The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Crescent Valley community forum explores myriad of issues

by Jan McMurray

On November 14, MP Alex Atamanenko hosted a community forum at the Crescent Valley Hall. RDCK Area H Director Don Munro, Inspiring Youth for Change conference organizer Katelyn Jmaeff and Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission Chair Derek Murphy were the panelists. MLA Corky Evans sent his regrets.

Atamanenko told the 17 people who attended the meeting about his work as Agriculture Critic to save the Canadian Wheat Board. He said Canadian farmers had been losing money in the last few years while American farmers had just had their best three years. However, he says the Americans think we should not have the wheat board because the government should not be involved. He mentioned the NDP's work to improve on the Clean Air Act, and that his party's goal was to cut tuition by 25%. He said he feels the recent cutbacks to museums, women's centres, etc. are not right when there is a $13 billion surplus and much spending on the Afghan war. "Priorities need to be re-looked at," he said. He listed food security, agriculture and deep integration as concerns. He also said he had met with New Denver's Healthy Housing Society that morning. "Affordable housing is a problem all over. If we want to sustain our small communities, obviously something has to be done to retain our young people."

Munro spoke about the issues at the forefront for him, starting with trying to meet new provincial legislation regarding potable water. The RDCK board has passed a resolution endorsing point of entry / point of use purification, but he says Interior Health is reluctant to accept that. "But financially, it's the only way," he said. The planning processes for the north and south parts of the Slocan Valley are underway. He said that house prices in Kelowna were the second highest in the country, so we could expect people spilling over into our area. "The first eight months of this year, we saw more growth, new lots, and subdivisions than ever. A lot of these are second homes and that creates problems for residents." Munro said that the two advisory planning committees would be appointed at the November 25 RDCK board meeting.

Munro also mentioned that we would be paying taxes for our policing services starting in 2007, and to expect to pay $25 to $50 per $100,000 of assessed value on our homes.

Katelyn Jmaeff, grade 11 Mt. Sentinel student and 'youth actionist,' was a key organizer of the recent youth conference held at the Brilliant Cultural Centre that focused on peace, social justice and environmental issues. "Our goal is to inspire youth to get involved and take action," she said. Over 700 people attended the conference, and Jmaeff said that judging from the evaluation forms the youth attendees filled in, the goal to inspire them was accomplished. The group is currently writing a declaration and hopes to personally take it to Ottawa. It is also supporting other youth projects.

Murphy spoke about the SVEDC's high speed internet project for the valley, a wireless system that will "depend on the willingness of taxpayers." He also spoke about the commission's intiatives to market the area, including the slocanvalley.com website, but said the EDC had decided to do no further marketing work until the OCP processes were complete. "In the north, we're afraid of growth and in the south, there is no clear sense of where we want to market and who we want to attract," he said. Murphy indicated that he was hoping the OCP processes would provide some direction on marketing.

The first issue raised by the public was the new meat inspection regulation. Munro said that MLA Corky Evans and some RDCK board directors visited a slaughterhouse near Victoria during the recent UBCM convention and there was a lot of interest in building one near Slocan. He said a grant of $50,000 from the Province was assured for this project. Both Munro and Atamanenko commented that there was no hope in changing the legislation at this point. People who are selling their meat animals for human consumption must have them slaughtered in a licenced slaughterhouse starting September 30, 2007.

Vince Salvo from the Slocan Valley Co-op said the co-op wants to be able to buy locally produced food, and said that the largest co-op in Canada, in Calgary, could not get local food. He feels it is important for provincial and federal governments to provide secure funding for local people to create value added products.

Marilyn Burgoon, President of the Perry Ridge Water Users' Association, updated us on the organization's efforts to protect residents living at the base of Perry Ridge from landslides and water issues that could be caused by development on unstable land up above. The group is asserting its concern as a right under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "Do we have a Charter right to security of person, clean air and clean water? If not, then we don't have a Charter that protects us," she said. She said she wanted to see Canada follow the example of Bolivia, which just received $25 million for the sale of carbon credits it earned by saving Amazon rainforest from logging. The money was distributed to communities as compensation for lost revenue from agriculture and logging resulting from protecting the forest.

Burgoon also raised the issue of genetically modified food. Atamanenko said he was hoping that a ban on terminator seed technology would be one of the things he could to say he accomplished as our MP.

Margaret Hill of Crescent Valley brought up the issue of communities losing power to centralized governments and big corporations. "There is a great feeling of despair when $14 billion is spent on a war and there are cuts to social and cultural programs. We are not being respected as the power base and the corporations are getting the ear of the politicians," she said.

Tom Prior of Nelson responded to this by advocating for citizens to stop paying their taxes as a way to get the politicians' attention. Vince Salvo's idea was that we have to seize power politically in order to change this. "There needs to be a restructuring of the way tax monies are collected and distributed. The problem is middle class people are paying too much and local communities are not getting enough," he said.

Susan Eyre said she felt citizens were in fact economically powerful, and called for us to think carefully about which businesses we were supporting. "Why don't we have good infrastructure? Our money isn't buying what we want in the long term. If we want a bargain today, we'll be looking at deep integration," she said.

One woman wanted to know how the Harper administration was managing to accomplish so much of its agenda when it was a minority government. Bonnie Baker asked if Harper could push through legislation even when it was voted down by Parliament. The answer was yes.

Murphy informed Atamanenko that most of his neighbours felt a federal vote of non-confidence was needed. Atamanenko said his party was preparing for an election. Munro pointed out that it was unrealistic to expect a non-confidence vote before the Liberals had chosen a leader.

Munro responded to a question about emergency preparedness in the valley. He said we were fairly well prepared to deal with the population in the case of an emergency such as a forest fire, but that we were lagging in terms of preventing a fire. Eyre said she felt public education was extremely important because all it takes is a cigarette thrown out of a car window to start a forest fire.

She also expressed concern about the recruitment of young people into the military with tactics such as glamourous posters. Jmaeff said Operation Objection posters were going up at career fairs in schools.

Veterans and other dignitnaries parade towards the cenotaph at Kaslo's Remembrance Day Ceremony, November 11.

A week without women – are you up for the challenge?

by Jan McMurray

What would happen if all the women in your town went away for a week? The Villages in our area have an exciting opportunity right now to find out.

Vancouver-based Paperny Films is developing a new TV series with a major national broadcaster that will answer this question, and is looking for a small scenic town of under 1,000 residents willing to go through this ambitious social experiment.

"Principally, the show explores what happens when all the women in the town leave for seven days – what effect this has on the workplace, on the community and on the home," said Director Sally Aitken. "This social experiment will illustrate a unique Canadian experience in a fun, original and revealing way. We also hope to show the true nature of male / female relationships in the 21st century."

The 'week without women' experiment was done in a small town called Harby in the UK and broadcast by BBC last year. "Harby survived," said Kimara Brilling from Paperny Films. "The men did extremely well and found a new respect and appreciation for the women. They found it to be a really good experience."

Brilling describes the project as "ambitious, challenging and exciting. It can really bring a community together," she adds.

The women are taken away on a holiday, or to to a spa – "or whatever they want," says Brilling. "That needs to be worked out with community members." The ten-part TV series will follow various men in the community as they deal without their female counterparts for the week. She says the company will work with the town to sort out all of the logisitics.

The perfect town for the series, she says, has a healthy infrastructure, like a school, emergency services and council amenities. It has great community spirit, with active groups, diverse people and town pride. "The success of the series will depend on a community getting behind the series and really making it their own," she says.

The company hopes to shoot in early spring, so is looking for feedback from people in our towns very soon. Call Kimara at 604-228-1960 with your input, or email her at kimara@papernyfilms.com. You can nominate your town through two websites: www.papernyfilms.com or www.thewomenwent.com.

The Incomappleux River Forest Service Road is closed after a recent rockfall caused extensive damage to Canyon Bridge. This bridge was subject to a rockslide last fall as well, resulting in a road closure and stopping Pope & Talbot from logging in the Boyd Creek area. The closure will remain in effect until the extent of the damage is determined and options are explored in 2007.

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Social conditions best indicator of overall health

submitted

We all know that good hygiene, proper nutrition and exercise contribute to better health, but did you know that your income, childhood experience, education, work, housing and social conditions play a more important part in determining how healthy you are? The 2006 Interior Health Population Health Report released November 14 takes a social determinants approach to reporting on the health and status of the Interior Health population.

Interior Health releases a report each year that describes the overall picture of health of residents of the Interior Health region and identifies priorities for the future. "This year, we took a social-determinants approach to the report," notes Dr. Nelson Ames, Medical Health Officer with Interior Health and spokesperson for the report. "We recognize that the primary influences on health originate outside the health care system. This has implications for health targets, the allocation of resources and ultimately for the achievement of positive health outcomes."

Social determinants are about the quantity and quality of a variety of resources that a society makes available to its members. The report finds that income, employment, childhood, education, secure housing and strong social networks all play a defining role in contributing to the health of an individual.

Throughout Interior Health there are consistent patterns of life expectancy, chronic diseases and self-reported health in relation to social determinants. For example, life expectancy is about five years less for persons living in the northwestern part of the Interior Health region compared to the rest of the health authority. In the age-group 35-64, prevalence of chronic disease is 13% higher among those who have a personal income below $50,000, compared with those who earn at least that amount. Among the adolescent population, those who report lower sense of family connectedness, also report poorer health status.

"We understand that health inequalities between groups exists and we need to work together at a federal, provincial, municipal and community level to address them," states Dr. Ames.

More grants in lieu for RDCK and Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK and Nakusp, along with 27 other local governments across the province, will receive increased grants in lieu of property taxes for power generating facilities owned by BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation / Columbia Basin Trust (CPC/CBT).

"We're very pleased with this announcement," said RDCK board chair Gary Wright. "The government has gone a long way towards addressing our concerns."

The RDCK took the lead back in the late 1980s in organizing municipalities to push for grants in lieu of taxation for BC Hydro, which paid no tax or grant money for its power-generating assets at that time. The RDCK continues to work towards levelling the playing field between public and private utilities. For the last two years, RDCK Director Tom Mann and Treasurer Barry McLean have been working on compensation for regional districts for the Crown corporations' transmission lines.

In 2006, the RDCK received $392,867 in grants in lieu. In 2007, it will receive $574,231 – an increase of $181,364. Nakusp received $7,136 in 2006 and will receive $14,755 in 2007, an increase of $7,619.

Wright says he has questions about the rationale behind the distribution of funds between the communities that host the power facilities and the ones that are impacted by them. For example, he said Castlegar gets 100% of the grant for Brilliant Expansion even though some areas of the RDCK and Nelson are impacted. "But that does not detract from how pleased I am at the announcement," he added. "There will always be questions about the distribution of funds."

The RDCK is receiving grants in lieu for BC Hydro's Duncan, Keenleyside, Kootenay Canal and Whatshan facilities and CPC/CBT's Arrow Lakes Generating Station. Nakusp is receiving the grants for BC Hydro's Keenleyside and CPC/CBT's Arrow Lakes Generating Station. BC Hydro has been paying grants in lieu for these facilities for many years, but will begin to pay more for them in 2007 under the new formula. 2007 will be the first year that CPC pays grants in lieu for the Arrow Lakes Generating Station and Brilliant Expansion.

'Silver Salamander' makes its way to the Columbia Basin

submitted

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) was recently awarded the Silver Salamander Award from the Canadian Amphibian Reptile Conservation Network (CARCNET) for its ongoing commitment to recovering the endangered leopard frog in BC.

"When our work is recognized at a national level, it is very gratifying to say the least!" says FWCP Steering Committee Co-Chair Kevin Conlin. He noted that the overriding goal of the FWCP is to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams in the Columbia Basin.

The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area (CVWMA) is home to the only known breeding population of the red-listed (endangered) Northern leopard frog in the province. Since 2000, the FWCP has helped raise and release nearly 25,000 Northern leopard frogs. Although their survival in BC is still uncertain, progress is being made. Last year, for example, several egg masses were found in a new breeding area within the CVWMA.

The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area is home to the only known breeding population of the Northern leopard frog in the province.

BC Hydro customers to get refund in spring

submitted

The BC Utilities Commission has approved BC Hydro's Revenue Requirements Application resulting in a 1% decrease in BC Hydro rates on February 1, 2007 and a one-time $50 million refund to customers.

Included in the new rates will be a 2% rate rider that will be in effect for the period February 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 and will appear as a separate line item on customer bills. Revenue generated by the rider will be allocated to recovering additional energy costs that resulted from low water inflows and higher than forecast market prices in fiscal 2005 and fiscal 2006. Deferral accounts are used by BC Hydro to defer unexpected costs so that customers do not face sudden rate fluctuations.

BC Hydro filed its fiscal 2007 and 2008 Revenue Requirements Application with the BCUC on May 25, 2006 and an interim rate increase of 4.65% has been in place since July 2006, pending the BCUC's final ruling. BC Hydro entered into a Negotiated Settlement Process with stakeholder representatives which concluded with an agreement earlier this month. As the final approved rate increase for Fiscal 2007 is lower than the interim rate increase, BC Hydro customers will receive a one-time refund on their bills during the March/April 2007 billing cycle.

New Denver Christmas Sharing 2006

submitted

Once again the Christmas Season is upon us and it's time to think of those who may be in need over the holidays. Last year, donations of money, food, and new toys helped provide a happier Christmas for 35 families in the Hills, Silverton, and New Denver area. Generous donations from businesses, community members and the toy run also provided 19 Easter hampers and 18 emergency hampers throughout the year.

Canned goods for donations and drop-off boxes for food and gifts are available in local stores. Due to health regulations home canned goods cannot be used. New, unwrapped gifts are needed for children up to the ages of 18 years. Knitted scarves, mittens, slippers, and hats are always welcome. Donations may also be made at the New Denver Credit Union or sent to Box 445, New Denver. Please indicate if you wish a tax receipt.

Eric Renk has once again generously donated an artist's print for our raffle, with tickets available in New Denver at My Aunt's Place, Mountainberry Foods, Ann's Natural Foods, Silverton Building Supplies, the Valhalla Inn, Gaze and Chat, PetroCan, and Anderson Insurance Agencies. The raffle print of Renk's beautiful painting *Down from the High Country* may be viewed at My Aunt's Place. The draw date is December 20, 2006.

To apply for a food hamper, please call Sylvia at 358-2676 or Sue at 358-7787. Please don't forget to leave your phone number when leaving messages. The registration deadline for a hamper is December 10.

Slocan Valley Christmas Tea for seniors

submitted

On December 2, seniors are invited to kick off the holiday season at the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission's annual Christmas Tea for Seniors. This relaxing afternoon event runs from 1 to 3 at the Slocan Park Hall and is offered at no cost.

There will be refreshments during the afternoon, entertainment, draw prizes, the company of friends and the Rec Guy (hopefully) will have another batch of incredibly funny jokes to help get everyone in the holiday spirit. Seniors throughout the region are welcome to attend this popular event. It is being made possible with the support of many area businesses and plenty of volunteer effort.

To make getting there a little easier, the handi-dart will be coming from the Castlegar area and seniors are invited to take advantage of this service, compliments of Slocan Valley Recreation Commission. Space is limited on the bus, so seniors should phone 365-3100 as soon as possible to reserve a space.

For more information contact the Rec Office at 226-0008.

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- prepare financial and activity reports;
- supervise administrative and support staff;
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University Degree in Business or Public Administration, supplemented with advanced training in accounting, at least five years of experience in supervisory role, ability to work with a range of stakeholders in a diplomatic and professional manner. A copy of the job description is available at the Community Futures office or can be downloaded from our website at www.futures.bc.ca

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, Nov 17/06

Attention: Carmen Harrison
Community Futures of Central Kootenay
201-514 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4E7
e-mail: charrison@futures.bc.ca

Only applicants short-listed for the position will be contacted. Thank you in advance for your interest.

Community Futures – Building Communities One Business at a Time

Support sought for Slocan Valley internet infrastructure

by Art Joyce

If Slocan Valley residents want their internet service to move out of the dial-up stone age, now is the time to get involved. That's one of the messages Derek Murphy of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (EDC) conveyed at a public meeting Thursday, November 16 at Winlaw Elementary School. Murphy released the EDC's final report on the Winlaw and area wireless network project, with two proposals for the construction of the required physical infrastructure. The meeting was held in part to explore area residents' receptivity to paying for the network through taxation.

The EDC is a member of Columbia Mountain Open Network (CMON), which was contracted to draft two options for creating this network. The 'Economy' option would build six towers to serve the area from the Crescent Valley bridge north to Slocan City. This plan would include the radio transmitters required to transmit signals from tower to tower and to customers' homes. Network users would be required to purchase customer premise receivers costing about $250. This plan would make use of the Telus PoP (point of presence) already built in Winlaw, offering a maximum 10-megabyte bandwidth. A PoP is analogous to the power box on your house: in order to receive electricity the home must still be wired. At present the provincial government has negotiated a deal with Telus to provide internet access to unserved communities at subsidized rates. However, this deal is only guaranteed to last another two to three years. Total cost for the 'Economy' plan: about $450,000.

The more expensive 'Lexus' plan would add two more towers to the north end of the valley and one near the Castlegar airport, extending the service range to Rosebery and Hills. This plan would have the advantage of tapping into the already existing CMON network in the Kootenays, with the flexibility of choosing from several ISPs. Benefiting from CMON's economy of scale, the system could even provide medical consultation via video conferencing. This plan would have the added advantage of not being dependent on the temporary Telus agreement. Total cost for the 'Lexus' plan: about $700,000.

"Our job in the next six months is to find ways to reduce these costs," says Murphy.

Earlier this year the federal government announced its Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), which offers applicant communities two-thirds of infrastructure costs up to a maximum of $2 million. The Slocan Valley EDC has submitted a request to the RDCK that it apply for this funding on behalf of Area H. Director Don Munro sat in on Thursday night's meeting to gauge residents' support for the proposals. The RDCK board will consider the EDC's request. at its November 25 meeting.

Another cost-cutting option being pursued is the possibility of sharing the use of the TV Society or CBC towers. If negotiations are successful, this would eliminate the construction costs of two towers in the network, saving as much as $150,000. Grants of between $30-40,000 for the project may also be available from the Columbia Basin Trust. The results of these negotiations and the federal grant application will determine how much of the project costs must be borrowed.

The business model for either the 'Economy' or 'Lexus' plan is based on a 10-30% use of the service by the community. Financing by a Regional District tax levy could be arranged through the alternative approval process. If 10% or more are opposed, the matter would be taken to referendum. Most of those at Thursday's meeting supported a reasonable but not excessive increase on their property taxes.

The EDC is seeking volunteers for a working group to spearhead its public campaign. From Murphy's perspective, the matter is critical to the economy of the Slocan Valley. "You hear of people losing jobs or having to leave the valley because they don't have access to high speed internet," he said. "So everyone is affected, directly or indirectly."

President of the Nakusp Rotary Club Don DeSandoli presents a cheque for $1,000 to Gene Nagy of the Arrowtarian Seniors Society (Phase IV construction). The Rotary Club made the donation to commemorate Brenda and Harry Mayson's years of "service above self." The Maysons, long-term club members, have recently moved to Salmon Arm.

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For the facts on crystal meth and tips on how to talk to kids about it, visit www.no2meth.ca

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Voices from the Valleys

Community

I am a non-skiing, low income almost-senior. And I will be happy to pay whatever it takes in taxes to keep the Summit Lake Ski Hill open.

The amount needed per household is so ridiculously low I can't believe we even have to fuss over it.

If we can't manage this we don't deserve to call ourselves a community.

Ien van Houten
Nakusp

Grizzly killings senseless

Good news for rednecks and macho-morons: no need to pay for a license to kill bears. Just leave your garbage, empties and pet food on the front porch and when the bears come around, shoot them claiming that you felt threatened.

The recent incident with the killing of three grizzlies in Blewett is so despicable and disgusting that words almost fail to comment on it.

The incident shows that there are no real laws in place to protect wildlife. No repercussions for someone whose garbage actually baited the bears. No fine, nothing.

The message here is: Go ahead, be irresponsible, and kill without consequences.

These bears were only a few short weeks away from hibernation; what an awful shame.

Bears come every year to find food and, unless you live on the moon, you know not to leave garbage or dog food outside.

Bears don't like loud noise. Why did the Conservation Officer not advise the individual to shoot over the heads of the bears when he was contacted at night? What is the function of a Conservation Officer? Why was no fine levied in this case?

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

Thanks to IYC conference organizers

I would like to thank the youth from the East and West Kootenays who organized and attended the recent Inspiring Youth for Change Conference held in Castlegar at the Brilliant Cultural Center. I would also like to thank the teachers and parents who helped these youth reach for their dreams. From what I saw and heard, this conference was a complete success, bringing to the forefront issues on environment, peace, and social justice.

With approximately 800 participants aged 15-29, the youth covered topics from Afghanistan to climate change – issues important to all Canadians. At the conference, the youth made it known that they were not going to sit around and let other people decide their future. They too, were going to get involved to make the world a better place. The youth of today are Canada's future leaders, and I know that this country is in good hands because of the youth who organized and attended this conference. Thank you.

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

Thanks, Jerry, for Hallowe'en in Slocan

I wanted to commend Jerry Simmons of Slocan, BC for going out of his way on Hallowe'en for the children and parents who live in and travel to Slocan to enjoy trick or treating and the fireworks afterward.

Jerry personally organizes and seeks out donations for the firework display each year at Hallowe'en in Slocan. This in itself is enjoyed by many. I know I look forward to it every year. This year, he went far beyond expectations, when he learned that the fireworks were stuck in Vernon and would not be able to be shipped to Slocan by Hallowe'en. He learned of this on the afternoon of the 30th and being the caring and wonderful person he is, set out on the 31st at 5:30 am to Vernon to pick the fireworks up. When I asked him about this all he said was, "I couldn't let the kids down."

I was just so impressed by this and I think everyone should know just how far out of his way Jerry is willing to go for the people in the Village of Slocan. I sure liked the fireworks, even more so as I knew of this story beforehand.

Thanks Jerry!

I would also like to thank Women's Institute members, who run the concession stand and give out free hot dogs and hot chocolate, as well as any others who pitch in to make Hallowe'en such a special night in Slocan. It truly is a community building event.

Sandy Smith
Lemon Creek

Peacekeeping never main focus for Canadian military

Canadians can be justifiably proud of our country's record of international peacekeeping over the past 50 years. At no time, however, was peacekeeping ever the primary focus of the Canadian Forces. Even during the heyday of peacekeeping, in the 60s and 70s, the vast majority of Canada's military assets were devoted to NATO and the defence of Western Europe. At the same time as we had 600 troops standing between the Turks and Greeks in Cyprus, we had 5000 in Germany who were on two hours notice to go to war, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I know, because I was one of them for almost a decade of my life.

Peacekeeping is a term that's been so misused and abused that most people don't really know what it means. It describes a very specific type of military mission. For one thing, peacekeepers must, for obvious reasons, maintain strict neutrality. They cannot be seen as being on one side against the other. That's the main reason that our effort in Afghanistan has never been a peacekeeping mission.

Also, contrary perhaps to some popular belief, peacekeepers have neither the means nor the mandate to enforce peace. Their job is to help maintain a state of relative peace which has already been more or less agreed to by the opposing parties. If, at any time, one or both of those parties decide to take up arms, peacekeepers have little choice but to get out of the way.

Within the Canadian military, peacekeeping has always been regarded as a bit of an anomaly, a change of pace, a break from the normal routine of training for war. The myth that our armed forces have ever constituted a primarily peacekeeping force is just that – a myth.

John Banta
Fauquier

Development would destroy rural character of Galena Bay

Your article on the proposed development in Galena Bay (Calgary developers plan residential subdivision in Galena Bay, Nov. 8) presents only the developer's position, and even then some points are missing. For example, there is no mention that the project is currently being marketed exclusively to wealthy Albertans – people with a net worth of at least $1 million and an individual annual income of $200,000 or a combined income for couples of $300,000.

That being said, the company is in the process of creating another class of investor: less-well-off BC residents. One can only assume that an instant high-density 'community' like the one this developer would carve out of the tranquillity of Galena Bay, needs some less-prosperous locals to provide labour and services.

I own property in Galena Bay and have spent considerable time in the area since 1980. As such, I know a bit about this project. For instance, I can tell you the developer's claim that "most are for" the development and "two are not happy" is untrue. I personally know several residents and property owners who oppose this development in its present form.

We are not against it because we don't have an "individual win" (to use the developer's curious jargon). Personally, I oppose the current plans because they would destroy the rural character of Galena Bay forever. I base my position on respect for the environment and for the existing community, not on some vague notion involving either increased land values or the chance to serve the wealthy.

All readers of the *Valley Voice* should be very concerned about the proposed subdivision because it is just the first of its kind for this developer, whose company was formed to develop properties on the Arrow Lakes. Other developers will be watching to see how well this one does, and it may be sooner rather than later before another subdivision for rich Albertans springs up next door to you.

Ultimately, it comes down to this: do you want your neighbourhood to become an instant playground for hundreds of wealthy people, or would you rather continue to build lasting, real communities?

Glen Taylor
Calgary

Summit Lake Ski Hill tax is wrong

Right off the top the government openly steals about one third of our income and as if that isn't enough, they have the gall to take another 13% on nearly everything we purchase and even more for gasoline, booze and cigarettes.

Then comes the regional districts and municipalities always with their hands out taxing you for this or that.

From January 1 well into July we pay nothing but taxes in one form or another. Only after July and in reality probably later, are we allowed to keep what we earn.

No one wants to feel like a Grinch, but the tone of the pro-tax letters (written mostly by ski enthusiasts by the way) are subtly aimed at making one feel like a Grinch if you don't support this 'itty-bitty' tax.

The present ski hill, despite the thousands of volunteer hours, has been on a downhill slide for years. It is not right, nor fair, to force non-users to pay to support this losing proposition.

In the past decade, I don't think the ski hill has seen any back-to-back years where they have had more than two months of skiing, if indeed that long.

This so-called Alternative Approval Process using only specially designated forms is a truly bad idea. It's just a fancy way of circumventing democratic due process. And certainly if you are to tax every property, then every property owner should be entitled to vote! And what if you own more than one property? Will you only be taxed on your principal residence?

It is no wonder that people participate in and support the underground economy by paying cash for everything. They are fed up with so-called legitimate extortion. Indeed it is a slippery slope if we allow taxation to support the ski hill. What is to stop any failed business from expecting the same treatment?

And yes, where is the CBT or Sport BC? Taxation is just plainly wrong – let the skiers support their hill or close it down. Better yet, move it up near the hot springs. That, I could support!

Charles Maxfield
Nakusp

Same manure, different container

It has been said that the US Democrats and Republicans are as different as Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola; or that the only real difference is the type of lies they tell to get into office. Obviously both parties want to be in power and will fight dirty to achieve this, but equally obvious is that they are beholden to the same corporate masters. The current buzz about 'bipartisanship' reflects a deeper reality than they would want us to know.

Immersed in the same duplicities and need to deceive the public, they cannot do too much to expose the evil doings of their political opponents without exposing their own. And maybe they don't want to either, because what US citizens are getting here is the good cop / bad cop routine. Both political parties want the same thing: a fascist state with a veneer of democracy to give all those millions of air-heads the comforting fantasy they crave. Without the air-heads believing the official story line, debating nonsense, voting according to the official b.s., the system would collapse.

The 'bad cop' neo-cons do the heavy lifting and get the boot; the 'good cop' Democrats come in, make the right noises and continue the trend in a more subtle way. The wars will go on making a profit; the rich will continue to get richer at the expense of the poor. We will still have a phony 'war on terror' to justify invading countries, stealing their resources, making a fortune for the arms industry bombing them flat then another fortune for US corporations badly rebuilding them. All in the name of democracy and freedom, of course.

The simultaneous enmity and collusion of the Republicans and Democrats, dealt with by Machiavellian genius, outright stupidity and all

continued on page 5

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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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

possible mixtures of the two, is of course extremely confusing if you take it at face value. The clarity lies behind them, the agenda of their common masters, and to find that, follow the money. Cui bono, as the Romans said 2000 years ago.

Of course we have an echo of this here in Canada, in the Conservative/ Liberal dichotomy, but again it is a charade. How can we pull free of this evil domination ?

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Man who shot grizzlies should have been charged

The Nelson Daily News presented a front-page article (Grizzlies Shot in Blewett, Nov. 1/06) concerning a man who stored his garbage and dog food on the deck of the trailer in which he and his family lived. When, as could be expected, a mother grizzly and her two cubs came on the deck after the food, the owner felt threatened and shot the mother and cubs. The mother grizzly ran off wounded and has not been found, to our knowledge, thus posing a danger to others in the bush, not to mention probably dying in agony.

It is shocking to me that we have just lost three grizzlies in one fell swoop and the negligence of the trailer owner is being completely downplayed. The bears were lured to the trailer in the first place by garbage stored on the deck and then they paid a fatal price.

It appears to me that not only is the owner not being reprimanded for having an obvious attractant accessible to bears but he is being commended for shooting the bears! Grizzlies are blue-listed (a provincial listing of species that are sensitive to human activity) and two females have just been removed from a vulnerable population. Why was there no attempt made to relocate them, which is the usual policy for grizzlies? Or at the very least, could the owner not have first tried firing a shot over their heads to scare them off?

The Ministry of Environment has produced brochures, Conservation Officers and Bear Aware representatives have written numerous articles and there have been community presentations about living with bears and the importance of storing food and garbage properly to avoid bringing bears into our communities. Years of effort have been put into public education. There is little excuse for people to claim ignorance. So even though people know better, there is no incentive for them to be responsible and do their part if there is no penalty for this kind of blatant laziness.

We have been promised changes with the provincial bear aware program but has anything changed? First of all, the owner should have been charged with a Dangerous Wildlife Protection Order for leaving his garbage out and secondly he should have been charged with shooting grizzlies out of season. What protection do grizzlies have when the Conservation Officers fail to penalize such serious infractions?

Since these bears were getting very close to hibernating they likely would have moved through without any incident if there hadn't been such an obvious food source to attract them.

This was a sad, disgraceful and needless loss. We can co-exist with bears and we need to be more proactive rather than reactive. The loss of a mother grizzly and two cubs is tragic. The owner who lured the bears to the trailer deck should be ashamed.

Erica Mallam, Bear biologist
New Denver

Opposed to Galena Bay subdivision

We don't know which two opponents of the proposed Galena Bay development Mr. Moir is referring to (Calgary Developers plan residential subdivision in Galena Bay, Nov. 8). We have owned land at Galena Bay since 1971, have hopes of retiring there, and we are opposed. We also know others, who, as they find out about this proposal, are opposed.

It is wrong to assume that this land is not good for farming. Agricultural land is under threat everywhere in British Columbia – no more is being made. We can't eat condominiums, and we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to buy food from other countries. There is a reason that successive governments have kept the Agricultural Land Reserve: we need it to survive and prosper.

We had a large garden on our former property (Lot 8405) that adjoins the proposed 'Galena Shores' development, and the soil there was as deep and dark as any you can imagine. It grew great vegetables for us for 10 years and when we sold it (to a family member who still occupies it for most of the year), it grew weeds 10 feet tall. The 'Galena Shores' property has the same soil and it is nonsense to think that it is anything but prime agricultural land. In fact, Galena Bay was originally settled because of the good farmland – this is a matter of historical record.

That land is also the main wintering area for whitetail deer in Galena Bay, and remained so after it was selectively logged in 1970-1971. Since the current owner (not the Galena Shores proponent, who has an option to purchase) clearcut much of the property, the deer find winter shelter in the surrounding properties that are still forested, but they continue to forage on the abundant browse of the proposed Galena Shores land. This is another indication of the land's productive capacity.

We are also appalled at the bias of your story. Why not find out why people are opposed? To say that people support this development because their land values will go up is a moot point. As people flock to this province, land values will continue to rise and anyone who is lucky enough to own some will profit if they choose to sell. For the rest of us, including those who live there year-round, find out whether they'd rather build a real community at Galena Bay, or become the minimum wage earners for people who can afford a $150,000 investment. Few of us can.

Lee Harding & Hannah Diamond
Coquitlam

Still opposed to rural planning

About Don Munro's plans to tell us how to live – and do not think that this is an insignificant issue – it will significantly restrict our land use and lifestyle. Interesting, that the statement "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed" is written into the constitution of a nearby country. Some people respect the idea. A lot of people died fighting for it. It's called a democracy – where you get to vote for what happens to you. If anyone reading this thinks that Munro is going to hold a vote, regarding his planning and zoning of your property, and hence, your life as a rural landholder – you are wrong. There will be no vote.

A few of the red herrings: I have talked to a number of people about Munro's commitment to tell us how to live on our landholdings, and have been told that there's a problem with docks on upper Slocan Lake. For your information, the provincial Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has the authority to issue permits for docks on Slocan Lake and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has authority in, and on waterways. Period. And no local government planning or zoning will change that. I have also been told that there are noise problems that have to be dealt with. Please understand that noise bylaws are virtually impossible to enforce in rural settings. Enforcement is based on obtainable decibel readings. So unless you can spit in your neighbour's sink when they open their window, like in the city – you have been fed a red herring – period. I've also been told there's concerns about mining. The provincial government has complete authority in that regard – and no local government will ever be given authority over something that has immense cash-flow potential for our provincial governors. And I've heard from someone with a desperate look in his eye, that "there's a subdivision going in around Enterprise Creek!" Can you imagine that? Somebody else wants to live here, and share our independence and lifestyle. I asked him if he thought we should do away with New Denver, Silverton and Slocan, as other areas of development? Everyone knows what a blight those places are on our rural landscape – and he grumbled something, and walked away. And another person told me – "We don't want to become another Kelowna!" Hey Einstein – Kelowna got that way with planning and zoning in place.

And did you know that planning and zoning could very well tell you how many critters you can keep, and where? And, if you've got say four acres, and in your increasing years want to subdivide – planning and zoning will probably tell you whether or not you can? The provincial governors do that now, with the health and highways ministries, and the ALR. But the RDCK can stipulate a minimum (2.5-acre?) lot size. So forget your retirement if you're not a large landowner.

And Munro's advisory planning committee – of some 17 people, it must have two landowners on it. So, it could well be mostly people who have never received a tax bill for their property and earned the money to pay it who will help construct a document telling us how to live.

Do you know why Munro's meetings were held in October? Because the majority of rural landholders are so damn busy dealing with the onset of winter, and everything that brings, that we just don't have the time to pay attention to (Munro's) plans and meetings.

One of my roommates at university, who became a very successful professional urban planner, told me that rural planning creates more problems (for the planners to subsequently deal with) than any problems it pretends to solve.

And for those who support Munro, ever ask yourself what you're really frightened of, and why it's so necessary to try to control people?

Eric Nyren
Winlaw

What's going on at the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society?

You might be wondering, if you watched any or all of the Kaslo Cable video of the two-and-a-half-hour meeting of the board which took place on Nov. 8.

I know I was and I was shaking my head in disbelief at times. Here was the new board, at its second regular monthly meeting, with the good guys in control following the AGM on Sept. 27, and what are they doing for a major part of the meeting?

Fighting the bad guys of the old board who are no longer there.

The Nov. 8 battle stems from a letter from the old board to Gary Wright, chairman of the Regional District of Central Kootenay and copied to Area D director Andy Shadrack. It was dated Oct. 3 and signed by Erika Bird, KDCFS secretary at the time, acting on behalf of the old board.

It stated "that there were sufficient grounds to suppose that your appointee, Dave Russell, had seriously breached the rules and spirit of an in camera session. What you need to know is that within fewer than 24 hours after the meeting, the business partner of Dave Russell's neighbour and friend was at our president's doorstep and was able to describe with fine detail the in camera meeting and the decisions taken there. We believe that a reprimand is in order."

So, who's the business partner of Dave Russell's neighbour and friend? Well, I think it must be Clint Carlson, partner with Jeff Mattes in Sunshine Logging Ltd.

The letter refers to an in camera meeting held in August, when the board decided to hire Barry Rempel as woodlands manager. (The three-year contract was later finalized and announced publicly on Sept. 26.)

Two months after the breach of in camera confidentiality, a letter from Dave Russell was on the agenda of the board's meeting on Nov. 8. He requested "a letter of apology, copied to the RDCK board chair and Mr. Andy Shadrack, for this vile false accusation, which could, potentially, be libelous and slanderous since it is damaging to my reputation."

So why did it take Dave Russell so long to issue a denial when all other directors had made their denials weeks ago? Russell told the meeting: "I did indeed receive communications from former board members asking me whether I was the source of the leak or not. Those communications were, in my opinion, disrespectful and offensive. So that's why there was never an answer given, because the question was phrased in an unacceptable fashion."

So who was the source of the leak – the director who denied he was the leak and who stood silent for two months, while the finger pointed to Dave Russell?

"I was the leak," said Steve Anderson. "I'll tell you why. Because there were many, many, many times when I was doing things and trying to do them the right way and some of the previous board members didn't like it and they called me all kinds of things and accused me of things that weren't true. I was accused of being immoral. I was accused of being stupid. I was accused of drinking my bath water."

Anderson told the board that he had not accused Dave Russell. "The kangaroo court convicted Dave."

Erika Bird, as the signing secretary on the letter to the RDCK, was left with the job of justifying the position of the old board. She stated: "We had an incredible breach of confidentiality...and what else were we supposed to do? We had circumstantial evidence and I apologize that it was."

So the board passed a motion to write a letter to the RDCK saying that the information in the KDCFS letter had been incorrect, that the KDCFS board would apologize to Russell, and that the board regretted the error that was made.

I can only hope that the good-guy new board feels that it has now truly vanquished the bad-guy old board and that the new board will concentrate on the financial and forestry challenges it faces.

Jane Lynch,
Shutty Bench

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

Celebration of Gunter Reker's Life

Sunday, November 26
Noon to 2 pm
Silverton Country Inn
Bring your stories and pictures to share. Open mic.

Two Slocan Valley businesses win Community Futures awards

submitted

Mountain Sky Soaps and WE Graham Community Service Society won awards at the annual Community Futures Client Recognition Awards night, held October 18 in Nelson. Businesses in our area fared well in both the nominations and awards.

Mountain Sky Soap won in the Continuing Success category. Since 1993, Mountain Sky Soap has been manufacturing soaps for the company and for private labels, with massage bars and lip balm recently added to production. Production has increased from 320 soaps per week at its beginning to about 6,000 today in peak production times, providing seven jobs.

WE Graham Community Service Society won the Innovative Community Organization award. This Slocan Valley organization offers many programs, including a youth centre, licensed daycare, summer day-camps, a food bank, employment services, art therapy services, addictions and mental health services, restorative justice and Stop the Violence programs, a learning centre and an electronic arts centre.

Nominees from our area included: Circle of Habondia, Susie Myers at Brent Kennedy Learning Centre, Irma Soemodihardjo of Roesina's Tempeh Products, Laurel Giasson and Mathew Theoret of Frog Peak Cafe, Jim Berrill of Jems Propane, Tamara Barkowsky of Nuru Design, Jim Mattinson of Winlaw Brew Op, Kaslo & District Forest Society, Kaslo InfoNet Society, Chris Ewings of Arrowtek Computers in Nakusp, and Nakusp citizens Beth McLeod and Willi Jahnke, both nominated for Community Entrepreneur.

Raynald Losier of Mountain Sky Soap receives his ongoing success award from Bob Wright, co-chair of Community Futures.

Slocan Valley youths produce award-winning film UFOT

by Jan McMurray

UFOT, a film produced during a 2006 summer camp at the Electronic Arts Centre in Slocan, won Best Drama at Rossland's U-19 Film Festival held November 16.

This was the third annual festival for young filmmakers between 11 and 18 years old, presented by Rossland Council for Arts and Culture and Rossland Mountain Film Festival.

Jacy Schindel, instructor at this past summer's camps in Slocan, submitted three films produced by his students. In UFOT, Schindel is one of the actors, playing a TV addict. Students involved in producing the film are Slocan Valley teens Eliot Gatenby, Hayden Standidge, Danny Schell, Jethro Herring, Satori Konigsberg, Bijaya O'Neill, Kenna Morris, Ian MacDonald and Wyatt Roussain.

The Electronic Arts Centre is a program of WE Graham Community Service Society. It offers the use of state-of-the-art video production and post-production equipment to community members, and has partnered with local schools to educate youth in media arts.

Arrow Lakes Saddle Club wraps up season

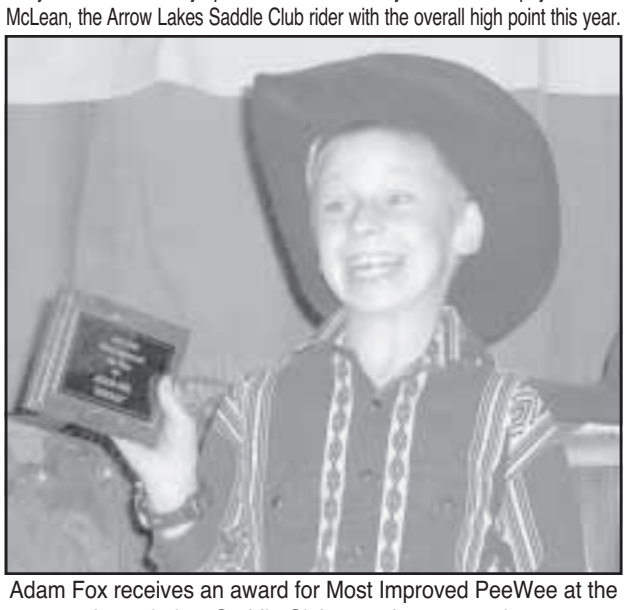
by Jan McMurray

The Arrow Lakes Saddle Club held a banquet and awards presentation at Burton Community Hall on November 18.

A wonderful dinner was followed by a power point slideshow produced by Rory McLeod of Kootenay Virtual Tours in Nakusp. The show, which got lots of laughs from the crowd, is available on disc through Tammy O'Brien, as are CD sets of photos taken by McLeod at the August and October gymkhanas.

Thank you gifts were presented to Doug and Janet Brown, who host many of the club's gymkhanas; Dorothy Robins, scorekeeper; and Wayne Allard, who is known to haul around a lot of the club's vital equipment, including announcer / president Reg Reimer!

Lloyd and Lenora Parkyn presented the Les Parkyn Memorial Trophy to Kiara McLean, the Arrow Lakes Saddle Club rider with the overall high point this year.



Adam Fox receives an award for Most Improved PeeWee at the Arrow Lakes Saddle Club awards presentation.

High-point and runner-up riders received trophies and blankets embroidered with the Arrow Lakes Saddle Club monogram and the name of the donor, while all other riders received a prize bucket filled with goodies. Most Sportsmanlike Rider went to Tammy Reimer. Most Improved went to Adam Fox in the PeeWee division, Jenna Reimer in the Junior division and Tammy O'Brien in the Open division.

The coveted Les Parkyn Memorial Trophy, given to the rider with the overall high point, had not been awarded since 1984. It was brought out this year and given to PeeWee rider Kiara McLean with 172 points. Les Parkyn was an avid rider, and a club member back in the 1960s when the club was first set up. He was almost 21 when he was in a car accident in 1978, and was in a coma for eight months before he died. His father, Lloyd, and stepmother, Lenora, attended and made a very moving presentation of the award to Kiara.

In the PeeWee division, Kiara (and horse Misty) won High Point; runner-up was Kathleen Fox (Shadow) with 145 points. In the Junior division, Lana Remier (Harvey) won High Point with 136 points and Nicole Hawe (Snickers) was runner-up with 98 points. In the Open, Gina Volansky (Alice) earned High Point with 140 points. Runner-up was Tammy Reimer (Okie) with 120 points.

CORRECTION

It was incorrectly reported in the Kaslo RCMP notes last issue that drivers can be found at fault in an accident should their vehicle have summer or all season tires. ICBC has confirmed that drivers cannot be found at fault simply because they don't have winter tires. However, they point out that winter tires can prevent accidents.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CBTCIP07

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is seeking proposals from qualified contractors for the evaluation of its Community Initiatives Program. The Community Initiatives Program evaluation will review and assess the impacts and the effectiveness of the program.

Closing date for proposals is:
3:00 PM PST on December 15, 2006

Full proposal information packages may be obtained from:

Aimee Ambrosone
Columbia Basin Trust
Phone: 1-800-505-8998
Email: aambrosone@cbt.org

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

FortisBC Inc.
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application for the Ellison Substation Project

Notice of Public Hearing

THE APPLICATION

On October 27, 2006, FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("the Commission") for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct and operate the proposed Ellison Substation and Transmission project that is projected to cost $ 15.77 million. The Project consists of a new substation in the Ellison area of north Kelowna, converting 6.0 kilometers of existing distribution and transmission circuits to 138 kV transmission and connecting the new substation to the area distribution network. The substation location is immediately adjacent to the existing transmission and distribution corridors, so no new line route will be required. An existing 5.2 kilometer section of 13 kV distribution circuit between the Duck Lake Substation and the proposed Ellison site will have a 138 kV transmission circuit overbuilt on the existing poles. This will tie into an existing 0.8 kilometers of line which is already constructed to 138 kV standards. The project is required to meet the load growth, capacity requirements and the backup supply planning criteria for the north Kelowna area.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

Commission Order No. G-140-06 established the Regulatory Timetable for the review of the FortisBC Inc. CPCN Application by way of an Oral Public Hearing to be held in Kelowna, B.C., commencing on **Tuesday, January 9, 2007** at 11:00 a.m. at the Grand Okanagan Hotel. An evening session of the Hearing with the primary purpose of receiving submissions by participants will be held on **January 9, 2006** commencing at 7:00 p.m.

ACTION	DATE (2006)
Commission Information Request No. 1	Wednesday, November 29
Intervenor Registration	Friday, December 1
Intervenor Information Request No. 1	Friday, December 8
FortisBC Responses to Commission and Intervenor Information Requests	Friday, December 15
Filing of Evidence by Intervenors and Witness CV's by FortisBC	Friday, December 29
ACTION	**DATE (2007)**
Filing of Rebuttal Evidence (if any)	Friday, January 5
Oral Public Hearing commences	Tuesday, January 9

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, by **Friday, December 1, 2006**, identifying their interest in the CPCN Application. Intervenors will receive copies of the CPCN Application as well as all correspondence and filed documentation and should provide an e-mail address if available.

Persons not expecting to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding, but who have an interest in the Project and have not already registered, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, **by Friday, December 1, 2006**, identifying their interest in the CPCN Application. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary, the Application section and all Orders issued.

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

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The Application and supporting materials will be available for inspection at the following locations:

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

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

Websites www.fortisbc.com www.bcuc.com

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the Commission Secretary, Mr. Robert Pellatt or Mr. Brian Williston, Director, Engineering and Commodity Markets as follows:

Commission Secretary
Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102
E-mail: Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
BC Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385

Mr. Brian Williston
Email: brian.williston@bcuc.com
Telephone: (604) 660-4700

KOOTENAY ARTISANS CHRISTMAS MARKET

The finest hand-made crafts from the Kootenays
With 60 new artisans and returning favourites

The New Nelson and District Community Complex,
Hall St., Nelson
market open:
Friday, Nov. 24: 1pm- 9 pm
Saturday, Nov. 25: 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday, Nov. 26: 10 am - 5pm

Free Entertainment*Delicious Food
Admission $2 (children under 12 free)

Silverton council, November 14: Funds coming in for Memorial Hall project

by Art Joyce

•The Silverton Memorial Hall renovation project has been approved for the $15,000 Community Tourism grant from the Province (via UBCM), and Recreation Commission #6 will contribute $500. The 2010 grant of $88,000 has already been approved. The Friends of the Silverton Memorial Hall continue to look into funding sources for the remaining $72,500 needed for the $176,000 project.

Councillor Provan is advocating that a new plaque be installed on the planned addition to the Memorial Hall commemorating Silverton's World War II dead. She noted that this initiative was originated by the Silverton Women's Institute in the late 1940s but that it was never realized. Mayor and council expressed support for the idea. The addition is planned to be built onto the north side of building just off the highway, to house new wheelchair accessible washrooms.

•Public Works Foreman Len Casley reported that WSA Engineering has begun the study of the water system. WSA will create a scale model of the waterworks system, expected to be completed in early spring, which will be used to test flow rates and the overall capacity of water mains. An analysis of the older cement/asbestos pipes should be completed soon, with data indicating their estimated life spans. Two tests every two weeks will be scheduled. Casley also reported that moving the recycling bins to the Village hall lot has worked well so far—people seem to be tidying up after themselves much better.

•An item brought forward from in camera was council's decision to negotiate with Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC for the review of the Village's OCP. The decision to hire Lancaster will be contingent upon several conditions: that the total not exceed $20,000; that the already completed water study be included; and that cost-sharing for travel expenses with the Village of Kaslo be included. "We're looking for a fresh perspective so that at the end of the day everyone gets what they want," said Everett. Silverton will also accept the RDCK's offer of help with mapping services.

•Councillor Bell reported that she attended a Slocan District Chamber of Commerce meeting, where the possibility of opening a satellite Visitor Infocentre branch in Silverton was discussed. The Silverton Historical Society office was inundated this past summer with requests for maps and information. Chamber President Jeff Bustard told Bell that Infocentre regulations may not allow for this, but that information sharing could be arranged.

•Mayor Everett reported that the Silverton July 1st committee, in conjunction with the Silverton Fire Department and Ric Bardati's grade 11 shop class, have built five fir picnic tables to be donated to the Village. The only condition to the donation is that the committee have the use of the picnic tables for its July 1st celebrations. The mayor asked that a letter of thanks be sent to both the grade 11 students who built them and Vern Hartman, chair of the committee.

•Under new business, discussion centred around Mayor Everett's email to council that the Village petition Telus to establish cell phone service in the Slocan Valley. "In one morning I had to make three 911 calls for people coming off the highway because their cell phones don't work here," he said. "I see it as a serious public safety issue." Reaction amongst council was mixed, though the safety issue was generally conceded. The mayor will prepare a resolution for a future council vote.

•Councillor Provan brought forward a resolution that the overflow campground near Dewis Park be renamed Creekside Campground. The motion passed.

•A request from Fire Chief Leonard Casley to install new push-button locks on the fire hall was approved at a cost of $504.50. Casley said that with New Denver and Silverton fire departments amalgamating, this will save money in the long run. Without keys, new locks do not have to be installed when keys are lost; the combination can simply be changed.

•The Village's new draft fee schedule for services was approved, including everything from Memorial Hall rentals to public works and administrative services, and travel allowances for councillors. There will now be a special full-day rate of $100 for non-profit groups renting the hall.

•CAO Junko Ida reported that the Valhalla Wilderness Society has informed the Village of the new date for its BearSmart presentation with bear biologist Wayne McCrory. The event will occur at the Memorial Hall on Sunday, November 26, at 7:00 pm. Silverton and New Denver councils and the public are invited.

10th annual Breakfast with Santa and silent auction

submitted

Winlaw Elementary School PAC will be hosting its annual school fundraiser, Breakfast with Santa, on Sunday, December 3 at 9 am at Appledale Hall, just north of Winlaw. This is the 10th annual and is promised to please.

It will start off at 8:30 am with a classic winter time pancake breakfast, followed by photos with Santa, live music, a 50/50 raffle, as well as Christmas trees for sale, and a silent auction. There have been many wonderful items donated by generous artisans, business owners and kind community members. The grand auction item is a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

Come on out and find all those special Christmas gifts while having a great time. Mark Sunday, December 3 on your calendar. The event runs until 1pm.

Join a Conversation On Health in Castlegar

What is it all about?

Everyone has opinions on health care. The Conversation On Health is an unprecedented year-long opportunity for you to provide your views directly to the Province, and to discuss with other British Columbians how we can improve and renew B.C.'s public health care system.

Your feedback will help set the direction the Province takes to strengthen our public health care system for today and tomorrow within the Canada Health Act.

Why is it important?

Our health system faces real challenges. Our population is aging and growing, and the costs of expanded health services, new treatments and new technologies are rapidly rising.

These pressures are threatening the sustainability of our health care system for our kids and future generations.

How can I participate?

Sign up for a regional forum in Castlegar. Simply visit the Conversation On Health online or call toll-free to request a spot. Pre-registration is required. To ensure a meaningful dialogue, participation will be limited at each forum and registrants will be randomly selected for the forum within their health service delivery area.

All participants will receive an information package prior to the session. Funding is available to help offset the cost of travel within the health region.

Together, we can keep improving B.C.'s health services and be sure they're there for our kids.

To request a spot or for a list of forum locations in each of B.C.'s 16 Health Service Delivery Areas, call toll-free 1-866-884-2055 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 8 pm, or visit www.gov.bc.ca online.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Conversation On Health

Local author tells his father's tale of adventure on the high seas

by Art Joyce

In *Yung Chigi*, New Denver author Stephen Lones indulges a penchant for the tall tale inherited from his father, Philip. The novella is an embellishment of a tale told to the author and other family members by Lones Senior, a decorated World War II veteran whose overseas experiences would provide enough grist for any author's mill.

The story begins in May, 1934 with Philip Lones as a bored and overworked university student looking for a change of pace to liven up the summer holidays. A friend regales him with stories of summer work at sea, and the 20-year-old is hooked. He takes advantage of a longshoremen's strike to apply for a job on a steamer moored at the dockyards in Oakland, California. The ship, the *Olympia*, is headed for Burma by way of the Phillipines.

On the overseas journey Philip discovers from his shipmates that the ship's business is illegally exporting teak wood from Burma under the nose of the British authorities. Once the *Olympia* docks in the Arakan, a region bordering on East Bangladesh and India, Lones gets the itch for a little off-ship adventure. At which point, the plot, as they say, thickens. The book's title is derived from a chant Lones hears the Arakanese workers repeat as they wrestle logs onto the loading dock: "yung chigi, yung chou, yung chigi, yung chou."

Lones says he has created the story from a blend of fact and fiction, and sees it fitting into the 'tall tale' tradition. In that respect its setting is apt: the 1930s were an epic era for the making of sea yarns into Hollywood movies. Lones writes of his father being partly motivated to adventure by having recently seen the blockbuster 1933 film *King Kong*. The straightforward tone in *Yung Chigi* is reminiscent of this era of storytelling.

The prose style is stripped down and lean on adjectival description, befitting its intended audience of children and young adults. It reads clearly and moves the story along at a brisk pace. Still, the few places where Lones lingers to render an image of the spectacular jungle scenery are welcome. The biographical postscript on his father's World War II experiences leaves one wondering if this story is fiction or non-fiction. Lones says he wants to leave it to the reader to decide.

Yung Chigi is beautifully illustrated by Vancouver artist Kacey MacDougal, on the cover and throughout. It's an attractively packaged book, published by Silverton-based Wombat Books.

The book is available at Mountainberry and Nuru Design in New Denver; Horsefeathers in Silverton; Meritxell Books in Nakusp; and at Otter Books, Through the Looking Glass and Coles in Nelson. Order online for $12.95 each at www.earthrising.ca/yungchigi.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Slocan Lake Golf Club

December 4, 2006 at 7:00 PM
Lucerne School Library in New Denver.

• • • • •

All Members are welcome to attend

AN EVENING OF BEARS

With
Local Bear Biologist Wayne McCrory

THE B.C. BEAR SMART PROGRAM & THE STORY OF THE VALHALLA SOCIETY'S SPIRIT BEAR CONSERVANCY CAMPAIGN

SILVERTON MEMORIAL HALL, SILVERTON, BC
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 7:OO P.M.

Admission by Donation

Ceramic Tile Celebration

12 x 12 Autumn White Floor Tile
#1212AW Reg $2.19 Sale $1.49 ea
12 x 12 Aida Coffee Floor Tile
#40307 Reg $2.99 Sale 2.39 ea
13 x 13 Sunset Almond Floor Tile
#1313SAL Reg $2.19 Sale $1.49 ea
8 x 10 Autumn White Wall Tile
#810AW Reg $1.11 Sale 89¢ ea
6 x 6 White Branco Field Wall Tile
#66WT Reg 36¢ Sale 25¢ ea
Titanium, Copper-Bronze, Chrome, Black, Brushed Nickel, Silver & Gold Trims Available

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GRAND OPENING
COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTRE AND GYM

The public is invited to join representatives of the Village of New Denver, Recreation Commission #6, the Hospital Auxiliary and Interior Health Authority in celebrating the opening of the first physical fitness facility to be associated with a provincial health care centre. Event to take place on Monday, November 27, 2006, between the hours of 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm, at the Slocan Community Health Care Centre. Ribbon cutting at 3:30 pm.

We've been working at this for two years. Come & check it out!

New Denver council, November 14: Back to the drawing board for Centennial Park plan

by Leah Main

•Councillor Bunka reported that public input on the Centennial Park plan showed an overwhelming desire to keep the ball park where it is, and to site the gazebo either near the barbecue pit and playground, or to where the bingo hut now sits. Residents also indicated they would like to see the campground expanded, the boat ramp area upgraded, and that they don't want a skateboard area in the park. Planning will continue, in order to incorporate the input received.

•On behalf of LACE, Angela Finley showed council the provisional Bosun Hall development plans, which include a commercial kitchen, upgraded stage plus a technical control booth and dressing rooms, a new facade with a covered entry, and public access washrooms. LACE asked for, and received, approval in principle for the upgrading, and will now proceed to get community input and begin fundraising efforts. Finley stated, "I love the Bosun Hall, it's always been part of my life. I'm happy it's still here, and it will be nice to have it available to the community."

•The Health Matters Committee has completed work on the new gym, and will hold a formal opening the evening of November 27. Council will share the costs of sponsoring this opening with Recreation Commission #6.

•Mayor Wright asked council members whether they wish him to lobby Regional District to add collection of mixed plastics to the recycling program. Council responded positively, and will ask for cost estimates to add this service for 2007.

•Councillor Greensword reported that IHA's Diane Gagnon had responded to council's request for clarification on the numbers used to determine the Slocan Community Health Centre catchment area by reiterating the numbers used for Arrow Lakes. Mayor Wright said he will be meeting with Gagnon in the very near future, and will continue to try to get council's question answered.

•Mayor Wright announced that a new provincial formula had been developed for distribution of BC Hydro grants-in-lieu of taxation, and that the Regional District will now receive an addition $181,000 annually.

•Council received an inquiry from Paperny Films to consider New Denver for its "Week Without Women" project, a television series "that explores what happens when all the women in an ordinary Canadian town leave for seven days." While council expressed interest in the project, it decided to refer the matter to the newspaper office.

Chain of Office for New Denver mayor

by Leah Main

In a ceremony at the beginning of the November 14 New Denver council meeting, Councillor Ann Bunka announced, "Council recognizes that our mayor does not have his own office at the Village Hall, and we feel that he should have a formal Chain of Office." She presented Mayor Wright with a custom made ball and chain, and further stated, "The key goes to [Administrator] Carol Gordon."

Mayor Wright, in a voice wracked with emotion, stated, "There is no council like this council. You will see my appreciation when new committee appointments are made – I really don't know how to thank you."

To which Councillor Katrine Campbell replied, "You'll probably find a way."

Christmas Salon offers afternoon shopping and evening social

submitted

Eight accomplished local artists will present their latest works at the Valley Artists Christmas Salon on Saturday, November 25 at Winlaw Hall. The event promises to be a gala occasion for all, painters and patrons alike. Doors will be open from 2 to 7 pm with a one-hour intermission before the evening social.

The Christmas Salon is an artist-designed event of entertaining afternoon shopping followed by an evening social which runs from 8 to 11 pm. Should visiting art galleries not be one of your usual activities, this is your opportunity to see some unique work, meet friends, and chat while shopping without pressure. Some of the artists may accept special commissions for 'hard to find gifts.' Prices of works range from $5 to $1700.

Pam Baker, Pete Corbett, Evelyn Kirkaldy, Lesley Mayfield, Yvonne Munro, Peter Vogelaar, Rabia Gonzalez and Barbara Wilson will bring a new look to the refurbished Winlaw Hall with provocative and inspiring larger paintings as well as small art treasures. The Slocan Valley Threads Guild will be present with a selection of fibre artists.

Pastries, cheese plates and a selection of specialty Okanagan wines will be offered at the cash bar which runs throughout the day and evening. If the weather cooperates, there will be snow sculptures and a bonfire, with chestnuts and hot chocolate. The evening social will kick off with new mountain film footage by back country climber, skier and filmmaker Chris Svetland. A live band will follow up with music for dancing.

For information contact Barbara Wilson at 250-226-0021, barbfinearts@lycos.com.

Valley Artists Christmas Salon
Winlaw Hall

Paintings and Small Art Treasures

Pam Baker, Pete Corbett, Rabi'a Gonzales, Evelyn Kirkaldy, Lesley Mayfield, Yvonne Munro, Peter Vogelaar and Barbara Wilson

5897 Hwy 6
Sat. Nov. 25 - 2pm to 11pm
after 8 - music & films - $5 cover

250-226-0021
www.barbarawilson.ca

Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce presents...

Parade & Lightup
Friday, November 24th at 7:00 pm

Santa wants to remind children in the Nakusp area to be on their best behavior. He'll be visiting town on November 24, and again on December 2.

Merchant Promotion
Friday, December 1st

Merchant Stocking
Draw will be Wednesday, December 20th at noon, at Lester's Hobbies. To qualify for entry, shoppers need to have a $10 minimum purchase, and one entry per purchase regardless of the purchase amount.

Pictures with Santa
Saturday, December 2nd, at Home Hardware from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Overwaitea Kids Free Christmas Movie
Saturday, December 9th, at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm.

What's Brewing on Broadway?

Enjoy Drink Specials!

25% off all giftware

Friday, December 1

5-9 pm

Buy a *Valley Voice* subscription for out-of-town relatives
Only $55.12 (includes GST)
Call 358-7215 for details

NAKUSP ★ GENERAL ★ STORE

In Store Toy Flyer and Giftware Flyer - New Stock arriving daily -

Something for everyone!!

302 Broadway
Nakusp, BC
Ph. 265-3444

Cut Rite Meats & Deli

Jill & Hoss Cann
We cater to all your needs

Order your FRESH turkey or ham by Dec. 5, 2006

Don't be stuck without a bird!!

212 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC
V0G 1R0
Phone/Fax 250-265-3263

Studio Connexion

Will be Open in the former Forever with Flowers storefront on Broadway for Christmas shopping!

Nov 24 - Dec 24 • Tues - Sun

reproduction furniture • maple syrup • home decor

Prima Materia

Global Gift Discoveries
Inspiring Arts & Crafts

textiles . objects . artworks

Pre-Christmas Customer Appreciation Sale
Nov. 24 and 25 only
20% off all stock
Seasonal treats, gift basket draw
Open late Friday night until 8 pm

318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

Schnitzel...

Salads...

Steaks...

Pizza... N'more
Phone 265-0060 for reservations

Wood Fire Pizza N'more

312 Broadway Street Nakusp, BC

X-MAS - TICKETS SPECIAL

Nakusp Music Fest
July 13 - 15
2007

	X-Mas Special until Dec.31,06	Early Bird until June 30,07	Gate July 1 - 15
Adult (19+)			
3-Day Pass	$ 115.00	$ 135.00	$ 175.00
Sat.& Sun	$ 89.00	$ 105.00	$ 140.00
Fri. Kick-Off	$ 30.00	$ 35.00	$ 40.00
Saturday	$ 65.00	$ 75.00	$ 85.00
Sunday	$ 65.00	$ 75.00	$ 85.00
+VIP Pass	+$ 115.00	+$ 125.00	+$ 150.00
Youth (13-18)			
3-Day Pass	$ 60.00	$ 70.00	$ 80.00
1-Day Pass	$ 40.00	$ 50.00	$ 60.00
Children (8-12)	N/C	$ 15.00	$ 20.00
(7&under)	FREE	FREE	FREE

www.nakuspmusicfest.ca

All prices incl. 6% GST.
FREE SPECIAL EDITION POSTER - with all Christmas Special ticket orders.
One adult ticket must be purchased to receive one child's pass at N/C.
For more information or ticket orders call 250.265.2141 or 1-877-265-5565 or go online at www.nakuspmusicfest.ca or visit our office at 119 Broadway Street in downtown Nakusp.

Nakusp council, November 9: Security and mechanical problems continue at hot springs

by Jan McMurray

•Councillor Mueller reported that there continue to be problems at the hot springs. Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff is working on security issues. He has spoken with the Municipal Insurance Agency, which has recommended raising the fence, installing motion lights and alarms, and hiring a night watchman.

There also continue to be mechanical problems. Water temperatures are low and pool lights are burning out quickly – 16 lights had been replaced in four weeks. A meeting with engineers and contractors had been set for November 21 to sort out these problems. Lafleur said he had just spoken with Walter Schredl of Yoneda Engineering, who told him that West Kootenay Mechanical had discovered that some of the low water temperature problem could be attributed to vandalism at the source, which has caused silt to get into the valve system.

Kala Groundwater Consulting visited the hot springs source on October 27 and provided council with several recommendations on a source protection program. These included installing flow metres to determine the amount and temperature of the water coming in, installing a new central collection tank with a secure cover, covering and protecting the central primary spring source, re-directing the cold spring, fencing around the source and tank, and applying for tenure from the Crown over land above and around the springs. Lafleur reported that at UBCM, Glen Tompson of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands told him the Village might be in a position to apply for a free Crown Grant for this land. Lafleur also said that Schredl will present cost estimates of Phase II work at the hot springs soon, and that Chernoff is working on cost estimates for source protection.

Mueller said that at the next hot springs committee meeting, members would visit the Cedar Chalets and have a look at the possible site for campground expansion.

•John and Carole Moroz and Beth McLeod of the Cultural Conference Centre Society attended as a delegation to ask for approval from council to submit a 2010 grant application for the auditorium revitalization project. The project mainly involves the purchase of furniture and equipment, while making no structural changes to the arena auditorium. The plan is to purchase a screen and sound system for videoconferencing and Olympics presentations, to improve the acoustics, to upgrade the sound and lighting systems, to purchase a portable stage, lightweight tables and chairs, to upgrade the kitchen by doing minor renovations and purchasing a convection oven, pots, pans, cutlery, etc. and to paint and clean up the washrooms, bar and cloak room. The 2010 grant will cover 50% of the project cost; the group hopes to raise the other 50% with other grants.

The delegation made it clear that the society is interested in a bigger project in the long term, including an auditorium/theatre and conference facility, but did not have time to plan the larger project before this grant deadline.

Council supported the group's endeavours in applying for funding for this first phase of the project. Council will ask the committee to meet with the Village before doing any of the work.

•Councillor Switzer reported on a stakeholder meeting he had attended that day on the expansion of the Revelstoke dam. BC Hydro has been meeting with stakeholders since September 2005. Switzer reported that there was general frustration at the meeting because there has been very little progress on the Columbia River Water Use Plan (WUP) and the Water Comptroller's orders under clause M of BC Hydro's water licence. The stakeholder group feels that support for the Revelstoke project depends on the outcome of these two things. He also said the Nakusp boat launch was discussed at length as a priority.

A meeting has been set for December 7 between the Water Comptroller, BC Hydro, the Village and Area K Director Paul Peterson. A meeting had been scheduled for November 6, but was postponed.

•Mayor Hamling reported that she and Councillors Mueller and Dahlen had a good meeting with Murray Ramsden (CEO) and Alan Dolman (board chair) of the Interior Health Authority (IHA) at the recent UBCM conference. They asked the IHA to work with Nakusp on the ambulance crisis and physician shortage issues. These issues were also discussed with Minister of Health George Abbott. CAO Bob Lafleur added that there may soon be a pilot project that would make it easier for doctors from other provinces to transfer.

•Hamling also reported that the Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association's (ALTIA) report had been completed regarding selling lots along the shores of Arrow Lakes to finance the Galena/Shelter Bays causeway project. "The value of that project is far beyond what we believed for benefit to the community and it's probably very good for government," she said. A follow-up call to Helmut Klughammer of ALTIA revealed that the group does not want to make the contents of the report public until it has presented the report to government. Klughammer said a meeting is being planned in Victoria for December or January.

•Mueller reported that the Halcyon Assisted Living project is slightly behind schedule due to labour shortages in the construction industry, as well as some additional work being done. The move-in date has been changed from February 1 to February 15.

•Mayor Hamling gave an OCP update. The Downtown Revitalization Plan is expected to be finalized at a December 12 meeting. She also mentioned that she hoped to re-activate Pride Week in the spring and that Councillor Dahlen would be heading up Communities in Bloom, and suggested that the two be done in conjunction.

•CAO Bob Lafleur reported on a meeting with Derek Trimmer of the Ministry of Community Services, who indicated that there may be grant funding available to Nakusp for its OCP process because of the scope of the work. Trimmer was to contact the Village within a few weeks.

•Council amended the bylaw which outlines the Village bylaws that can be enforced with ticketing. Damaging trees, sprinkling violations and illegal camping have all been added to the list of offences that can be ticketed.

•Council adopted a revamped Cemetery Operation and Maintenance Bylaw. Family plots are now available.

•Council received a letter from Stephen Miskulin, who recently visited the cemetery in Nakusp, and was "appalled at the condition of the grounds." Council referred this to budget deliberations.

•The Village approved registering as an 'Active Community' with BC Recreation and Parks Association. Lafleur said registration was necessary in order to apply for provincial 'LocalMotion' funding to help build parks and trails, announced at UBCM.

•The Protecting Animal Life Society (PALS) will receive a 50% fee waiver for the rental of the arena auditorium on November 25 for its Creative Hands Fair.

•Community Services was granted complimentary use of the auditorium for five days to assemble and distribute Christmas Hampers.

•Council waived the requirement of a development variance permit for Selkirk College renovations, as these will affect only the interior of the building.

•Council endorsed the BC Municipal Safety Association's proposal to collect .01 per $100 of assessable payroll, amounting to about $70 per year for Nakusp, to fund a full-time co-ordinator who would work with municipalities on health and safety issues.

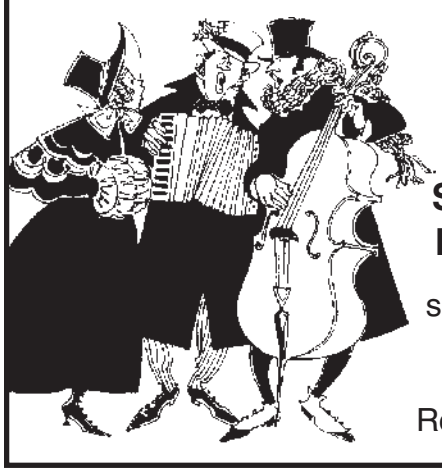
•Councillor Heppner brought forward three issues on behalf of residents. First, during the farmer's market season, he suggested having a portapotty downtown to cut down on the use of nearby businesses' washrooms. It was mentioned that portapotties are available locally. Public Works will provide a quote.

He also brought forward that gravel spillage is occurring on the road by PetroCan. This will be monitored by Public Works.

Some residents had suggested imposing a curfew to curb vandalism. Lafleur informed that the Community Charter stops council from doing this.

•A letter from Darren and Jean Hewat regarding the possible subdivision of the Coates property on 13th Ave. NW will be referred to the OCP committee. The Hewats, who are neighbours, are not opposed, but would like the developer to install a fence along the property line bordering their lot. They would also like lot sizes to be kept to .50 acres or larger.

20th Annual Community Carol Sing



Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 pm
Nakusp Senior Secondary Gym
Free Admission

sponsored by the Nakusp Rotary Club

Nakusp library grand opening marks a community milestone

by Art Joyce

Nakusp Public Library celebrated the grand opening of its new expansion on Saturday, November 18 to a packed house of appreciative patrons. Library board chair Paula Rogers welcomed visitors to the realization of a dream that began 15 years ago and took "countless hours of work to achieve."

Rogers credited the tireless efforts of librarian Evelyn Goodell in lobbying and grant writing to make the expansion a reality. Others noted for invaluable support included former librarian Marilyn Misutka, co-librarian Susan Rogers, former mayor Rosemarie Johnson, and Jennifer Cliff-Marks of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

Goodell thanked library and construction staff, and acknowledged the work of architect Ulli Mueller and computer technician Ron Nymeyer. She noted the presence of Betty Walton, "who taught in this room" when the building was still a schoolhouse. Obviously moved by seeing the long-awaited day finally arrive, Goodell spoke of her personal connection with libraries. Her parents Margaret and Fred Goodell met in a library, and Evelyn remembers many happy times spent in libraries as a child. "When I was hired as librarian in 1979 I drove home thinking I'll never be unhappy again," she said.

Mayor Karen Hamling congratulated library staff and the community for its unflagging support of the library. She added that she wants to make a personal contribution to help buy a fireplace for the reading room to help keep Goodell warm on the colder days.

Regional District Area K Director Paul Peterson spoke briefly, noting the library "shows what can happen when people do something unselfishly."

Goodell said phase two of the expansion will consist of making the building wheelchair accessible. The current expansion cost $163,000, and Goodell noted proudly that the library board "came in completely on budget." Organizational contributions to the expansion came from the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Columbia Basin Trust, the Village of Nakusp, the Rick Hanson Man in Motion Foundation, Nakusp and Area Community Foundation, Pope & Talbot, and the West Kootenay Libraries Association. Individual contributors included Kathleen Bone, Kay Mansour, the estate of Marie Blyth, and anonymous donors.

The library has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1893, when Nakusp was still a rough-and-tumble mining camp. It took until 1920 for the Nakusp library to be officially registered, but its venue as of 1921 was still humble: the upstairs of the Harper's Meat Market building. In 1926 F.W. Jordan offered his balcony when yet another venue was needed. The library was moved in 1931 to the Della Leveque store just up the street from the Leland Hotel. The 1950s saw the library housed in the Parish Hall above the Trading Post in 1954, and installed in its present location on June 24, 1958. For many years it shared the building with the Village office.

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling and Area K Director Paul Peterson cut the cake at the Nakusp Public Library grand opening, November 18.

SUMMIT LAKE SKI AREA

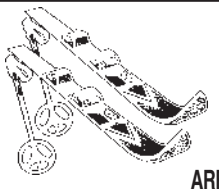
SEASON PASSES

2006 - 2007 Early Bird Rates

	All prices include GST	Early Bird
Adult (19 yrs & up)	regular price $235	$199
Student (13 - 18)	regular price $192	$162
Child (6 - 12 yrs.)	regular price $130	$113
Senior (60 yrs & up)	regular price $130	$113
FAMILY RATES (includes 1 adult)		
One Adult	regular price $235	$199
Two Adults	regular price $419	$357
Student	regular price $154	$132
Child	regular price $115	$95

Large Family Discounts available - adults pay, 2 oldest pay, & rest are 50% off

Reminder: Before your pass can be issued, WAIVERS MUST BE SIGNED (at ski hill) and PHOTOS FOR YOUR PASS DROPPED OFF. (write your name on the back of the photo).



— SKI SWAP —
on Saturday, Dec. 2/06 @ NSS Gym
9:00 am Drop-Off 10:00-2:00 Sales
PASSES WILL ALSO BE ON SALE
NANCY GREENE REGISTRATION
ARROW LAKES CROSS-COUNTRY SKI CLUB REGISTRATION

Season Passes are available at Alley Health and Fitness, Nakusp & Mountainberry Foods, New Denver, B.C. or call Karen @ 265-4778.
www.skisummitlake.com

Season Pass Holders are entitled to 25-50% Off Skiing Out-Of-Town

Slocan Village reps report back from UBCM convention

by Don Currie

At Slocan council's November 8 meeting, council members and Administrator Eunice Ludlow reported on the meetings and workshops they attended at the recent UBCM convention. The Wellness Centre, and possible slaughterhouse and power projects were the issues discussed.

Ludlow said she had a positive meeting with Murray Ramsden of the IHA on the Village Wellness Centre. Ramsden asked for a reminder from the Village so it could go into next year's IHA budget. Councillor Gates reported on a meeting with Health Minister George Abbott on the needs of the Wellness Centre and the Minister replied "send us a list." Administrator Ludlow said the list was in progress and would be circulated for approval when finished.

Mayor Van Bynen reported on visiting a small abattoir in the District of Metchosin near Victoria and was impressed with the modern techniques, cleanliness and quietness of the operation. Later in the meeting council discussed the merits of a P3 (public-private-partnership) versus a private approach to the establishment of an abattoir in Slocan that would process animals from all area communities from the west side of Kootenay Lake to Grand Forks. There are an estimated 25,000 animals to be brought to market from the region. Councillor Septav preferred a P3 approach since it could "get some money back for the Village." He envisioned a meat market at the front of the facility and looked to the project to create jobs. Councillor Ellis favoured a private project, fearing council might be committed to a major investment of Village funds. Council has applied for a $50,000 provincial grant to study the proposal.

Councillor Marc Septav met with a company specializing in community power generating systems. He said the company can do a full phase project – it specializes in getting a plant operational, and then walks away. "They don't want to be owners," he said. He recommended council ask the company for a report on the Springer Creek proposal. Councillor Perriere wanted to know how the Village would pay for another consultation. Septav said he didn't think there would be a cost for such a meeting.

Great Christmas gifts coming to town

submitted

The 28th Annual Kootenay Artisans Christmas Market is back in the Nelson downtown core in the new Nelson and District Community Complex at 310 Hall Street, ready to showcase all the best hand made, one-of-a-kind crafts and wares in the Kootenays and beyond.

There will be 70 booths of new and returning artisans showcasing their goods at the Kootenay Artisans Christmas Market. For a full list of the attending artisans, go to www.ndac.ca link KAXM. Bring your Christmas list along and fill it over three days at Nelson's new complex – there is something for everyone at the market. It will be held Friday, November 24, 1 to 9 pm; Saturday, November 25, 9 am to 6 pm; and Sunday, November 26, 10 am to 5 pm.

Zero crashes in Silverton

by Jan McMurray

Silverton has won a road safety grant of $2,500 for being one of the five community winners of ICBC's Zero Crash Month this year.

In total, 172 communities signed up to take the challenge to reduce car crashes over the month of October. ICBC predicted the number of crashes for each community for the month based on statistics over five years. Silverton was predicted to have two crashes, and it had none.

"We owe the RCMP and community volunteers a huge thank you because of the Speed Watch program," said Silverton Mayor John Everett. He says the new auxiliary officer at the Slocan Lake detachment, Glen Jorde, started training volunteers for the program in the summer, and that they set up several times during October.

New Denver, Slocan, Nakusp and Kaslo all participated as well. All but New Denver had less crashes than predicted. There were five crashes predicted for New Denver and there were actually 25% more than that. Slocan's prediction was four crashes; there were 21.1% less. Twelve crashes were predicted for Nakusp; there were 22.4% less than that. The prediction for Kaslo was nine crashes; there were 67.4% less.

Other winners were Delta, Powell River, Hope, Queen Charlotte and New Aiyansh.

The community came out in droves to bid farewell to Harry and Brenda Mayson at the Legion on November 4. The couple moved to Nakusp in 1967 and were planning to be here for just a short time. Luckily for Nakusp, they stayed on for almost 40 years. After this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies, they left for Salmon Arm with their daughter. Harry and Brenda have each been honoured with the Nakusp Citizen of the Year Award.

Village of Nakusp OCP update

submitted

Over 30 volunteers are sitting on the four committees of the Official Community Plan review. These committees are: Boundary Expansion, Bylaws and Zoning, Downtown Revitalization and Hot Springs. Council and senior staff acknowledge the dedication of these volunteers.

Committee members are learning about capacity and requirements for water and sewer, fire protection, policing, and other key services within and around the Village, which will help to shape goals for future expansion.

Ramona Mattix from the RDCK planning department and Paul Peterson, RDCK Area K Director, are actively contributing with advice and guidance.

Council members and senior staff who attended the Union of BC Municipalities conference garnered support and information from provincial ministries and others for the planning process in Nakusp.

Committees are now drafting overall goals for the OCP, and will present these to community stakeholder groups in the New Year for their feedback.

The OCP library continues to grow with information on resources and best practices, making current information available to committee members on critical issues such as housing, tourism development, and commercial development.

Members of the public are welcome to observe any committee meetings and ask questions at the end. Meeting dates and minutes are available at the Village office.

Computer Problem?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn

250-265-2163

Honey Bear Bakery

Tues-Sat 9:00-3:00

311 7th Ave NW • 265-4633

Rear Alley Entrance

Why are so many kids still waiting…

Last spring the BC government promised big improvements for students.

Unfortunately, the government didn't provide the funding.

And now teachers, school boards, and parents are reporting the problems:

- 3,000 classes with over 30 students
- librarians and specialist teachers cut because school boards didn't get funding to reduce class size
- students with special needs still not getting the help and attention they need.

Wait lists for special needs assessment are growing in many districts — and some children have even had their special needs designation removed.

All students lose out when classes are too large and the special needs of our students aren't met.

If BC is doing so well, why isn't the funding there to help these kids?

KIDS MATTER. TEACHERS CARE.

A message from BC teachers bctf.ca

Kaslo council, November 14: Chamber plans Christmas Festival

by Jill Braley

•The Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce had several requests regarding its December 8 Christmas Festival event, i.e. permission to close Front Street from 4 to 9 pm; permission to set up a woodburning brazier to allow attendees to warm up during the festival; and $500 to assist in extending the Light Up into a more festive Christmas party. The Chamber of Commerce will be invited to attend the next special meeting of council on November 21 as a delegation to discuss the requests.

•The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) advised council that a $30,000 grant for the Food Security Initiative Co-ordination Project has been approved in principle. The project, to hire a food security co-ordinator, was initiated by North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS) in partnership with the Village. Administration was directed to discuss the next step of completing a detailed application with Ramona Faust of NKLCSS.

•The Kootenay Food Strategy Committee (KFSC) in a letter to council outlined the goals of the Local Food Strategy. KFSC is a grassroots initiative out of Castlegar driven by concern for how seriously a changing world could affect both local and Canadian food security. The correspondence was forwarded to the North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society for information.

•Ramona Mattix, Manager of Development Services for the Regional District of Central Kootenay, responded to the Village's request for information on planning services and an Official Community Plan review. Mattix stated she would need more information to give a realistic estimate. Chief Administration Officer Rae Sawyer was directed to meet with Mattix.

•Mardi Grainger wrote to council stating she had written to council several times in the past with information based on the new book *The Natural Step for Communities* and requested council to consider embarking upon ideas for sustainability. Grainger asked for a reply. Grainger will be advised the Official Community Plan review process will begin soon, and may address her concerns.

•Trish Bennett, the Village's campground contractor, provided council with a list of campground improvements she would like to see for the 2007 summer season. The requests were referred to the 2007 budget deliberations. Bennett will be invited to discuss her requests at the next Planning & Development meeting.

•The Village of Kaslo will participate in the Energy Savings Plan, residential program, proposed by the Community Action on Energy Efficiency program. This will provide incentives and rebates for homeowners investing in their home's energy efficiency.

•Donna Cormie wrote to council to suggest that the Village apply for funding under the recently announced BC Spirit Square program to assist communities in creating or enhancing outdoor public meeting spaces. She says that improving the old bowling green area would qualify as creating a town square. The letter was referred to Planning & Development for recommendation to council.

•Council received information about three recently announced provincial funding programs for municipalities. Council referred this to 2007 budget deliberations regarding the development of Water Street.

•A letter of support will be provided to Gillian Sanders to continue the Bear Smart program in Kaslo in 2007.

•The following fall recreation grants were approved: Kaslo Golf Club - $800 for the purchase of junior golf sets; Kaslo & District Library - $250 for literacy programs & supplies; Kaslo Minor Hockey - $1,000 for goalie equipment and coach/referee clinics; Kaslo & Area Chamber of Commerce - $300 for a May Days banner.

•Council approved the following municipal grants for a special fall issue: Kaslo Jazz Etc. - $500; the Langham - $1,000; Kaslo Seniors Association - $600; Trailblazers Society - $400; Kaslo Area Youth Council - $500.

•Accounts payable of $107,695.71, which included $16,721.50 to Berg Naqvi Lehmann, the Village's accountant, for the 2005 audit preparation.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Kaslo detachment

•Brent Kenneth Settle, age 19 years, has been charged with one count of impaired driving and one count of dangerous driving causing bodily harm in connection with a single motor vehicle accident on September 9 on Highway 31 near Lardeau. Settle lost control of the vehicle and he and his passenger, who were not wearing their seatbelts, were ejected from the vehicle.

Mayor Jim Holland lays a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the Village of Kaslo during Annual Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

•Kaslo RCMP are looking for volunteers for the Auxiliary Constable program. This is a volunteer position requiring a minimum of 150 hours of community service per calendar year. Appointments of Auxiliary Constables are made by the Ministry of Public and Solicitor General and appointees must be willing to serve in uniform for a minimum of one year. Applicants must undergo a training program of approximately 140 hours and successfully complete exams administered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia. Auxiliary Constable duties include the ride along program, Speed Watch program, school and community programs and assignments from the detachment commander. Applicants must be 19 years of age or older, have a valid unrestricted BC driver's license, high school diploma or equivalent, and no criminal convictions for which a pardon has not been granted. Basic medical requirements must be met as well as attaining RCMP reliability clearance. Anyone interested in applying should submit a letter stating their interest to Kaslo detachment.

•The Kaslo and area Speed Watch Program is now up and running. The program is aimed at reducing incidents of speeding. The program is conducted in partnerships with the Kaslo RCMP, Kaslo Community Consultative Group volunteers and ICBC. The volunteers, which are trained by the Kaslo RCMP, use portable radar equipment and an electronic digital board to record vehicle speeds. The electronic digital board shows the speed to the passing vehicle. The volunteers pass the recorded information on problem speeding locations to the RCMP. The Kaslo RCMP, with the assistance of the Central Kootenay Highway Patrol and the Integrated Road Safety Unit, will then conduct extra patrols to reduce speeding in these areas. People who wish to volunteer for the Speed Watch program are asked to call Rich Jones @ 353-2583.

New owners at Barren Fly and Tackle

by Jan McMurray

New owner of Barren Fly & Tackle, Karissa Stroshein, recently moved to Kaslo from Burton with her husband Gordon Moore and their two kids, Alic and Tianna.

The store will operate pretty much as usual, said Gord, with a few changes to come in the spring. The only change so far is that the store now sells ammunition.

Come spring, there are plans to carry Beam central vaccuums and water filtration systems, portable shelters and glass products. All types of glass, such as windshields, loggers safety glass, sealed units and flat glass will be available. Gord also makes decorative mirrors and plans to sell these out of the store as well. When asked to describe his mirrors, he mentioned Mickey Mouse, parrots, logging trucks and decorative fish.

New owner of Barren Fly & Tackle, Karissa Stroshein, recently moved to Kaslo from Burton with her husband Gordon Moore and their two kids, Tianna and Alic.

After getting settled in, the family hopes to get involved in the community. Karissa has organized many activities such as community Easter egg hunts, Hallowe'en events and Mother Goose in Burton. Gord says he wants to start up a fishing derby for children and hopes to help with soccer at the school.

"What really drew us to Kaslo was the sense of community and the wonderful school for our children," he added.

A 25-year-old business, Barren Fly & Tackle was most recently owned and operated by Bill Driver. Gord and Karissa plan to continue to have Bill come in the store and lend a hand whenever possible.

The store is open 7 days a week, 9 am to 7 pm, all year round, so stop in and say hello to the new family on the block.

St. Andrew's Church resumes

submitted

St Andrew's United Church in Kaslo has been on a sabbatical since last February and is now ready to resume church activities.

At a recent congregational meeting, a management team was unanimously elected to manage the affairs of the church.

In the next few months, the church hopes to resume services on a more regular basis. Services will be held in the early afternoon.

The church will host the inter-church Christmas Carol service on Sunday, December 17 at 7 pm. A Christmas Service is planned for Sunday, December 24 at 2:30, and all are invited.

The people of St. Andrew's appreciate the concern and support of their members, the United Church Presbytery, and community members during this difficult time.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Getting through the "shoulder season"

Already it's mid-November and the days are way shorter and certainly colder than they were just last month. All of the outdoor fun things to do are less fun and need more preparation to undertake as the outdoor environment becomes ever more adverse. Resort owners and hoteliers refer to this time of year as the shoulder season, but there still remains those odd morning or afternoon opportunities to get out.

On November 17 I got all geared up warm and rode my suspension bike to Three Forks from New Denver to see where the local snowline was. The highway was fine and dry with a little sand and grit on the edges, and only a couple cars and trucks passing. The Galena Trail looked OK from across the creek so I returned home along it through ankle deep hard snow and after crossing the cable car at Alamo, found the trail to be fairly clear. With a few more snowstorms people will walk out shorter distances from town until it gets to be good only for skiing on.

Back in town I made my way to the cafe to get warmed up and get something hot to drink. The place was busy, and I heard from Catherine and Myles from Sandon that the snow there is good and that you can already get out skiing on some of the roads there up Cody way. Also Julie and Davis from New Denver were up there the other day and found the snow to be just fine on the K&S Trail, so I'll try to get up that way on the weekend. On the high ridges you may already find deeper snows, but a good base needs to get established before skiers can get too crazy on rough terrain.

I probably do more walking at this shoulder time of year, between seasons, because warming up the car for short trips is a hassle, and the bicycle is less inviting to use. My clunky old hiking boots offer good support and I suppose create some degree of resistance training instead of lighter footwear. It's easy to dress for warmth if you make a point of really striding along and if things get icy, then take along a ski pole. When it's dark, I either use my headlamp or take the little LED light from my bicycle.

This in-between season doesn't stop me from getting on Slocan Lake on a regular basis, but again it demands more preparation and attention to important details. This time of year is free from those violent storms of summer that can whip this big lake into an alarming world of waves, spray and turbulence. When the sky is completely clear or evenly cloud covered, you can be pretty sure of calm conditions, and anytime on the water can be a welcome break from the daily routines.

I keep my canoe down at Bigelow Bay all year round, and always have a kayak ready to stuff in the van for a quick run over to Kaslo or else to some point down Slocan Lake. Current water temperature is 9° two metres down, so immersion any distance from shore could be fatal, but again, you simply plan your outing and be aware of things. It seems that if you can put an insulating pad or blanket on the floor of the kayak or canoe, and use a sprayskirt, wear a hat and keep paddling diligently, you can stay warm.

Slocan Lake is rather large, with nearly 100 kms of shoreline, and I've got an older motorboat that I keep at the marina in order to get down on the main lake on longer tours from time to time. It seems that global warming, or at least changing ocean currents, are giving us milder winters in the interior, and the last real freezeup of this lake was in 1978, when Arrow Lake at Nakusp froze as well. At that time the CPR train still made a weekly run to Nakusp via the lake barge to Rosebery, but the ice put an end to that for several weeks and allowed the first use of the rail bed by skiers that same cold year.

The pattern for the past 20 odd years has been one of mildness at least in the main part of the valley, with these big lakes largely ice free through the winter. I took my boat out that same afternoon of November 17 to charge the battery a bit and to beachcomb along the north end around Rosebery. Water levels are low now and small beaches and reefs appear that will be deep under when the finer days of summer return. Also, this time of year with the leaves gone you can see some of the new building and efforts made that are not visible from the highway.

The valley is narrow at the north end and the sun sets sooner, so I motored back to the marina and took note of the sun setting at 2:45 and the immediate start of the off-shore evening breezes. All that rain from last week raised the lake level about 10 inches which also shows how depleted the water table has been since early summer. Despite that flooding event back in the spring when that heat wave occurred, the likely pattern in coming years will be lower average lake levels, with all related challenges.

Anyhow, there's never any reason to give the shoulder season the 'cold shoulder" if you simply rethink how you gear up and dress for activities, and mind the shorter daylight time available. As winter deepens, the ski and snowshoe outings pretty much get dominant as well as some great sledding tours, but it's good to keep all those other toys within reach.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and has lived in the Kootenays since 1976.

with Jamie Barber

Graduated licensing program has drawbacks

For the last year or so, I have been involved in teaching my daughter to drive. Her test is scheduled for the latter part of this month, so the lessons have intensified lately. Through the whole process, a couple of points have come to mind.

The biggest change to driver training since I took my test, (which was just after the invention of the automobile), is the new graduated licensing program. The provincial government, in all its wisdom, has decided that the training period for all young drivers is to be extended. No longer is it possible to go down on your 16th birthday and sit for your driver's test. You must first pass a written examination sometime after your 16th birthday, and then undergo training for the next 12 months. During this time, you are not able to carry passengers or drive unaccompanied by your trainer. There are also restrictions such as not being allowed to drive after midnight. The most ridiculous restriction is having to operate your motorcycle on the highway no faster than 60 kph, (a great way to get run over on these roads). After you have undergone this training period, you are able to take your driving test. If you pass, you graduate to the next level, which allows you to drive unaccompanied by your trainer, but still restricts you to the number of passengers, as well as a number of other limits. You must not be caught speeding or being in contravention of any other traffic laws. If you are, your trial period can be lengthened or your licence suspended. As of today, this trial period, (referred to as your N license), lasts for a period of a further 12 months. In the near future, this N period will be extended to another further year. The upshot is that young drivers can't get their full license until they are 18, or in the near future, 19. While many may see this lengthy process as beneficial in that it restricts young, inexperienced drivers from causing accidents, I see a few down sides.

First of all, drivers get better by experience. The more driving you do under various conditions, the more experience you accumulate and the better driver you are. If you have to drive for your first full year with a trainer, you can bet you simply won't be doing as much driving as you would if you could go solo. I like the idea that there are reasonable restrictions on new drivers and penalties if unsafe driving habits are being learned. Somehow, however, these restrictions have to be formulated to allow learners to get lots of real life driving experience. Under the existing system, this real life experience is lacking, at least in the first year of training.

Second, young drivers are at the same time looking for independence from their home life, and having access to a car, particularly their own car, facilitates this. In the past, a young driver could hop into their car to get the groceries, drive down to Nelson with friends or even make it down the valley to a party in the evening. We used to feel that 16 was the age that young people could begin to feel this independence, facilitated by the use of a vehicle. Now, this age has been extended to 18 and will soon be extended to 19. While this may do something to diminish traffic accidents, it does little to foster independence

Like all new systems, BC's graduated licensing system is undergoing change and improvement. If I could make some suggestions, the first I would make would be to allow young drivers to begin their initial training at 15 rather than at the existing 16. I certainly wouldn't keep the 60 kph rule for motorcycles on the highway as this sets up the situation where a car comes around a sharp bend only to meet a motorcycle going much slower than is reasonable or expected. I would also allow more than one unrelated passenger under the 'N' restriction as this allows a better chance that a non-drinking designated driver will drive the other partygoers home. Perhaps it is time for real consultation about these regulations rather than having them imposed from above.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Farb and his Lard Lite: Dining at the Burton Tunnel Food Court

On Sunday my fearless publisher called me and proclaimed "It's time for us to go to The Burton Tunnel Food Fair." This sounded like a grand idea to me. It's been a while since I've used The Tunnel, and I must confess I have never had a meal at the BTFF. Besides, I was hungry. We jumped in the company car, took the Rosebery entrance to The Tunnel and connected to the main Tunnel at Sharp Creek. The Tunnel lighting system is under repair, and many of the lights were out. It was really dark in there and difficult to see anything, but Dan the Man managed to dodge shadows, weave between vehicles, and race with the light rail locomotives alongside the road deck for 20 minutes until we arrived, white-knuckled, at The Burton Tunnel Food Fair. The 'Food Fair' consists of one small tacky-looking restaurant on the edge of a deteriorating parking lot covered in litter, overflowing orange garbage bags and big oily puddles. Dan parked between two odiferous orange bags and several sad looking automobiles. "Are you sure about this?" I asked. Dan replied, "No problem. We gotta give the place a chance. He's bought an ad." So in we went.

The first thing I noticed was the smell of old, much-used cooking grease. It wasn't really a smell – more of a stench – and it was repulsive. The place was loud, too. Some kind of horrible music was blaring from speakers that dangled from the ceiling on bare wires.

There were a few customers sitting at the counter. One of them had just placed his hand over his mouth and was making funny gurgling noises as he attempted to stand and flee to the washroom. He slammed face first into the washroom door. It was locked. With his hand still in place he careened through the front door and into the parking lot. The guy behind the counter laughed through his nose and yelled "I own this joint, and I don't care about that guy or anybody else." Then he looked our way. "I'll tell you jerks one thing though, we fry everything in our own special lard. We call it Lard Lite, and I'm gonna market it and sell it and get out of the restaurant business and just sell lard. By the way my name is Farb Glopperdip, and if you two sissies don't order right now, I'm gonna kill you." Just then the music stopped and I thought I could hear muffled screams of pain and anguish emanating from somewhere behind the kitchen.

The menu was painted on some stained cardboard over the counter. Everything had been crossed out except one item: Farb's Special Juicy Steak Sandwitch. No menu stress here! Dan and I ordered the special, and Farb disappeared with a halo of flies, into the back of the kitchen.

We waited in silence. I kept hoping that Farb would never return, but he did. He put our steak sandwiches down, laughed through his nose and disappeared.

To make a long story short, my steak looked, smelled and tasted like some of that dusty old brown carpet underlay that falls apart when you look at it. The bread tasted like a well-used school eraser, and the fries were hard to tell from the lumps of Lard Lite they were drowning in.

I needed to wipe the taste off my tongue with a serviette, but the napkins smelled of mildew.

Simultaneously Dan and I leapt to our feet and rushed for the door. We made it to the company car just as Farb came out screaming and using a spatula to fling Lard Lite our way. We escaped with only a bit of Lard Lite on the rear fender. We travelled in silence back to Rosebery.

Not for everyone, the Burton Tunnel Food Fair is open twenty-four hours a day. Check out Farb and his Lard Lite. You might like it.

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The Burton Tunnel Food Fair

Not for everyone, the Burton Tunnel Food Fair is open twenty-four hours a day. Check out Farb and his Lard Lite. You might like it.
-Andrew Rhodes, Food Editor

"ALL OF OUR ENTREES ARE MADE WITH LARD LIGHT"

ANNOUNCEMENT

YUNG CHIGI, the new historical fiction novella by local author Stephen Lones, is now available at Meritxell Books in Nakusp, Mountainberry and Nuru in New Denver, Horsefeathers in Silverton, and Otter Books, Coles and Through the Looking Glass in Nelson. At $12.95, this adventure story makes a great gift for both young and adult readers.

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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

As we leave for Salmon Arm we want to thank all our friends and the organizations of Nakusp and surrounding area who have made our nearly 39 years here so special. We take with us many fond friendships and happy memories.

Cheers and good health to you all.

Harry and Brenda Mayson

THANK YOU DICK CALLISON for donating a cord of wood to be raffled off, for selling tickets, and for all your support! You are awesome. We are also very grateful to all who bought tickets – the raffle raised $500 for us. The raffle winner was Patrizia Menton of Hills.

-Slocan Lake Early Learning Society (New Denver Nursery School)

COMING EVENTS

VALLEY ARTISTS CHRISTMAS SALON Saturday, November 25, Winlaw Hall, 5897 Hwy 6, 2pm - 7pm - inspiring paintings, small art treasures by six accomplished local artists. 8pm - 11pm - cash wine bar, films, music. Art and Adventure 250-226-0021 www.barbarawilson.ca

SILVERTON CHRISTMAS FAIRE at the Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 3, 11 am to 4 pm. Celebrate Christmas with handcrafted gifts by Kootenay artisans. Come and enjoy a homemade lunch and delicious baking. Info: Morgen, 358-7733.

COFFEE HOUSE/CALL FOR PERFORMERS: The Whole School's 9th annual Blue Moon Coffee House takes place Saturday, December 2nd from 5:00 to 11:00 pm at the Vallican Whole. Join us for an enchanting evening with an Indian feast, music, decadent desserts, coffee and huge silent auction. Admission is $5/adult at the door. Local musicians interested in performing call Bevan at 359-6654. More info 226-7737.

WINLAW HALL X-MAS CRAFT FAIR Dec. 9/06 9:00am-3:00pm. Table rentals call Ruth 359-7884.

I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE, a powerful documentary film by Michael Franti about his visit to Baghdad and the Gaza Strip in 2004. Saturday, November 25, 7:30 pm at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver. Info: 358-2562.

SILVERTON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - Friday, December 8th, 5-8 pm. All are invited to join the fun & festivities in Silverton! See you there!

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

YOGA AT THE DOMES - Monday, Thursday and Saturday 9 to 10:30; Tuesday night at 7 to 8:30. All levels, all ages. Affordable.

WINLAW WATERSHED COMMITTEE AGM. Nov. 29, 7:00 pm, Winlaw Elementary School.

MIRROR THEATRE PRESENTS *O Holy Knight: a mirthful medieval Christmas comedy*. December 7 at 7 pm at Fauquier Community Hall; December 8 at 7 pm at Edgewood Legion Hall; December 9 at 7 pm at Burton Community Hall; and December 10 at 1 pm at Nakusp's Bonnington Arts Centre. Admission is free or by donation to the Food Bank. Donations also gratefully accepted for the theatre group.

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 immediately. If interested, please call Ernst Gerwig at 1-250-358-2283 or 1-403-762-5150.

FULLY FURNISHED COZY RENTAL in Silverton. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Recently renovated bathroom. 8.5 minute walk to downtown Silverton. $600 per month, negotiable based on level of caretaking of house. Please contact Analisa @ 358-2562.

ONE BEDROOM, Slocan City. Bright, immaculate, tile/wood floors, close to lake, requires references, min. 6-month lease, $475 + utilities. 352-6311.

SLOCAN LAKE WATERFRONT. Fully furnished. 2+ bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. Executive home in Silverton. Couples preferred. November-June. $900/month plus utilities. 250-545-4503.

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HELP WANTED

SADDLE MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CLINIC, Nakusp, BC, is accepting resumes for the position of medical receptionist. This is a part-time position but applicant must be flexible as full-time holiday coverage and training requires some full-time scheduling. Position requires confidential, self-motivated, multi-task person with skills in working with the public. Medical transcription, data entry and accounting are skills that would be beneficial. Send or deliver resume to SADDLE MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CLINIC, Box 159, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0, c/o Wendy Moser (265-3694). Deadline December 4th, 2006. Position commences mid-December, 2006.

MISSING

MISSING CHAINSAW. Lost Nov. 14 or 15 up Pedro Creek Rd. Please return. Reward offered. 352-1685. Gabriel.

ZENITH ZDAR12 DVD/VCR COMBO PLAYER went missing from the PetroCan courier depot in New Denver sometime on November 18. It is presumed to have been stolen. Anyone with information, please contact the PetroCan at 358-2445.

CHARLIE THE CAT, disappeared from Burton mid November. A known wanderer – could be miles away. Charlie is a very large (not fat) black neutered male with a spray of white hairs on his tail, pink blotch on his nose, very pink pads on his paws, a V-shaped chip out of his left ear, an 79NYP tatooed in his right ear (very faded). Please help bring Charlie home. He is very friendly and loves food. If you find him, please call 265-4711 or PALS at 265-4261. We miss him very much!

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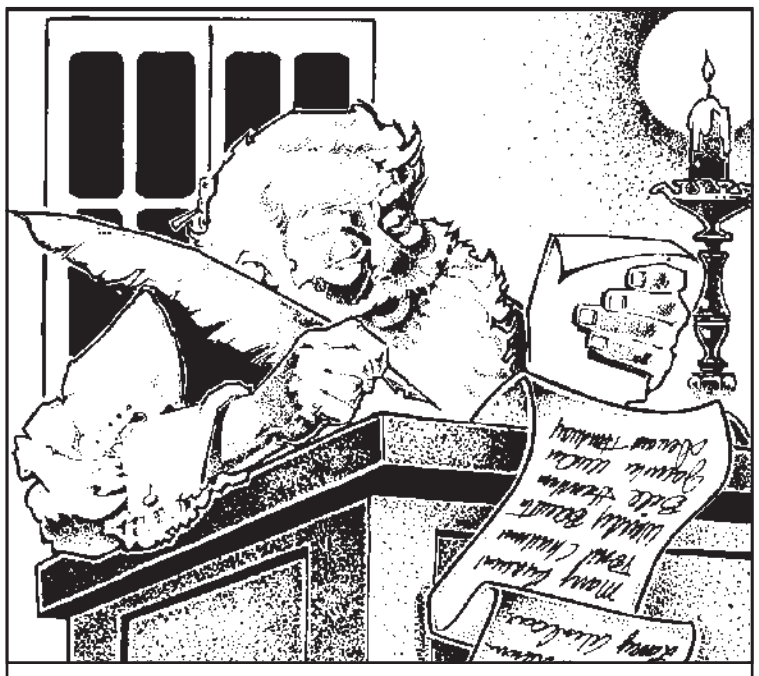

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FLIKS showings in December

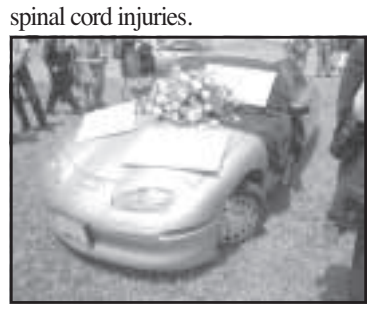
submitted

FLIKS brings *Who Killed the Electric Car?* and local film *Keep Moving Forward* to Nelson December 6 and Nakusp December 4.

In the 1990s General Motors' EV-1 electric cars were cruising all over California's highways. They were efficient, fast, and produced no emissions. Why did GM end the program and crush them all in the desert?

Narrated by Martin Sheen and featuring a famous electric car fan, this is a fast paced, entertaining, informative documentary of intrigue that unravels the connections between the major car makers' electric car programs, big oil, big business and a little car that could!

Preceding *Who Killed the Electric Car?* is local filmmaker Christine Sutherland's film *Keep Moving Forward*, a new short about Mary Jo Fetterly and Ed Natyshak's profound and inspiring journey of recovery from spinal cord injuries.



Who Killed the Electric Car? shows in Nakusp December 6 right after Nelson filmmaker's Keep Moving Forward. A double bill not to be missed!

ARTspace gallery calls for artists

submitted

The new ARTspace Gallery is calling for submissions for the inaugural group show called *Kootenay Reflections 2007*. ARTspace is a non-profit gallery that is interested in issues like homelessness and mental illness, particularly within the artistic community. It is located 1186 Cedar Avenue in Trail.

Submissions should include three e-mailed digital images of the artwork proposed for exhibition, a resume and an artist statement. The deadline is December 15, 2006. The show is scheduled for January/February 2007. All submissions can be sent to the show's curator Karla Pearce at karla@karlapearce.com, or phone 250-365-2032.

Where do we begin? That's a question that our members decide. Aside from our philosophical views and standpoints, we produce cutting edge, politically oriented entertainment in audio, visual and print media. ARTspace Gallery also puts out an underground publication called *Urban Survival* and can be found online at www.stompouthate.org.

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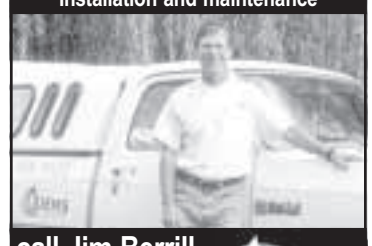

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Slocan council, November 8: Development at trailhead discussed

by Don Currie

•There was much discussion on how to approach waterfront development at the Rails to Trails trailhead. Councillors voiced their differing views on the subject before arriving at a decision to appoint Councillor Madeleine Perriere to sit on a committee of stakeholders to gather information and report back to council. The debate arose out of a suggestion by the Rails to Trails delegation to the October 11 council meeting to form a joint Landowners, Rails to Trails and Village committee "to work together and co-ordinate a plan that would work for all parties." The October 11 minutes mention proposals for a small park at the trailhead and a parking area as well as a Fred Fraser Memorial Garden to be created by the Slocan River Streamkeepers. Council responded to a question about the use of a lane behind some residential lots leading to the boat launch by saying that a roadway to the boat launch was being considered, and that it would require Tourism BC approval as the roadway would be partially on the organization's land.

•Bill Reid, Superintendent of Kootenay Lake School District No. 8 attended to sort out issues relating to the WE Graham School property housing the WE Graham Community Service Society's operations. The two issues discussed were the skatepark and the possible transfer of ownership of the building the society occupies. After much discussion, Reid summarized the information provided by council and said that he would report to the board that: 1. The skateboard park and related insurance issues were off the table, as the Slocan Valley Community Complex Society has provided land for the project; 2. The WE Graham Community Service Society would like to take ownership of the building it is in, a renovated former bus barn on school district property. 3. The society wanted to know if improvements made to the building would mitigate the provincial government requirement for sale of board property at full market value; and 4. If the board cannot sell the property to the society the Village council would like to be informed and would like to hear back from the board.

•Bernadette Robichaud wanted to know the status of letters sent to council by residents living near a proposed neighborhood pub at 520 Harold Street. Administrator Ludlow said the letters had been received by the Village office but wouldn't be discussed at the current meeting. Later in the meeting, Mayor Van Bynen ruled that he would recognize another letter with a petition received by the Village office regarding the pub, but would not allow discussion on it. He said the residents should have appeared as a delegation. Correspondence concerning the pub issue was not listed on the November 8 agenda, but Village staff said it will appear on the agenda of the December 13 meeting.

•Resident Don Currie asked about the status of the Official Community Plan (OCP), pointing out that the Village was entering a development phase and that more planning was required. Administrator Ludlow said the government advised council that due to costs involved in producing an OCP the Village should first deal with boundary expansion. Councillors Gates and Septav also said the ministry advised the Village that boundary expansion should precede OCP and that there were funds available for boundary expansion. Councillor Ellis commented that the OCP "should have been done two years ago."

•Sylvia Currie asked about an item in the October 11 minutes on an inquiry to council about a condominium development on the west side of Harold Street between Park and Ward Streets. It was reported that the buildings in question would have residential occupancy on the upper floors and commercial occupancy on the ground floor. The answers to questions about erasing of lot lines and approval by the health inspector for septic systems were pending. Currie said she had some experience with attempting to erase lot lines on her property and it proved to be very expensive and required a full survey of the lots concerned. Administrator Ludlow said that the matter hasn't been considered and no legal questions had arisen.

•Rob Ironmonger of Keystone Appraisals Inc. of Trail advised council he was doing two appraisals on lots to be sold as a building site. The site, a 9900-square-foot parcel on Nelson Street, is undeveloped and the appraiser wanted to know if the Village would "service this street." Council decided to advise the appraiser to ask the owners to come forward and request service, and that Council could then act on the matter.

•Councillor Gates reported on grants available to communities with populations less than 5,000. Under the Towns for Tomorrow program, the Province provides 80% of funding and the municipality provides 20% up to a maximum of $500,000. He recommended that council consider applying for a grant to put a cover over the tennis court as the first step towards an arena and recreational centre.

•Council rejected sealed bids on reserved bids of $10,000 for a dump truck, $5,000 for a flat deck trailer and $1,500 for a Satoh tractor with attachments. Mayor Van Bynen said the sealed bids were far below the value of the equipment and was opposed to calling for further bids. He said that other councils were simply advertising used equipment for sale at fixed prices and getting better results. Councillor Septav advised council to keep the truck and equip it with attachments to cope with any increased work load that might result from boundary expansion. Council agreed to keep the truck and flat deck for now and re-advertise the Satoh tractor for sale.

•Council could not agree on the ratification of $53,788.79 in disbursements. Councilor Ellis commented that Council should be asked first for funding for projects that are over budget before funds are paid out. Council decided to go in camera to discuss the matter. Following the in camera meeting the *Valley Voice* was given the list of disbursements and was advised that all contentious items had been approved.

•On the recommendation of Ella Amstutz, Village office assistant assigned to research library software to manage the Village library. Council approved $2,705 to purchase Library 4 Universal (L4U). Administrator Ludlow said council had set aside $7,000 in its budget for the library project and that the software would link the Village library with other libraries. She called for a start on painting the library facility and building book shelves. The library will be housed in the old school building across the hall from the Wellness Centre. Councillor Gates said the project required the adoption of a Library User By-law. Councillor Perriere called for progress on finding volunteers for the project.

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Nakusp Rotary Club members Carole Moroz, Don Desandoli and Alf Puder promote a game that has hit the market in time for Christmas and is the club's latest fundraiser. "Blind Crib" was the brainchild of Bob Cliff of Tamarack Signs. The games are available at Home Hardware, People's Pharmacy, the General Store and from any Rotary Club member.

Frog Peak hosts Krestova artist's show

submitted

Jackie Hart of Krestova is showing her art at the Frog Peak Cafe until December 15. The works on display at Frog Peak have all been painted within the past three years.

Hart says she has always had the urge to create something beautiful. Because she dealt with a major health crisisa few years ago, she realizes just how precious life is, and she shows us this in the intensity of her painting. She lives a simple, somewhat reclusive life, having given up a home and major possessions at a much earlier time in her life. She says life is a beautiful gift and one needs to do something beautiful with one's soul.

At the age of 34, Hart came west from Montreal to visit a friend's brother who lived in the Slocan Valley. She tells us that at this time, she felt a strong "call of the river" and so she stayed, buying her land very near the Slocan River and making the Kootenays her home. She paints, writes poetry in French and keeps journals full of small ideas and curious doodles, much coming from her subconscious. She says that in Krestova, she can feel the spirit of the Russian people who live in her area.