy.

It's easy to write that "that's part of living in the bush" when Chris Berger's "bush" is Passmore. In my experience, there are no mosquitoes there – lucky you. There has never been a year when I can go outside after the sun has gone down, to work in my yard or do anything. I'm frustrated with being a prisoner of my own home every summer and dealing with millions of mosquitoes year after year. I have to spray myself with harmful chemicals (repellent) or wear thick clothing or a mosquito suit.

Riondel also had a defeated vote the first time, but the second vote was successful and they have their mosquito program. It's no wonder it was a "no" vote here. People protested at the information meeting before any information could be given. There are plenty of worthy causes – couldn't protesters and naysayers find more important issues to be working on besides saving blood-sucking, disease carrying parasites?

There is a woman in Meadow Creek who has been using BTI on her fish pond for ten years. She says it does not affect any other insects and her fish are fine. I believe and listen to the facts. Meadow Creek and Lardeau are not seeing a detrimental effect in their water or fish after nine years of the BTI mosquito control program. The only inert 'toxic' ingredient I read about was sodium hydrochloride – salt! If Chris Berger believes it to be "extremely hazardous to fish and insects" maybe she should check out fish populations in Meadow Creek.

The Health department says it's not a question of if the West Nile virus shows up, it's a question of when. I have seen the devastating effects of this horrible disease on a healthy 30-year-old woman.

So no, the mosquito issue won't be dropped. I too care about the environment and don't want to see malathion used. Why not a word about malathion, Chris B., and what that chemical would do? Just pick apart the solution to a problem you don't even have. I wish to keep up a veggie garden and eat tomatoes, not mosquito soup. When visitors flee my house yelling, "How can you live with this? Why isn't something done?" I can now try to explain with Chris B's letter. And thanks, Lorna B. – great idea.

Anne Dobson
Winlaw

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

Phone: 358-7218 Fax: 358-7793 E-Mail:valleyvoice@netidea.com Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

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Voices from the Valleys

Military funding?

Thanks must go to Jim Jennings, who apparently helped to free us from Hitler's regime. I was 7 years old when that terrible so-called Third Reich was finally defeated. I also feel extremely sorry for the children and women, who suffer under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, obviously inflicted by men, probably the most terrible animals on the planet. I mean men everywhere, all over the globe.

Do we believe in physical punishment at home or in our schools? No! Why not? Because we think, it ain't effective, right? But we obviously think that it is OK to bomb countries and their populations to change the ways of their rulers, not as a matter of principle – only because we have interests there; i.e. where our oil eventually might come from, where those oil-pipelines run through, bringing the black gold from the Caspian Sea. Clinton already signed those contracts with the Taliban. He didn't care either how they treated their population. How come we're not in Africa? Actually, our technicians are already there, but only where oil is and already flows. Not in Darfur, sorry. Listen to politicians: our interests matter, not humanitarian atrocities. At this point in time, capitalism is running amuck, meaning (according to Webster's definition of amuck): possessed with homicidal mania, in a frenzied, murderous manner. Note the root word of MAN-ia!

A diagram shows the actual proportions of statistics always much better than lines of text in a newspaper column, but here are some more statistics on global military spending in US $ billions: USA 401, plus Allies 265 = 664 billion; Russia 50 billion, China 51 billion, "Axis of Evil": 7 billion.

With almost 40 times the military strength, US and Allies have not been able to make headway in either Afghanistan or Iraq. Do you still think more military spending is needed? Oh, to defend Canada itself – from whom? The Arctic from the US? With military might? Mao said, "Politics come from the barrel of a gun." Therefore, Harper = Mao philosophy.

Mr. Jennings, you summon the Bible as a history book, the Old Testament, which like the rest of human history is full of war. True. That's what we still have in the Middle East. And it's not an eye for an eye. It's 800 eyes for 34 eyes as of now. And Bush, Rice & Co. are all in favour of this kind of balance. They seem not to have read the New Testament: The meek will inherit the earth! So, how to save the innocent? Not with more violence.

See *National Geographic*, Sept. 2005: Africa, "Strangely enough, it is when government's pockets are filling up with oil money that it is unable to pay teachers' salaries."

Richard Eichenauer
Fauquier

Stop the war machine

The average age in Afghanistan is 18. Eighteen years old. Over 60% of the mid-east casualties are women and children under 15. Teens. Children. Babies. What does this war generation know of life but terror and death? Mike Frastacky, a Vancouver carpenter, set out to give these boys and girls a chance, while Stephen Harper chicken-heartedly set the war stage to unwittingly destroy their success.

Mike Frastacky was completing construction of a school he had been working on for four years in Afghanistan. He paid for the project with his own money and by collecting small donations from friends and family. Nearly 600 students attend the school. Mike Frastacky, 56, was shot to death in northern Afghanistan – shot three times.

Someone likely collected a bounty for killing 'a Westerner' or an educational infidel. Maybe compassion and admiration would have stayed the greedy assassin's itchy trigger finger if they had really known Mike Frastacky? Maybe there would have been no bounty if Stephen Harper had committed to removing all hostile Canadian Forces from the Middle East; maybe if Stephen Harper did not vigourously support the heinous Israeli slaughter in Lebanon, while denigrating all followers of Allah as 'terrorists,' Mike Frastacky would still be working for real peace and understanding; maybe if complacent, complicit Canadians took to the streets as one voice against these insane wars destroying all hope, the longing for freedom and democracy lost in the blind fury of terrified frustration and excruciating pain, eternal revenge and hideous death, Mike Frastacky would be with us to see the changes in Afghanistan arising from the precious school he lovingly built. I wish I had met him and wonder if he is even included in the total Canadian casualties of our American Prime Minister Stephen Harper's evil holy wars?

Let's be clear: 'Steve' Harper has an 'American' agenda for Canada, for Canadian soldiers, for Canadian immigrated citizens, for you and me that includes an 'acceptable' number of innocent women, old crippled men and any children of colour to be brutally raped, vengefully murdered, humiliatingly tortured, hunted down and killed for his beloved American multinational military-industrial perpetual war machine and astronomical oil profits establishing unlimited absolute power for white, neo-conservative, fanatical Christians like themselves, not Mike Frastacky: rapacious capitalist profiteering for the uber-rich and shoddy, western-style consumerism for the rest of us.

Harper must be stopped before his incompetence kills again. Time to bring this neo-conservative government down before all Canadians are sucked irretrievably into Harper's black hole of racist American evil.

Joel Harris
Passmore

Vietnam war resisters were not cowards

In a well-reasoned, expressive letter, Joel Harris makes important and necessary distinctions about the draft dodgers who came to Canada during the Vietnam War (*Nelson Daily News*, 17 July 2006). He rightly disputes a number of individuals who have had their accusations published that these young men were deserters, dishonourable and cowardly, who refused to support their country during war.

We deplore the horrific things Nazi soldiers did in WWII and who later claimed they were only "following orders." The post-war Nuremberg Trials established, as a matter of international law, that following orders did not exonerate one from guilt and prosecution for immoral, injurious acts against civilians, something which the corrupt South Vietnam regime, supported by the US, was perpetrating. Do you remember the Buddhist monks who burned themselves alive to protest this government? Yet now, some blame the young men who resisted what was a grossly immoral war based on specious premises, which even the US Secretary of Defense now repudiates.

During the Vietnam War, my place in New Denver served as a way station for war resisters traveling from Vancouver to the Quakers in Argenta. I provided food and lodging for three days at a time to quite a number of young guys who, possessing nothing but a backpack and fearful of pursuit, showed up at my door. They had left family and friends, whom they were afraid to contact for years, and would eventually go on to be sent to Alberta farms where they would work hard, six days a week, for 50 cents an hour plus room and board.

Those that did go on to fight in Vietnam were, in many ways, victimized by the US government with viciously false propaganda but that did not make these soldiers any less heroic in facing dangers, suffering much and often dying. And, due to what these soldiers learned, saw and experienced, many deserted and for good reason.

Nonetheless, the young men who came to Canada, who refused to believe the US rationale for supporting the corrupt regime of South Vietnam, who lived impoverished and fearful of pursuit, prosecution and prison, showed courage no less. I saw what they endured and I admired them, which is why I tried to help.

What were the alternatives if one refused? As many young men later reported, going to prison for two or three years meant being brutally gang raped nightly while guards ignored those guys being victimized because they were "sissies, afraid to fight for their country." Which one of you would have chosen that alternative?

Those who keep accusing the war resisters of being deserters have no sense of the actual context and lack evident connection to the realities of the issues. These are cheap - these accusations - the superficiality of which fall back on the accusers. Vietnam was the first war to which young men en masse said, "No" and believe me, I took much hope for our youth that such a thing happened.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Kaslo community forest needs to recognize climate change

I attended a Kaslo Community Forest meeting on Thursday July 20th. It was held to present and receive comments and questions on the draft application for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement.

I was pleased to see how much work this volunteer board, in conjunction with the Woodlands Manager, Irene Strucel, had done in preparing this application.

I was also quite happy with some of the commitments present in their application which go above and beyond the current BC Forest and Range Practices Act.

With that said, I left the meeting completely shocked, shaking my head, wondering if I live on the same planet as these individuals presenting such an important document.

The turning point for me occurred when Irene Strucel commented on the issue of climate change. She said hte board did not feel it necessary to include climate change in the application, as it was difficult to know what the effects of it will be in the future.

How about the effects of it right now? Chris Temple pointed out that the current Pine Beetle infestation in this province is considered one of the best examples of climate change in North America.

I feel that Irene and the board are not recognizing the urgency of this very important issue.

Some facts to share with you: If a cutblock is planted today, depending on species the earliest it could be harvested is 50 years from now. One of the methods to mitigate for climate change is by the species and genetics used when re-planting a cutblock. This would mean that the time is NOW to address climate change when re-planting a block.

I went to the BC Ministry of Forests website and found two very recent reports addressing forestry and climate change. They are titled *Preparing for Climate Change: Adapting to impacts on British Columbia's Forest and Ranges Resources* and *Future Forest Ecosystems: Draft Recommendations for Review and Comment*. Public comments are still being accepted for these reports.

These documents point out that "Historic data and trends suggest that British Columbia is already starting to experience climate change and some of its impacts (Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection 2002). From 1895 to 1995, the average annual temperatures increased in central and southern interior regions by 1.1ºC (twice the global average)… During the 21st century British Columbia can expect average annual temperatures to warm by 2ºC to 7ºC, while a 3.5 ºC temperature increase may not appear very significant, this represents the difference between the average annual temperatures of the southern Okanagan and Prince George."

I will conclude with this final statement from *Preparing for Climate Change*: "This growing body of research has raised awareness of the need to address climate change in forest management practices (Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry 2003, CCIAD 2004, Spittlehouse 2005)."

I think it is time to seriously consider climate change in the management of our woodlands.

Luke Crawford
Kaslo

Betrayed by Harper

I have been utterly and catastrophically betrayed by my Prime Minister and I am certain that I am not alone in this view. I did not vote for Stephen Harper, but I accepted that he came to his position legitimately, so I speak as any citizen living within the law of the land. I have spoken elsewhere against some of his domestic policies, but my views there, with the exception of the Kyoto Accord issue, are my own partisan thought. But the present issue is different.

First, Mr. Harper has repudiated the Kelowna Accord and challenged the Fraser River Fishing protocol as "racially divided." The primary message of the former is self-evident: Indigenous people have no right of redress for historical injustices. As to the Fraser River Fishery issue, despite the clear historical context and the judgement of the Supreme Court, he has not only defied the role of the Court, but he has sided with the racists and so proclaimed himself a racist. That is a great betrayal. To be sure, there is racism in Canada, but our Prime Minister need not promote it.

The nation of Israel has taken excessive measures, including the destruction of public utilities, the kidnapping of government members and the killing of uninvolved civilians in Gaza, following the kidnapping of one of its soldiers, presumably by associates of Hamas. When Hezbollah in Lebanon responded by kidnapping two more Israeli soldiers, the entire nation of Lebanon came under attack. I consider the actions of Hamas and Hezbollah to be flatly lawless and intolerable. But in both cases, Israel chose not to follow previous policy and negotiate. Instead, it chose not only to carry out but even to boast of this strategy of corporal punishment, a violation of the Geneva Conventions and something we first observed in modern times during the Nazi occupation of Europe. We have thus seen the speedy, death-loving expansion of violence on both sides.

On Friday July 14, Mr. Harper unequivocally endorsed the current military policy of Israel, and in doing so he continues his close philosophical & political association with President Bush, even using the same turns of phrase. He has thus given allegiance to a manifest if not yet indicted war criminal, a man willing, even eager, to lie out-of-hand, to his nation and to the world, in order to pursue a war of aggression marked by unbridled bloodshed & filthy brutality, of which Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib and Bagram prisons; and the Mahmudijah rape-massacre are sufficient witness. Further, Mr. Harper has twisted the Canadian peace-nurturing mission in Bush's other adventure, Afghanistan, into one of aggressive conflict. These are further betrayals. We already observe the woes of Mr. Blair, who followed Mr. Bush into the borderlands of Hell; and that is where Mr. Harper has chosen to drag Canadians. No good will come of that.

Two days after Mr. Harper's aggressive words and alliance, more than a dozen holidaying Lebanese

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 5

Canadians are dead and wounded, and literally thousands more at risk, while the Minister of Foreign Affairs must struggle to organize an evacuation under deadly circum-stances. It is for Mr. Harper to explain why he has put himself on the side of the endangerment and slaughter of Canadian civilians while keeping ignorant of their situation. I, for one among many, am waiting, breathless but impatient....

Rev. F. Mark Mealing
Kaslo

Open letter to MP Jim Abbott

Make no mistake, there are many of us in Canada who believe that unremitting support of Israel, including the continuous strong support of our neighbour the US, is not appropriate in view of the actions taken by their government. Their recent attacks on Gaza and Lebanon are 'over the top' with respect to the ongoing conflict with Palestinians and the Lebanese. They should be told that. We should abhor the relentless destruction and taking of civilian lives by a new Israeli PM and regime that is pushing the envelope to gain support and control in Israel. Their recent response to the soldier's kidnapping was disproportionate. The Prime Minister's comment that their response was "measured" does not sit well with me, many Canadians, and most of the rest of the world, for that matter!

Canada has a reputation of being fair-minded and has managed to struggle from beneath the past lock-step positions taken with respect to our neighbour. That should continue regardless of your party's efforts to maintain closer relationships to the current US regime. Is this the price we must pay to avoid passports for travel between our two countries? We can no longer stand up for what is right? If so, that is too high a price – and you should know that you have constituents who feel strongly about this!

Israel should be told to stop – now! Immediately. Negotiate the release of their soldiers and exchange prisoners. They need to be told clearly that Canada supports a two nation solution in Palestine and that they must continue their withdrawals and negotiate for that end. I believe Mr. Olmert, and his hawks, are 'negotiating' in the way that they have been taught (militarily, similar to their sponsor's approach in Iraq) and they have already abandoned the course for at least potential peace. Unbelievable, but their current actions make the ways of Hezbollah and Hamas seem reasonable – which of course they are not. But that is not what we are talking about. They are fighting back for their people in the only way they know how.

With Western sympathetic support over the years the Israelis have developed formidable weaponry and they are able to easily beat the crap out of their neighbours. That doesn't mean that they should, or that sort of 'measured response' to their opponents equivalent of 'throwing rocks' is acceptable.

Mr. Harper is not given to off-the-cuff remarks. He is a thoughtful man. This means he thought long and hard, and probably consulted, before speaking. This makes his choice of international response on our behalf all the more unacceptable! I believe he needs to take 'measure' of his response and deliver a corrected, fair-minded, Canadian response for the detestable actions in southern Lebanon.

This just in: the Israelis with all their technology (they have bragged about their accuracy and ability to target their foes), after 14 'near misses' of buildings clearly marked UN (remember the UN has over 2000 observers on the Lebanese border and the Israelis know it), manage a direct hit and kill four UN personnel, including a Canadian! Some measured response! Some chickens, we Canadians!

Enough is enough. Please convey this to our Prime Minister!

Larry Parkes
Nakusp

Jumbo Wild criticism misguided

Larry Greenlaw's comments regarding the Jumbo Wild coalition's proposal are a page right out of the Neocon Bible of Economics. In this worldview, unless every square inch of the Earth is producing material for the gross domestic product, it is useless, a "dead zone." This reflects the Judeo-Christian notion that mankind is the pinnacle of God's creation, for whom the earth exists as a kind of treasure chest to be plundered. Short-term economic wealth is considered far more important than the health of the planet and its consequences to future generations.

Maybe it's time you did a little background reading, Larry. Did you know that 2006 is the UN's International Year of Deserts and Desertification? Why? Because there is a worldwide increase in ecosystems succumbing to desertification, giving rise to "food insecurity, famine and poverty and ...social, economic and political tensions that can cause conflicts, further impoverishment and land degradation." The Union of Concerned Scientists have pointed out that "every single year since 1992 is in the current list of the 20 warmest years on record." And now a two-year drought in the Amazon could finally tip that precious ecosystem into becoming a desert, accelerating the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by as much as 50 percent.

Beginning to see a pattern develop? It's called deforestation. Forests help maintain the delicate balance of atmospheric gases needed to sustain life. This is why Colleen McCrory and the Jumbo Wild coalition are lobbying hard to protect our few remaining intact wildernesses, or "dead zones" as you call them. Actually, dead zones is just what they become once they've been clearcut and replaced with monoculture tree farms. These plantations are incapable of sustaining the genetic diversity that exists in old-growth forests. A new report by the Ministry of Forests Future Forests Ecosystems initiative admits as much. "...the cumulative effects of climate change, increasing resource use by humans, and other agents of environmental and ecological change could stress forest ecosystems to the point where they cannot recover..." In this report the BC government finally acknowledges the role of human-driven climate change on the endemic mountain pine beetle outbreak.

As to the financial argument against creating a regional recreation area in the Jumbo Pass, it seems you didn't read the entire proposal. In it, examples of numerous regional districts across BC were cited, each with a visionary approach to combining the resources of federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments to fund parks or recreation areas. A prime example of this is Burns Bog in Delta, BC, which after years of infighting was finally made a protected area in 2004. Funds came from all levels of government and management is shared by the City of Delta and the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

Similar co-operative funding approaches for parks have been adopted by the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District, Capital Regional District, and the Regional District of Nanaimo. Part of the Jumbo Wild coalition's proposal calls for other innovative fundraising strategies such as the establishment of a trust fund to maintain a regional recreation area. Another no-brainer potential funding partner could be the Columbia Basin Trust Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

A final reminder, Larry: developments such as Mr. Oberti's Jumbo ski resort are not designed to benefit local businesses. They are vertically integrated economic monopolies designed to funnel profits into a single, non-local corporation, with only minor economic spinoffs from the low-wage service sector jobs they create. And in case you've forgotten, 90% of the public has consistently said 'no' to this mega-resort. Let's get to work doing something positive for Jumbo Pass.

By working to preserve the environment, we take the long-term health of our grandchildren to heart instead of selfishly reaping for our own wealth today.

Art Joyce
New Denver

Community Forest proves itself

If someone told me a few years ago that the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society would distribute approximately $700,000 in funds to local organizations, I wouldn't have believed it. But with their expertise and plenty of volunteer time, Ken Wapple, Barry Remple, Gary Cockrell and other board members accomplished this because they believed it could be done.

At the recent public meeting about the draft probationary Community Forest Agreement application, some were disappointed that the board has chosen not to write certain things into the document – i.e. commitments to do selection logging only, to create a comprehensive wildfire interface plan and to institute a detailed water monitoring program.

A forest fire interface plan would involve at the very least a road for logging, clearing, and ongoing maintenance. The terrain from Mirror Lake to Kaslo is accessible so it could be possible, but the terrain from Kaslo to Shutty Bench is much more difficult, so would be more expensive. My read is that the board could not justify the high costs of such projects, and probably did not want to reduce the amount of funds being distributed to the community.

Nevertheless there are some in the community who feel that these projects are affordable and necessary. That might be true. To prove their point, would they be willing to volunteer their time and expertise as Wapple and Remple did to fulfill their goals?

Some don't believe these projects are possible without creating expensive jobs or sacrificing funds to the community.

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Valhalla Summer Theatre School
Thanks The

• Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society for supporting the idea
• The organizers, co-ordinators, directors and instructors of the program
• And all the students, parents and community members who attended and gave their support

We also wish to thank everyone who helped provide funding for this program. Funding was provided by Columbia Basin Trust, Kootenay Cultural Alliance, Recreation Commission #6, Lucerne PAC, Village of Silverton and the Slocan Lake Chamber of Commerce.

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must cancel plans to host
SANDON DAY ON AUGUST 19, 2006.
We look forward to welcoming our friends and neighbours to Upper Sandon in the future.

Slocan council, July 12: Trailhead area discussed

by Don Currie

•Council decided to seek a meeting with the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) to discuss joint efforts at landscaping, parking and preventing motor traffic on the trail. Council has responsibility for the area east of the gazebo to the boat ramp, and asked Simmons to provide a cost estimate of laying down turf in that area. Council awarded a contract for the construction of benches. Council also agreed to meet with the SVHTS to set a policy on public use of the facility. A request to council to use the gazebo for a wedding reception sparked a discussion as to whether or not council can charge fees for public use. Councillor Gates will meet with SVHTS to set a policy and report back to council.

•Councillor Perriere wanted to know when the Wellness Centre would begin to offer service. Ludlow replied that doctors had been asked to use the facility but the lack of computers was still a problem and no firm commitments had been made. Councillor Septav said the Village had put up the capital and that Interior Health should be asked to come up with operational funds. Councillor Ellis said that MLA Corky Evans had offered to assist the Village in finding a nurse practitioner. Council agreed to send a letter to the IHA requesting assistance.

•Septav also briefed council on meetings between Springer Creek Forest Products and the Ministry of Forests regarding progress on the community forest project. Septav said that the community forest group had met most of the Ministry's requirements but a license won't be issued until the group makes decisions on how to deal with the pine beetle infestation. Septav said that could be a long process. Ellis commented that the pine beetle problem would have to be considered by the working group and presented to the public for discussion, "and that process can be tricky."

•Council agreed to fund the training of Councillor Gates as a fire inspector. Gates is also a member of the volunteer fire department. Gates said his decision to become certified as a fire inspector was a personal endeavour, but he volunteered to provide inspections for the Village. Administrator Ludlow reported that council had paid $3,000 for inspections this year. She said regular inspections had not been done for the past eight years and had a fire occurred, the Village would not have been entitled to insurance coverage. Septav proposed that Gates be compensated for any time lost from his regular employment while doing volunteer inspections for the Village.

•Council recommended that publications on the West Nile virus be re-circulated to the community and that residents be urged to clean up their properties to reduce breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The discussion was prompted by a letter from Rudy Markovic, who wanted to know if council had concerns about the spread of the virus and if there were any plans to spray.

•Council discussed a letter from Ian Currie requesting action on speeding on Slocan Street leading to the Springer Creek mill. Currie congratulated council for posting 40 kph signs on the street to reduce speeding, but said the problem was "equally as bad as it was before." Gates said it was known that Slocan Street was a truck route when the property was purchased. He wanted to know if the police were monitoring speeding. Ludlow said they were. Septav proposed that residents on Slocan Street concerned with speeding and noisy logging trucks, couriers and shift workers, should obtain a speed trap from New Denver and monitor traffic and report violators.

•Village foreman Jerry Simmons reported that work on the breakwater for the floating dock was proceeding. A three way stop was installed at the school and all crosswalks would be completed by the fall.

•Council agreed to re-install the net at the tennis court on a trial basis. The court is currently used by young people for basketball and skate boarding. Local resident Ann Weir requested the net be re-installed and council consider long term plans for the court area.

•Councillor Marc Septav, reporting on a regional hospital board meeting, said that an independent review of the Trail hospital would be made public in a few months. He was not optimistic that a new regional hospital would be constructed anytime soon in another location. For another ten years, he said, "Trail is it."

•During the discussion on disbursements, Councillor Ellis proposed that the administrator be requested to provide council with status reports on the progress and expenditures on the larger projects underway. Marc Septav suggested bi-monthly reports. Clerk Ludlow said that could be done.

•Council gave first reading to a bylaw to establish a board of variance as provided in the Community Charter. The mayor provided a list of three names of citizens approached to sit on the board. Council added a fourth for consideration.

•Council agreed to prepare resolutions for the upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities October convention in Victoria. Council will send a resolution supporting the campaign of the BC Federation of Labour to reduce the volume of raw log exports to the USA.

Vandalism at Slocan's campground discourages guests

by Don Currie

SLOCAN — Unauthorized quad, ATV and dirt bike traffic, local pedestrian traffic, theft, obscene graffiti and vandalism at campsites at the Springer Creek Campground are discouraging use of the premier site by the holidaying public, some who have been coming to the facility for ten years.

In a written "incident report" to council at its July 12 meeting, Margaret Markovic, camp attendant since 2004, detailed incidents of quad/ATV traffic through campsites and firepits, destruction of landscaping efforts and removal of tables blocking ATV access. Campsite #26, a popular location for tenters, was closed permanently to accommodate local foot traffic from Brandon during the day and late into the evening. When Markovic pointed out to a Brandon resident that campers were complaining about locals walking through their campsites, the response was that the path belonged to them and they were not going to take an alternate route "for a bunch of tourists."

Markovic also reported incidents of theft from campers' tents and duffle bags, a rock thrown through the window of the information booth, and rowdiness by individuals roaming through the park at night. She said that the RCMP had visited the parents of alleged juvenile offenders, ordering them to stay out of the campground. She also reported that RCMP officers were surprised to learn of the ease of access to the park. They suggested taking out the bridges and posting signs banning unauthorized motorized traffic and indicating that the campground is for registered guests only.

Markovic said it would take a strong mayor and council to consider changing the bridge and pathway to stop or at least hinder locals from using the park as a shortcut. She said there were strong safety and economic issues to consider.

Mayor Van Bynen said he didn't like restrictions but that it was necessary to protect guests. Councillor Gates suggested the campground be fenced, but Councillor Septav didn't like the idea of "creating a prison." Septav acknowledged that the campground was an important asset, built at great effort and expense, and losing guests because of "incidents" was not an option. Councillor Perriere proposed having a 24-hour-per-day presence at the campground. Councillor Gates suggested one entrance and one exit be established.

Administrator Eunice Ludlow said because some of the offenders were minors it was difficult for the RCMP to deal with the problem. Councillor Ellis said stealing, vandalism and breaking windows was against the law and can be dealt with by the RCMP whether or not the Village adopted other measures. Ludlow drew attention to beach parties and feared there would be a serious incident. She said the RCMP was called three times to deal with drunkenness. She said the police can enforce liquor violations but without a Village bylaw restricting hours of use at the beach they cannot force party-goers to leave.

Council will address the problem at a public meeting.

They used to break down walls in medieval times, but now people just break down into waves of mirth admiring these modern works of art. Here we see proud builders Tom Bradley, Phil MacDonald and Jim May along with program instructor Andreas Schlichting (on the left) standing in front of their creations. The Trebuchet building program was organized by Slocan Valley Recreation and was held recently in Passmore. Although flaming chickens were being considered for projectile material, jugs of water were settled on. All participants have agreed to use their big toys for fun and good.

This page of Slocan Valley News has been brought to you by the civic-minded merchants of Arlington Corner in Slocan City!

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Silverton council, July 25: Water system fixed; upgrades in the works

by Jan McMurray

•Leonard Casley, Public Works, reported that the village ran out of water on Saturday, July 22 because there was an electrical short in the meter at the pumphouse. Casley said he was called in about 10 am, and promptly called BC Hydro and found an electrician. The system was "back up and pumping" by 2 pm, he said.

Mayor Everett praised the efforts of all involved to get the water flowing again so promptly. He reported that a wedding party of about 150 was at the Silverton Memorial Hall without washrooms or water during the incident, and "these guys extended themselves to get the water back on." A thank you letter will go out to BC Hydro.

Council discussed possible safeguards against such an event happening again. Casley explained that the system automatically alerts him when the water gets down to a certain level, but does not recognize electrical problems. Casley said he would get information from electrician Tim McCrory about installing a radio part that would alert him to electrical failures. Mayor Everett suggested that the Village may want to look at purchasing a back-up generator.

Last Friday, July 28, McCrory replaced the meter at the pumphouse, completing the repair work.

•Council, moving ahead to upgrade the water system, approved an application for a $10,000 study grant from the provincial government. If the grant application is successful, the Village will hire WSA Engineering to prepare a five-year strategic capital water works upgrade program. The total cost of the study will be $15,000, so the Village will contribute $5,000.

Although the Village's $300,000 water system is quite new, "we all know our water system needs to be improved, especially after the weekend incident," said Mayor Everett.

•Administrator Junko Ida reported that staff would like the recycling depot moved from the public works yard, as more space is needed in the yard for storage of topsoil, cement and gravel. A new location was chosen, on 2nd Street next to the Irly Bird lumber yard, but Ida reported that the site may not be suitable because spring runoff flows through the property. Mayor Everett explained that there was a wooden culvert on the proposed new site, directing runoff water into a dry well. His concern was that the wooden culvert could break if driven over. Everett suggested there be a public process in trying to determine a suitable location.

•Fire Chief Casley reported that there were a few forest fires in the area, but they seemed to be under control. People can report wildfires by calling 1-800-663-5555.

•Councillor Bell reported that she had been working with New Denver Councillor Ann Bunka on applying to get a Katimavik crew of 11 youth to do volunteer work in the area. The Village will provide a letter of support to accompany the application.

Bell also had a copy of the area's asset mapping done by Laverne Booth and asked councillors to look through it for any errors or omissions. She said it would be posted on the slocanlake.com website.

•Councillor Masun reported that the emergency committee was trying to organize funding to bring a Neighbourhood Emergency Planning Program course to Silverton. Also, the committee will be issuing an "Initial Response" procedures guide. Masun said she would try to post Emergency Weather Watch information at the bulletin board at the campground and on the slocanlake.com website.

•Staff was directed to install a firepit in the creekside overflow camping site.

•Five sets of banner holders were donated to the Village.

•The annual report and financial report were approved and will be forwarded to the ministry.

•In response to a request from the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the Village will send a letter to the Province asking for an increase to the library operating grant.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BYLAW NO. 604, 2006 AND BYLAW NO. 605, 2006

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER COUNCIL CHAMBERS
115 SLOCAN AVENUE, NEW DENVER, BC
6:00 P.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006

Pursuant to Sections 890 and 892 of the Local Government Act, a public hearing will be held to consider the following bylaws of the Village of New Denver: "Village of New Denver Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 604, 2006" and "Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 605, 2006."

The purpose of Bylaw 604 is to amend the land use zoning for the following lands:

1. Amend Schedule B of Bylaw No. 525, 1999 by rezoning the following lots from R1 (Residential 1) to C4 (Residential Commercial):

   - Lot 1, Plan NEP21949, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 9, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 10, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 11, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 12, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District

The purpose of Bylaw 605 is to amend the land use for the following lands:

2. Amend Schedule B of Bylaw No. 414, 1993 by amending the land use for the following lots from R1 (Residential 1) to C4 (Residential Commercial):

   - Lot 1, Plan NEP21949, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 9, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 10, Block 5, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 11, Block 10, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District
   - Lot 12, Block 10, Plan 9501, District Lot 432, Kootenay Land District

These parcels are shown outlined in black on the accompanying map.

The above is a synopsis of the proposed bylaw and is not deemed to be an interpretation of the bylaw. Copies of the aforementioned bylaws may be inspected at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, New Denver, BC, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, from the date of this notice to the 8th day of August, 2006.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Slocan Valley calls for volunteer firefighters

submitted

Slocan Valley fire halls are lacking volunteers, prompting an urgent call for people willing to become volunteer firefighters.

Practices are held on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm at the firehalls in Crescent Valley, Passmore, Winlaw and Slocan. Anyone ready to commit two hours per week to the cause is urged to contact local fire chiefs (see below for contact info).

There are about 60 people in the Slocan Valley making the time to serve their communities as volunteer firefighters. They go out to practice on Tuesdays and sometimes have to get up at 2 am to put out their neighbour's house fire. These people are taking on a responsibility for the good of all of us.

They are mandated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay to be firefighters and train accordingly, but they also take on extra activities to provide a better service to community members.

Many volunteer firefighters are First Responders, who attend accidents or medical emergencies before the ambulance. Some are trained to operate the Jaws of Life and extract people trapped in vehicles. There are also people trained in swift water rescue, wildland interface, and steep terrain recovery.

All this lies on the shoulders of a very few dedicated individuals who are now calling for help. As members move or retire, more are needed to take their place. What are you doing next Tuesday at 7 pm?

Contact the Crescent Valley department through Rob Posnikoff at 359-7077 or Carl Nord at 359-7547; the Passmore department through Gord Ihlen at 226-7277 or Dave Halliday at 226-7010; the Winlaw department through John Wollenberg at 226-7130 or Fred Dutoff at 226-7254; and the Slocan department through Tim Hill at 355-2658.

Winstar Equestrian Center summer camps for fun in the sun

Where else but in the Kootenays could one find a more beautiful and tranquil spot for an equestrian center? Winstar Equestrian Center, situated along the picturesque Slocan River, in lower Passmore, is such a place. Tracy Bowles and Bob Wright have painstakingly carved out an equestrian paradise. Brandy Saunders of Ride On Enterprises is resident coach and trainer. Brandy is a Certified Equine Canada Level 1 English Riding Coach.

The facility offers a large outdoor riding arena, a jump field, a small cross-country course, trails and a beach on the river. There are camping spots and outhouse facilities but no electrical hook-ups. Camping is self catering and there is always a potluck supper and get-together.

During the summer months Brandy and Winstar co-host several equestrian camps, designed to cater to people of different ages and abilities. Some riders have considerable riding experience while others are quite new to the sport. Camp activities include daily riding and stable management instruction, fun activities such as games on horseback, trail rides, mini horse shows and relaxing at the beach on hot summer days. Camps are a great way to make new friends and enjoy time with old friends, whether they are human or horse.

Winstar invites everyone to come and watch the mini event scheduled for August 22 (dressage and stadium jumping) and August 23 (cross-country jumping) at 9.00 am. Admission is free. Cross the Passmore Bridge, turn left on to Tonis Lane, keep going past Munch More Pizza and you'll find Winstar. For more information call 359-7293.

WINSTAR EQUESTRIAN CENTER
Tonis Lane, Lower Passmore

Come & watch our MINI-EVENT
Aug 22 dressage/jumping
Aug 23 X-country
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Slocan Outdoor Market

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- Arts & Crafts
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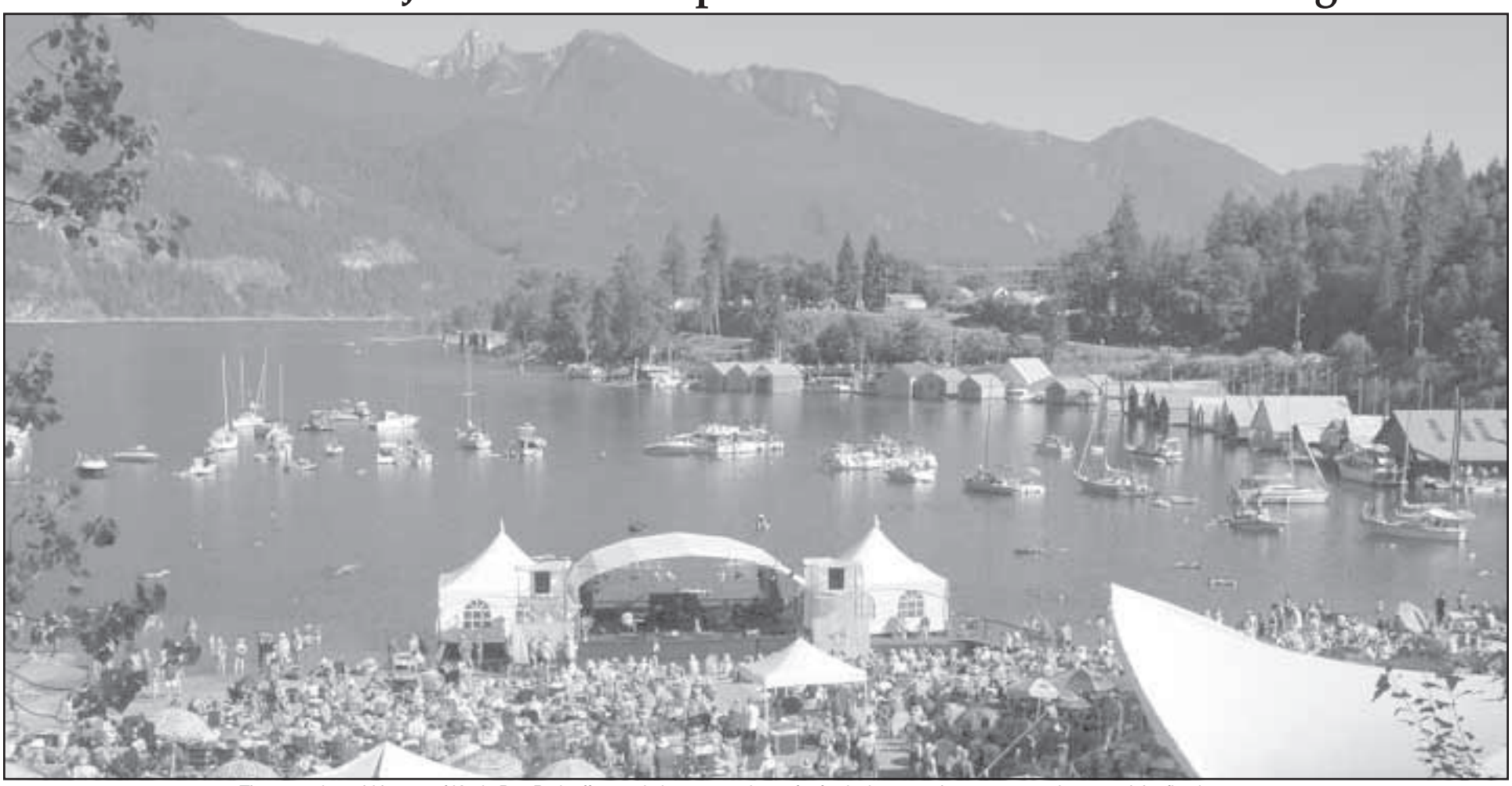
Featuring a "Live Stage" with performers from throughout the Kootenays.

Sundays from 10 to 3 pm

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

The 15th annual Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival promises to be another fantastic long weekend



The natural amphitheatre of Kaslo Bay Park offers an intimate experience for festival goers, who can even swim around the floating stage.

Check out the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival on the August long weekend

The 15th annual Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival promises to be another fantastic three-day weekend, featuring incredible music in a stunning location. The natural amphitheatre of Kaslo Bay Park offers an intimate experience for festival goers, who can even swim around the floating stage.

Michael Franti and Spearhead open the festival on Friday, August 4 on the floating stage. Spearhead infuses hip-hop beats with reggae, funk, rock and folk sounds. Michael Franti's inspiring lyrics are quoted the world over by those striving for social justice, and the band has used their success to bring recognition to a variety of humanitarian causes. Also on Friday, the Fourth Street Bandstand on Kaslo's main street showcases three festival bands – a free event in downtown Kaslo.

On Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6, the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival takes over the park with a great program of jazz, blues, latin, and related music and entertainment. The music starts at noon and runs continuously until 10 pm, with eight bands per day.

Mainstage bands include The Dirty Dozen Brass Band from New Orleans and Jane Bunnett, one of the top soprano sax players in Canadian Jazz. She calls her genre-bending performance "The Guantanamo Blues Project," featuring musicians from Cuba, Canada and New Orleans. Acclaimed guitarists Harry Manx and Friends and Duke Robillard also play the Mainstage. David "Fathead" Newman, who was Ray Charles' saxophonist of choice for Ray's 12 hottest years, will be playing with the Tilden Webb Trio from Vancouver. Ember Swift brings her politically charged folk-jazz-funk music; the Creaking Tree String Quartet plays an engaging blend of jazz, bluegrass, chamber, avant-garde acoustic delights; and jazz vocalist Jane Leroux, from Vancouver, brings her special presence and sound to the festival.

Local talent predominates on the upstage: Yoko, who opened for Jann Arden in Nelson; Holly & Jon & the Soul Shine Band; the Tuques; Coco Love Alcorn and Selkirk Music graduates JAM-F. All weekend long, check out the after hours Jazz Jam hosted by the jazz fusion sounds of Watersign at the Fisherman's Tale pub.

Vendors, puppet and magic shows round out the festival experience.

Tickets for the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival are available from the Kaslo Jazz Festival office, www.kaslojazzfest.com and the ticket hotline 250-353-7548. Also available at Packrat Annie's and Eddy Music in Nelson, and Sunnyside Naturals in Kaslo.

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Slocan Valley Poker Float still rolling down the river

On Sunday, August 13th the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission will be hosting its 12th annual Poker Float. Inflatable craft of all sizes, shapes and decoration are expected to once again dot the meandering Slocan River along the seven kilometer float route from Perry's Siding bridge to the Winlaw Regional and Nature Park. Floats in past years have included pirate ships, floating bicycles, elephants, dragons, and even the occasional living room.

Because of the high water levels this spring, it's expected that the float should be relatively quick – somewhere around 3.5 to 4 hours. Also, high water has changed the shape of the river a bit and event organizers are asking everyone to be extra cautious as they float. There may be an extra log or two waiting to grab the unsuspecting floater.

Here's how the Poker Float works: participants stop at five stations along the way, collecting a playing card at each, with the best poker hand winning at the end of the day. On-river camaraderie turns the event into a family-like floating festival, with people and their crafts part of the show. The no-booze policy will be strictly enforced again this year.

Float registration starts at 11 a.m and the fee is $5 per person. That figure is reduced to $3 per person if a Slocan food bank item is donated. Prizes are awarded for Best Poker Hand, Best Float and Best Homemade Hat. As well, a variety of draw prizes are available, but you must be present to win. A shuttle service runs from the finish to the start area between 11:00 and 11:45 a.m. It's strongly recommended that floaters take advantage of this service.

The launch gets underway to the stirring melody of David Hogg's bagpipes. At the end of the ride, floaters will be greeted to the music of Holly and Jon Burden. The Slocan Valley Arena Society will be hosting the concession at the park for tired and hungry floaters, with free hot chocolate for floaters should they need a shot of warmth.

A few float hints: Floaters are legally required to wear PFDs (personal flotation devices). Children 12 and under require adult accompaniment. Sunscreen is a helpful item to bring along, as is a hat. And finally, please leave no garbage in the river.

For more information on the float, call Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008

On Sunday, August 13th the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission will be hosting its 12th annual Poker Float.

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Silverton's theatre arts school sure to come back for an encore

by Jan McMurray

The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society added a theatre school to its repertoire of high quality summer activities this year. Co-ordinator Katrina Sumrall says the program was "an absolute blast" and all the instructors want to come back to do it again next year.

Instructors were Mat Mailandt, a Calgary actor, director and improviser; Julie Mortensen, best known as her alter ego 'Petals the Clown' but also founder of a children's theatre company in Calgary; and Heather Shippit, drama teacher at Mt. Sentinel. Each instructor worked with a group of students, who were organized into three groups according to age. Each group wrote their own play during the week of the school and performed to a full house at the Silverton Gallery July 22.

Youth facilitators were Bree Lillies, Isaac Carter Scheepens and Aiden Dugan.

The youngest group at the theatre school presented Ghost Town at Sundown, directed by Julie Mortensen. Petra Hartley, Aja Reinhardt and Ossian Wienger played the teenage children in a family on a trip to see their uncle in Sandon.

The oldest group's play was entitled The Curse, directed by Heather Shippit, and featuring some awesome masks that the kids made during the week of the theatre school. Tisha Becker, Melissa Dollheiser and Hazen Donnet are the actresses shown here.

Sarah Harley, Tera Nicholson and Danika Hammond played in Monkey Business, directed by Mat Mailandt. This play had the age-old good vs. evil theme, with some awesome battle scenes.

CBT improves communications

submitted

At its AGM July 15, Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) announced a number of communications initiatives aimed at continuing to improve meaningful dialogue with Basin residents.

The first of these is a Report to Residents, which 65,000 households across the Basin will be receiving at the beginning of August. The Report to Residents is an update of CBT activities and includes a comprehensive list of projects approved for funding over the 2005-06 CBT fiscal year.

CBT will also begin sending out a regular email newsletter this fall which will include summaries of CBT board meetings, a current list of projects funded in communities across the Basin and other news. People can register for the newsletter, which will be sent out every two months, through the CBT website (www.cbt.org) or by calling 1-800-505-8998.

The CBT 2005-06 annual report was also made available at the AGM. This year the report was created with a larger audience in mind. Simple, straightforward information, as well as the required financial reporting elements, is presented in an easy-to-read format.

"We are working on answering Basin residents' request for improved communications," commented Neil Muth, CBT CEO. "Both the annual report and the Report to Residents use *Growing Together* as their theme. This theme speaks to our commitment to growth as an organization as well as our renewed commitment to consultation and collaboration with the people of the Columbia Basin."

As part of this commitment, the board confirmed that a symposium will be held in 2007, and every three years thereafter. CBT is also working on additional ways to gather information and input. Through means such as regular community meetings and posting discussion papers on the website, CBT will continue to consult with residents and encourage dialogue.

A new senior management position, which is focused on building partnerships with communities and improving communications with residents, has also been created. CBT Communications Andrew Creighton reported that the position is yet to be filled, and said he believed the objective would be to have someone for sometime in the fall.

Hello I Must Be Going plays Silverton, Nakusp & Kaslo

submitted

A new play written by three Nelson women – Bessie Wapp, Judy Wapp and Nicola Harwood – is touring the area this month.

Hello I Must Be Going portrays four generations of women in Bessie and Judy Wapp's Jewish Lithuanian family. Never more than a step ahead of a steady stream of occupying forces, they struggle to protect their families from the Russian army, the Soviets, the Nazis, and the Soviets again. Those that make it to America face World War II and Vietnam, while another lands in the chaos of Israel.

Hello I Must Be Going is an original play based on the actual stories of heroic women fueled by love, facing forces frighteningly similar to today's war on terror.

The play follows the courage and tenacity of "Sara," one of Bessie and Judy's Lithuanian ancestors. Judy herself chose to leave the US at the height of the anti-Vietnam war movement when the assassination of Martin Luther King and the pending draft of her husband galvanized her to take her young daughter Bessie and leave for Canada.

In times of peace and plenty, we all are apt to assume, as Bessie's great aunt did, that "the troubles are somewhere else, no one ever thought they would come to our small village." *Hello I Must Be Going* explores the resistance of women to the machinations of war and shows us that running to the next country is not how peace will finally be won. The entire planet is "our small village."

After playing 21 Nelson shows at Oxygen Art Centre in July, *Hello I Must Be Going* will play the Langham in Kaslo on August 11, the Bonnington in Nakusp on August 15, the Vallican Heritage Hall on August 16, and the Silverton Hall on August 30.

There will also be shows in Procter on August 9, Castlegar on August 10, Gray Creek on August 13, Grand Forks on August 31, Revelstoke September 15-17 and in Salmo September 23.

Tickets are $15, available at Gold Yogi Imports, 356 Baker Street in Nelson, at local venues in a community near you, or at the door. Look out for posters around town. Showtime is 8 pm.

The highlight of Morgen Bardati's recent Pieces of Pattern show at the Hidden Garden Gallery was the fashion show at the opening reception July 26. Models Niekitah Donnet, Ava Wright, Morgen herself, Leigh Austin and Andrea Saba Chambers showed off Bardati's wonderful creations to the delight of a full house. Each piece represents about 50-60 hours of work. All are made with natural fibre material, hand embellished with printmaking, dyeing, painting, shibori and itajime techniques.

Silverton Music Camp in its eighth season

submitted

Rock 'n Roll festivals not your cup of tea? Well, fret no more. The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society in Silverton has a wonderful alternative just for you.

Beginning on August 6 and continuing through August 25, there will be a host of fine concerts and events to choose from and attend. Many concerts are free of charge; some request a donation and only one has a set fee. Please see the 'clip & save' ad in this paper for dates, times and event locations. There will also be posters displayed in all the usual places as well as flyers available for pickup at many local businesses.

This is the eighth year running for this wonderful music camp, which was begun in 1999 by Silverton's Heather Huether, a fine concert cellist and teacher. Originally a one-week camp for strings and piano, the program has now expanded to three consecutive weeks. The first week is the Suzuki Valhalla Institute (SVI) beginning August 5 at Lucerne School in New Denver. Observers are welcome. The second week is the Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM), beginning August 13. And the final week is the Valhalla Intensive Performance Program (VIP) beginning August 21.

VSSM draws music students from all over Canada, and many from the US. This year, the school welcomes its first international student from Japan.

During the week of August 13, VSSM offers several programs and classes open to folks from surrounding communities. There is a Music Appreciation Class held daily from 3-4 pm. There are two community choirs. One is a Family Choir, held daily from 1-2 pm and an Adult Choir, held daily from 5-6:30 pm. Anyone who can carry a tune is welcome to join and share their talent with the community.

A fiddling workshop has been added to the VIP Program (August 21-25). This daily two-hour class is accepting any violin student (adult or child) at any skill level. All that is required is a love of fiddling or the desire to learn.

Also part of the VSSM program, and in its fourth year, is the Hands On for the Arts Silent Auction at the Villa Dome Quixote (New Denver) during the week of August 13 (see 'clip & save' ad). Featuring art, music, adventure experiences and services, Hands On proceeds support all VSSM programs. Anyone wanting to donate art or services to the auction can do so through August 9. Simply contact Karen at 358-2828.

Monetary donations to VSSM are also welcome throughout the year.

So there you have it. Come and enjoy good music by exceptionally talented kids of all ages. Nothing says music like August in Silverton.

The Valhalla Summer School of Music runs August 13th to the 18th.

Silverton is full of music during VSSM week, even in the campground.

Watercolours and mono prints at Hidden Garden Gallery

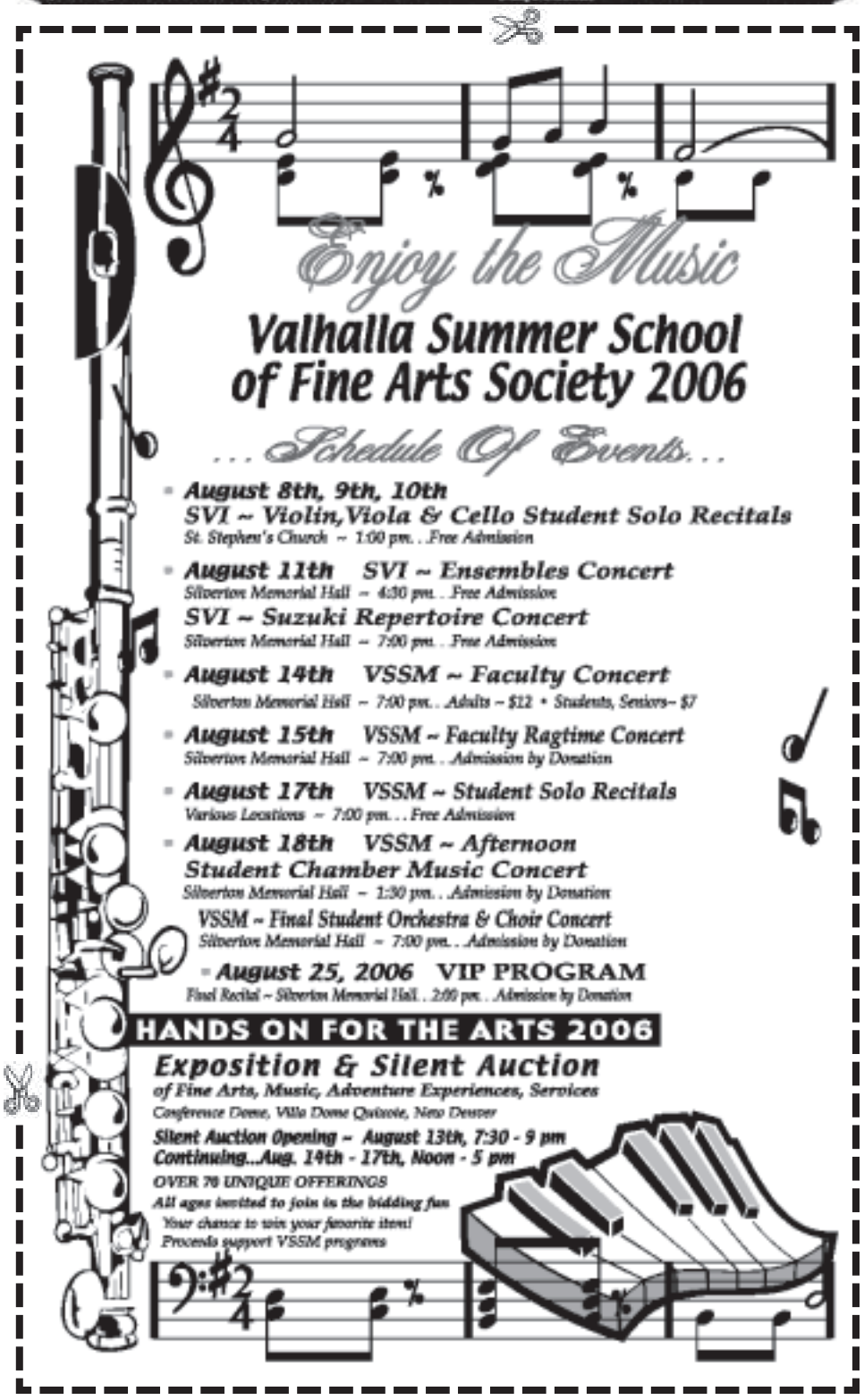
submitted

Valdis Gislason, an Edmonton artist, will exhibit her watercolour and vibrant mono prints at the Hidden Garden Gallery from August 2-7. While visiting New Denver last summer, Valdis became enchanted with the gallery.

Valdis says that she "creates and collects art purely for the tactile and visual pleasure of it." So there is a sensory delight in store for all who visit the show.

Valdis will meet local art lovers at her opening on Thursday, August 3 from 7 to 10 pm. Refreshments will be served and music will be played in the garden. Come on out and support this visiting artist.

The Hidden Garden Gallery will feature Edmonton artist Valdis Gislason's mono and watercolour prints Aug 2-7.



Computer acting up?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn

250-265-2163

Fauquier residents pull weeds to help our environment

submitted by Juliet Craig

Residents of Fauquier recently donated their time to pull purple loosestrife, an aggressive alien invader. This plant species, originally from Europe, infests wetlands causing monocultures that can choke out native species.

Originally introduced as a garden ornamental, purple loosestrife can "hop" the garden fence, travelling down water corridors such as ditches, rivers, streams and lakes. In the United States, purple loosestrife is estimated to be spreading at a rate of 115,000 hectares per year, impacting the habitat of amphibians, fish, birds, and other aquatic-dependent species.

Local children released beetles that eat purple loosestrife stems.

There is only one known infestation of purple loosestrife north of Castlegar in the Central Kootenay, and that is along the highway in Fauquier. This small patch of beautiful, tall purple flowers has caught the attention of local residents who are concerned about its spread into Arrow Lakes and associated wetland habitats.

Co-ordinated by the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, residents as well as the Rest Area Rangers crew from Ministry of Transportation came out last week to control purple loosestrife. Armed with clippers and garbage bags, they removed the flowerheads of the plants before they go to seed.

As well, local children, along with resident Rob Shiell, released biocontrol agents that were provided by the government in May. These small beetles chew the stems of the plants and weaken them, ideally preventing them from flowering. However, since it can take years until the beetles take effect, clipping the flowerheads helps with the control.

Anyone with purple loosestrife on their property should dig it up and carefully dispose of the garden waste in plastic bags, or bury it far from water. Plants can be identified by the distinctive square stem and opposite leaves that have smooth edges.

For more information on purple loosestrife and other invasive plants, contact the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee at 352-1160 or email invasiveplants@uniserve.com.

Trout Lake mine finds market

Things seem to be going full steam ahead for the Roca Mines MAX molybdenum mine in Trout Lake.

UK-based Derek Raphael & Company Ltd (DRC) has agreed to purchase 100% of the molybdenum concentrates produced at the mine during 2006 and 2007. The contract is renewable through 2017 by mutually agreed upon pricing. DRC will accept delivery from Roca's storage facility at the MAX site and will be responsible for all downstream roasting and/or processing charges, transportation, insurance and marketing costs after pick-up at the mine gate.

DRC is one of the largest traders of molybdenum concentrates and further downstream products worldwide, supplying the steel, engineering, non-ferrous metal and chemical industries.

Roca plans to be the first new primary molybdenum producer in Canada, with production to commence in the fall of 2006. Molybdenum currently trades in the US$24-25/lb. range and is a key alloy in the manufacture of stainless and specialty steel, including pipelines and other energy-related steel infrastructure.

Hot springs update

The Nakusp hot springs should be open by the August long weekend.

Bob Lafleur, Village administrator, says the health inspector is coming August 2 and the Village is expecting him to give the official OK to open the doors to the public.

On the inspector's last visit, he asked that the circulating pumps be replaced with smaller ones for safety reasons. Lafleur said that this should be the last issue to address before getting the go-ahead to open.

Lafleur also reported that the unsatisfactory concrete work had been fixed. He said the concrete deck had been stained with two coats of concrete stain plus a sealer coat, and "it looks fantastic."

Desirae Sinclair and Rory Case recently returned from a hockey tournament in Japan. When they spoke at the Rotary Club's weekly meeting, they each received a cheque for $100 to help defray expenses. Presenting the cheques are Rotarian Dan Nicholson and President Donato DeSandoli.

Havill Leitch has great junior golf season

by Jan McMurray

June 11 was the final day of Junior Golf, with an awards ceremony and banquet at the Granite Pointe course in Nelson.

Havill Leitch of Nakusp placed fifth overall with 215 points for the season. This earned him his zone shirt as an alternate on the zone team, which travelled to Cranbrook for the BC Junior July 4-7. Leitch also won second prize for Most Improved Player for the second year in a row, with 70 more points than he finished with last year.

Leitch was also one of six junior golfers to receive the very special Barry Crispin Sportsmanship Award. Barry Crispin was a young golfer from Balfour who, at the age of 18, passed away from leukemia. He was a true gentleman and all juniors should aspire to have his dedication, etiquette and honesty towards all players.

This year also marks the last one for the woman who has co-ordinated junior golf for many years, Emily Beauchamp. She is passing the torch onto Cam Leitch of Nakusp, Havill Leitch's father.

Other junior golfers from our area participating in the program this year were Dylan Tappin (Silverton), who also made the top 20, Brett Roberts (Nakusp), Peter Riemer (Kaslo), Ben Lang (Kaslo), Calvin Reitmeier (Rosebery), and Mike Hicks (New Denver).

Nakusp ambulance station gets new unit chief

by Jan McMurray

A new unit chief has been hired for the Nakusp ambulance station.

Barb Miller, who has been a paramedic with the Nakusp station for a while now, has taken the job.

She will mentor with Darrell Van Horne, called in from Castlegar several weeks ago to be Nakusp's temporary unit chief. They will work together on her learning plan.

"We are hoping that the learning plan and mentorship will ensure that she will be successful in her new role," said Bob Gallaher, executive director for the region.

Gallaher said that BC Ambulance Service posted the position on several occasions without receiving a single applicant. In this last round, there were "a limited number" of applications received.

He added that requests from our local politicians to look at making some changes within BC Ambulance Service have been received, and a meeting is being organized to address concerns.

"An expression of interest has gone out for what I am calling a stakeholders meeting in the area to look at innovative and creative strategies and approaches to come up with initiatives with all partners – initiatives to help us improve staffing and/or opportunities with stakeholders," he said.

The expression of interest has gone out to many stakeholders, including the mayors of Nakusp, New Denver, Silverton, the Area K director, paramedics and health officials, he said.

With recent attention on a lack of adequate ambulance service in the area, local politicians are pushing for changes regarding training and pay structure. They have also asked that jurisdiction for our area be transferred from the Okanagan to Castlegar.

On July 1st the Rotary Club of Nakusp raffled off two mountain bikes supplied by Gerrick Cycle and Sports, valued at over $1100. The lucky winner drawn from nearly 300 entries was Robyn Crosby of Nakusp.

Songwriters to appear in Edgewood

by Art Joyce

Carol's Garden Café in Edgewood continues in the Kootenay tradition of bringing world class music into our already vibrant local culture. Australian songwriter Emaline Delapaix and the Delistocracy will play at the cafe on August 4 at 7 pm.

Emaline Delapaix appears at Carol's Garden Café, August 4.

Emaline's website describes her style as "a unique blend of passionate and humourous folk / jazz-infused alternative pop with influences from gypsy, roots, latin, rock and cabaret, big orchestral arrangements, interesting time changes and clever lyrics."

Since beginning in 2001, Emaline has shared the stage with such fine performers as Garnet Rogers, David Francey, Rob Lamothe, Tanglefoot, Kris Demeanor, Plaid Tongued Devils, Jonatha Brooke, Little Feat, Juan Carranza, Ember Swift, and many more. Now based in Toronto, Emaline is a veteran of over 400 shows in Australia, Europe and North America over the past five years, all self-produced. She has appeared as a solo artist, and with a duo or trio.

Her band, the Delistocracy, is comprised of four "hand-picked" female musicians chosen for their talent, colourful sense of humour, dedication to hard work, similar ideals, and a much needed ability to deal with having to listen to post 2001 Robbie Williams hits while trapped in a car together on very long tours. The band includes such instruments as viola, percussion, drums, acoustic guitar, mandolin, piano and vocal harmonies.

The following Friday, on August 11 at 7 pm, Carol's hosts Edgewood's own local blues legend, Quinn de Courcey.

CAROL'S GARDEN CAFE
- Ethnic Specialty Nights
- Live Entertainment
- Galleria
Friday, August 4
Emeline & The Delistocracy
(All-female Folk/Jazz Infused Alternative Pop)
Japanese Sushi 5-8 pm
Friday, August 11
Quinn DeCourcey
(Legendary Blues)
Pizza Night 5-8 pm
Edgewood • 269-7494
July hours: Wed-Fri 10 am-2 pm, 5-8 pm
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Members of the Austin Healey Owner's Association were in New Denver on Wednesday afternoon.

GOLF COURSES

•Nakusp Golf Club

Phone/Fax: (250) 265-4531
9-HOLE PUBLIC COURSE , RATES IN EFFECT 7 DAYS A WEEK
GREEN FEES: **Adults $20.00**/9-holes, **$26.00**/18-holes
Weekly Pass: **$160.00**
Juniors 13 & under: $10.00 / 9-holes, Senior rates - 10% off
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Rental carts, clubs, pull carts. Driving Range available.
FULLY LICENSED EXCELLENT RESTAURANT
Walk-on tee times, no reservations required.
Ladies' nights Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00 Guests welcome.
Men's nights Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 Guests welcome.
TOURNAMENT DATES:
• Nakusp Open, Sat. Aug. 20: All categories. 9:00 Shotgun. 18 holes. $50.00 non-member fee. 64 maximum players. Long drive competition to follow.

•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:
• Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 9: $20.00/couple
• Club Closing, Sat. Sept. 24: $15.00.
(* fee includes dinner)

• Valley View Golf Club

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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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Woodbury Resort
Kutenai Showcase
Ainsworth Hot Springs
Sandon: Sandon Museum
The Prospector's Pick
Slocan Valley:
Arica Gardens B&B
Winlaw Mini-Mart
Lemon Creek Lodge
Slocan Valley Co-op
Floyd's Custom Furniture
Nelson: Otter Books
Coles Books
Visitor Information Centre

Silverton: Silverton Bigway
Gaze 'n Chat
New Denver:
New Denver Mall
The Valley Voice
Eldorado Market
Silvery Slocan Museum
Mountainberry Foods
Nikkei Internment
Memorial Centre

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CAMPGROUNDS

• Kaslo Municipal Campground (250) 353-2662 kaslocampground@yahoo.ca

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

On the lake in New Denver, 44 sites, 8 with electricity & water hook-up, sani-dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.

• 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.

HOT SPRINGS

• 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 its own lakeshore comfortable chalets, cabins, full RV hook-ups, camping, Bistro-Restaurant, historical chapel, bodywork, horseback riding, tours and much more... Have some happy Halcyon days!!! Big swimming pool now open!

• Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort 1-800-668-1171

Experience our main Hot Springs pool in the crisp, clean air, explore the tranquil steam bath in the Hot Springs cave, take a plunge in our stream fed cold plunge. Savour the fabulous food in our Dining Room and then enjoy the comfort of one of our 43 air-conditioned rooms.

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

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

Three hand-crafted log cabins in the heart of Silverton. Each cabin contains two self-contained suites with pine furniture. Views of the Valhallas, close to lake, beautiful gardens and wonderful berry picking. 303 Lake Ave.

• Silverton Country Inn (250) 358-7929

Visit the world-famous Silverton Country Inn, located on Slocan Lake since 1897. Offering three lakeview patios, complimentary continental breakfast, a fully-licensed pub with eight beers on tap and a gourmet dining room. We feature a Sunday eggs benny brunch, and a 2-for-1 Steak Dinner every Friday evening. Open 7 days a week.

• 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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• 19th Hole Restaurant Ph: (250) 358-7108

Located at the Slocan Lake Golf Course. Enjoy good food and the best view in the valley.
Hours: 8 am to 8 pm, 7 days aweek. Licensed dining & daily specials.

O'Brien's on the Lake, 1710 Hwy 6 Nakusp, Ph: (250) 265-4575 www.obriens.kootenays.com

Beautifully hand-crafted log cabins with a million-dollar view. Full kitchen and bath. Satellite TV. Private phone and barbecue on lake-view deck. All units non-smoking. No pets please. World class fishing, golfing, hiking and much, much more just minutes away. **It's so much more than a place to sleep.**

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 favourite 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

A secluded lodge on 90 acres with five guestrooms, comfortable lounge with fireplace, beautiful views, home cooking, outside firepits, walking trails, 10 km south of Silverton.

• 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.

Book by New Denver author Stan Rowe is a must read

by Art Joyce

Stan Rowe's recently published book, *Earth Alive*, is a profound gift of hope and vision from a man of rare character.

Many in the village of New Denver have mourned the passing of much-loved ecologist, author and gardener Stan Rowe two years ago. Rowe, who retired here from his tenure as professor of plant ecology at the University of Saskatchewan, is equally well respected for his stand as a conscientious objector during World War II. It was this that first brought him to New Denver as a teacher of children of Japanese internees. Yet his fascination for what makes ecosystems tick was far more than merely academic. During the 1990s, he was moved again to civil disobedience when he joined a logging blockade to protect New Denver Flats.

Thankfully his legacy lives on in the book he was working on before he died—*Earth Alive: Essays on Ecology*, newly published by NeWest Press of Edmonton. This wide-ranging, astute, erudite and often playful collection of essays and reviews demonstrates Rowe's formidable grasp not only of his chosen field but of sociology, philosophy, the arts, and good old-fashioned common sense. The language mostly avoids academic jargon, communicating clearly what Rowe felt was an urgent message.

Simply put, that message is: Humanity is suffering from a bad case of what he calls 'EDD' (Earth Deficiency Disorder). It is this that is at the root of our inability to live within our ecological means, as reflected in the collapse of many past societies. But Rowe's perspective is not that of a tree hugger or New Ager. As a scientist, he makes it abundantly clear from the biological evidence that humans are earthlings, "deep air animals," utterly dependent upon the complex systems of soil, air, and water all around us.

So what is it that makes humans ignore their dependency upon this ecosphere? Rowe draws an ironic parallel between Judeo-Christian religions and the 400-year-old tradition of liberal humanism in Western civilization. On the one hand, religion has taught that man is the chosen of God, the pinnacle of all creation. The Earth is therefore 'subject' to him to do with as he sees fit, an inanimate storehouse of raw resources. "The message is writ large in the current economic system that discounts the future and encourages grabbing what you can now, because 'for me the world was made' and I want my slice of it right now," Rowe observes.

On the other hand, liberal humanism, with its emphasis on individual rights of self-determination and fulfilment of human potential, creates an equally 'homocentric' view of the world. Our responsibilities to the planet are placed second to those of human self and society. Rowe thus sees inward-delving New Age philosophies as unlikely to help humanity stave off environmental disaster. Undue emphasis on the individual's role in Earth's woes can also miss the point. "People are encouraged to think themselves sinners rather than to damn the system that makes them so."

Does Rowe leave us without hope? Not at all. His prescription for EDD? A radically new 'ecocentric' rather than 'homocentric' world view. "Civilization will not survive without an Earth ethic. Perceiving ourselves in the context of the planet, as one animated class of its vital parts, is a good start," Rowe explains. However, "before progress can be made toward sustainable living on Earth, the most dangerous cultural myths must be replaced. Culture must be ecologized." Rowe goes so far as to suggest a new name for the human species, 'homo ecologicus' rather than 'homo sapiens'. In this he takes a cue from anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss, who observed that among tribal peoples, "a well-ordered harmony does not begin with the self, but rather places the world before life, life before man, the respect for other beings before the love of self." Such a view, Rowe argues, would cause us to evaluate any new technology primarily in relation to its ultimate effect on our ecosphere, not merely its benefit to ourselves.

NeWest Press has done a fine job of editing and arranging Rowe's masterful insights. The book opens with a leisurely, straightforward tone, progressing gradually toward the more arcane and complex theories. The opening chapters include delightful articles—some previously published in the *Valley Voice*—that reflect Rowe's affection for New Denver. These include a lovingly satirical poem dedicated to the village and a hilarious *Cautionary Fable* on the dangers of leaping too quickly to create 'alternate industries.'

The late Stan Rowe's legacy of sound ecological thinking lives on in his recently published book, Earth Alive.

Carol's Corner

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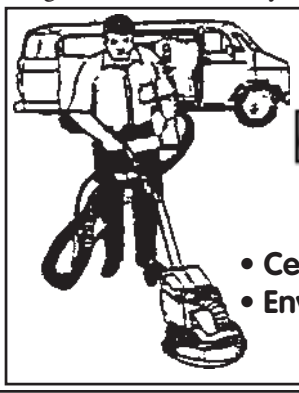

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2001 - 2005 Forest Development Plan

Major Amendment #20
Forest License A20192
Arrow Boundary Forest District

Springer Creek Forest Products is making available for public viewing their proposed Major Amendment #20 to the 2001–2005 Forest Development Plan for operations within the Arrow Boundary Forest District. The geographical area covered by this amendment is:

Lemon Landscape Unit N515 – Elliot/Anderson
Pedro Landscape Unit N513 – Trozzo Creek

This amendment shows the location and orderly development of the proposed harvesting, road development, maintenance and deactivation. The amendment also includes information on the maintenance and protection of other resource values in the area. It is available for review by resource agencies and the public before the Ministry of Forests and Range considers approval.

The Forest Development Plan Major Amendment #20 will be available for review and comment for 60-days from July 25, 2006 to September 23, 2006 at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time
Springer Creek Forest Products 705 Delany Ave. Slocan	July 25, 2006 to September 23, 2006	Monday - Friday 8 am to 4 pm
Ministry of Forests and Range Arrow Boundary Forest District, 845 Columbia Ave. Castlegar	July 25, 2006 to September 23, 2006	BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

To ensure that a representative is available to discuss the proposed amendment and receive comments, for review at Springer Creek Forest Products office we would request that you make an appointment by contacting either Ed Hadikin or Simon Martin at 355-2100. If any interested parties are unable to review the proposed amendment during these times, arrangements can be made for viewings at a mutually convenient time for them.

Comments and concerns must be provided in writing by September 23, 2006 to Springer Creek Forest Products, 705 Delany Ave, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0 Attention: Ed Hadikin, RPF.

SPRINGER CREEK
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Hidden Garden Gallery hosts Stan Rowe's book launch

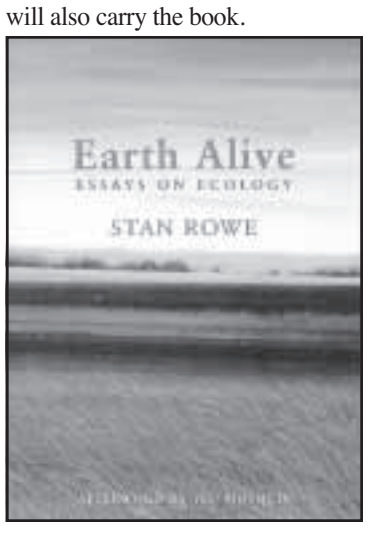
submitted

Lovers of good writing, humour, wit, wisdom and philosophy are welcome to the launch of Stan Rowe's book, *Earth Alive: Essays on Ecology* on Monday August 7, 7:30 pm., at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver.

Earth Alive is a compilation of Stan's essays, book reviews and articles, some of which first appeared in our own *Valley Voice* newspaper. Hear some of Stan's friends read from the book, and ask questions of Stan's editor at NeWest Press, Don Kerr, who will come in from Saskatchewan for the occasion. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

As another internationally respected environmental philosopher / writer / ecologist, Wes Jackson, has said: "The conceptual revolution necessary if humanity is to pull out of the nose-dive we are in requires the subtle and not-so-subtle insights derived from essays in this book."

Earth Alive will be available at Mountainberry in New Denver, Horsefeathers in Silverton, and at the book launch. Otter Books in Nelson will also carry the book.



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August long weekend in Nakusp offers something for everyone

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp ushers in the August long weekend with the first ball game of the 20th annual Slo-Pitch tournament on Friday evening at Kathy Pederson Park. There are games throughout the weekend, culminating with the two finalist teams playing Monday at 3 pm. The Bavarian Garden on site Saturday, Sunday and Monday is a great place to watch the action from.

The 15th annual Mud Bog races start Saturday at 1 pm, go on into the late afternoon, and then start up again at noon on Sunday. There will be a Bavarian Garden and food concession on site, as well as T-shirts and hats for sale. Competitors register Saturday morning from 10 to 11 am – entry fee is $60 for driver and two pit crew. Spectator admission is $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under and seniors.

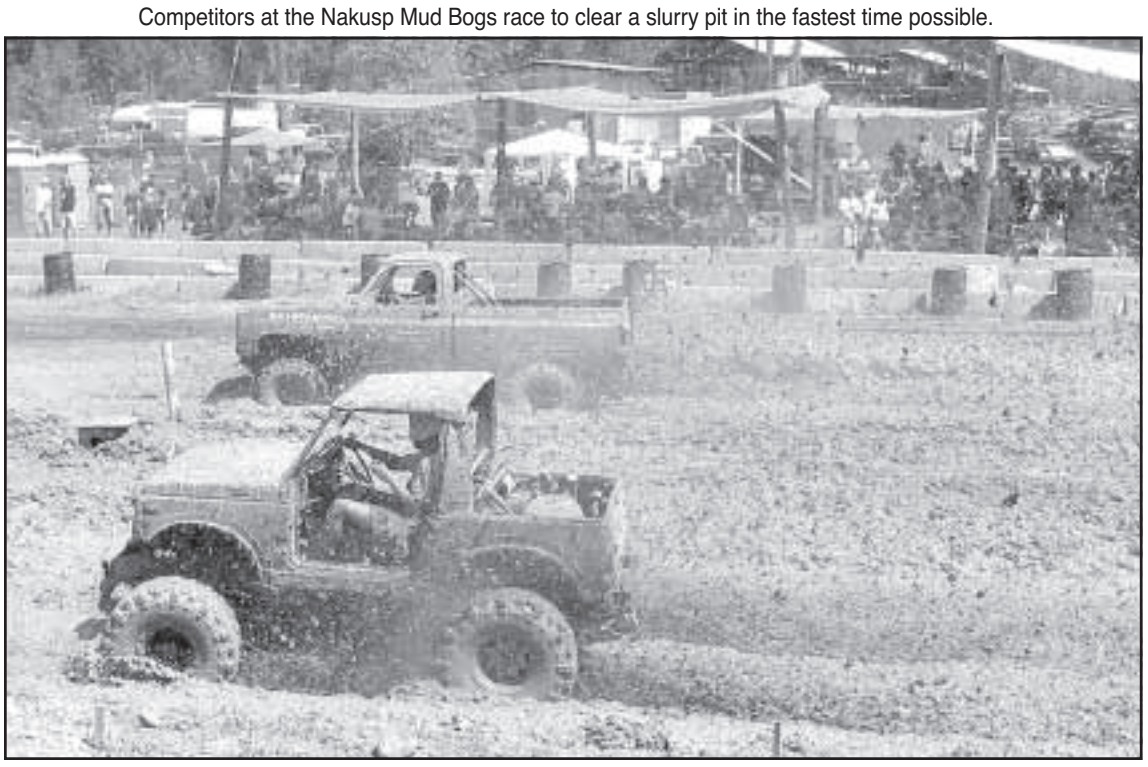
The Nakusp Public Beach will be the place to be on Sunday, August 6. First, grab a pancake breakfast at the Gazebo between 8 and 11 am, brought to you by the Robertson Memorial United Church. On the beach, there will be people busy building their water craft and paddles for the Build, Bail & Sail as usual, but there will also be sandcastle builders. New this year is a sandcastle contest, from 9 am to 12:30 pm., with awards presented at 2 pm, after the Build, Bail and Sail race. All ages and skill levels are welcome to participate in the sandcastle contest. Call 265-0024 for more information.

The Build, Bail & Sail always provides tons of entertainment for participants and spectators alike. Teams of two create a boat and paddles from materials they choose from Loma Lumber, the sponsor and organizer of the event. Building takes place on the beach from 9 am to 12:30 pm, using hand and cordless tools. Then they race their creations at 1 pm, and have to switch positions halfway through. Call 265-3681 or visit www.lomalumber.com for more information.

Take me out to the ball game! Nakusp will once again host Slo-Pitch on the August Long Weekend.

Not all mudboggers use souped-up monster trucks. Here's an unmodified truck from 2005.

Competitors at the Nakusp Mud Bogs race to clear a slurry pit in the fastest time possible.



Side-by-side action as two competitors leave the pits at Nakusp Mud Bogs, 2005.

The Build, Bail & Sail event has competitors of all ages and skill levels racing home-made boats on the waters of Upper Arrow Lake at the beach in Nakusp.

We HATE to see a good vehicle put through the wringer...

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GOOD CAUSE!
Good luck to all the competitors!
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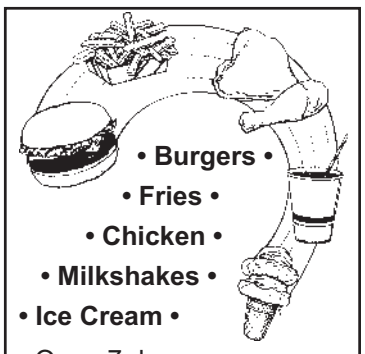

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Kaslo community forest presents draft application for new licence

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society presented its draft application for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement to the public at a meeting July 20.

The public has until August 10 to provide the board with comments on the document. The board must then address the public's concerns and revise the document accordingly.

The deadline to submit the application to the Ministry of Forests is August 15. Society secretary Erika Bird explained that the board would probably apply for an extension, as five days between the end of the public review period and the due date for the application was not enough time to complete the final application. She said the board did not want to defer the final deadline beyond August 31.

The board and Irene Strucel, the society's woodlands manager, explained that in creating the document, the primary objective was to meet government standards as set out in legislation. They said they were careful to make only the commitments they could reasonably expect to fulfill, and to allow maximum flexibility for future boards. They indicated that too much detail in the document now could limit options for future boards.

However, Kaslo resident and former board member Susan Mulkey expressed that she wanted to see more detail. "The devil is in the details," she said. "If you set out a strategic plan, how do you know you're doing it? If you set goals, how do you know you're meeting them? How are we going to flush out what we said broadly?" she asked.

Dale Anderson, stewardship officer with Kootenay Lake Forest District, was on hand to answer questions and he explained that other groups were creating separate supporting documents for such details. "Most licencees are trying to keep their Forest Stewardship Plans brief to maximize flexibility, so most are generating supporting documents to deal with issues raised by the community. These supporting documents don't go with the application – they are not legal documents."

Mulkey also said she felt innovation was missing from the application. She noted that when forestry officials were evaluating the application, they would be looking for innovation. "I'm concerned there will be a gap in what reviewers are looking for," she said.

Anderson confirmed that innovation would "get you extra points" but cautioned that reviewers would be asking if it was realistic and practical. "It's a balancing act," he said. "I would appreciate not specific strategies, but a good solid commitment to an integrated approach. Innovation doesn't have to be fancy. Keep it as practical as you can."

Kaslo resident Don Scarlett pointed out that the document's references to maximizing economic benefits would potentially "tie the hands" of future boards. The board promised to have another look at that wording.

Resident Andy Shadrack asked if the board would consider establishing advisory committees to allow for more community participation. Sean Kubara supported this idea, saying such committees "might go a long way towards healing some of the rifts" in the community.

Resident Maggie Staples asked if the community was working on a wildfire interface plan with the Village and the Provincial Emergency Preparedness program. The general board response was that such a plan should come from the Village and the RDCK, "not this small licencee."

The board had already received many public comments, and Strucel went through several issues raised in those comments. She said the board was not prepared to commit to selection logging. "We want to use various methods of logging," she said. "Silviculture systems have to be done on a case by case basis."

Watershed protection was another issue. She said that there were six community watersheds and 14 domestic watersheds in the new area. In the application, the society commits to hydrological assessments and water quality samples prior to harvest, as required by government. Some would like to see the society go further than the minimum requirement here. Strucel said that in practice, the society has been doing water monitoring after logging as well.

Climate change, Strucel said, was not addressed in the application because it was difficult to know how to address it. "Experts predict climate will change and it will affect forestry, but it's hard to acknowledge at this point. The best strategy now is to be flexible so we can change things as we go," she said.

Resident Luke Crawford warned that climate change could affect insurance costs, as had happened as a result of hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. Erika Bird said the board could look at starting a climate change fund like the existing water contingency fund.

Board President Gary Cockrell said he felt this was a governance issue. "If Luke can get elected on a platform of putting $1.50 per cubic metre aside for a climate change fund, I won't pick on him," he said. "I think we have a pretty good thing going here. It is what it is. There is not a lot we can change. If you want something, you should stand up in front of the community and say what you want."

Cockrell also brought the issue of disbursements to community groups back to governance. The board has received "tons of comments on both sides of issue," he stated. "If people have a better idea, they need to take it to the members at the AGM and get elected."

Resident Gary Weintz said he had never agreed with the disbursements because it destroys the opportunity for legacy funding to benefit the tenure. He suggested enshrining into the licence that 50% of profits be put into a legacy fund and 50% be disbursed each year "to put an end to the tug of war."

Bird said the language should be adjusted on p. 27 of the business plan, where the disbursement policy is outlined, so it is clear that there is no commitment for future boards to continue with this.

A copy of the draft application is available on the society's website at www.kaslocommunityforest.org. Hard copies are available for review at the Kaslo Public Library and can be purchased at Kootenay Lake Computers (formerly Ramsbottom's).

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Kaslo council, July 25: Council receives Offer to Purchase Agreement

by Jill Braley

•Council received an Offer to Purchase Agreement for the provincial courthouse building. This was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee for recommendation to council. The Village made an offer of $120,000 for the purchase of the building, with no money down, and subject to the successful outcome of a public referendum. A phone meeting will be scheduled to discuss details.

•Glen Walker, acting village foreman, wrote a memo to council advising he feels the logging of the Brookes Creek watershed will not adversely affect the water the Village is currently gathering at the springs intake. This was referred to the Planning & Development Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received an email from Richard Schwartz regarding a BMX proposal for Kaslo beach. This was referred to the Planning & Development Committee for recommendation to council.

•The Village will seek advice from the Municipal Insurance Authority of BC regarding the paint ball site on Village property adjacent to a public trail.

•The municipality will send a letter of support to Mark MacKenzie, local Katimavik Committee liaison, encouraging a Katimavik project for Kaslo. The federal government funded national youth volunteer Katimavik program is looking at setting up in three out of a possible six West Kootenay communities from the end of November 2006 to the end of August 2007. Nelson, Castlegar, Trail, New Denver, Vallican and Kaslo are all being considered. Katimavik last operated in Kaslo in 1982.

•Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services wrote to advise that Kaslo will be receiving $48,367 which represents 25% of the difference between the amount the village received in May 2006 and the allocation under a new formula. The total amount of the small communities grant allocated to the Village of Kaslo in 2006 will be $211,416. The correspondence was referred to the Admin & Finance Committee for recommendation to council.

•The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society wrote to council with information on the long-term area based tenure and the Probationary Community Forest Agreement deadline. This was referred to the Planning & Development Committee to meet with Robert Mitchell, the Village rep on the community forest board, to make a recommendation to council.

•A letter of congratulations will be sent to Ramona Faust of the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society on the success of the crystal meth forum recently held in Kaslo. The draft report on the forum will be forwarded to the Community Consultative Group for information.

•A letter will be sent to Stan Leathwood advising the Village of Kaslo is not opposed to community composting when done properly, in reply to Leathwood's June 24 email to Kaslo Cable.

•Letters will be sent to business owners regarding sidewalk obstruction.

•The Kaslo community garden will be advised a sponsor for insurance purposes must be found prior to the next Admin & Finance meeting of August 9 in order for lease renewal to be considered.

•A letter will be sent to the Community Consultative Group (CCG) advising that council is now reviewing draft bylaws and CCG will be kept informed of municipal ticketing progress.

•Fees for water service connection to the Kaslo Golf Club over and above the initial deposit of $1,000 were waived.

•Council voted to issue Preliminary Layout Approval on Marina Ridge condominium property, subject to proper plans being received.

The Village will engage the services of a geotechnical engineer to review the WSA geotechnical assessment for Marina Ridge.

•All future Development Variance Permit applications will be sent to the public works foreman for review.

•A policy was set that two public works crew members will always be present when visiting the water treatment plant chlorine room, when moving chlorine barrels, when working at PRV Stations 2, 3 & 4, and when visiting Kemp Creek dam.

•Accounts Payable of $264,473.30 were approved. A large amount of tax requisitions were paid out; ie: BC Assessment Authority $7,716; Central Kootenay Regional Hospital District $4,927; West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital $37,025; Regional District of Central Kootenay $119,623.

Thank you
Valley Voice
The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.
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Art shows at the Langham Gallery

submitted

The Langham Gallery in Kaslo is showing the work of two internationally renowned artists, in simultaneous exhibitions from July 7 to August 13. There will be a reception with the artists August 4 from 2-4 pm.

Both Angelika Werth and Suzanne Northcott work with the human figure: Northcott draws, paints and photographs it, while Werth clothes it. As such, Werth's series of hand-felted, constructed, sculptural garments and Northcott's larger-than-life figure drawings seem a perfect complement to one another.

Angelika Werth is a master craftsperson and working artist whose innovative felted and quilted pieces are exhibited and sold internationally. Acclaimed for her superb craftsmanship and fine attention to detail, she has worked for such prestigious designers as Yves Saint Laurent in Paris, France.

Werth's *The Madeleines* is a series of sculptural, felted dresses made for the use of historical figures and their imaginary engagement in athletic activity. Each one represents a woman from history – from Joan of Arc to Marilyn Monroe – appearing in pairs as either opponents or teammates.

A painter for over twenty years, Suzanne Northcott has moved from mixed media to photo based work and, most recently, to digital film and installation. "My work explores themes of boundaries and connections, prying at the space between things, between moments and events, people and places and various states of being."

Angelika Werth's felted artwork pokes fun at historical figures like Marie Antoinette in this piece. Her work is showing at the Langham July 7 - August 13.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

From mountaintop to valley bottom

With the intense heat wave of the past few weeks the best outdoor choices seem to be either to hike high in the cooler alpine reaches or else to stick close to the lakes. I've done a little of both lately, and these are fine ideas even when the weather cools down again to normal, as it soon surely shall do...

On July 16th I left the house with a buddy to drive to Retallack thence up the steep four kilometer access road to the Whitewater Glacier Trail, one of the more notable West Kootenay hikes that is very well described in the cleverly titled book, *Don't Waste Your Time in the West Kootenays*, which is still pretty new and widely available. The road is signed from the edge of the highway and is in good condition for three kilometers due to recent logging upgrades, then is fairly good but narrow for the last kilometers to a new parking lot that has hopefully settled some private land crossing problems.

The new trailhead is higher up than the old one and an excellent new trail climbs over to blend into the original trail, which soon gets you to the main Whitewater valley and before long into sight of the small glacier at the end of the drainage. Get the book I read or read about this hike in other local guidebooks and get up there soon. There are some pleasing meadow areas and many grand vistas to inspire you, and if you do the whole nine hour round trip, you'll be able to touch newly exposed 20,000 year old ice and walk the gravel and muck at the moraine area and drink from the icy little tarn.

This is not a technical hike, but simply requires some devotion and diligence to see your way to the end and if possible to the pass that lays a short distance past and above. The clear air gave way to tremendous views and panoramas as you ramble about the heart of the Goat Range Park. Well, the stomach anyway... There were seven cars in the lot as we got underway around 10 am and we saw more than a dozen other hikers over the course of the day, most making it to the icefield. The day was clear but without the close heat of the valley bottoms and roadsides, but we sure seemed to drink a ton of water. Unfortunately the trail registration box is in a state of neglect and sure hasn't been monitored for many months, so I can only hope that the Forest Service has some way of gauging usage.

The other great way to endure the heat and not make much of an effort is to simply be out on or in these beautiful big Kootenay lakes. From my place in New Denver, the local swimming beach is just four minutes away on foot, and the water has felt real warm even to me. There's the usual flurry of motorboats and such out there midday, but Slocan Lake is generally a big open peaceful place. I loaded up my own little powerboat and cruised way down to the camp near Slocan City last week and from there I tied on to some boom logs below the bluffs, where I got to see some of the huge lightning show that pounded the north end of the lake in the middle of the night.

I've de-furnished my boat to the point where I can easily stretch out to sleep or even pitch a tiny tent in the cockpit without going ashore. Fewer bugs, no setup time to speak of and the best view of the stars (or lightning) as the night breezes stir. As the morning sun lit up Valhalla Park I got underway and tied up at the old dock in Slocan and headed to the café for one of those killer breakfast specials. One guy at the beach was walking his dog and the mill was roaring away as always, and the sun crept over the ridge.

Slocan is really doing a nice job of urban improvement and the village seems to have all manner of improvements on the go. The streets and sidewalks are well kept and the park seems to have been buffed up a lot. There are new bus stop shelters and the gazebo at the rail trail terminus is nearly all done. The boat launch is now getting an excellent steel floating breakwater/dock and will offer full shelter when completed to the launch ramp.

I spent the second day idling along up the east shore of Slocan Lake, taking refuge in the late morning shade as I travelled north along the steep rocky shoreline outcroppings. There's a little cottage settlement near Memphis Creek and some signs of development at Enterprise Creek, but otherwise the trip north was quiet, cool and relaxing. Bannock Point had a couple dozen swimmers off the rocks and lolling in the shade, all making the most of this great place to pass another hot summer day.

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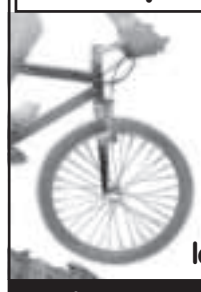

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Look for the Pink Bike across from the school on highway 6
Open Tues - Sat 10 am to 5 pm
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The plethora of large camper vehicles tells me that it's the tourist season here in the valley one more time, and I thought it timely to write about a few tourist tips for our seasonal visitors. The West Kootenays has lots to keep tourists busy if they are in the know, but all too often, these same people simply gawk and pass through, not knowing the pleasantries that the valley holds. Here are some hints:

1) Try to get a campground spot in New Denver or Silverton – these spaces are right on the lake and have some of the best views you are likely to find in the Kootenays. You have to be quick or lucky though, as many local residents from down the valley or Nelson know this secret and like to fill the place up. Good alternatives are the Rosebery campground or one of the many privately owned guest accommodations that are available. Ask advice of the locals on this topic, but some of my favorites include the Sweet Dream Guesthouse in New Denver or the Blue Sky Resort just out of Silverton. You could also try the William Hunter Cabins, Silverton Resort or one of the two hotels. All offer good value for your money.

2) Leave your motor home parked and get on a bicycle or small vehicle and explore the local area. Lots of people know about the wildflower display on Idaho Peak and the ghost town at Sandon, but how about being a bit adventurous and exploring the seldom visited mines at the Enterprise Creek town site or up at the end of the Payne wagon road just outside of Sandon. Many of us have been exploring these old mines for decades and there are plenty of them out there to stumble upon – again, ask the locals and they will point you in the right direction.

3) Go swimming in the lake, hire a canoe or kayak and visit the beautiful sand beaches on the other side. While over there, try to take in a few of the great hikes in the Valhallas. The best information on this is found in the office of the Valhalla Wilderness Society in New Denver. Talk to these people and you will find them friendly and able to fill you in on where to go and what to do. While on this subject, the best way to tick off the locals is to roar around on the lake in your sea-doo or unmuffled drag boat. We like our lake to be serene and are apt to point these types of individuals in the direction of the Okanagan where they can be in good company with many other noisemakers.

4) Try some of the local restaurants. It is probably inadvisable for me to give any specific advice here, but I can tell you that there are some great ones around that shouldn't be missed. Too often I see people driving right through our small communities in search of a better restaurant in a larger centre – bad mistake!

5) If you are traveling through by motorcycle, as many more people seem to be doing, the great riding roads are New Denver to Kaslo, the Pass Creek road between Crescent Valley and Castlegar, the Monashee between the Needles ferry south of Nakusp towards Vernon and the east side of Kootenay lake, (over the Balfour ferry to Crawford Bay and then south to Creston on Hwy #3).There is a great campground dedicated to motorcyclists south of Ainsworth that you shouldn't miss, called Toad Rock. There is always a fairly high crash rate here in the Kootenays – be careful of deer jumping out in front of you and keep the speed down. Flatlanders like to cut over the centre line when driving around blind corners – keep to the outside of the road to avoid them.

I could keep going on these tips, but my space is limited and anyway, you will be able to get the specific info you need if you take the time to ask around. Stop in one of the local coffee shops and mingle with the locals. Enjoy our attractions and recreational possibilities - after all, there is a good reason most of the local population don't go anywhere for their own holidays except right here.

CALL OF THE OPEN ROAD

Many of us still have that great 10 speed road bike from school days or college years. These old bicycles never really die and can often be revived with fresh tires, new cables, chains or saddles and minor tune-ups - I've got new and used parts and both 27" and 700 metric tires, so you can get back to the glory days of riding that skinny, speedy bike! NORCO bikes, parts & accessories and the usual tuneups, repairs and upgrades done in a helpful manner in pleasant surroundings.

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Indonesian Tempeh available in the Kootenays

An Indonesian food, tempeh, (pronounced tempay) with an ancient history is now being manufactured in the Crescent Valley and is available fresh for the first time.

Roesina's Tempeh Products is owned and operated by Irma Soemodihardjo who learned her tempeh-making skills by observing her grandmother. She uses a family recipe combined with locally grown, organic only ingredients.

Tempeh is a highly nutritional, fermented soyfood, traditionally made from soybeans only. Its high protein content makes it a wonderful substitute for meat at a low and affordable cost.

In addition, tempeh is a whole food with natural dietary fibre and is therefore easy to digest and the world's richest known vegetarian source of vitamin B12. One of the few fermented vegetarian foods that is low in sodium, low in saturated fats, it contains absolutely no cholesterol and no trans fat. High in fibre, tempeh helps to reduce the risk of colon cancer,

One of the more popular uses of fermented soyfoods lately has been in the treatment of menopausal symptoms. Studies have shown that women who consume soy report a significant reduction in the amount of hot flashes they experience. There is also some evidence that it may even be able to help reduce the bone loss that typically occurs after menopause.

Tempeh is an ideal food for every health minded person and a perfect diet food. It is versatile and deliciously simple to prepare, it is usually sliced, grilled, baked, sauteed or fried until golden brown. Its flavour and texture has been described as nutty, mushroomy or smells like freshly baked bread.

Food Editor Andrew Rhodes is on vacation. His column will return next issue.

Moving Sale

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Swan House B&B

714 Arthur Street, Slocan

House and yard items including 4 piece marble top, solid wood bedroom suite, antique drop leaf table, antique chairs, lamps, original oil paintings by Whistler artist, John Deere utility wagon, ladders, garden tools and much more.

Garage Sales will be held on Sundays, August 6, 13, 27 from 10:00 to 3:00 and will feature assorted house and yard equipment.

Call 1-888- 797-7926 for info or to view.

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TIMBER SALE LICENCE A78933

Take notice that, pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, a Timber Sale licence is being offered for sale by the BC Timber Sales Kootenay Business Area..

Closing Date/Location: August 17, 2006 at 11:00 AM. Applications will be accepted by the Timber Sale Manager, Kootenay Business Area, 1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6K1

Geographic Location: Mt. Young, located approximately 24 km West of the village of Edgewood on the West side of Arrow Lake in the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

Estimated Volume: 44,294 cubic metres, more or less

Species / Volume: Lodgepole pine 31,320 m^3 (71%), Spruce 10,699 m^3 (24%), Balsam 1,676 m^3 (4%), White pine 498 m^3 (1%), Larch 43 m^3, Hemlock 35 m^3, Cedar 23 m^3, more or less

The preceding volumes are estimates based on statistical samples. Bidders are strongly advised to conduct a thorough field review to verify estimates.

License Term: 2 (two) years

Upset Stumpage Rate: $32.85 / cubic metre

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

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

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

Comments: Harvesting method is clearcut with reserves utilizing ground-based equipment.

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

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

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office, telephone (250) 825-1100 or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A78933.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you concerned about our community's housing needs and soaring housing costs? Ever had to wait a year to find affordable or appropriate rental accommodations in Silverton or New Denver? Then please take the time to fill out the Healthy Housing Society's housing needs survey included as an insert in this issue of the *Valley Voice* or pick one up in Silverton: Gaze n Chat, Horsefeathers Gallery; New Denver: Valley Voice, Ann's Natural Foods and My Aunt's Place.

Or, if you prefer, we can e-mail the survey to you as a Microsoft Word attachment. Contact hhousingc@yahoo.ca and write "e-mail housing survey" in the subject line.

FRUIT STAND on Hwy 33 at the junction of the hot springs and the guest house. Every Thursday 12:00p.m to 5:00p.m.

AUTOMOTIVE

1986 GMC PICK-UP. 3/4 ton, long box, four-speed standard. Asking $2000. 265-0168.

35' CLASS A EXECUTIVE MOTOR HOME rebuilt, 440 Dodge engine, generator, 3 solar panels, new carpet, very clean, car dolly, very good condition, must be seen. Good gas mileage. 17' LARSON BOAT & TRAILER, new top, flooring, carpet. Very good condition. Kaslo. 353-7300.

1993 HONDA XR80 4-stroke dirt bike. Runs great. Has new tires, chain and sprockets. $700. Call 250-265-3063.

2001 F150 XLT TRUCK. Triton V8. 136,230 kms. $10,000 obo. 250-358-7268.

90 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER. Loaded. Many new parts. $2,222 obo. 358-2618.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CALL FOR ENTRY

Calling for Participants for **"ARTS IN THE KOHAN"** Aug 16 & 17th in Kohan Gardens, New Denver. Rent/share table to sell Art & Handcrafts for $25 as fundraiser for Slocan Lake Gallery Society; however, commission is waived. Refreshments & Music available. Reserve your space now & call Lorna (358-7965) or Penelope (7269).

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to all the people in the community who supported the fundraiser sponsored by the Slocan Lake Arena Society. The ticket was generously donated to us by Mac and Clara Norris of Silverton and the winner of the ticket was Angela Simpson of New Denver, B.C. Congratulations Angela and we hope you enjoy your trip. The funds will be used to upgrade the rink in Silverton.

Personal Classified ads start at $8.00. Email us — valleyvoice@netidea.com for details

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.

SOULGARDEN presents: Drop- in OPEN ART STUDIO: Adults (14+): July 19-Sept 13th 7-9pm. ($9) Kids (2-13) Thurs July 27-Aug 17th ($6). CHAKRA'S: (8-wk) Expressive Arts Series: Mon (7-9:30pm) $18 each. Explore ea. chakra w/ creative arts Aug 7 (SOLAR PLEXUS), Aug 14 (HEART), etc. "Expressive Dance" Fri- Aug 11 (7-10pm) $15 @ Hand & Soul Healing Centre, 202 Lake Ave, Silverton. Contact Sue for registration, flyer mailing, or more information at 358-2177 or Soulgarden@netidea.com.

BEAR AWARE PRESENTATION by Evelyn Kirkaldy at the GRUBS Garden down near the Pavilion in New Denver on August 12 from 10 am to noon. Free or by donation.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND... New Denver Quilt Guild presents the third annual Fabric Inspirations Show and Sale at the Hidden Garden Gallery, August 9014, 10 am-4 pm. Enjoy the display, and start your Christmas shopping early this year!

STAN ROWE'S BOOK LAUNCH: Monday Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Hidden Garden Gallery. Friends will read from Earth Alive: Essays on Ecology, and Stan's editor from NeWest Press, Don Kerr, will be on hand to answer questions. Refreshments and snacks will be served. Earth Alive will be available at Mountainberry in New Denver, Horsefeathers in Silverton, and at the book launch.

GALLERY ALFA GUILD - Arrow Lakes Fine Arts, presents our upcoming shows of the 2006 season, "Perceptions - Painting Science to See How We See," Nola Russell, July 19th through Aug 6th; Ger Cawdell, "Pinhole Visuals" and Michael Easton "Memories of a Childhood in Nature" Aug 9th through Aug 27th. Opening Reception Fri Aug 11th 6-8PM. As well view our Gallery 'Member Room.' Open Wed thru Sun 12-4PM, 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp.

HILLS SUMMER BEACH PARTY: the Hills Recreation Society is holding its annual beach party on Sunday, August 20th. Games, bonfire, hot dogs and juice for the kids. Bring a picnic supper, a potluck dish to share, and musical instruments. 2 p.m. until whenever, Valhalla beach (end of Bonanza Road).

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HELP WANTED

HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED for cleaning hot spring cottage between guests. Cottage located near Halcyon Hot Springs. $ 50 per cleaning for approx. 2-3 hours work. Own car needed. Gas allowance included if necessary. If interested, please call 265-9083 after Aug 2.

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IN MEMORIUM

In memory of our dear friend and co-worker **Eugene Huss**, a year has past and yet you still live fondly and forever in our hearts and our thoughts. Gone but not forgotten. Ted, Rod, Rick, Ken, Staff and families.

LOST

LOST STREET BANNER. Anyone who might have picked up a fallen street banner, please bring it to the Village of New Denver office.

LADIES DARK BLUE FANNY PACK, "Eddy Bauer," with prescription eyeglasses in New Denver, Friday, July 21 possibly at market or gallery. Leave message please. Call 1-403-289-8378.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

IN HONOUR OF FERNE COLES - there will be an informal Celebration of Life for Ferne Coles August 12, 2006 (2 pm-6 pm) at the Coles' Residence in Silverton, BC. In honour of Ferne, please wear something purple.

NOTICES

Due to unforseen circumstances **SILVER RIDGE COMMUNITY CLUB** must cancel plans to host **SANDON DAY** ON AUGUST 19, 2006. We look forward to welcoming our friends and neighbours to Upper Sandon in the future.

IF A LARGE, fair-haired man in his late 40s or 50s offers you window washing services and gives my name as a reference, please disregard it.

Lorna Obermayr, New Denver

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

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PRE-REGISTER FOR CHILD CARE at the New Denver Nursery School for the 2006/07 school year. Our awesome program is for 2 1/2 - 5 year olds. Call 358-7218 (Valley Voice office) to pre-register. Call now to ensure a space! First come, first served.

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OBITUARIES

Hugh Parker of New Denver passed away on July 20, 2006 at Slocan Community Health Centre a the age of 90 years with his family at his side. He was predeceased by his wife Pat in 2001. Survived by his son Harry (Colette), Maple Ridge, BC; daughter Charron (Bob), Smith, Alberta; grandchildren Scott (Pamen), Charlene (Rob), Mary Anne, Robin (Jamie).

Much thanks to everyone at the Pavilion for the care of Dad. Your thoughtfulness and love was much appreciated during this time. Also thank you to the home care nurses and doctors, who have looked after him so well. And to all the support ladies that came in every day. He loved you all.

A memorial service will be held August 14 at 3 pm at Bosun Hall, New Denver, BC with Pastor Bob Warrington officiating.

The Cracker Cats were among the performers at last weekend's Littlefest at Little Slocan Lodge.

Business Classified ads start at $10.00. Email us — valleyvoice@netidea.com for details

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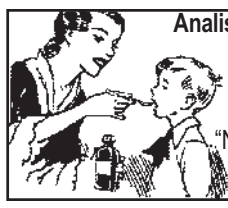

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RDCK board meeting, July 22: Taxation for Summit Lake Ski Hill moves forward

by Jan McMurray

•The process to raise $20,000 a year in taxation for the Summit Lake Ski Hill is rolling along.

With the Village of Silverton's letter of consent to go forward to the Alternate Approval Process received at the July RDCK meeting, all the affected Villages (Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton) and electoral areas (H and K) are on board. The bylaw to establish the Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution Service was given three readings and forwarded to the ministry for approval to proceed to the Alternate Approval Process (AAP).

The AAP is a way to get voter approval – in this case, from voters throughout School District #10. An advertisement will appear twice in local newspapers, and voters have the opportunity to provide comments until at least 30 days after the last ad is published. If 10% of electors petition against the taxation, it would either go to referendum or be dropped.

Comments from voters must be provided on elector response forms, which will be available at the Village offices in Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton and perhaps at other locations as indicated in the advertisement.

Area K Director Paul Peterson attended council meetings in May with the proposal to raise a total taxation amount of $20,000 per year for the ski hill. Rates for individual property owners will fluctuate from year to year, depending on property assessments. To give a rough idea of what this will cost taxpayers, the rate per $1,000 of assessment for 2006 would be 42¢ for a residential property.

If the taxation goes through, residents will be taxed in 2007.

•The RDCK received a letter from Neil Murphy, BC Regional Project Manager of the Canada - Glacier/Howser - Hydro Project, recently awarded a contract to produce power for BC Hydro with his company's proposed run-of-river system on Howser and Glacier Creeks in Area D. He asks to come to a board meeting to provide input into the proposal for a Jumbo Regional Recreation Area in Area D, presented to the RDCK at its June meeting, and to make a presentation about his hydro project. The RDCK board agreed to invite him to a future meeting.

•In response to a letter from Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, the following resolution regarding ambulance service was passed. "The Regional District of Central Kootenay Board of Directors requests the BC Minister of Health, the Honourable George Abbott, to move responsibility for ambulance service in the Nakusp-New Denver-north Slocan Valley area from the Okanagan (Vernon) to the West Kootenay (Castlegar) in order to promote closer liaison amongst our health care providers, AND FURTHER, that the Minister of Health seriously consider placing the BC Ambulance Service in our region under the aegis of the Interior Health Authority (West Kootenay Boundary Regional Health Services Area) in order to provide a more coordinated and flexible management of regional emergency medical services."

•The board approved a 25¢ increase in transit fares for the North Shore and Slocan Valley areas, to come into line with City of Nelson fares. The increase will take effect shortly after sufficient time for public notification. The fare increase does not affect buses originating from the Nakusp/Arrow Lakes/New Denver/Silverton areas or the Kaslo/North Kootenay Lake areas.

•Staff was directed to expand the scope of its study on the establishment of a fire protection service in Area D. The study will now include the option of establishing a fire protection service area from Coffee Creek to Schroeder Creek, including the Village of Kaslo, with two new fire stations to be built.

•Area K Director Paul Peterson was appointed to the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee at the request of Juliet Craig, committee co-ordinator. Also, staff will investigate other regional districts' participation in invasive weed programs, review any recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding invasive weed agencies, and provide information on any association the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee may have with any provincial ministries or other agencies.

•The RDCK received a letter from the Fire Commissioner stating meetings would be held to discuss a process whereby municipalities and regional districts would inspect and audit their volunteer fire departments' equipment, level of training and operational guidelines. The board directed to staff to investigate the RDCK's level of exposure and liability if such measures were to be taken.

•The board voted to ask the Office of the Fire Commissioner to provide in-region training and testing to volunteer fire departments to achieve National Fire Protection Association certification and to work closely with the fire chiefs of rural fire departments to ensure that necessary support is provided.

•BC Hydro grants-in-lieu were approved for the Circle of Habondia Society ($1,000), Recreation Commission No. 6 ($2,000) and Mt. Sentinel High School ($1,500) in Area H and the Edgewood Community Health Centre ($400) in Area K. Rec Commission No. 6 also received a $300 grant-in-aid.

•The September board meeting will take place in Meadow Creek.

CLARIFICATION

Although the RDCK board endorsed the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society's (RARTS) application for $10,000 to relocate a heritage log cabin to the Rails to Trails trailhead in Passmore, it turned out that the relocation could not happen. Thus, the grant was not given to the society.

Notes from the RCMP

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE BASED ON PRESS RELEASES AND MAY HAVE BEEN EDITED

•A motorcyclist travelling westbound on Hwy. 31A on July 30 failed to negotiate a curve about 13 kms outside of New Denver, struck a concrete barricade, and was thrown off the bike and into a gorge by the creek. The 44-year-old male driver from Nelson had to be extricated by New Denver's Fire Rescue Unit. He sustained serious but non-threatening life injuries as a result. He was transported to the Trail hospital for treatment after being stabilized at the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver.

•Slocan Lake RCMP went out to the Rosebery Provincial Park campground on July 28 in regards to a reported sexual assault that occurred there the previous evening. As a result of the adult female's victim's report and statement, a 53-year-old male from Nelson was arrested and charged. He is to appear in Nakusp court on August 16. The victim and suspect were not known to each other but were in adjoining campsites at the park when the offence occurred.

•A large male with fair hair in his late 40s or early 50s has caused some concern in the New Denver area. RCMP would like community members to know that they are not obliged to accept the services of anyone offering window washing.

•The Slocan Lake detachment, with the assistance of the Nelson detachment, continue to investigate several marihuana cultivation sites in the Slocan Valley. These ongoing investigations, as well as anonymous tips, have already resulted in a large quantity of plants being seized and destroyed.

The Slocan Lake Dance Camp, a ballroom dancing event held July 28-31 at the Bosun Hall in New Denver, almost doubled in attendance this year. Of the approximately 100 participants, some were from as far away as Idaho and Victoria. Although the event is for teens and adults, Sakura Azzopardi managed to sneak in and steal her mother's dance partner, Peter Clement of Procter.

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