The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Trout Lake molybdenum mine hosts open house and mine tours

by Jan McMurray

The MAX molybdenum mine near Trout Lake welcomed more than 60 members of the public on August 7 to take a tour of the mine, ask questions and partake in refreshments. "It was a good turnout," said Scott Broughton, CEO and president of Roca Mines Inc. "I'm thankful that people were prepared to come from outside Trout Lake on a long weekend," he added.

Broughton said that people came from Lardeau Valley communities, Kaslo and even as far away as Nelson, and that some of these people were unhappy that the company had not made efforts to communicate with them. He says that the company has always planned to hold public meetings in neighbouring communities, particularly Nakusp, Revelstoke and Kaslo, but since the project "has a very small footprint and is exclusively related to Trout Lake, we opted to do Trout Lake first," he said, adding that they have been entirely focused on development and construction to date.

The Friends of the Lardeau River have expressed concern about the company's poor communication with communities downstream of the project, and about the long-term environmental effects of releasing mine tailing contaminants into the wetland headwaters of Trout Lake.

The company, FortyTwo Metals Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Roca Mines Inc., applied for its effluent discharge permit from the Ministry of Environment in May.

Kathy Eichenberger from the ministry's Environmental Protection division, says staff in her office are now reviewing the company's application, technical report and environmental impact statement, as well as conducting a scientific review of the impacts of molybdenum on health and ecosystems. She explained that the water resulting from the MAX mining activity will be treated through a settling process in a settling pond, and will also be reclaimed and reused as part of the operation. She said that some of the water will be discharged into a small creek, which is a tributary to Wilkie creek, and that the concentration of molybdenum in Wilkie Creek is expected to be undetectable because the metals in the water will have settled out in the settling pond. The duration of the permit applied for is two years and four months.

Grant Trower, communication co-ordinator for Friends of the Lardeau River, explained that his group's main concern is "keeping the pristine waters of Trout Lake pristine because that's what provides pure clean water for the Gerrard River spawning channel. The cumulative effects of years of untreated mine tailings waste going into the headwaters of Trout Lake is our main concern."

The Gerrard Rainbow Trout, the world's largest race of rainbow trout, spawn every spring where Trout Lake enters the Lardeau River, about 35 kms away from the MAX site.

Trower attended the August 7 event and said it was very good, especially the tour of the mine. He saw the tailing pond, currently being constructed, and was surprised to see how big it will be. He said the 7-ha (17.2-acre) pond is being constructed in a little wetland valley, where workers are clearing the trees and removing the soil to get to bedrock. Then they will build two dams, one at either end of the pond. He says the holding capacity for the pond is 360,000 tonnes. "We were quite surprised. That's a massive amount of tailing contaminants, which will travel through a 1,000-metre-long pipe from the concentrator to the pond," he said.

The tailings will settle in the pond, and the water will be recycled a few times up through the concentrator mill. It will be released from the pond during high water months, and diluted from clean water flowing from nearby creeks. "They will be using Mother Nature to dilute their dirty water," he said.

Trower says his group wants to make sure that the clean water of Trout Lake is maintained to support the trout and "we think they should be using the best technology available, not the same old outdated process. We're concerned that after the mine is closed and long gone, that tailing pond is going to be leaching into the waterways."

He gave the example of the Salmo watershed, where 42 mine tailing sites have been identified from the late 1800s and early 1900s that are contaminating the Salmo River. "We can't afford that to happen to Trout Lake and Lardeau River because it's the only place for the Gerrard Rainbow Trout to go," he said.

Roca President and CEO Scott Broughton says that this concern of the Friends of the Lardeau is "entirely misinformed" and that "they are actively choosing to misinform the public about a well designed and modern mining project that will protect all fish life while also becoming an important part of the local economy.

"We have designed a project and have been through the government permitting process. The federal Department of Fisheries and many others have reviewed and commented on our permit application. Mr. Trower seems to disregard all of that engineering and senior government review work and is emotionally lashing out without thinking about the stringent criteria that exists for mining projects. We have a great project that will have no impact on wildlife or aquatic life, but Mr. Trower has chosen to disregard that. He wants us to 'promote' the installation of a water treatment facility because he has heard that one exists in another region – it doesn't make sense. I would have thought that the environmental community would have really gotten behind a project that didn't need to promote a water treatment plant but that would meet its operating criteria for water quality to protect the environment."

Eichenberger explained that the company is required to advertise that it has applied for the effluent discharge permit, and invite public comment within 30 days of publishing the notice. However, the Ministry of Environment does not have to make a decision immediately after the 30-day period; she said there is no deadline for the decision. She assured that the project is following due process and that the ministry will receive input and comments from he public at any time. She also assured that there would be a comprehensive monitoring program by both the company and the ministry once the mine is in production. "Should there be evidence of any significant impact, we have the authority to order the work to cease," she said.

The mine is now in high gear, getting ready to go into production in the fall. About 30 people are working there this summer building a camp for the crews, pouring concrete for the concentrator mill, building a rail system, and building the facility for storing the tailings. Eichenberger said that production can start without the effluent discharge permit – they just cannot discharge. Given the size of the tailings pond, she said it might be two years until they would need to discharge.

Broughton says the company needs to place 30-35 jobs in November or December, so is looking forward to holding public meetings in neighbouring communities to present the company and the project, to explain how they intend to operate in the environment and clear up the misinformation, and to attract people who would like to work on the site.

Molybdenum currently trades in the US$25/lb range and is a key alloy in the manufacture of stainless and specialty steel, including pipelines and other energy-related steel infrastructure.

Public comments can be made by contacting the Ministry of Environment at 354-6362 or Kathy.Eichenberger@gov.bc.ca; Roca Mines Inc. at 604-684-2900 or sbroughton@rocamines.com; Friends of the Lardeau River at 250-366-4275 or lardeauriver@canada.com.

Minister of State for Mines Bill Bennett and crew members at the portal of the molybdenum mine near Trout Lake.

Harry Manx played a wonderful variety of string instruments on the Saturday of the 15th annual Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival on the August long weekend. More photos inside on page 9.

Mousetrap roars through the mud at the Nakusp Mud Bogs on the August longweekend. Coverage on page 8.

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The future of Incomappleux's ancient forest remains uncertain

by Art Joyce

Imagine hiking into a 'land that time forgot,' where the still-living 'dinosaurs' are ancient groves of western red cedar and hemlock.

The Incommapleux River valley, stretching roughly north-south from the upper reaches of Arrow Lake near Beaton, is that land. Tree cores show these giants as ranging in age from 400 to 1800 years.

Over the past four decades, about three quarters of the valley – an area roughly 35 square kilometres – has been logged, leaving about 1,000 hectares of operable intact old-growth forest cradled by the confluence in the steep valleys of the Battle Brook and Incomappleux Rivers. This moist terrain is a well-watered ecosystem known to biologists as the world's only inland temperate rainforest.

Lichenologists have discovered rare or endangered species of flora here, normally present only in coastal rainforest. One of these, a phosphorescent pale green moss called 'Goblin's Gold' is found only underneath fallen root stumps in very moist areas. Spores of this ancient flora have been found in our oldest known fossils. Farther south in the valley, in the Kelly Creek marshes, is found an endangered species known as the ochroleucous bladderwort, a 'carnivorous' plant that catches small underwater insects in bladder-like traps on its leaves.

Craig Pettit, a forester technician with the Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS), led a small party of hikers into the Incomappleux over the BC Day long weekend as part of a VWS initiative to raise public awareness of this special place. "In nearly 40 years of working in forestry I've never seen another old growth forest of this size, with trees of this age, in southeastern BC," he says.

This globally unique valley is part of a tree farm license held by Pope & Talbot (TFL#23). Last fall a rockslide that damaged a bridge on the logging road closed the area to all motorized traffic, causing the company to postpone its logging plans. Damage to the support structure for the bridge will be costly to repair, making it potentially unprofitable to log. According to woodlands manager Geoff Bekker, due to the current slump in timber prices, and uncertainty over the outcome of the softwood lumber dispute with the US, Pope & Talbot are in no hurry to log the area. "We have agreed to put a large part of the Battle Brook area into an Old Growth Management Area (OGMA)," says Bekker. When asked if this includes only high elevation areas normally considered inoperable for logging, he says low elevation areas on the east side of the river have been included.

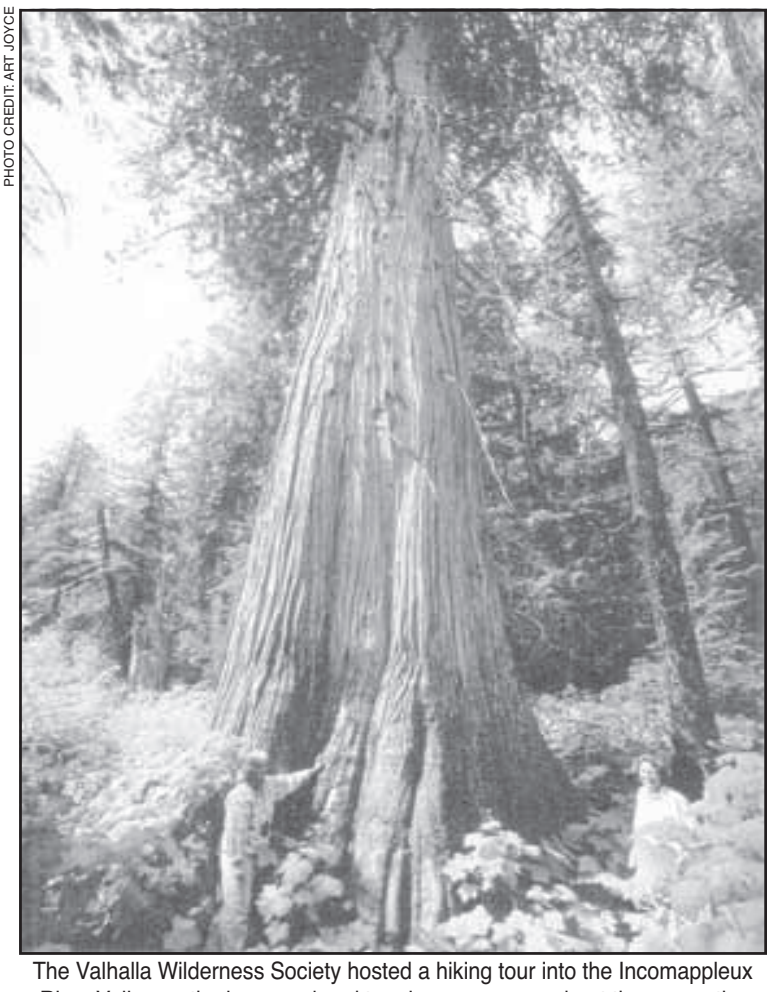
However, according to Pettit, there are still substantial areas of talus slope and cliff face in the OGMA shown on Pope & Talbot's maps, making the OGMA look far larger than it actually is. Also, this OGMA omits substantial areas on the west side of the river with old growth forest containing some trees up to 4m in diameter and sensitive wetlands. "Our position is, we want to see the whole area set aside and protected, not broken up into fragments. All we are talking about is 1000 hectares of operable forst that has been left intact afer 30 years of logging this valley. The majority of this forest by Pope and Talbot's own definition is inoperable." Any logging of the old growth forest, he warns, will open up the forest canopy, allowing more winds and drying that will destroy the moist rainforest ecology.

VWS is currently working on a proposal to have the Incomappleux added to Glacier National Park, whose boundary lies some 10-15 kilometres to the north of Battle Brook. Due to jurisdiction issues, Parks Canada is unable to act unless the BC government is prepared to remove the Incomappleux from its TFL.

VWS is not the only group trying to raise public awareness of the Incomappleux River Valley. Patrick Pyrz, owner of the Mountain Hostel, located about 23 kilometres up the logging road, also hopes to do just that. A world traveller and jack of all trades, Pyrz bought the property in a former clearcut from friends in 2000 and spent some three years in construction. Pyrz says 90% of his guests have no idea the old growth is slated for logging. Children of his guests have written letters to newspapers and even Premier Campbell, asking that the forest be protected. "You cut those trees down, you use the value once," says Pyrz. "But if you leave them, the value is used forever."

The Nakusp and District Museum Society is also doing its bit to educate people about the valley. Society members added an exhibit about the Incomappleux into the museum's forestry room this season. Sharon Montgomery from the society says that society members wanted to showcase forestry from past to present, and to highlight the nearby inland temperate rainforest, as it is the only one in the world. The exhibit includes photographs, a map and a poster.

PHOTO CREDIT: ART JOYCE



The Valhalla Wilderness Society hosted a hiking tour into the Incomappleux River Valley on the long weekend to raise awareness about the area – the world's only inland temperate rainforest.

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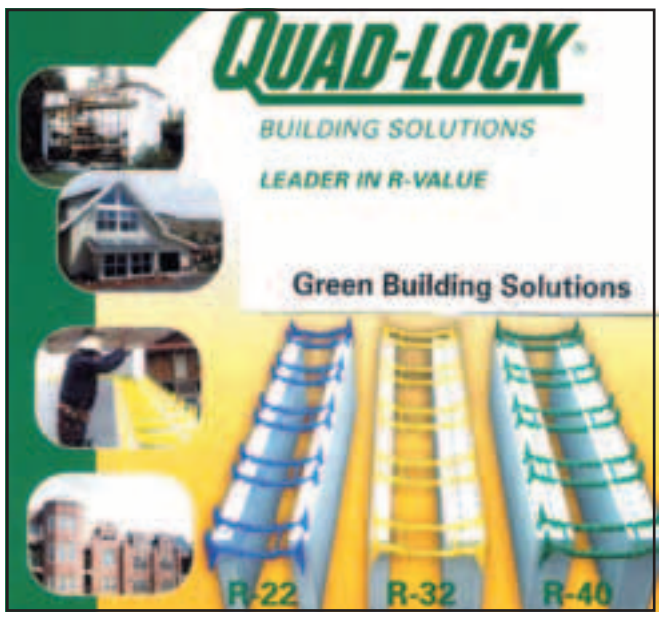

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Most forest fires extinguished

by Jan McMurray

Fire activity has slowed right down with the recent rain and cooler temperatures. Almost all fires are now contained and in the mop-up stage, and almost all of the additional resources that were imported to help in the Southeast Fire Centre are now returning home. Fire camps are slowly being taken down. The Forest Service would like to thank the residents of Trout Lake, Meadow Creek and Creston for the hospitality extended to crews.

Despite the change in the weather, the Southeast Fire Centre is still asking everyone to be very cautious with any heat source in and around wild lands as wildfires can still start. Weather is forecasted to become hot and dry over the next two weeks in southern BC. To report a forest fire or smoke, call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on a cellular phone.

A one-hectare fire up Silverton Creek, caused by lightning, was discovered on August 6 and was contained, mopped up and on patrol status by August 10. As of August 14, crews were continuing to patrol the fire to make sure it was out.

The fire on Goat Mountain near Denver was put out on August 3.

The Davis Creek fire in the north Kootenay Lake area is also out and mopped up. Officials continue to monitor this one, which burned 258 hectares.

The Fry Creek fire on the northeast side of Kootenay Lake, a four-hectare fire when it was discovered on August 5, grew to 77 hectares before it was put out. Rain on August 10 significantly cooled this fire and stopped its spread. The Fry Creek Canyon Trail was closed on August 5 because of the fire, but re-opened on August 11. This lightning-caused fire is 100% contained and 100% mopped up. Officials continue to monitor the fire to ensure that it is completely extinguished.

The three-hectare, lightning-caused Mount Kaslo fire is 100% contained and 100% mopped-up. Officials will continue to monitor the area.

The Mount MacPherson fire near Revelstoke is 95% contained. Officials are monitoring this fire closely and will take whatever action becomes appropriate. Steep terrain has made it impossible to completely contain this fire. Despite not being completely contained, this fire is not spreading and is under control. It has burned 82 hectares and was caused by lightning. This fire is very visible from Revelstoke.

The camp at Trout Lake was set up on July 31 and housed 74 firefighters, three officers and 12 support staff at its peak. Crews were working on six fires from the camp. All these have been downgraded to patrol status. A management team from Ontario ran operations from the camp and did an "outstanding job," according to the Southeast Fire Centre's Fire Information Officer Corwin Odland. "The people of Trout Lake were wonderful – we couldn't have had better hosts," he added.

Province-wide, there have been 1859 fires this season, burning 120,675 hectares. The total cost of fire suppression efforts so far is $94,935,738. A total of 1019 resources have been deployed, including 54 helicopters, 19 air tankers, 428 Forest Service staff, 220 out-of-province resources and 371 other resources, including contractors.

The Red Mountain Internet Society was successful in its grant application for $20,000 from the Columbia Basin Trust and is moving ahead with getting high-speed internet service to Silverton and north Red Mountain Road.
A trench between the POP (point of presence) and the tower was dug on August 11. The next day, society directors Larry Lavan and Ken Ormerod (shown here) laid the power cable and the pipe for the fibreoptic cable in the trench. The fibreoptic cable will be lit up on August 16.
The next step for the society is to engage the services of an Internet Service Provider, and then to install single point radios on clients' properties. Society directors report that the service should have upload and download speeds that are higher than ADSL. Monthly pricing has also been finalized, as follows: business - $70/month; private house (higher data rate) - $55/ month; private house (lower data rate) - $40/month.

Summit Lake Ski Hill worth some investment

by Jan McMurray

'The little ski hill that could' in Summit Lake is still chugging along after at least 40 years of operation, thanks to the superhuman volunteer effort of many, many people over the years.

However, the Summit Lake Ski Club is finding it more and more difficult to cover the ever increasing costs of operating the ski hill. Insurance has jumped from $6,000 to $22,000; inspections have increased from $100 to $900 per year; and the cost of training staff has gone up from $200 to $2,000 per year. The hill hires three full-time employees from December to March.

Area K Director Paul Peterson recently visited the Village councils of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, as well as Area H Director Don Munro, to gather support for collecting $20,000 in taxes every year for the ski hill from residents in the School District #10 catchment area. All local governments are supportive.

The ski club is very happy with Peterson's initiative. Vice President Doug McQuair explained that the club's income consists of lift ticket sales, some wage subsidies and grants. He says the club has to rely on grants to meet its obligations. "Because getting grant money is fairly unpredictable, we feel a guaranteed source of money through the Regional District would ensure a dependable budget," he said. "This would be guaranteed income that would be used to help cover insurance costs. Although $20,000 does not quite cover the insurance, it would greatly help without overburdening the taxpayers."

To give an idea of what this would cost taxpayers – to raise $20,000 in tax money within School District #10 in 2006, people would pay $4.20 on a property assessed at $100,000. If the taxation is approved, people will begin paying in 2007. The taxation rate will vary from year to year, based on assessments, but the $20,000 is fixed.

"The cost of saving this ski area is so small compared to the benefit to kids within School District #10," said Peterson. "They get to learn another discipline. If we take care of our children, perhaps they will take care of us later. This isn't any different than arenas or libraries – not everyone uses them but the community is enriched all the more by their existence."

McQuair said the club is quite reluctant to increase the price of lift tickets, as it is committed to ensuring that the ski area stays affordable for families. A day pass for adults costs $20, compared to $44 at Whitewater in Nelson. Day passes for students cost $15 ($34 at Whitewater) and $14 for children ($28 at Whitewater). Season passes are also available at very reasonable prices. On average, the club sells 140 student and child season passes and 75 adult season passes per year.

When asked if the last two seasons, which were short because of the weather, affected the club, McQuair replied, "While the last few seasons have not been great money makers, it is the increases in costs that hinder the club, not the weather."

He says the club has looked at expanding up the hill, but because the Forest Service will not give the club the timber rights, this would be too expensive. The club has also discussed the possibility of relocating above Nakusp Hot Springs, but again this is a very expensive proposition. "Increases in insurance costs are the main obstruction for some of these alternative plans," he said.

The School District No. 10 ski program saw 469 students on the hill last winter. Students from schools in Edgewood, Burton, Nakusp and New Denver get three ski days every winter, and one hour of instruction on each of the three days.

The hill also has a race program, which attracted about 70 ski and snowboard racers last year. The Summit Lake Nancy Greene racers, aged 6-12, brought home silver medals from the team events at the Kootenay Zone finals.

The race program takes the most volunteer hours, with the 12 coaches clocking a total of about 1,140 hours in a season. The Summit Lake Ski Club's 5-10 members put in a total of about 175 volunteer hours per season organizing, maintaining and developing the hill. There are five full-time volunteers doing ski patrol and other day-to-day duties during the season. The ski school involves three or four volunteer helpers, who put in a total of about 150 hours in a season.

Halcyon Home renovations will create ten assisted living units

by Jan McMurray

Renovations to create ten assisted living units in Halcyon Home in Nakusp finally got underway on August 14.

"Workers are on the site," announced Marty Lewis, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services Administrator. "It's very exciting – it's been a long time coming. This more than $1 million project will create a community legacy – that building will be around for many years to come."

He reported that the project should take about five months, and was hopeful that the assisted living facility would be ready to open in early to mid February.

Hil-Tech Contracting Ltd. out of Trail is the project manager. Fairbank Architects Ltd. is the architect and designer, and will also be involved from start to finish, reported Lewis. "Fairbank will make sure everything is done properly and as designed," he said.

The facility operated as a retirement home for many years and there are currently four residents remaining in the building. Although at first Interior Health did not want to leave the residents there during the renovations, they decided in the end to let them stay. The renovations are taking place in a wing separate from their living quarters.

"It made sense to let them stay," said Lewis. "Some have called it their home for many years. The renovations should not have a negative impact. There will be a bit of noise, but access to the construction site will be closed off for safety reasons. It looks like a very well supervised project."

He says that Interior Health will handle filling the ten assisted living units, which will involve an assessment of the applicants to determine if assisted living is appropriate for them. It is thus still unknown whether the four people will be able to stay in the renovated facility. "Everybody wants them to stay. We would like to accommodate them if we're allowed to do that. It will probably be a case by case situation," he said.

Once the ten units are filled, Lewis said, "...the next most important concern would be that Arrow Lakes Hospital would be able to make use of the facility for respite care and any other residential use they might have a need for. Beyond that, there is the possibility of having private rental units."

ASLCS also hopes to co-locate some of its other seniors' services to the renovated building. "We're hoping to move our seniors' activity program and Meals on Wheels distribution over, as well as some of our children's programs. We envision a very rich and healthy environment where everyone is having a lot of fun and getting the care they need," said Lewis.

PHOTO CREDIT: GINA NYMEYER

Workers prepare to conduct renovations at Halcyon Home to build ten assisted living units.

Steele victims to receive some restitution soon

by Jan McMurray

It's not much, but victims of Kevin J. Steele's commodity pool scam can expect to receive a small cheque by the end of the month.

Nakusp court administrator Sandy Scott reports that the court has received two payments, amounting to $92,370. This is the Cdn$70,000 plus US$20,000 that Steele delivered to his counsel after the scam had been exposed. As ordered by Judge Sperry during the June 19 sentencing in Nakusp, Scott will distribute the money pro rata to the victims. She says she will be sending out about 230 cheques, ranging in amount from $55 to $2,900.

Attempts by the *Valley Voice* to track the $242,000 in Steele's US accounts at the time his assets were frozen in May last year have been futile to date.

Karen Johnston, communications director, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, reported that the matter of Steele's material assets, spoken of during the sentencing hearing, had been turned over to the civil forfeiture unit of the ministry. She said that further information may be available in mid-September.

Steele was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding 229 people of approximately Cdn$10.3 million in an investment scam that swept through the New Denver area.

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

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Voices from the Valleys

Strange encounters in the night

I had a strange experience the other night. I had just pulled into my driveway, when a vehicle pulled in behind me. That's not unusual. Lots of folks manage to pull into my yard, looking for the Rosebery Park Campground. So I get out of the car, and prepare to give directions.

Suddenly a voice rings out, "Are you Dan Nicholson?" I hesitate for a moment or two, one never knows who might be asking this question, or why. Eventually I decide to admit it, after all, what's the worst that this person is going to do? "I am," I reply.

"The publisher of *The Valley Voice*?"

"Yes," I concede.

I'm a little concerned by this point, because I remember a similar conversation from my student newspaper days that ended with me getting beaten up. I resolve to run very fast if he asks me whether I'm the same guy that's been writing those inflammatory opinions.

"I have something for you from Ken Lamb, in Nelson," he continues. My mind starts to race – 'Who's Ken Lamb? Do I owe him money? What might I have said to offend him?'

The stranger advances and hands me a brown paper bag. 'Ah, the Black Spot,' I think to myself. "Thank you," I mutter. Far be it from me to shoot the messenger.

I turn to my house.

"Good night," the stranger shouts.

I open the bag inside. No portent of disaster here. In fact, it's a bottle of rare old single malt, ten-year-old Glenmorangie, to be precise. My father's favourite, and certainly among my top three scotch whiskeys (at least at the time of writing). I'm not sure what I did to deserve the whiskey, but I must caution my readers not to emulate the example of Mr. Lamb. It only encourages me to keep publishing.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Supports another mosquito vote

Regarding the mosquito issue in Winlaw, I, for one, totally agree with Anne D and Lorna B.

I, too, enjoy gardening but it has not been enjoyable for me most summers here in Winlaw. I purchased a mosquito suit this year (finally!) so with the total of my gas going to Slocan Lake to cool off, since Winlaw Park was impassable, and my bug suit (not to mention the bug repellent chemical spray), I estimate it cost me $100. I'd rather pay that in taxes for the BTI program.

Let's contact Don Munro and have another vote on this issue.

Jan Bryant
Winlaw

UN should deal with humanitarian crisis in Westbank

Prior to the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah a humanitarian crisis had developed in the Westbank and Gaza. Not wanting the elected Hamas government to succeed, Israel adopted repressive measures to ensure it didn't. The Palestinians resisted. Most of the members of the elected Palestinian government were imprisoned. Electrical facilities and water works were destroyed, food shipments were cut off, and borders were closed. The area was turned into a prison. Some would call this ethnic cleansing. Where was the world community?

Hezbollah was watching. Before the Palestinian's lands were seized in 1948 to create the state of Israel they were neighbours. Now the Palestinians were being destroyed and they were not allowed to own weapons to defend themselves.

On July 12th Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and made demands for a prisoner swap. Israel went amuck. On what was a border incident, Israel began destroying Lebanon. They said Lebanon should control its terrorists. Can the US army control Iraq's? Can Russia control the terrorists in Chechnya?

An old trick in the Middle East that both sides use when they don't like the way things are going is to blow something up or kill somebody. Attention is then focused on them, promoting their ideology and aims. Israel is now dictating what it wants in Lebanon. It wants a nice buffer zone and the UN to hold back the terrorists from attacking them. I agree. There should be a buffer zone but it should be in Israel. They are the aggressor. Lebanon was once a peaceful country.

And what about the humanitarian crisis in the Westbank and Gaza? Given what Israel is doing in Lebanon, what are they doing there? All the reporters and cameramen are in Lebanon. With the economic infrastructure destroyed, borders closed, food and water cut off, these areas are concentration camps. This is where the UN should be, addressing the root of the problem. If they do not do so, entities like Hezbollah will.

By not taking decisive action and demanding an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon – which means the withdrawal of Israel and an end to Hezbollah rocket attacks – this conflict could escalate, leading to disastrous consequences. It was started by a border incident and these can be manufactured easily. US involvement may be seen as more American interference in Middle East affairs. Local solutions should be used. The Arab League has volunteered – they have to live with the wars.

Ed Zak
Nakusp

USA and Muslim fundamentalism threaten world peace

After enduring yet another droning lecture from Joel Harris, I would like to point out a few things. The war on terror was a knee-jerk reaction to 911. But America's knee actually began jerking in 1979, when Iranian militants stormed their embassy, burned their flag, and took the staff hostage. There was a popular joke at the time: "What's three feet tall and glows in the dark? Tehran when Reagan takes office."

Ironically, it was Muslim fundamentalism that gave rise to the military neo-right which Mr. Harris so despises. They got rid of the Shah. After 27 US-free years, is Iran any freer? Give your head a shake. It is absurd to blame the US for murder, torture, and repression which have been going on in the Middle East since before America even existed.

After 911, I began studying the Koran in an effort to understand Islam. In my opinion, the prophet Mohammed has a skewed concept of God, is history's supreme sexist, and condones human slavery. I could be beheaded for writing that, Mr. Harris, the *Valley Voice* could be bombed and Canadians abroad attacked. For someone so obviously addicted to expressing his opinions, you have remarkable tolerance for intolerance.

I agree that Bush is an evil man, that the invasion of Iraq was crap and that war crimes are being committed there. I shudder as deeply as you when I see America ignoring the UN and the Geneva convention. I never thought I'd live to see it. The US is, more than ever, a threat to peace and freedom in our world. And so is Muslim fundamentalism. Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world; not because people are converting to it but because of their birthrate. The UN estimates that, by 2020, Muslims will the majority population in France, a democracy. It's time for westerners to take a peek at the Koran. Start with Sura #4 Women.

As for our troops in Afghanistan, they are not there to rape and torture. They are there because the Taliban, a regime out of the dark ages, was carpooling with al-Quaida and the US has cut and run to the more glamorous and oily Iraq.

Speak out, Mr. Harris, by all means. But also listen. Listen to history. It is so easy for Canadians to say "It's not our fight, they never attacked us." A common sentiment in 1939. "If we don't anger them, they won't terrorize us." Mr. Harris, cartoons anger these people.

Michael Edwards
Slocan

Harper's support for Canada in Afghanistan makes no sense

In the entire history of war there is no evidence of it ever resulting in achieving peace.

One example is World War II. In the aftermath of that war, and the subsequent treaties, the world has had to deal with constant conflict and turmoil in places like the former Yugoslav Republic and the Middle East. As I understand it, one of the definitions of insanity is, "expecting different results from the same old action."

Yet our Prime Minister insists that the current war will lead to peace. This leaves me personally, wondering about the PM's sanity! Also, our PM insists the Canadian people are behind the operation in Afghanistan. From my travels far and wide talking to people from every walk of life all over the country, I have come to the exact opposite conclusion.

If the PM really believes the Canadian people support this action, then why doesn't he just put the question to us in the form of a plebiscite or national election on the issue?

Further, it seems the three biggest international supporters of the Afghan war are men who never had to serve in the armed forces: George Bush, Tony Blair and our Prime Minister.

I would like to challenge our Prime Minister, and both Bush and Blair, to put their money where their mouths are, whip themselves into shape, strap on guns and uniforms, and go lead the charge. Nothing stirs up troop morale like the leader actually leading the charge.

The USSR spent 10 years in Afghanistan and succeeded only in laying the path for the Taliban. Others, through the centuries, have tried the same, with similar results. To think a few thousand Canadians, Australians, British and others will have any more success is the logic of a fool. How many more of our young people are going to die before we, and our politicians, do something about this insanity?

Will Webster
Kaslo

Supports the troops but not the mission

Hong Kong and Dieppe have gone down as two of the worst disasters in Canadian military history. They have been roundly and justly criticized by many experts from numerous countries. Nowhere in that criticism, however, has anyone questioned the courage and dedication of the soldiers involved, nor, for that matter, the cause for which they fought. Therefore, I think it is entirely possible to support our troops and what they are fighting for while at the same time having grave misgivings about the actual mission upon which they have been sent.

My enthusiasm for the Afghanistan mission was never anything other than lukewarm and it's been getting cooler by the day, and not just because of the recent casualties. No clear objective, no firm exit strategy, an increasingly vague notion about who the enemy actually is and little more from our political leaders except the same wooden headed rhetoric about "staying the course" that we've become used to hearing from south of the border.

It's been almost five years since the Taliban were supposedly overthrown, never to be heard from again. Instead, it seems they've been getting stronger, assisted by tribal warlords whose only real interest is to protect the opium poppy trade. Explosives are dangerous to handle, hard to conceal and difficult to transport. In spite of that, the Taliban seem to be able to move tons of them around the country almost at will. And those explosives have been killing Canadian soldiers.

It seems to me that, in the tradition of Hong Kong and Dieppe, our troops have, for primarily political reasons, been sent on yet another ill-conceived, poorly planned fool's errand.

John Banta
Fauquier

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*.

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Silverton gets grants for Memorial Hall and water study

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Silverton has recently received two pieces of good news – grants have been approved for the Memorial Hall project and for the water study.

The Village will receive $88,000 from the provincial Olympic/ Paralympic Live Sites program to go towards purchasing audio-visual equipment for the Memorial Hall, as well as having some renovations done to the interior of the building. The plan is to put in washrooms where the bar and storage rooms are now, and to move the bar and storage areas down near the existing washrooms. Air conditioning and fire suppression equipment will also be installed, the floor will be re-finished and the walls painted.

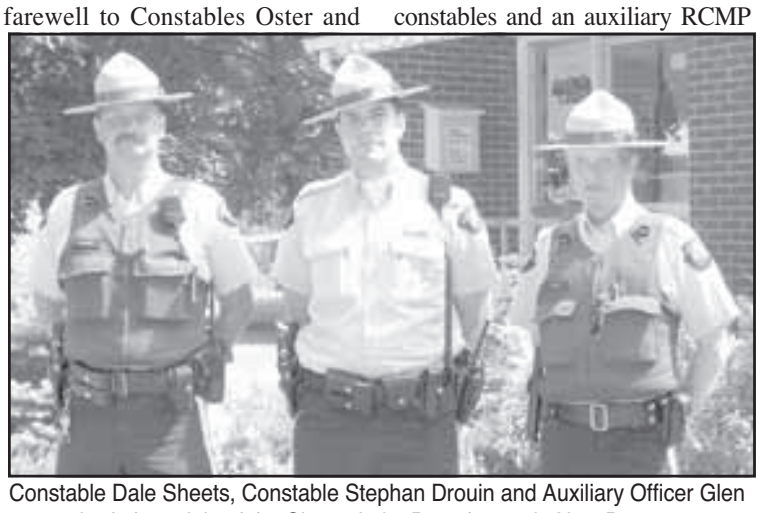
The total cost of the project is $176,000. A $15,000 tourism grant will also go towards the project, and the Friends of the Memorial Hall Society is looking into other grants. The Village will make up the shortfall if need be, and can do so with cash and/or in kind contributions.

A $15,000 water study grant from the province will go towards a full study of Silverton's water system, in order to identify and cost out the necessary upgrades. The Village will contribute $5,000 towards the study.

Mayor Everett says the recent water outage made the Village aware that the system needs a generator for back-up power supply. Also, a secondary well for back-up water supply is needed, as the Ministry of Health is discouraging surface water systems such as Silverton's existing Bartlett Creek back-up system. Everett explained that during the water outage, the Village chose not to switch to Bartlett Creek because it would have meant a Boil Water Advisory and a total flushing of the water system, and they knew they could get the water back online in just a few hours.

New Denver welcomes new cops

New Denver has recently bade farewell to Constables Oster and Rennie, and now welcome in two new constables and an auxiliary RCMP officer.



Constable Dale Sheets, Constable Stephan Drouin and Auxiliary Officer Glen Jorde have joined the Slocan Lake Detachment in New Denver.

Constable Stephan Drouin comes to us from Victoria, where he served with the RCMP for three years. New Denver is his second posting.

Married with a two-year-old and an 11-month-old, Drouin applied for the posting mostly for family reasons. "The lifestyle here is more conducive to family life than the busy, fast-paced life I was used to in Victoria," he said.

Constable Dale Sheets was with the RCMP in Keremeos for nine years before transferring to New Denver. He put in a request for the transfer two years ago. "I've been waiting two years for this piece of heaven," he said. "I prefer small, rural areas."

Before his Keremeos posting, Sheets spent four years on the RCMP Muscial Ride, travelling through Europe and North America. He is hoping to lead New Denver's next parade on horseback.

Auxiliary officer Glen Jorde has been with the RCMP for eight years, and a full-fledged auxiliary for two. He explained that auxiliaries are strictly volunteer and do not carry guns except under direction in extraordinary circumstances. He says auxiliaries are involved in community relations as well as law enforcement, adding that he will be put in charge of the local Speedwatch program.

Jorde will also help out in Kaslo and Nakusp if needed.

The Suzuki Valhalla Institute held its second annual music camp at Lucerne School in New Denver August 6-11. There were 70 students, aged 3-16, this year – up from 42 last year. Instruction focuses on violin, viola and cello. Here, violin/viola teacher Theresa Plotnick gives a master class lesson to local violin student Danika Hammond.

Local kids learn about bears

by Jan McMurray

Evelyn Kirkaldy, chair of Get Bear Smart Society, Kootenay chapter, came to New Denver to talk to the children's gardening group, GRUBS, on August 12.

Kirkaldy relayed lots of interesting information about bears, but her main message was that people must remove attractants from their property so that humans and bears can live in the same area harmoniously.

"Provincial policy is to kill bears that are doing damage to people's property because there are not enough conservation officers to relocate them. They also say relocation doesn't work. It does work, but it doesn't solve the big picture. If you relocate a bear, another will come if attractants aren't removed," she explained.

She told the kids not to litter, as garbage is a major bear attractant. She also explained to parents that compost piles should not be a problem if they are done properly – the compost should be aerated regularly, kitchen waste should be layered with garden waste, and there should be no animal products whatsoever in the compost.

A surprise for most was that bird feed is also a major attractant. Kirkaldy said that bears have such a keen sense of smell that even PVC plastic has been known to attract them. She mentioned that bears really liked to eat Mountain Ash, garden vegetables, dandelions and clover, as well as berries, of course. She said that black bears are about 70% herbivore and grizzlies are about 80-90% herbivore, depending on where the bears live.

After her presentation, while the kids were making bear masks and paw prints, Kirkaldy encouraged the adults to phone the conservation officer service and insist that officers give Dangerous Wildlife Protection Orders to people for infractions. Under the order, people can be fined $345-$575 for attracting bears and other dangerous wildlife. She said that on the Lower Mainland last year, about 200 Dangerous Wildlife Protection Order warnings were issued and all but two people complied. When the two were given tickets, they complied. "There's the proof that it works," she said.

After listening to some fascinating facts about bears, the kids drew bear paws with chalk on the concrete barriers down by the GRUBS garden in New Denver on Saturday, August 12.

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LABOUR DAY MONDAY
Sept. 4 – 11 am
in Rosebery Bay
BRING YOUR BOATS!

ROSEBERY PARKLANDS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, September 3, 2006
12:00 Noon
537 Rosebery Loop Road
(Leyland's Blue Cabin on the Point)

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC")
Approval of 2007-2008 Capital Expenditure Plan
Review of 2007 System Development Plan Update
Notice of Workshop and Regulatory Timetable

Workshop
Date / Time: Wednesday, September 6, 2006 - 1:00 pm
Location: Grand Okanagan Resort
1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

On July 26, 2006 FortisBC filed its 2007-2008 Capital Expenditure Plan and 2007 System Development Plan Update, and applied for Commission approval of the 2007-2008 Capital Expenditure Plan. The Plan describes capital expenditures of $128.6 million in 2007 and $111.6 million in 2008. FortisBC states the most significant expenditures are to expand and upgrade the transmission and distribution systems to keep pace with load growth, and to continue the ongoing life extension program at its generating plants.

The Commission has established the following Regulatory Timetable for a Workshop and a written public hearing process to review the 2007-2008 Capital Expenditure Plan and 2007 System Development Plan Update.

Actions	Dates
Commission Information Request No. 1 to FortisBC	Monday, Aug. 21
Registration of Intervenors and Interested Parties with the Commission	Friday, Aug. 25
FortisBC Responses to Information Request No. 1	Thursday, Aug. 31
FortisBC Workshop with stakeholders in Kelowna, BC	Wednesday, Sept. 6
Intervenor Information Request No. 1 and Commission Information Request No. 2 to FortisBC	Friday, Sept. 15
FortisBC Responses to Intervenor Information Request No. 1 and Commission Information Request No. 2	Thursday, Sept. 28
Intervenor Written Submissions filed with the Commission and FortisBC	Friday, Oct. 6
FortisBC Written Reply to Intervenor Submissions	Friday, Oct. 13

The 2007-2008 Capital Expenditure Plan and 2007 System Development Plan Update and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

FortisBC Inc.
Head Office: 5th Floor, 1628 Dickson Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9X1
Trail Office: 1290 Esplanade, Trail, BC V1R 4L4

British Columbia Utilities Commission
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Websites www.fortisbc.com www.bcuc.com

Public Libraries in Castlegar, Creston, Grand Forks, Kelowna, Oliver, Penticton and Trail, BC.

All submissions and/or correspondence received from active participants or the general public relating to the Application will be placed on the public record and posted to the Commission's web site.

Persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, and should identify the issues that they intend to pursue and the nature and extent of their anticipated involvement in the review process. Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the proceeding should register as Interested Parties. **Intervenors and Interested parties are to register in writing, by Friday, August 25, 2006, identifying their interest in the matter and indicating whether they plan to attend the Workshop.**

Intervenors will each receive a copy of the Application and all correspondence and filed documentation, and should provide an e-mail address if available. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary in the Application, and all Orders and Decisions issued.

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary or Mr. Robert Rorie, Senior Electrical Engineer at Telephone: (604) 660-4700 BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, Fax: (604) 660-1102, E-Mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com.

14th Annual Hills Garlic Festival to run September 10, 2006

Mmmm – what's that intoxicating aroma in the air? It's time for 14th Annual Hills Garlic Festival, September 10th from 10 am – 4 pm at Centennial Park in New Denver. More than 100 vendors will be selling organic garlic, garlic wreaths, and other organic produce, plants and plant products.

The festival's well known slogan, "where culture meets agriculture" is reflected in the wide array of quality crafts, toiletry products and herbal remedies available. Festival-goers will also be able to sample the usual variety of delicious food from vendors.

Prizes will be awarded this year for the best garlic food, the heaviest garlic clove, best braid and best garlic-themed poem. A new prize will be awarded this year for the best booth.

The Kootenay Grass Band will provide musical entertainment throughout the day with their lively fiddle tunes. Stilt-walker Angela Starfire Jones will keep the kids enthralled.

The Hills Garlic Festival is a community project hosted by the volunteers of the Hills Recreation Society. Funds raised are used for the maintenance and enhancement of local basketball and tennis courts and cross-country ski trails. The festival is also a supporter of the Hills community fire hall fund.

From small seeds come great growth. What started as a gathering of friends for a garlic-themed pot-luck supper in the park. has become a much-needed venue for local farmers and artisans that attracts over 3000 people! Come join in the fun. Admission is only $2.00 (children 12 and under free).

Administrative Assistant Sarah Deakoff (at left) with the cast and crew of the feature production Homestay, co-directed by Josh Olson and Ian Barbour. Homestay is the second production this summer that has travelled to New Denver to film at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre. In July the French-language children's television show La Quete featured the site in an episode that will air on TFO in early 2007. Left to right: Sarah Deakoff, Skeena Reece, Yasuki Mukai, Joshua Olson, Ian Barbour, Kyoko Manabe.

Slocan Outdoor Market

The Slocan Outdoor Market is continuing on Sundays at the old Elementary School on Harold St.

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

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

Sundays from 10 to 3 pm

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

Slocan Lake Dance Camp over for another year

It's all over but the blisters and the five potential romances that were kindled at this year's Slocan Lake Dance Camp. Over 70 people, mostly single, attended the ballroom/social dance camp in New Denver. Most were there for more than two of the four days, attending up to three workshops a day. About 16 teenagers attended the Latin and Swing workshops held exclusively for them at the Silverton Gallery.

Energy was high and the Bosun Hall was alive with music and dancing from morning 'til night from July 28 to 31. Local musicians Larry Lavan and Larry Anderson along with drummer Eric from Creston configured themselves as LA Latté for the waltz and foxtrot evenings.

Dancers came from as far away as Victoria, Montana and Calgary to attend – with a good representation of West Kootenay folk. Many stayed at local campgrounds, with friends, or at Villa Dome Quioxte.

Coordinator Fran Wallis was pleased with the results. "Attendance was up, the gender balance was mostly maintained and the feedback has been excellent. The wood floors are swept, the bills paid and there's even seed money for the next event. Possibly a winter dance camp."

Proctor resident Flavia Elias said, "We signed up for a lot but we were able to do it because it was well-paced, with generous spaces to enjoy the beautiful area in between workshops."

Classes instructed by Simon Earl of Nelson and Michael Wiebe of Calgary were well received, and the exotic Argentine Tango class instructed by Rainer Schroeder was a big hit.

The Slocan Lake Dance Camp, now in its second year was made possible by the assistance of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, RDCK Area H Director Don Munro, and the Slocan Valley Arts Council

Details of this any other dance opportunities in the Kootenays can be found at wwwdancingbeat.org.

Simon Earl of Nelson instructs Flavia Elias of Proctor in the intricacies of the Western Two-Step at a morning workshop at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp held in New Denver from July 28 to 31 this year.

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Hidden Garden presents August shows

Rachel Yoder, a Nelson artist who will exhibit at the Hidden Garden Gallery for the first time August 16 – 21, says, "I paint during the winter and build houses in the summer." Her show, *Blocks and Bands*, is a series of abstract paintings in which she transforms layers of colour into "a unity of space, depth and meaning." Rachel has exhibited at the Nelson Art Walk, the All Seasons Café, Kootenai Moon and currently at the Dancing Bear.

Opening reception Saturday, August 19, 7 – 9 pm. The treat of the evening will be Lorna Obermayr's performance of *The Book of Noah's Wife,* an original triumph of comic satire that has by now passed into local legend.

Rabia and Carl Schlichting from Winlaw are bringing us an intimate collaboration of works entitled, *Between Rocks and a Soft Place* from August 23 – September 4. Rabia, who is showing for the second year, forms sculptures inspired by the mosaics of Gaudi and her own inventive, spiritual eye. Carl, who often sculpts in snow and ice, will present works in materials that are less ephemeral. Their opening gala, Friday, August 25, will feature the folk guitar and vocal sounds of John Cresswell.

Let's support these visiting artists by giving them a good old-fashioned New Denver welcome.

Between a Rock and a Soft Place, Rabia's latest show at the HGG.

The McDades play Silverton hall

Take a band from Edmonton consisting of two brothers and a sister who grew up playing music together, add to the mix two very eclectic musicians from Montreal, and you have a truly Canadian band, the McDades!

One of the most innovative roots-based groups today, Alberta's The McDades blend Celtic, World and Jazz in an explosive, inspired cocktail of original and traditional instrumental and vocal music. Their unique balance of improvisation and traditional fiddle music creates an exciting show witnessed by folk festival and concert hall audiences across the country.

The McDades will be performing at the Silverton Memorial Hall, Saturday, September 9th, at 7:00 pm. Tickets are $15 and are available at the door and the following businesses: in Nakusp, The General Store and Treasure Trove; in New Denver, Ann's Natural Foods and My Aunt's Place; in Silverton, Silverton Building Supplies, Horsefeathers, and Gaze 'n Chat; in Kaslo, at Kaslo Drugs and Cornucopia. Sponsored by the Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall. Info at 358-2852.

Westbank First Nation

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

WFN Treaty Negotiations and Self Government

When: **August 23rd 2006**

Time: **7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

Location: **Knox Hall**
521 6th Avenue, New Denver

You are cordially invited to attend a presentation by officials of the Westbank First Nation, including Chief Robert Louie and other members of council, to discuss Westbank's ongoing treaty negotiations with Canada and BC, as well as the Implementation of Self Government. Also in attendance will be representatives from the Federal and Provincial Governments.

For more information please contact Charlotte Armstrong at Phone (250) 769-2440 or email at bmcgregor@wfn.ca

157 brave the Slocan River to participate in annual poker float

What could be better than floating down the Slocan River on a warm Sunday afternoon in August? Life doesn't get any better than this, boys.

Is there a better place to enjoy a picnic lunch than during the annual Slocan River Poker Float? We think not.

The Wilson clan's "Pirates of the Slocan" won a prize for best float.

157 hardy folks braved the mighty Slocan River for the 12th running of the Slocan Valley Poker Float held Aug. 13th. It was cool sailing with a light tail wind allowing for a little quicker float this year.

When all the cards were counted, here's some of the victors from the day:

Best Poker Hand - Elliott Gatenby drifted in with four twos. Well done Elliott.

Best Float - The Pirates of the Slocan created by the Wilson clan, and expertly poled down the river we might add.

Best Hat - Crabby Cakes created by Deb Peebles got the glory this year. Deb's hat creations are always a special feature of the event.

Thanks to the many volunteers of the Rec'ing Crew who helped make this year's float possible. Thanks to the Slocan Valley Arena Society for handling the concession and Jon and Holly Burden for providing great music. This float was dedicated to Richard Meissenheimer, who will be missed at float's end.

PHOTO BY LARRY KUSHNER, MONTAGE BY TIM GARTON.

About 40 friends gathered with local band Wild Turkeys August 9th at Skycastle Lookout to celebrate the full moon and honour Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead, who passed away this day in 1995.

The Wild Turkeys will celebrate their 10th annual Thanksgiving Potluck at Gray Creek Hall on October 7th and hopes to see you there. Come and shake your tailfeather and "Gobble till you wobble!"

For more information about Skycastle Lookout, or to book a sightseeing trip, phone 250 355-2992 or email info@skycastlelookout.com or check out their website at www.skycaslelookout.com

Sinixt Nation hosts Froggy Fest

The Sinixt Native Indian Nation is hosting the first annual Children's Festival for the Kootenays, at the Sinixt Barter Fair Grounds, 4120 Lower Passmore Road, Vallican. Saturday, August 19. Admission $15 per person, $25 per family.

Froggy Fest is named so because it is within sight of Frog Mountain - one of the most important geographical centres of the Sinixt People. Headlining Froggy Fest is Jack Grunsky, a three-time Juno Award-winning children's musician. His charismatic stage presence has been a children's (and parent's) favorite for many years and we are pleased to have Jack headlining our festival.

Also in performance is Bo & Friends. Later in the evening is Big Children's entertainment from Pure Blend and the Shloocane Dub Roots HiFi.

Froggy Fest has a full day of children's activities: Arts & Crafts Teepee, Friendship Circle and Smudge, Sinixt Story Teepee, Quiet Teepee, botany treks, music building, theatre, and much more. Free camping and Sunday morning pancake breakfast (by donation).

The Sinixt Nation are the original inhabitants of what is now called the Upper Columbia River Drainage Basin. Mistakenly declared extinct by the Canadian government in 1956 they are now asking to have their aboriginal status restored. The Sinixt prefer not to use the nomenclature 'First Nation' because of its hierarchical or superior implication in regards to other peoples or nations.

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Ricochet sits ready to enter the mud pits. This is as clean as she ever gets.

Bad Dog starts her run at the annual Nakusp Mud Bog Races, held over the long weekend.

She Ain't Pretty blasts through the mud at Nakusp's annual Mud Bog races.

Kelowna team wins Slo-Pitch tourney

There were 21 teams at Nakusp's annual Slo-Pitch tournament. First place went to Those Guys from Kelowna, who won the final game against second-place team Creston Kokanees. In third was Dusk 'til Dawn Gamecocks from Kelowna. RMG Athletics from Castlegar took fourth place.

Tournament MVP went to Larry from Creston Kokannes. Rick Weiss from the First Team Gone got Best Male Pitcher. Best Female Pitcher went to the RMG Athletics pitcher. The Seagulls from Calgary were named Most Sportsmanlike.

Two Nakusp teams made it to the playoffs on Monday – In the Parkers and First Team Gone.

There were 21 teams in Nakusp's annual Slo-Pitch tournament on the weekend, and three of those were local Nakusp teams. This batter is one of Nakusp's Blue Ribbon Bandits.

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Two Great Businesses One Location!

2006 Build, Bail and Sail Contest results

First place: Father and son team Joe and Curtis Desrochers in CUJO. Originally from Nakusp, they now live in Fort McMurray.

Second place: Darin Garnett and Roger Waterfield in FLYING DRAGON.

Third place: Uncle and nephew team Pierre and Kevin Desrochers, the GLAD BAG BOYS, now living in Fort McMurray.

Fourth place: NAKUSP SEALS Dave Wight and Art Olson. Their boat sank on the second run.

Fifth place: Kevin Arbuckle from Alberta and Darwin Frerichs from Saskatchewan in the TITANIC, which sunk on the first heat.

Champions of the 2006 Build, Bail & Sail race were father and son Joe and Curtis Desrochers in their watercraft Cujo.

2006 Nakusp Sandcastle Contest Results

Kids 7 to 12

First: Treasure Island – Shahram and Seby Kabir (visitors)

Second: Stone Stronghold – Patrick & Devin O'Brien (visitors)

Third: Nakusp-a-lot – Mike Burnst and Hope & Kelti Gore (visitors?)

Youth 13-18

First: The Castle – Grace deWit, Liz Latham, Brandi Witwicki (local)

Second: Mermaid of Nakusp – Sammie, Ashley, Stephanee, Emily, Kiney, Rylee, Kate, Will, Bailey (visitors)

Family

First: The Man Eater - Spavor family (local)

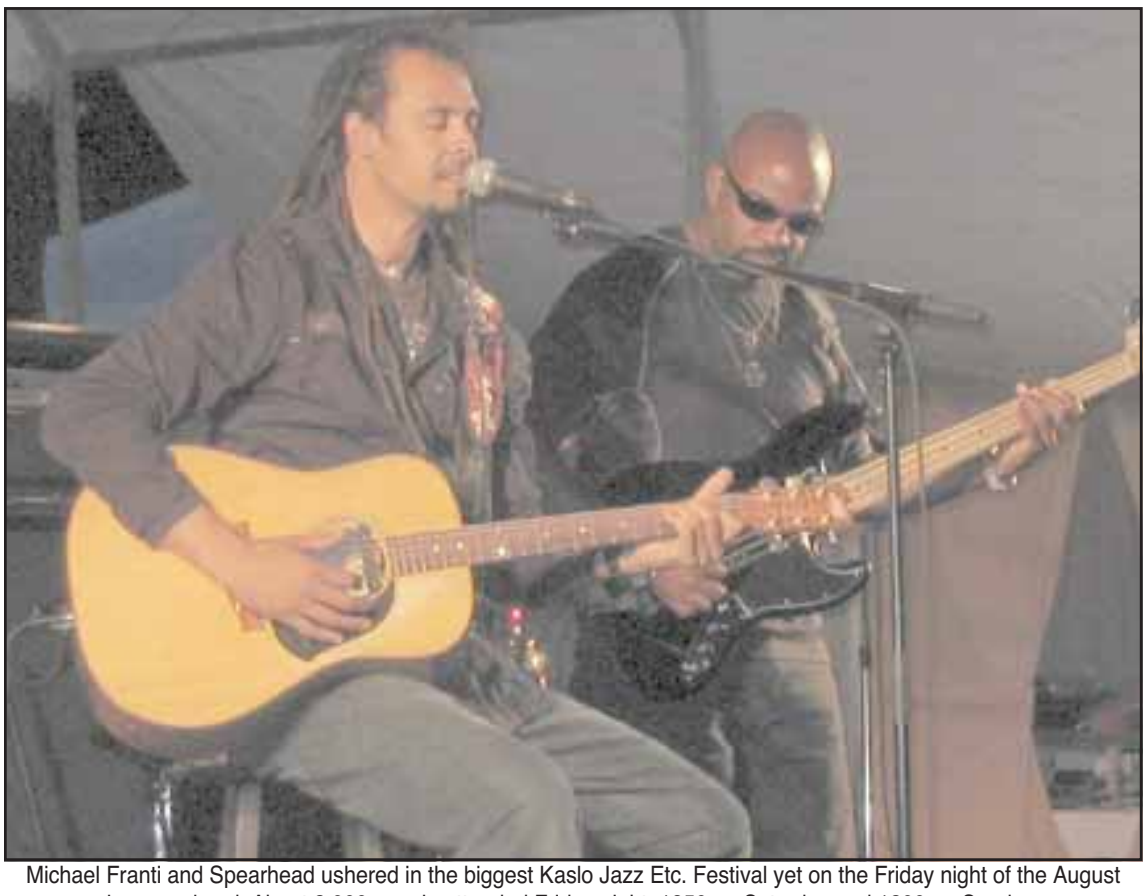
Second: Saddleback Dribble – Rosie & Cindy Caron et al (visitors)

Third: Nakusp Hot Springs – Kelsie & Kylee Williamson, Ashley Grater (visitors), Laura Killips (local)

Honourable Mention: Squirt from Finding Nemo (turtle) – Madison Bothner, Katie & Don Marlowe (visitors)

People's Choice Award: The Man Eater by the Spavor family – Hailey, Avery, Ali, Julius, Diane, Jodi and Abby

Nakusp's first annual sandcastle contest was a great success, with 19 entries. This sandcastle, created by Brandi Witwicki, Grace De Wit and Liz Latham, won first prize in the youth category.



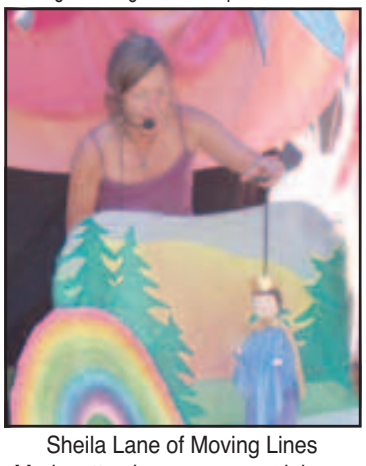
Michael Franti and Spearhead ushered in the biggest Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival yet on the Friday night of the August long weekend. About 2,000 people attended Friday night, 1850 on Saturday and 1200 on Sunday.

Slocan Valley's own Holly and Jon & the Soulshine Band rocked the crowd on Saturday evening.

Coco Love Alcorn and her spectacular voice had the crowd up and dancing.

The Amazing Flydini had children and adults alike engrossed in his very entertaining magic show.

Lyndell Montgomery is Ember Swift's bassist. She told some great stories in between the great songs the band performed.



Sheila Lane of Moving Lines Marionettes has a very special way of telling traditional fairy tales with her beautiful marionettes.

Jude Nicholson-Chodat of New Denver dances on the beach at the 15th annual Kaslo Jazz Fest.

Munch More FOODS
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Are you looking for a trade in strong demand for the future?
YRB is looking to indenture an Apprentice Bridgeworker for our Central Kootenay Service Area.
Our Apprenticeship Programs last from 3 to 5 years, depending on previous qualifications.
Interested persons can fax resumés no later than August 25, 2006 to YRB – Nelson
(250) 352-2172

Horse riders will compete in Nakusp, August 19 & 20

by Jan McMurray

The Arrow Lakes Saddle Club is hosting its annual gymkhana on August 19-20 at Nakusp Creek Quarter Horses. All horse lovers should plan to attend – spectators are welcome, admission is free and there will be a concession on site. To get there, turn onto Gensick Road at Carson's Corner and follow the road right to the end. The riding arena is to the right when you cross the old rail bed.

Tucker O'Brien on his horse Leo Cats Kid at the gymkhana in Fauquier last month.

Arrow Lakes Saddle Club Annual 2-Day Gymkhana
August 19 & 20
at Nakusp Creek Quarter Horses
Start time: 10 am both days.
BCBRA barrel race both days at 1pm
Parelli demo Saturday during lunch break
Cash and donated prizes
Spectators welcome (NO DOGS PLEASE)
Concession on site
For entry info contact Tammy Reimer at 265-4624 or email treimer@nakusp.net

Events will include BC Barrel Racing Association (BCBRA) barrels both days, Thread the Needle, Stakes, Old Reining Race, Two Barrel Cow Horse, Hour Glass, Speed Barrels, Pole Bending and Barrels. There will also be a Parelli Natural Horsemanship demonstration by Fawn Anderson on Saturday.

There will be cash prizes to fourth place in each event, ribbons to sixth place for Pee Wees and to fourth place for Junior and Open riders. There will also be donated prizes for all riders regardless of placings. Winners of the BCBRA event will receive two horse blankets and vests.

The Arrow Lakes Saddle Club was originally founded in the 1950s. Today, the club has about 50 members with riders ranging from 7 years old to 29 years old, and would like to attract more people to join. Tammy O'Brien, on the club's executive, says, "We realize not everyone is into 'chasing cans' and would love to expand into all areas of equestrian interest." The club hopes to host a poker ride in September, with a cowboy supper at the end of the ride. Other events in the planning stages are a competitive trail ride, clinics in Parelli, barrel racing, general horsemanship, schooling shows and a "mock" horse show.

Benefit dance for talented young Latin dancer

by Art Joyce

Carol's Garden Cafe is hosting a benefit dance in Edgewood for a 20-year-old Vancouver dancer, Ja Pace, who suffers from Beta Thalassemia Major. a potentially fatal blood disease. Born on Hornby Island, Ja is the daughter of Francisco and Sally Pace, better known as Pancho and Sal. The couple's stirring blend of Argentinian folk, gypsy, and flamenco music with poetry are well known to west coast audiences. Although the songs are sung in Spanish, Sal's harmonies and English translations engage listeners in lively sing-alongs.

Ja recently made the cover of *Vancouver Lifestyles* magazine, featured both for her stunning physical beauty and her grace as a flamenco and salsa dancer. She was diagnosed with the genetic blood disorder at the age of five. The disease is common among peoples from the Mediterranean Basin, South-East Asia and equatorial Africa. Thalassemia is characterized by a reduced production of hemoglobin, with the defect affecting cells in the bone marrow. Hemoglobin is the vital oxygen carrier in the blood and its impairment can lead to anemia and a greatly reduced life expectancy.

The only known cure for the disease is a bone marrow transplant. This procedure is only done in Canada with a perfect match from a sibling. Unfortunately, neither of Ja's siblings are a match for her. At present she is being treated with monthly blood transfusions and a daily subcutaneous drug infusion which controls the potentially dangerous buildup of iron in the body.

Ironically, the Pace family found hope in the Mediterranean, the very region of the world where the disease originated. A new technique has been developed in Italy using one of the parents as a bone marrow donor. Because Ja's overall health is good, she has been accepted for the procedure. The older she becomes, the more damage blood transfusions and drug therapy will do, creating more complications for a bone-marrow transplant.

But the cost of hope isn't cheap – the operation costs around $200,000. However, the treatment is still considered experimental and therefore ineligible for coverage by the BC Medical Plan. To date nine patients have been treated successfully while another five have had no change in their condition. Ja's parents have been busily performing and leading the fundraising drive. Pancho says the fund has now reached an amazing $135,000. "It's the art of the heart," says Pancho. "The media and everybody have been wonderful, so generous." The story has been featured in *The Province*, the *Vancouver Sun*, and numerous west coast weeklies and Spanish-language newspapers. The family will be leaving for Italy in late September in preparation for Ja's treatment.

Janet Royko of Fauquier has been a friend of the family for a decade or more and was the first to invite Pancho and Sal to the Kootenays to perform. Carol hired the couple to perform at the cafe last September and was moved to organize a benefit for Ja this year. "I thought, my God, this could be MY daughter."

The benefit dance will be held Saturday, September 2nd at the Edgewood Legion Hall, featuring blues guitar slinger Quinn deCourcey, Okanagan group the Lofi Cowboys, Tribal Funk of Salmon Arm, and of course Pancho and Sal. Doors open at 6 pm. There will be a silent auction as part of the fundraiser and Carol is seeking donations of cash or items for auction.

Meanwhile, be sure to check out the reggae dance party with dj Farley Curzonz at Carol's Friday, August 18th. The featured menu will be Jamaican. The following Friday the 25th will feature The Evans Sisters, a duo becoming known for their folk, country, and soft rock harmonies. Expect to hear Sally and Megan perform songs by the Beatles, Simon and Garfunkel, Avril Lavigne, Patsy Cline, and more. Cover charge is $5 for both events. The music starts at 7 pm.

The Evans Sisters perform at Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood on August 25. Expect to hear everything from the Beatles to Simon and Garfunkel, and from Avril Lavigne to Patsy Cline.

Nakusp Hot Springs re-opens

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Hot Springs re-opened on the Saturday of the long weekend, after a seven-month closure for renovations.

The facility now boasts a new state-of-the art mechanical and filtration system, and a new ozone water system. Both pools have been completely retiled, and the decks have been resurfaced.

"We have been counting down the days until we could announce the reopening of our hot springs," said Mayor Karen Hamling. "Now, after many months, I can say - on behalf of the Village of Nakusp and the Hot Springs Advisory Committee - come join us! The Nakusp Hot Springs is open once again."

Village of Nakusp Chief Administrative Officer Bob Lafleur says the facility has been full to capacity every day since it re-opened. The maximum capacity is 120 people.

He reminds that the bridge on the walking trail to the source remains closed for safety reasons.

The facility was shut down by health officials on January 20 because of a lack of a filtration system and gutters. Fairbank Architects Ltd. was the project manager for the renovations. The Village is paying for the renovations by borrowing money from its own reserve funds, which will be paid back with hot springs revenue.

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Call Cliff in Nakusp Today
250-265-0122

Ministry of Forests & Range

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

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textiles . objects . artworks
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318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

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Carpet & Upholstelry Cleaning
All Floor Covering Installations
theblindman.ca
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265-6809

Nakusp Legion #20
Meat Draws every Saturday
4-6 pm
All members & guests welcome

Computer Problem?
Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

The Valley Voice

Now serves all residents of the RDCK's Area D – including the communities of Ainsworth Hot Springs, Meadow Creek and Argenta with every mailbox delivery.

If you want to get your message out to the communities of the Arrow, Slocan and North Kootenay Lake Valleys, use *The Valley Voice*.

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
Golf lessons with Burt Drysdale, CPGA Pro, available.
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

Winlaw **phone: 226-7241;**
toll-free: 1-877-324-GOLF
Discover golfing at its finest at Valley View. Licensed lounge & restaurant open 7 days a week. Catering and dinner meetings available on request. Everyone welcome.
GREEN FEES: $18 / 9 holes, $25 / 18 holes RENTALS: Power and pull-cars available
Juniors' Night Mondays at 4:00 • Seniors' Morning Mondays • Mens' Night Thursdays • Two-for-one golf Fridays after 2:00 pm plus WING NIGHT!

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!

THE THIRD EDITION OF THE POPULAR

Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook

IS NOW AVAILABLE AT:

Nakusp: Meritxell Books
Visitor Info. Centre
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Lardeau Valley Service
Kaslo: The S.S. Moyie
Kaslo Drugs
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Kootenay Lake:
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
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Visitor Information Centre

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

Makes a great gift!

Only $4.95

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
The curved interior spaces, boutique decor & quality amenities of our dome facility offer a unique experience. Guests enjoy a large outdoor spa, sauna, guest kitchen & dome common-room. Charming new cottages & meeting dome available.

• 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.

Adopt-a-Block program gains solid support from Kaslo merchants

by Jill Braley

•Council received correspondence from Mardi Grainger summarizing her Adopt-a-Block program. The program involves businesses taking responsibility not only for sweeping the sidewalks in front of their establishments, but also for keeping the curb tidy. Grainger polled 55 establishments in Kaslo about the program and compiled the following results: 80% positive, 10% enthusiastically positive, 5% neutral, 5% negative. Council referred the results to the Public Works Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received an email from the Municipal Insurance Authority of BC (MIABC) regarding the Kaslo River Trail and paintball area conflict. This was referred to the Administration and Finance committee for recommendation to council.

CAO Rae Sawyer sought advice from MIABC, explaining that the paintball site had evolved over the years on Village owned property, and that the Kaslo Trailblazers had invested time and money in building a trail in the last year that now goes through the paintball area. She says the Village needs to find a way to make the two uses complementary and safe, or to reconsider the location of the paintball site or the trail. She asks if MIABC knows of any similar situations in other communities.

The closest example the insurance authority could come up with was a golf course adjacent to a trail. In this situation, the golf course posted a sign warning the public of flying golf balls. The signage also indicates that members of the public can take no legal action as a result of being hit by a golf ball.

•Don Scarlett of the Kaslo Flying Club wrote to council regarding fire season operations at Kaslo Airport. He said that firefighting helicopters at the airport have created unsafe conditions for fixed-wing aircraft, and reminded the Village of its responsibility to manage airport operations in a manner consistent with public safety, protection of property and respect for the rights of hangar lessees. He says the Village must discuss with fire crews how to prevent safety and security problems, and perhaps provide the helicopters with a designated paved space for their operations. He asks that members of the club be invited to a meeting to discuss this, or for the Village to provide a written response outlining its policy and plans to address the issue. The letter was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee, which will meet with Flying Club members and the Ministry of Forests before making a recommendation to council.

•Mayor Holland wrote to council with a concern regarding clay soil being back filled at the borrow pit location at the new skatepark site. The Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be requested to approve the skatepark borrow pit upon final completion.

•Council received a letter from the Kaslo Jazz Etc Society requesting the closure of the boat launch area during subsequent festivals, for safety reasons. The request was approved.

•The Ministry of Forests notified council of Lofstedt Farm Forestry Society's request to increase the size of their woodlot south of Kaslo from 390 hectares to 600 hectares. This was referred to the Public Works Committee for recommendation to council.

•A letter will be sent to the Kaslo Community Forest Society advising that the Village has no concerns at this time with the Society's logging plans in the Brooks Creek area. Another letter will be sent in support of the Society's application for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement with an annual allowable cut of 25,000 cubic metres.

•In response to a letter from Victoria lawyer Mr. Schwartz outlining some concerns about the proposed BMX circuit near the skatepark, the Village will advise him that any BMX development will follow the guidelines of public process.

•A letter will be sent to Area D Director Andy Shadrack requesting council be kept informed of future developments with regard to Kootenay Lake levels. The letter will also advise that council is willing to attend a meeting with all three levels of elected officials and related agencies on this.

•Councillor Rich Jones raised concerns about the Kaslo recycling depot, saying the cardboard and plastic bins are in very bad shape. CAO Sawyer will contact the RDCK with these concerns.

•Michael Proctor wrote to council requesting a development variance permit to increase the height of an accessory building from 14.76 feet to 23 feet to permit construction of a garage/workshop. A notice will be sent to all affected property owners and tenants within close proximity. The Public Works Department will also be reviewing the request and making comment to council.

•Jill Braley wrote to council requesting a larger bearproof bin for the Logger Sports area. Council voted to move the bin to a more visible location in the same area to prevent dumping of household garbage. Braley also asked council to consider an additional application of dust control on the Vimy Park ring road during hot summer days, for the benefit of campers at the municipal campground. This was referred to the Public Works Committee for recommendation to council.

•Accounts payable of $80,011 were approved.

PHOTO CREDIT: RACHAEL KIMOLA

Kaslo royalty Josee Gagnon and Gabby Alpaugh rode in the Penticton Peach Fest parade on August 12.

SS Moyie partners with The Land Conservancy

The SS Moyie is one lady who just gets better with age. The Kootenay Lake Historical Society has partnered with The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC) in an effort to increase awareness of the SS Moyie National Historic Site across BC and worldwide. The society has entered an Associated Site Agreement with the Conservancy and is celebrating this by holding a reception and luncheon Friday, September 22, at 12:30 pm.

The SS Moyie will now be promoted via brochures racked at other TLC sites throughout the province, a listing on the Conservancy's website, and in upcoming editions of the TLC Members' Handbook. The new site designation has the added benefits of promotion through INTO, The International National Trust Organization. This will mean the SS Moyie National Historic Site and the Village of Kaslo will soon be marketed to over seven million National Trust organization members worldwide.

As an Associated Site, the SS Moyie will remain under the ownership of the Village of Kaslo and under the operation of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society, but will offer free admission to persons presenting a valid TLC membership card, with the admission price reimbursed by TLC later.

The Land Conservancy is a non-profit charitable land trust working throughout British Columbia to protect critical natural habitats as well as properties with historic, cultural, scientific or recreational value. Founded in 1997 and modeled after the National Trust of Britain, TLC is a democratic organization that relies on a strong membership and volunteer base to protect the properties under its care in perpetuity.

For more information , please contact Mark MacKenzie, Site Manager of the SS Moyie at 250-353-2525 or email ssmoyie@klhs.bc.ca.

Langham presents *Tangible Histories: A Survey of BC Art History*

The Langham Cultural Centre Gallery in Kaslo presents *Tangible Histories: A Survey of BC Art History*, an exhibition of works from the collection of guest curator Paul Crawford, August 18 to September 24. An opening will be held August 18, 7-9 pm.

Art historian and Grand Forks Art Gallery curator Paul Crawford has spent more than a decade travelling the globe, collecting over 1500 works of art and – most importantly – the stories to go with them. Along the way, he has owned his own commercial art gallery in Victoria, worked as a private art consultant for both corporate and private clients, toured and lectured about his collection around the province, and co-founded the Wells International *One Minute Play Festival* held each summer in Wells, B.C.

A tireless advocate for the arts, Crawford sees himself as "a collector of stories and personal histories. Each piece I have come to acquire and care for over the years has led me on a mission to connect the past with the present and ensure the continuance of those relationships far into the future." With this in mind, he has made it his mission to take art and culture to the masses, making it accessible through the underlying human stories to which everyone can relate.

Crawford will share some of these stories at the opening on August 18, and again on September 24, 2-4 pm.

Paul Crawford's exhibit,Tangible Histories: A Survey of BC Art History, opens August 18.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Dennis Creek Meadows Rival Idaho Lookout

In the 1980s when I worked for the Forest Service in Nakusp, our duties included the maintenance of the Idaho lookout and trail as well as some of the other great features of the Slocan Valley, including working on the trail into Dennis Creek headwaters. I did the hike in last week with a friend and wanted to share the idea of visiting there. This area has open flowered meadows and ridge walking comparable to Idaho Lookout, which is just a few kilometres south of here, and gets fewer people and more bears.

This hike is another one of these places that's highly scenic, fairly well mapped but quite poorly signed. So many great Kootenay trails are like this, being great if you know the way or have a guide, but poorly identified or not too apparent at all. The driving distance is not far, the road is pretty good, and the trail condition is well maintained.

Driving north from New Denver or south from Nakusp gets you to Rosebery, and the road is on the south side of the creek, the Wilson Creek forestry road. About three kilometres up this good road is the unsigned Hicks Creek road, which is the one you want, just past the new Dennis Road. Hicks Road remains generally level at first, and rounds a switchback not far along. After passing Jeanette Road, Hicks Road begins to climb earnestly and soon you can look back down into the main Slocan Valley far below and behind. The road veers back to the right farther up, where a branch road goes over to recent logging across the way.

Hicks Creek is a steep and heavily logged drainage, so enjoy the view as you continue. Right before 13 kilometres from the highway look for the branch road which also veers to the right and then park at the wide spot only 100 metres in. From there the road to the trailhead is brushy and somewhat washed, so just walk the last kilometres to the trailhead. From the small marshy landing the foot trail to the open ridge tops is easily located, and about 50 metres up the trail you finally come to a lovely sign announcing that this is indeed the Dennis Creek Trail.

The trail leads up for maybe two kilometres to a small pass, kind of a notch in the ridge that wraps around the perimeter of the headwaters of Dennis Creek although the actual access is via the logging roads and skid trails of neighbouring Hicks Creek. This seems to be fine grizzly bear ground, and you can see the various peeled-back balsam trees and farther up the excavations in the open meadow areas. I honked my freon hand-held boat horn a few times during the day, to keep any bears alert, and to make myself feel important. It can be hard to really count on bear sprays to be effective, but I believe noise is a good defense.

At the small pass the glimpse of the large alpine basin is very gratifying and if you scramble up the steep grassy slope to the left or right you can soon be right on the ridge line and enjoy really grand panoramas of the Goat Range, the main valley, Kokanee Glacier off to the south and of course Idaho lookout and the general Sandon area. Flower displays here equal or exceed any other meadows and the walking is easy and inviting. As always, the better the flowers, the worse the flies, so you could even save this for a lovely autumn ridge ramble around Thanksgiving.

We traversed across the steep open slope to the far side of the basin to cover some new areas that I'd never reached when visiting with larger hiking groups. Although this zone never produced any mining developments, there are a couple open pits when some blasting and trenching was attempted. Most digging has been by bears however, and holes are all over. Though we looked around a lot, even the small basins below the ridges we walked revealed no wandering bears so either it was nap time for them or else that horn blast had been more annoying than I'd thought!

Dennis Creek now has some logging occurring in the lower reaches, via the signed Dennis road, but timber values are poor farther up the valley, and I doubt that fresh logging could happen much closer to here than it has for some time. An adjacent area is slated for some harvesting in upper Hicks, but this will simply allow roads to be fixed up a little. Always drive up these roads in anticipation of traffic, recreational or industrial.

Dennis Creek Trail is noted in several trail guides and books, and can be seen on maps of the area too. Valhalla Pure in New Denver is a good source of trail info. Elevations here are right at treeline with some rocky open ridges amongst the meadow bliss, so you'll be most pleased with this hike, which I'd rate as moderately tough but very worthwhile.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital and has served the Arrow and Slocan Valleys since 1992. 358-2133.

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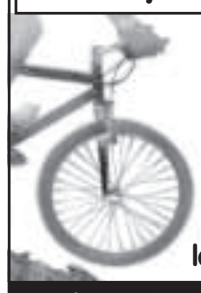

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HOW FLOYD LOST THE TOUR

Poor Floyd Landis claims his naturally high levels of testosterone caused the lab results that may disqualify him as winner of the Tour de France. I, too, possess huge reserves of testosterone - I'm talking HUGE - and can understand the fellow's consternation. BUT, poor Floyd could have easily won the race cleanly if he'd only come by my shop for a proper tuneup and seasonal checkover. Just ask Lance how much it helped him out, eh?

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Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

Education 'Oops-I-Forgot-To-Save' Plans

With September just around the corner, many parents are making withdrawals from education funds for a child's post-secondary education costs. As tuitions rise and living-away expenses climb even faster, many a plan that seemed to be adequate when the child was young now look pitifully small as costs of $15,000 to $20,000 per year loom just ahead. What can be done?

Well, first of all, try to reduce the costs. Get your child to take a couple of years at Selkirk College right here in the Kootenays. It will save you a ton of money right off the bat, and provide a higher quality of instruction than he or she will get in a first-year university class of 300 students at UBC! Selkirk even offers a way to get two years' university credits in just 12 months, saving a full year of school living-out expenses.

Secondly, know what your target is. Education savings goals should be thought out as far in advance of needing the money as possible, even if that is next month! Are you going to fund the education fully, or only to the first degree, diploma or certificate, or will you pay for an advanced designation as well? A degree in medicine, for example, can set you back $150,000 over the six- or seven-year program. Are you prepared to pay the full ride?

Most parents take the approach that they will help to get the boat launched, but the child has to do most of the rowing. Some of the sources of funds that your child should take the lead on are:

Scholarships - these should be sought out and applied for each year of studies, not just the grade 12 year. Part of the student's job should be to get applications out to grantors that support the student's strengths, be they academic, sports or citizenship.

Summer jobs - can add much-needed cash flow, but be careful of encouraging work during the school year. Some students can handle post-secondary work while holding down a part-time job, but to others it may mean the difference between success and failure.

Student loans - though you hate to think of your son or daughter graduating with a big debt, these loans provide a source of capital that can't be ignored. Now easier to qualify for, student loans do not accrue interest or require payments until after graduation. When repayments do start, they are amortized over a long period of time and the interest on them creates a nice tax-deduction for the student. Even if you have money that you can access for your son or daughter, using a student loan to partially fund school costs allows you to keep your money at work until after they graduate. You can always pay the loan off for them when the payments are due to start. You might even want to use the promise to do so as an incentive for them to achieve their best grades – sort of a 'mom and dad scholarship fund'!

If you don't have money saved up to give them, you can make the loan payments for them after the fact as a means of supporting the cause. In fact, for parents that have no savings to contribute, I often recommend that you simply continue to pay the child the same amount out of the family budget that you were spending when they were at home.

Let's say that an average teenager costs $300/month to feed, clothe, drive around and entertain (yeah, right, $300/month – those of you with older teens please stop laughing out loud.) Okay, Junior (or Jeanior) goes off to college at a cost of $1,600/month for eight months for a total cost of $10,400 per year. You continue to pay $300/month for the full 12 months for a contribution of $3,600, reducing the need to raise other capital to a more manageable $6,800.

Let's say $4,000 per year is accumulated in student loans (the other $2,800 comes from work and scholarships), so over a three-year program the loan racks up $12,000. After graduation you continue to pay the same $300/month, but into the loans instead. You will have the loans cleared in a little less than four years – not the ideal, certainly, but at least you have provided your child with a post-secondary education without any additional cash flow required from you. And, let's face it, the foundation of financial planning is all about making the cash flow fit the need.

You may need a little help from a personal line of credit to help with the lump sums that have to be paid, like tuition costs. In this case, just pay your $300/month back into the line of credit and the end result will be more or less the same. Setting up a line of credit in advance of the need will keep you from scrambling at the last minute.

So, if you forgot to save, don't panic. Look at all the options, add up all the resources, talk to your financial planner (that's us) and step confidently into the world of promise that beckons, not just to your graduate, but to you as well. Don't forget: a post-secondary education will make your son or daughter more wealthy – or at least less dependent on you in the future!

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

Food Editor Andrew Rhodes is back from vacation. His column will return next issue. (Really!)

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Notice of Intent
Rocky Mountain District

Notice is given pursuant to Section 60 (2) of the *Transportation Act* that the Ministry of Transportation has received an application to discontinue and close lane between Lots 8 and 10 of Block 3 of Plan 530D, District Lot 762, Kootenay District, and that such closed road allowance be vested pursuant to Section 60 of the *Transportation Act*. The subject portion of lane is adjacent to William Street in Trout Lake BC.

A plan showing the proposed road closure may be viewed during office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Ministry of Transportation District office 129-10th Avenue South, Cranbrook, BC, V1C 2N1.

Any person(s) having an objection to this application for road closure should do so in writing no later than September 15, 2006.

Ministry Contact:

Brooke Clasby, Development Approvals Technician
Rocky Mountain District, Ministry of Transportation
Phone: (250) 426-1596 Fax: (250) 426-1523
Toll Free: 1-888-613-9993

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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 the last issue of the *Valley Voice* and the 358 Exchange, 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.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

With the anniversary of the loss of Eugene Huss come and gone, I have had time to reflect on the past year. I am so thankful to live in such a caring and helpful community. I am sorry this letter is so late – it wasn't because I didn't appreciate all the help and caring words I received, it was just a really hard time – but I just wanted everyone to know how much I appreciated everything they have done for me then and over the past year. THANK YOU!

Nicole Hicks

The Slocan Lake Dance Camp was a success once again thanks to the contribution of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, Area H Director Don Munro, the Slocan Valley Arts Council plus the hands on effort and cooperation of Terry Taylor, Patti Sebben, Al MacDonald, Hans & Flavia Elias, Josana Starbuck, Glenn Jordan, Susan Eyre, Carol Bell, Gretchen Perks, Heather Huether, Ann Bunka, Deanna, Stella, Larry Lavan, Lorie Langford and the Kootenay DanceBeat Club.

Fran Wallis

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 Aug 17th, 10:30 am -noon ($6). CHAKRA'S: Expressive Arts Series: Mon (7-9:30pm) $18 each. Explore ea. chakra w/ creative arts Aug 21 (THROAT), Aug 28 (3RD EYE), etc. @ Hand & Soul Healing Centre, 202 Lake Ave, Silverton. Contact Sue for registration, flyer mailing, or more information at 358-2177 or Soulgarden@netidea.com.

GALLERY ALFA GUILD – Arrow Lakes Fine Arts, presents our upcoming show of the 2006 season, "Pinhole Visuals," Ger Cawdell, showing jointly with "Memories of a Childhood in Nature," Michael Easton. Show runs Aug 9th through Aug 27th. View also our "Member Room." Gallery open Wed thru Sun: Noon-4PM, 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp.

DANCE FOR KIDS! Express, explore, create, perform at the new dance schoolhouse in South Slocan. Creative, modern, ballet, hip hop, funky jazz. Age 2-14. Register now. 359-2288.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY PLANNING with Carole Stark of the Chinook Institute, Monday, August 21 at Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver from 7-9 pm. Stark has a lot of experience working with BC communities and can share some of the challenges and triumphs of other communities during their planning processes. This should be a great preparatory session for people interested in actively participating in New Denver's OCP review in the fall. Sponsored by Healthy Housing Society.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY - Rachel Yoder's abstract paintings August 16-21. Opening August 19 (7-9 pm) with Lorna's reading of "Noah's Wife." Rabia and Carl "Between Rocks and a Soft Place" August 23-September 4. Opening August 25. Music in garden 7-9 pm.

IT'S GARLIC TIME AGAIN! Hills Garlic Festival Sunday September 10th, 10a.m.- 4p.m in New Denver at Centennial Park. Garlic, Produce, Crafts, Live entertainment by The Kootenay Grass Company and stilt walker Angela Sapphire Jones. CONTESTS: Heaviest Garlic Clove, Largest Garlic bulb, Best Garlic Poem, Best Garlic Braid & Best Booth! Admission $2.00; children under 12 free. Absolutely NO DOGS please.

WOVEN SILVER. Slocan Valley Threads Guild 25th Anniversary Show at Silverton Gallery. Opening August 20 at 7 pm to September 4. Friday-Sunday showings, noon to 4 pm. For further info, call Sharon at 226-7703.

NAKUSP FALL FAIR, SEPTEMBER 16. Table reservations: 265-0075.

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3-BEDROOM TRIPLEX UNIT for rent. One mile from Nakusp, on acreage, appliances, privacy. $600 per month. Available September 1. 250-265-4914.

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MODERN ONE-BEDROOM plus loft house in Passmore. Available October 1st. NS. Pet OK. $550 per month; may trade for farm-labour. 226-7100.

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FOR SALE

MOVING SALE Swan House B&B, 714 Arthur Street, Slocan. Garage sales will be held on Sundays, August 6, 13, and 27 from 10 am to 3 pm and will feature assorted house and yard equipment. New items every week. Call 1-888-797-7926 for info.

4 - 1990 VINTAGE ELECTRIC CLUB CAR GOLF CARTS. Batteries good for 1-2 hours after charged. $400 each. Call Burt at Nakusp Golf Club at 250-265-4531.

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LIVE-IN OR FULL-TIME SUPPORT PERSON sought for mom and very bright toddler (2.5) in Silverton. Duties varied, cleaning, household chores, exp. with toddlers a necessity, foreign language a plus, rent and pay negotiable. 250-358-2562.

LOST

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

NOTICES

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

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

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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Harrop-Procter Community Forest gets long-term agreement

submitted

The Province has offered the Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative a 25-year forest licence. "This long-term agreement will allow Harrop-Procter to continue building on its vision for a strong, vibrant forest economy," said Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman. "This government is committed to more community involvement in managing local forest resources."

The Harrop-Procter community forest covers about 10,900 hectares of public land near the communities of Harrop and Procter east of Nelson. The Harrop-Procter Co-op works with local sawmill owners and remanufacturing businesses to produce rough-cut lumber and home finishing materials, which support local manufacturing jobs.

"When we began this adventure with a five-year pilot project, we were hopeful we could acquire a longer-term agreement," said David Johnson, chair of the Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative. "We are very pleased that the Province's confidence in our organization's performance and in the community of Harrop-Procter has resulted in a 25-year agreement, allowing us to explore more economic opportunities and to create as much local employment as possible."

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WINLAW PARK BOARDWALK REPLACEMENT

Tenders are requested for replacement of approximately 100 meters of elevated boardwalk in Winlaw Regional Park. Project is to be completed in 2006. Further information is available at http://www.woodfor.com/park or from Tom Bradley at 226-7792 (before September 5). Deadline for submission of bids is September 29, 2006.

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New Denver council, August 8: C4 zone made official

by Leah Main

•The regular council meeting was preceded by a public hearing, for the purpose of allowing New Denver residents a final opportunity to question or comment on the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw amendments to establish a C4 (Residential/Commercial) Zone for short-term tourism rental housing. Written submissions already received were listed, and those present (eight people) asked a few clarification questions. All the input from these sources were acknowledged by council. During the regular meeting, OCP Amendment Bylaw No. 605, 2006 and Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 604, 2006 both received third reading and final adoption. The C4 Residential/Commercial Zone is now official.

•Mayor Wright informed council that he had met with Nikkei Centre representatives regarding the trees bordering on the centre that were cut down and/or topped. Kyowakai Society member Mel Swanson accepted responsibility for having ordered the cutting and topping, and now understands that he did not have authority to do this for trees on Village property. A verbal agreement was reached that says the parties who authorized the cutting will be wholly responsible to pay the cutting costs; to hire a certified arborist to determine the health and viability of the topped trees; and, if any further pruning or any replanting must be done, to pay these costs. Council approved this, and authorized staff to send a letter outlining the conditions. A letter will also be send to both Asplundh and Davey tree cutting companies about this matter, to help prevent a repeat occurrence.

•New Denver will receive an additional $40,513 from the BC Small Community grant program. Mayor Wright pointed out that a large portion of this money will be used toward policing costs under the new cost sharing agreement which will take effect next year.

•Mayor Wright has continued to attend meetings with BC Ambulance Service and IHA regarding service in this area. With the support of the Village of Nakusp, Regional District endorsed New Denver's request to transfer dispatch of our ambulance from Kelowna to Castlegar. A further meeting will be held, once a date is determined when all involved parties can attend.

•Final approval was given to the letter of consent for RDCK Bylaw 1829/06 (Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution). This means that New Denver supports the idea of the RDCK collecting taxes up to $20,000 annually from the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, Electoral Area K and a portion of Electoral Area H, to go toward the cost of operating the Summit Lake Ski Hill. The RDCK has not yet passed the bylaw authorizing the taxation – advertisements notifying the public will appear in local newspapers first.

•Mayor Wright reminded council that the Westbank Treaty Negotiation Table is scheduled to meet in New Denver August 22. Councillor Greensword will attend.

•Councillor Bunka reported that an application has been sent in to Katimavik, on behalf of a working group she chaired. Although it is doubtful the application will be approved, she and the group remain hopeful.

•A request for 15-minute parking signs in front of the post office was turned down.

•Council received a proposal from the Village of Silverton to jointly own Silverton's 2002 John Deere backhoe. Council members voted to enter into a three-month trial period on shared usage, and if this is successful they may agree to enter into a joint ownership contract.

•Council will investigate the repairs needed to get water to the currently dry 'Wet Rock,' and to undertake these repairs if they are minor.

•Council will send Councillors Greensword and Campbell to the Union of BC Municipalities conference in Victoria this October. Mayor Wright will attend on behalf of the Regional District.

•In response to a request from the Yellowhead Ecological Association, council approved a motion to send letters to the Inspector of Mines, the Premier, the Minister of Mines, and other agencies, opposing issuance of uranium mining permits until the study has been completed and the report of the Royal Commission has been made public.

When Fat Kat's finally opened for business August 9, the hordes lined up for their ice cream cones, sundaes, banana splits and other desserts they had been dreaming about ever since owner Katrine Campbell came up with the idea for such a decadent establishment. Here, employee DJ Wright serves up a cone for New Denver resident Hank Hastings.

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Notes from the RCMP

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

Slocan Lake detachment

•Slocan Lake RCMP have received many calls from people with bears visiting their properties. Officers are asking the public to be vigilant with their garbage and fruit trees, as this is what attracts the bears. They also remind that bears are no longer re-located, but rather destroyed.

Nakusp detachment

•A vehicle landed in Arrow Lake when it vaulted off the ferry landing at Fauquier on August 6. It came to rest on its roof about 30' out, submerged under 10-15' of water. Two females were in the vehicle and had both escaped the vehicle and left the scene by the time police arrived. Officers located the females at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, with no serious injuries. The driver, a 20-year-old Castlegar woman, was served a violation ticket for Drive with Undue Care and Attention and a 24-hour driving suspension. The vehicle was pulled from the lake early last week and did not disrupt ferry service.

•RCMP is seeking help from the public in locating a foal that went missing over the night of August 7-8 from the corner of Crescent Bay Road and Billings Road. The horse is two months old, dark brown in colour, with a prominent white star on its forehead. Anyone with information on this should call the Nakusp detachment at 265-3677 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

•A gas theft resulted in arson on Hwy 6 in Nakusp on the night of August 10-11. While gas was being stolen from a Pope & Talbot vehicle parked at 926 Hwy 6, the gasoline ignited, scorching the truck, the asphalt below the truck and likely the culprit(s) stealing the gasoline. A patch of grass next to the building was also burned. The building was not damaged. RCMP is continuing the investigation. Anyone with information should call 265-3677 or 1-800-222-8477.