The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Slocan Valley Official Community Plan process initiated

by Jan McMurray

Area H Director Don Munro and Dave Wahn from the RDCK planning department recently hosted a series of four meetings about land use planning in the Slocan Valley, starting in New Denver and moving down the valley to Winlaw, Slocan Park and South Slocan. The flavour of each meeting was different, but the most marked difference was between the north and the south. By the end of the series of meetings, it was quite clear that there will probably be two Official Community Plan processes – one for the north and one for the south.

Although the New Denver meeting was the most well attended, with about 160 people there (Wahn commented that it was by far the largest planning meeting he had ever seen), one meeting goer commented he was surprised at how "docile" the crowd was. The three meetings in the southern valley all had about 40 people in attendance and "docile" the people were not. The same group of five or six people opposed to land use planning showed up and were quite vocal at all three meetings.

Munro initiated the meetings because of the unprecedented growth the valley has been experiencing over the last couple of years. Because of the demand for waterfront property, the north end of the valley with Slocan Lake has felt that growth more acutely than people in the south. This is what has made the difference in the planning priorities for the two ends of the valley.

Munro started each meeting explaining why he had initiated the meetings. "People are moving in with new ideas and different values," he said. "This doesn't have to be negative, but we want to be in a position to say 'that's a good idea but it doesn't fit in with the expectations of the people currently living here,' or 'we welcome new business, but when you come in, you come in under our rules.'"

Statistics presented showed the trend: there were 67 new lot developments in Area H - the Slocan Valley in the first eight months of this year, compared to an average of 20 per year in the past. Over the past five years, Area H has been the fastest growing area in the RDCK, and 4,800 properties in the valley are owned by people who do not live here. Munro said his concern was that, given these rapid changes in the community, "how do we continue to protect the things we hold of value?" He said that he had received many calls in the past two to three years about conflicts arising from the Area's growth, and he felt it important to come to the public to let them know about these concerns.

During the first half of each session, Wahn showed a power point presentation that gave people a general understanding of the planning process. The second half was for people to ask questions and identify planning issues. "We won't solve problems tonight, but we will identify them," he said. The issues were posted around the room and people were given five stars to stick by the issues most important to them.

There were over 50 issues identified in New Denver, with a general feeling of eagerness to begin the planning process. A proposed lakefront development at Enterprise Creek for 30 cottages worth between $400,000 and $700,000 has people in the north keen to do what they can to stop these kinds of things in future. The issue with the most stars at the end of the night was 'Slocan Lake use and development,' followed by 'limitation of development' and 'continuous domestic watershed protection.' Other important issues were: 'horsepower size limits on lake,' 'limitation on development sizes,' 'shoreline ownership,' 'affordable housing,' 'non-motorized footpath between New Denver and Silverton,' 'public access to beaches,' 'avoiding junkyards at historical sites,' 'jet skis,' 'sound pollution,' 'ecological sustainable development,' 'hospital services' and 'preservation of what is.'

People wanted to know if anything could be done about the Enterprise Creek development. Wahn explained that without an OCP in place, there was very little anyone could do. He said that as long as the developer could meet building code requirements of the Province and provide water, sewer and access, "anything goes at the moment. There are no regulations on the size of the cottages or the development." With an OCP in place, however, he explained that any proposal that did not fit into the plan would go to a public hearing.

This, Wahn said, was the most important reason to have an OCP in his view – because it ensures public input on land use issues. Another plus about a plan is that it can stipulate that developers pay the incremental costs of servicing new developments. This way, existing property owners do not pay through higher taxation. Some people in the southern valley were skeptical about the ability of a plan to stop development. Wahn said that plans can and have stopped development. He acknowledged, however, that the development often does go ahead, but not until it is acceptable to community members. This often happens by cutting a deal with the developer to provide the community with something it wants, such as seniors' housing or parkland.

Both Wahn and Munro also spoke about the better leverage a community has with the provincial and federal governments if it has an OCP in place. Crown land applications in the regional district are referred to the planning department for comment, and Munro said, "I have observed that they listen more if you have an OCP."

At the three meetings in the south, there were people who made it clear they wanted no planning or zoning. "We moved here because we don't want people telling us what to do in our own backyards," said one from this group. Others, however, expressed interest in the planning process in order to protect the Slocan Valley lifestyle. The two attitudes were reflected in the results of the 'stick the star on the issue' exercise.

At the Winlaw meeting, there were 28 stars beside 'no zoning/OCP – get the hell out,' and 19 stars beside 'scale and scope of development over next 20 years.' Other important issues were: 'water quality (lake, river, drainages),' 'protection of river,' 'maintain local food supply,' 'butcher closing.'

In Slocan Park, 'no OCP and zoning' got 18 stars, while the pro-planning issue ('no to plan means somebody else's plan') got 21 stars. 'Effective democratic process' got 20 stars. Other important issues were 'logging related issues,' and 'safeguarding values.'

In South Slocan, there were 17 stars beside 'no plan/no zoning' and nine beside 'we need a plan.'

At the three meetings in the south, there was a lot of concern about the process. Many felt there was a lack of democracy with no referendum or other kind of vote on the process or on the plan. Wahn and Munro both explained that the planning process was citizen driven. "You will decide at the end of the day what we will have or won't have. We're not here to impose anything on the residents. If the community does not want zoning, there will be no zoning. If the community wants status quo and no OCP, that's what you'll get," Wahn said. He said the process usually involved about 15 to 20 public meetings and took anywhere from six months to four years or longer. "We work with and at the speed of the community."

The process involves the drafting of an OCP bylaw, which is taken to the public and various government agencies for comment. "After we've tweaked it to the satisfaction of everybody," said Wahn, it goes to the RDCK board for two readings. Then there is a public hearing that anyone who feels they are affected by the OCP can attend and voice their opinions. Based on the minutes of the public hearing, the RDCK board will either adopt or reject the OCP bylaw.

During the process, Wahn and Munro explained, an Advisory Planning Commission (APC) plays a key role by soliciting public input and making recommendations to the RDCK board on key issues. The APC is appointed by the RDCK board on the recommendation of the Director. It can have up to 15 members and 2/3 of the APC must be Area H property owners. Munro said he was looking for a "cross section of residents" on the two APCs – one for the north and one for the south.

Some people in the southern valley felt strongly that there should be a referendum on the OCP bylaw. Wahn's problem with a referendum for an OCP is that it would not be binding – only referendums on money issues are binding. Munro explained that his problem with the referendum idea was that only property owners can vote, so not everyone affected would have a say. Munro stressed that the democratic process would be determined by the APCs.

To express interest in serving on one of the APCs, write to Don Munro, G-16A, C-22, RR #1, Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0, fax to 226-7076 or email dwahn@rdck.bc.ca.

Agnice Sophia Campbell, the first Sinixt baby to be born in Canada in over 100 years, celebrated her first birthday at the annual Thanksgiving weekend Barter Fair in Vallican this year.

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CBT starts the dialogue on climate change in the Basin

by Jan McMurray

Well, folks, it's happening, so we'd better get used to it.

That message came through loud and clear at the session on climate change hosted by the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) at 'The Columbia Basin – A Cultural Environment and an Environmental Culture' conference in Castlegar on October 20.

Garry Merkel, CBT board vice chair and chair of the Trust's Water Initiatives program, welcomed all to the session, calling this an historic day in the Basin. "Today we start an extended and involved public discussion in what I characterize as the biggest issue we will see in our lifetime," he said.

At the session, the CBT released its summary report on climate change, done under the Trust's Water Initiatives program, with the assistance of the Pacific Climate Change Impact Consortium from the University of Victoria and a number of other scientific researchers. Many of the experts involved in compiling the report attended the Castlegar session to make presentations and to answer questions. Many times throughout the morning, Merkel thanked the group of interdisciplinary experts from Canada and the US, who donated a huge amount of their time to the $37,000 project.

Bob Sandford, chair of the UN International Decade 'Water for Life' in Canada, gave us the heads up that in light of climate change, "we may have to change our habits. We should start adapting to change now." Although he said that in the course of his UN work, he has realized that Canadians "are not very good at seeing what is directly occurring in front of their eyes," he gave Basin residents a huge vote of confidence: "Knowing this Basin and its residents, I think you are up to the challenge and will do the right thing."

Alan Hamlet from the University of Washington described the climate changes that have already occurred and the changes that are predicted for the future in the Pacific Northwest. Over the 20th century, the temperature has risen by 1°C and is predicted to increase by 1.7°C by 2050 and by 3.2°C in 2100. We have lost 20%-40% of our snowpack over the last 50 years in the Columbia Basin, and bigger changes are predicted for the future. The American portion of the Basin is losing its snowpack at a much faster rate than the Canadian portion. "There is a huge discrepancy between Canada and the US that international agreements have not taken into account," he pointed out. He said we may see a 15% reduction in our water supply by mid century and this will affect many aspects of our lives.

Probably the most graphic proof of climate change came in the presentation on glacial recession by Dan Fagre from the US Geological Survey. He showed 'before and after' pictures of many of the glaciers in Glacier National Park and summed it up nicely when he said, "Our glaciers are turning to puddles." He pointed out that glaciers have been here for 7,000-8,000 years and we are seeing them disappear in the time frame of a human lifespan. "We will see in our lifetime Glacier National Park without glaciers," he said. This is predicted for 2030.

Hans Schreier from UBC presented an overwhelming number of things we need to do to adapt to climate change. "We need protection and prevention and rehabilitation efforts," he said. "We need to change our behaviour as well as our structural engineering. We have to make a 180° shift."

Pointing out that Canada is "the biggest water guzzler next to the US" at an average of 325 litres per person per day, he said that reducing water consumption was up to all of us. According to Shreier, two things would make a significant difference – fixing all our leaks and installing low flush toilets.

He said we need to: minimize compaction of soils so that water can soak into the ground; create large buffer zones around water sources; create wetlands; detain stormwater; implement innovative irrigation methods on agricultural land; implement risk management plans on freeways to deal with the predicted increase in freeze-thaw events. He says we have 500,000 kilometres of resource roads in BC and these are what cause most of the sediments in our water supply. He warned that we will see more disease with warmer temperatures and that sedimentary particles in the water are "a nursery for bacteria." He pointed out that millions of dollars were being spent on salmon recovery, suggesting that perhaps we should be thinking about fish that will survive in warmer water.

Mountain pine beetle, Shreier said, will cause the biggest land use change ever in BC. "We've been given the green light to log the infested area as fast as we can and we have no idea how this is going to change the hydrological cycle." His advice here was: "Don't plant monoculture." He says a variety of species will protect from disease and give us a better chance that "some of the species will be appropriate in 2050 when the climate is totally different." He advised us to plant trees along riverbanks – this can change the temperature of the river by 3°C-4°C per year and will decrease chances of flooding.

In the realm of recreation, Schreier's pet peeve is golf courses. He says we need to follow Scotland's example and only water the putting greens. Ski areas, he says, had better be moved to higher elevations, seeing as "every community is banking on recreation for economic development."

Merkel concluded the session by saying, "We haven't even scratched the surface here. The intent was to start the conversation." He promised that the CBT would be coming to the communities to talk about how we can better organize ourselves around the water aspect of the very important issue of climate change.

Join the peace walk in Nelson, October 28

submitted

On October 28, in solidarity with a National Day of Action, join the movement of co-operation towards a positive transformation in Afghanistan. Meet at the government building in Nelson at 11 am for a peace walk.

This October marks the fifth anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. In a speech at the NDP Convention in September, Malalai Joya, the youngest female member of the Afghanistan government, stated: "I must tell you that unfortunately there has been no fundamental change in the plight of the Afghan people. When the entire nation is living under the shadow of the gun and warlordism, how can its women enjoy very basic freedoms? According to a recent UNIFAM survey, 65% of the 50,000 widows in Kabul see suicide as the only option to get rid of their miseries and desolation and the majority of Afghan women are victims of mental and sexual violence."

The mission in Afghanistan has already cost Canadians more than $4 billion.

Speakers at the Peace Walk include Ann Harvey of the NDP; Don Currie, Canadian Peace Congress; and Katelyn Jmaeff, Inspiring Youth for Change. Entertainment will be provided by Thistledown, the Lake Victoria Children's Choir from Uganda, and the Raging Grannies. There will be an opportunity to voice your opinion in our video poll, which will be sent to the Canadian Parliament.

The peace walk will culminate at Nelson United Church, where refreshments will be served. Bring signs and musical instruments and pledge your support of the Afghan people. This event of hope and solidarity is being organized by the newly-formed Nelson Peace Coalition.

Fossil Fuel Free Week in Nelson

submitted

With a proclamation from the City of Nelson, the West Kootenay EcoSociety is hosting Fossil Fuel Free Week in Nelson, October 23 - 29, to raise awareness about climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally.

"This is the first event of its kind in our region," said Matt Lowe, project co-ordinator, "and it's very much needed. Climate Change or global warming is being called the greatest threat to humanity. We have to respond in a big way now. There won't be a second chance."

On Saturday, October 28, there will be a Fossil Fuel Free Parade, with prizes for the most unique mode of transportation, the best group effort, the craziest costume, and youngest and oldest participants. An Energy Efficiency and Emission Reduction Tradeshow will also be held on Saturday at the Nelson Trading Company. The must-see climate change documentary, An Inconvenient *Truth*, by ex-US Vice-President Al Gore, will be shown Sunday, October 29 at the Civic Theatre.

For more information, call Matt Lowe at 352-6346.

Service Canada

1 800 O-Canada servicecanada.gc.ca

Call for Proposals

Service Canada is accepting funding applications from organizations interested in obtaining financial assistance to provide self serve and assisted services to unemployed persons at the following location:

CFP-BCYK-0607-NELSON-001:
Employment Assistance Services – Employment Services Office

Application package is available on-line at:
www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/bc-yk/cfp/cfp.shtml
OR
Service Canada Centre Nelson
333 Victoria Street
Nelson, BC V1L 4K3

Deadline for Application:
No later than 1600h PST on December 15, 2006 at the Service Canada Centre Nelson at the address listed above

Information Session:
Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 1000h PST at the Service Canada Centre Nelson, Group Information Room, at the address listed above.

For inquiries contact:
Wenda Plant 250-352-3155, ext 148
or wenda.plant@servicecanada.gc.ca

Appel de propositions

Service Canada accepte des demandes de financement provenant d'organismes intéressés à obtenir une assistance financière afin d'offrir des services libres et services assistés aux personnes sans emploi aux endroits suivants:

CFP-BCYK-0607-NELSON-001
Services d'aide à l'emploi – Bureau de services d'emploi

Les trousses de demande sont disponibles électroniquement à l'adresse:
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OU
Centre Service Canada de Nelson
333, rue Victoria
Nelson, (C.-B.) V1L 4K3

Date limite pour la demande:
Au plus tard 16h00 HNP le 23 15 décembre 2006 au Centre Service Canada de Nelson à l'adresse ci-dessus.

Les séances d'information sur cet Appel de propositions se tiendront:
Le 8 novembre 10h00 HNP au Centre Service Canada de Nelson, Local d'information de groupe, à l'adresse ci-dessus.

Pour plus de renseignements, communiquez avec:
Lisa Krutop 250-372-2515 (275) ou lisa.krutop@servicecanada.gc.ca
Wenda Plant 250-352-3155, ext 148
ou wenda.plant@servicecanada.gc.ca

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada — Canada

Thank you—

The Hills Recreation Society would like to extend a hardy and heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make the Hills Garlic Festival a success on September 10. In particular we would like to thank the following:

- the mayor, council, and people of the Village of New Denver, especially the residents of the Orchard, for welcoming the Garlic Festival into Centennial Park again
- co-ordinator Fran Wallis for organizing vendors, entertainment, and volunteers
- all the volunteers from Hills and elsewhere who cheerfully contributed their time and energy
- Centennial Park campground attendant Isabel Reitmeier for her generous and supportive assistance throughout the weekend
- the Lucerne Grad Class of 2007 for welcoming over 5000 people to the Festival and helping cheerfully with other tasks
- the RCMP, New Denver Volunteer Fire Department and others who kept a watchful eye on the day's events
- all the growers, craftspeople, entertainers, and vendors who brought their produce, wares, and talents to the Garlic Festival and who contributed to the Hills Rec Society raffle baskets
- the community at large for supporting the Garlic Festival as a fun event and a fundraiser for the Hills community.

Thank you one and all!!

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Springer Creek Forest Products welcomes Japanese visitors to Slocan

by Jan McMurray

Springer Creek Forest Products is changing with the times and expanding its markets. A group of 13 people representing two Japanese companies, Japan Kenzai and Mitsui, visited the mill in Slocan for a tour on October 18.

"In light of what's happening in the US regarding new duties and the softwood lumber deal, we find it important for our business to look for other markets," said Ralph Tomlin, General Manager at Springer Creek.

What Springer Creek has that the Japanese companies find attractive is pine lumber without the blue stain caused by the Mountain Pine Beetle. "They see this area as one of the last places to get wood free of blue stain," explained Tomlin. He says the Japanese companies are looking to buy high quality spruce/pine/fir grade lumber and the mills in northern BC, where the bulk of this type of wood comes from, have virtually only beetlewood to offer. "Even though the blue stain has no structural impact on the wood, the Japanese don't like that appearance in their lumber. They demand a very high quality and they pay a higher price accordingly. They like the quality of our wood and the look of the fibre, and they were really impressed with our product presentation and lumber wrapping."

In an effort to expand its markets, Springer Creek Forest Products welcomed thirteen representatives from two Japanese companies to the mill in Slocan on October 18 for a tour.

Tomlin says Springer Creek has been developing this Japanese connection over last several months, and has already done quite a bit of business with Japan Kenzai. "They've received a few million board feet over the last few months and we've had very good product acceptance. The name 'Springer Creek' is starting to get brand recognition in Japan – their customers are very satisfied with it."

He said the Japanese companies are in the business of building North American style 'stick frame' houses rather than the traditional Japanese post and beam style houses, so they want "something we're set up to produce." He adds that Springer Creek is also experimenting with non-traditional lumber sizes to be even more competitive. "We've had some test runs that have worked out very well. We're trying to think outside the box and open up a few more opportunities other than what we've traditionally done for years and years."

He says the mill workers are key to the company's success with trying new things. "Our crew here recognizes how important it is to become less dependent on the US, so the crew has worked very hard at making some of these programs successful. Everybody has bought into the test runs and trials and are doing everything they can to make it work. We have a really good crew and that makes all the difference."

Tomlin says Springer Creek made its first ever shipment to the Philippines last month, and a small amount of product goes to Korea and Taiwan. "The lion's share of our overseas business is with Japan," he says, pointing out that Japan is the biggest consumer of wood in the world outside North America. He says about 50% of Springer Creek's business is with the US. "About five or six years ago, probably 10% of our business was done outside the US, and we thought we would be doing well if we could get that up to 15%," he said. "Now, we're 50% outside the US and hoping to push that up to 60% or 70%. Some of that will be in Canadian markets."

Tomlin, who has worked at the Slocan mill for 20 years, says now that it is an independent sawmill and no longer part of the big corporate structure, the mill's survival is even more dependent on the successes of some of these "homegrown" innovative initiatives.

Positive changes in the air for independent power project in the Duncan

by Jan McMurray

The independent run-of-river power project slated for the Duncan Valley is undergoing revisions that BC Regional Project Manager Neil Murphy says will solve some of the contentious issues surrounding the original proposal.

The two major changes under review are relocating the Glacier Creek powerhouse so that it does not affect spawning, and finding a new route for the power line so that it does not have to be tunnelled through Jumbo Pass.

Although the changes have not yet been finalized pending more surveys, engineering and environmental studies, Murphy says, "We are very pleased. It's environmentally much more acceptable to us and everyone else, and it will save considerable dollars."

The company is looking at moving the Glacier Creek powerhouse further north up Howser Creek Forest Service Road, away from the mouth of Glacier Creek, where spawning takes place. The new location is about six kilometres north of where it was originally proposed to sit.

The new route for the main powerline goes "virtually the same distance through much more sensible terrain," .says Murphy. It will also save the company about $12 million.

He explains that they did not look at this route before because "it doesn't appear you can go into these areas when you look at the map. But when you get in a helicopter, you see the map is wrong and needs to be updated."

The route the company is looking at avoids hiking trails, has no visual impact where people like to recreate, is much more environmentally friendly and circumvents all the potential problems associated with Jumbo Pass, reports Murphy.

"We're quite pleased to solve some of the contentious issues, and distance ourselves from the allegation that our powerline will go past the proposed resort and that we will sell power to them. It squashes that argument," he says.

The original route for the main line was 76.5 kilometres long. The new route is 76 kilometres long, and is on Crown land, "so there are no legal issues – so far," says Murphy.

He says the studies that need to be done to evaluate the proposed changes include both aerial and on-the-ground surveying. They will do an infrared survey of the proposed new powerline route from the air, which will produce an accurate map of the area. All the environmental studies will have to be re-done for the new route.

Murphy was scheduled to attend the October RDCK board meeting to make a presentation about the project, but he postponed his appearance until the company is sure of its plans. He says the soonest he anticipates being able to attend would be January 2007.

The Canada - Glacier / Howser - Project was awarded a contract in August under BC Hydro's 2006 Open Call for Power. The company has four years to get the project up and running.

Nakusp Secondary to get energy efficient heating system

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp Secondary School is about to get a new energy-efficient heating system that will save the school district 30% on its heating bill.

This will be the first North American installation of this Austrian system, called the Energy Cabin. Using solar energy and wood pellet technology, the Energy Cabin will connect to the school's existing heating system. The existing system is a propane-fuelled furnace, which heats water and pipes it through the school. With the new system, the water will be heated with cleaner, cheaper fuel.

The Nakusp Energy Corporation (NEC) struck a deal with School District No. 10 three or four years ago to provide an alternate heating source to the Nakusp high school. The original idea was to use locally produced wood waste as an energy source. David Grimshire, chair of NEC, says, "We've been trying to get this project off the ground for several years. Ray Greene is the one who kept the ball rolling when everyone else was getting discouraged. He has done all the work."

Greene was recently at a conference in Prince George where he saw the Energy Cabin on display. He spoke with the company's BC distributor, David Dungate, and brought the information back to NEC, which decided to purchase the $180,000 system for the NSS project.

Grimshire reports that a grant from National Resources Canada will cover the downpayment on the system, and "an Austrian bank has agreed to finance it on quite good terms for as long as we need to pay it off." He says that NEC members will be keeping their eyes open for other grants, but that they hope the income from the school will be sufficient to make the yearly payments.

Grimshire explains that because the National Resources Canada grant required a saving of at least 30%, the school's agreement with NEC says the school district will pay 30% less than the cost of heating with propane. However, he says, "Until we give it a try, we don't know exactly how much energy we'll save – we're in the experimental stage."

Included in the price of the system is the installation by technicians from Austria. "They'll make sure it is properly connected and will do test runs and some instructional training for the school district maintenance staff," says Grimshire.

He says NEC hopes the system will be up and running in January and "if it works, we'll certainly be looking at ways to expand."

NEC is hoping that a local industry producing wood waste will become interested in the project, and in looking at wood waste as a way to cut down on fossil fuels and energy costs.

School District No. 10 Superintendent Walter Posnikoff says he looks forward not only to the savings, but also to the learning opportunities for the students. "Some of our science programs have an alternate energy component, so this will be excellent for the students."

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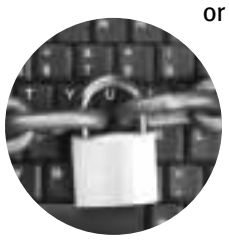

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Voices from the Valleys

OCP shouldn't be used as a substitute for neighbourliness

I have to begin this column with an apology to my dear friend Eric Nygren. In my editorial of August 2, 2006, I said that he'd been reluctantly converted to the idea of planning in the Slocan Valley. I'm sorry for making this assertion - it's not true. I had come to this conclusion after witnessing the amount of effort that went into the Sandon Official Community Plan.

At one time I had the distinction of serving on a committee of the Sandon Historical Society charged with the task of reviewing the Draft OCP (which has never received third reading, by the way). It's an impressive document. It details construction requirements for replicating the the old town in excruciating detail. We threw our hands in the air when we got to the section on underground parking.

To be fair, Eric isn't responsible for what came out of the Sandon OCP. He did, however, get the ball rolling on the planning process. And he did it for very good reasons. He sees that one day Sandon could be a major heritage attraction, and that development there should be planned and regulated.

Eric is, however, against planning in rural areas. He says it makes people less neighbourly. Instead of talking problems over with their neighbours, they complain to authorities. It's a compelling argument and one that's worth considering. Maybe we should just issue people with a pamphlet "A guide to neighbourly behavior," when they buy real estate in the area.

Myself, I feel that there's people who would take advantage of planning to behave in an unneighbourly fashion. There's also people that would take advantage of a lack of planning to behave in an unneighbourly fashion. There's probably some overlap between the two groups.

My biggest concern with planning is that it doesn't get highjacked by special interest groups. I have no problem with planning for the orderly growth of parks, industry, commercial and residential development. I want that plan to reflect values shared by those of us who live here. Rather than seeing it as something to divide neighbours, I would like to see it as an opportunity for dialogue. I would agree with Eric that an Official Community Plan shouldn't be used as a substitute for neighbourliness.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Apology to Kaslo and area citizens

We are sincerely sorry for our actions on the night of September 31st. The four of us vandalized public property that has been maintained by the good people of the district of Kaslo, and could not regret it more. We apologize for what we did, and admit it was absolutely unacceptable behaviour. We would like to be responsible young adults, and own up to our mistakes. We would like nothing more than to make it up to the community by performing various services to give something back after taking something away. Most importantly however, we know what we did was wrong, and all we can do is ask and hope for your forgiveness.

Thank you.

BC/Alberta trade deal rings alarm bells

While we have become far too familiar with the impact of the Alberta tar sands' boom on this small 'undiscovered' BC community (i.e. the epidemic of absentee ownership's dark window syndrome here in New Denver), with the signing of the BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA), Premiers Campbell and Klein, without any public consultation have entrenched the hegemony of so-called cost efficiency over democracy in frightening, pervasive detail.

For instance, this agreement (posted on the internet at: http://tinyurl.com/krqrb) goes far beyond NAFTA in enabling commercial interests to sue against regulations they don't like. It also massively deregulates, as stated in Article 3: there shall be "No Obstacles" that would impair or restrict "trade through the territory of the Parties, or investment or labour mobility between the Parties" and that "Parties shall not establish new standards or regulations that operate to restrict or impair trade, investment or labour mobility." There are some limited exceptions allowed for in the agreement, such as water, but these are to be reviewed annually to reduce their scope.

All government regulation will be affected because any regulation could be seen as in some way restricting investment. And even if a regulation fits with one of the objectives TILMA accepts as being legitimate, it can still be successfully challenged if it is not the least restrictive way to achieve the objective!

But the part that most riles me is that the TILMA agreement recognizes only certain government objectives as legitimate. Among the objectives not recognized as legitimate are the preservation of agricultural land, the conservation of heritage sites, the maintenance of scenic views, or the promotion of small business, neighbourhood or rural development.

More info/analysis can be found at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives website: http://www.policyalternatives.ca/

Need we more reminding how precarious this democracy is and how an engaged citizenry is the only thing that will save our communities???

Suzy Coulter
New Denver

Open letter to Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation

Recently I wrote to you about inadequate funding for the rehab of the north-south corridors in the West Kootenay, based on our large contributions to the province from resource revenues.

The enclosed Surespan Construction traffic advisory for Coffee Creek bridge is another example of our lack of importance to the province. If this bridge replacement on Hwy. 31 was on any other highway in BC, it would be trestled to remove the very high hazards of the Coffee Creek Canyon. The trestle would be approximately 100 meters long with less than 35 meters of freespan. Hardly an overwhelming engineering project.

Many accidents and deaths have occurred in the Coffee Creek Canyon. The new bridge is without vision planning. It will do nothing to remove the very high hazard of the rock cliffs, sharp corners and steep grades. In short, a waste of taxpayer funding.

Adding to the preceding, the insult of having a curfew imposed on us between 7 pm and 7 am is very troubling. Has anyone planned for logging and chip trucks, medical emergencies, doctor appointments in Trail or other inconveniences to business and the general public of the North Kootenay Lake area?

Here's hoping our government will have a second look at the Coffee Creek project to insure the taxpayers are receiving value for their money. This issue renews memories of the millions of dollars wasted on replacing the burnt train trestles in the Okanagan for a few people to walk across. It seems to me our values are very twisted.

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

Bear biologist contributes to bear discussion

I'd like to respond to some recent comments in the *Valley Voice* about Bear Smart and bear relocations.

John White's idea about habitat enhancement to help keep bears out of the communities has some merit and, contrary to his impression, is something that can be included in a community Bear Smart program. For example, careful selective logging away from developed lands would improve berry production for bears to feed on. However, until there is more effective bear-proofing of garbage and less fruit available to draw bears into our communities, improving habitat in outlying areas may have limited usefulness.

There is considerable confusion about whether relocating bears works. The studies I am aware of show that it works about 30 - 60 % of the time. What is important is to relocate bears before they become nuisances, move them to good habitat, and do what we call "hard releases" where the bear gets a "spanking" (using, for example, noise-makers, trained dogs, rubber bullets) and therefore associates humans with an unpleasant experience. This will make the bear less likely to return to areas where humans live.

I think once a Bear Aware program gets underway in our upper Slocan Valley rural and town communities, we should expect some opportunities to move bears away from the human-use areas. A contractor under the Wildlife Branch could easily be trained to do the needed relocation and this would certainly ease some of the bear concerns before they get out of hand.

This would be a far better approach than leaving the bears in town for weeks eating fruit and garbage and becoming increasingly food-conditioned until someone gets fed up and calls the CO and then there is a slaughter. Additionally, if we take away the bears' smorgasbord, fewer bears will be coming into people areas. This is one of the main goals of the province's Bear Smart program.

Once a community has become Bear Smart, the province is committed to using non-lethal approaches to mitigate some bear problems. Whistler and the North Shore of Vancouver now have COs called Bear Response Officers who use non-killing methods to mitigate bear/human interaction. Some bears, however, are so garbage-conditioned that they still have to be put away.

Finally, hats off to our local Villages for moving towards increased bear-proofing and thanks to YRB and Chris Fox for their willingness to donate their older bear-proof (well nearly bear-proof) roadside containers to community locations where they are needed. YRB is replacing the older bins with new bear-proof bins. Other good news is that the Valhalla Society has received some funding from the province to do the Phase I Problem Analysis study towards becoming a Bear Smart Community. We are also next in line to hire a community Bear Aware Coordinator next year. To learn more about this, please come to my presentation on the Bear Smart program on November 18 at Knox Hall. I'll also be talking about Valhalla's successful spirit bear conservancy program. Stay tuned!

Wayne McCrory, Bear Biologist
Hills

What will be the fate of Kaslo's historic Court House?

Just as things are looking up a bit, the provincial government puts the squeeze on. An offer of $120,000 by the Village of Kaslo to purchase the Court House has recently been countered at $245,000 by the former BCBC now doing business as Accommodation and Real Estate Services (ARES). Gone are the days when public assets considered surplus were offered to the people who own them for $1. We have all paid for this building many times over.

If the Village fails to negotiate a fair deal with ARES, this historic public asset will be lost. Many potential uses for the building have been identified. This is a solid brick building with large adjacent property. It is not the time to let go of land assets. We will undoubtedly need the space sooner rather than later.

Those who feel that enough has been lost already should step up and hold the line at the Provincial Court House in Kaslo. A memorial plaque placed on the building by Col. Kembell's men upon return from Vimy Ridge should serve as a reminder to all of the many sacrifices that have been made for the public good by citizens of Kaslo and area.

Let your elected officials know how you feel about the privatization of public assets.

Donna Cormie
Kaslo

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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SLUGS end busy year in Kohan Garden with October 22 Cleanup Party

submitted

The Slocan Lake Garden Society (aka SLUGS) and the Kohan Garden hosted many events this season: two guided group tours, four weddings, a bicycle tour breakfast, Slocan Lake Gallery Society 'Art in the Garden' Fest, and a Memorial Day for Pauli Inose, our beloved "Mama Slug." We greatly appreciate the many generous donors to Pauli's Memorial Fund, from which we purchased the beautiful classic stone lantern now gracing the grasses garden bridge, as well as a weeping Japanese lace-leaf maple planted at the tea house wall.

The SLUGS also thank our many Friday Market booth patrons. The Fall Draw winners were: Work Party, Leslie Mikkelsen; Gardener's Basket, Bronwyn Hashimoto; *Gardening Life* subscription, Judith Maltz.

The Fall Cleanup Party on October 22 brought many helpful rakes and hands from the GRUBS, SLUGS and community. The garden is now ready for its Christmas lighting display and winter splendor. Donations of LED light strings are welcome; please contact Ray Nunn or Barry Barker.

Our fall planning meeting and potluck will be at Webb Cummings', New Denver, starting at 3 pm on Sunday, October 29. All are welcome. Please bring your ideas for 2007 projects or events at the Kohan Garden.

We are very pleased to announce the completion of a permanent granite-incised interpretation plaque for the garden gatehouse, created by Brenda Lucas of Monumental Stoneworks, Nelson. Funding for the plaque was realized by our Friday Market sales, a donation from the Village of New Denver and a grant from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance of the Columbia Basin Trust. The plaque dedication ceremony will be held in April, 2007. Watch for announcements next spring.

John Herrmann puts the finishing touches on the Pauli Inose Memorial Lantern.

NACF grants program presentation

submitted

Nakusp and Area Community Foundation (NACF) held its annual public presentations for projects funded this year at the Seniors Hall on October 17.

PALS, which received $1,500 for a 2006 spay and neuter campaign, showed the impact of its efforts through a power point presentation. Six PALS directors shared their stories of how NACF funding helped make their project a huge success.

Paula Rogers presented on behalf of the library, showing photos of the new magazine rack and thanking the foundation for its $500 contribution to the library's expansion project.

The golf course was represented by Cheryl Nishida, who showed photos of signage paid for with its $750 grant. She did a wonderful job presenting her message that the Nakusp Golf Club is a non-profit organization that encourages youth sportsmanship and brings tourists to Nakusp and area.

Frances Swan rocked the house with her presentation on the success of this summer's Nakusp Minor Soccer Summer Camp. With a power point presentation set to the music of the Ramones, Swan showed the highlights of the soccer camp with 73 participants — an amazing turnout. NACF gave $1,000 to subsidize registration fees for eight kids as well as subsidizing some of the costs to bring professional soccer coaches to the camp. Holly Woods, from Alfa Guild, thanked the foundation for $1,000 to purchase signs for the front of the art gallery. In a particularly moving speech, she noted that the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in and around Nakusp. The remaining $1,250 has been set aside for capacity building.

A total of $6,000 in grants were given to local projects this year. Of that, $5,000 came from the Vancouver Foundation through its LEAD program, and was distributed by NACF. The remaining $1,000 came from the interest earned by the NACF endowment fund. NACF Chair Randy Thiessen spoke of the board's five-year effort to start the community foundation and then achieve the goal of raising $160,000 through matching funds programs with the Vancouver Foundation and CBT as well as individual donations.

"We have been working hard for some time explaining to the community what a locally operated community foundation would be capable of. It is an amazing feeling to simply demonstrate its potential by giving out grants to great projects like these," commented Thiessen. "We would like to thank the community for the support and helping us reach our mandate."

The interest from the endowment fund of $160,000 will be given annually to local projects for years to come. Next year it is estimated that NACF will be giving $11,400 in grants locally, again in conjunction with the Vancouver Foundation LEAD program. To qualify for NACF grants, groups must be charitable organizations or be affiliated with one. For more information, contact Randy through his work number, 265-5241.

The 2006 Nakusp and Area Community Foundation Grants Presentation Evening took place on October 17.

Finish Carpenter
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summitroad@telus.net

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION – SUMMIT LAKE SKI AREA
NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Directors of the Regional District of Central Kootenay proposes to adopt the ***"Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1829, 2006",*** which would authorize establishment of a service within the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, Electoral Area K, and a portion of Electoral Area H for the purpose of providing an annual financial contribution towards the cost of the operation of the Summit Lake Ski Area.

AREA: The service area may be more particularly described as the "Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution Service Area" and comprises the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, Electoral Area K and that portion of Electoral Area H described as Enterprise Creek north (which includes Red Mountain, Sandon, Rosebery, Hills and Summit Lake).

TAX IMPLICATIONS: The annual cost of providing the service shall be recovered by means of a property value tax to be imposed on the basis of the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area in accordance with Section 803(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act* to be collected under Section 806.

The maximum amount that may be requisitioned annually for the service shall not exceed $20,000. or $0.049/$1000. (Residential Rate of $0.042/$1000.) of the net taxable value of land and improvements, whichever is greater.

EXAMPLE OF PROPERTY TAX:

ASSESSED VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY	TAXATION @ RESIDENTIAL RATE ($0.042/$1000.)
$ 70,000.	$2.94
$100,000.	$4.20
$150,000.	$6.30
$200,000.	$8.40

Please note: Property classed "Utility" pays 3.5 times the residential rate indicated above.
Property classed "Business" pays 2.45 times the residential rate indicated above.
Property classed "Residential, Recreation & Farm" pays the residential rate indicated above.

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS: Under Section 86 of the Community Charter, approval of the electors within the "Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution Service Area" is being obtained by means of the Alternative Approval Process. Therefore, eligible electors within the service area **opposed** to establishing this service may petition against the adoption of Bylaw No. 1829 by signing an Elector Response Form which may be obtained from the Regional District of Central Kootenay Office.

At least 10% of electors must petition against the adoption of Bylaw No. 1829 prior to the deadline date which is at least 30 days after the last publication of this Notice in order to prevent the Board from proceeding with the Bylaw without the assent of the electors.

ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: The Elector Response Form **must** be in the form established by the Board of Directors and is available from the offices of the Regional District of Central Kootenay during regular office hours or from the RDCK's website at www.rdck.bc.ca

WHO MAY SIGN THE ELECTOR RESPONSE FORM: Electors, either resident or owning property, within the boundaries of the "Summit Lake Ski Area Financial Contribution Service Area" are the only persons entitled to sign the Elector Response Form. An elector is a person who meets the requirements and qualifications defined by the *Local Government Act* as described in detail on the Elector Response Form. The Board of Directors has resolved that a fair estimate of the total number of electors in the subject area is 4,000. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 86(1)(c) of the Community Charter, 400 or more electors must sign the Elector Response Form to prevent the Board of Directors from proceeding with establishment of the service without the assent of the electors.

DEADLINE: The Elector Response Form must be received by the undersigned before 4:30 p.m. on **December 4, 2006**.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like to request an Elector Response Form, please feel free to contact the undersigned. Information relating to this notice will also be available on the Regional District's website at www.rdck.bc.ca under "Public Notices."

Dated at Nelson, B.C. this 23rd day of October , 2006.

Dawn Attorp, Manager of Corporate Administration
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
Telephone: 352-6665 Toll Free: 1-800-268-7325 FAX: 352-9300

Red Mountain home saved by fire department

by Jan McMurray

Richard Burton and Lila Strand are so very glad that Red Mountain Road is now covered by the New Denver and area fire department. Their house was saved by the crew on October 19.

"We are incredibly grateful to those volunteers," said Burton. "Had it not been for them, the house would be gone."

The fire started in the wood shed, which burned to the ground. It spread to the attic of the house and badly damaged the roof. Burton suffered minor burns to his face.

That afternoon, Burton was at home "in busy fall mode," bringing in firewood and burning some of the cardboard that had accumulated over the summer. The woodshed, connected to the house in the back, housed a wood-fired boiler that heated the house. Burton put some cardboard in the boiler and then decided he'd have a quick nap. Half an hour later, he woke up to a strange sound. He went to the shed and opened the door to "a raging inferno."

Burton recalls his next series of actions with some humour now, realizing he was in a panic and not thinking clearly. First, he grabbed a couple of important items and got them out of the house. Then he phoned a neighbour – no answer. He phoned another neighbour, who he says was "remarkably cool-headed." He figures she was the one who called 911 and who activated the Red Mountain Road phone tree. Burton then grabbed his fire hose, but broke the pipe while trying to get a kink out of the line. Next, he turned on the garden hose and started spraying the area between the house and the flaming shed. This is when Burton thinks he got burned.

His guess is that the fire was caused by a spark igniting debris on the ground near the shed.

He says that probably about 30 of his neighbours arrived, and in about 15 minutes, they had emptied the house.

When the fire department and ambulance got to the scene, paramedics Karen Forsythe and Joe Matthews checked people for smoke inhalation. Burton was given oxygen and taken to the health centre for his burns.

Fire Chief Leonard Casley reported that about a dozen firefighters came out with two engines and a tanker. "The guys did an excellent job of keeping it contained to the attic area," he said. "They would have lost the house if they didn't have the service."

This was the first incident on Red Mountain Road since it joined the area fire protection service in the spring. "It went well," reported Casley. "The narrow driveways are an issue up there with the clumsy trucks – hopefully this will get people to understand why we ask that driveways be 14'-16' wide."

Lila Strand, Burton's wife and Lucerne Kindergarten teacher, was conducting an after-school program while all the action was going on up at her house. She knew nothing about it until she arrived home around suppertime.

Burton and Strand are amazed and very grateful for the helping hands lent by the community. They say that in one day, the place was completely cleaned up. Community members washed the smoke-damaged walls, countertops, floors, bedding, clothing, etc. They cleaned up the destroyed shed and trucked the debris up to the transfer station. They ordered the building materials to replace the roof, which will arrive Wednesday, followed by a work party Thursday. "Wendy [Harlock] and Sally [Hammond] have done an extraordinary amount of the logistics and organizing," said Richard.

Unfortunately, the couple did not have fire insurance, although they were in the process of applying for it. For all practical purposes, insurance has not been available to people on Red Mountain Road until very recently, when it became part of the service area. Those who wish to contribute to the roof project can put money down on Burton's account at Silverton Building Supplies.

Richard Burton and Lila Strand stand outside their Red Mountain home.

Nakusp General Store once again presents
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

DEADLINE: NOV. 18, 2006

Operation Christmas Child gives you the opportunity to make this Christmas brighter for a needy child. Now in its 12th year, this project of Samaritan's Purse allows you as a family to send a message of love and compassion to children in crisis areas of the world.

We welcome the opportunity to join with you to bring a gift of hope, faith and compassion to a needy child this year.To take part in this exciting program, ask for a brochure from the Operation Christmas Child Co-ordinators, **Second Sight and Nakusp General Store**. By joining together with Operation Christmas Child, you can share the true meaning of Christmas with millions of precious children.

Shoe boxes available at
NAKUSP GENERAL STORE
Broadway St., Nakusp
Ph: 265-3444

Protect yourself and those around you — get your flu shot — Interior Health

FLU CLINICS

Flu shots are safe, effective, and free for the following:

- People 65 years and older
- Children and adults with chronic health conditions and their household contacts
- Health care workers and emergency responders
- Healthy children aged 6 - 23 months
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants aged 0 - 23 months
- Pregnant women in their 3rd trimester
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities

NAKUSP

Nakusp Seniors' Hall (Drop-In)	Nov. 6	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Health Unit (611 Broadway)	Nov. 7	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
(Phone 265-3608 to book appt.)	Nov. 14	9:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

NEW DENVER

Slocan Community Health Centre Activity Room (Drop-In)	Nov. 9	10:00 am - 12:00 noon 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Slocan Community Health Centre (Phone 358-7911 to book appt.)	Nov. 16	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

EDGEWOOD

Red Cross Outpost Hospital (Drop-In)	Nov. 10	9:00 am - 11:30 am

BURTON

Burton Community Hall (Drop-In)	Nov. 10	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

SLOCAN PARK

Slocan Park Community Hall	Nov. 17	10:00 am – 12:00 noon

SLOCAN CITY

Slocan City Wellness Centre (Harold Street)	Nov. 27	10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Clients for the flu clinics should wear short sleeves and bring their glasses and Care Card. If you need more information about the flu vaccine or the clinics, please call the Nakusp Health Unit at 265-3608 or go to www.interiorhealth.ca

BearSmart funding comes through for upper Area H

by Jan McMurray

The Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) has received a $3,000 grant from the provincial BearSmart program to do a bear hazard study in the area from Enterprise Creek to Summit Lake.

Local bear biologist Erica Mallam gave a workshop about bears to the kids from preschool to grade 4 at Lucerne School on October 17.

Wayne McCrory, VWS bear biologist, says, "This is very exciting. It means we can get things on a more positive track – we can learn from our bad summer and move forward."

A bear hazard study is the first step of the BearSmart program. It is a problem analysis, looking at garbage, campgrounds, trails, etc. "A lot of bear hazard studies have been done in the different parks, so we're way ahead of the game there," says McCrory. He estimates that the study will cost $5,000, so will be approaching the Villages and the RDCK to make up the shortfall.

Another BearSmart requirement is a community bear working group, which McCrory says will be formed over the winter. The group will be comprised of representatives from the Villages, RCMP, and Conservation Officer service.

In the spring, "we're on the top of the list to get funding to hire a Bear Aware Co-ordinator, who can do public education and help people design better systems for their garbage, come up with a plan to address the fruit problem, etc.," reports McCrory. Funding for the position comes from the BC Conservation Association.

The next step in the BearSmart program is a bear-people conflict prevention plan. McCrory says once that is completed and in place, which could take about five years, "maybe we'll get our BearSmart status and that's when they agree to re-locate." He adds that some re-location has happened in communities that have started in on the BearSmart program. "The Conservation Officer service has been very co-operative that way and I expect we'll get the same kind of co-operation."

McCrory will speak about BearSmart and the VWS Spirit Bear program at Knox Hall on November 18.

Fall Value Savings

Wood Bistro Table / w 2 Chairs
reg. $190.00 **Sale $149.95**

Ceramic Planter Pots
Cornwall Large Assort. Colours (#10740)
reg $59.75 **Sale $44.95**
Large Set 3 pc. (#LPC)
reg $73.99/set **Sale $52.95/set**
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reg $42.95/set **Sale $29.95/set**

IN HAUSE SELECTS MAPLE 3-STRIP LAMINATE FLOORING 7 mm
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reg $2.79/lin. ft. **Sale $1.39/lin. ft.**

Broan Allure II Range Hood 30" White
reg. $399.99 **Sale $319.99**

6 x6 CERAMIC BRANCO WHITE WALL TILE
reg 36¢ ea. **Sale 25¢ ea.**

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Brent Kennedy students enjoy visits with world-class athletes

submitted

Since the beginning of the school year, Brent Kennedy students and staff have been piloting a program called 'Healthy Buddies.' The program was developed as a result of research at BC Children's Hospital which indicates that this is the first generation of children which may be in danger of expecting a shorter lifespan than their parents. The program relies heavily on older children teaching the younger ones. Buddy classes enjoy weekly lessons as well as 'Fitness Loops' in the gym twice each week.

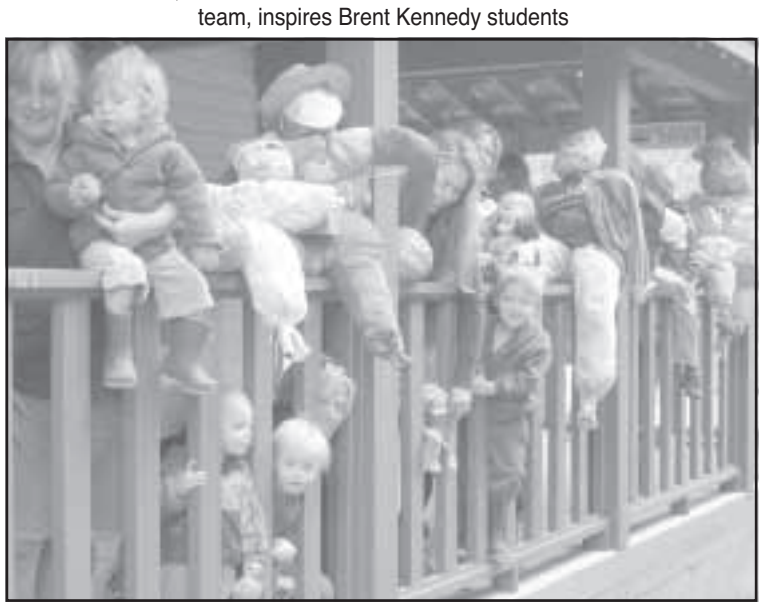
This past week, two special visitors shared their messages with the students at Brent Kennedy. Although neither one of them is connected to the 'Healthy Buddies' program, both Allison McNeill, head coach of the Canadian national women's basketball team, and Darcy Turenne, member of Canada's national women's downhill cycling team, offered words of encouragement to the students.

Coach McNeill explained how she utilizes the buddy system to have older players set an example for the younger players on the women's national basketball team. Her success is simply incredible. The team recently returned from the world championships in Brazil, where they finished in the top ten. Her message was very simple: work hard, make good choices and never lose sight of your dreams. She followed up her discussion with a one-hour clinic for the students from grades 4 to 6.

On Wednesday afternoon students had the opportunity to listen to Darcy Turenne, a member of the Esteem Team as well as a world-class downhill bike rider. Darcy shared some exciting video footage as well as a powerful message.

"Goal setting is a really easy way of getting what you want," she told students from grades 4 to 6. She revealed her "secret weapon" is positive thinking. She shared stories of her successes as well as her setbacks and encouraged the children to learn from the mistakes they make along the way to their goals.

Allison McNeill, head coach of the Canadian national women's basketball team, inspires Brent Kennedy students



Parents and pre-schoolers at the Tots Plus class offered by Slocan Valley Recreation recently spent the morning making scarecrows for the fourth annual Slocan Valley Scarecrow Tour.

All of the students displayed their enthusiasm and appreciation for the messages that were shared by both of these world-class competitors.

Silverton council, October 11: Joint garbage pickup trial approved till April 30

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Everett reported that he had a very positive meeting with New Denver Public Works staff and Mayor Wright regarding joint garbage pickup between the two villages. He asked council to approve that Silverton continue the joint exercise with New Denver for a trial period ending April 30, when they will re-evaluate. Council agreed.

•Adminstrator Junko Ida reported that she was working with the RDCK Waste Management Department to move the recyling depot to the public works yard, right beside the village office. The only complication with this location, she explained, is a safety issue with people accessing the new site from the highway at the bridge. She indicated that this access would probably need to be barricaded. People will access the new depot by turning off the highway a little further south, at the village office and gallery.

She also reported that there were two interested parties in the Leadville Street property that the Village is trying to sell.

•Councillor Provan reported on the Facilities and Recreation committee meeting of October 5, when the day park campground was discussed. "It was an opportunity to hear from residents," she said. "People on both sides of the issue came out." As the meeting was designed for public input, the committee made no recommendation for council at that time.

•The Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall sent in a letter to inform council of a possible source of funding for the project to renovate the hall, and to ask the Village to partner with the group in order to be eligible for the grant. For the project to be considered under the program (Farm Credit Canada Agrispirit Fund), the Village must administer the grant money if the application is successful. Council approved the partnership.

•The Silverton Historical Society wrote to thank the Village for temporarily storing the society's recently acquired large artifacts in one of its outbuildings. Administrator Ida reported that the Village was working with the society to find a longterm solution for storing the items.

•Mayor Everett reported that high-speed internet was up and running in Silverton.

•Administrator Ida will attend an Emergency Operations Level 2 workshop in Castlegar on October 25 and 26.

•Accounts payable of $25,805.90 were approved.

New Denver council, October 10: Health centre catchment area population still unclear

by Leah Main

•On September 15, the Village sent a letter to Interior Health Authority asking for clarification of what numbers are being used to determine the catchment area for Slocan Community Health Centre. Council was disappointed with IHA's response, as it did not include the current catchment population figure.

In 2004 the local Health Matters Committee provided IHA with figures drawn from BC Stats (population section) and federal census information, which pegged the catchment at 2,800, when adjusted for seasonal factors. This number was verbally accepted by IHA at the time.

Council's question to IHA was "whether or not those figures are still being used by the health authority's local/regional staff for planning purposes. Have they been updated?"

While IHA's letter of response said "Interior Health uses Local Health Area Profiles compiled by Strategic Information Services, updated yearly," the letter did not state what the current catchment population figure is.

Council considered this answer to be unresponsive to the question posed, and authorized staff to pursue the matter, and to initiate a Freedom of Information query if necessary.

•Council authorized a joint garbage pickup trial period till April 30, 2007 with the Village of Silverton. If this shared service is workable, both Villages could realize savings on shared equipment costs.

•The goose problem at Centennial Park was discussed. It was referred to the next meeting for further exploration.

•Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 608 received three readings, and will be adopted at a special meeting October 16. The bylaw exempts from taxation certain land and improvements owned by churches, and is reviewed annually.

•The next regular meeting of council will be November 14.

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For more information contact:
Ann Bunka 358-2552 (work)
358-7141 (home)

Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Karin Plato, November 3

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

KARIN PLATO
Jazz Vocalist In
" With a Song in my Heart"

FRIDAY, NOV. 3rd at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $20 Adults and $15 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under)

$10 for Jazz Band Students with coupon

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host: Selkirk Inn

submitted

On Friday, November 3, at 8 pm the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Karin Plato at the Bonnington Arts Centre.

A thoughtful and dynamic performer, Karin is a Vancouver-based jazz vocalist and composer. She was nominated for a Juno Award in 2000 for her recording There*'s Beauty in the Rain* and was twice nominated Canadian Jazz Vocalist of the Year. Her eclectic repertoire includes her own compositions as well as arrangements of many well loved classics.

Karin will be appearing with Bill Coon on guitar, Paul Rushka on bass, and Nino Dipasquale on drums. Karin will be paying tribute to six vocal jazz legends who continue to influence and inspire jazz vocalists: Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Anita O'Day and Nat King Cole.

This will be the second appearance of Karin Plato in Nakusp. She appeared as lead vocalist from the 'Mother of Pearl' female jazz group two seasons ago. The NSS Jazz Band will receive coupons to go to this concert for $10. Please see your band director, Lisa Lizee, for these coupons.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli, or at the door the evening of the performance. Doors open at 7:30 pm and the concert starts at 8:00 pm. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank the Selkirk Inn for hosting this concert.

Remember that season ticket packages are still available for the 'three package' Concert Series by contacting Marilyn Massey at 265-4087.

James Keelaghan at the Langham

submitted

James Keelaghan is one of Canada's greatest songwriters and an international performer. He has a resonant baritone voice that's been called everything from sweet to smooth to coffee rich and glorious.

He is booked into the Langham, in Kaslo, for Wednesday November 8 at 7:30 pm. Act now, and buy your tickets ($22) through Sunnyside Naturals because a sell out crowd is expected.

Voice and the love of song is what it's about on Keelaghan's lastest CD, *A Few Simple Verses*.

"I love touching people as a performer," he says, "Putting a song across so that people get inside the story. I love the immediacy of it, the feedback."

In the past two years , Keelaghan has toured all of Europe, England three times, the United States and Canada twice. In that time, he also had to say goodbye to both parents and just four months ago, became a father for the first time.

A Few Simple Verses is his ninth recording. In this collection of ten songs (mostly traditional songs and one song co-written with Irish folk singer Jez Lowe), Keelaghan pays homage to a musical heritage he's been a part of since he can remember. He explains that "folk music is the most evolutionary music out there... The folk music that is being played now at Folk Festivals is not the same as it was years ago, but that's a good thing. Folk music absorbs influences from everywhere. It's an exciting time right now, especially in Australia, the way cultures are coming together and creating something new."

Produced by Keelaghan and Hugh McMillan, *A Few Simple Verses* contains an international line-up of some of the best folk musicians, including: Hugh McMillan (Spirit of the West), Danu, James Fagan and Nancy Kerr (BBC Folk Award Winners), Stephen Fearing, Geoff Kelley (Spirit of the West), Veda Hille, Jordan McConnell (The Duhks), Ruth Moody (The Wailin' Jennys), and George Callaghan (who also provided all the sketches for the booklet).

Folk musician James Keelaghan

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Old Age - Field Notes: Food for Thought finale not to be missed

submitted

Lorna Obermayr will regale us with observations about old age at the Silverton Gallery on November 1 at 7:30 pm. This is the last talk in the current 'Food For Thought' series put on jointly by the Hidden Garden Gallery and Silverton Gallery.

When asked to trace her thoughts on the creation of this talk, entitled 'Old Age: Field Notes,' Obermayr says, "It started out to be a serious cautionary tale for youth – you know, 'this too will happen to you, but here are some antidotes to the suffering.' As thoughts of death and decay led me to the slough of despond, I remembered chats with my old friend Stan Rowe. We would whinge a lot but always end up laughing at the absurdity of life and its final act."

Lorna says looking at the funny side of life is part of her family tradition. "They were always joking."

What could be a more fitting finale to the 'Food For Thought' series than a good belly laugh. Anyone who has attended Lorna's rendition of her very own 'Story of Noah's Wife' will attest to her hilarity and wit.

All welcome to this event. By donation.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

FancyCoffee, Clean Clothes, Lunch, and New Tires all in one stop?

Hello all you food fans. How I've missed you. Fortunately for me my fearless publisher sent me on a mission yesterday. He needed new winter tires and sent me off to Slocan Park Service to pick them up. But Slocan Park Service, just down highway 6 from the CO-OP, is much more than a place to buy and service tires. There is also a three-bay (three hoist) auto repair centre, a well inventoried auto parts dept, a laundry mat (with gumball machines) and last but certainly not least, Slocan Park Service is the new home (as of March 1st) of COWPUCCINO. Ahhhh. So! On Saturday I had the pleasure of driving from New Denver down Highway 6 to Slocan Park. The scenery along the way was overwhelming. I actually had to stop several times because the autumn colors of this valley took my breath away at every bend in the road.

When I got to Slocan Park Service I met Gale and John Ludwar who, as far as I know, have been there for 15 years. This couple are salt of the earth. Besides running four businesses, they are very community minded, and they have a wonderfully refreshing world-view. Check their ads in this issue to see what I mean.

It was my job to check out COWPUCCINO while my publishers' car got some new winter shoes. The new COWPUCCINO is a little larger than the old one. Inside there are three tables and three stools at the window. There are two tables on 'the patio' and hanging plants here and there. Behind the counter is Lisa, who is very friendly and helpful and obviously enjoys chatting with the patrons and putting together fantastic coffees.

Once upon a time I was a coffee fiend. I drank it all day. Cup after cup. But when I found myself drinking coffee to get to sleep (that's right) I quit the habit. Though I occasionally will indulge. I looked at the lists of coffees and flavorings and mochas and lattes and espressos—singles, doubles, triples and quads and chocolates and types of milk (they have soy) and calculated that COWPUCCINO has thousands of possible combinations for a cup of java. I'm sure they can please anyone. They've got one called a SNICKERS which includes Bavarian chocolate syrup, caramel syrup, hazelnut syrup, two shots of espresso with steamed milk, a bit of whipped cream and white (or dark) chocolate sprinkles. Lisa assures me it sells very well. I opted for a tall double latte. First taste of real coffee I've had in over a year. Sooooo gooood.

There's lots of food too. Fresh made sandwiches (I had a black forest ham sub, it was fab!) bagels, sausage roles, quiche, soups, Jamaican beef patties, spanakopita, ham and eggs, and brownies and other treats with icing, and YES they have PIZZA by the slice straight from Citia and Doug at Munch More Foods.

For you coffee freaks, Lisa will make you a JAVA BLAST which is a four-shot latte.

I really liked the new COWPUCCINO. It's a friendly, comfortable, happening place with great people who are happy to see you, and on top of that I got to make the beautiful drive home on my fearless publisher's new tires!

Winlaw MINI-MART

Excellent assortment of fireworks!!!

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Coffee Sandwich Shop

HELPING MOTHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

In this picture Gale holds a baby in the Butuan Medical Centre. The nurses' gown is from Canada and we supplied them with masks and gloves. Unfortunately, this baby is an orphan.

John and Gale Ludwar, in conjunction with Kootenay Medical Supply, from Creston, BC will donate 10¢ from every coffee you buy to supply Butuan Medical Centre with gloves, masks, needles, alcohol and gauze.

On our 2nd trip, we donated another $2,000.00 in gloves, masks and needles to Butuan Hospital. Without our help, nurses and newborns have no protection from disease transfer.

ENJOY A COFFEE AND HELP SOMEONE

Thanks,

John & Gale Ludwar
Cowpuccino Owners

Columbia Basin Trust continues business support program

Submitted

Small Business Week every October is an opportunity to recognize the contribution of small business owners to growing and strengthening communities. Since the fall of 2000, the Columbia Basin Trust has been supporting the small business sector through the funding of the Basin Business Advocates Program (BBA). The BBA program provides free business counselling on any critical business issue, including marketing, sales, financial management, human resource management, succession planning, business expansion, inventory control and exporting, benefiting close to 800 businesses since its inception.

"Owners that are open and willing to engage in a process of assessing their businesses' strengths and weaknesses and are sincere in adopting new operating strategies will find value in BBA program resources," says Deanne Monroe, Business Advocate for the West Kootenays since the program began. "Our clients are business managers who understand that running a business is a skill that can always be enhanced and that you can't possibly know everything." Speaking from the experience of counselling over 250 businesses since the program began, Monroe has seen how willingness to grow and change can contribute to business expansion and success, and particularly notes the number of retail businesses in Nelson that have expanded into larger premises since their involvement with the program.

The program is not limited to retail businesses, as Monroe is quick to point out. "The range of entrepreneurial investment in the West Kootenays is amazing," says Monroe. "We've worked with high tech businesses, home-based businesses, large manufacturers and small service businesses. West Kootenay business owners are very creative and responsive, not just to local markets, but to global and web-based markets."

Trends Monroe has noticed with her clients is willingness to consider web-based sales, awareness of the need for better human resource management practices and the need for more sophisticated marketing.

"We've worked with a number of businesses that have expanded from a local to a regional market, or have moved into exporting. Growth in small manufacturing and adventure tourism has been noted in the region," said Monroe.

"This program is successful because the Business Advocate is able to meet the specific needs of individual businesses," says Barbara O'Neil, manager of the program for Steele O'Neil and Associates. Business 'e-Advocates' have been available to meet business owners on their time and at their place of business in their own community. Advocates are prepared to spend up to 40 or 50 hours with each business. The program also makes a contribution to hiring consultants with specific expertise, should that be required. "We strongly encourage any business that could benefit from expert advice to call us in order to take advantage of this generous and unique program."

Contact Steele O'Neil and Associates at 1-877-894-5939 for more information about the BBA program. Steele O'Neil and Associates, Inc. is a Cranbrook-based agency that also manages and delivers a number of employment programs for the federal and provincial governments. For more information about Columbia Basin Trust, visit www.cbt.org.

BASIN Business Advocates PROGRAM
Support to Independent Businesses in the Columbia Basin

FREE and CONFIDENTIAL business counselling program available to established businesses in the Columbia Basin...delivering business planning, human resource management, information systems analysis and marketing advice to business owners since 2000.

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Contact
Jill Bain 427-5320 Cranbrook, Elkford, Fernie, Golden, Kimberley, Invermere, Sparwood, Valemount, Yahk areas

Deanne Monroe 825-4171 Castlegar, Creston, Nakusp, Nelson, Revelstoke, Slocan, Trail areas

A service to the business community funded by the Columbia Basin Trust

Fauquier's high-speed project almost online

submitted

Thanksgiving Day in Fauquier meant a 72' steel Trylon Titan tower shining in the sun instead of a turkey this year. The most visible and exciting milestone in the community-driven quest for high-speed internet service was expertly rigged by Bob Yunick and Randy Reinhardt of Lake Country Crane & Transport, lifted into the air, skillfully suspended by Bob and bolted into place by Bob, Randy and Frank Poirier. This was all done in a matter of minutes, which was quite ironic considering the weeks of work required to reach this point.

Working with ParaSun Technologies Inc. of New Westminster as the internet service provider, the Fauquier Communication Centre non-profit society will be offering a variety of subscriber packages and WIFI HotSpot services. The Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) aspect of the society will be known as Arrow Bridge and will soon activate its website: www.arrowbridge.com. Services will be added and expanded as the WISP develops. The name 'Arrow Bridge' reflects the location and the fact that it will be creating ethernet bridges across the lake, communication links, and 'bridging the digital divide.'

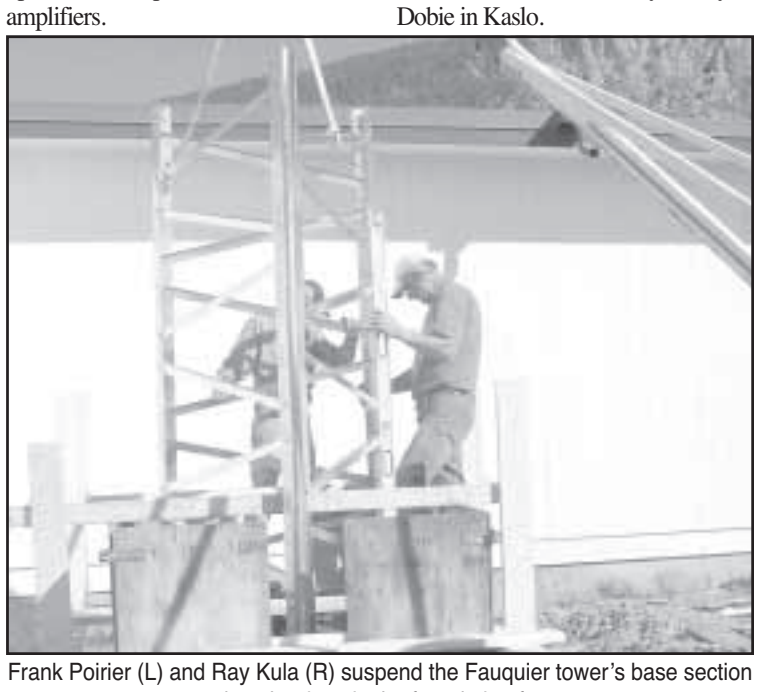
Technical facilitator Pat Kula points out that these are invisible bridges, much like the one promised by the provincial government, so the name works on many levels. If the 'real' bridge does get built, it will be a strong identifier for Fauquier, making the name even more appropriate.

Package information and pricing was published in the project's October newsletter, available at stores in Fauquier. Costs of installation and radios will be available soon, and extensive field testing will be done to determine which frequency will be used for each subscriber. The costs vary considerably and Arrow Bridge WISP wants to minimize end user costs as much as possible, which is why so much effort is going into the testing. Residents need to be alert to posted public notices.

High-speed internet service in the Arrow Lakes region is a major challenge. It entails creating a Wireless Wide Area Network (W-WAN) in areas of curving, uneven terrain, hills, rock bluffs, and trees, plus the lake at Fauquier. Subscribers need to be active participants in the process by checking all possible line of sight paths from their property to an access point. Careful pruning of a few branches can often create a window for the signal to pass through trees. There are also many options to be explored in antennas and amplifiers.

Arrow Bridge WISP hopes that people will be co-operative and patient as the process continues. Service will be staged to provide the best service to the most people within the budgeted funding. Additional phases will be fully planned and implemented as soon as funds permit. Plans are on view in the hallway at the communication centre Tuesday and Thursday 7-9 pm and Wednesday 10 am-noon.

A few extremely hard working, skilled volunteers have accomplished a great deal, with special support from Bob Carter in Crawford Bay and Tyler Dobie in Kaslo.



Frank Poirier (L) and Ray Kula (R) suspend the Fauquier tower's base section and anchor legs in the foundation form.

Doug Burton of Kootenay Furnace (KF) proudly displays two awards that the Slocan-based company has recently received. KF has been given the Award of Excellence from Blaze King/Valley Comfort several times before, but this is the first time it has received the Best of Business Readers' Choice Award. This is the one that is given to the Kootenay's best businesses, according to Kootenay Business Magazine readers . Co-owners Doug and Ana Burton wish to thank their loyal customers for voting for them, and to apologize to people they haven't been able to serve due to the volume of calls they receive.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
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HELP CREATE A LEGACY FOR THE BASIN

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

POSITION: **Network Support Professional**
LOCATION: **Castlegar**
DESCRIPTION: The Network Support Analyst will maintain the day to day operations of the information systems for both CBT and Columbia Power Corporation (CPC). This includes all server and PC systems, network, and related hardware and software in a Windows 2003 environment. This position will provide technical support to end users by performing network troubleshooting to isolate and diagnose network and workstation problems. This position will also be responsible for installing, upgrading, patching and configuring Windows servers and Desktop systems.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Completion of a Computer Systems Technician Diploma (two year College graduate) combined with a minimum of 2 years experience in computer information systems
- Exceptional communication and customer relationship skills
- Excellent problem analysis and solving skills
- A strong work ethic with a focus on productivity and integrity
- Effectively communicate orally and in writing technical information to technical and non technical audiences
- Time management skills
- Willingness to work flexible and occasionally long hours
- Ensure security procedures are implemented and enforced
- Web programming and Database Administration an asset

Castlegar is situated in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia. It lies midway between the Red Mountain and Whitewater ski resorts and is in the centre of BC's back country winter sports. For anybody looking for outdoor activities, Castlegar is within easy reach of lakes big and small, rivers, creeks, slow and fast water, back country hiking and climbing, with three major ranges at the doorstep.

The deadline to apply is November 10th, 2006 at 4:00 pm PST

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

YRB yellowhead road & bridge

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YRB requires winter equipment operators for the upcoming season at various locations throughout the North End area. Minimum qualifications include Class 3 licence with air endorsement, previous driving experience, ability to carry out duties in an outdoor, all weather environment on both day and night shifts. Must be physically fit. Please bring your resume along with a recent BC driver's abstract to Chris Fox , North end area Manager for Nakusp, New Denver, Edgewood. To YRB yard in NewDenver, 1-250-358-2343 or chrisf@yrb.ca

Candidates in October 26 Nakusp byelection speak out

by Dan Nicholson

On October 17, a small but enthusiastic audience attended the All Candidates Meeting, sponsored by the Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, for the Nakusp byelection to be held October 28. The three candidates, John Janzen, Ron Nymeyer and Doug Switzer, squared off on a variety of local issues.

According to Janzen, the current council has a lot of things right, but is spending too much time and effort on 'soft' services – things like the Official Community Plan. Not enough emphasis is being placed on the 'hard' services – water, sewer, pavement and streetlights. Says Janzen, "We need more direction on council." Janzen cites his five years of experience as Nakusp Public Works Supervisor, during which he oversaw the development of the airport, improvements to the Village sewage system, and the paving of many streets.

Nymeyer sees a need for continued growth to expand the tax base, but noted, "let's plan for growth that keeps the community in the fashion that we found it. Nakusp is a beautiful place to live, and a strong community. Let's do what we can to keep it that way." Nymeyer is the owner of two local businesses – the Old Grey Barn, a computer service shop and a bed & breakfast. Both operate from his home. Nymeyer says that his problem-solving skills and ability to "think outside the box" are important qualifications for public office.

Switzer is concerned that Nakusp avoid the "rampant development" that's occurring in the East Kootenay. "Absentee property owners pose unique challenges for communities. Development provides economic opportunities, certainly, but we need to plan our growth – infrastructure development has to be prudent and effective." Switzer has extensive experience in management positions in non-profit organizations. He's worked for CBT and Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services. His interests include a variety of social issues including seniors' services, housing and employment.

The candidates responded to a number of issues raised by the Chamber and the audience.

Downtown beautification

Janzen thinks that the Village needs to look at spending more money on downtown beautification. "Current expenditures don't quite do the job." Specifically, he'd like to see the Village adopt a plan for sidewalk renewal.

Nymeyer emphasized the importance of Broadway to the community and proposed an 'Adopt-a-Boulevard' program.

Switzer called it an important issue. "Let's do what we can for the downtown. We can't spend a lot of tax money, but it should remain a top priority for the Village."

Maintaining a centralized commercial sector

Says Switzer, "We have to keep our downtown healthy. We need a vibrant downtown."

Nymeyer sees problems with restricting commercial development to the downtown core. "Commercial space is limited downtown. There's no easy answers." He did suggest that the Official Community Plan would address this issue when it was completed.

Janzen called the downtown core "essential to the life of the village." He noted that with an aging demographic, it will be important to have centralized services.

Future of residential development

Nymeyer noted that "Village infrastructure is stretched to the limit. We need to have services in place before we have much more development. We need to find a balance here. We need development that works for families." He spoke about the possibility of expanding residential development towards the hot springs, while noting that residents north of the creek don't get Village water and sewer. "Do we need a new treatment facility?"

Janzen doesn't think that the Village is well-poised for growth, citing the need for water restrictions in the summer, the need to improve water treatment and to upgrade the sewer system. "All this needs to be done before we have any major development."

Switzer noted that the water system could probably handle another 200 homes, but that the sewer system was running at capacity. "If the village is to grow, we need to look at that early on." He noted the need for affordable housing in the community, as well. "We have to meet the needs of everyone. We have to balance our rural lifestyle with any development."

Vandalism, graffiti, lack of police presence

Switzer responded to the issue of increasing police presence on Nakusp's streets by noting that since policing costs are being downloaded onto municipalities, communities ought to have a greater say in how they do their jobs. He also said that young people need recreational outlets and alternatives.

Nymeyer says that everyone needs to work together to solve this problem. "The police are active, but they can't be everywhere at once. There's tons of things for kids to do. They just need direction. People need to get involved. Kids need to get involved."

Says Janzen, "Can we make kids more productive?" He talked about the success of Citizens on Patrol programs in other municipalities in keeping incidents of vandalism and graffiti down. "We have a great bunch of kids here in Nakusp. This problem comes and goes... One thing is certain though, vandalism goes down when people are watching."

Hot springs

According to Nymeyer, "The hot springs are a valuable community resource. The facility needs to support itself. Right now it's costing us a lot for maintenance and service. The economic spin-offs will come later."

Says Switzer, "The hot springs are a part of the legacy of the community. I remain committed to Village ownership of the source. I'm open to the idea of a private partnership to develop and market the resource. The hot springs hasn't made a lot of money in the last 30 years."

Janzen notes that the Village has already invested over a million dollars into the hot springs. "It's not paying for itself. It is an important part of our heritage. I must admit that I feel conflicted on the issue."

The three candidates in the Nakusp By-election - John Janzen, Ron Nymeyer and Doug Switzer.

Fish were biting for Nakusp fish derby

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Rod and Gun Club hosted its annual fish derby on October 21 and 22 this year – the first time for the event to take place in the fall.

"The fishing was tremendous," reported Hoss Cann of the club. "The weather was great, the lake was awesome and the fishing conditions were ideal."

Of the 32 entries, many people were from out of town, but the winners were all locals. First prize went to Jason Smith, who caught a 16-lb. Rainbow. Art Abbey placed second with his 13-lb. Rainbow. Jamie Sweet and Darryl Fizzard caught an 11-lb. 12-oz. Dolly for third prize. All winners received cash prizes.

Cann also reported that an 8-lb. Kokanee was caught over the weekend. "That is huge – a freak of nature!" he exclaimed.

The raffle for the rod and reel combo was won by Jesse Cann.

The Rod and Gun Club would like to thank everyone for coming out, especially the out-of-towners.

Jason Smith and his 16 lb. Rainbow Trout

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Village of Nakusp office
Applications close November 15, 2006
Grant co-ordinator
D. Buerge, 265-4148

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HELP CREATE A LEGACY FOR THE BASIN

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

POSITION: COMMUNITY LIAISON
LOCATION: Golden
DESCRIPTION: In the position of Community Liaison you are the primary point of contact for the CBT in the northeastern 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 an organizational 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.

The deadline to apply is Friday, November 10th, 2006 at 4:00 pm PST

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, October 10: New bylaws given three readings

by Jill Braley

•Council gave three readings to four new bylaws: Noise Abatement (Bylaw 1035) ; Dog Control (Bylaw 1036,); Bylaw Enforcement Ticketing (Bylaw 1037) ; and Open Burning (Bylaw 1038). Final adoption of these bylaws is expected to be on the agenda for the next meeting, to be held October 30.

The Dog Control bylaw will carry fines from $25 to a maximum of $10,000. The Bylaw Enforcement Ticketing bylaw outlines numerous new fines for non-compliance of the dog control, noise abatement and business license bylaws. Designated bylaw enforcement officers are the Animal Control Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer, RCMP or Licensing Inspectors, depending on the bylaw. The new Outdoor Burning bylaw covers a variety of categories of outdoor fires, and in some cases requires a $10 permit from the Village. The maximum time a permit may be issued for is three days.

For further information on these bylaws, the public can contact the Village or visit the Village website at www.kaslo.ca (under local government, then bylaws).

During Q&A, a resident pointed out that there are many important changes with these new bylaws and felt they should be advertised to the public.

•The Subdivision Bylaw will be amended to reflect changes recommended by the Village's lawyer.

•Gillian Sanders appeared as a delegation to speak about the Bear Aware program. She said fruit from 95 trees had been harvested to date, with still more to be done. Although there is not as much fruit as last year, eight bears have been destroyed in the Kaslo area this season.

Sanders stressed the need for the public to be very aware that there are more bears this year, and to ensure garbage is not left in open areas. Garbage is to be put out at the curb the morning of garbage pick-up. People should also remove bird feeders, outdoor freezers, etc.

•Donna Cormie presented council with a petition signed by 40 residents in favour of the municipality purchasing the Provincial Building. Cormie urged council members to proceed with the referendum they had previously agreed to and asked Councillors Leathwood and Hewat to talk to the appropriate Minister at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities conference. The Village offered $120,000 for the Provincial Building and has received a counter offer of $245,000.

•The Ministry of the Environment sent an email to advise the Village it has completed a site inspection of the Kaslo skatepark site. The ministry has determined that the construction of the skatepark meets the requirements of the Water Act, as it is located above what is, in their opinion, the natural boundary of Kootenay Lake. Also, the borrow pit has been rehabilitated as per instructions provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans during the application phase. A decision on the BMX project (including its location) has been deferred by Village council until a public review is completed; therefore, it is not an issue for the Ministry of Environment at this time. For any future applications for projects located near the lake, the ministry will re-assess the location of the mapped natural lake boundary. Kootenay Lake presents a unique problem. Since it is actually a reservoir with a controlled high water level, the natural boundary is not as obvious as it is with true lakes.

•FortisBC advised council of a new Aesthetic and Environmental Upgrades program. The purpose of the program is to co-operate with local governments with respect to their environmental concerns and visual objectives. Local governments may request FortisBC to share 1/3 of the costs to upgrade FortisBC distribution facilities, beyond the company's usual standards, for aesthetic or environmental reasons. The Village will proceed with an application for $10,000 for a Water Street upgrade prior to December 31.

•The Community (Scout) Hall will be closed permanently at the end of November.

•Council is gearing up for the 2007 budget process and the public is invited to make submissions. Meetings will take place on the first and third Tuesday in each month beginning November 7.

•The council meeting of October 24 has been cancelled and rescheduled to October 30.

•Kootenay Mountain Holidays was given permission to stage its winter helicopter operation at the west end of the Kaslo airstrip for a fee of $200 in 2006.

•Kaslo & District Arena, Kaslo Beach Regional Park and the Kaslo Skatepark were declared as smoking-free zones.

•The municipality will approach all necessary agencies for approvals regarding the reconstruction of the Kaslo May Days loggers sports site and continuation of the waterfront trail.

•Land development issues such as the sale of Village-owned property, Village subdivision development and the establishment of a Heritage Conservation Reserve will be discussed with the Regional District of Central Kootenay Planning Department to explore any potential for future planning services.

•Staff was directed to ensure general insurance coverage with Willis Canada is adequate for the current Water Treatment Plant evaluation.

•Council received a notice from Surespan Construction of West Vancouver, which was awarded the contract to build a new two-lane bridge at Coffee Creek. There will be traffic disruptions and temporary road closures from October 15 through to June 30. The closures will be up to 15 minutes at a time between 5 am and 11 pm and up to three hours at any one time between 11 pm and 5 am. Council will request a contact number to accommodate emergency vehicles during the course of bridge construction.

•On September 25, Mr. Comerci presented plans to the Planning & Development Committee for erection of a Quonset hut as a residence on his property at the corner of 3rd and D Avenue, including a timeline of events, outline of discussions with the building inspector, and a computer slide show of interior possibilities. The exterior of the building is unpainted Gavalum 180, but could be painted. Council has considered the advice of the Village's solicitor, who advised this project would contravene Village Land Use Bylaw No. 744. Council has accepted the solicitor's opinion and recommends that building officials not issue the permit to Mr. Comerci.

•Administration was directed to pursue the removal or trimming of trees located on Crown land at the east end of the Kaslo airstrip with the Ministry of Forests.

•Accounts Payable of $21,149.25 were approved.

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Valley Voice
The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.
Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch in support of the Valley Voice

A celebration honouring Truus and Nick Meijer Drees took place on October 14 at the Langham. Here, Kate O'Keefe presents Truus with a farewell gift from Kaslo Area Health Advisory, which organized the event with support from the Community Response Network and Seniors' Association. The Langham previously held an event to highlight Nick's art, his contributions to the arts community and to the Langham. The couple is moving to Ladysmith to be closer to family and the services they need.

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FireSmart workshop held in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

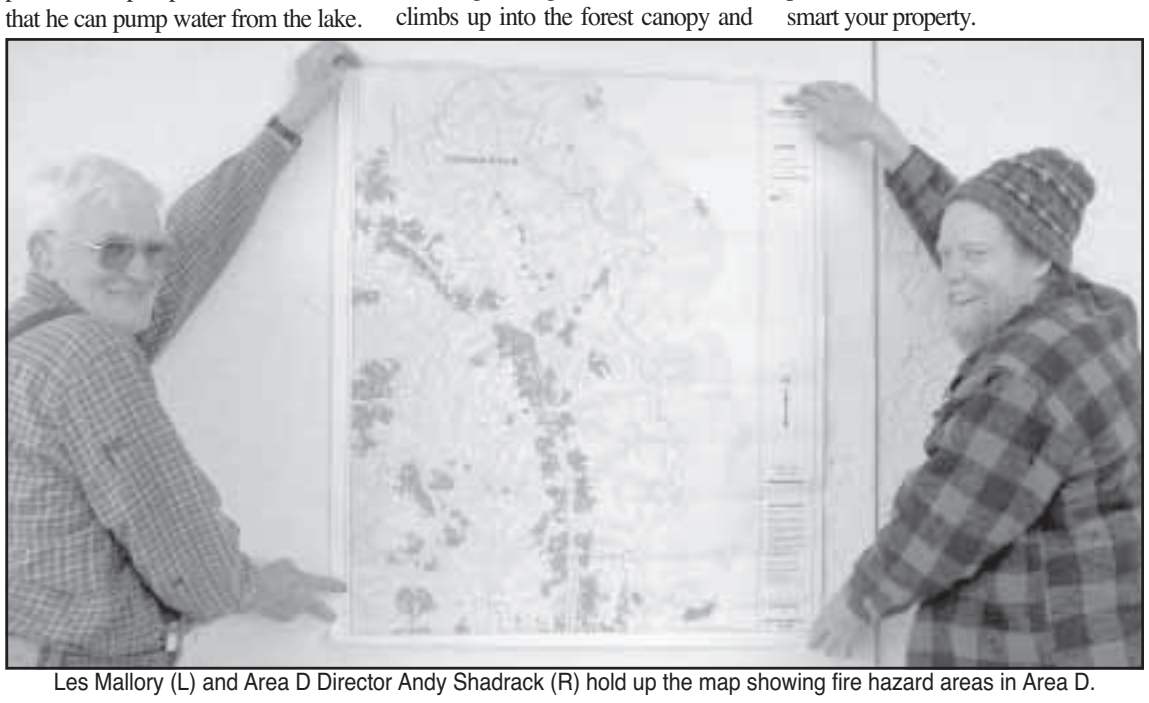
On October 14, the Kaslo and Area D emergency planning committee held an orientation session and hands-on demonstration on how to 'fire smart' your property.

Noreen Clayton, emergency co-ordinator for Kaslo and Area D, showed a video and presented information at the Scout Hall in the morning. In the afternoon, Les Mallory welcomed people to his 'fire smart' property on the waterfront in Shutty Bench.

Mallory has installed two sprinklers on either end of the roof of his house, and two sprinklers on either end of the roof of his garage. He has also purchased a pump and some hose so that he can pump water from the lake. All this cost him about $800. He has a generator for backup power, as there is a good chance that the electricity would be shut off in the event of a big fire. He says it is recommended that the sprinklers run for three hours to saturate the ground around the buildings.

Where the sprinkler system is super, the basics of 'fire smarting' is just plain old good housekeeping. Clayton stressed the importance of keeping the first ten metres around the house well mowed and clear of any fuels – trees, shrubs, leaves, woodpiles, etc. Any vegetation in the area from 10 to 30 metres out from the house should be thinned and pruned. This helps avoid 'candling' during a fire, where the fire climbs up into the forest canopy and becomes virtually unstoppable. Evergreen trees, which are much more combustible than deciduous trees, should be removed from this area. The forest 30 metres to 100 metres out from the house should be thinned so fires will be of low intensity and more easily extinguished.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack brought out the RDCK fire hazard map of the Area and mentioned that the regional district is in the process of hiring a contractor to do wildfire planning. He will be dropping off copies of *The Home Owners Fire Smart Manual* at businesses in Area D and encourages everyone to pick one up for practical information on how to fire smart your property.



Les Mallory (L) and Area D Director Andy Shadrack (R) hold up the map showing fire hazard areas in Area D.

WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

TO GET TO FERN'S NEW STORE OF COURSE!
We've been rejuvenated, renovated and re-incarnated at 415 Front Street
Still the great, great flowers, lots of fun and chat, with something new added
You're invited (yep - YOU) to our
Grand Opening Saturday, October 28
Refreshments, rewards and treats.
See you there, I hope!
Fern

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Touring the Paint Lake district

My first 15 years living in Nakusp, I worked at first on Celgar's logging shows then landed a great job with the Forest Service on the Initial Attack fire crew. The Arrow Forest District North included the west side of Arrow Lake right up to the Big Ledge and Monashee Park, but we never actually worked any fires or projects in that area. Usually the Revelstoke crews would hit any of those north end fires due to their proximity.

So anyhow, I've always admired the Big Ledge area from afar, with Mts. Burnham and Grady easily visible to the north of Nakusp, and although I made no recreational trips into that territory, I kept hearing locals raving about their hiking and horse trips out there. Just this past Thanksgiving Monday, I was invited by an old Nakusp friend to join her in an extended day tour to the Paint Lake vicinity. The Monashee Park gets visitors from the Arrow Lakes side via old logging roads, and people from the Okanagan can take the long trail in from the end of the road north of Cherryville.

We caught the 6:30 am ferry at Galena Bay, which actually had quite a few bleary-eyed passengers, and watched the early sunrise on the peaks across Arrow Lake. About one km past the Shelter Bay landing we turned left onto the Shelter Bay Access Road and motored south past the log dump, heading down the west side of Arrow Lake. This main road crosses Pingston Creek and passes the Hydro project that was built there recently, which may be an interesting walk.

We passed the Odin logging road and carried on along I think the Lime Kiln road until we saw the first signpost indicating the turnoff to Paint Lake. This road gets worse as you continue upward, and we had to stuff a few boulders into low spots to get the truck through, and thick brush made progress slower as well. Most people simply park way down on the good main road, then blast on up with four-wheelers, which can easily make it right to the alpine. We parked the truck at a junction about 4 km short of the alpine plateau where open hiking begins.

From the ferry landing to where the road gets too rude is 32 km and it's a good idea to either contact Pope and Talbot in Nakusp for road updates or else talk to the ATV tour guys who operate out of Halcyon. Many Kootenay backroads are fading to the point where you either need a four-wheeler for access, or a vehicle that can take some fresh scratches. We walked in for about an hour along the rough jeep road, which has rocky ledges exposed and some very steep pitches.

Beyond the last of the logging the forest thins out and sweeping open views go off in all directions. We cut away from the trail to climb up a long wide meadow that got us to the first ridge where you can look over a rolling plateau and past to the dramatic south aspect of Mts. Burnham and Grady, or Odin and Thor, depending on how old your maps are and what your preference may be. This has the look and lay of Okanagan Highland country, with grassy hummocks, longitudinal spines of rock and more spacious vistas. The peaks seem less crowded together than the ranges to the east and this offers a broader horizon.

The four-wheeler trail leads right up to the actual Big Ledge itself, which is a stunning face of rock plunging down into the upper reaches of Pingston Creek. The big peaks lay right across this valley and tower much higher than the high ridge we sat on. Odd ribs of marble and limestone ran through the bedrock, and narrow crevices in the main ridge cropped right down and out of sight. There's plenty of ridge walking and exploring to be undertaken and it's easy to see why this is a popular backcountry camping area. The four-wheeler traffic seems to have simply re-established some of the faded trails without erosion.

After a lunch break and some photos, the time was already 2:30 with a longish walk and longerish drive home, so we began the return hike, passing a number of tiny lakes and meadows that we'd missed on the way up. We looked down at what we figured is Paint Lake, though it was less appealing than the higher level tarns and pools. From the top of the long meadow off the road we could see Nakusp far down the lake, and with the clear and smokeless conditions, it was possible to look east to the Bugaboo Spires in the Purcells and with binoculars quite a few peaks in the Rockies lined the far horizon.

Even at midday we saw front still in the shady spots, and before we reached the truck the air was chilling down fast and the sun was nearly gone. The drive down that rough road got tiresome, but then at the ferry we only lined up 10 minutes and there was room to spare on the boat despite being the holiday.

Looking back at the maps I realize that what I said is Pingston Creek may be Ledge Creek and the large vistas of Big Ledge likely threw off some of my landmarking, but suffice to say this is a spectacular trip that can be done as a long daytrip or better as a campover even if you car-camp then made a full day's hike in as we did. The panoramic views are really grand and you'll see the Upper Arrow Lakes in a whole new way.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and really likes being outside. 358-2133

Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

Monte Carlo financial planning

What will your retirement portfolio be worth when you stop working? Stock market downturns and higher than anticipated rates of inflation can be particularly worrisome for investors who are nearing retirement.

Down years can quickly erode one's capital. The best laid plans can derail when actual results don't come close to matching what was projected during years of careful preparation for college, retirement and other important life events.

Many financial planners use simplistic financial planning software that merely gives an estimate of what a future portfolio value might be by inputting a stated rate of return over a defined period. These projections provide some useful insight but the flaw is that this method relies on average returns. The reality is that the stock market fluctuates and this can throw those projected numbers right out the window.

Financial planning would be a lot easier if investments earned the same return year after year and inflation rates remained stable over time. But since that is rarely the case, a better predictor of the future is needed. Monte Carlo technology increases the accuracy and reliability of financial planning by calculating the probability of specific outcomes through the examination of thousands of different scenarios.

By randomly generating numbers for uncertain variables such as interest rates, tax brackets, investment volatility, life expectancy and so on, the simulation calculates multiple "what if...?" scenarios to see how many times the financial plan will "crash and burn."

Monte Carlo simulation, named for the gambling game of chance and probability, has long been used by mathematicians, scientists and researchers to determine the odds of outcomes. This same technique is available to financial planners for modeling moving financial markets over long periods of time.

What is the last thing you do before you climb on a ladder? You shake it! And that is the central premise to using the Monte Carlo financial planning method.

Almost all other financial planning calculators use an amortization algorithm that doesn't take into account fluctuations in returns, like 1999's 80% drop in the NASDAQ. A few bad years like that, particularly at the front end of retirement or at the time the money is needed for college, could mean the money runs out before it's supposed to.

What traditional planning ignores is the timing of the returns. A Monte Carlo analysis would highlight some of the problems that might arise in a down market. A simplistic financial projection for a 40-year-old with a $300,000 portfolio may show that he can easily achieve a goal of retiring on $120,000 a year. But a more realistic Monte Carlo simulation may show that he only has a 40% chance of reaching his target retirement income. If he doesn't like those odds, then he will need to take greater risks with his retirement portfolio or start saving more money.

Clearly, Monte Carlo represents an improvement over traditional methods of financial planning. Nevertheless, as with any financial planning model, the results are sensitive to underlying assumptions. And obviously, there are some events that are beyond the model's ability to predict them.

Despite these cautions, a Monte Carlo simulation is a far more realistic measure of financial risk and reward than any of the traditional financial planning alternatives. Even more important, Monte Carlo gets people thinking about investment and long-term planning in terms of probability rather than certainty.

The Monte Carlo model isn't quite as useful for investors who have a long time horizon until income is needed from the portfolio. Instead, the people who benefit most are those who are at the tail end of the accumulation phase or are just beginning to take income from their portfolios. For those who are around 50 years old and 10 years away from retiring, this comprehensive financial planning approach using the Monte Carlo method would be extremely valuable.

Tim Affolter CFP CLU ChFC is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in comprehensive financial planning and tax minimization strategies.

with Jamie Barber

Planning for winter

Like the squirrels and the pack rats, most of the people in the valley are busy getting ready for winter. The last bit of firewood is being placed in the shed, screens are being removed and winter doors hung. Fall work chores can be a bit hectic as the imminent cold weather threatens to close down the progress. This has been the case with my friend Richard Burton whose house recently got badly damaged in a fire.

A friend from the coast had arrived a few days earlier and we were rebuilding the engine on his 1947 Indian Chief. Out of the blue, we got a call on the phone that Richard's house was aflame. Our little community here by Red Mountain Road has an efficient phone tree and it was very successful in bringing volunteers out to Richard's place in timely order. We dropped our tools and were on the scene about 7 minutes later. My friend is an ex-firefighter from Langley, so was useful in organizing some preliminary dousing. Not that Richard hadn't been busy or prepared before help arrived on the scene.

It seems the outside heater/boiler somehow caught fire and by the time he noticed something was amiss, the fire had engulfed the back wall and attic of the main house. Fortunately, he has a fire fighting standpipe and hose close by – unfortunately, the standpipe broke off just when he needed it. This left the meager flow of a garden hose to fight the ever-increasing flames. It seemed the only thing to do was to clear out as many possessions as possible before the house burned down. By this time, many people had shown up, so we were able to strip the house in short order.

The Silverton/New Denver fire department arrived at this time and did an exemplary job in bringing the blaze under control. There is no doubt that their training, good equipment and professional mode of operation saved Richard's house. The fact that we had removed most of the interior furnishings kept the water and smoke damage to a minimum.

However, Richard and his partner Lila now have the daunting task of making their house livable before the winter weather falls. This is a task we can all share in. Last Friday, many people showed up to help with the huge clean up. This Thursday, there will be a giant work bee to rebuild the roof and replace the metal cladding. I am putting out the call to all useful volunteers to show up at Richard's house the morning of Thursday, October 26. Bring your own tools and enthusiasm. We can also use some food and drink to sustain the workers. If you can help out, please show up. If you want any more info, call me at home (358-7269) and maybe we can get these people through a rough spot with just a little bit of effort by a large group of people.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

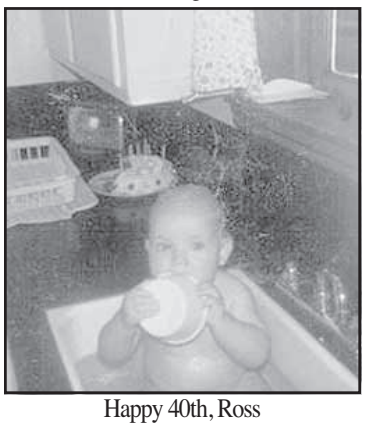
Congratulations to Allan Laktin on his retirement!

Well Dad, the day is fast approaching, October 31st.

Celebrate, relax & enjoy...

Love from your Family

You'd better hope history never repeats itself – fat, bald and toothless, sitting in something wet!!



Happy 40th, Ross

Love your sis

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

Hell is a knock-out punch, post-traumatic stress and no income. Heaven is all the great people who have given me endless suport and love; you are angels. THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

Lois

COMING EVENTS

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME at the Nakusp Public Library on Tuesdays at 10:30, beginning November 7th. Stories, Songs, and Rhymes. Free.

SANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGM. November 13, Knox Hall, 7 pm.

SLOCAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COMPLEX SOCIETY Annual General Meeting. Thursday November 16th, 7:00 PM, W.E. Graham School.

YOGA AT THE DOMES - Monday, Thursday and Saturday 9 to 10:30; Wednesday at Hand and Soul in Silverton 9-10 across from Silverton Memorial Hall. All levels, all ages. Affordable.

33rd ANNUAL ST. ANTHONY'S FLEA MARKET. Saturday, November 25, 10 am - 2 pm. Bosun Hall, New Denver. More info: Gail at 358-2397 or Bev 358-7771.

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

FALL PROGRAM @ Artel Studios (New Denver). *ADULT DROP-IN CLAY CLASSES have started again! Every Monday afternoon 1:30pm. *KIDS XMAS CLAY CLASSES starting Nov. 21 and/or 22, 3:00-5:00pm. (3 weeks) Come make your own presents. To sign up call Elly at 358-2689.

EDUCATION

PARENT/CHILD MOTHER GOOSE for parents and infants or toddler (0-2 years) at Lucerne School, Fridays 10-11. Please call Charlene Alexander, ECE at 358-7768 to register.

0-2 PARENT/CHILD PLAYGROUP. New Denver Nursery School. Every other Monday, 10-12. To register, call Charlene Alexander, ECE at 358-7768.

READY, SET, LEARN! For parents and children aged 3 and 4 at New Denver Nursery School, every other Monday, 9-12. To register, please call Charlene Alexander, ECE at 250-358-7768.

FOR RENT

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.

3-BDR HOUSE IN NEW DENVER, Orchard. Washer/dryer. $600 plus damage deposit ($300). 358-7965.

SILVERTON LAKEFRONT. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Short-term rental. November - June. $1,000 per month plus utilities. 250-545-4503.

CABIN, ONE BDR. 10 acres riverfront. Appledale. $500. 250-226-7155. email: rle.6650@gmail.com.

3-BDR MOBILE HOME. Recently updated, new propane furnace. Close to school, shopping. References required. Rent includes heat and pad rental. $650/month. Call 250-265-3842.

FOR SALE

PIANO FOR SALE. 265-3191 or 265-4670.

FOUND

FOUND: Ladies wedding ring in New Denver laundromat. Call 358-7771 to claim.

GARAGE SALE

GIANT MOVING SALE. November 4, 2006. 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Household, garden and workshop items. 97 - 6th St. N (top of 1st Ave.), Nakusp. The Maysons.

HEALTH

FULL SPECTRUM BODY WORK offers deep tissue and stress reduction treatments in the privacy of your own home. For additional info and to book appointments please call 358-6808.

NATURAL HEALTH CARE Advice on Nutritional, Botanical and Natural Alternatives available this summer. Lisa Ann Azzopardi, Naturopathic Doctorate (250) 358-2562 for appointments.

HELP WANTED

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 strategies will be provided and the completion of a criminal record check is required. To sign on as a tutor, or for further information, please call our One to One facilitator, Charlene Alexander at 358-7768.

EDUCATION

Selkirk College

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Adult Basic Education classes available – start anytime!

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DRIVER TRAINING, Graduated License Program, Nov. 4, 18, 25, Dec. 2;
CORE Hunter Training, Nov. 4, 5;
COMPUTER AND WINDOWS BASICS, Nov. 7 & 14 OR Nov. 18 & 25;
INKEL-LOOM BELT WEAVING, with Anni Valentine, Nov. 7 & 9;
PRENATAL REFRESHER CLASS, Sun., Dec. 3;

NAKUSP: 265-4077

MANAGING YOUR VOLUNTEERS, with Darryl Smolik, Nov. 4;
WILDERNESS & REMOTE FIRST AID, Red Cross, Nov. 4, 5;
BIRDS OF NAKUSP, with Gary Davidson, starts Nov.16;
PERSONALIZE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS, prerequisites - basic computer skills, Nov. 21
OCCUPATIONAL FIRST AID Level 3, Mon.-Fri. Nov. 27-Dec. 8;
GROUND DISTRIBANCE, 3 year certification, Nov. 29;
H2SALIVE, 3 year certification, Nov. 30;
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES. For more information and registration call your local learning center. Mon. - Thurs., 9am-3pm

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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.

ROSEBERY PARKLANDS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY Call for membership. Decisions and direction made by Society members only. Annual renewal required. New members welcome. $5.00 per year to Treasurer, Box 248, New Denver V0G 1S0. Include phone and email. Info: Barb Yeomans 358-7765.

OBITUARY

Grimmett (nee Marshall)

Lily Butler Grimmett aged 92 years, passed away peacefully at the Arrow Lakes Hospital in Nakusp, on Tuesday, October 17, 2006. She will be lovingly remembered by daughter Lila Smuland of Nanaimo; son Jim (Bea) Robertson of Burton; four grandchildren Michele (Bruce) Chaplin, Douglas (Andrea) Smuland, Alan Smuland and Katherine (Justin) Ogilvie; nine great grandchildren Kyle, Corey and Derek Chaplin, Cole and Declan Smuland, Cameron and Eric Smuland, Lily and Smantha Ogilvie; sister Margaret Williams of Edgewood; nieces, nephews and extended family. Predeceased by first husband Baysil Robertson in 1947 and second husband Norman Grimmett in 1971; two brothers Clark and Jim Marshall; two sisters Violet Armstrong and Florence Blackwell. Born in Nelson on June 29, 1914, to Burton pioneers Clark and Margaret Marshall, Lily had lived her whole life in the Burton area. Lily operated the Burton Trading Co. store for many years. She was active in the community with the United Church, Seniors Group and Women's Institute to name a few. Lily also helped with the book *Whistle Stops Along the Columbia River Narrows*, about the history of the area. A Funeral Service will be held 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 28, 2006, at the Burton Hall with Wes Towle officiating. Interment in family plot of Burton Cemetery. Condolence messages may be emailed to the family at pafsarmstrong@telus.net. Arrangements in the care of Personal Alternative Funeral Services, Armstrong, 546-7237.

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KIDS DRUMMING PRO-D DAY - With Bo Conlan. Tues. Nov. 14th 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Slocan Park Hall.

TOTS "PLUS" PLAYGROUP - Every Tuesday morning at the Slocan Park Hall, 10 a.m. to noon for pre-schoolers. Coming up: Oct. 31st - Saffire Jones (Hallowe'en Fun); Nov. 7th - Marguerite Wood (stories & dance); Nov. 14th - Brian Wood (card magic).

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Lucerne graduate Kezia Deacur won the Governor General's Academic Medal for 2005/06. Principal Trish Hawkins presents her with the certificate and medal, awarded to the student who achieves the highest average in the graduating class.

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Funding provided for Upper Arrow Lakes Fish Fertilization Program

Submitted

Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) have provided over $200,000 in funding to the Upper Arrow Lakes Fertilization Program to support this year's operations.

The Upper Arrow Lakes Fish Fertilization Program is recognized as one of the largest successful lake restoration projects in the world and was designed to compensate for the nutrients trapped by the Mica and Revelstoke dams, and the subsequent impact on fish populations. From April until September, a liquid nitrogen-phosphorous mixture is dispensed into the lake from the Galena Bay ferry as it makes its run from Galena Bay to Shelter Bay. Beginning in 2005 and continuing this year, a smaller ferry was chartered from Western Pacific Marine to make periodic runs in the north to south direction on the lake to dispense the fertilizer.

"Studies have proven that the fertilization program has had positive results, as the general condition of the fish in the system is improving," said Maureen DeHaan, Program Manager for the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). "Kokanee numbers have increased and predator fish have also benefited. In the early years of fertilization, bull trout were 20-30% heavier for a given length, and rainbow trout 17-24% heavier than in pre-fertilization conditions." The FWCP coordinates the Fertilization Program with the Ministry of Environment. "We would also like to thank Western Pacific Marine, which has been a wonderful partner by dispensing the fertilizer from the ferry," said DeHaan.

"The Upper Arrow Lakes Fish Fertilization Program is producing important environmental and social benefits. By increasing the population and the average size of fish in the Arrow Lakes system, the program is benefiting the local sport fishery and is also providing a better food source for wildlife predators such as bears and eagles," said Neil Muth, CEO.

For more information, visit www.columbiapower.org.

Status report on Lake Slocan Community Foreshore Plan initiative

Submitted

During a two-week period in late September, 350 resident supporters from Slocan City through Hills signed the Lake Slocan Community Foreshore Plan petition. Of this number, approximately 70 signatures were from the Slocan City vicinity. The petition calls for a community-driven plan for the foreshore of Slocan Lake (i.e. the land between the historical high and low waters), and a moratorium on all permits for private use of the foreshore until the plan is officially approved.

The signatures were gathered for presentation at the RDCK Official Community Plan (OCP) public meeting in New Denver on October 10. Those residents wishing to add their names in support can still do so at the Mountain Valley Gas Station, Slocan City; Silverton Building Supplies, Silverton; and the *Valley Voice* office, New Denver.

Please note that petition protocol requires signers to identify their address by physical street address or fire number and by municipality or area. Signatures having only a PO Box number are invalid. Since this is a Lake Slocan community plan, those signers from outside this area (Nakusp, Winlaw, Lemon Creek) will be noted but not considered in the official residency count.

On October 16, the original petitions were sent to Corky Evans, MLA, with a request for procedural guidance and funding support. Copies were also sent to Don Munro, Area H Director, and Alex Atamanenko, MP. The emerging planning committee is awaiting further instructions from elected representatives.

If you would like more information or to participate in the working committee on the Lake Slocan Foreshore Plan, contact preliminary organizers Barb Yeomans, 358-7765 or Ruby Truly, datazoo@netidea.com

Lucerne students were recently involved in three-and-a-half-day Fall into Learning sessions. Two groups paddled the lake, one group had Hip Hop dance lessons, and the fourth group explored Earth Art.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Kaslo detachment

•Police responded to a single vehicle motor vehicle accident on the evening of October 17 on Highway 31 near Lost Ledge. While travelling northbound, the vehicle lost control and hit a rock bluff. The single occupant was taken to the hospital by ambulance with upper body injuries. Alcohol is not a factor. The investigation is continuing.

•RCMP are investigating break, enter and theft to a residence under construction in Lardeau. The break-in occurred on the night of October 16 or the early morning hours of October 17. The culprits stole several construction tools with the initials 'KF' on them. These tools include a red Milwaukee reciprocating saw, a blue and gray Skil saw, a gray cordless Panasonic drill with two batteries and charger and a silver and orange compressor stapler LVT used for wiring. Also taken were two 50-foot electrical extension cords, one yellow and one red, with 12-gauge wiring. They each had three prongs, one of which was a 'T' style. The investigation is continuing.

•Investigation continues into two separate incidents where Molotov cocktails were lit and thrown against cement barriers. Minor damage was caused, but the potential was there for a large public building to be destroyed by fire. Youths have been identified and are being dealt with through the Community Alternate Resolution Program.

•On October 12, a very large black bear forced its way into a vacant home on 5th Street and spent several hours there, causing damage. The bear was located inside the home in the morning by the caretaker. The caretaker was finally able to get the bear out of the home by speaking to it after several attempts. The Conservation Officer and the RCMP were called in the late afternoon to deal with the bear, which was not located. The bear appears to also have caused damage to the garbage dumpster at the school.

•A youth was taken to the Kaslo hospital with head injuries as a result of being assaulted by another youth at JV Humphries School on October 11. The youth was then transported to the Trail Hospital for observation. There will be no criminal charges, due to the age of the offending youth.

•Police are seeking the public's assistance in a theft at the Kalso Golf Course on or about October 8. A Taylor titanium driver with a value of approximately $500 was stolen from the locker room.

•A resident in the 600 block of B Avenue is having continuous problems with unknown persons removing or upsetting the lawn ornaments on her front lawn. The problem occurs during after school hours, 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Please contact the Kaslo RCMP Detachment at 353-2225 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) in confidence, if you have any information that might assist our local RCMP.

•Now that hunting season is upon us, please ensure that all regulations are closely followed. The RCMP will be conducting checks on all hunters located to ensure that these regulations are being followed. Be sure to carry all documentation required, which includes your Possession Only or your Possession and Acquisition licence.

•Missing a bike? Ten bikes have been turned into the office. Drop by with a description to see if one of them is yours.

Nakusp detachment

•Nakusp RCMP received several reports of vandalism over the weekend of October 14-15. The first two incidents saw the Nakusp Marina and waterfront spray-painted with inappropriate remarks, and a vehicle parked on Broadway St. was vandalized with similar spray-paint markings. The two incidents are believed to be linked. The incidents occurred in the early morning hours of October 14. Nakusp RCMP are looking for information on two suspects believed to be in their mid-teens seen in the area around 1 am. Any residents in this area who have not spoken to the police are urged to contact RCMP if they have any information.

The next incident was at Nakusp Elementary School. Excrement was smeared on the front doors of the school, leaving a nasty mess. It is believed this incident occurred Saturday night or early Sunday morning. This incident is a concern as many small children play in this area and the feces spread is a definite health hazard.

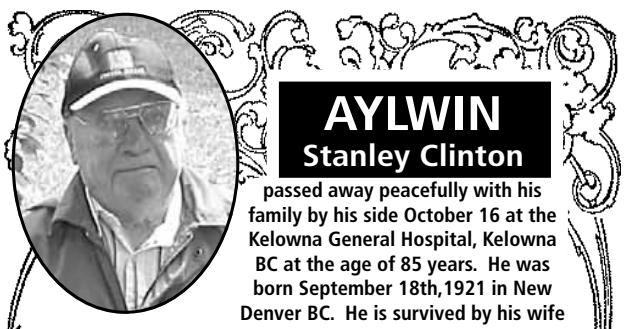
The final occurrence of vandalism for the weekend occurred at the Ministry of Forests building. A large storage building in the rear of the facility was vandalized when numerous windows were smashed with rocks and pipes.

These are the first major incidents of vandalism to hit Nakusp in quite some time. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Nakusp RCMP or Crimestoppers.

•Nakusp RCMP is also looking for assistance after numerous items were stolen from a trailer belonging to a contractor for the Ministry of Fish and Wildlife. The items stolen include a large amount of expensive scuba equipment. The trailer was located up the Halfway River logging road and was parked there for some time. Access was gained by the culprits when the lock on the front door was chopped off by an axe. It is unclear when these thefts occurred. Contact Nakusp RCMP or Crimestoppers if you have any information about this crime.

Slocan Valley

•On October 18, Central Kootenay RCMP (Nelson) received a complaint that some mailboxes and blue boxes in the Winlaw area had burn marks on them as a result of incendiary devices found near the locations. The devices are sized and shaped like a cigar, made of cardboard and wrapped in black electrical tape, and have been seized by police. The inside of the device would hold possibly match heads or gunpowder and would burn when lit on fire. If you have any information regarding this, please call Nelson RCMP at 352-2156 or Crimestoppers.



AYLWIN
Stanley Clinton

passed away peacefully with his family by his side October 16 at the Kelowna General Hospital, Kelowna BC at the age of 85 years. He was born September 18th,1921 in New Denver BC. He is survived by his wife Sheila, daughter Dian (Alan Ferguson) of Kamloops, grandchildren Brad Krauza (Roxanne) of Kelowna and Wendy Krauza (Mike Bourassa) of Kamloops and two great-grandchildren Bradyn and Martina of Kelowna (his very best friends). He also leaves two sisters Ruth Teir of Abbotsford and Minnie Doney of Sydney and their families. Stan (Dubs) grew up in New Denver, BC and returned there as often as he could. He played hockey in both New Denver and Silverton in his youth. Later in his life, he worked for the Department of Highways and BC Power and Hydro in the Kootenays, Osoyoos and Prince George. His favorite pastimes were being with his family especially on the May long weekends in New Denver and at Christmas time. He also enjoyed fishing, hunting, gardening, playing tricks on his family, skipping rocks, telling stories, teasing bears at the dump, playing the lottery, playing the harmonica and the organ, dancing to the Young'Uns band, and eating pumpkin pie, huckleberries, ice cream, apples and pears, radishes, tomatoes, and peas from his garden. His family would like to express their deepest gratitude and love to Stan/Grandad for all of the love, joy and generosity he brought to his family. We all love him very much and he will be missed dearly. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday October 23rd, 2006 at 1:00PM at the St. Stephens Anglican Church in New Denver BC. Interment will follow in the New Denver Cemetery. Reception will follow at 3:00pm in the Valhalla Restaurant New Denver. Thompson Funeral Services of Nelson BC have been entrusted with arrangements.