The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Ambulance issues addressed at stakeholders meeting, September 5

by Jan McMurray

A stakeholders meeting to address the local shortage of paramedics held September 5 was "very positive" according to our new superintendent, Chris Mason, based out of Castlegar.

The week before the meeting, it was announced that the regional responsibility for our local ambulance service had been moved from the Okanagan to Castlegar, as requested by local politicians. Mason explained that his area of responsibility had been aligned with the Kootenay-Boundary Health Service Area on a six-month trial period. With the realignment, Mason has gained responsibility for the Nakusp, Edgewood, New Denver and Kaslo ambulance stations. Mason has been a superintendent for four years, working out of the Castlegar office.

The stakeholders meeting was attended by 24 people, including Interior Health Authority representatives, BC Ambulance Service representatives and local politicians – MLA Corky Evans, Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, Area K Director Paul Peterson, New Denver Mayor Gary Wright and Silverton Councillor Stephanie Masun.

The meeting resulted in the formation of committees to look at training issues and communication strategies, and there was a commitment for IHA and BCAS to begin a more formal discussion on "integration opportunities." There was also a commitment to explore other creative partnerships that could improve ambulance services.

Gary Wright, New Denver Mayor and RDCK Chair, explained that "integration opportunities" meant paramedics on standby "dovetailing" their ambulance job with jobs at IHA facilities or in the community. "This is a Kootenay approach to working – piecing together a position for someone – and I like it," commented Wright. "For example, a paramedic might be able to do a homemaker job while on standby." He said that BCAS and IHA management, and unions representing both would begin formal discussions on this within two weeks.

Mason described the idea of 'integration opportunities' as "very much new ground for us," but reminded of an existing partnership between the IHA and BCAS – the critical care team in Trail, involving nurse/paramedic pairing. "So we've had some practice and in my opinion, it's been very successful," he said. Mason said the whole province could stand to gain by these Kootenay 'stakeholders' working together. "The committee work is the exciting thing happening in the province," he said. "I've worked in other areas of the province, and some of these issues are not unique to Nakusp and New Denver. We try to learn as we go and apply what we learn where we can. That is one advantage of having a provincial service."

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling was pleased about the committee formed to look at communication. "If there's no ambulance coverage at one station, the surrounding stations need to know," she said. Hamling is on the committee looking at training issues and said she'd like to see the next meeting of the stakeholders group within six weeks.

Mason was born and raised in Nelson and started his career as a paramedic in Castlegar. He's been with the ambulance service for 25 years. He has also worked in Prince George and the Lower Mainland and has worked as instructor, flight paramedic, primary care paramedic, advanced care paramedic, critical care paramedic and on the infant transport team.

Hills Garlic Festival founding father, Andrew Rhodes can't get Soup du Jar off his mind...or his head. Proprietor Kayte B Rock has recently moved to New Denver and had a booth at the Hills Garlic Festival. You can reach her at (250) 358-2501.

Nakusp CBT office to remain open

by Jan McMurray

The decision to close the Nakusp Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) office has been reversed, after a flood of negative response to the decision.

Following a meeting Monday morning with Area K Director Paul Peterson and Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, the CBT's Chief Executive Officer, Neil Muth, issued a press release announcing that the Nakusp office would remain open.

"After careful consideration of all the concerns that have been brought forward, the decision has been made to maintain an office in the community, staffed by a Community Liaison and a support person," stated Muth in the press release.

Needless to say, both Peterson and Hamling are very happy with the reversed decision.

"As the Arrow Lakes communities were severely affected by the original flooding, it is important that an office be maintained in Nakusp to serve the communities in this area," said Peterson. "The negotiations are over and now it is time for reconciliation and public relations. I want to thank Mr. Neil Muth for his open mindedness, and caring enough to listen. I am looking forward to getting to know the directors of the Trust better and working with them in the future for the betterment of all."

Hamling stated, "We are pleased the Trust has listened to our concerns and has decided to maintain an office in Nakusp. As a strong supporter of the Trust from the beginning, I am looking forward to continued dialogue with the Trust to ensure that Nakusp's interests are looked after."

She also acknowledged the "rough couple of weeks for everyone" since Muth announced on August 24 that the office would be closed. "Wounds have been opened that were on their way to healing and it is my hope that we will be able to move forward and work with the Trust to recovery. It is also council's goal to ensure that the board and staff of the CBT work in a manner that is beneficial to all areas, particularly affected areas, by being aware of the Core Values and their mandate each time they make a decision," she said.

The decision to close the office came out of a recent review of CBT's internal structure. As a result of that review, the CBT felt it could more effectively carry out its mandate to serve all residents of the Columbia Basin by lessening the Community Liaisons' workload and operating with three Community Liaisons instead of four.

The press release states that "other alternatives are being pursued to allow the Trust to effectively deliver services and continue to maintain an office in Nakusp, without affecting the services provided to other Columbia Basin communities." In a telephone interview, Muth explained, "There can't just be one way to achieve what I want to achieve. I am still committed to delivering services more effectively across the Basin."

Hamling says she asked Muth to consider the Nakusp office when he is revamping the staffing, and consider moving people to the Nakusp office who would like to live here and can work out of this area without much difficulty.

The Nakusp Community Liaison position is currently vacant, and Muth says the position will be advertised shortly. Of the two support people in the Nakusp office now, one will stay on, and Muth says they are looking into options for the other.

In the press release, Muth states, "It is important that we not lose sight of our mandate and why we were created in the first place, which is to look after all communities in the Columbia Basin. In our reconsideration we needed to ensure that this decision would not come at the expense of other Basin communities. The decision to maintain our office in Nakusp will allow us to stay in direct touch with the people of the Arrow Lakes communities, and to be respectful of the strong historical ties between the Trust and these communities."

Bree Faulks performed with the Kootenay Grass Company at the Garlic Festival.

Tracy Brown, of Rosebery, walked away with the prize for the largest clove of garlic at the Hills Garlic Festival, September 10, 2006. More photos and a feature report by Valley Voice Food Editor, Andrew Rhodes, in our next edition.

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Private docks discussed at Rosebery Parklands Development Society AGM

by Jan McMurray

More than 30 people showed up at the Rosebery Parklands Development Society AGM on September 3. The renewed interest in the society was prompted by the appearance of a dock in Rosebery Bay in the spring. The dock raised concerns among some local residents about the privatization of the foreshore of Slocan Lake, as well as a concern that the society had strayed from its original intent.

Discussion about the dock revealed that the President of the society, Scott Leyland, had issued a letter of permission for a dock to the landowners' architect in January 2005. The Vice-President, John Herrmann, subsequently visited the site with the architect and agreed on a location for the dock.

As required by the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the landowners made an application for private moorage. The ILMB disallowed the application.

Leyland said he felt that the current executive was morally, and perhaps legally, obligated "to continue with what we have agreed to" and that "the incoming executive should proceed in the best interests of the society with the commitments we've made to date."

Brian Sykes, who owns the dock, said, "Had we known it would cause such controversy, it wouldn't be there. We were told we had rights to moorage." He said he and his wife had paid $12,500 for the dock, and offered to make the dock disappear if they were reimbursed.

Sykes said they would appeal the Ministry decision, and if the appeal was not successful, the dock would become a "seasonal dock." He explained that seasonal docks do not need a permit and are pulled up and stored on the upland property during the winter.

The society membership decided to strike a moorage committee to investigate possible solutions with the Sykes. If a solution cannot be found within three months, the society will hire an adjudicator to facilitate a solution within a month.

The Sykes said they were told verbally that the reason the application was denied was because "riparian rights...were not adequately protected." The written reason for the decision is that the Ministry's policy "does not provide for private moorage for second tier properties, separated from a waterbody by private land." The society owns land between the water and the Sykes' property.

The Valley Voice contacted Ian Johnston from the Ministry for clarification. Johnston indicated that the written reason was the one to pay attention to. He said private moorage is only available to shoreline owners, so people who own land off the water are not eligible for private moorage. "That's where we're at right now," he said. He said the application came in with information that the Sykes had legal access to the water by way of easement, but the actual easement registered with Land Titles "does not appear to cover that circumstance." He said the Ministry had to go by the legal easement on title, not by agreements between people, which can change. "That comes down to a policy issue for us," he said. "If the dock is linked to shoreline property then we don't have to rely on agreements. The legal easement on title is only thing we can use."

He said there was no formal appeal process under the Land Act, but there was nothing stopping people from addressing the reason the application was disallowed and to re-apply.

He also said that the same applied to seasonal docks – only shoreline owners are eligible to have them.

The society membership formed several committees at the AGM to investigate issues of foreshore rights, moorage, the society's constitution and the transfer of ownership of the parklands to another agency, including the RDCK. These committees will report back to the membership at the next AGM or Special General Meeting.

At its June meeting, the RDCK board agreed to investigate creating a regional park in the parklands, as long as it received a letter from the society with the request. In 1990, the RDCK agreed in principle to receive the property for the purpose of developing a regional park sometime in the future.

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Housing development a concern for Enterprise Creek residents

by Art Joyce

The new sign in Silverton advertising the Kokanee Falls development is generating plenty of questions amongst locals. The 30-unit strata housing subdivision is slated to break ground in spring 2007 on a 20-acre parcel of land at Enterprise Creek. Work on installing water, power, and septic services has already begun.

The Kokanee Falls website (www.kokaneefalls.ca) describes the units as 'cottages,' with a choice of two four-bedroom designs, at either 1370 or 1870 square feet. Some will also have an additional 1200 square feet in the basement level. The cottages will be connected by a series of pathways, with parking garages for cottage owners' vehicles and storage. There will also be moorage for 30 boats on Slocan Lake, with a change/rest room on the beach. The unit prices, although not fixed yet, are expected to range from $400,000-700,000. Access to the cottages and docks will be via motorized carts, discouraging car traffic on-site.

Developer Riley Darke and business partner Andrew MacRae both live and work in Kelowna and emigrated a few years ago to BC from Saskatchewan and Ontario, respectively. Darke is a snowboard shop owner and MacRae a financial planner for the Bank of Montreal. Darke is careful to emphasize the low-impact nature of the development, pointing out that as few trees as possible will be cut and there will be no lawns or landscaping. Power lines will be underground to avoid having to install poles. Water will be supplied by a buried line underneath the trail leading to Slocan Lake.

"We're going to be keeping the vegetation because we wanted to keep as much of the naturescape as possible," says Darke. "We'll let the natural topography of the site determine where there are basements in the units."

Darke says interest in Kokanee Falls is high, with 300 people already registered on the website as potential buyers for only 30 units. However, most Enterprise Creek locals aren't so enthusiastic about the development. Terry and Joanne Gustafson, 30-year residents who operate a small farm nearby, are in a direct line-of-sight to the new road being built to service the subdivision.

"Our biggest concern is the noise and traffic on that road," says Terry. "It's also a very dangerous access onto the highway and if you aren't used to it, you could get wiped out by a chip truck very easily."

Gustafson dreads the possibility that cottage owners will be bringing their jet-skis onto the lake, a concern echoed by local resident Sara Wearmouth. The Kokanee Falls website has a quote from Andy Cohen, general manager of the BC division of Resorts of the Canadian Rockies, calling the Kootenays "one of the last great places in all North America," and one of the "least touched" recreation areas. Wearmouth sees this, and the website's quote from Henry David Thoreau about going to the woods to live close to nature, as highly ironic. "Bringing that whole energy here, instead of just appreciating the pristine nature of this place doesn't sit well with me at all. How can you impose that on the landscape and expect to maintain it in its natural state?"

Darke answers this concern by saying he hates jet-skis too. "We want to discourage the use of jet skis, but we can't really enforce it if there's no law against it."

George Iverson, proprietor of Mistaya Bed and Breakfast, has already seen his business impacted by the new development. Mistaya had operated guided horse excursions on trails to Enterprise Falls (called Kokanee Falls by the developer) under a verbal agreement with the former owners. That ended when the property was sold and no trespassing signs appeared blocking access to the trails. "It's their right as private property owners," says Iverson. "But they've left a bad taste in the mouths of the locals within a 2-3 kilometer radius."

RDCK Area H director Don Munro encourages residents to get involved in the upcoming planning workshops if developments like Kokanee Falls are of concern to them. The shape of future developments will depend on public input to design an Official Community Plan (OCP) for the valley. "People have to decide what they want or don't want, and where."

Ministry of Forests & Range

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A72329

Take notice that, pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, Timber Sale licence A72329 is being offered for sale by the BC Timber Sales Kootenay Business Area.

Closing Date/Location: September 28, 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: Bulldog Creek, located approximately 43 km west of Castlegar in the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

Estimated Volume: 45,223 cubic metres, more or less

Species / Volume: Lodgepole-pine 25,358 m^3 (56%), Larch 6,384 m^3 (14%), Douglas-fir 4,457 m^3 (10%), Cedar 3,474 m^3 (8%), Spruce 3,134 m^3 (7%), Subalpine-fir 1,395 m^3 (3%), Hemlock 694 m^3 (2%), Grand Fir 117 m^3, White-pine 210 m^3 (2%), 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 years

Upset Stumpage Rate: $30.72

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

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.

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 A72329.

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

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

2007 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Section 224 of the Community Charter allows Council to exempt from taxation property:

(f) in relation to property that is exempt under section 220(1)(h) [buildings for public worship]
(i) an area of land surrounding the exempt building.

The following properties are proposed for exemption:

1. That portion of Lot 6, Block 14, Plan 9501, District Lot 542, Kootenay District (Turner Memorial United Church) commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 6, Block 14, thence north fifty feet, thence east thirty feet, thence south fifty feet, thence west thirty feet to the point of commencement;

2. Lots 7& 8, Block 35, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District (St. Anthony's Catholic Church);

3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District & (1) Lot 26 (2) Pcl A (KM82543) (St. Stephen's Anglican Church), commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 26, Block 45, thence north fifty-five feet, thence east one hundred feet, thence south fifty-five feet to the southeast corner of Lot 23, Block 45, thence west one hundred feet to the point of commencement;

4. Lots 1-3, Block 48, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District (Pentecostal Church);

For the year 2007.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Springer Creek plans logging in Elliot/Anderson and Carpenter Creek watersheds

by Jan McMurray

Springer Creek Forest Products is currently planning for logging operations in the Elliot/Anderson and Trozzo watersheds as well as in the Carpenter Creek watershed in the Sandon area.

The company has recently advertised a Major Amendment to its Forest Development Plan for the Elliot/Anderson block. Dwane Sorenson of Springer Creek explained that the amendment makes a previously approved cutblock bigger to take in "a big chunk of Elliot/Trozzo ridge top to encompass a mountain pine beetle problem up there."

The amendment is available for review and comment until September 23 at the Springer Creek office in Slocan (355-2100) and at the Ministry office in Castlegar (365-8600). People are asked to call ahead and make an appointment.

Sorenson said the company was in the process of working with the Slocan Valley Community Forest group on this amendment as well, as the cutblock falls within the area the community forest is hoping for.

Sorenson says a few people have come in to have a look and most of the concern is over road access to the block.

The original plan was to extend the existing Elliot Face Road, but "we're trying to work with the community forest on an alternative access to mitigate some concerns there." He said they looked at the Trozzo/Pedro access, but it's not the right option because it crosses the headwalls of a number of consumptive watersheds. The two options being considered are Elliot Face via Rooster Road at the top of Lemon Creek hill and South Lemon. The South Lemon access is a higher risk environmentally, he explained, because the first 700 metres of the road would be on 70% slopes and would require full bench construction. The Elliot access, however, has a number of social concerns with the main one being the road's proximity to Elliot Creek.

"Hopefully collectively we'll work out an option that is the least risk to the environment and meets the social needs of residents there. We may not get there, but we'll try. It's a challenge," he said.

He says Elliot is the biggest pine beetle patch within Springer Creek's licence area. "There are other patches in the valley, but they are mostly in BC Timber Sales area, like Perry's Ridge, the top of Trozzo, Smallwood." He says the amendment will pretty much take care of the beetle kill trees in the company's operating area, other than small 10-15-hectare stands here and there. "We have a very diverse timber type in our area so it will be good for the survival of this mill," he added.

He explained that Elliot/Anderson is a salvage operation, not for beetle control. "We're trying to salvage the beetle kill trees we can access before the timber is finished," he said.

The company is also planning to harvest three blocks in the Sandon area this winter. One will be accessed by the road going up to the Idaho Peak trailhead, and the other two are up towards Cody.

People will be driving right through the 37.5-hectare block up Idaho, which is mainly a hemlock stand and will be clearcut with reserves left in the middle to meet the visual model. Although the block was visually modelled, he said a small piece of it will be visible from Sandon. "The trick will be making sure we work our schedule around tourists going up to the lookout," he said.

The two blocks up towards Cody can be accessed by the existing road. There will be an 11.5-hectare block about 1.5 kms up the road, and an 11.1-hectare cutblock about another one kilometre further up the road. The logs from the first block on the way to Cody will be yarded across Carpenter Creek, fully suspended in the air.

Sorenson says that the trees, mostly hemlock, in the Sandon area are all pretty small – 30-50 cms – and are in the 100-year range.

He says that they have been speaking with the Sandon Historical Society to try and make sure the society's concerns are addressed. He says society members have asked the company to set aside any possible artifacts they might find up there.

Maher Arar speaks in Nelson to capacity crowd

by Art Joyce

What price are we willing to pay for security in a democracy? That was just one of many questions raised by Maher Arar when he spoke to an audience of 400 in Nelson's Capitol Theatre on September 8. Arar is a Canadian citizen who was the victim of torture when he was deported to Syria by American authorities in 2002.

In September 2002, Arar was in Tunisia, vacationing with his wife Monia Mazigh and their two small children. On September 26 while in transit in New York's JFK airport, he was detained by US officials and interrogated about alleged links to Al-Qaeda. Twelve days later, he was chained, shackled and flown to Jordan aboard a private plane and from there transferred to a Syrian prison. In Syria, he was held in a tiny 'grave-like' cell for ten months and ten days before being moved to a better cell in a different prison. He was beaten, tortured and forced to make a false confession. During his imprisonment, Monia campaigned relentlessly on his behalf, with the support of Canadian human rights organizations and a growing number of citizens.

Arar said that it's no secret the current regime in the US "has placed security ahead of our rights and civil liberties." But what shocked him was that Canada's authorities were willing to abrogate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms by passing the anti-terrorist legislation Bill C-36. He said some 2,000 Muslims have been detained in the US since 9/11 and only two have been charged. Hearsay evidence that previously would never have been admitted in court has been used and due process subverted.

"Let me be clear," he told the audience, "Canadians need to be secure, I don't doubt that. There is terrorism in the world and that must be dealt with. But the way it is being dealt with must also be made accountable. Secrecy is the enemy of accountability."

Arar reminded the audience that the US may be powerful but that it cannot carry out its agenda without the active or passive complicity of other nations. He finds President Bush's admission that the US has secret torture camps on foreign soil deeply distressing.

"How can we consider ourselves a democracy if we condone torture?"

Arar is a soft-spoken man who says he accepts the additional stress of being a public figure not only to clear his name but also to help others. His entreaties to Canadian authorities have already effected the return to Canada of other prisoners whom he met while in Syria.

The Canadian government convened a Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar in January, 2004. The commission has been taking testimony from the RCMP, CSIS and other Canadian intelligence sources. However, 70% of the hearings have been *in camera* at a secret location and much of the documentation has been withheld from the public. Although frustrated by the secrecy, Arar is confident the outcome will exonerate him. The commission's final report is expected soon.

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An Application by
Fortis Pacific Holdings Inc. ("FPHI"), FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC")
and Princeton Light and Power Company, Limited ("PLP")
for Approval
to Transfer PLP Shares and Assets to FortisBC and the Wind Up of PLP

Notice of Written Public Hearing

THE APPLICATION

On August 18, 2006, FortisBC, FPHI and PLP ("the Applicants") applied, pursuant to sections 41, 50, 52, 53 and 54 of the Utilities Commission Act ("Act") and subject to the necessary consent of the Lieutenant Governor in Counsel, for approval of the following ("the Application "):

- The acquisition by FortisBC of a reviewable interest in PLP through the purchase of all the issued and outstanding shares in the capital of PLP (the "PLP Shares") to be effective December 31, 2006;
- The registration on the books of PLP of the transfer of the PLP Shares from FPHI to FortisBC to be effective December 31, 2006;
- The issuance of shares in the capital of FortisBC to FPHI in consideration and for the value of the transfer of all of the PLP Shares to FortisBC to be effective December 31, 2006;
- The transfer of all of the assets of PLP from PLP to FortisBC to be effective January 1, 2007;
- The corporate winding up of PLP to be effective on January 1, 2007;
- The discontinuance of all electricity service operations by PLP effective upon the assumption by FortisBC of such electricity service operations, on January 1, 2007;
- The application of PLP's current Electric Tariff by FortisBC to (i) customers who are PLP customers on December 31, 2006, and (ii) persons who become customers after December 31, 2006 who, but for the transfer of the assets of PLP to FortisBC, would have been customers of PLP, in each case until October 1, 2007; and
- The application of FortisBC's Electric Tariff in effect on October 1, 2007 by FortisBC to (i) customers who are PLP customers on December 31, 2006, and (ii) persons who become customers after December 31, 2006 who, but for the transfer of the assets of PLP to FortisBC, would have been customers of PLP, on October 1, 2007 onward.

The Applicants further request the Commission to submit a report to the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to subsection 53(1)(a)(i) of the Act confirming the Commission's opinion that the above referenced transaction would be beneficial and in the public interest.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission has established the following Regulatory Timetable for a written public hearing process to review this application.

ACTION	DATE (2006)
Registration of Intervenors and Interested Parties with the Commission	Tuesday, September 19
Commission and Intervenor Information Request No. 1	Tuesday, October 3
FortisBC Responses to Information Request No. 1	Tuesday, October 17
Intervenor Written Submissions filed with the Commission and FortisBC	Tuesday, October 24
FortisBC Written Reply to Intervenor Comments	Tuesday, October 31

FortisBC is to provide copies of the Application to all parties wishing to participate in the Written Public Hearing process. Those persons wishing to participate are to advise the Commission Secretary of their intention to do so no later than **Tuesday, September 19, 2006**. Notification by mail, courier delivery, fax or e-mail is acceptable. Intervenors will receive copies of the Applicant and filed documentation and should provide an E-mail address, if available.

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.

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application 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

Princeton Light & Power Company Ltd
Princeton Office, 231 Bridge Street, Princeton BC, V0X 1W0

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.

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary, Mr. Robert Pellatt at Telephone: (604) 660-4700,BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385, Fax: (604) 660-1102, Email: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com or Ms. Fong Kwok, Financial Analyst at Telephone: (604) 660-0718.

Voices from the Valleys

Bears – live and let live or live and let die?

The shooting of five bears in New Denver two weeks ago and Peter Roulston's letter in our last issue have created quite a response. Judging by our *Voices from the Valleys* section this issue, many people are very upset by the killing of bears, and they want to do something about it.

The good news is – our communities are doing something about it. The New Denver/Silverton area GRUBS club has started a Community FruitSmart program and will come and pick your excess fruit. They've just purchased a fruit press with a CBT grant and will juice your fruit for you or lend you the press so you can juice it yourself. Call Donna (358-7222) or Miranda (358-2282) to access the FruitSmart program. Evelyn Kirkaldy spoke to the GRUBS this summer, and New Denver bear biologist Erica Mallam is going to speak to the new Lucerne School grade 5/6 outdoor education class this week. The Valhalla Wilderness Society is initiating a BearSmart program for New Denver as we speak, and is asking the government for a re-location program. Kaslo has already started the process of becoming a BearSmart community, and also already has a group that will come and pick your excess fruit. Bear expert Stephen Herrero is presenting two films about living with bears at the Langham on September 14.

Nobody wants to see bears killed. Not the RCMP, not the Conservation Officers and not even Peter Roulston. We'd all prefer them to stay in the woods, and we'd like them to have lots of food out there. Unfortunately, some years are not good berry years. Yes, we can all learn how to eliminate attractants from our yards, but we must know that we live in bear country. We must be prepared to accept the responsibilities that go along with that.

The policy that Conservation Officers follow is "safety first" – that is, human safety. If bears are repeatedly reported to be aggressive, or to be doing damage to property or pets, COs have to shoot them. In the recent case of New Denver, the COs had had several calls about a sow and two cubs, and a sow and one cub causing concern. Conservation officers for our area (out of Castlegar), Tobe Sprado and Ben Beetlestone, have both told me the policy is not to rush out and kill bears as soon as a call comes in. They like to "give the bears the benefit of the doubt," as Sprado put it.

They've also pointed out to me that relocation is not perfect. I can well imagine that, but I think relocation is better than shooting them. If we want a provincial relocation program, we should write to the Ministry of Environment about it at 401-333 Victoria Street, Nelson, 354-6333.

Jan McMurray, Editor

Book your ads now for our upcoming special editions.

September 27 - Celebrating National Forestry Week
- Promoting National Fire Prevention Week

October 11 - Promoting National Small Business Week
- Promoting Co-op Week and Credit Union Day

The Valley VOICE

Your independently-owned community newspaper since 1993.

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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*.

Thanks to local ambulance crews

The other evening I had occasion to call 911 for an ambulance, which arrived from Slocan City within four minutes!

Then minutes later the Winlaw ambulance arrived and shortly after the New Denver ambulance arrived! Suddenly my home was filled with three crews of the biggest hearted, kindest bunch of professionals I've had the privilege to meet.

Knowing these good people have donated their time and experience to be called out at all times and in all weathers, in service to the community for little or no remuneration is a very humbling feeling.

With the deepest respect, I thank each and every one of them.

Sue Bishop
Slocan

CBT must review original pledge

I feel deeply alarmed by the recent announcement that the CBT Nakusp offices are to be closed, and without legitimate prior consultation with the very community most severely impacted by the historical events which sadly occurred within this region some years ago.

Obviously there is a lack of sensitivity and genuine awareness of what the intended vision of CBT actually is and what the visible presence of the CBT offices represents to this area's population in particular.

Feelings of betrayal and abandonment run deep: CBT - please review your original pledge, part of which led to the decision to create Nakusp as both the headquarters and anchor point as well as anticipated pillar of support for an already deeply wounded society.

Marilyn Boxwell
Nakusp

CBT has lost direction and vision

I want to add my voice to yours at the *Valley Voice* and that of the Mayor of Nakusp in saying that I am very unhappy with CBT and the decision of Neil Muth. He needs to remember the historical significance of an office in Nakusp. People of the Arrow Lakes were the most affected and in many ways still are every year when we see the rise and fall of the lakes. 2500 people were displaced. How can these people be truly represented from distant locales? This board is losing the original vision of why the Trust was set up and closing the Nakusp office is proof of their loss of direction and vision.

Jan Dion
Nakusp

Bears ain't criminals

I want to reply to Peter Roulston's defamatory letter about us in the last edition of the Valley Voice:

Dear Peter: you label us 'criminal intruders'! I have to tell you: we are a fairly well-behaved bunch, all in all. Oh, I know, some of us eat a little too much over-ripe fruit, and go a little crazy. And some of us had unhappy childhoods and sometimes act a little badly. But criminals we ain't!

And saying that us coming into town shows that "the wild bear population is too large!" Well! I see you humans coming out of the village to go hiking, biking and canoeing in our territory. Does that mean your population is too large, human?

I hope you'll find it in your heart to apologize for your hasty words.

Trub. L. Bruin
Goat Mountain

To all the people of New Denver

I am deeply sorry for the other night. I have humiliated my family and myself. No one should ever hear such drunk, belligerent talk. I promise all of you that I will never drink again. I am truly sorry. I did not move here to be trouble or cause anyone harm. I would never harm anyone. Our family has been through difficult times over the past few years. I hope you can find it in your hearts to forgive me.

I would like you to know I have received my driver's license after six years and now things can start getting back to normal for us. We are still desperately in need of a house to rent, lease or purchase. Anyone who may be able to help please don't hesitate to call Josh or Nina at 358-7296. I am also looking for steady part-time work around the area.

Joshua
New Denver

Open letter to Neil Muth, CEO of CBT

I am writing to let you know that I am very much against the closure of the CBT office in Nakusp. It is patently unfair that areas such as Golden, which were at most peripherally affected by the damming of the Columbia River, receive disproportionate benefits from the CBT while Nakusp and the Arrow Lakes get to enjoy a half-decent lake three months of the year, at best, and a useless sand pit, which was once the site of thriving farms and communities, for the remaining nine months of the year.

While it no doubt makes sense from a business point of view to consolidate the offices, consolidating them in Nakusp is a much fairer solution than consolidating them elsewhere, especially since none of the other communities retaining offices are especially convenient to get to. The only one with an airport, as far as I know, is Castlegar, and we all know how reliable the Castlegar airport is.

Susan DeSandoli
Nakusp

Time to re-think lodge and resort strategy

I have just read Dan Nicholson's editorial, "Re-think Lodge and Resort Strategy" and Richard Caniell's letter to the Editor, "Sacrificing parks to seniors" in the August 30, 2006 issue of the *Valley Voice*. My response is one word – "Amen."

Like Mr. Caniell, I, too, am a senior that is over the hill a few times. I may not be able to backpack into parks anymore, but my concern is not for myself. Rather it is for future generations and their ability to experience the joy I have had exploring our glorious back-country parks, the same parks our government is bent on promoting ways to destroy. Can delicate alpine ecosystems providing habitat for diverse species survive "high-end lodging for rich people?"

A couple of weeks ago a local friend took some visitors from Vancouver area into Valhalla Park for a day of hiking and climbing. As they were driving out of the area, a grizzly walked across the road in front of their vehicle. Needless to say, this sighting made their day, all aches and pains forgotten. If we allow fancy lodges in our parks, will anyone in a future generation have this kind of experience?

Like Mr. Nicholson says, it's time to re-think lodge and resort strategy.

Shirl Bayer
Passmore

Outraged by bear killings

I was outraged when I read that five bears including cubs were killed recently in New Denver. They are hungry and want food and to be left alone. I don't think they have been a threat to anyone. Of course sleeping in a tent and having a bear sitting in front of it is a little disconcerting I must say. But you can't blame a mother bear for waiting for her cub, which apparently had been chased up a tree by a dog. Just respect the bears and pick your fruit if you don't want them in your yard and don't leave any garbage out overnight. Simple!

We are going to have bears. There are just too many fruit trees everywhere and we can't keep killing them for wanting to eat. Shooting them is barbaric and a sad statement for our society. There has to be another solution!

I recently met a German couple in Rosebery who had seen three bears and

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

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 5

were thrilled. They considered themselves very lucky to have seen them on their first trip to Canada. Bears are a tourist attraction, no doubt.

I hope ways can be found to deal with them without killing them. What about relocation well away from any village? Or is there no money for that?

Julie Betschen
New Denver

Looking forward to reversal of CBT decision

It is very difficult to find words strong enough and yet at the same time to remain polite and respectful, in order to express my dismay at the outrageously bad decision of the Columbia Basin Trust to close its Nakusp office. In a few short years Nakusp has gone from being the Head Office of the Trust to a branch office to the prospect of not having an office. This represents downsizing par excellence, decapitation and emasculation, and can only be deplored by any reasonable person. The CEO, Neil Muth, is quoted in at least two weekly newspapers to have said that the decision to close the office was not financial. That leaves a choice of two reasons for the closure: economic or political. The first of these two is closely tied to financial, which Mr. Muth is said to have denied. There remains 'political' as a reason and 'political' can often be a synonym for a number of words: ill-advised comes to mind, stupid is one that many Canadians and others the world over think of when the word political is used and there are many others less polite.

We all look forward to a reversal of this inane decision and I think I can speak for all in the Nakusp area, when I say, "We promise not to say - I TOLD YOU SO."

John Perkins
Nakusp

We encroach on bears, not the other way around

Well, Mr. Roulston, I didn't realize we had another bear expert resident among us. Can you enlighten us as to your naturalistic expertise; perhaps some bear studies you've had published? You don't think for one minute that perhaps the "dry weather and few berry crops" to quote you, might not have a bearing (excuse the pun) on the sightings in New Denver?

You write as if there is a bear pandemic, and that our lives are under threat from these "brutes," to quote you again. I know – let's start up a bear watch neighbourhood – we can have regular bear dropping patrols, with trained sniffer dogs, an electrified fence surrounding the town. Or, we could use plain old common sense and try to discourage visitations by removing those gourmet temptations, such as unharvested fruit, 'ripe' composts, a smorgasbord of campers' unattended cuisine to name a few.

You know the last time I checked, I was living in a small rural community, right in the midst of wilderness, the last place I'd expect to run across wildlife. How dare they encroach on my way of living? What's the neighbourhood coming to? Ah! I've just had an epiphany of sorts, perhaps we are encroaching on 'them' – do ya think?!

Perhaps Mr. Roulston when you "Get outta Town" next, that you might reflect on your statement, "we live here and they should live well out there." Might I suggest you follow your own advice then. It wouldn't surprise me that Mr. Bruin finds your droppings and damage intolerable!

Joe Matthews
Silverton

Bears need respect

I was astounded by the letter from Peter Roulston of New Denver regarding bears in his area. One of the reasons we love this area is that there is still room enough for wildlife. Many countries have either completely or nearly killed all their wild populations, including bears.

It can be difficult living with wildlife – wild animals can be destructive and they cause fear. And it takes effort as well as understanding and sensitivity to live in co-operation with our wild neighbours. Bears that are not habituated to human food are very little threat to us. They will usually avoid people. Many years ago I did an Outward Bound trek north of Whistler up into the mountains. We tied our food up in the trees away from our tent area when we went to sleep each night. One morning we found marks around the tent area indicating that a large grizzly had been digging for moles. None of us heard him or saw him and he went on his way.

Some years there may be less natural food for the bears and they will try to find food where they can – and we have to make sure that we are not inadvertently luring bears into human areas by leaving pet food, fruit and garbage around. Bears are intelligent and remember a ready source of food. Control efforts are necessary in cases of bears that have become nuisances. However, problem bears are created and people have an active role in that. We need to know what to do and what not to do in order to decrease the numbers of nuisance bears. We need to take responsibility for our part in the creation of nuisance bears.

Bears are often feared – but the best response is respect.

Karen Lee
Crescent Valley

Shocked at possible closure of Nakusp CBT office

Eight years ago we moved to Nakusp, and slowly began to get to know a community which was broken and fractured by the creation of a reservoir. There were 2500 people displaced, businesses ruined, farms broken up with little or no acceptable compensation or alternative offered. The CBT was established specifically in Nakusp as a focal point to address these and other concerns, and many of these issues are still current.

Furthermore, the longer we live here, the more we understand the deep-seated problems involved with arbitrarily turning a river climate into a lake climate. Our water levels are not controlled by our community's needs or desires. Important fish habitat is yearly taken for granted as the water levels fall in order to feed golf courses south of the border instead of keeping our fish populations healthy at spawning time.

In 1999, the year we moved to Nakusp, the radio was full of the conference concerning the Columbia Basin. It was interesting and horrifying to listen to the attitude that this water is not ours. If we lose the office in Nakusp, there will no longer be a representative voice centred in this community to deal with these ongoing challenges to the residents of this valley.

Water is an issue of increasing concern in global politics and can no longer be taken for granted as an expendable resource, nor can its sole management now be given away to absentee governmental agencies which are unaware of the impact involved in their decisions.

We are shocked that the closure of the CBT office in Nakusp could even be considered, let alone implemented without due democratic process. There has been no open dialogue whatsoever at the local level concerning this closure.

Stancia De Blasi and Paul Ponich
Nakusp

Bring our boys home to New Denver

re: Peter Roulston's letter, "Don't accommodate the bears"

Opinion polls indicate that most Canadians do not support our military role in Afghanistan. I suggest that we send them to New Denver to assist Mr. Roulston in his campaign against bears. The military have far superior firepower than our conservation officers and their armoured personnel carriers and body armour will protect them against their ursine insurgents.

Following Mr. Roulston's idea I suggest a bear-free zone in and around New Denver and any of the furry enemy breaching this security zone will be dispatched. Some have suggested a 'scorch and burn' policy wherein New Denver is razed to the ground, allowing these marauding brutes no food or shelter. There does, however, seem to be some local resistance to this idea, regardless of its immediate practicality.

There will, of course, be some damage from 'friendly fire' as the mortar shells and tank fire may extend beyond the immediate target. To minimize this I recommend the use of side-arms only in the vicinity of day-care centres, elementary schools, and seniors' facilities. Special care must be taken to minimize tourist casualties.

Compromise in civil liberties will be the fallout from greater freedom from these marauding brutes. Anyone looking like a bear (hairy men, children in bulky outfits, large adults accompanying two small children) may be stopped and held for questioning for as long as it takes to determine species identity. It may be necessary to re-open the Nikkei Internment Centre for this purpose.

Of course, no military plan can be successful without an element of surprise in its execution. I know you are thinking the same thing I am. Yes! The Burton tunnel. Rapidly deploying troops through this well-kept military secret will allow the liberating forces to outflank these fundamentalist fruit fanatics.

With the hamlet of New Denver thus pacified and bear-free, the fair maidens, town fathers and Mr. Roulston may resume their evening perambulations with only a small occupying force necessary to maintain civil order.

Jim Prentice
Edgewood

Thanks for septic ads

I think we can all commend the folks at Valhalla Pure in New Denver for reminding us of the significance of our residential and commercial septic disposal systems. Those ads cost considerable money and were well composed. With plenty of new residents and seasonal visitors, there's need to identify some of the easy and common sense habits we can develop to reduce septic tank and field problems.

Look back at the ad and save it to refer to again. There's good info in it that many of us know but may not always use. Besides being smart with how we employ village water resources, it pays to optimize the effective disposal of waste water back into the environment.

One further step that I take in my home is to flush absolutely no paper products down and instead I put all waste paper into a small airtight waste pail with a liner bag that I simply chuck out with the trash each week. It's a minor matter, not really that gross, and ensures that the septic tank needs only digest and break down simple wastes. This idea comes from a trip I took to Costa Rica, where overloaded seaside resorts just can't cope with a lot of zealous and reckless flushing.

Septic tanks and their attendant drainage fields can be regarded as an underground anerobic compost heap that works okay if not unbalanced or overloaded. The annual cost to each property is low compared to the massive cost and great disruption of installing sanitary sewers all over town. It would be awful to dig up all these nice newly paved streets of New Denver to lay in lines simply because people didn't dispose sensibly.

The deltas along Slocan Lake are very conducive to positive perk tests and are able to endure the waste output of our small settlements, but for the sake of the aquifer and to keep municipal costs within reason, I think we can all take a message from those well-worded and timely placed ads, courtesy of the Valhalla Pure folks.

Peter Roulston
New Denver

Let's make sure there's food for bears

Bears need food on a steady basis in order to fatten up for hibernation. Usually there is an abundance of berries and other foods like roots and even small prey who also feed on berries and seeds. This year, however, we have been experiencing a drought. Add to that the growing impact of the commercial huckleberry industry and we have a situation where the bears can get quite desperate for high calorie sweet fattening foods. The orchard in New Denver and the tasty odours of the camping area can be overwhelming for a hungry bear.

One way of reducing the number of bears coming into town is to ensure that their sources of wild foods are abundant. This is habitat enhancement. If the berry crop is treated like an agricultural crop and is watered and mulched to slow the loss of moisture from the soil, this would not only benefit the wildlife who depend upon this food source, but it would also benefit the commercial huckleberry pickers. I was shocked to learn that pickers will completely clean out a stand of berries and leave nothing for the other creatures who need this food. It seems fundamentally wrong for us to take food from wildlife and then kill that same wildlife when it is forced to risk human contact in order to get the food it needs to survive.

We used to have the dump, and that helped to keep many of the bears out of town. Bears will go wherever there is food. They are really quite easy to control. I for one would not be averse to the idea of dumping excess fruit at some carefully selected location(s) in order to keep bears out of town. I'm also not averse to serious habitat enhancement to assure that there are ALWAYS abundant sources of food for our local bears. It is possible to build the discipline into the environment, so that we are controlling the bears without them ever knowing that we are involved. So, contrary to the accepted rule, I believe that we should feed the bears, but the bears should never know we are doing it.

John White
New Denver

Nakusp is and should remain heart of CBT

Nakusp is about to lose its Columbia Basin Trust office. The CBT, with its seemingly infinite lack of wisdom, calls this consolidation. Nakusp hasn't been hooped, they've been consolidated.

The CBT must suffer from institutional amnesia. I know we're not supposed to bring up the matter of which areas of the Columbia Basin suffered the most from the effects of the Columbia River Treaty, but has the CBT forgotten that Nakusp is the centre of the effects of the CRT? The Arrow Lakes are the wound, still healing but heavy with scar tissue. If you removed the Arrow Lakes situation from the Columbia River Treaty, if you removed the Keenleyside dam and the expropriation of private property at unfair values from the equation, if such a thing were possible, it's quite likely that the Columbia Basin Trust would never have been created. That's how central Nakusp was to the image of a region that had been royally treatied. You'd think the board and staff of the Columbia Basin Trust would know this and would respect Nakusp's quintessential role. This is the reason the Columbia Basin Trust first set up shop in Nakusp.

The Columbia Basin Trust has apparently forgotten its roots, its reason for being, and seems more concerned with meeting the approval of its accountants. It needs to remember that accountants didn't establish the CBT. The CBT is not about empire building and it shouldn't be about furthering a certain politician's ambitions.

Of course it should be efficient and it shouldn't be wasteful. This is why the head office of the CBT should have remained in Nakusp, in the building they built for that purpose in the beginning. Leased premises in Castlegar, Cranbrook and Golden would have accommodated the necessary outreach in those communities.

Nakusp isn't in the centre of the Columbia Basin but it is and should remain the centre and the heart of the Columbia Basin Trust. It may be inconvenient for board members to gather there and for government officials and other power brokers to visit there but the people of the Arrow Lakes suffered more than a little inconvenience 40-some years ago, too, and maybe that's something the board members and the government officials and the CEO would do well to remember. It's something they should never forget.

Not only should the Nakusp office remain open, it should be restored to its position as the head office of the CBT.

Jeff George
Union Bay and New Denver

Voices from the Valleys

Live and let live

In Peter Roulston's letter, "Don't accommodate bears," he feels intruded upon by bears, claiming "we are here now," and he doesn't believe anything is needed that endeavours to understand and treat the bears' plight. He expresses his aggravation that bear extermination is somehow considered "not correct." He exaggeratedly posits that compassion and concerns to relocate bears as letting them "have their way." He urges us to be "less noble and more realistic." He sees it as keeping "our town free of criminal intruders and bears are no different."

Would Mr. Roulston understand it then if bears came and wiped him out when he intruded in their territory, like when he and bicyclists travel the Galena trail or the Carpenter Creek trail? Such an intrusion should not be tolerated by the bears, if one follows Mr. Roulston's thinking. Mr. Roulston can't comprehend why we might want to offer what he calls "these brutes" any understanding. Is this the man whose articles urge us to go out into nature? Is nature only bicycle paths and canoe trips? Does it not include the trees, plants and animal life which conjunctively makes its life out there?

Fortunately, many villagers were very pained, even outraged, that two mother bears and three cubs had to be shot. One bear which I watched was seen in the village for a number of days and was watched by many persons. She avoided people and did no damage until she arrived at the orchard which has many tourists. She was just seeking to provide food for herself and her family.

It figures then that one of the bears, after being in the village so long, would work her way to the tourist part of the orchard and a dangerous situation ensued. The bear refused to leave her cubs after they were treed by a tourist's dog and so the bear and her cubs were killed. But it didn't have to happen that way had there been early and appropriate intervention.

Unfortunately, the conservation officer no longer brings traps to catch and remove the bears 30 to 50 kilometres into the bush, they will only come to shoot the bear. This is the official policy after the government cut all funding for any other approach.

I think it's more desirable to live and let live, taking precautions and finding ways that leave room for life different than ours to live out its span. Hopefully, some programs for bear removal and not extermination will be undertaken before next August by concerned citizens. I understand something like this may be underway.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Kaslo & District Community

Forest Society AGM

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2006
Location: JV Humphries School
Time: 7 pm

All members are invited to attend. Memberships will be available at the door from 5 pm onward. Please come early to avoid congestion and ensure you can be in the room when the meeting starts.

Please note that all memberships expire at midnight of the AGM regardless of when they were purchased. Memberships for next year will be available following the meeting.

Agenda

Call to Order, *7 pm sharp*
Election of Board Members
(until meeting is adjourned)
Minutes of Last AGM
Financial Report
Director's Report

No member resolutions were received by the posted deadline; therefore no resolutions will be debated or decided.

Election of directors will be by secret ballot. There are four (4) vacancies to be filled. Nominations will be accepted until the end of the business day (4 pm) on Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

For further information you may call the office on Wednesday during office hours, visit our website or speak with any of the directors.

If you are interested in community forestry please plan to attend.

All candidates meeting:
September 20, 7 pm
JV Humphries School, Kaslo

The Society needs volunteers to help with the AGM.
If you'd like to help please call Donna Cormie @ 353-9638

Kaslo & District Community Forest Society
Box 1360, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0
(p) 353-9677 (f) 353-9678 (e) kcfs@netidea.com
www.kaslocommunityforest.org
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9 - 4
Provincial Government Building, Kaslo, 2nd floor

Open letter to CBT board and staff

Last Saturday my partner and I drove to Armstrong to see the Caravan Farm play. "Let's stop in Nakusp on the way," we thought. "Nakusp's great. Let's walk along the waterfront."

We did that – we walked and talked and thought about how good Nakusp looks, the change in the last decade or so. How vibrant it seems, how a healthy economy and smart willing people can do so much to change a town. We saw the work on the seniors' project. We stopped at the outdoor market and spent money. We remembered the trips to Nakusp for writers' events, and how we made a weekend of it and have come to know people who've lived there forever and those who want to make it their new home.

Coming home after the weekend, I heard Nakusp's mayor on the radio saying the CBT was pulling out. What? The loss of three good wages can hurt a small town, she said. And for what reason? And for whose benefit? Then I heard Gary Wright saying the Regional District hopes the CBT will reconsider. And I agree with them.

I just called and left a message on Neil Muth's phone. I am furious and so are others. This Trust is not (or shouldn't be) like the corporate model that drives the engine that's ripping apart so much of the rest of the world. I know you're all hard working and want to make us some money. Fair enough. I appreciate that. But centralizing, removing employees from a town that suffered enough from the dams in the first place, is not the answer I support. This Trust is about us, our values, and about how we care for each other.

Many of us have been around long enough to remember the booms and busts in our regional economy. When the mills closed in Nelson, and the university. When the mills closed and centralized away from the Kootenays. When schools and seniors' homes closed, and Forestry moved, and government centralized everything away. When we had to beg – cap in hand – or protest uselessly in front of the Legislature, to bring back some jobs.

Now we have the Trust. Through it, we are realizing more stability, we are rebuilding our towns and cultures. You can see it everywhere in the region. In our environment, in our arts, in our industry. In young people wanting to stay and build their lives here rather than moving away to the city. The work and benefits of the Trust need to stay spread around. It needs to be ours in different centres. It's like the post offices: we see them and they symbolize universal access and a sense of a community larger than ourselves. The Trust needs to maintain its office in Nakusp. It needs to maintain all its smaller offices.

I bet sometimes you get tired of hearing from us – when we get ticked about a decision. If we didn't care, if we didn't think this Trust is ours, if we didn't respect you folks who do so much hard work, then we wouldn't give a rip. But we do care. We care about what happens in all our towns and rural areas. We're not the customers in a business model and you, I bet, don't want to be corporate executives. (Well, maybe some of you might...) We're citizens and you're our representatives.

So please, like smart representatives do, when you've made a mistake, or are about to, and the citizens respond, then take a deep breath and reconsider. And just quit messing with Nakusp, please.

Rita Moir
Citizen of the Columbia Basin

Open Letter to Alex Atamanenko, MP

I am most grateful for your swift attention to my problem regarding my application for employment insurance benefits. I am pleased to report that I am now receiving benefit cheques, at least for 16 weeks by which time I am hopeful that I will be re-employed.

I should mention that when I first called the Canada Services 1-800 number at the beginning of July to ask if I qualified, I did mention that I was under the impression that in some circumstances they could go back two years instead of just one. I was told, "No. You must have 910 hours in the last 52 weeks in your 'high' employment area in order to qualify," end of story. The woman I spoke to was dismissive and eager to be off the phone, leaving me to wonder if she just didn't want to bother giving me correct information, or just not all of it. As it turns out, 910 hours are required for workers filing a first claim but only 665 hours are required for those of us who are 'attached' to the workforce as I have been.

This morning I phoned the number provided on my EI cheque stub to inquire as to why I have only be given 16 benefit weeks. I must say, once the person I was speaking to had my file in hand she was very polite – thanks Alex. She took her time to carefully explain that although in cases like mine, they will go back two years for the total number of hours to qualify for benefit payments, the number of benefit weeks is determined by the number of hours worked in the last 52 weeks. If I had 770 hours, I would have qualified for 17 weeks. The number of weeks increases incrementally with the number of hours until 910 hours when presumably one would reach the number required for a full claim.

What seems sad to me is the number of people who have called me, written me and stopped me on the street with their own stories of being summarily turned down when they applied for EI benefits. How many workers with legitimate claims, when told they don't qualify, just give up?

The Canada Services website can be difficult to navigate for those who do not have computer experience and not all the requisite information is easily available anyway.

Access to the employment insurance program is neither friendly nor helpful. Applicants are expected to make their application on line. Walk into an HRSDC employment office to make a claim and you will discover that there is usually only one person behind the counter who will inform you that you can apply on line and if you don't have a computer at home, you will be directed to a bank of computers and told to follow the instructions as they appear on the screen, certainly a daunting task for someone who has never used a computer.

Most importantly, we need to keep the money that is collected from our pay cheques in the employment insurance program and not allow it to go into 'general revenue' to be squandered away on misadventures in foreign lands.

At a time when we are looking abroad for skilled workers, we need that money to retrain workers here that have been displaced through downsizing and outsourcing and we need to train more of our young women and men in the skilled trades. Although there are some existing programs, few people are aware of them as the government clearly doesn't advertise them or make them easily accessible. Let's keep the money where it belongs… to benefit the folks who have worked hard to put it there.

Thanks again Alex. You've got my support and my vote next time around too.

P. Emily Youngreen
Kaslo

BC becoming bear killing capital of North America

Last week five black bears, including three cubs, were shot in one day in New Denver. Over the past week, bears have also been shot by Conservation Officers in Silverton, Rosebery and other areas. Recently in the Valley Voice, the RCMP report told the public to call the Conservation officer or RCMP if a bear becomes a problem. But the public needs to know – if you call the Conservation Officer to deal with a black bear, it may well be shot. In fact, don't believe that when a bear trap is set up in the villages, a bear is saved. Even these bears are hauled away and shot.

I was born in New Denver and have lived here all my life. Historically, until the last 10 or 15 years, the village had a huge open dump just above the town. At times, we had 17 bears at the dump, with many roaming our streets. The village had its own bear trap and hauled the bears away to areas of good feeding. In the majority of cases the bears did not return. If a bear came back to the community three times, it was then shot. The community had no bear incidents that I know of for many years, and residents never, that I know of, demanded that bears be shot.

The removal of the dump greatly reduced the number of bears coming into town. But then there are abundant fruit trees, especially in the Orchard. The government's own roadside containers in the pullout across the highway from the Orchard are often overflowing with garbage. Leaving the garbage overnight is a big problem.

The real change in bear management is that the Liberals slashed the environment budget and laid off most of the Conservation Officers. Cutbacks now leave this region from Rossland to Nakusp with not enough officers to cover many hundreds of miles and many towns. The cutbacks mean the policy for rural BC is to shoot every black bear that their Conservation Officers have to deal with. When a mother and her cubs are killed, we are allowing two generations of bears to be shot.

But this is not happening everywhere. On the North Shore last year, 50 bears were hauled away and relocated; 10 were shot. A similar program is also in place in Whistler. Although both these communities have initiated the Bear Smart Program, they are not yet certified 'Bear Smart.' New Denver and Silverton and our communities should not be treated any differently than the North Shore.

Valhalla Wilderness Society has applied to have the Bear Smart program in place for next year, but in the meantime, we have asked the government for a short-term emergency response that would allow the bears, when they are first in the community, to be trapped and hauled away. If the government won't pay for the program, I know experienced biologists and local drivers who could haul the bears to suitable backcountry areas.

We are waiting for a response from the government on the solution we have proposed – to stop this shameful policy of killing bears and implement a re-location program until we can achieve Bear Smart status.

Colleen McCrory
Executive Director
Valhalla Wilderness Society

Local cellist returns from Germany for concert series

submitted

Theresa Sumpantarat, accomplished cellist, will perform a series of concerts in the region as a fundraiser for the Valhalla Summer School of Music. Don't miss her – Sunday, September 24 at 3 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Born in Bangkok, Theresa Sumpantarat began cello lessons with John Wells after moving to Kelowna at the age of 9. While living in the Kootenays she was a student of Wendy Herbison and Heather Huether. Theresa attended the Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM) several times. Most recently she was an assistant with the cello faculty at VSSM.

As a teenager she performed for many audiences including dignitaries such as Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Premier Glen Clark, Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc and Lieutenant-Governor Garde Gardom. Two of her teen years were spent at the Royal Conservatory of Toronto's Young Artists Performance Academy where she studied with Roman Borys (of the Gryphon Trio) and Simon Fryer (of the Penderecki String Quartet).

Following the 2001-2002 season with the Okanagan Symphony, Theresa pursued further studies in Germany. She was accepted into the prestigious Hanns Eisler Music Academy of Berlin where she is a student of Stephan Forck of the Vogler Quartet.

Theresa plays with a "gorgeous, warm and sensitive tone." Adjudicators and instructors recognize her passion and potential as a soloist and chamber musician.

Her love of chamber music has enabled her to perform extensively in Berlin, and recently in Austria, Hungary, Serbia, Italy and southern Germany. Theresa and her mother, Sandra Fletcher, have performed many concerts throughout BC, as well as in Thailand.

Sandra performed and taught music in Thailand for 10 years. She now teaches at her studio in Kelowna, is a faculty member of the Vernon Community Music School and the Valhalla Summer School of Music, and is the organist at First United Church in Kelowna. She performs frequently with the Canto del Viento trio, and other local musicians.

The program for these concerts include repertoire by Grieg, Haydn and Davidov.

Cellist Theresa Sumpantarat will perform at the Silverton Memorial Hall, September 24.

PHOTO CREDIT: JESSICA LUNN

The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society celebrated ten years of service on August 20. Close to 50 people gathered at the Lindsay residence for a celebration of volunteer work which has contributed to the growth of Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Many hours have been spent clearing culverts, brushing, track-setting for cross country skiing, developing trailheads, serving on the board, raking rocks, organizing special events, beautifying outhouses, grant writing, fundraising and much more. Enjoy the new historical information at the trailheads. For more information call Rory Lindsay at 250-355-2397.

Join the band

The Slocan Valley Community Band starts its 23rd season at 7 pm, Wednesday, October 4 at the WE Graham Band room in Slocan. Thanks to a $500 grant from the Slocan Valley Arts Council, $500 from BC Hydro and $3,000 from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, the band has a tuba. Bob Old is delighted!

The band is recruiting new members and invites all to drop in and try it out. For further information, call Jill Faulks at 358-2463, Gail Elder at 355-2459 or Ken McDougall at 226-7284.

Tea in the Hidden Garden

The Hidden Garden Gallery is holding an afternoon tea Sunday, September 17 from 2 – 4 pm in the gallery. Organizers say, "This is our way of thanking our Best Friends, well wishers and all community members who supported us during another successful run of art, music and culture."

Entertainment will be provided by the Suzuki violin students of Daphne Hughes. All welcome for a cuppa!

Watch for more presentations in our *Food for Thought* series during September and October.

MORE CLEARANCE SPECIALS

1) NATURAL SLATE
12 x 12 Reg. $4.99 ea. **Sale $3.99 ea.**

2) CERAMIC TILE
Rungo Light 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 Reg. $1.79 ea. **Sale $1.49 ea.**

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THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The following property will be offered for sale at a TAX SALE to be held in the Village Office in the Village of Slocan on Monday, September 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., subject to prior payment of delinquent taxes.

ROLL NO.	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	STREET ADDRESS
94000	Lots 11-12 Block 12 D.L.292, Plan 496	517 Arthur Street
201100	Pcl A & Pcl B Block 31 D.L. 292, Plan 496	912 Slocan St.
222800	Pcl C Block 46 D.L. 292, Plan 496	1101 Nelson St.

Conditions of Sale – by cash or certified cheque only on the day and time of Tax Sale. Purchasers will also be subject to B.C. Property Purchase Tax based on fair market value. For further information, please contact the Collector, Village of Slocan. 355-2277

Electoral Area H – The Slocan Valley
Land Use Planning Public Meetings

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has initiated an Official Community Plan process beginning in the fall of 2006 for Electoral Area H – The Slocan Valley. A series of four public meetings will be held to help develop a Vision for future development within the planning area. All residents and property owners are invited to attend and provide input to the Community Planning Process. Further information can be obtained at the RDCK website: www.rdck.bc.ca

OPEN HOUSE: 6:30 PM.
MEETING: 7:00 P.M.
Dates and Locations as follows:

Date	Location
October 10, 2006	Knox Hall 521 – 6th Avenue, New Denver
October 12, 2006	Winlaw Community Hall 5897 Hwy 6 (North of Fire Hall)
October 17, 2006	Slocan Park Community Hall 3036 Highway 6
October 19, 2006	Mt. Sentinel Secondary School Drama Room (#108) 1014 Playmor Road

All residents and property owners are invited to attend.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

David Wahn, M.C.I.P.
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
phone: 250-352-8165 or 1-800-268-7325
fax: 250-352-9300 email: dwahn@rdck.bc.ca

Don Munro, RDCK Director, Area H – The Slocan Valley
Phone: 250-226-7090 Fax: 250-226-7076

Four local young women experience the trip of a lifetime

Four young women from Nakusp and Kaslo were chosen to be on a Canadian female hockey team and travel to Japan last spring. Here is an account of the trip by Desirae Sinclair of Nakusp.

Wow, I never thought that I would get the opportunity to go on a trip of a lifetime for the sport that I love. On April 23, our trip began in the Vancouver airport.

On the 10-hour plane ride I spent most of my time meeting my new teammates. At 2:35 Japan time we finally reached the outskirts of Tokyo, and all we could see were miles and miles of rice fields. When we got off the plane there was barely any noise. This is one of the many differences between Japanese and Canadian cultures.

When we left the airport we had to take a two-hour bus ride to the Olympic Youth Centre. The scenery was amazing; I was privileged to see the beauty of the cherry blossoms.

On the 24th we met Kiako, Yoshi and Manomi, who were our translators and aides during our trip. We went to the Prince Shinagawa Hotel. While there we went to the aquarium, and the hotel also gave our whole hockey team free rides on the roller coaster and the pirate ship. Later that day we went to the Canadian embassy, where we were treated like royalty. During the banquet we met many important people of Tokyo and some of the girls that we would be playing later on.

The next morning we got up at 6:30, which happened most mornings throughout the trip. Our day started with a light breakfast and an hour-long walk to the subway station for a trip to Disneyland. We made most of our memories when we were trying on ridiculous hats and on Splash Mountain. It was remarkable how clean the park was and how clean Japan was – I rarely ever saw garbage in the streets.

On the 26th we boarded a bus that would take us to Okaya city. Travelling through the countryside of Japan was something I will never forget; it was so beautiful. When we reached Okaya we went straight to the arena where we had our first practice as a team.

The next day we were taken to one of the four most famous shrines in Japan called the Suwa Shrine. Before entering we had to pour cold water over our hands to clean any previous sins. Our guides showed us a bowing ritual that had to be done before praying. After leaving the Suwa Shrine we were taken to Okaya City Hall. When we walked into the building there were many people applauding and cheering. Later on we found out that the photographers were from the newspaper and we were on the front page. Later that day we had another banquet. Every time we entered a room we were greeted with open arms. At the banquet we got to go on stage and play taiko drums, which is a very popular Japanese instrument.

On the 28th we played two hockey games in the Okaya Ice Sports Festival. In the first game we played the Elks and won 5-2. In the second game we played the Polar Monkeys and we won 7-0. I was awarded with the game MVP. The Japanese play with speed and agility, and there is rarely any body contact, which I am not used to at all. The next day we had our final game, where we played the Fairies. The Mayor of Okaya city came into the dressing room and greeted us before settling in to watch the game. We won the game 5-3 and we were awarded with the first place trophy. Casey Jones from Kaslo was also awarded with best defensive player of the tournament.

On the 30th we ventured to Japan's most famous silk factory. We got to dye and dry our own silk, see the silk weavers working on their machines and then try it ourselves.

The next day we were split into two groups. One group went to a local high school and my group went to a junior high school. Visiting the school was one of the most memorable events of the trip. While we were at the school we had to wear slippers, and all the students wore the same shoes depending on what grade they were in. The students were really interested in group activities, so we took part in a huge jump rope game. Then I went to a grade 1 class, but in Canada they would be in grade 7. In Japan every time you enter a higher graded school you start back at grade 1. The class showed me how to make origami; I got a chance to try kendo fighting and many other traditional Japanese games. At the end of the school day we had to wear a traditional scarf and be silent as we cleaned the school, which the students do every day.

After we left the school our host families took us to their houses. During my stay with my host family we went to the Matsumoto Castle, and they showed me around parts of the city. When we turned on the television I noticed that we were on TV from when we were at the school – it was so weird. The family made a traditional meal; I had fish eggs and plenty of raw fish. The meal was so delicious, but I don't think that I would have fish eggs again.

On May 3 we were back in Tokyo to play an exhibition game against the Kokudo ladies, one of the best ladies' teams in Japan. We lost the game 2-0 but it could have gone either way. At the end of the game I was presented with the game MVP. After the game we had lunch with the other team and played a little soccer with them on the sidewalk. We then went to a street mall to do some shopping. At the entrance we saw two boys dressed in hot pink dresses and covered with beads, which shows that anything goes in Japan when it comes to fashion.

The next day we went out for lunch at a restaurant where you prepare your own food. Rory had some pig intestines and we shared a side of liver. We named the restaurant the 'Old Donk a Donk.' We then went to the Venus mall. In the middle of the mall there was a huge fountain and the ceiling was painted like a sky, which was mobile. Traditionally this was a women's only mall but over the past few years they have allowed men in their stores.

On May 5 we left Japan to make our way back to Canada. The day was spent making a few last memories and was full of many long goodbyes. I was very sad to leave but I was excited to talk to my family and friends once again.

I would like to thank everybody that helped make this trip possible. I have made so many memories and have uncovered many tools that will help me in my future endeavors. Arigato!

Casey Jones (Kaslo), Desirae Sinclair (Nakusp), Rory Case (Nakusp) and Sam Tyers (Kaslo) hold the trophy the Canadian team won in the Okaya Ice Sports Festival on their amazing trip to Japan last spring.

Slocan council holds special meeting on August 29

by Don Currie

•A bylaw to establish a board of variance was given final reading and adoption.

•The Village will contribute $2,200 to the Slocan Valley Community Forest Initiative.

•To complete an approach to the breakwater at the new boat ramp, council approved an additional allotment not to exceed $2,550.

•Council directed staff to draft a loan bylaw authorizing the Village to borrow money. This is not because the Village wants to borrow money at the moment, but rather because the bylaw is a legal requirement. It will go through the normal bylaw approval process.

•Council directed staff to proceed with drafting a Municipal Ticketing bylaw. Staff will identify which bylaws require fines for enforcement and which ones do not.

•Mayor Van Bynen reported that he had met and toured an acupuncturist through the new Wellness Centre. He said they reached agreement that the facility would be used by the practitioner and a certified massage therapist at the rate of $40 per day each, on a trial basis. Council also discussed approaching IHA for computers, examination tables, beds and desks to fully equip the new facility.

•Council agreed to participate in a discussion with the RCMP to determine community concerns about policing.

•Council passed a resolution to meet with a resident of Main Street to demand he comply with a Stop Work Order on the construction of a garage that was proceeding without a valid permit. If there is compliance, council will not proceed with the Senior Building Inspector's recommendation to file a Notice at the Land Title Office in Kamloops.

•Council also dealt with a complaint from Springer Creek campground contractors that unauthorized camping was occurring at the ball park. Apparently, campers had been advised that they could camp free on the Village property. Council agreed that no camping was permitted on Village property other than the campground.

CORRECTION

In the Slocan council report published in our August 30 issue, we reported that council authorized the mayor to negotiate a fee for the use of the Women's Institute Hall by an acupuncturist. In fact, it was not the Women's Institute Hall, but rather the Wellness Centre.

The Valhalla Summer School of Music presents

Theresa Sumpantarat (cello) • Sandra Fletcher (piano)
in Concert at
Sunday, September 24 Silverton
Memorial Hall, Silverton, BC • 3:00 pm
for more information, see the article on page 7 or call Heather Huether 358-2261

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NEW BEGINNER CLASS STARTING
- **Thursday September 14th, 2006**
- Running every Tuesday & Thursday 6:30–7:30pm
- Nakusp Elementary School Gym
- $20 to Join - Membership $180 year-15/Month

Please call ***Mary 265-9986*** *for more information*

Fall Recreation programs for the Slocan Valley offer eclectic mix

Slocan Valley Recreation is offering an eclectic mix of programs this fall. From Mooncakes to Two-Step, there'll be something for everyone.

Some of the programs include: Gem Fields of the Slocan Valley on September 23; Gathered Wild Things with Jan Norn on September 17; CORE Hunter training September 23 & 24; Fall Mushroom Hike Saturday, September 30; and the Streamkeepers tour of the Slocan River on October 14 .

On Sunday, October 8, why not check out the Chinese Mooncake Festival at Perrys Siding. The annual Slocan Valley Scarecrow Festival runs from October 13 – 23.

If you're into music, Bo Conlan will be hosting a Women's Drum Circle for both beginners and previous students. Local musician Terry B. Moore will be adding a class in Boogie Woogie Piano to his classes in Blues Guitar and Blues Harmonica.

If dance is your interest, we offer classes in Country Two Step with Simon Earl; a Bellydance Workshop with Zahira on Sunday, October 1; Lynn Frederick will teach Tap Dancing for adults; and in Winlaw will be Improv Dance and an energetic Spin Jam hosted by Safire Jones.

For the youngest family members there's Mother Goose; French Immersion with Hugette Marr; Stories in Motion with Marguerite Wood; Tot's Playtime Plus on Tuesday mornings; Mucky Science with Betty K. and Tiny Talents Art with Ron Mulvey.

For the older kids there are classes in Fantasy art and cartooning with Evelyn Kirkaldy; a fall swim program begins in November; Safe at Home offers tips for kids alone at home; Red Cross Babysitter training is in both Crescent Valley and Slocan this fall. High school students get a tutorial boost at a Math homework lab and a Student Success workshop in late September.

Evening and afternoon fitness classes in Crescent Valley are beginning, plus volleyball, basketball and badminton taking place all over the Slocan Valley.

Many of the programs fill quickly, so book early to avoid disappointment. Get a copy of the Recreation Guide at valley stores or go to www.rdck.bc.ca and follow the recreation link. For more information, contact Craig Lawrence at 226-0008 or email slocanvalleyrec@netidea.com.

Vallican Whole Community Centre keeps on truckin'

Volunteers pulled invasive plants – yellow flag iris, tansy and knapweed – gardened, hauled rocks, built new paths, bucked and stacked firewood. Everyone worked hard and had fun donating hundreds of hours at the Vallican Whole Community Centre this summer.

"It was great," said one volunteer. "We got to meet new people, eat smokies and tofu dogs around the bonfire, and have some good laughs while working."

Improvements at the multi-purpose community centre include the final hook-up of the big gas oven, new signage soon to be completed, as well as plans for entertainment and events.

Watch out for Scott Thompson's *Scottastrophe* on October 7, an adult comedy PowerPoint presentation that investigates the unusual density of tragedy and surrealism he's experienced since ending *The Kids in the Hall*.

Rosebery Regatta strikes again

by Jan McMurray

The winner of the Rosebery Regatta 2006 is Dee Evetts from Winchester, Virginia. Evetts, who visits the area every summer, is no stranger to the event. He shared the title of Commodore with David Smith back in 1989.

Rosebery Regatta die-hards John Herrmann and Howard Bearham came out with their rowboats to launch competing boats at the official starting line, the exact location known only by the two of them.

The event's reputation as a breeding ground for corruption has been called into question – one of the judges, Dan Nicholson, reported extremely meagre bribes. And Nicholson, as we all know from his public pleas for single malt whiskey, is an expert on the bribe issue.

"I was expecting to rake in large donations for my whiskey fund, but the biggest bit of payola that I was offered, was an American quarter and a promise of a bottle of scotch, later. So I split the bribes with my fellow judges. Taegan got the quarter and Richard and I shared the promise. The vessel was named the winner of its heat, unfortunately it sank before it could be entered in subsequent races. We were forced to judge the rest of the competition on its merits."

However, cheating among the participants was rife enough to uphold the event's shoddy reputation. Doug Stanley, father of 2005 Commodore, Taegan, was seen throwing rocks into the lake to create waves to get Taegan's boat ashore in a hurry. Herrmann and Bearham were caught making all kinds of adjustments to boats as they launched them, and one or the other of them was always blocking the wind at the 'starting point' (a contentious issue in itself), impeding at least one of the boats and giving a head start to the others.

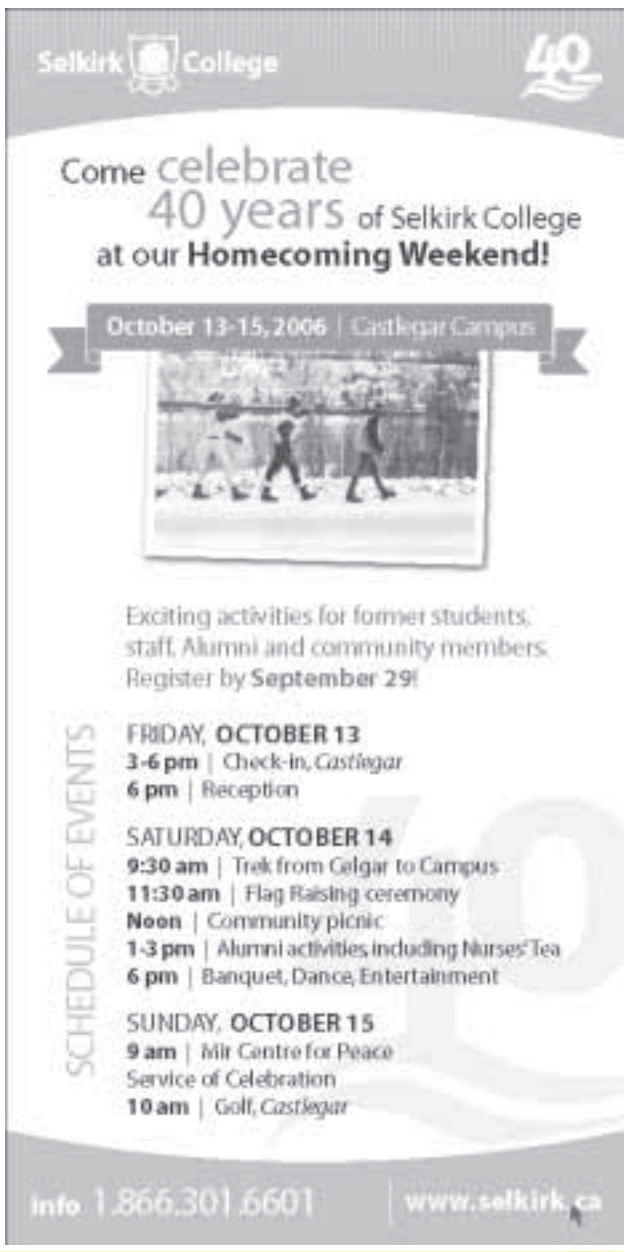
Other winners this time were Chris and Tamara's *Spookaloo II*, Gabriel's tin-foil special, and Howard Bearham's vintage vessel that has carried him to the commodore's role on more than one occasion.

Herrmann commented that this year, we were witnessing the age old problems of some boats flopping over immediately when they hit the water, and others heading off into the middle of the lake no matter which way they were launched. He confidentially told the *Valley Voice* some secrets which I will publish here, so that only our readers will have the advantage next year: a light hull, a heavy keel and a centred sail.

Outgoing Commodore, Taegan Bajer Stanley, stands with incoming commodore Dee Evetts and judges Dan Nicholson and Richard Johnson

Rain Butt retrieves his beach-materials-only creation, "Drift Wood," after a very successful heat.

Chris claims his second prize for Spookaloo II at the Rosebery Regatta.



Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces 2006-2007 Concert Series

Now in our 29th year of supporting the arts in the Arrow Lakes region, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces our Concert Series for the 2006-2007 season, with five performances scheduled.

Tickets for the series are available in three ways again this year: single concert tickets with open seating, and a three- or five-event ticket package, with assigned seating. Single event tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors aged 60 and over or children aged 12 and under. The three-event package is $55/$40, and the five-event package is $95/$70. Season ticket holders from last year may pick up their series tickets at the Fall Faire on Saturday, September 16. Anyone else wanting the package deals may come to the Fall Faire or contact Marilyn Massey at 250-265-4087.

This season's Concert Series opens Thursday, October 12 with I Tromboni, a quintet of Canada's finest trombonists. Formed in 1999, the group dedicated themselves to the promotion of live music for the trombone quintet. I Tromboni incorporates many genres into their performances, including baroque, classical, jazz romantic, contemporary and popular theme. The Team Canada of Trombones!

The second concert is the Karin Plato Trio performing on Friday, November 3. A thoughtful and dynamic performer, Karin Plato is a Vancouver-based jazz vocalist and composer. She performed here as lead singer for the Mother of Pearl female jazz group two seasons ago. Karin was nominated for a Juno Award in 2000 for her recording *There's Beauty in the Rain* and was twice nominated Canadian Jazz Vocalist of the year. Her eclectic repertoire includes her own compositions as well as arrangements of many well-loved classics.

The first concert of 2007 will be Romanza on Friday, January 23. Romance is the art of the tenor! The voice lives to sing of love, conquest, betrayal and heartache. From a melting serenade to a spine-tingling high C the tenor voice has inspired lovers throughout the ages. Philip Grant, Ken Lavigne and Frederik Robert have been identified as "three talented, young, classically trained lyric tenors who have separately been delighting audiences across North America and Europe."

The fourth concert of the series is on Saturday, February 23, with UBC faculty pianist Sara Davis Buechner. Sara has been celebrated as a pianist of virtuosic mastery, artistic sensibility and extraordinary versatility. She is a prize winner in many of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions. Buechner's performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue in Calgary earned her a standing ovation.

The fifth and final concert of the series will be performed by Hungry Hill on Friday, March 2. Hungry Hill is a contemporary, acoustic bluegrass unit with a focus on original material produced by Juno Award winner Bob Hamilton. Lush vocal harmonies resonate in the traditional acoustic setting of old-time music, with mandolin, fiddle, dobro, banjo, guitar and doghouse bass.

For further information please contact Marilyn Massey at 250-265-4087.

Novelist Kathy Page to read at Nakusp Public Library

Saltspring Island author Kathy Page, author of *The Story of My Face* (long-listed for the Orange Prize) reads from her latest novel, *Alphabet* (short-listed for the Governor-General's Literary Award) at the Nakusp Public Library on Saturday, September 23 at 7 p.m.

When Simon Austen – intelligent, manipulative, and dangerous – arrives in prison as a young man serving life for the murder of his girlfriend, he is illiterate. But there's power in words; he knows it, and that's why, as he learns them, he tattoos them on his body. Page spent time as writer-in-residence at a category B mens' prison in the UK, the root of this extraordinary novel.

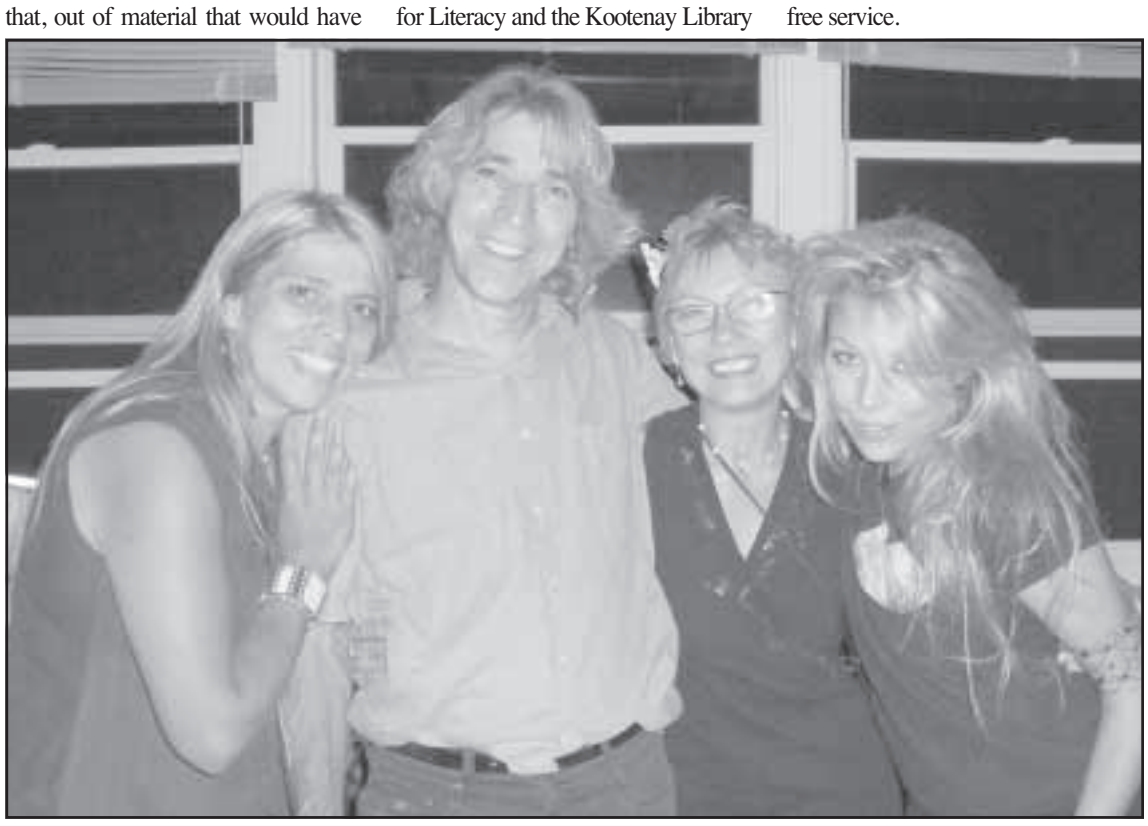
"You could say that I have spent the three years it took to complete Al*phabet* co-habiting with a dangerous man," she says, describing the psychological immersion necessary to get into the mind of her character. When Simon Austen learns, in prison, to read and write, he begins a series of correspondences with women, in part to better understand his own attitudes towards relationships.

What happens is surprising, instructive, and painful, and yet Simon, a complex and flawed individual, grows as a person through experience opened by words. Says Page: "That blend of hope and difficulty – a sense of his continuing struggle – was what I wanted to leave the reader with."

David Robson of the *Sunday Telegraph* says that "*Alphabet* is not just highly readable, but one of the strongest, most eloquent, most tightly constructed novels of 2004. It is a measure of the quiet artistry of *Alphabet* that, out of material that would have been at home in the blackest of black comedies, Kathy Page ....has celebrated, with rare deftness, the resilience of the human heart."

The theme of literacy within the book makes sponsorship of Page's reading by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Kootenay Library Federation a good fit. The series is supported through the Writers in Libraries program through the Province of British Columbia.

Come and enjoy the Nakusp Public Library's new space and Kathy Page's reading. Everyone welcome. This is a free service.



Sal and Pancho with Carol Stroshein and their daughter Ja at the extremely successful and very fun benefit at Edgewood's Legion Hall. They are raising money to pay for a bone-marrow transplant for Ja, who suffers from a potentially fatal blood disease.

Edgewood pulls together for Ja

by Jan McMurray

The fundraiser at Edgewood's Legion Hall September 2 for Ja Pace, a talented young Latin dancer with a potentially fatal blood disease, was a raging success.

Pace is off to Italy at the end of the month for a $200,000 bone-marrow transplant. The Edgewood fundraiser added another about $3,600 to the fund set up to pay for the operation, which may or may not be successful.

Ja got up on the stage to thank everyone for coming and contributing to the fund. "I feel like I'm going into this bone-marrow transplant on a wave of love and with a whole army behind me," she said. "I'm not worried at all."

Performers that night included Larry Lavan and Larry Anderson from Red Mountain Road, Tribal Funk from Salmon Arm, Quinn De Courcy from Edgewood, the Lofi Cowboys from Vernon, and Pancho and Sal, Ja's parents, from the coast. Carol Stroshein of Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood organized the event, which offered much more than great music – a silent auction, door prizes galore, a raffle for a folding bicycle and very yummy pizza. Many local people volunteered and worked very hard to make the evening a magical and memorable one.

Donations to the cause are still needed, and can be sent to Ja Pace, #3 - 3548 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, BC V5N 4M6 or directly deposited to TD Canada Trust Account #556 633 7334. Visit www.panchoandsal.net.

Plethora of activities planned for Nakusp Fall Fair

submitted

Organizers of this year's Nakusp Fall Fair with the theme 'Families Together' expect good attendance at this major district-wide festive occasion, set to take place Saturday, September 16 at the Nakusp auditorium, 9:30-3:30 pm.

Entry registrations take place from 4-7 pm on Friday, September 15 followed by judging and awarding of ribbons. Please note that no late entries can be accepted, as judging then takes place between the hours of 7 and 9 pm. All entries must be removed between 3:30 and 4:30 pm at the conclusion of the fair on Saturday.

An expected wide variety of all-age entry exhibits ranging from garden produce, florals, home arts, hobby collections through to baking and preserves and any number of other categories will all be showcased for public viewing. In addition, there will be numerous displays representing community and educational special interest organizations, a fine arts exhibition and various tables offering fresh produce, handicrafts and more for sale.

Special features will include a hands-on demonstration of homemade breadmaking by Faye McPherson and rubber stamp embellishment techniques by Moira Miller, as well as Nakusp Community Foundation's highly entertaining 'Bail and Jail' with area celebrities on hand. The ever-popular Kids' Zucchini Races are set to take place at noon on-stage, while home cooked borsch, chili, hot dogs, various beverages and other lunchtime favourites will be served starting at 11:30 am.

The Fall Fair is a major fundraiser for Arrow Lakes Arts Council (sponsors), with all proceeds going toward art student scholarships and community and professional stage concert presentations and other arts related projects held locally throughout the year. Season tickets for the upcoming concert series will also be available.

Admission is $2 at the door; children under 12 years free.

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NAKUSP FALL FAIR
Saturday, September 16, 2006 • 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
(register entries Sept. 15, from 4 - 7 pm)
Nakusp Arena Auditorium
• Fabulous display of competition entries
• Kids' Zucchini Races
• Home baked bread demonstrations
• Try it yourself activity tables
• Bail & Jail fun event
• Community displays, sale tables
A day of family fun and entertainment - home cooked lunches available
General admission $2 - children under 12 years free

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Nakusp Legion #20
Meat Draw sponsored by Nakusp Seniors Society
Roast Beef Supper, 5-6 pm, Sept. 23

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

Artists invited to 'art and adventure' retreat in Little Slocan

Winlaw artist Barbara Wilson has organized another inspirational retreat to bring together painters of all abilities.

From Tuesday, October 10 to Friday, October 13, enthusiastic artists will be gathering to paint Kootenay fall colours and spectacular scenery. The group will be based at the eco-friendly, upscale straw bale Little Slocan Lodge on the edge of Valhalla Wilderness Park - just 7 kms from Slocan City and only one hour from either Nelson or Castlegar.

"Three nights and two full days of inspiration and discussion are guaranteed to recharge the spirit in preparation for a good winter of painting," says Wilson.

The retreat will be facilitated by Barb Wilson and Evelyn Kirkaldy. Several accomplished painters will join the group, and Wilson promises that they will freely share their knowledge with those who may be approaching their art at a less experienced level.

Costs are minimal but registration is limited to 14 participants. Dormitory style accommodation is only $27.50 per night including taxes and all linens. One or two private rooms are also available. Participants are asked to bring their own food for breakfasts and lunches in a cooler. The group will cook dinners together from groceries purchased in advance at a cost of $24 ($8 per night). The total cost of only $149.20 includes a $40 administration fee. An advance deposit of $60 is required. For painting on location, a four wheel drive vehicle is an asset, but carpooling can be arranged.

Bring paints, warm clothes and your good spirits as well as some slides, CDs or portfolio pictures of your work.

Those coming from a distance may wish to stay over in Winlaw for extended painting opportunities after October 13.

For information and registration, call Barb at 250-226-0021 (be sure to leave a message) or email barbfinearts@lyco.com. For Little Slocan Lodge accommodation, call 1-800-505-6788.

Artist Evelyn Kirkaldy will be facilitating a workshop at Little Slocan Lodge.

GOLF COURSES

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,
New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
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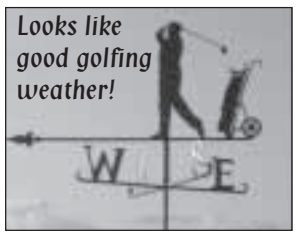
Day Pass: **$35.00,** Weekly Rate: **$160.00**
RENTALS: Clubs and Pull carts available.
Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
RESTAURANT: 8 AM TO 8 PM (LICENSED)
2006 TOURNAMENTS:
• Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 9: $20.00/couple
• Club Closing, Sat. Sept. 24: $15.00.
(* 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
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NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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

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• 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.

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• 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
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• 19th Hole Restaurant Ph: (250) 358-7108
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O'Brien's on the Lake, 1710 Hwy 6 Nakusp,
Ph: (250) 265-4575 www.obriens.kootenays.com
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THINGS TO DO

Chiaroscuro Photographic Gallery Tel: (250) 358-2569
Patrizia Menton's fine art photography includes black & white and colour, with particular focus on cibachrome. She values traditional darkroom skills and two of her 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
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• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201
The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of Main Street, restored to circa 1900. Open Monday to Friday in June. 7 days/week in July and August. Special tours welcome. Please call 358-2201, 358-2478 or 358-2656 for further information. **A MUST SEE MUSEUM WITH DAILY TREASURE HUNTS FOR CHILDREN!** Hope we see you there.

Kaslo welcomes new corporal

by Jill Braley

Corporal Jason Fiddler is now in charge of the Kaslo RCMP detachment. Married with two children, Corporal Fiddler says he applied for the posting mostly for family reasons. "It's a great place to raise a family and experience all the great outdoor activities the Kootenays has to offer," he says, adding that he has relatives in the area. He says the Kaslo detachment had been on his "wish list," and the plan is to stay for a while.

Fiddler has been a corporal for two years, and a member of the RCMP for 12. He has held postings in Tofino, Ahousaht, Gold River, Boston Bar and Hope and has a background in community policing, highways, general investigations and First Nations policing.

The Kaslo detachment currently has three members on board and Fiddler hopes to have a fourth in the near future. He would like to see more community involvement in proactive policing. "Rather than citizens talking about the problems, the opportunity is there for the public to get out there and volunteer." The public's "eyes and ears" are very much needed, he said, and the public can really make a difference in providing assistance to the local RCMP. Citizens on Patrol and the newly arrived Speedwatch program are some of the ways the public can become involved. Call 353-2225 for more information.

Corporal Jason Fiddler has joined the Kaslo Detachment, RCMP.

When asked if he had any areas of concern during his short tenure here, Fiddler stated the RCMP members felt the 2006 Jazz Fest committee did a good job containing the party at the lake, which was well co-ordinated and supervised. However, police had some concerns with the crowd on the Friday night once the Jazz Fest grounds were shut down, and the party moved to downtown streets, where entertainment continued. This had the potential to get out of hand. Hopefully this problem can be solved for next year's Jazz Festival.

Welcome to Kaslo, Corporal and Mrs. Jason Fiddler and family.

Kaslo Trailblazers update

The Kaslo Trailblazers Society has had a busy summer.

The Kaslo River Trail on the south side has been completed. Nearing completion is the trail connecting the south side to the airport. Val Koenig, treasurer, reports that this part of the trail will be completed over the next two months and will provide access to trails at the True Blue Recreational area.

Additional benches and tables have been installed on the north side trail and are being well used by locals and visitors. Engineering for the bridge is completed and fundraising is continuing. Engraved bridge treads are still for sale. Thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust, the society is in the process of preparing interpretive maps, stations and signage.

The society asks that hikers consider pulling invasive knapweed when walking the trail and bring along a garbage bag for the disposal of it.

Good progress being made at the skatepark construction site

by Jill Braley

Kaslo Area Skatepark is one major step closer to completion, thanks to an Okanagan company.

Using pumps and compressors, BAT Construction of Kamloops blew 26 cubic metres of specially formulated concrete, called shotcrete, onto the walls of the six-foot deep bowl area over Labour Day weekend. A 15-person crew helped finish the last of the sloped surfaces and transitional areas in the park. The remaining 80 cubic meters of concrete will be poured as flat slabs and low walls over the next few weeks, bringing the $250,000 project to a timely and successful end.

That end has been a long time coming for everyone involved, from Village councillors and skatepark committee members, to yesterday's youth, now having kids of their own.

Since 1991, young people of Kaslo have been wishing for just such a facility. Some felt it would never happen. It looked like they were right, until 2004, when Columbia Basin Trust gave the Kaslo Area Youth Council a $10,000 grant to help have the engineered drawings done.

In 2005, CBT granted more funding for the project, giving the Youth Council the financial credibility and momentum it needed to raise most of the necessary funds from sources as diverse as the Vancouver Foundation and the BC government's Olympic/Paralympic Live Site program, to the local folks and businesses of Kaslo. But still it wasn't enough, until Kaslo & District Community Forest Society stepped forward and made sure the project had enough money to succeed.

Now, finally - at last - success is only 17 concrete truckloads away.

PHOTO CREDIT: LARRY BRALEY

The Kaslo skatepark is shaping up, with lots of concrete poured over the Labour day weekend.

Come to the Garden Harvest Faire, September 30

Kootenay Lodge and Farm in Shutty Bench and the Kaslo and Area Food Security Taskforce will host the 1st Annual Gaia's Garden Harvest Faire on Saturday, September 30th from 11 am to 5:30 pm. This is a free community event with games for both children and adults.

There will be a Pie-eating Contest, Dunk Tank, Cook's Soup-off to provide a free lunch and Best Scarecrow competition, to name a few. A number of categories will be open for all ages to enter their best cooking, vegetables and arts & crafts. There will be vendors on site and entertainment all day.

The Kaslo and Area Fruit Tree Project will also be on hand with juicers, so bring your apples – you could win a ribbon for the best apple juice! The Harvest Faire Competition Booklet is available at a variety of area merchants. The schedule of events, competition categories and directions to the Farm are posted at www.kootenaylodge.com. To volunteer, become a vendor or get more information, please email info@kootenaylodge.com or call 353-2463.

So, get that pumpkin growin' and see you all at the Harvest Faire!

Potvin plays the Langham

Here she is. Young, laughing, cool little dress, heels - and a Telecaster. Roxanne Potvin, 24, bilingual, a new Toronto 'immigrant' from Gatineau, Quebec, is most definitely not your typical tough-ass blues mama. Potvin will be playing in the Langham Theatre on Sunday September 17 at 8 pm. Tickets $15 are available at Sunnyside Naturals.

Although the blues has been her passion since she picked up her first guitar at 15, her tastes are far more eclectic. She loves jazz, New Orleans funk, Memphis soul, Dinah Washington, Freddy King, and the Quebec folk music she heard when she was a child. Live, she sings like an angel, and the songs pour out, interrupted only by her introductions and slightly shy smile.

You can 'hear' that smile on her new CD, *The Way It Feels*, featuring the haunting French waltz duet with Daniel Lanois, *La Merveille*. Any young artist who can recruit musicians like Lanois, John Hiatt, Bruce Cockburn, members of the Memphis Horns, the Fairfield Four, and producer Colin Linden must be doing something right!

Woman charged by black bear in Kaslo

submitted

A resident of Zwicky Road in Kaslo was aggressively charged by a black bear in mid-August.

Gillian Sanders, North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart program co-ordinator, says the incident did not escalate into an attack probably because the resident has experience living in bear country and with bear behaviour. She says the bear was most likely a female defending her cubs and was not willing to move off the trail leading to the woman's home.

"Bears are hungry this season as they are stocking up on calories to see them through the winter ahead," says Gillian Sanders, North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart Program coordinator. "This bear was not afraid of humans and this is directly linked to bears finding food in and around our neighbourhoods. If bears find food even once from a human food source, they will return for more. They lose their natural aversion to humans and begin foraging in our neighbourhoods."

She says that in extreme cases bears will even defend their newly acquired food source, posing threats to humans and pets. "We live in bear country and it is in our best interest not to attract bears into our neighbourhoods by providing them with a reliable high calorie food source," she said.

Common food sources that humans supply for bears are fruit, garbage, compost, bird feeders, pet food, and barbeque or restaurant grease.

"We must learn to manage these attractants in ways that do not attract bears," says Sanders. "By working together we can greatly reduce the food source we provide bears, therefore reducing bear presence in our neighbourhoods."

To learn more about bear behaviour, how to avoid attracting bears and being safe in bear country, come to view the films *Staying Safe in Bear Country* and *Living in Bear Country* by bear expert Stephen Herrero at the Langham Theatre, Thursday, September 14 at 7 pm.

This event is by donation and is sponsored by the North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart Program.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Paddling over to Fry Creek canyon

Fry Creek canyon on the east side of Kootenay Lake is a dramatic and rugged spot to visit, and in fact the lower section of the canyon is a designated recreation area. You can get there by driving north of Kaslo to the turnoff for Argenta at the end of the lake, then hiking in the forested trail from Johnson's Landing. Or you can save some gas and get there by water, which is even better.

With the prolonged hot dry summer this year, the record high water levels of May have been reaching record low levels in September. There's heavy smoke in the valleys now from the big fires down near the American border and local worries over any coming lightning storms that will likely occur. Alpine hiking is compromised for the time being.

I drove to Kaslo last week and first made a stop at the Silver Spoon Cafe down by the Moyie historic site. Ann and Laddie offer great food, and he suggested to me several good mountain trips to try in the Kaslo area and up the Lardeau. After snacking, I drove 15 kilometres north on Highway 31 to Schroeder Creek to launch my kayak for the trip across the lake.

Schroeder Creek is on the west side of Kootenay Lake a few kilometers south of Fry Creek point which is easily visible across the water. The resort there is spacious and attractive and has a boat ramp, but all I needed was the small access road to the lake that lies between the resort and a number of waterfront homes. I parked under the big fir trees and lugged kayak and gear down to the rocky shore.

I paddled straight across to the point at Birchdale, which was a Quaker colony at one time and has remains of an old wharf plus several modern homes and cottages. The land here and at Fry Creek includes some large private parcels. As I drifted along I could see odd driftwood logs lodged high up in cliff crevices, left from highwater storms in past years. Looking back up Schroeder Creek above the resort I could see several plumes of smoke floating up from the fire there that started some weeks ago.

Right north of Birchdale the rocky shoreline continues, and I saw many odd streamers of bubbles rising up from the rocky, fractured lake bottom. Continuous and widespread, these bubbles made a soft hissing sound like a soft drink fizzing, so maybe there's some hot spring behaviour happening there, or maybe the lake just has some gas to pass! I came upon another bubbly section near the point of Fry Creek.

Fry Creek point is a big peninsula that is signed as not allowing dogs or hunting, and that works fine for me. Campers here may be charged a fee in season, possibly, and there are various pole shelters and tables and driftwood arrangements. Many braided paths go inland from the sandy beaches here to funnel into the main stem trail that crosses a big steel footbridge over Fry Creek, thence up into the canyon proper. I've done the hike before, and was more inclined to catch a nap on the deserted sandy beach.

The wind rose from the south by the time I left and I ended up bucking a sparkling but tiresome chop all the way back to Schroeder Creek. Looking back at Fry point, I imagined how Kaslo or New Denver may have once looked, as forested flat uninhabited prominences. Fry point could easily be a townsite and is very attractive, but it's neat that this beautiful location remains generally wild and free to enjoy as a visitor. It has the feel of a tropical desert island. Oh, and with fish boats cruising past now and then.

The drive or ride from Kaslo north to Meadow Creek is lovely and scenic and paved all the way, and en-route you'll get an excellent overview of the Fry Creek point and valley in general. As I suggested, you can get there by road and then trail, but the discoveries to be made on the water route are better.

The hike to see the best parts of the canyon may take an hour each way from the lakeshore or about three hours to do the round trip hike from the parking lot trailhead at Johnson's Landing. This is a popular hike and is well documented in books and brochures and I suppose on the right websites.

Peter Roulston has lived in the Kootenays for 30 years and operates the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver. 358-2133.

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Financial forum

with Debbie Pereversoff

What's Up with the Interest Rates?

I've been watching the interest rates for our term deposits over last several months. There is usually a decent spread between the short term rates vs. the long term rates but these rates have been narrowing of late.

A few weeks ago, our one year term deposits were paying 4.35% while a five year term deposit was paying 4.55% - a mere difference of 20 basis points! Yield curves in Canada and the US have flattened dramatically as central banks have increased the short term rates providing investors with less incentive to lock in their money for a longer period of time.

The shape of slope of an interest rate yield curve can provide critical information about the expectations for an economy. Most often, yield curves will be upward-sloping, rewarding investors for accepting increased risk by providing higher rates of return for longer term maturities. This is referred to as a normal yield curve and usually characterizes an economy that is growing at a moderate pace with well-contained inflation.

The steeper the curve, the more compensation investors require in order to lock in to long term rates. A yield curve will usually be at its steepest towards the end of a recession when banks reduce short-term rates to stimulate economic growth. Longer term rates are higher, by comparison, in anticipation of more robust economic growth.

Let's take a walk down memory lane and review the interest rate story over the past five years or so. For those of you who were savers you were probably receiving upwards of 5 to 6% for term deposit rates but every time your term deposit came due you were faced with lower renewal rates – sometimes in the 1 to 2% range. For those of you who were borrowers you were quite excited to find mortgage rates and lending rates drop to 40 year lows.

This monetary policy strategy was put in place to get our country out of the grips of a recession and a dismal stock market cycle by stimulating the economy. Lower borrowing costs meant that people could afford to spend more freely to buy cars, homes, furniture etc., thereby kicking the economy into high gear.

This growth pattern continued through to last summer when it appeared that the economy was becoming overheated once again. In an effort to cool the economy, short term interest rates began to increase. If any of you have those variable rates mortgages, you probably saw your interest rates increase quite a few times over the last year! These interest rate increases make it less desirable for people to go out and borrow as freely. Consumers tighten their belts and the economy slows down.

The interest rate hikes seem to have stabilized for the borrowers. The interest rate differential for the savers doesn't seem to offer much reward for locking in for the long term. This is what we financial professionals call a 'flattening of the yield curve'. This usually occurs as the central bank is increasing short term rates in an effort to slow the economy and head off any future inflation increases. If investors anticipate that economic activity may slow significantly, resulting in a recession, the yield curve may invert or take on a negative slope.

With a flat yield curve in both Canada and the US there is a temptation for investors to purchase short term maturities (less than two years) since there is little difference between the rates of return. The risk in this strategy is that rates may be lower when these investments mature.

We are already seeing signs that interest rates are being reduced. As short term interest rates are being reduced, the interest rate yield curve will begin to take on a more normal shape. It's difficult to predict whether we will once again head into a full blown recession but we've been warning our clients that the historical signs are there.

Debbie Pereversoff CFP CSA is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in investment portfolio management and design.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Daniel B. Nicholson

Hi there food fans. I'm back, sitting in for Mr. Rhodes, who is recovering from an episode of bad back pain. Andrew sends his regrets to the management and staff of the Springs Dining Room at Ainsworth Hot Springs, and I swear I saw a tear in his eye when I described my dining experience to him.

First of all, the dining room has the finest view of Kootenay Lake to be found. The furniture is elegant, yet simple in its lines. It's a comfortable place to eat - a relaxed atmosphere with impeccable service.

My waitress, Deanna McLeod, took my drink order - a glass of house red - a delightful Cab-Shiraz from Mission Hill, and brought Chef Jason Allard around to meet me.

Allard's philosophy of cooking is simple. Use high quality, fresh ingredients. Keep it simple, but do it right. "It's a more laid-back approach to cooking - but always with an emphasis on quality ... If I won't drink a wine, I won't cook with it."

Speaking of wine, their menu includes 43 different varieties, there's bound to be something that will pair nicely with whatever entrées you choose. Maitre di Cameron MacDougall has put a lot of thought into the wine selections and they compliment the extensive menu exceedingly well. There's six varieties of scotch including four single-malts.

Deanna returns to ask me about an appetizer. Chef Allard recommends the lobster and wild mushroom ravioli, and I'm happy to oblige. Poached in a miso broth, and seved with a mound of fresh greens, they were exquisite.

The prime rib was the special, it being Saturday. Allard prepares his prime rib from the finest Alberta beef, and marinades it for hours before spreading it with a dijon mustard and crushed fresh rosemary glaze. The meat is cooked slowly so that the spices permeate the entire roast. The portions are cut in large slabs.

I didn't think to ask Allard about his yorkshire pudding, which was so light I thought that it was going to float off of my plate.

The vegetables - corn on the cob, sliced carrots and fresh broccoli didn't disappoint me either. Cooked crisp-tender, they were delicious. I ate them all up, even though my kids weren't there to set a good example for.

I chose a baked potato, with sour cream, fresh green onions and fresh bacon bits to round out my main course. I decided that I would save some room for dessert, so I only put away about half the potato.

As Chef Allard says, "People come into the Springs Dining Room to be fed. They don't want to leave hungry."

For dessert - zabaglione - a custard with strawberries soaked in brandy and marsala, served with Italian Shotcake. Exquisite!

Waitress Deanna McLeod poses with Chef Jason Allard at the Springs Dining Room.

For a dining delight, come join us at the

Springs Dining Room

"Speaking of wine, their menu includes 43 different varieties, there's bound to be something that will pair nicely with whatever entrées you choose. Maitre di Cameron MacDougall has put a lot of thought into the wine selections and they compliment the extensive menu exceedingly well... The prime rib was the special, it being Saturday. Allard prepares his prime rib from the finest Alberta beef, and marinades it for hours before spreading it with a dijon mustard and crushed fresh rosemary glaze. The meat is cooked slowly so that the spices permeate the entire roast. The portions are cut in large slabs... Exquisite!"

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CALL FOR ENTRY

THE 'ALFA' GUILD GALLERY is now accepting submissions for their 2007 and 2008 summer season. Deadline is Oct. 27, /06. Submission requirements are; description of proposed exhibit, CV or Biography, min of 10 slides or photos which are labelled with artist's name, title of work, medium, demensions and date made, and an artist's statement. Please include a SSAE for a return of submission package. Mail to Selection Committee, ALFA Guild Gallery, Box 155, Nakusp BC V0G 1R0. You may call Holly 250-265-3732 or Denyse 250-265-4998 for more info

CARD OF THANKS

The Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society celebrated 10 years of service on August 20. We would like to thank Fomi's Bakery for donating a cake for the event. Also we thank Fomi's Bakery and the Eldorado for gift certificates and The Sacred Ride for a T-shirt which went into a draw for the present volunteers. The winners were: Dennis Stefanik, Nell Plotnikof and Ken Del Puppo. We apologize to those who did not receive an invitation due to dated contact information and offer thanks to all those who volunteer without recognition.

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.

ANNUAL BRANDON YARD SALE (in Slocan City). Sunday, Sept. 24th, 10:00 to 4:00. 1013 Springer (Roy Franche's shop). Multi-family. Flea market tables, preserves, baking, homemade chocolates, jewellery, fresh vegetables, lunch booth.

POTLUCK and presentation/ discussion –"Sustainability: Our Common Ground"– facilitated by Hills resident, Liza Ireland. Everyone welcome! September 20, 6 pm, Knox Hall. Please bring your own cup, plate, cutlery. Come on out and fill out a housing survey if you haven't already. Sponsored by Healthy Housing Society.

ART AND ADVENTURE WITH FALL COLOURS in the Slocan Valley October 10 to 13 at Little Slocan Lodge. This is a retreat experience – three evenings of discussion and sharing of work and two full days of intensive painting in the out of doors. Costs are minimal. For information contact Barbara Wilson at 226 0021 or barbfinearts@lycos.com.

SCOTTASTROPHE Scott Thompson plays the Vallican Whole Saturday October 7 at 7:30 pm. Scott reflects on the amazing and sometime tragic events of his life since leaving KIDS IN THE HALL in this one-man show. Featuring special musical guests Bob Wiseman and Magali Meagher. Advanced tickets $15 at the Valley Voice, Jennie's Garden, Otter Books, WE Graham Community Services. Info 226-0097.

LEARN TO LAY HEALING HANDS on self and loved ones with Reiki Level I — $150. Learn to send healing energy across space and time with Reiki Level II — $250. September 22 - 25, 2006. Reiki Master/Teacher Fran Ure. Call 265-4123, or e-mail frandhy@telus.net

ROXANNE POTVIN will be performing at the **LANGHAM** Theatre in Kaslo on Sunday September 17th at 8:00 PM. Tickets are $15.

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

SALTSPRING AUTHOR KATHY PAGE will read from her prize-winning *Alphabet* at Nakusp Public Library on Saturday, September 23rd at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Free.

WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AGM at the Women's Centre, 420 Mill Street, Nelson, Saturday, September 30th, 3-5 pm. Potluck dinner will follow.

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.

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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.

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WENLIDO - PERSONAL SAFETY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, Sept. 23, 24;
PRENATAL CLASSES, Sept. 24, Oct. 1;
CPR "C", Sept. 30;
STANDARD FIRST AID, Sept. 30, Oct. 1;
WILDERNESS AND REMOTE FIRST AID, Oct. 14, 15 - prerequisite Standard First Aid;
MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE, Oct. 10, 6:30-9:30 pm;
MANAGING YOUR HOUSEHOLD BUDGET, Oct. 13;

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WHMIS, Work Hazardous Information Systems, Sept. 20;
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BLOG BASICS, Sept. 26;
BOOKEEPING FOR SMALL BUSINESS, Oct. 2, 4;
FREE OPENOFFICE SOFTWARE, Oct. 3;
WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY, with Barb MacPherson, starts Oct. 5;

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WOOD STOVE - WOOD CRAFT, small-medium size. $175. 358-7185.

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FREE FOR THE TAKING: SANDBAGS leftover from spring Slocan River flooding. Anyone needing sand for any reason should take this opportunity to pick up as many bags as they want from the pile on Indian Pt. Rd. in front of Don Munro's place.

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NOTICES

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

OBITUARY

JONES, Carrie Ann - of Edgewood, B.C. passed away August 24 at Vancouver at the age of 82. She is survived by her four children: Larry Jones, of Edgewood, Janet Shaw, of Yuma, Arizona, Ann Jones of Vancouver, Washingon, and Patrick Jones, of Spokane, Washingon, and their families. She will always be remembered with love and fond memories by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT! Learn about other cultures and introduce someone to ours. The Rotary Club of Nakusp is looking for host familes for our exchange student from Bolivia. Her name is Maria Luisa Montero, she is 16 years of age and she is very excited to come to Nakusp and learn about our culture. She will be attending Nakusp Senior Secondary and will be there for one year beginning on September 11. If interested, please call John and Carole Moroz at 265-3373.

Zave Reinhart and Trish Hawkins flip burgers at the annual Lucerne barbecue, September 7.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

MT. SENTINEL VOLLEYBALL - Resumes Sept. 12th on Tuesdays & Thursdays

WILD GATHERED THINGS - Sun. Sept. 17th with Jan Norn.

C.O.R.E. HUNTER TRAINING - Sept 23rd & 24th (Sat.& Sun.) in Winlaw

PILATES WITH LYNN FREDRICK- Begins Wed. Sept. 27th

HATHA YOGA IN SLOCAN PARK - Begins Thurs. Sept. 28th with Penelope Shanti

FALL MUSHROOM HIKE - Sat. Sept 30th with Tyson Ehler & Doug McBride

BODY CONDITIONING FITNESS - Mon. & Thurs. with Helen Kissinger begins Sept. 25th

AFTERNOON LOW IMPACT AEROBICS - Mondays with Helen Kissinger begins Sept. 25th

BABYSITTER TRAINING - Sept 29th & Oct. 2nd in Crescent Valley

SAFE AT HOME - Fri. Sept. 29th in Crescent Valley with Betty Kooznetsoff.

PRE-SCHOOL FRENCH IMMERSION - Begins Wed. Sept 27th with Hugette Marr

PRE-SCHOOLER DANCE - With Marguerite Wood begins Wed. Oct. 4th

TOT'S PLAYTIME PLUS - Resumes Tues. Oct. 3rd.

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Village of Slocan holds public meeting August 28

by Don Currie

Boundary expansion, water delivery and bylaw enforcement were the main topics discussed at a well attended public meeting in Slocan on August 28. Local politicians present were Mayor Van Bynen, Councillors Septav and Gates, Administrator Ludlow and Area H Director Don Munro.

Mayor Van Bynen opened the discussion on boundary expansion, pointing out that the Village could grow only to the south and west, as it is blocked by Slocan Lake and Brandon to the north and east. Resident John Sarjeant felt that if there were any expansion, it should be into Brandon where there is a dense population. Van Bynen answered that a meeting with Brandon residents revealed they "don't want anything to do with Slocan," a view confirmed by Don Munro.

Councillor Gates envisioned boundary expansion as far south as Lemon Creek, but at least to Gravel Pit Road and to the west side of Slocan River. Gates said people living across the river were already getting water from the Village water treatment plant and were paying two times the fees paid by villagers.

Munro said he met with council and Brandon residents a year ago, and they had talked about expansion up to Gravel Pit Road. "This is the first time I have heard of expanding to Lemon Creek," he said, putting forth his view that expanding boundaries would provide very little real benefit in taxation to the Village. The greater concern, he said, is mill closure, which would cause Village taxation to rise four fold on residential properties just to maintain existing services. He cautioned council to get the input of people living outside the Village who would be impacted by expansion. He said if a majority opposed it, he would also oppose it.

Councillor Septav said that taking in 50 households would increase the residential tax base and increase Village revenues. He also said that council would come back to the people before anything happened on boundary expansion. Van Bynen informed the meeting that council could make boundary changes without public input, but said nothing would be done until all "practical and financial" factors were considered.

Resident John Sarjeant said that something as dramatic as changing boundaries after 100 years "considering that the people had paid for everything" required a written public survey of all residents and shouldn't be decided by five councillors.

Residents expressed concern about the impact of Village expansion on water delivery. Several complained of water restrictions and falling water pressure. Administrator Ludlow said there were problems with the pipes delivering water, and that pipes on Main Street required replacement. She also said that the system was not running in the black when she arrived and that monies had been transferred from other accounts to make it look like the system could be run at the 66 cents per day charge to users. She said the 66 cent levy was not accumulating any surpluses to pay for repairs and upgrades.

The meeting also supported a proposal by council to levy fines for bylaw infractions. Administrator Ludlow said that currently, only two bylaws out of more than 500 had fines attached to them, and called for putting some "teeth" into bylaw enforcement. Director Munro advised that enforceable bylaws were much preferred over unenforceable bylaws, as the latter could open the Village to liability. He said that a complication for Regional Districts arising from new provincial legislation was that bylaw control officers now had to appear in court to enforce the collection of fines. Resident Linda Taylor supported penalties but called for "common sense" when issuing tickets.

The new boat ramp and dock were also discussed, with general approval of the facility, which many termed "first rate." A majority rejected the idea of levying fees to launch boats.

Resident Terry Guerin said the boat ramp is "nicer than the swimming dock, which is basically for kids, and swimming and children should be our main concern." Van Bynen said council was aware of the poor state of the swimming dock and "we're working on it." He said people diving from the dock and adjacent breakwater was a potential safety hazard and signage had been posted.

Council also informed the meeting about a bylaw to establish a board of variance, which was adopted at a special council meeting the evening after this public meeting. The bylaw and board of variance is a requirement of the Local Government Act. The 3-person board of variance makes decisions on applications from residents seeking a variance from a Village bylaw – usually a building bylaw. Before going ahead with any construction, residents should check Village building bylaws and find out if their building plans comply. If there is a conflict, residents can apply for a variance and must receive approval before applying for a building permit.

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Ministry of Forests & Range

BRITISH COLUMBIA

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A80744

Take notice that, pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, Timber Sale licence A80744 is being offered for sale by the BC Timber Sales Kootenay Business Area.

Closing Date/Location: September 21, 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: Worthington Creek/Cow Trail, located approximately 10.4 km west of the village of Edgewood on the west side of Arrow Lake in the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

Estimated Volume: 2,992 cubic metres, more or less

Species / Volume: Lodgepole-pine 2.631 m^3 (88%), Larch 157 m^3 (5%), Cedar 88 m^3 (3%), Douglas-fir 59 m^3 (2%), White-pine 57 m^3 (2%), 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: one (1) year

Upset Stumpage Rate: $22.29

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: 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 A80744.

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

Notes from the RCMP

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

•People are reminded to call 911 in an emergency, and are asked to refrain from calling local community members who volunteer as emergency personnel. Calling local people instead of 911 can cause confusion and can slow down the emergency response process.

Slocan Lake detachment

•On August 31, approximately 100,000 marijuana plants were seized in a raid on various properties in the Slocan Valley. Some arrests were made at the scenes and charges are pending. Police are continuing to investigate these and other offenses.

Nakusp detachment

•A serious two vehicle accident occurred on Inonaoklin Road near Edgewood on the evening of September 7 when one vehicle turned into the path of the other while attempting to pass. Five people were transported to Vernon and Nakusp hospitals with numerous serious but non-life-threatening injuries. Ambulance services from Nakusp, Edgewood and Lumby attended and transported the injured. Alcohol and speed are believed to be factors. Nakusp RCMP is investigating one of the drivers for operating the vehicle while prohibited from driving and for not having the vehicle registered. The investigation continues and names are being withheld at this time.

•Nakusp RCMP is investigating an attempted Break and Enter which occurred at a residence in the 300 block of Fifth Avenue in the early morning of September 2. Suspects attempted to gain entry through an upstairs window, but were interrupted when security motion lights were activated. This woke up the home owner, who was harassed by the suspects while trying to protect his property. It is believed the suspects used a cutting tool to try to gain access through the window. Suspects then made their way north towards the schools, causing disturbances as they went. The investigation continues. Anyone with information is asked to call Nakusp RCMP at 265-3678.

•Nakusp RCMP once again ask residents to remove garbage, old fruit or vegetables from their yards so as not to attract bears. The number of bears needing to be put down due to safety concerns within the village this season is now up to four. Recently, a bear that had grown accustomed to garbage being left at the local Esso gas station had to be put down – the second one to be put down at this location this season. One bear behind the Village office and another near the cemetery have also been put down this season. RCMP would like these bears to move along on their own, but officers have no choice when it comes to the safety of residents. Again, RCMP are calling for residents to stop attracting bears with garbage and other food sources.

Nelson detachment

•Police are requesting the public's assistance in finding the person(s) responsible for vandalizing the billboard located near Grohman Narrows that reads "Abortion stops a beating heart." This is the second billboard that has been erected and both times it has been vandalized. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Central Kootenay RCMP (352-2156) or Crimestoppers.

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Hiker dies on trail near Rosebery

by Jan McMurray

A 57-year-old Nelson man died of a cardiac arrest while hiking the Alps Alturas trail northeast of Rosebery on Labour Day.

Paul Robert Finlay was hiking with his wife and four other friends when he collapsed on the trail, reported Bruce Chamberlayne, interior regional coroner. Chamberlayne said that some in the hiking party were trained in CPR, "so medical assistance was available immediately." He said the coroner's investigation revealed that it was a natural death which occurred at about 12:45 pm.

Scott Spencer, Search Manager with Nelson Search and Rescue, reported that one member of the party hiked out and called BC Air Ambulance. The air ambulance could not reach Finlay, as he was on a steep slope on the trail, but landed a bit higher up and was able to bring the other four in the party out. By that time, Finlay had died.

Nelson Search and Rescue was dispatched to recover the body, as this crew is trained in long line rescue. Finlay was transported to the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver.