The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Smienk will not seek re-appointment as Columbia Basin Trust chair

by Jan McMurray

Josh Smienk recently confirmed his announcement of a year ago to the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) board and the Regional District of Central Kootenay that he will not seek reappointment to the CBT board when his term expires in March of 2007. Josh is a founding director of CBT and has served as chair since 1995. He is also director of Area E of the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

A CBT media release with this information was distributed on September 25, about two weeks after the CBT reversed its decision to close the Nakusp office, and just one day before Smienk widely distributed a letter addressed to Nakusp Mayor Hamling in response to "issues you have raised in public regarding the CBT office in Nakusp and my role as a Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) nominee to the Trust Board."

Smienk explains in his letter to Hamling that he was not in agreement with the proposal to close the Nakusp office. He says this was an "incredible dilemma" for him because he had always insisted on "having all the [CBT] directors act as one."

"After discouraging people for wanting to break unity, it would have been extremely hypocritical of me to have done so," he says.

He points out that when CBT CEO Neil Muth spoke to the RDCK board on August 26 about the Nakusp office closure, he believes he seconded the motion for the Trust to reconsider the decision. He says he spoke to directors Janis Dahlen and Paul Peterson and to members of the public in Nakusp, "and I know this very same message was relayed to you on several occasions."

He goes on to say that he is "disappointed with your very personal attacks on me which continued even after we were able to keep the Nakusp office open." He mentions Hamling's "attacks" four times in the letter, but gives only one specific example: "On September 22nd at the RDCK Board meeting the directors reviewed your latest personal attack on me, regarding 'perceived lack of support' in your letter dated September 14 addressed to the RDCK."

The September 14 letter from the mayor and council of the Village of Nakusp to the RDCK chair and board states: "The Community and the Village of Nakusp are very concerned over the perceived lack of support and complete absence of any communication from the RDCK representative to the CBT [Josh Smienk] over the Office closure. This position is appointed by the RDCK and provides our only representation to the CBT.

"The fact that this RDCK appointment also fills the Chair of CBT does not, in our view, preclude us from being represented or supported."

This letter was discussed at the September RDCK meeting. Smienk spoke to it, advising the RDCK board of CBT's "unity" policy regarding speaking on matters once the board has made a decision. Director Dahlen asked for a written response from the board, and the board voted to have Chair Gary Wright draft the letter.

Wright's letter to the mayor and council of Nakusp states: "The RDCK has publicly expressed its concern with the level of confidentiality which the Province requires from its appointees to the CBT, and the impact of those requirements on the legal ability of the District's recommended appointee to report to us in a timely or useful fashion on many matters of import." He calls the "traditional duty" of a chair or mayor to speak on behalf of an organization's decision which may be contradictory to his or her personal preference on the matter "part of the job." He also suggests that "we can best evaluate the effectiveness of our representatives on the basis of (1) their past record and (2) the final outcome of the issue in question." Wright goes on to praise Smienk's 15-year record of success at the CBT and to state that thanks to the efforts of many people, the Nakusp CBT office is still open.

Mayor Hamling personally responded to Smienk's correspondence. Her letter states, "It is unfortunate that you did not give me a quiet call or e-mail me to let me know that you were caught in an uncomfortable situation. The only e-mail that I received from you was in July when you assured me that you and Neil had spoken and there were no plans to shut down the Nakusp Office. I don't think it unreasonable that you contact the Mayor, even off the record or quietly to inform me of the decision. Council was completely blindsided." She concludes the letter by saying, "Although you perceive this as a personal attack, it is our right to question representation if we feel it is lacking. Again, it is unfortunate that there was a lack of communication."

Shortly after CBT CEO Neil Muth attended Nakusp council to announce the closure of the Nakusp CBT office, Village of Nakusp mayor and council sent a strong letter to Chair Josh Smienk and board members of the CBT to express their shock and anger. The letter points out how the decision was made in a manner contrary to the CBT's "Vision" and "Core Values." It also states that the CBT has failed in administering its own management plan by spending much less than it should have. "Your assets are measured conservatively at 500 million and appear to be targeted directly at power and not people," it says. The letter requests written support of member municipalities and their agreement to join Nakusp in meeting Premier Campbell and the Minister of Economic Development at the upcoming UBCM conference "to urge the government to launch an investigation into the management of the CBT, and to audit their expenditures to ensure all regions receive their fair share."

Niekitah Donnet volunteered to do the dirty deed of shaving off Nicholson's 20-year-old beard in front of a large crowd in the middle of New Denver's main street. This was without doubt New Denver's most popular street event of the year.

On October 6, Valley Voice publisher Dan Nicholson finally got his chance to be a celebrity waiter at the Apple Tree Sandwich Shop in New Denver (after whining mercilessly in an editorial about not being chosen in the spring). To qualify for the job, the beard had to go.

When the public spectacle was over, Nicholson's face was bared and he was ready for his shift at the Apple Tree. A cut of the sales during the day and tips, totalling $148.01, was donated to Nicholson's charity of choice, the Sandon Historical Society.

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Silverton residents express concerns over daypark

by Art Joyce

At a special meeting held in Silverton council chamber on October 5, residents were invited to express their concerns over the use of the daypark for overflow camping. Councillor Provan of the facilities and recreation committee chaired the meeting. The room was packed to the limit and one thing was abundantly clear: the people of Silverton place a high value on their quality of life. Although many present were irate, not all residents were opposed.

Mayor Everett attended to remind people that the committee was simply there to provide the public with an opportunity for input, not to make any decisions. Councillor Provan's committee will report to council but the decision may be deferred pending the outcome of the upcoming OCP review. The mayor reminded residents that all Village policies will then be under review, including its recreation bylaws.

Joe Matthews was the first to speak and brought photographs he'd taken, showing a vehicle and tent on the beach and a nude man sunbathing. He cited concerns about personal bathing and laundry strung between trees. He was adamant that the daypark should not be used for overflow camping in future.

"I'm dead against it. I think this summer proved it doesn't work."

Joan McKay said much of the activity she observed from her property went on well after 10 pm: car doors constantly opening and closing, people with flashlights walking around, dust raised by traffic, and campfires that seemed dangerously large.

"I don't want to be confrontational about this, but we bought the property on the understanding that this was a quiet place to live."

McKay and others questioned whether the existing campsites were full to capacity most of the summer. Campground contractor Fran Wallis said that other than during the Valhalla Summer School of Music, there were only three other occasions when it was packed. Ben Matthews asked how long the trial period for the use of the daypark was to be. Councillor Provan said one year. Matthews was also opposed to this continuing.

One resident said she had no problem with the overflow campers and actually found the resident teen parties on the beach far more noisy. Wallis said she found most campers to be courteous and neat, but Fred White took exception to this. White lives between the two main campsites.

"I go out for an early morning walk and take a bag with me to pick up all the garbage. It's like living between shantytowns. My summer's been ruined. We don't need money that much."

A much-needed moment of comic relief came when one elderly woman stood up to say she had no problem with the nude sunbather and actually rather enjoyed it.

Joe Matthews and other residents expressed concern over the issue of campsite revenue, wondering whether the limited income was worth the trouble. He said he met one couple who had been camping for three days and had not had any fees collected yet. Many wondered whether the negligible income for the Village was worth the trouble. Wallis was asked what the revenue breakdown was for the summer months. She had been out of town and was unable to provide any figures for the meeting. McKay said by her own calculations, the Village could barely have collected $1,000 from the daypark camping fees.

"I would gladly write the Village a cheque for $1,000 to have a quiet place to live," she said.

Slocan Valley Rail Trail horseback rider dies

by Jan McMurray

On September 28, a horseback rider died shortly after an incident on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, about 3.5 kms south of Slocan. The cause of death is still under investigation.

Nanna Wilson, who was visiting the area with two others and whose son lives in Silverton, was riding on the trail with one of her companions. According to the coroner handling the case, Sandra Reimer, the incident happened at about 12:30 pm and Wilson died enroute to the hospital at about 1:30 pm.

Constable Stephan Drouin from the Slocan Lake detachment arrived at the scene, and said that first aid attendants from Springer Creek Forest Products, the ambulance, and the Slocan fire department all attended.

Drouin says that Wilson, a 62-year-old woman, was a serious horseback rider. He says she and her friend were riding at a slow pace when the horse bucked; however, there was an indication that she was already falling off the horse.

Drouin said the police did not find anything suspicious about the case. "It is unclear as to whether or not something caused the fall and she died as a result, or if she had a medical condition beforehand," he said. "The cause of death is unknown until the coroner's final report is in."

The coroner expects to have her final report done in six to eight weeks. She said the autopsy had been done, and she was waiting for the results.

When asked if there could be any safety issues on the trail, Drouin said there was no negligence on the part of the people who look after the trail that caused this incident to happen.

Nakusp Wellness Festival idea generates enthusiasm

by Jan McMurray

A meeting was held October 5 at Nakusp's Selkirk College for all those interested in a Wellness Festival in Nakusp.

Meeting facilitator Beth McLeod explained that the idea for the festival was brought to the Nakusp Marketing Committee as a result of a discussion with local massage therapist Dawn Devlin, "so we decided to hold a meeting to see if there was any interest."

Noting the healthy turnout of about 25 people, McLeod said, "Obviously people like the idea."

Indeed, there was a lot of enthusiasm in the room and many commented that they felt this idea could blossom into something very positive for Nakusp and area. "Maybe because of this, Nakusp will become a wellness destination," said McLeod.

Attendees made up an impressive collection of health practitioners, including a herbalist, mental health worker, nutritionist, yoga teacher, nurse, dental hygienist, physiotherapist, belly dance teacher and more.

"There is enough talent in this room and in this town to put on a wellness festival," observed one meeting participant. Everyone agreed, and people felt strongly that the festival should showcase local talent from Edgewood to Trout Lake to Silverton.

With the goal being to bring people in during the shoulder seasons, the group looked at several different weekends in the spring and tentatively decided on the weekend of May 5 and 6 for the festival. Someone suggested that the group find out what accommodation is available at that time of year, and to be prepared for growth. The schools were identified as promising venues for the festival.

The Chamber of Commerce has agreed to be the sponsoring organization, so festival organizers can apply for grants under the Chamber, and can use its office equipment after hours. The Chamber cannot provide funding or staff time.

McLeod made it clear that she may not end up being involved in the festival itself, as she was acting in her role as Community Projects Co-ordinator, a position that ends in February 2007.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 26 at 7 pm. Beverley Darnell volunteered to facilitate.

Learn to advocate for your schoolchildren

submitted

Is something bothering you about your child's education? Do you need help? Then come to a workshop with other parents on October 16 at the Best Western Baker St. Inn at 153 Baker St. in Nelson. The workshop is all about helping parents gain the information and skills needed to solve problems, and is full of practical information. Social time begins at 4 pm and supper will start at 5:30. The workshop begins at 7 pm sharp. Supper is provided free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Please visit www.dpac.kics.bc.ca to register online, or call (250) 352-DPAC. Travel subsidies are available.

Advocacy is about speaking or acting on behalf of oneself, or in support of another person or group. As a parent, you are your child's natural advocate. You can make sure your child's rights, needs, and opinions are respected, and can make sure that decisions affecting your child are made fairly.

Janet Phillips and Cathy Bedard, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) Provincial Advocates, will lead the workshop. They use *Speaking up! A parent guide to advocating for students in public schools* to lead you through: what advocacy is and why it is necessary; more about the rights and responsibilities of students, parents and educators; how to identify the problem; how to keep the focus on the child; planning an approach to the problem using the self-help guides; what information is needed and where to find it; and how to communicate more effectively.

BCCPAC advocacy is about students. Everything done has the best interests of students at heart. The BCCPAC Advocacy Project has found that, through fair and effective practices that focus on students, parents and students can address their issues and be better understood.

For more information about this workshop, visit www.bccpac.bc.ca.

Coffee and Enterprise bridge replacements moving ahead

by Jan McMurray

The bridges at Coffee Creek on Highway 31 and Enterprise Creek on Highway 6 are scheduled to be replaced. Both will get new two-lane bridges, with improved approaches.

Susan Williams, Ministry of Transportation spokesperson, informed that Surespan Construction Ltd. out of West Vancouver has been awarded the $1.5 million contract to replace the Coffee Creek bridge. She says work is expected to begin sometime this month and should be completed by summer 2007. The new bridge will be built 60 metres downstream from the current bridge, which will remain open to traffic during the construction period. Once the old bridge is removed, a stockpile of beams will be made available to Nelson's cross-country ski club for bridges for its trails.

The Enterprise Creek bridge is still in the design review stage. Williams said the design should be finalized by mid-October and the job would go out to tender towards the end of the month. The ministry hopes that the job will begin in March 2007 and be completed by the end of the summer.

Both existing one-lane bridges are deteriorating and require replacement. In order to increase traveller safety and mobility, both are being upgraded to two lanes, with wider approaches.

Mistrial declared in Vaughn Blais case

by Jan McMurray

A trial in the Nelson courthouse on October 5 involving Kaslo resident Vaughn Blais, charged with the dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, ended in a mistrial after Blais stood up and said he had received a death threat during the recess.

Many Kaslo area residents were there to observe, and four attended as witnesses: Georgie Humphries, Luke Crawford, Dan Crawford and Colleen Tilley. Humphries was the only one to take the stand before the mistrial was declared.

Representing the Crown was Philip Seagram. Blais represented himself.

The presiding judge, Justice Sperry, declared at the beginning of the case that one of the witnesses (Georgie Humphries) was the spouse of someone known to him as a lawyer in the community. He asked Blais if this caused him any concern. Blais said it did not. Georgie Humphries was the first witness and she described the incident. She said she was up at the Kaslo transfer station last October 11 when Blais was also there. She said he started fishtailing around the area, close to her two young sons. When she asked him to stop, he answered with obscenities. She said he left the transfer station at about 60 kms per hour.

It was during Blais' cross-examination of the witness that Judge Sperry called for a recess so he could deal with a bail hearing.

When the trial re-convened, Blais stood up and said that the Humphries had threatened to kill him out in the hallway during the recess. This is when Judge Sperry declared a mistrial.

By way of explanation, the judge said that because Blais had made this allegation in open court before him, and given that this allegation had been made about a member of the local bar who was related to a witness in this case, he felt compelled to call a mistrial to preserve the confidence that everyone must have a judge that will be unbiased.

A Kaslo resident in attendance at the trial put those words in plainer language: "The judge basically said he was biased because he had a hard time believing that Tom Humphries, a member of the bar, would threaten Blais."

The next court date in this case is November 7, when a date will be fixed for the trial to re-commence.

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Proposed Argenta development in preliminary stages

by Art Joyce

A proposed 130-acre property near Argenta has been sold to a Calgary developer, raising concerns that access will be lost to its traditional community beach. More than that, residents in Johnson's Landing and Argenta are worried a high-profile housing development could change their way of life.

The Argenta Community Association has been monitoring the situation closely. The community has a Crown lease on the access road to the beach, although the property itself has been privately owned.

"Our bone of contention is that they have not really looked at our lifestyle here on the north end of Kootenay Lake," said spokesperson Rowena Eloise. "A five-star style housing development will not go down well here."

The developer, Western Securities, will be surveying the property this month to determine lot sizes. Company representative Ryan O'Connor says he is unable yet to offer any concrete information on the lots or housing units until the surveys and topographical data are in. He estimates 20-25 waterfront lots maximum on the 4400 square foot beach, with 10-15 upland lots. They are calling it the 'Bulmer property' after nearby Bulmer Creek.

O'Connor said the beach was "a mess" and that the company's first job will be to clean up the deadfall and debris, including brushing to bring it up to FireSmart standards. He dismissed the idea that local concerns aren't being considered. The company is working with the improvement officer to concentrate lots at the north end of the property. This would allow community access to the beach, said O'Connor, though the outcome remains uncertain.

Eloise said the community association has sent the company a package with a proposal to make the development an 'eco-village.' The package included material from the East Kootenay Eco-Village as well as a similar development slated for Harrop-Procter. So far the association has received no response from the developer.

O'Connor acknowledged receiving the package from the association, as well as 20-30 letters from residents. Until the company has decided what to do with the property, he doesn't know what to tell people. He said the proposal to make the property an eco-village will depend entirely on the market. The company is discussing receptivity to this idea with area realtors and prospective buyers.

"This is an environmentally sound property, surrounded by Crown land, which is one of the factors in marketing it," O'Connor said. "I suspect the fact that the area won't be developed is what will be attractive to buyers."

A master plan for the development is expected to be ready by the end of this year or by early 2007. Eloise said the community is taking the cue to become heavily involved in the Regional District's OCP planning process for Area D next year.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Voices from the Valleys

The great tea swindle of '06

Last Friday morning , I had my beard shaved in public, so that I could serve as a celebrity waiter at the Apple Tree Sandwich Shop in New Denver. It was a lot of fun. Rob Oschendorf told me that someone had anonymously donated a bottle of Glenmorangie, so I reluctantly gave up the moustache as well. After all, it had been advertised, and I couldn't very well back down.

I served my shift and raised a few bucks for the Sandon Historical Society. It was great. I got to schmooze with lots of folks, including one couple that drove all the way from Rhode Island to watch my facial hair hit the street. Rob had me make three pots of coffee and bus a few tables. I delivered a few sandwiches to hungry customers. I spilled coffee all over the floor at one point, so he didn't let me deliver the soup.

I finished my shift shortly after 1:00 pm, and went back to work at *The Valley Voice*, (no rest for the wicked). It was about 10:00 pm when my colleague, Rob Riley, and I decided that we should sample the new bottle of Highland Single Malt. Rob breaks the seal and pours us each a dram. I'm busy on the computer, and so I don't immediately drink.

Next thing I know, my colleague is on the floor clutching his throat. "Tee," he gasps.

"No, no," I say. "I've often seen golf tees on a bottle of Famous Grouse, but never on Glenmorangie."

"Tea," he chokes out again, pointing at the bottle. By now he's turning red, poor chap. With a growing sense of understanding, I turn my horrified gaze to my own cup. One sniff is enough to confirm that someone is trying to poison us.

I have many friends that claim to drink tea. Some might even see this as a harmless prank. As journalists however, we have rather more delicate constitutions. Drinking an infusion of leaves in hot water might prove fatal, particularly if it hasn't been fermented and distilled first.

Fortunately, I had the remnants of my birthday bottle of Highland Park in a bottom drawer, and I was able to administer a reviving tonic to my ailing companion. I confess that I had a dram or two of the Highland Park to steady my nerves after our close brush with death.

As journalists, one might think that we would be accustomed to threats to our lives. It's always a shock, though, when it comes from an unexpected quarter. Rest assured, I have my best reporter on the job. The perpetrators will be found and brought to justice. Expect an expose in an upcoming edition.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Columbia Basin Trust needs reform

I find it incomprehensible that an organization with as much public money in its coffers as the Columbia Basin Trust would have a policy of closed board meetings, and impose board solidarity on its members. The idea that our Regional District's representative on the board should have to muzzle his opinions in order to toe the majority line, strikes me as obscene.

The Mayor of Nakusp asked some reasonable questions about the process that went on leading to the decision to close the Nakusp office of the CBT. She wanted to know what steps her representative had taken to prevent this from happening. Was it in fact a hasty decision, or had there been warnings that the Trust might lurch away from its mandate in this fashion? Why wasn't she consulted?

Dissent and minority opinion are essential to our democracy. They should be a part of the operations of the Trust. We deserve to know what's being done with the enormous amount of public money in the Trust and how our directors feel about it. Is it being invested in our communities or is it being used to speculate on the markets?

The biggest problem that most people have with the Trust is that they don't see it doing much to improve our economic, social or cultural well-being. We don't see it making substantial investments in our communities. The hundreds of millions of dollars in assets that it controls don't seem to be in the communities that were supposed to benefit from the Trust.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Visitors loved New Denver

Having just returned to Britain from a three-week vacation with our long-time friends in Hills, we felt we needed to say a big Thank You to everyone we met in and around New Denver, either via our friends from Hills, in the various stores, simply by chance in the street, or even up on Idaho Peak. If there were ever a contest for the most welcoming, friendly place in Canada, we know where our votes would go.

Best wishes to everyone.

Pat & Andy Smith

Foley red herring

Hey, what's up? Rove throws out the Foley red herring and the whole country is rolling in the fish guts. Last week America passed legislation that legalized Bush as a dictator. America is more concerned with lurid sex scandals than the survival of the republic. The page boy deal may or may not topple the Republicans, but no future president, be he republican or democrat, is going to relinquish the powers of a unitary executive. No one man or one branch of government should have that power. It's time to remove the presidency, not just the current president. The US must become a parliamentary democracy. Parliamentary debate is slow and sluggish, but long investigative debate could have saved the lives of 3,000 servicemen in Iraq and stemmed the threat of tyranny in the US.

Tom Coombs
Kaslo

Open letter to Jack Layton

Delegates attending the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference at Grand Forks September 23, 2006 express their support for the resolution passed by over 90% of NDP delegates attending your recent federal convention in Quebec City calling for the withdrawal of all Canadian troops from Afghanistan by February 2007, and to begin the diplomatic process of finding a negotiated settlement to the war.

We greet your public statements calling for an independent Canadian foreign policy of peace that expresses the will of a majority of Canadians who reject the stance of the minority Conservative Government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper committing our armed forces to a bloody and unjust war on behalf of the global arms industry, war lords, the drug trade and US imperialism's quest for oil. While war rages, there can be no meaningful Canadian development aid and assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

In Solidarity and Peace,
BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition

Response to Retterath's letter about Israel and the Middle East

I am a Jew who is appalled by Israel's treatment of Palestinians and the state's recent actions in Lebanon. I have no argument with Mr. Retterath about the injustices that Israel has perpetrated, although I do feel that the issue is a complex one and not so easily explained.

I am also appalled, however, by Mr. Retterath's hateful remarks about the "Holocaust Industry," the "Jewish propaganda machine" and the selling of Jewish suffering "ad nausea."

These kinds of remarks do nothing to heal anything. Instead, they engender more misery, and show a profound disrespect for Jews who had the Holocaust experience and for their children and grandchildren who by virtue of their relationship were also affected.

It is indeed true that many many other people besides Jews died at the hands of the Nazis. One can totally respect that and still wonder and explore how the Nazis were able to plan and execute such a methodical genocide for the Jewish people. I suggest that this is one of the major reasons behind the ongoing exploration and remembrance of this horror, not the need to justify Israel's actions.

Bobbie Ogletree
South Slocan

Foster homes for animals needed

The Protecting Animal Life Society is in desperate need of foster homes for our cats and dogs. Recently we have had up to 17 cats and 2 dogs at one time. Our foster homes are maxed out and we need your help!

Being a foster parent to an abandoned animal can be a very rewarding experience, not only for the animal but also for you. If you or your family have love to give to a pet, but not the time to commit to the responsibility of a full-time situation, fostering a pet could be ideal for you! You could play a vital role for these unfortunate cats and dogs by providing them with a safe, comforting and caring environment while they are transitioning to a new adopted home. There are no obligations to take in an animal if you are busy. There are also no expenses. All of the expenses of the foster animal are incurred by PALS. Food and litter will be dropped off whenever needed and all medical appointments will be dealt with by a member of PALS. It is our policy to make this experience as enjoyable and easy as possible for both the foster parent and the animal.

If you are in the Nakusp vicinity and are at all interested in our foster care program or have more questions regarding the program, please call us at 265-3792. And if you know of someone else who would make a great foster parent for a cat or dog, make sure to pass this information along. We love to hear from you!

PALS
Nakusp

Bear Aware is not enough

The Bear Aware program is not enough. My first concern is that the bears have enough food in their habitat to assure their survival during hibernation. At the same time I am also concerned about them being killed for attempting to find food in town. Relocation has problems too.

If we had strategically planned areas of enhanced bear habitat, and if we tended these sites to assure abundant food sources for our bears then I think we would all be pleased with the long term results. These are our bears; it's up to us to make sure they're attracted in the right directions for their food. It's okay for us to take pride in them and to feel protective and caring toward them. That's not a bad thing.

They live on shrinking islands of habitat surrounded by highways and expanding developments. We have put them at a great disadvantage and they need our compassionate and intelligent intervention to lighten their survival burdens in this modern world.

Perhaps there is enough local interest to consider initiating a pilot project in bear control through strategic habitat enhancement. A strong enough response to the idea may give it the political momentum it needs to become a reality.

I am disappointed that we aren't monitoring our bears and the ever-changing conditions of their habitat. We should know who they are, where they are, and how life is going for them. Who was born and who died, and why they died. Perhaps this too could be a part of the pilot project.

I propose a Bear Care program for the upper Slocan Valley and any other valley that wants to pick an area and set up a Bear Care program.

If this touches your heart and feels right to you, then be vocal about it. Corky? Are you listening? Mr. Atamanenko?

These are our bears and we should be taking care of them.

John White
New Denver

Open letter to Premier Campbell

I am appalled that you have the boldness to deny democratic process by limiting the fall legislative session to one to three days instead of the more common length of seven or eight weeks.

For a premier who has preached the doctrine of accountability for over five years, you yourself are cancelling an opportunity to be accountable for your

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

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government's actions and decisions.

You must have your eyes and ears closed, Mr. Premier, if you think there's no business to be done in the legislature. Here are a few concerns that I would like to have discussed and debated: the progress and costs of the 2010 Olympics, using some of the province's surplus to restore medical services to local hospitals, improve funding for public education so as to help the broad range of learning disabled students, to increase time for physical education, and to provide money to replace inadequate schools with well-built and well-designed new ones. Other topics that should be discussed include Work Safe BC's poor track record in helping injured workers, the large number of people living at or below the poverty line, the lack of affordable housing, homelessness, and treating people with addictions.

There IS a lot of business to do for the province, Mr. Premier. If you don't want to do your job, resign. If you and the other MLAs don't take part in a seven to eight week fall session of the legislature, you should have your salaries cut for non-performance of duty.

You've often shown an arrogant and dismissive attitude toward rulings of the International Labor Organization, but this action of stifling the democratic process goes far beyond your earlier actions of denying workers their rights.

I urge you to do the right thing, to keep democracy alive in British Columbia. What have you got to lose, Mr. Premier?

Margaret Hill
Crescent Valley

Change needed in way we handle bears

My husband and I have several friends who live in the Kootnays. We are often there to visit them, and look to possibly living in the area sometime in the future. I need today to respond to the pathetic approach in handling the bears in this region, (specifically New Denver and Kaslo) which was recently demonstrated by the actions of the Conservation Officers (COs) in New Denver. I understand the lack of COs in this area likely contributes to the problem, but the issue is more an attitude of respect in regards to these animals than anything else. Anyways, at this point the problem exists regardless, and needs to be addressed.

I wrote on the bear killing at the Jazz Festival in Kaslo a few years ago, and I thought somehow this catastrophic event would lead to change. I have to say, other than some much needed attempts to help these animals by the citizens of these parts, which is appreciated and needs to be acknowledged, I still see minimal change in respect to living harmoniously with these wonderful beasts over the past few years.

Colleen McCrory's letter in the *Valley Voice* was an excellent appeal for help for these bears. As she so well voiced, there are solutions, and good people who are willing to implement them. A point also is if these efforts are implemented, it would cost the taxpayers nothing and bears seldom would die.

I appreciate the caring citizens' voices in the form of letters on this subject, as this may be the only way to get the true feelings of the people out in the open so that change can happen in regards to the way we handle the bears in our community in the future. Really, politicians need to listen to the voices of their citizens, for these are the voices of reason, and these are the voices that matter.

It is time for change, and I believe that five bears dying needlessly, is an unnecessary and cruel action, and has shown to be unacceptable by most people.

Ellie Archer
Calgary

Loves New Denver, hates the war

I enjoyed my three week visit in New Denver, but I couldn't help being aware of the distant war in Afghanistan every day. It's like a barely audible, distant rumble of thunder over the calm and silvery lake; like a deathly whisper among the otherwise happily shifting pines.

Five Canadians died in early September before I arrived here, and another five died during my short visit. Just now on the last day of September, news media are trying to determine the age of Josh Klukie of Thunder Bay, Ontario, who became number 10, killed when he stepped on a booby-trapped land mine near Kandahar. His parents are trying to cope while fending off the media, and dreading the inevitable press conference.

I wondered if it all would be happening somewhere here in the Slocan community. Thank God not today, not this month, not yet, but how will Josh's parents give thanks on this night?

It's an all-out war over there. Those of us who are aware of Canadian deaths aren't nearly as aware that at least 1000 Afghans were killed by NATO soldiers last month. (See www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N20203805.htm and War Awareness Pages at www.ncncucc.org/waindex.html) Afghan families and communities are grieving, too. In addition, of course, they suffer incredible shock and fear, with war all around in their streets and markets.

Tomorrow is my last day in New Denver. The mountains, the quiet village, the peaceful silver picture-perfect Slocan Lake will remain forever in my memory. But when I go home, I'll protest the US occupation of Iraq AND the brutal wars of all the nations. People here need to protest, too, not just those in the universities and the big cities, but here in the small towns of BC. I was impressed reading opinions in the Valley Voice, how the people spoke out on the shooting of bears, and on saving the regional office of the Columbia Basin Trust. And the CBT officials listened! What would happen if we filled our editorials and our public meeting places and our street corners with commentary on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

The governments of the world need to hear from good ordinary folks: war is not only morally wrong and inexcusably barbaric – it simply doesn't work! Iraq and Afghanistan are more fearful places now than ever before. Support the men and women in uniform and the people of war-torn nations – bring the troops home now.

Roger Straw
Benicia, California

Stand up for Canada

Our 'American' Prime Minister 'Steve' Harper gets a kick out of being the tough military guy, but this pudgy chickenhawk has foolishly placed us four square in a hopeless war between the occupation forces fighting against well equipped armies of infamous Afghani opium warlords, thousands of undefeated Taliban, starving farmers paid well as martyr-mercenaries and the US Air Force. This is a heinous war, part of America's corporate wet dream of world domination, wild expansion of failed global economic policies and death or conversion of Muslim hordes desperately protecting their homelands, their cultures, their families, their holy existence from Judeo-Christian Crusaders of the Pope. Operation Medusa and Operation Enduring Freedom is a War that will never, ever be won.

How has Canada come to this? The world's longest unprotected border is gone; 900 surveillance towers will beam hi-tech detection devices to American airfields built near the border to guide armed, US border patrol aircraft; inexperienced Canadian guards will be armed; for the first time since 1814 American ships in the Great Lakes are armed with free fire zones established for machine gun training; our banks, federal, provincial and municipal bonds, along with union and other Canadian pension funds, provide billions of dollars to war industries where profits are very high for us and the war profiteers.

Is this Harper's neo-conservative plan for Canadian prosperity – perpetual apocalyptic war sacrificing the lives of our young soldiers in a carefully calculated capitalist exchange for Canadian contracts for Raytheon Smart Missile Systems, US Star Wars bases and billions of bullets? We, the People who pay for all this armament, are seen by Harper as embarrassing rabble in a second rate country, another obstacle in the way of that oil soaked, tar sands bottom line, expendable units in a bloody consolidation of power and wealth unprecedented in recorded history.

We, the People, are the only People who can 'Stand up for Canada' and our peaceful Canadian lifestyles from sea to sea to sea. Only we, the People, can and will stop this military madness by demanding an immediate shift in foreign policies. Tell Stephen Harper to stand up as a Canadian calling for a ceasefire and negotiations, announcing an immediate end to the reckless killing in Afghanistan, bringing our stranded soldiers home to Canada alive – not in flag draped coffins.

Joel Harris
Passmore

In support of Conservative childcare plan

I read with some interest our current Member of Parliament's letter which has been making the rounds in our area newspapers regarding childcare. There are several issues on which I believe he is misleading the citizens of this riding.

First, he seems to imply that the challenges facing childcare only came into existence in the last 250 days since the last election. Wrong. The situation has developed over the past 30 years since the idea surrounding a child care strategy was first articulated by, I believe, the Trudeau government. This is the first and only government that has provided any direct financial support in order to help offset child care costs.

In addition, Canada's new government is committed to supporting the creation of new child care spaces to help Canadian parents balance work and family. This entails putting in place a substantial and flexible incentive to create spaces that meet the real needs and complex realities of Canadian families, regardless of where they live – in cities, small towns or rural areas – and regardless of their hours of work, which may not fit the nine-to-five model. This is a made for Canada plan, and Canada does not end at the Toronto City limits, as Jack Layton seems to think. As proposed in Budget 2006, this new initiative will result in the creation of up to 25,000 new child care spaces each year, beginning in 2007.

Secondly, I wonder why no local example was cited. Mr. Atamanenko says "a working couple earning $36,000 per year in Ontario would only see $388." I don't know of any people in this riding, let alone in Canada, that pay 75% of their income to tax. My sense is that this is a regurgitation of a piece of national NDP propaganda and Layton's urban agenda.

A 9-5 institutional childcare environment does not reflect Canadians' needs, does not build a strong family unit, and above all is not good for children. Institutions are where we put criminals, not children. I guess that the NDP feels that parents are not qualified to raise their children.

On the whole, many people in this riding are pleased with the first steps taken by the Conservative government. It is more than a one-step journey, however. Increasing tax fairness by means such as income and pension splitting will also assist families, both young and old, to keep more of their hard earned money. I look forward to working with Canada's new government in building a better future for my family, and yours.

Robert Zandee
Conservative Party of Canada
Candidate Hopeful
Oliver, BC

Against removal of fruit trees to discourage bears

Peter Roulston says "Don't accommodate bears." I agree and would like to add that if the creek-built outwash fans weren't developed and populated by humans, the bears wouldn't bother roaming them other than as tourists, especially for the few Oregon grapes or whatever else they might find. We shouldn't have to unreservedly share space with a bear population that wasn't here before the human one, particularly when it becomes a nuisance. Common sense says "don't entice" but when there is a problem it should be dealt with by removing the nuisance, not every scrap of fruit, etc., etc. as some suggest. Along these lines I now see even the Village of New Denver (VOND) has culled at least two (so far) fruit trees from the Mori Lakefront Trail. Is this intended to send the message to fruit-tree owners to cut down their trees to address the bear problem? I was under the impression that removal of fruit was supposed to be the first 'bear smart' step in any case, not culling trees. Alternatively if the Village feels it has a liability issue surely this is an over-zealous approach to resolving it. It would have been much simpler to pick the apples and plums, and less costly. And the bears have been (mostly) culled anyway because that's the present policy for nuisance bears.

So, a runt plum tree that rarely bore more than a few dozen fruit (to the delight of a local squirrel) and a shoreline crab-apple tree (my personal delight for its springtime blossoms and in the fall its tart, red apples) recently became recipients of VOND's definition of 'derelict trees' (VOND staff quote), and terminated. If we are going to talk 'derelict trees' then let's remove others of their ilk, above all the scrubby weedy maples on our lakeshore and its banks. They contribute to fuel for possible fires and in fact detract from the lake view (and please no more dumping of woody debris down the banks). Instead, gone is a crab-apple that likely no bear would bother with (there were anyway very few apples on it this year). The crab-apple tree in my yard has not been bear-raided in the 29 summers we have been here. The fruit is yellow, not that tart, makes great apple jelly. However the cedar/fir grove and most grassy areas in my yard are now populated by multiple piles of bear crap, and now a torn-open bag of someone's garbage. One August afternoon the yard was bearly-populated for hours and Anne put up the 'watch out for bears' sign on the gatepost to caution customers of her home-based business to be on the alert.

We have many photos taken over several years of the ex-crab-apple tree and its aesthetic relationship with the Mori trail and Slocan Lake. We will ponder the judgment shown by VOND every time we walk by its stump. However congratulations on the clean-up, just one apple left on the lakeshore and every twig and leaf removed!! Same with the plum, glad we have photos of the squirrel enjoying his (last?) supper from that tree!

Stephen L. Phillips
New Denver

JUMBO WILD ACTION ALERT!

Attend peaceful protest.
Bring placards. 9:00 am,
RDCK building
(across from Nelson
Airport, Lakeside Road)
SATURDAY, OCT. 21
Oberto Oberti, Jumbo Resort
Developer presenting at
RDCK meeting.

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Fun for all at Selkirk College homecoming weekend

submitted

Selkirk's Homecoming Weekend, in honour of its 40th anniversary, is the biggest open house the college has hosted in years. The homecoming officially kicks off at noon on Thursday, October 12. Grads and past instructors from far and wide are coming back to meet old friends, reminisce about their college days, and celebrate.

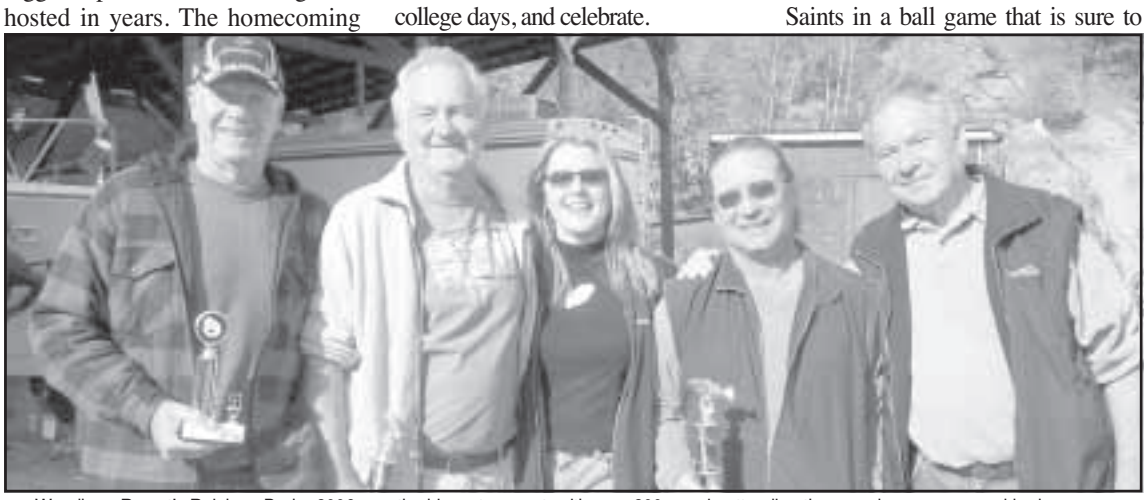
George Bowering, Canada's first Poet Laureate, will be reading from his works at the Castlegar campus library. Later on, the Writers challenge the Saints in a ball game that is sure to entertain all. As part of a celebration of 40 years of writing, the teams are made up of Kootenay writers and Selkirk students and staff. So find yourself a spot on the lawn at the soccer fields and enjoy the game, which begins at 2 pm.

On Thursday evening, Selkirk is inviting writers and readers for a social evening at the Writer's Café. There will be a buffet dinner, and a panel discussion led by Almeda Glenn Miller on 'A Sense of Place.' The event begins at 7 pm in the staff lounge at the Castlegar campus. Cost is $15 to participate. To register, phone 250-365-1208.

On Saturday, October 14 make sure you are on Columbia Avenue in downtown Castlegar by 9:30 am for a community parade. Alumni, students, and staff will re-create the procession, fondly known as the Great Trek, which brought the Castlegar campus to life 40 years ago. A flag-raising ceremony and community picnic will follow the parade at 11:30 am on the Castlegar campus. A host of fun family events are planned to take place until 3 pm.

As part of the celebrations, the School of Renewable Resources Forestry program will be featuring loggers' sports, including log burling, axe throwing, cross-cut saw competitions, chokers races, and shovel tossing. Everybody is welcome to participate. Recreation, Fish & Wildlife students will be giving free canoe rides on the Kootenay River. Scenic flights will be available for only $20 per person. There promises to be something for everyone.

After all the exhausting fun, the festivities will come to a close with an inter-faith Service of Celebration at 9 am on Sunday morning at the Mir Centre for Peace.



Woodbury Resort's Rainbow Derby 2006 was the biggest one yet, with over 200 people attending the awards ceremony and barbecue on Thanksgiving Monday. Al Popp of Balzac, Alberta (second right) won first prize (20 lbs. 10 ozs.); Dave Steinback of Rathdrum, Idaho (far left) won second (19 lbs.); Neale Morrison of Procter (second left) placed third (18.8 lbs.). Also in the photo are resort owners Dina and Terry Jones.

BC Hydro studies effects of fluctuating water levels on kokanee

submitted

BC Hydro in cooperation with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is undertaking the second year of a study to determine if there is a link between fluctuating water levels in the Arrow Lakes reservoir and kokanee spawning. The kokanee monitoring work is being delivered in coordination with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

"Last year we collected data that indicated kokanee successfully spawned independent of water levels," said BC Hydro Environmental and Social Issues manager, Gary Birch. "The work also indicated that the drawdown zone, which is the area where water fluctuates between winter and summer, provided additional spawning habitat, particularly in the northern part of the reservoir."

Below average rainfall in the Columbia region in late July and August resulted in low Arrow inflows, resulting in a higher rate of reservoir draft in late August and September. In years where the reservoir elevation is lower than normal, flowing rivers and creeks extend farther into the drawdown zone before emptying into the reservoir. Spawning in these sections has been observed, but not fully studied.

Birch also noted that data collected over the years has confirmed the primary importance of Hill Creek Spawning Channel and the Fertilization Program in Arrow Lakes Reservoir to the recruitment, survival and growth of the Arrow kokanee stocks.

As part of the study, BC Hydro is assisting the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and MoE to undertake ground counts of kokanee throughout September in Deer, Taite, Octopus, Drimmie, Mckay and Cranberry creeks and will support aerial counting to improve the accuracy of results.

This year, BC Hydro has added several small streams to expand the data collection area, and is surveying streams for any remaining summer debris that could be barriers to spawning. BC Hydro will also be assessing egg survival rates in the drawdown zone and collecting tissue samples to determine the level of genetic variation between kokanee populations from various streams.

For more information see BC Hydro's web site at www.bchydro.com

To commemorate World Teacher Day (October 5), Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association representative Pat Dion gives Frank Juelich a cheque to help with his efforts to provide schooling to street kids in India.

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Wednesday	12 - 4:30; 7 - 9
Friday	12 - 4:30
Saturday	12 - 4:30

All overdue fines will be waived Oct 6-31!
Come check out the new space!

One-to-One Reading with kids at WE Graham School

submitted

The Slocan Valley Community Literacy Program is starting a One-to-One reading program at WE Graham School this October. Volunteers from the community can give kids a great boost in their confidence and self-esteem as readers. Trained volunteers work in half-hour sessions with a child to help them gain fluency and comprehension. Teaching techniques are helpful but what is most important is the caring presence and patient attention of an adult. This program has been very successful at Lucerne school and in Castlegar schools for several years.

A volunteer training session will be held on October 17 at WE Graham from 9-12 pm. The program will run for eight weeks and involve about an hour and a half of time per week. Parents, grandparents and all community members are welcome to come and enrich the learning experience of the kids and likely themselves in the process. For more information about tutoring please call Chris at 355-0032.

One-to-One childrens' literacy programs were developed in 1989 by learning assistance teachers with the Vancouver school board and volunteers with the Junior League of Greater Vancouver. In the West Kootenay, tutors are trained by staff of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the programs are then run by the schools. Children who participate have no formal learning disabilities; they just need some extra time and attention to succeed.

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New Denver Council, September 26: Village applies for funding for outdoor exercise track

by Leah Main

•The Village agreed to act as the proponent for an application to the UBCM Community Health Promotion Fund for a $13,926 project to develop an outdoor exercise track at the Slocan Community Health Centre. This project has already received approval in principle from IHA, and is part of the overall vision for the health care centre. Village contribution will consist of administrative services in-kind.

•The beautification work at the foot of Main Street to create a seating area with a flagpole is proceeding well, and is expected to come in on budget. Mayor Wright reported that Public Works staff members "are having a lot of fun with that project." Funding for this came from a tourism grant. The same grant paid for some rock work to stabilize the banks along the Mori Trail, and for the staircase on the south side of the Carpenter Creek bridge.

•Council discussed the BC Hydro Beautification Projects funding opportunity, under which Hydro may pay for 1/3 of the cost of a community redevelopment project. Council will investigate the cost of underground wiring to the Rock at the Highway 6 intersection of Main Street and apply for the funding under next year's budget.

•Councillor Bunka and several community representatives met with RCMP to identify and prioritize policing issues. Among the priorities noted were drinking and driving; underage drinking, and bears in town. The Village will be placing more bearproof garbage cans, which will help with this problem.

•Council discussed the consultant options for the upcoming Official Community Plan review. Staff will contact RDCK, Smart Growth and other identified consultants to get cost estimates and background information on previous work they have done.

•Councillor Bunka was authorized to attend the upcoming Sustainable Communities workshop in Kelowna, with appropriate expenses to be paid by the Village. Information from this workshop will be valuable during the OCP review.

•Council approved CAO Carol Gordon's request to attend the upcoming West Kootenay-Boundary Local Government Management Association chapter meeting, being hosted by New Denver and Silverton, and to close the Village office if necessary in order to attend conference sessions.

•Geese continue to be a problem and a potential health issue at Centennial Park. Council authorized Councillor Campbell to inquire into means to alleviate this problem.

•Councillor Brookfield reported that the Municipal Insurance Association is currently in a "very strong financial position" and is considering issuing a rebate to municipal clients.

Silverton council, September 26: Close call for losing recycling bins

by Jan McMurray

•After much discussion and a close vote, council decided not to remove the recycling bins from the village. Councillor Bell and Mayor Everett were in favour of removing the bins; Councillors Provan, Masun and Laktin were against.

The discussion was prompted by a letter from Maureen Murray, who lives near the recycling area, asking if the recycling bins could be moved. She says the "unsightly mess" around the bins and the location of them have a negative impact on the community. The bins get moved around every time the company comes to pick them up, and recently they have been in the middle of the street. Murray also says that litter from the area blows into her workshop and that people dropping off their recycling are using her lawn for parking and turning around.

Councillor Bell said that she knows from attending RDCK West Waste committee meetings that all communities are facing the same problems with their recycling bins, and that the company (Canadian Waste 1-250-365-6372) needs a phone call every time there is a mess. Keeping the site clean is the responsibility of the company, as per its contract with the RDCK. She called for education of the citizens on this issue.

Administrator Junko Ida said she regularly receives many complaints about the state of the bins, and pointed out that Castlegar took its bins out of town because of the unsightliness. She said she did not have the time to call Canadian Waste every time there was a mess. She suggested some alternatives, but there was general agreement that none of these were a perfect solution: neighbourhood recycling, a door-to-door recycling pick-up service, and moving the bins to Leadville Street.

Councillor Masun also called for education. She said taking the bins away would be "short-sighted." She suggested that community members, rather than Village staff, call the company when there was a mess. Masun also predicted that Silverton Creek Rd. would become a dump if the bins were taken away.

Councillor Provan acknowledged the problem, but expressed that it would be a shame to remove the bins, especially for the residents who use the service properly.

All council members agreed that Silverton residents should be made aware that they could very well lose the recycling service if the situation does not improve.

•Council received a letter from the Healthy Housing Society encouraging the Village to consider hiring Tom Lancaster, director of SmartGrowth Advisory Service, as a consultant to assist with the review of the Official Community Plan (OCP). Lancaster gave a SmartGrowth presentation in Silverton in February. Council decided to allot up to $500 to have Lancaster come to Silverton and meet with council to discuss the OCP.

•"Volunteer producers" of the annual Dr. Fun dance, Dick Callison and Barb Yeomans, wrote to inform council that this year's 15th annual dance would be held on the weekend of February 2-4. They also ask if council could plan renovations to Silverton Memorial Hall around this weekend if possible. Council voted to accommodate the dance and close the hall for renovations from mid-February to the end of April, pending contractor confirmation. Mayor Everett said that the job would go out to tender soon after the architect had submitted the final drawings.

•Mayor Everett reported that Red Mountain Internet Society should be "ready to rock as a full blown service provider" for Silverton by Thanksgiving.

He also reported that he and New Denver Mayor Wright would attend a fire practise soon to "help everyone get through the growing pains" around the amalgamation of the two departments. He said that more volunteers are needed to join the department.

He reported that there would soon be a meeting between Everett, Wright and the administrators from the two Villages to discuss joint garbage collection. In a follow-up phone call, Everett informed that the meeting resulted in an agreement between the two Villages to do joint garbage collection for a six-month trial period.

Mayor Everett also thanked Ron and Kathy Provan for all their hard work on the Valhalla Summer School of Music and the campground this summer.

•Councillor Bell reported on several meetings she attended. At the Kootenay Rockies Tourism Industry Conference and AGM at Three Valley Gap September 20-21, she learned that tourism doubled in the Kootenay Rockies between 1995 and 2000, and that the group would like tourism in the area to double again by 2010 and then again by 2015. She also learned how important the internet is to the industry and noted our need for high speed internet and effective websites.

At a luncheon featuring a presentation by the Provincial Capital Commission in Nelson September 26, Bell learned that the commission is interested in helping communities beautify their villages. The commission's budget is provided through raised monies, not through taxation.

•Councillor Masun reported on an emergency meeting facilitated by the area's emergency co-ordinator, Terry Warren. There were 15-20 fire starts in the Arrow Zone this season. The Water, Fire and Emergency Services supervisor position at the RDCK had not yet been filled, but when it is, the supervisor will be available to come to Silverton at no charge to put on an information session about the neighbourhood emergency plan. Masun said she was looking for more community members for Silverton's emergency committee.

•Councillor Laktin reported that the Book Exchange at Silverton Building Supplies is going well.

•Council voted to make $5,000 available so that two council members can attend the Union of BC Municipalities conference at the end of October. These funds will come out of the additional Small Communities grant distributed to municipalities this year.

Draft Centennial Park Plan presented to public

by Jan McMurray

A well attended open house was held on October 3 for the public to check out the newly drafted Centennial Park Plan.

A map showing the proposed changes to the park was on display, and comment sheets were available for people to provide input. Comment sheets and the map will be available at the Village office until about October 17.

The comprehensive plan for the park came out of a request to council by the May Days committee to place a gazebo in the park to commemorate the event's centennial year in 2007. Also, some time ago, some youth made a presentation to council regarding a skatepark.

The new plan includes provision for both a gazebo and a skatepark, with the understanding that their costs would be borne by the interested community groups.

The plan also moves the baseball diamond to the southeast corner of the park near the Kohan Reflection Garden.

Councillor Ann Bunka, who heads the committee responsible for the park plan, explained that the plan attempts to come up with a better use of park space.

There were several comments about congestion at the boat launch. Bunka admitted that the committee had not considered this, and urged people to submit their comments.

The committee will review all comments at the end of October and report back to council.

Pat Ashton and Mayor Van Bynen cook bratwursts and burgers at Slocan's second annual Oktoberfest on October 1.

Slocan's second annual Oktoberfest took place Sunday, October 1 from 10 am - 5 pm. There was food, including Bratwurst, vendors and live music by musicians from near and afar.

THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

P.O. Box 50, Slocan, B.C. V0G 2C0

Surplus Equipment For Sale

The Village of Slocan is offering for sale, on an "as is where is" basis, the following surplus equipment:

- 1977 Satoh Tractor Model S650 G
- 1981 F700 Ford Dump Truck
- 1994 Trail Tech Flatdeck Trailer

Sealed bids clearly marked "Surplus Equipment" will be received up to 4:00 pm, October 30, 2006. To view the items contact the Village Office at 355-2277 or the Public Works Foreman at 355-2500. Highest or any bid not necessarily accepted. Reserve Price.

Mail or deliver sealed bids to: Village of Slocan
Box 50, (503 Slocan St.)
Slocan, BC V0G 2C0

Category 2,3 Open Burning Rescinded in Parts of the Southeast Fire Centre

Effective 08:00 A.M. on September 26, 2006 and until further notice, backyard burning and industrial pile burning (Categories 2 and 3), including the use of all burning barrels, fireworks, are again permitted in all areas of the Southeast Fire Centre **except the Boundary Fire Zone**. The Boundary Fire Zone is bounded by the Okanagan Highland Range of the Monashee Mountains to the west, the Christina Range to the east and the Canada-US border to the south. It encompasses most of the Kettle and Granby river valleys.

The open fire ban remains in effect in the Boundary Fire Zone to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused wildfires. This ban affects backyard burning and industrial burning of piles over two metres high and three metres wide.

The BC Forest Service manages open fire restrictions outside of municipal boundaries and regional districts that have open burning bylaws. Before lighting a fire, please check with your local authorities for information on open burning bylaws within organized areas.

The Southeast Fire Centre extends from the U.S. border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands/west side of the Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C./Alberta Border in the east.

For more information, contact the Southeast Fire Centre at (250) 365-4040 or visit our web site at www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect. To report a fire call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell phone.

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See you next year!
Lilliana & Randy (owners)

Located on Rosebery Loop Road

Shopping locally is a vote for your community

by Art Joyce

We've all heard the expression: "vote with your dollars." But in the case of a small town, voting with your dollars by supporting small businesses is critical to the survival of a local economy.

According to Ron McClean of the Schulich School of Business, "60% of Canada's economic output is generated by the country's small and medium businesses. Eighty percent of total employment and 85% of all new jobs are also created by small and medium businesses." That figure is slightly lower in the US, but still significant: half of all private sector jobs are generated by small businesses (defined by those with under 500 employees).

The American Independent Business Alliance has been doing advocacy work for small business in the US, compiling cutting-edge research on economic impacts. Some 90 communities across the US have rejected big-box chain store proposals, concluding that costs to the local economy would far outweigh the benefits. An extensive study at Iowa State University of new Wal-Marts found 84% of their sales simply shifted dollars away from existing local merchants.

A study by Dan Houston and Matt Cunningham of Civic Economics in Chicago, found that locally owned businesses generate 70 percent more local economic impact per square foot than chain stores. How? According to Jeff Milchen of the IBA, "independent local businesses employ a wide array of supporting services. They hire architects, designers, cabinet shops, sign makers and contractors for construction. Opportunities grow for local accountants, insurance brokers, computer consultants, attorneys, advertising agencies and others to help run it. Local retailers and distributors also carry a higher percentage of locally-made goods than the chains, creating more jobs for local producers."

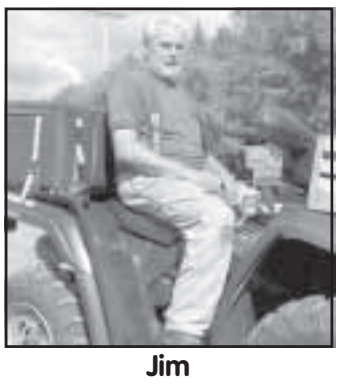
For those in the Kootenays who value the small town rural character of their communities, these American examples are important to consider. As Milchen points out, "we embrace the idea of distinctive businesses with local character, but often forget their survival depends on our patronage." Aside from generating jobs and economy, locally based businesses can cater to local tastes. As just one example, independent booksellers and music shops can more easily make available independently produced books and CDs, including material that might be deemed too controversial for a multinational chain.

And whereas large corporations export profits to out-of-province or even out-of-country headquarters, local business owners usually live in their communities. They are therefore often more involved in community concerns, such as supporting local charity. As Milchen explains, "Local owners with much of their life savings invested in their businesses have a natural interest in the long-term health of the community."

The impact of big-box stores on jobs is severe: sales of the 500 largest corporations grew 700% in the past 20 years, yet they are now net disemployers, firing more people than they hire despite record profits. A study done by the Public Policy Institute of California concluded that "the opening of a Wal-Mart store reduces county-level retail employment by 180 jobs. Because Wal-Mart stores employ an average of 360 workers, this suggests that for every new retail job created by Wal-Mart, 1.5 jobs are lost as existing businesses downsize or close."

A study conducted by the University of California at Irvine and the University of California at Los Angeles found that these jobs also depress wages by nearly 50%. "Unionized supermarket workers in southern California make the equivalent of $18.25 an hour in wages and benefits, according to the study, while Wal-Mart employees earn just $9.63 per hour." For most workers, corporate jobs also mean less than full-time employment and therefore low or no medical or other benefits.

L&J ATV
Sales and Service



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(250) 353-2955

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate the many small business owners who make these valleys such a wonderful place to call home. We're all in this together!

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6th Street
New Denver

Kaslo Drugs
403 Front Street,
Kaslo, BC
(250) 353-2224

Joe
Gaze n Chat
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Silverton, BC • 358-2878

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JEMS Propane Ltd.
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359-5922

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Ann Bunka, Proprietor

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Don Munro, RDCK Director, Area "H"

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the many small business owners in our area. Your services are appreciated by our residents!

Back Row: Henry Dahms, Jeff Davie, Eric Early. Middle Row: Silvie Anderson, Mike Bilodeau, Monica Davie, Waylon Edey. Front Row: Lesa Pangburn, Maggie Staples, Suzanne Ross. Missing from photo, Shad Wilson.

Kaslo Building Supplies
IRLY Building Centre
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True Value Hardware

Bon Marché
DOLLAR $ DOLLAR

Val & Todd
416 Broadway Nakusp
265-3644

Carol's Corner

Carol
Sewing, Notions & Clothing
Main St. New Denver
358-2255

Barbara & Jim
Men & Women's Clothing Boutique
The Clothes Hanger

Have your own advisory board for your business

submitted

A new peer mentorship program is inviting applications from interested businesses for its debut in mid to late October in both Nelson and Castlegar.

The West Kootenay Business Exchange program aims to assist local area businesses by providing a confidential environment for them to share ideas, give positive feedback, solve problems and provide ongoing support for business issues.

With the belief that "15 heads are better than one," the program is looking for 12-20 non-competing West Kootenay businesses which have been in operation for a minimum of three years for both Nelson and Castlegar programs.

BE members will meet with each other once a month for a breakfast meeting in a confidential setting to act as one another's unofficial Board of Advisors, with the goal of solving each other's business problems.

Applications must be submitted to Community Futures in Nelson by noon on Tuesday, October 10.

Jack Harvey's Restaurant

404 Lake Avenue

Silverton, BC

(250) 358-2888

CONGRATULATIONS

to all Kaslo & area businesses on another great year and a warm welcome to all new business owners in the area. Let's work together to make 2007 our best year yet!

Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce

353-7323

info@kaslochamber.com

horsefeathers

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The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission is proud of the many local small business owners and entrepreneurs who make this valley their home and provide so many much-needed jobs in the area. You are the backbone of our communities!

Jesse & Rosalyn

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(250) 265-0060

Hal

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93-5th Ave. Nakusp

Pat & Peggy

Mountain Valley Station

STORE/ATM/GAS/ DIESEL/AUTO PROPANE/ BOTTLE DEPOT on Arlington Corner Slocan City, BC 355-2245

Mark & Susan

Mark Adams, Certified General Accountant

316 6th Avenue, New Denver, BC

(250) 358-2411

Brent

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The Mayor, Councillors and staff of the Village of Nakusp salute our many hard-working and community-minded small businesses. You make our village the great place that it is!

THE VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

If it were up to us, we'd have a salute to small business MONTH! The hard work you put into your business is returned a thousand-fold to the valley communities. We appreciate all you do and your dedication to our community.

503 Slocan 355-2277

Nelson's new museum to hold grand opening

Features locally produced films about hydroelectric power on Columbia River

by Jan McMurray

Heritage meets state-of-the art in Nelson's former City Hall, now home to Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History. After years of dreaming and planning, the museum will have its grand opening on October 14, at 502 Vernon Street.

Inside the building are two art galleries, museum exhibits, a small theatre, the audio turret, an archives space and a gift shop.

The small theatre will be featuring three six- to eight-minute films about hydroelectric development on the Columbia River system, produced by Recordo Media out of Winlaw. The films will be at the museum for one year.

The first, *How a dam works*, is about the area's initial introduction to hydroelectric power. The second, *The Columbia River Treaty*, is "thought provoking and sets the stage for the upcoming negotiations" according to Ricardo Hubbs of Recordo Media. He interviewed MLA Corky Evans, Columbia Basin Trust chair Josh Smienk and Nelson author Eileen Pearkes for this film. The third, *The course of history*, is about the impacts and benefits of the dams. In this one, Hubbs interviewed Helen and Oliver Buerge of Burton and Linda Kendall of Nakusp, all who experienced firsthand the flooding when the Hugh Keenlyside dam was constructed. He also interviewed an employee of BC Hydro at the time of the flooding and Wally Penner of the Columbia Power Corporation.

"These films are going to put another lens on history and allow people to see something most people don't even know happened," said Hubbs. "It has been a profound experience and a challenge for me to find some sense of balance to the story. It's about low-cost power vs. massive environmental destruction, the displacement of 2,300 people, the flooding of one-third of the best agricultural land, the submerging of archaeological sites, the death of the salmon runs...there is no balance to this story, but there is a balance to the perspectives."

Hubbs says there were times when he was brought to tears by his subject matter, and times that brought warmth to his heart – "like when I met people like the Buerges, who I now consider heroes."

Hubbs says he is confident that people will be touched by what they see in the theatre, and in the rest of the museum.

So, plan to be at the grand opening on October 14. At 11 am the official ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place, with special guest Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo. Children's activities, music, dance performances, a giant cake, a book-signing and lots more will add to the celebration on both Saturday and Sunday. A special seniors' tea will be held on Sunday; for information call Brenda at 352-6241. Touchstones Nelson will be open 11-7 on Saturday and 11-4 on Sunday. For more information, call 352-9813.

Ricardo Hubbs of Recordo Media in Winlaw has produced three films on the role of hydroelectric power in our area's history. They will be available for viewing at Nelson's new museum and art gallery for one year.

Dana Lyons concert to support inland rainforests

submitted

Dana Lyons, singer-songwriter extraordinaire, will give a concert in Nelson to benefit rainforests on Thursday, October 12 at 7 pm at St. Saviour's Anglican Church, 723 Ward Street at Silica Street. Tickets are $10 at the door. This concert is sponsored by the World Temperate Rainforest Network and Valhalla Wilderness Society. To round out the evening of comedic tunes, ballads and love songs, brief presentations about rainforests will be made by the World Temperate Rainforest Network and the Valhalla Wilderness Society. VWS will talk about the only inland temperate rainforest on Earth - right here in southeastern BC.

Lyons has been called a 'modern day Pete Seeger' and the minstrel of the environmental movement. He achieved international acclaim with his hit song *Cows With Guns*, wherein a militant cow stirs his fellow bovines to take up arms and revolt against their fate as burgers-in-waiting. *Cows With Guns* made it to the top 40 charts in Ireland, Australia, and Seattle.

Lyons has written witty and humorous songs about riding lawnmowers and RVs. He gets crossover radio play on rock, alternative, country, community, college and oldies radio stations worldwide. Among his nine CDs are *Circle the World: Songs and Stories* with Dr. Jane Goodall, a blend of Jane Goodall telling stories of working for peace and environmental justice and Dana's beautiful ballads. Dana performs often for Dr. Goodall's youth activist program, Roots and Shoots.

Dana has toured in 46 of the 50 American states, around the East Coast of Australia and across Ireland, England, New Zealand, Mexico, Kazahkstan and Siberia. Dana has shared the stage with such musical luminaries as Willie Nelson, Neil Young, Dave Matthews, John Mellencamp, Lucinda Williams, Pete Sears of Jefferson Starship, Stephen Stills, Country Joe McDonald and Utah Phillips.

For more information contact Colleen McCrory (250) 358-2333 or vws@vws.org.

Don't miss the Dana Lyons concert at the Anglican Church on Ward Street in Nelson, October 12.

Columbia Power Corporation
and
Columbia Basin Trust
would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their invaluable contribution in making Community Day at the Brilliant Expansion Project such a huge success!

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- Klohn Crippen Acres
- Speed Pro Signs (Trail)
- Big Event Tent Rentals
- Brilliant Cultural Centre
- School District #20 Bus Drivers
- Selkirk Traffic Control
- Dale Flodell
- Mike O'Connor
- Christine Thiessen
- SNC-Lavalin
- Mats Alexanderson and the staff at Skanska-Chant JV
- Columbia Power Corporation & Columbia Basin Trust Staff and Families

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An evening of dance improvisation comes to Winlaw

submitted

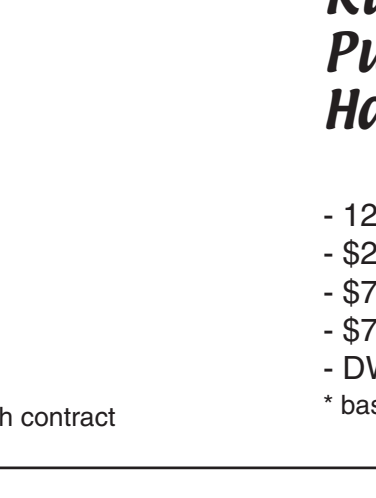
An evening of dance improvisation will be held Friday, October 13 at the Winlaw Hall from 7:30 to 10 pm. There will be demonstrations of styles and solos from some of the best dancers from the Slocan Valley, Castlegar and Nelson. This is a dance event for adults of all ages, with a special welcome to men. Admission only at the beginning of the event. Bring a blanket or cushion. Dancing may continue into later hours and accommodation can be arranged for out of town visitors. Tickets are $10 in advance, $15 after October 10, available from Jennie's Books or Earth Spirit Books in Winlaw, and Otter Books in Nelson. For information contact Barbara Wilson at barbfinearts@lycos.com or 250 226 0021 and be sure to leave a message. Scholarships are available.

A much appreciated footbridge was recently installed on the MacBeth hiking trail up in the Lardeau. The new bridge replaces what many might remember as a difficult log crossing. MacBeth trail is located at approximately 22 kms up Glacier Creek. For information on this and other hiking trails, contact Dan Reibin, Recreation Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts at 250-365-8617.

Barbara Wilson will host a dance improvisation evening on October 13 at the Winlaw Hall.

Barbara brings to Winlaw a profound love for dance. It is complimentary and essential to her "other life" as a painter. She makes no claim to be a teacher of technique, and prefers to work with dancers for the joy and freedom that come with improvisation. She will be hosting dance improvisation evenings on Thursdays from 7 to 9pm at Winlaw Hall (note change from Winlaw School) until the end of November. Register through Slocan Valley Recreation, (250) 226-0008 or slocanvalleyrec.netidea.com.

Wilson paid for her first ballet dance lessons at the age of 12 by delivering daily newspapers in Saskatoon. She later danced modern technique with the Anna Wyman School of Dance in West Vancouver and with Linda Rubin's Synergy Movement Workshop in Vancouver in the 1970s. It has been Wilson's good fortune to have done contact improvisation with founder Steve Paxton and to have workshopped with modern dance pioneer Anna Halprin. In Taiwan she practiced for four years with a Tai Chi group, studying Chi Gong and other martial arts disciplines while overseas. She expects to dance well into her 80s.



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Slocan Lake RCMP call for volunteers

submitted

Slocan Lake RCMP are looking for volunteers for the Speed Watch program, as well as for the Auxiliary Constable program.

Anyone wishing to become a Speed Watch volunteer in New Denver, Silverton and Slocan is invited to contact the following people. In Slocan contact Eunice Ludlow, Chief Administrative Officer at the Village of Slocan office, 355-2666. In Silverton contact Mayor John Everett at the Village of Silverton office, 358-2472. In New Denver contact Constable Glen Jorde at the Slocan Lake detachment of the RCMP, 358-2222.

Volunteers in the Speed Watch program monitor a radar speed board, which is available from Lemon Creek to Summit Lake. The job involves no law enforcement – volunteers simply record speeds for statistical purposes. Volunteers should be available for 2-4 hours a month, working closely with the RCMP. The program's success will depend on the number of volunteers. Students from grades 11-12 may also apply.

The Auxiliary Constable program is a volunteer position requiring a minimum of 150 hours of community service per calendar year. Appointments of Auxiliary Constables are made by the Ministry of Public and Solicitor General and appointees must be willing to serve in uniform for a minimum of one year. Applicants must undergo a training program of approximately 140 hours and successfully complete exams administered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia. Auxiliary Constable duties include the ride along program, Speed Watch program, school and community programs and assignments from the detachment commander.

Applicants must be 19 years of age or older, have a valid unrestricted BC driver's license, high school diploma or equivalent, and no criminal convictions for which a pardon has not been granted. Basic medical requirements must be met as well as attaining RCMP reliability clearance.

Anyone interested in applying should submit a letter stating their interest by no later than November 1, 2006 to the attention of Constable Stephan Drouin, Slocan Lake RCMP detachment, P.O. Box 100, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0.

Lucerne School students were off and running for Terry Fox on September 29.

Come out to a fundraiser for Gord Chernoff

submitted

A social evening will be held for Gord Chernoff on Saturday, October 21, at the Kaslo Legion Hall. Happy hour at 6 pm and barbecue steak dinner at 7 pm. Make your reservation for $25 per person with Debbie Reimer at 353-7196, Pam Walker, 353-7710, Laureen Jacobs 353-2970, Bruce and Opal Jacobs 353-2469. Reservations also available at Cornucopia, and Barren Fly & Tackle. An evening full of fun and games, with many special events. Sorry, no minors.

Gord was born in Nakusp and has lived in Kaslo for 30 years. He was born with a congenital heart condition that has now reached critical stage, and has been living in Toronto for three months awaiting a heart/lung transplant. The survival rate for this operation is 90%. The main issue is how long he will have to wait for the organs – it could be one or two months or one to two years. But if all goes well, Gord could be back living the life he's always lived – doing more, in fact – in as little as six months after surgery.

Gord and his sister Linda are renting an apartment for $1700 a month that is within walking distance of Toronto General Hospital. He has to be very accessible to the hospital as surgery has to be done within four hours of the arrival of donor organs. His address is 167 Church Street, Apt. 808, Toronto ON M5B 1Y6. He would love to hear from everyone with your support – that's what keeps him going.

This is a second chance for Gord. His health is only part of the issue – the operation is covered by health insurance, but travel and accommodations are not. Please come out and show Gordie we all care and want to help him in the fight of his life!

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Ph. 1-888-547-9266 Fax 1-250-547-9234

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Burton General Store w/ Land & Living Quarters $478,000.

Land, building & Business all included at this price. 3 Bedroom updated home with private yard attached to the only General store with gas pumps in the immediate area. Must qualify for Liquor store & post office located within. Beautiful location across highway from Provincial Park & campground. Perfect opportunity for a young family looking for a business. Call Darline 1-888-547-9266 MLS#9153677

B & B Possibility $469,900.

6 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home located on Highway 6, Edgewood would be a perfect spot for a B&B or market garden. Lovely grounds, features a pond, flowers, gardens, greenhouse and lots of parking. Beautiful view over the Edgwood valley and only minutes from Whatchan and Arrow Lakes. Call Darline 1-888-547-9266, MLS# 9158842

This grade 5 team is the official overall winner in the Nakusp Elementary School Triathlon held on September 21, with teams from grades 4 to 7 competing. This team won with the incredible time of 25 minutes and 40 seconds. Team members are, from left: Gage Darling (swimmer - 4 laps), Nathan Hawe (runner - 2 kms) and Jake Darling (cyclist - 5 kms).

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www.kscu.com Kootenay Savings

October is Canadian Library Month 2006

by Evelyn Goodell

To celebrate the role of libraries in enhancing the quality of life for all Canadians, October has been chosen Canadian Library Month for 2006. To help celebrate Library Month, the Nakusp Public Library is fine-free from October 6th to the 31st. There will be no overdue charges for late items during this period. The Spiritwood gift store will make a matching donation to Amnesty International of all overdue library fines during this time, to a maximum of $1 per patron. Everyone is invited to come and check it out! The Library is open Monday 1-4:30 / 7-9 pm; Wednesday 1-4:30 / 7-9 pm; Friday 1-4:30 pm; Saturday 1-4:30 pm.

Nakusp residents really have something to celebrate at their library this year. A fifteen-year-old dream has been realized, and the Nakusp Public Library has expanded and remodeled its space. Although it is still a 'work in progress', everyone is invited to come and check out the 'new' public library. The library is more than twice as big, has new shelving, paint, flooring, and lighting. Readers can now sit in comfortable chairs and enjoy a quiet place to spend time reading or researching, children have comfortable chairs and places to study, and internet access is available free of charge to residents and visitors. The Expansion Celebration will take place at a future date when the community can be properly thanked for its tremendous support.

The public library is a cornerstone of our communities. It is one of the few public spaces still open to all, regardless of age, gender, race, social status or language. It offers a variety of resources (books, CDs, movies, magazines, internet access) and programming to meet the diverse needs of its patrons.

Some interesting facts about public libraries: 94% or 28.5 million Canadians are in a community served by a public library. In 2003, there were 127 million visits to public libraries. Public libraries receive $780 million in municipal funding and nearly $130 million from provincial/territorial governments.

Changes ahead for Slocan Valley Co-op

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley Co-op is growing, and is looking for a new manager.

Bob Rode, the co-op's general manager from 2001 to September 30 of this year, has returned to Saskatchewan. The board and staff held a recognition day for him on his last day at work, presenting him with a crystal decanter. On the decanter was a plaque acknowledging his "dedication above and beyond."

"Replacing Bob will not be easy," said Vince Salvo, president of the co-op. During his five-year reign, memberships increased by more than 500; sales almost doubled; the store expanded; liquor and lotto sales were added; employment opportunities significantly increased; and most recently, there was a new fuel expansion.

Salvo says they hope to have a new manager in place by mid-November at the lastest. In the meantime, Seija Callahan is acting manager, a position that was filled from within the organization.

The new manager will also take on management of the Fruitvale co-op. Salvo explained, "We came to an agreement in principle with the board at Fruitvale that 20% of our manager's time would be spent and paid for by Fruitvale. This is one way of keeping costs down for both stores."

The Fruitvale store will have a site manager, but the accounting, purchasing, evaluations and reporting to the board will be done by Slocan Valley's manager. Salvo explained that the Slocan Valley Co-op already does Fruitvale's accounting, and that "this new agreement extends the accounting agreement to a general management agreement. It is a cost-effective move for both stores."

Salvo informed that Fruitvale and Slocan Valley are the last two co-ops in the Kootenays that are affiliated with Federated Co-operatives Ltd.

The co-op's annual general meeting will be held in February, and Salvo says they are hoping to report record sales this year. Last year, sales were $2.8 million, and the board is projecting sales of $3.3 million for this year. He says the co-op is "good for the local economy," offering 16 full-time equivalent positions and career mobility for staff.

Credit Union Centrals take steps to create a national business organization

submitted

Credit Union Central of Ontario and Credit Union Central of British Columbia announced on October 6 that they are entering into formal discussions to create a new national business entity to serve credit unions across the country.

The proposed co-operative venture would create a combined liquidity pool offering greater lending and investment options, along with comprehensive payment and settlement services, and MemberDirect(R) online services, the leading internet banking platform for Canadian credit unions. Provincial centrals would continue to provide trade association services – such as provincial government relations, marketing and communications, education and advisory services – to credit unions within their respective provinces. The two Credit Union Centrals have combined assets of more than $6.5 billion and represent over 200 credit unions.

October 15-21 is Co-op Week

Co-op Week is the opportunity for Canadian cooperatives and credit unions to celebrate and bring awareness to the value of co-ops.

Co-operatives and credit unions employ over 155,000 Canadians. Co-operatives and credit unions in Canada give approximately $60 million annually to their communities through donations and sponsorships. Join us. Live the co-op experience!

Go to www.kootenay.coop for information about the Kootenay Co-op's extensive Community Outreach Programs

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Slocan Valley Co-op CO-OP

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Demo Day
Thursday October 19 • 11am – 3pm

Featuring:

Legendary Meats
& their new wheat-free sausages

Roesina's Tempeh
Made with certified organic soybeans

Little Miss Gelato
The Kootenays' new favourite treat

Eco-Pac cereals

Cocoa Camino
Fair trade organic chocolate bars

Munchmore
Pizza and other gourmet goodies

Kootenay Coffee
Free organic coffee

and who knows what else!

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Full Service Gas & Diesel 6 am – 9 pm • Cardlock 24/7
3024 Highway 6, Slocan Park • 226-7433 • Sears: 226-7555

We are open every day from 6 am – 9 pm

Come celebrate
Credit Union Day

Thursday October 19

Join us in branch for fun, information and refreshments.

437 Front Street, Kaslo
502 Broadway Street, Nakusp
411–6th Avenue, New Denver

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Help Heritage Credit Union* celebrate International Credit Union Day by joining us at any one of our convenient branches for refreshments on Thursday October 19, 2006.

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#100-630-17TH STREET,
CASTLEGAR, B.C. V1N 4G7
PHONE: 250.365.7232
FAX: 250.365.2913

SLOCAN VALLEY
3014 HIGHWAY 6, P.O. BOX 39
SLOCAN PARK, B.C. V0G 2E0
PHONE: 250.226.7212
FAX: 250.226.7351

WEST BOUNDARY
256 S. COPPER, P.O. BOX 76
GREENWOOD, B.C. V0H 1J0
PHONE: 250.445.9900
FAX: 250.445.9902

Nakusp council, September 28: More work to be done at hot springs before winter

by Jan McMurray

•Walter Schredl of Yoneda Engineering attended to update council on outstanding issues at the hot springs. He said that the heating and ventilation systems needed upgrading before the snow flies. The in-slab heating and oil furnace need some work, and the heat pump that was installed in 1994 does not function properly.

Schredl said both he and Trevor Shepherd, who has been working on the Village's well project, agreed that the hot waste water from the facility could be piped into the Village for re-use rather than pumping it into the creek. He said he would re-do the fee schedule for Phase II of the hot springs renovations and include this. He also warned council that prices for materials and labour had increased drastically since he did the original quote, and to allow for an overall increase of 55%. Phase II was originally estimated at a minimum of $238,000.

There was also discussion around vandalism at the source. Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff said he had witnessed vandalism at the source too many times in the year he has held his position, and informed council of his most recent discovery. On a routine inspection on September 26, he found rocks blocking the intake pipe, and an old broken pipe connected to the source to fill the old hot springs pool. He urged the Village to employ Kala Groundwater to complete an evaluation of the source and ensure it is protected. "If we're not going to do anything up at the source, we might as well not look at the rest of the facility," he said.

Schredl said that at Halcyon, the source areas were encased in concrete with lockable steel covers.

•A bylaw authorizing the Village to borrow up to $700,000 for renovations to the hot springs was tabled, as council felt the bylaw should allow for an amount higher than $700,000. Treasurer Richard Mahoney explained that the $700,000 represents the work that has already been done. However, he said, in light of Schredl's presentation, more work should be done, costs are rising, and "it is better to ask for more rather than less."

•Council still does not know if Nakusp's boat ramp will be repaired or replaced, even after receiving the Water Comptroller's response to council's request for clarification. The Comptroller accepted BC Hydro's terms of reference (TOR) for providing public access to the Arrow reservoir, and council wanted to know if that meant that the Nakusp ramp would be repaired, as proposed in a report prepared for BC Hydro by its consultants. Council feels strongly that the ramp should be replaced rather than repaired.

The Water Comptroller describes his acceptance of the TOR as the establishment of a "baseline" for BC Hydro and acknowledges that this "presents an incomplete picture in terms of the access that may be ordered for Arrow reservoir." He says that only after the Columbia Water Use Plan decisions have been made will the required work be fully defined. The Comptroller's letter does not indicate when these decisions will be made. It only states that the public referral period for the WUP closed on September 27.

Council decided to set up a meeting with the Water Comptroller, BC Hydro representatives, and Kindy Gosal of Columbia Basin Trust. "We'll get everyone in the same room at the same time to hear the same thing," said Councillor Mueller. "The Water Comptroller and BC Hydro seem to be passing the buck back and forth."

•Council reviewed an amended Hot Spring Passes and Promotional Material Policy. The intention of the amended policy was to be very clear about who can issue complimentary passes and promotional materials, and under what circumstances. "Administration wants to be able to give some passes without coming to council every time," explained Mayor Hamling. Council made some minor changes to the amended policy and accepted it.

•CAO Bob Lafleur and Treasurer Richard Mahoney prepared a memo for council regarding the Village and hot springs websites. They have found a source to provide a website that is easy to use and can be maintained in-house by staff. The company, iCompass Technologies Inc., specializes in serving municipalities, already provides the Village with some services and have been favourably recommended by others. The company has quoted a design fee of $1,900 and an annual operating fee of $1,200, for a total of $3,100 this year. Council had budgeted $20,000 to re-design the websites. The proposal includes consolidating the two websites into one, and the Village will not require a webmaster. Council decided to table this until next meeting, after Lafleur forwards examples of websites to members of council.

•Ray Green from the Nakusp Energy Corporation (NEC) attended as a delegation to request a loan for $60,000 for the wood waste heating project. Treasurer Richard Mahoney reported that the Local Government Act, Community Charter, and Village policy prohibited council from lending money to a business. Green asked council if it would consider a partnership with NEC. CAO Lafleur acknowledged that the Community Charter encourages municipalities to form partnerships for energy efficiency projects, but said the Village would need a business plan first. Council decided to send the corporation a letter of support in principle for the project.

•The public can expect to see signage prohibiting truck traffic from using Government Hill in the near future.

•Hi Pro sporting goods will install a trial water treatment system at the curling rink to avoid the layer of calcium buildup from Village water that forms on the rink and causes problems for curlers. The system will cost $1,600 for the 2006/07 season.

•Council authorized staff to enter into a lease with the Nakusp Curling Club for the 2006/07 season at a monthly rental of $1,750 (total of $7,000).

•Accounts payable of $446,729.74 were approved.

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION BY VOTING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY given to the electors of the Village of Nakusp that a by-election by voting is necessary to elect one Councillor for a two-year term commencing in November 2006 and terminating December 2008, and that the persons nominated as candidates and for whom votes will be received are:

Councillor – One (1) to be elected

Surname	Usual Names	Jurisdiction of Residence
Janzen	John	Nakusp, BC
Nymeyer	Ron	Nakusp, BC
Switzer	Doug	Nakusp, BC

VOTING DAY will be open to qualified electors of the Village of Nakusp on Saturday, October 28, 2006 between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at the following location:

Nakusp Sports Complex Auditorium – 100-8th Avenue NW, Nakusp, BC

Elector Registration
If you are not on the list of electors, you may register at the time of voting by completing the required application form available at the voting place. To register you must meet the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Canadian citizen
- Resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding voting day
- Resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Village of Nakusp for at least 30 days immediately preceding voting day, and
- Not otherwise disqualified by law from voting.

Resident electors will also be required to produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

Non-resident property electors must produce a non-resident property elector certificate and 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identity.

Non-resident property elector certificates can be obtained at the Village of Nakusp office at 91-1st Street, NW during regular office hours prior to 4:30 pm on Friday, October 27, 2006.

If you qualify as a non-resident property elector and do not register in advance of voting day, you must apply for a "Certificate to Register" at the voting place and provide the following information at the time of application:

- Proof satisfactory to the official that the person applying will be entitled to register in relation to that real property at the time the person votes, and
- If applicable, the written consent from the other registered owners of the real property required, and
- A copy of the registered certificate of title, and
- Two pieces if identification (at least one with a signature) are now required from electors registering on voting day to prove both residency and identity of the elector.

Advance Voting Opportunity
Advance voting will be open at the Nakusp Sports Complex Lobby, 100-8th Avenue NW, Nakusp, BC on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. The only persons permitted to vote at an Advance Voting Opportunity are those who, being duly qualified electors, sign a statement that:

- The elector expects to be absent from the Village of Nakusp on general voting day,
- The elector, for reasons of conscience, will be unable to vote on general voting day,
- The elector will be unable to attend a voting place on general voting day for reasons beyond their control,
- The elector has a physical disability or is a person whose mobility is impaired,
- The elector is a candidate or candidate representative, or
- The elector is an election official.

Special Voting Opportunity
A special voting opportunity will be open at the Arrow Lakes Hospital at 9:30 am and at the Halcyon Community Home at 9:00 am on October 28, 2006. Only those qualified electors who are patients or staff of Arrow Lakes Hospital or Halcyon Community Home at the time of voting may vote at this special voting opportunity.

Richard Mahoney
Chief Election Officer

Three candidates run in Nakusp's byelection

by Jan McMurray

The three candidates running for the vacant councillor seat in Nakusp have a chance to solicit your vote at an All Candidates Meeting October 17 at 7 pm at the arena auditorium.

John Janzen, Ron Nymeyer and Doug Switzer are the candidates.

Janzen, retired for a year-and-a-half now, is a former Public Works Superintendent for the Village. Before he retired, he held an administrative position with the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District. He has lived in Nakusp since 1995 and has been a Nakusp property owner since 1981.

Nymeyer owns and operates a computer business and an accommodations business out of his home in Nakusp. Nymeyer has been in the computer business since 1979. He and his wife, Gina, moved to Nakusp in 2002.

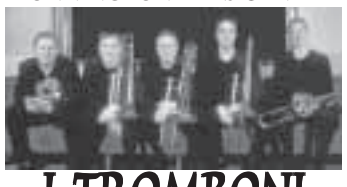
Switzer has recently returned to the position of Administrator for Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. He worked as Nakusp's Community Liaison for the Columbia Basin Trust for five years, and has lived in the village on and off since 1988.

The seat became available when Gord Roberts resigned from his position as councillor to take advantage of an employment opportunity in Quesnel.

The byelection will be held October 28, with advance voting on October 18.

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

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:
In performance at the
BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE



I TROMBONI
In an evening of trombone music
THURS. OCT. 12 at 8:00 pm
Tickets are $20 Adults
and $15 Seniors/Children
(60 & over; 12 & under)
Available at Broadway Deli or at the door. Doors open at 7:30 pm.
Hospitality Hosts:
Casa Mandala • Kuskanax Lodge

All Candidates Forum

The Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce is hosting an all candidates forum Tuesday October 17th at 7:00 pm at the Nakusp Arena auditorium. The forum is to hear the three candidates in the Village of Nakusp by-election for councillor, and to ask questions.

Nakusp community forest falling into place

by Jan McMurray

Jesper Nielsen of the Nakusp Community Forest committee gave an update on the group's application for a Community Forest Agreement (CFA) at the Nakusp council meeting on September 28.

He presented a map of the group's proposed area of operation, in the McDonald Creek drainage, that had been submitted to the Ministry of Forests. "I feel fortunate that we came to an agreement in principle with Springer Creek Forest Products on this particular area," he said, explaining that there was a good species mix in the area, and that logging costs would be average. He said there would be virtually no road building costs, and harvesting costs would be slightly higher than average because of the steep ground. Nielsen said his conservative projections showed that the operation could generate $80,000-$100,000 per year in profits.

The group's proposed area also includes a more contentious area that Springer Creek asked them to take on – the Wensley Creek area in Upper Brouse, which is close to homes and a network of cross-country ski trails. He said as long as people were not entirely opposed to logging there, selective harvesting would be the prescription in that area. "I like the idea of taking it," he said. "We can work with different groups." This sensitive area constitutes a very small percentage of the group's total proposed area.

At the council meeting, Nielsen said the government had indicated that another 10,000 cubic metres may be offered to the group, from BC Timber Sales tenure. He explained that BCTS, essentially a government licensee, had been given a big chunk in the Arrow Boundary Forest District. "They are still looking at the numbers and they may have given BCTS too much," he said. "In the event we get some of that, we're looking at Summit Lake."

Since the council meeting, in a telephone interview October 6, Nielsen announced that the group had just been invited to apply for the second 10,000 cubic metres from BCTS tenure. He said the group had been working toward submitting the application package for the first 10,000 cubic metres on December 15, but with this additional volume, that date would probably get pushed back to June 15, 2007. Rather than submitting two application packages, "it would make more sense to do it all in one," he explained. He said the group would be meeting soon to discuss the implications of the new offer, and would meet with BCTS at the end of October to begin looking at operating areas.

At the council meeting, Nielsen said the group had not finalized its policy around who would do the logging, but said that any local logging contractor with an established record "should have a crack at it." He said the Revelstoke Community Forest group rotates its local loggers. "We can afford to pay people what it is worth to log it, so bidding wars won't be necessary," he said.

Where the wood will go is still "very much up in the air," said Nielsen, but "the committee is committed to the idea that we want to sell the wood to the person who is willing to pay the most for it." He added, "We're not in it to keep somebody going that otherwise would go under." Nielsen pointed out that Revelstoke partnered with three sawmills, which "can bind you" in terms of the price of the logs, indicating that the Nakusp group would not go that route.

Nielsen said he anticipated that wood would be available to local manufacturers "just by nature of market dynamics. They have an inherent advantage on hauling costs because they are so near to Nakusp," he explained. "Bigger licensees don't want to deal with people who only want 5-10 loads of wood, but we're in a position to do that." He also said people in the value-added business use mostly cedar and will generally pay much more than a big licensee would. However, he said, the McDonald Creek area is only 10% cedar, and added, "Ten thousand cubic metres gets eaten up pretty fast."

A council member also wanted to know how the group felt about the provincial initiative allowing community forest licensees to log interface Crown land. Nielsen said that the Kaslo Community Forest board decided not to pursue this because of the cost, but said the Nakusp group should investigate it.

As far as funding goes, Nielsen said, "The good thing is there is not much start-up cost [for the McDonald Creek area]. We will only have to build spur roads, about 500 metres long. In three days out there, I found 10 years worth of wood and how to log it." He also said he had had preliminary discussions with Columbia Basin Trust about funding as well, and felt that was a good avenue.

The group was planning to meet with its lawyer soon "to hammer out the legal corporate structure." Nielsen said he understood from the first meeting with the lawyer a year and a half ago that the group would take on a corporate structure under the Village, similar to Revelstoke's community forest. Both the group's lawyer and the Province is encouraging them to choose this structure.

Neilsen said the group was planning a public input meeting for late October.

Arrow Lakes Arts Council hosts evening of trombone music

submitted

Five Trombones – one extraordinary experience! The I Tromboni quintet is the opening concert for the Arrow Lakes Arts Council's Concert Series on Thursday, October 12 at the Bonnington Arts Centre starting at 8 pm.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door. Doors are open at 7:30 pm and the concert starts at 8 pm. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank Casa Mandala and the Kuskanax Lodge for hosting this concert.

I Tromboni are Neal Bennet, Volkan Mutaf, Jim Tranquilla, Greg Passmore and Kenneth Pearce. This trombone ensemble reaches diverse audiences by combining unique arrangements of both well-known and new music with stylish and often humourous delivery. The group incorporates many genres into their performances – baroque, classical, jazz, romantic, contemporary and popular music. Audiences are universally delighted when *O Canada* transforms itself into our other national anthem, *Hockey Night in Canada*. There's no mistaking it; these guys are the Team Canada of Trombones!

Season ticket packages are still available for the whole Concert Series by contacting Marilyn Massey at 265-4087. There is a $5 savings plus a reserved seat for all season ticket holders. Single tickets for the concert are $20 for adults and $15 for Seniors/Children. Seniors are 60 plus and children are 12 and under. Nakusp Elementary School band students who wish to attend this concert can see Lisa Lizee for a coupon that gives them a ticket for $10.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Halcyon Assisted Living Society is seeking a qualified consultant(s) to assist in the operational set-up of the new 10 bed Halcyon Assisted Living Facility. The consultant will ensure the implementation of policies and procedures that meet the requirements of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act, the IHA Assisted Living Operations Manual and the Assisted Living Registry as well as any other applicable laws and regulations regarding Assisted Living facilities.

Commissioning will be complete by 1st Feb 2007. Closing date for proposals is 4:00 pm, Nov 1st 2006. For proposal packages contact Doug Switzer, HALS Administrator at: dswitzer@aslcs.com

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

HELP CREATE A LEGACY FOR THE BASIN

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is seeking applications from qualified persons for the following positions:

POSITION: **COMMUNITY LIAISON**
LOCATION: **Nakusp**
DESCRIPTION: In the position of Community Liaison you are the primary point of contact for the CBT in the northwestern part of the Columbia Basin. You work closely with communities, groups, organizations and individuals primarily within this sub-region, but also throughout the Basin, to initiate and develop relationships and projects that support the mission of the Columbia Basin Trust.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Extensive experience interacting with a variety of organizations, agencies, institutions and people.
- Ability to represent CBT in a variety of situations and settings.
- Ability to assess the viability of projects for potential funding.
- A strong community development background.
- Commitment to working in a corporate culture that supports initiative, diversity and teamwork.
- Ability to work in a geographically dispersed organization which requires travel and a heavy reliance on information technology as a primary communication tool.
- Experience giving public presentations.
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills.

POSITION: **MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS**
LOCATION: **Castlegar**
DESCRIPTION: In the position of Manager of Communications you will be responsible for providing overall communications support to CBT. You are responsible for the planning, implementation, and effective operations of the organization-wide communication strategies as well as developing tools and initiatives to meet these goals and objectives; this includes building capacity in two-way communication and community engagement.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post-secondary degree, diploma, formal course work, or equivalent work experience in communications, public relations, journalism or related field is an asset.
- Considerable experience in the full-range of communications and media relations activities, showing progressively more responsible roles.
- Experience must include day-to-day coordination of communication services, writing, editing, coordinating, providing communications advice to executives, including recommending strategies to deal with critical/sensitive issues.
- Experience in community engagement.
- Ability to develop a communication strategy/plan.

The deadline to apply is Friday, October 20th, 2006 at 4:00 pm

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

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

Kaslo council, September 26: Village supports grant application for Food Security Co-ordinator

by Jan McMurray

•The Village will provide a letter of support for the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society's initiative to hire a Food Security Co-ordinator for the 2007 calendar year. The letter will accompany the society's application for a $30,000 grant from UBCM's Healthy Community Fund for the project. Some of the Food Security Co-ordinator's responsibilities will be to support existing food initiatives such as the community garden, hold educational activities, work toward creating community events such as special occasion dinners, and assess the feasibility of a community kitchen.

•Council received a counter offer of $254,000 to its offer to purchase the Provincial building for $120,000. This was referred to the Administration and Finance committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received an email from an airport hangar lessor, asking for re-consideration of the cost of the lease. The lessor feels that the new price increase on the lease is too high for the level of service at the airport. The email was referred to the Administration and Finance Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received an email from a Forest Protection Technician recommending some work at the airport to separate fixed from rotary wing operations to alleviate congestion around the hangars during fire season. This was referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

•Council received a report from Ground Stability Consulting recommending some repairs to the asphalt runway at the airport. The report was referred to 2007 budget deliberations and the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•A meeting will be held with RDCK administration and Fire Chief Macmillan to discuss extension of Kaslo's fire service area to Fletcher Falls.

•The Village will send a letter to the Kaslo Area Youth Council skatepark committee advising that the skatepark construction site must be fenced to discourage public access until construction is complete, and that liability for injuries is the responsibility of the youth council until construction is complete and the Village assumes ownership, as per the agreement in place.

•Council will ask the Kaslo Trailblazers Society to remove the park bench from the paintball area to a location on the trail proper.

•The Public Works committee directed the public works crew to secure the Community Hall against skunk entry around the perimeter of the building, and to regularly set and empty traps for skunks and rodents. Council referred the status of the Community Hall to the Planning and Development committee for review.

•Mardi Grainger's concerns and suggestions regarding beautification issues in the village were addressed at the September 18 Public Works committee meeting. Recommendations from the meeting, attended by Grainger, included: that Grainger be thanked for her observations regarding village beautification; that installation of cigarette butt containers be considered and referred to 2007 budget deliberations; that Grainger be advised the regular fall sidewalk survey is proceeding and her comments will be addressed following the survey; that Grainger's request for a Hire a Youth program be referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

Mardi Grainger wrote to council after this meeting, expressing frustration because she feels her concerns and suggestions were misunderstood. The correspondence was referred to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•A Practica dog bin will be ordered for the waterfront trail at the south end of 2nd Street.

•Larch Drive residents will be informed that the street will be graded as soon as possible and monitored by Public Works more closely in future.

•Wharf repair costs were referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

•The replacement grating for the sewer treatment plant, priced out at $1,000, will be referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

•A fridge or freezer for water samples will be considered in 2007 budget deliberations.

•CAO Rae Sawyer was authorized to attend an RDCK meeting regarding recycling, composting and other waste reduction issues.

•The RDCK will be invited to hold its next travelling board meeting in the courtroom of Kaslo City Hall.

•Accounts payable of 33,501.11 were approved.

Indigenous learning hits lightspeed in Kaslo

by Art Joyce

There are half a billion aboriginal people on the planet, yet they consistently rank amongst the world's poorest. Randy Morse, CEO of the Indigenous Learning Company (ILC) thinks he knows why.

In Morse's view, the root of the problem is a traditional educational model that is poorly suited to aboriginal learning styles. His company, based in Alberta's Siksika First Nation, with branches in Kaslo and Spokane (in collaboration with Washington's Kalispel Tribe) is setting out to create a solution.

"With few exceptions, First Nations are based on oral cultures," he says. "Textbooks just don't cut it with most aboriginal kids." The problem is further complicated by the fact that childrens' lives nowadays are increasingly digital. Yet when they step into a school, Morse explains, they're "stepping back into the Gutenberg age."

Students – and especially aboriginal students – need a new, 21st century model of learning that is much more interactive, and compatible with the digital world. In Morse's experience, the improvement in Native kids' learning curves is startling when they are placed in a well-designed interactive learning environment.

Morse, who created Oz New Media, a web-based educational publishing company formerly based in Edmonton, has already designed online educational programs from Puerto Rico, to the UK, to China. He's currently working on interactive software that will make use of GIS technology, 3D animation, and the emerging field of virtual reality.

This could lead to a K-12 virtual learning environment that would, as an example, include a three-dimensional computer model of the West Kootenay landscape. Students would 'enter' the terrain and learn about its history, geography, and First Nations culture. At present most virtual reality technology is being developed primarily for use by the military.

"We think that's not the best use of this technology – we should be using it to liberate people, not kill them," he says. "The days of the Star Trek holodeck aren't as far off as you might think."

Morse sees the potential in this technology to reverse 'cultural genocide' and the loss of indigenous languages. His company is truly international. He's working with Dr. Lesley Green, a professor at South Africa's Capetown University on an ambitious VR-based education project with teams in Canada, South Africa, and Brazil. Washington State Senator Margarita Prentice, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, just visited Kaslo, in part to discuss a large, Kalispel Tribe/ILC-led pilot project in that state. This web-based multi-media learning project will eventually reach over a million Washington students, from kindergarten to grade 12.

Morse has organized a meeting with Alberta cabinet ministers and Washington legislators later this month to discuss potential joint ventures. His expansive vision includes one day doing the same in Oregon, BC, the Yukon and Alaska, creating a Pacific Northwest 'nexus' of cutting edge learning technology. Morse hopes to develop his Kaslo office into a learning centre offering new media workshops. Courses would be open not only to kids, but technologically challenged adults – even middle-aged journalists – as well.

Naturally, he will include both the Ktunaxa and Sinixt First Nations in his BC plans. Why does he choose to locate his Canadian office in the tiny village of Kaslo? "Because I love it here, I live here. The Kootenays are nothing if not full of out-of-the-box thinkers, and plenty of creative and talented people. So why not here?"

Appointment of new Woodlands Manager dominates KDCFS AGM

by Andrea Dupuis

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) held its AGM on September 27. Society members were invited to vote for new board members, were presented with financial statements and given the board's report for the period from July 2005 to the present.

The main thing the public wanted to know about was the very recent appointment of Barry Rempel as the new Woodlands Manager. Rempel's three-year contract was signed the night before the AGM.

Rempel, former Village representative on the KDCFS board, will replace Irene Strucel, who took maternity leave on August 31. Strucel is a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) employed by Timberland, a forestry consulting company based out of Nelson.

Gary Cockrell, now former KDCFS chair, explained that Timberland recently terminated its contract with the society, so the board looked locally for Strucel's replacement. According to Cockrell, "we did look at a number of different people, and Barry was the obvious choice." He also said he believes Rempel cares about the community.

When asked if there would be a process of evaluation to gauge if Rempel was performing effectively, the board said he would have yearly evaluations. His primary job is to make sure roads are built properly and ensure clean-up is being done when blocks are laid out.

"He [Rempel] knows this place like the back of his hand, and he is smart," said Erika Bird, board secretary.

Rempel is not an RPF (Registered Professional Forester) so the board had to look for a professional to sign off on documents required by the Ministry. The new RPF will be Greg Lay, who lives in Chetwynd BC and Kaslo part-time.

Before the meeting, members voted for four new board members from a choice of five candidates. Initially, seven candidates were nominated, but Ken Wapple and Randy Simpson withdrew from the race before the All Candidates meeting held on September 20.

Of the remaining five candidates, four new board members were elected: Suzan Hewat (67 votes), Don Scarlett (65 votes), Stan Baker (65 votes), and Donna Cormie (40 votes). Unsuccessful was Dick Martin. Those continuing their terms are Kelly Abey, Steve Anderson, Erika Bird, Robert Mitchell and Dave Russell.

The number of votes cast was 77. This is a significant drop from 200 votes cast in 2005 and from more than 300 votes cast in 2004. Total membership has also dropped from nearly 400 in 2004 to 170 currently.

Public questions concerning the financial statements could not be answered as the now former treasurer, Ken Wapple, was not present at the meeting.

The Clothes Hanger – a welcome addition to Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

Jim and Barbara Archer fell in love with a house they saw on the internet, and that house happened to be in Kaslo. Now, they own the Clothes Hanger, a cozy boutique style clothing store for both men and women on the top of Kaslo's main street.

The couple opened the store in April, and say they are pleasantly surprised by the excellent support they have received from both locals and visitors.

Barbara has been in retail fashion management for many years, and Jim is a former marine engineer. Originally from the UK, they came to Kaslo from Vancouver last October. They say they have settled in to Kaslo very well. "We love the beauty and the friendliness – it feels right for us!" says Barbara.

The two of them aim to provide an enjoyable shopping experience for their customers, giving friendly and personal service. They carry interesting and affordable merchandise for many age groups.

"We're looking forward to the fall season – our fall stock is just as exciting as the summer clothing," says Barbara.

The Clothes Hanger is open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 to 5. If people are in a hurry, unable to visit the store, or need something after hours, Jim and Barbara say they are happy to do home visits or re-open the store whenever possible. Call them at 353-9688.

Jim and Barbara Archer welcome one and all to their new shop in Kaslo, The Clothes Hanger.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Seeing Valhalla Park from the south end

Most of the hikes, boat trips and outings that I do are to the less well-publicized places of the Kootenays, but every now and then I am drawn to sample some of the classic, well-documented and frequently visited prime locations. With autumn weather in the wind it seemed to be a good time to enjoy the glories of Mulvey Basin and Gwillim Lakes in the southern reaches of Valhalla Provincial Park.

Many trail guides and maps will detail for you the routes and accesses to these two area attractions, which are comparatively close to each other. If you beg, buy or borrow the info to get to these spots you'll realize that these premier hiking opportunities are well within the reach of anyone of moderate fitness and determination. The Valhalla range of mountains seem to be most spectacular in the vicinity of the drainages around Slocan City and then become less extreme as you travel to the north or south of this nucleus.

The morning of Tuesday, October 3 I made a quick stop in Slocan to load up on breakfast and then set off up the Little Slocan Forest Service road. After 13 kilometres of good road, the route is signed for the turnoff to Mulvey Basin via the Bannockburn roads which were freshly graded and only slightly water-barred. This scenic road goes 10 kilometers further to the trailhead parking lot, and the hike to the ridge beside Gimli Peak may take two to three hours. Gimli Peak is a stunning granite spire that is visible from where you park, and the ridge to the left of it offers a grand panoramic view down into the top end of Mulvey Basin, which is just at the south boundary of Valhalla Park.

The weather that day was sort of off, with hazy clouds stuck to the top of the ridge and general overcast everywhere and the odd sprinkle of rain. One other truck was in the lot, and I set off up the trail not totally sure how far I should bother to push. The trail is steep and businesslike, with no rambling flat traverses, and in no time the route opens into an immense tundra, and the peak looms right above. The clouds swirled down and suddenly a windy snowstorm raged all around, but seemed unlikely to last. The snow did stop but then whiteout fog socked everything in and I followed the path and stone cairns into the gloom. Near the ridge I met the other folks from the truck, and then they were gone in the fog and I soon decided to forget sightseeing and head back down as well.

The return hike took about five hours, and I had plenty of daylight to drive back down into the valley and then follow the mainstem road further to the turnoff that would lead up to the trailhead for Gwillim Lakes, where I hoped to get into the next day. some 20 kilometres from Slocan City the turnoff to Hoder Creek takes you the final 19 kilometres to the parking lot for the Gwillim Lakes trail which crosses Drinnon Pass en-route.

The sky cleared and stars glittered as the frost plated over the van windows. Deep into the night I heard tiny creatures climbing up onto my wheelwells and even some random chewing sounds, and lacking any chicken wire or way of fortifying Camp Mazda, I ended up blasting the underside of my van with pepper spray and honking the horn to scare the little bastards away and save my wiring and brake lines from these nocturnal critters. They simply were not fuzzy, were not cute, and were not welcome!

Dawn came super clear and super cold. I revved up the gas stove for coffee and loaded lunch fixins and hit the trail as the sun soaked the high peaks. The trail through Drinnon Pass and into the Gwillim Lakes is likely the most used park corridor, and again this route is direct and gets you up there in short order. Only when you reach Drinnon Pass do you actually enter the park, and at this point you'll pass through the campground and Wicca Lake, which has to be about as close to heaven as earth generally can get. Rolling open hummocks and patches of trees fringe the pretty lake and one could easily get blissed out.

Past the pass the trail drops 150 metres to a small lake a t the base of a great granite peak, and then meanders on to Gwillim Lakes proper. By this time I think most mortals will have absorbed all the scenery and spectacle that can be grasped in one day, so unless you plan to camp over or maybe just settle down here forever, then the route back should be remembered, with that short grind back up to the pass, then the scenery-studded hike back out and way down again to the parking area.

As I said, this is not a concise hard trail description because I think the books and maps in print have covered it all very well already. Instead, this is just another reminder that even if gas costs more than it used to, and even if you have more commitments than you used to, the fact is there's a wealth of reachable and do-able adventures here in the West Kootenays to be experienced with some planning, pushing, and pursuing. Cram in some fall hikes soon as you can, and save those memories through next winter.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and enjoys life in the Slocan Valley. 358-2133

Report identifies key issues for seniors in our area

submitted

A report just released by Connected Communities, a citizens' health advocacy group, identifies accessibility, affordability and the need for more assistance as the key issues facing seniors in our communities. The project was funded by the BC Medical Services Foundation through the Vancouver Foundation and sponsored by the Castlegar and District Community Services Society.

"We were concerned about the closure of long term care beds and reduction in home support services," says Maureen Mitchell, a founding member of Connected Communities, the health advocacy group that initiated the study. "We wondered if there were seniors falling through the cracks."

These are the issues identified in Murphy's report, *Seniors' Support Research: A Community Participatory Study of the Care and Support Needs and Issues of Seniors Living in the Areas of Castlegar, Kootenay Lake, Nelson and Trail*. The report is the culmination of a study that involved focus group meetings with 51 community members and service providers and interviews with 46 seniors and 26 caregivers of seniors.

"Seniors who are dealing with multiple health problems require more help if they are to continue to live safely in their homes and be engaged in their communities," according to researcher Dr. Janice Murphy. "They need support to access health services and social and physical activities."

The study found that seniors required more help with their personal care and household tasks – bathing, managing medications, preparing meals, carrying items, doing housework, minor home repairs, yard work, laundry, and grocery shopping were some of the challenges. Forty-two percent of the seniors stated they needed someone to help them get the services they needed, or a one-number information line.

Mobility and transportation presented problems for many. Transportation difficulties included finding a ride, lack of accessible, convenient, affordable transportation options, and the need for a companion when travelling. One senior commented, "I don't use the bus because of my emphysema – I can't stay out in the cold and I can't walk far."

Forty-three percent of the seniors interviewed said that they would like to participate in social activities more often. One interviewer reported, "The one thing I found... was that there was an incredible isolation of seniors – and loneliness. They missed community, such as someone to drop by for a cup of coffee."

The 26 caregivers interviewed provided on average 57 hours of care per week to their family members. Many caregivers suffered their own health problems including stress and exhaustion and 70% were aged 60 or older. The need for flexible, affordable respite options was repeated by the caregivers.

"Connected Communities members believe Murphy's report will be a valuable tool for anyone concerned about seniors' quality of life in the Castlegar, Kootenay Lake, Nelson, and Trail areas," Mitchell concludes.

The full report will be posted on the IHA website (interiorhealth.ca). For a copy of the report contact Janice Murphy at 250-229-2303 or at jmmurphy@shaw.ca.

Public input invited on MLA numbers, electoral boundaries

British Columbia's three-member Electoral Boundaries Commission is embarking on a province-wide consultation to seek public input on the number, boundaries and names of BC's provincial electoral districts as well as the number of members that should be in the Legislative Assembly. West Kootenay residents will get their chance on November 2 at the Prestige Lakeside Resort in Nelson from 6:30 – 9:30 pm in the Monashee Room.

"Under BC law, an electoral boundaries commission must be established after every second provincial election – approximately once every eight years," said Justice Bruce Cohen, commission chair. "Electoral district boundaries are reviewed to ensure each MLA in Victoria represents approximately the same number of people."

The commission has two tasks: 1) Propose the number of MLAs as well as the name, boundaries and number of electoral districts for the current electoral system, which is one MLA per electoral district; and, 2) Propose electoral boundaries and the number of MLAs for each district for the BC single-transferable vote system. The number of MLAs must be the same for both systems. There are currently 79 MLAs elected from 79 electoral districts.

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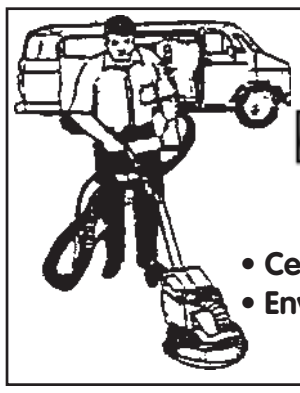

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

COMING EVENTS

BOOK SIGNINGS by Dr. Ken Morrow. LEAVING NELSON, Beyond Toad Mountain. Saturday, October 14, 1-3 pm at Otter Books, 398 Baker Street, Nelson, BC. Sunday, October 15, 1-3 pm at Nelson Museum, 502 Vernon St., Nelson, BC. *Ken's first book was A Boyhood in Nelson, Growing up during the Depression.

NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY to help design your community! If you are concerned about issues like foreshore management, housing developments, affordable housing in the valley, please do not miss the upcoming public meetings for land use planning in Area H - the Slocan Valley: October 12 at Winlaw Hall; October 17 at Slocan Park Hall; October 19 at Mt. Sentinel Secondary School. Doors open at 6:30 pm and meetings start at 7 pm. Also look for display ads in the Valley Voice for upcoming OCP public meetings for the Villages of New Denver and Silverton. This message sponsored by Healthy Housing Society.

OPEN STAGE for acoustic instruments. 9 pm at the Dam Inn Pub every Thursday. Everyone welcome to particpate. Come enjoy the tunes. Hosted by Estevan.

EDUCATION

THE PARENT/CHILD MOTHER GOOSE Program focuses on interactive songs, rhymes and stories for parents and their babies or toddlers. This group experience has been enjoyed by many families in our community. Sessions will be held at Lucerne School on Friday mornings from 10:00 am-11:00 am starting October 13. Please call Charlene Alexander @ 358-7768 to register.

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MANAGING YOUR SEWING MACHINE, Oct. 27;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

SPANISH FOR TRAVELLERS, starts Oct. 18;

CHILDSAFE, Oct. 21;

HAND PRINT ON TEXTILES & PAPER, Linda Dixon, Oct. 24, 26;

COMPUTERS, Learn about AUTOMATE MAILOUTS WITH MAIL MERGE, Oct. 24;

CAREER COUNSELLOR will be in Nakusp, Oct. 24;

STANDARD FIRST AID with CPR 'C,' Oct. 28, 29;

WILDERNESS FIRST AID, pre-requisite Standard First Aid, Nov. 4, 5;

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES. For more information and registration call your local learning center. Mon. - Thurs., 9 am - 3 pm

0-2 PARENT/CHILD PLAYGROUP is a program for parents and their infants or toddlers. Free-play, snack, music and time for parents to network are important aspects of Playgroup. Location: New Denver Nursery School; Date: October 23; Time: 9:00AM-12:00PM. Facilitators: Charlene Alexander, ECE and Nicole Gale, Qualified Assistant. To register, please call Charlene @ 358-7768.

READY, SET, LEARN! A hands on learning experience for parents and their preschool age children (3 to 4 years). Activities revolve around creative art, science, literacy, numeracy, music & movement, cooking and much more!!! Location: New Denver Nursery School; Date: October 16; Time: 9am-12:00pm. Facilitators: Charlene Alexander, ECE and Lila Strand, Kindergarten Teacher. To register please call Charlene @ 358-7768.

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FOR RENT IN SILVERTON. Spacious two-bedroom suite on main floor of two-storey duplex, 616 Hunter Street. Quiet area, north of Silverton Creek - one minute walk to lakeshore and Cooper's Beach. All facilities, excellent woodstove, washer/dryer, dishwasher, covered parking. No smoking, no pets. $580 per month, Available October, 2006. If interested, please call Ernst Gerwig at 1-250-358-2283 or 1-403-762-5150.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO READ! Parent and community volunteers are needed to support Lucerne School students in grades one to six. The commitment is one and a half hours one afternoon per week. All tutoring is done at the school during regular school hours. A training session in basic reading

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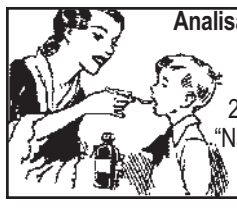
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IN MEMORIAM

Barbara McCoy, September 26, 2005

God saw she was getting tired
and a cure was not to be.
So he put his arms around
and whispered, "Come with me."

With tear-filled eyes we watched
her suffer and fade away.
Although we loved her deeply,
we could not make her stay.

A Golden heart stopped beating,
hard working hands put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us
he only takes the best.

Lovingly remembered by Darren, Debbie, Maxwell & Brianna

LIVESTOCK/FARMS

ATTENTION FARMERS! EFP Canada/BC Financial support to qualified farmers in BC to achieve environmental/economic sustainability. Free, Confidential and Voluntary. Les Molnar 250-442-5171

MISSING

MISSING CAT - Grey, long-haired cat hit beside Copeland Rd. in Slocan Tuesday, September 26, 9 am. Sorry for your loss. -A Sad Driver

NOTICES

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

NOTICE!! Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submit applications to Box 293, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 by the deadline of November 3rd, 2006. Application forms are available at: Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Lucerne School and My Aunt's Place. Please note that the appropriate application form must be used or the application will not be considered.

OBITUARY

Russell George Storms died suddenly on September 1, 2006 at his home in Hills, BC at the age of 67. He leaves his daughter Waneta, son Marc, their mother Jo Cordoni, as well as daughter-in-law Lori, and two lovely grandchildren, Rhea & Sawyer. Russ was active in his community for many years. In Vancouver he participated with many others in activities opposing the Vietnam War. In the Kootenays, over the years he was a member of the Slocan Community Hospital Board, the Slocan Citizens for Peace, the Hills Doukhobor Society, and the Hills Recreation Society. He was a little league baseball coach, an umpire for little league and adult slo-pitch, and much more. Russ was always there to help his friends and neighbours with work projects, or to lend an ear when it was needed. Throughout his adult life, Russ was passionate about social justice and fairness in the workplace, in his union, in the home, and in the global community. Those who called him a friend felt this passion and respected him for it. Many thanks to Russ' doctor, Diana Kelland, for being there for him over the years, and to Barb for her more recent medical support. Many thanks also to all the hardworking and caring neighbours, friends and relatives who organized two events celebrating Russ' life, one in his community of Hills and the other in Vancouver. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Russ' honour may do so with the War Resistors Support Campaign, 1143 E. Pender St., Vancouver, BC V6A 1W6.

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Slocan Eldorado hits paydirt with new owners

by Art Joyce

There's a few 'new' faces on the block at the Slocan Eldorado. As of September 30, the business has changed hands and will be known as the Slocan Village Market, ending much local speculation about its sale. The new owners, Tom and Nina Knott and Christine McLellan, are all longtime valley residents.

Christine lives a block away from the store; the Knotts live in nearby Appledale. Christine had been looking for an investment and talked Nina and Tom into becoming partners in what is a new venture for all of them. Although not experienced in the grocery trade, Christine had run a gift shop business.

"We've had quite a few sleepless nights since taking over," she says. "It's a pretty steep learning curve. We're looking at possibly staying open longer. But we're taking it a step at a time."

Tom Knott worked in silviculture right up until the week before they assumed ownership of the store, and Nina worked as a bank teller. The couple raise organic vegetables, honey, chicken and turkey on their Appledale acreage. Tom recalls arriving in the Slocan Valley "on a snowy January morning in 1973," and spent summers here until becoming a permanent resident in 1982. Already he senses relief that the store has been bought by locals instead of a corporate chain. He says they are open to suggestions from their customers but emphasizes that change will come gradually.

"People don't react to radical changes in the valley too well, so we're pacing ourselves."

Already those changes reflect responsiveness to local needs with the addition of an organic produce section. There are plans for an in-store deli where customers can order sandwiches. Prescription pickup will be available, with the option of customer teleconferencing with the pharmacist in Nakusp. The in-store bakery will continue, as will the liquor agency and movie rentals. And last but certainly not least, existing staff will also remain with the new management.

"All our staff are long-term residents of the valley," says Tom. "A big thank-you to them—they're a great asset to us."

New bakery opens in Nakusp

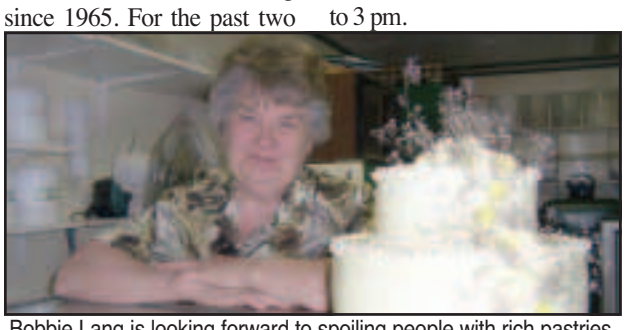
by Jan McMurray

Watch out all you sweets lovers because Bobbie Lang is opening Honey Bear Bakery in Nakusp on October 17.

Many will know her baking from the farmers' market, where she had a table for five years, or of course from an invite to her home. "I love to entertain and spoil people with good food and rich pastries," she says.

Bobbie has been baking since 1965. For the past two years, she has been working on renovations to her bakery building, beside her house. "I like people to come into a warm inviting place, bring friends, and feel welcome and at home," she says.

Honey Bear Bakery will offer breads, pastries, cookies, cakes, donuts and more. It is located at 311 7th Ave. NW in Nakusp, back alley entrance. Open Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.



Bobbie Lang is looking forward to spoiling people with rich pastries.

RDCK, September 23: Water treatment policy adopted

by Jan McMurray

•The RDCK board adopted a policy regarding water treatment for the water systems it currently owns. This policy is an important step towards the RDCK's overall goal to provide potable water, in compliance with the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

Water systems with less than 500 users per day and under 125 connections will be designated and developed as systems that use point of use / point of entry disinfection, e.g. ultraviolet systems. Water systems with more than 500 users per day and more than 125 connections will be designated and developed as source point disinfection systems. The policy sets a target for full compliance of all RDCK systems within 24 months.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack will put forth a motion at the October 21 meeting that this policy be amended to state that residual chlorine will not be needed on the smaller systems that have less than 500 users per day and under 125 connections. He knows of households, schools and a resort with approved ultraviolet systems.

Chair Gary Wright says the policy is not only significant for RDCK-owned systems, but also for owners of water systems that are waiting for an opportunity to apply to the RDCK to take over their systems. He says it also provides clear policy direction for RDCK staff.

An invitation has been extended to representatives of the IHA to attend the November meeting of the Water, Fire & Emergency Services committee to discuss this policy further.

Area D

•The board will send a letter to BC Hydro asking them to discuss paying for an appropriate portion of the Lardeau Valley Mosquito Abatement program. Several studies have shown that BC Hydro's operation of the Duncan Dam factors into the mosquito problem in the Lardeau Valley.

•Kindy Gosal of the Columbia Basin Trust will be asked to arrange a meeting of the agencies that have management control or jurisdiction over Kootenay Lake issues. The goal of the meeting will be to clarify the different agencies' roles, and how these affect lake levels and to identify flood risk reponsibilities. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for local governments to identify concerns.

•Staff will send a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers inviting them to hold a public meeting on Kootenay/Columbia River operations in Canada.

•The Lardeau Valley Community Hall's geothermal heating system will be a project considered for funding under the Community Works Fund (gas tax rebate money).

Area H

•Staff was directed to apply for a Licence of Occupation for Crown land in the Sandon area for the purpose of establishing a regional park.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Nakusp detachment

•Nakusp RCMP responded to a complaint September 16 that a man had been stabbed at the Leland Hotel pub. The man had been stabbed in the head and chest and was transported to Nakusp Hospital where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released. A weapon was recovered from the scene and police have interviewed persons of interest in the case.

•Nakusp RCMP recovered a stolen car from Kelowna on the morning of September 14. The car, driven by a male from New Brunswick, was travelling in front of Nakusp Secondary School when it failed to stop at the stop sign. RCMP were almost struck by the vehicle and had to swerve to avoid collision. The driver and two passengers were charged with possession of stolen property.

•In the early morning hours of September 12, a vehicle was stolen from 7th Avenue NW in Nakusp. Approximately three hours later, it was located in Winfield after being involved in an accident. The investigation is continuing. Police would like to remind everyone to ensure that their keys are not left in their vehicle. A vehicle owner can actually be given a ticket under the Motor Vehicle Act for this.

• Sometime between September 8 and 20 someone stole a telephone from a private room in the Halcyon Community Home in Nakusp. This phone is a special unit used and much needed by an elderly hearing impaired person. Anyone with information regarding this theft are asked to please contact the Nakusp RCMP detachment at 265-3677 or the Halcyon Community Home.

Slocan Valley

•Nelson RCMP arrested a 35-year-old male in the Appledale area on September 13 for extradition to the US. He is to appear for sentencing on drug charges and failing to appear for sentencing.

•The Nelson detachment dismantled a marijuana grow operation in Slocan Park on September 7. Hundreds of plants were seized. A 34-year-old male will appear in Nelson court on October 3, pending charges.

• During the three weeks prior to September 12, someone entered the Telus compound at 2932 Highway 3A at Playmor Junction. A locked vehicle was broken into and a large quantity of tools and equipment were stolen. Some of the equipment is specific to the electrical trade and would be of little value to most people. Anyone with information is asked to contact Constable Jason Goodfellow of the Nelson RCMP at 352-2156.

• Between September 30 and October 1, culprits broke into the Telus compound in Passmore and stole a generator that was stored in a metal shed. The theft occurred over a couple of days and a vehicle would have been required to transport the equipment. Please contact the Nelson detachment at 352-2156.

Slocan Lake detachment

•Corporal Heidema would like to clear up a public misperception that police do little or nothing with information they receive about people speeding through school and playground zones and about motor vehicle infractions in general. Heidema says that when calls are received about motor vehicle incidents, as much information as possible is obtained from the caller, i.e.: where, when, description of the vehicle (licence number, make, colour), whether or not the driver can be identified, number of occupants, direction of travel. Callers are also asked if they are willing to attend court with the police in the event a ticket is issued and then disputed. If the police are not witness to the alleged offence, they cannot give evidence in court – this must be provided by the witness. Callers often prefer to remain anonymous and do not want to be involved in a court process. In this case, a warning letter can be sent to the registered owner of the offending vehicle. In any event, Heidema says, every effort is made to respond to these calls, either by an immediate patrol or by contacting the nearest detachment to where the vehicle is heading. He also reminds citizens of the Speedwatch Program initiated by Auxiliary officer Glen Jorde. Volunteers are needed for this program, which is an efficient way to bring awareness to motorists in areas where speeding is a concern. Interested volunteers should call 358-2222.

West Kootenay Traffic

•Random road safety checks were carried out in the Salmo and Castlegar area the weekend of September 16-17. A total of eight impaired drivers were charged and three 24-hour driving suspensions issued. This makes a total of 110 legally impaired drivers removed from our roadways in 2006. Police wish to remind the public that impaired driving remains the leading criminal cause of death in Canada and the leading cause of death among youth.

Volunteers needed for Kaslo Speed Watch program

by Jill Braley

The Kaslo & Area Community Consultative Group has been successful in bringing a Speed Board to Kaslo. Speed Watch, a partnership involving volunteers, RCMP, and ICBC, is designed to raise public awareness of the actual speeds drivers are travelling. Volunteers use portable radar equipment and an electronic board to monitor speeds in neighbourhoods, particularly in school and playground zones. Drivers see their speed displayed on the reader board as they pass.

Volunteers are needed for this program and training in provided. For further information, please contact Andrew Luukko, Kaslo RCMP detachment 353-2225, CCG/ Speed Watch Committee Members, Rich Jones 353-2583 or Jill Braley at 353-7390.