The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Good turnout at *A Week Without Women* meeting in Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

It certainly has captured people's imaginations. About 100 people gathered at the Lighthouse Theatre in Kaslo on December 7 for a meeting with the people behind *A Week Without Women*.

Kaslo has been shortlisted for this TV series that will explore what happens in a small town when all the women are taken away for a week.

Aynsley Vogel, Sally Aitken and Kimara Brilling from Paperny Films, which has the contract with CBC to produce the series, had already been to the two other BC towns in the running – Clinton and Lillooet – and were on their way to four towns in Alberta.

They stressed that the show is in the development phase. "It's basically just a concept at the moment," said Vogel. "We're travelling around and speaking to the communities about the feasibility. Is it something you want to do? Do people want to learn something about themselves, their communities, their partners, the people they work with?" Another key message they relayed was: "The only way it can work is if the town gets behind it."

The first thing the film team tackled was the feedback received in Kaslo from a man in Harby, where the BBC had broadcast the original *Week Without Women* series. The Harby man was very negative about the show and warned Kaslo to "avoid it like the plague." Vogel said they had seen the BBC show and they would want to do many things differently. "It's as much your show as ours," she assured. One thing for sure she said they will do that the BBC did not is to follow the women as well as the men.

Most of the questions on the minds of the meeting goers could not be answered in detail because it is just too early on in the process, but here is the picture that was painted at the meeting.

All of the women who want to participate will go to a spa or perhaps on a cruise, hopefully at the expense of a corporate sponsor. There is no hard and fast rule as to how many men and women participate, but "somehow Main Street has to feel different." The hope is that 300-400 adult men will take part, but the film company will be able to follow only 10-11 different stories, each that will illustrate a different aspect of this social experiment.

The film company cannot cover everyone's missed wages for the week – the townspeople really have to want to do this, and must come up with creative ways so that they can. Vogel and Aitken spoke about the creative ideas that had come up in the two other towns they had visited. One was that the older kids at school could work at the community newspaper that week, freeing up the male high school teachers to teach the younger kids. They acknowledged that there might be impossible situations, i.e. the hospital.

Someone asked what the objective was: humour, drama, social commentary? "All of the above," was the reply. "If there is any mission statement, it is a survey of what our collective responsibilities are." Someone else asked, "Is it reality TV or a documentary?" They concluded that it was neither, really. Aitken said, "I call it a documentary, but there is the intervention which defines reality TV. But no one gets voted out or eliminated. CBC is interested in the actuality of what happens, not in reality TV."

Aitken also said that during the week, there was the opportunity for the men to organize a community project in preparation for the women's return. This project would potentially be a lasting legacy of this social experiment for the town. "We want to hear what the project would be in Kaslo," Aitken said. This is when Mayor Jim Holland volunteered to organize the May King Pageant. When one man said Kaslo men were so competent that there would be no interesting stories to follow, Aitken said they would choose a place where they see there is "a journey to be had." She added, "We don't want to impose this on people."

There would be 14 four-person crews in town during the filming, and it would most certainly result in promotion for Kaslo. "In many ways the show takes the character of the place. It's our idea but it's over to the town to do what they want with the idea." They said Kaslo appealed to them because it's a nice size and such a pretty town.

They said they would have their final decision by March and would want to start shooting in late spring.

Vince, from Wylie's in Nakusp, showed true Christmas spirit by collecting toys for the Xmas hamper program, in exchange for meals.

Joe Trozzo, our favourite Christmas elf, was on hand to help Santa hand out candy canes at Silverton's Light Up ceremonies, December 8.

First place for best decorated and lit yard in Slocan's annual light-up contest was Roy French.

Ev Thorpe received a certificate of appreciation for her work on behalf of the annual Rotary Carol Sing, December 6. Lenora Moorehouse was also honoured.

Gabriel tells Santa what he wants for Christmas at Silverton's Light Up, December 8.

Wright and Smienk acclaimed RDCK board chair and vice chair

by Jan McMurray

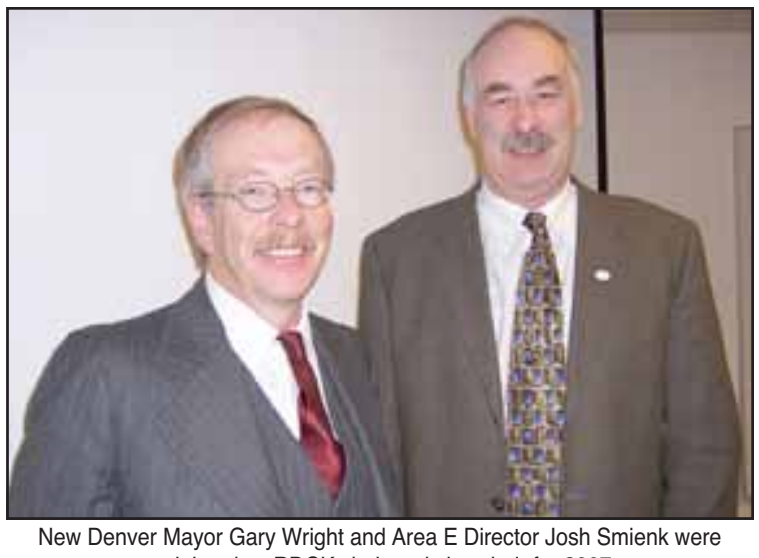
The Chair and Vice Chair of the RDCK board were voted in by acclamation at the December 9 board meeting. Gary Wright serves a third term as chair, and Josh Smienk replaces Al Dawson as Vice Chair, who served in that capacity for two years.

In Chair Wright's report, he listed the RDCK's successes over 2006. One of these was the way the staff worked with the emergency planning during the flooding this spring. Another was the board compensation review, which is now "a much more transparent process," he said. "A number of directors now know what they get paid in a year, and so does the public. And along the way, we saved a bit of money." He also mentioned that Area H is looking at an Official Community Plan thanks to the director, staff and people in the Slocan Valley. On Director Smienk's recommendation, he said, the board and staff is doing a lot of work regarding water systems.

He also spoke about the grants-in-lieu from BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation. "Because of lobbying, we received $600,000 through BC Hydro and CPC grants in lieu. We are going further than that because Director Tom Mann is looking at compensation for transmission lines. I appreciate the steps the government has made to make that money available. The challenge is how to make that work – is everyone happy with the way it is split? As we go through those discussions, I hope there will be no excessive hard feelings."

Wright then explained that he was changing the committee structure to reflect "what I have been hearing from you and what we have been doing in practise." In the past, the three standing committees have been the Land Use, Inspection and Resources Committee (LUIRC), Water, Fire, and Emergency Services (WFES) and the Administration and Finance Committee. There will now be two standing committees: General Affairs, made up of all directors, and Rural Affairs, made up of the rural directors only.

In Smienk's address, he said the RDCK had a good reputation for doing things in the province, but doesn't celebrate enough and let people know what they do. He said policy development was required over the next year – a strong policy for staff, and policy which is consistent and fair to all constituents.



New Denver Mayor Gary Wright and Area E Director Josh Smienk were acclaimed as RDCK chair and vice chair for 2007.

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RDCK delegation to meet with Minister on hydro grants in lieu

by Jan McMurray

The RDCK directors have concerns about the way that grants in lieu of taxes paid by BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation are being distributed by the Province, but also about how they are being distributed within the RDCK itself.

The board has decided to review its own policies regarding the distribution of the grants at the annual Committee of the Whole meeting in January. Currently, 30% of the grant money goes into a general purpose fund to be used for the benefit of the whole district, and the other 70% is distributed equally among the five areas where the power generating facilities are located: D, H, K, J and E. In 2007, it amounts to $172,269 for the general fund and $80,392 each for the five areas.

With regards to the way the Province is distributing the grants in lieu, RDCK directors had hoped to meet with Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance Andy Robinson in Nelson on December 7. Robinson was not able to come to Nelson, but suggested that he could meet with directors at the Richmond airport on December 14.

After much discussion at the December 9 RDCK meeting, the board decided to send Chair Wright, Vice Chair Smienk and Treasurer Barry McLean to the Richmond meeting.

The directors felt that it would be best to have the discussion in Nelson, so that all directors could attend. However, most saw the timeliness in accepting Robinson's invitiation. The new formula for the distribution of the grants is still in draft form, and as one director pointed out, it is very difficult to change something that has been ratified.

Directors Dooley (Nelson) and Chernoff (Castlegar) voted against sending the delegation to the Richmond meeting. Dooley said he wanted to see the questions they were going to ask Robinson, worried that their "story was not on the same track as other directors around the table." He expressed concern that a "mixed message" would be relayed to the ministry and the RDCK delegation would be told to "go home and get your own house in order." When he told Chair Wright, "You and I are not of the same opinion regarding the allocation of funds to the City of Nelson," Wright replied that no one could say whether or nor he was in support of Nelson's position because there had not yet been a meeting between Nelson and the RDCK directors.

Dooley also said the questions for the Deputy Minister could easily be asked by email rather than sending three people to Richmond at taxpayers' expense. It was pointed out that staff had already unsuccessfully tried to get answers from the Ministry.

Director Munro said a back and forth discussion was needed, which cannot be done by email. He stated that his understanding of this delegation was that "it has zero to do with the situation we have with Nelson. That's internal. We need clarification of the total allocation we receive from the Minister's office. Director Dooley's concern is a concern that we deal with between the RDCK and Nelson. I would assume we are not going to discuss individual allocations at all."

Both Munro and Director Smienk pointed out that the Chair and Vice Chair have an obligation to represent all directors. Smienk said the question to the Deputy Minister would be: What is the rationale behind the new formula? What are the policy implications? Is this being implemented fairly across the province? Director Zaitsoff added: How was this formula established? What is the intent? Smienk said the only additional issue he'd like to raise was regarding the decrease in the grant for the Keenleyside Dam.

Directors were invited to submit their questions for the meeting.

With Warmest Wishes
For a Very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

1-800-667-2393
337 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G6
Atamaa1@parl.gc.ca

Happy Holidays!
Wishing you and your family a
happy, safe and prosperous New Year.
- *MLA Corky Evans*

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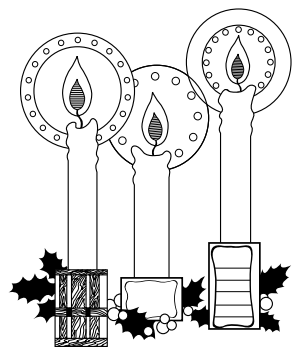
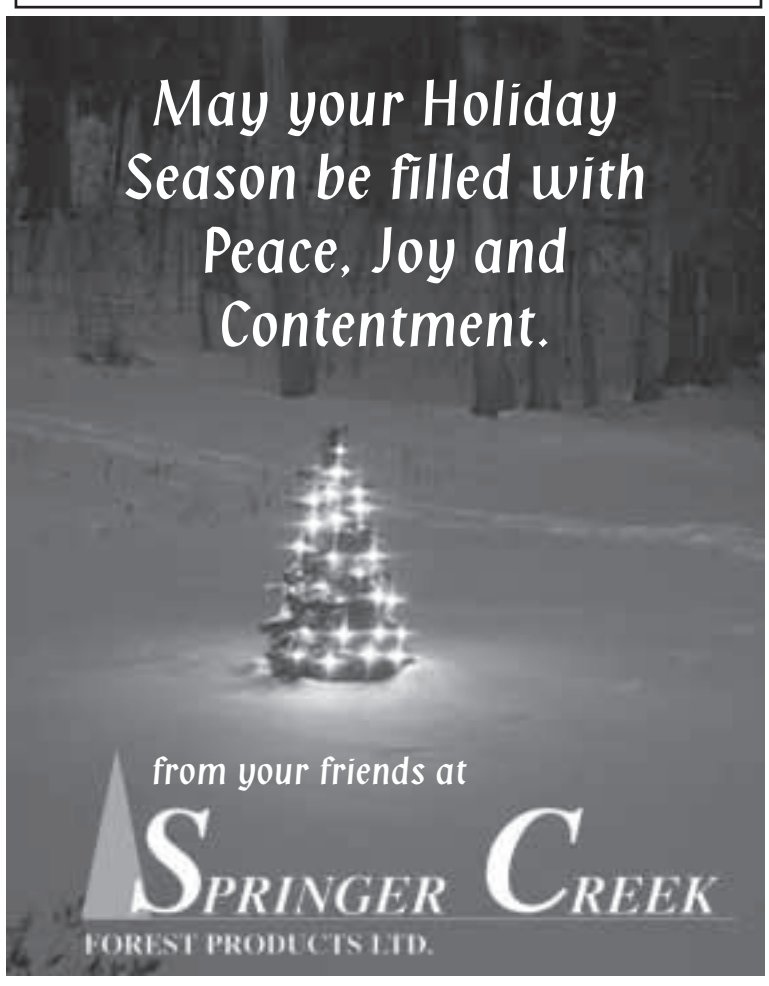


Sunday, December 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
Refreshments afterwards
All are Welcome!

The SLOCAN VILLAGE MARKET wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Please note our holiday hours. We will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Also closed at 5 pm on Sunday, December 17.



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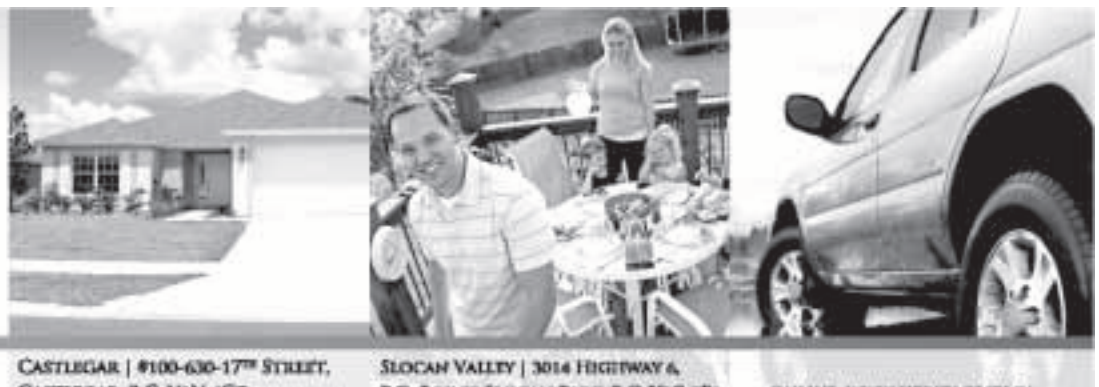

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Global TV to air PSA produced by Columbia Basin Trust

by Jan McMurray

Global TV is running a series of six public service announcements (PSAs) for the UN Water for Life Decade (2005-2015), and the Columbia Basin Trust is sponsoring one of them.

Josh Smienk, Chair of the CBT and Vice Chair of the RDCK, showed the PSA at the December 9 RDCK meeting. It was filmed at a ranch in Brisco, just north of Radium, that belongs to Regional District of East Kootenay Director Klara Trescher. It shows a young girl in a field, and as she speaks about how the CBT has given members of her community a voice, people of all ages come to gather around her. She says that her people were not included in the decisions made many years ago to change the river forever, but now that their collective voice has become the CBT, citizens have a say. The PSA concludes with her saying, "When my voice is needed, I will be there because water – it's in our trust."

There are 36 people in the clip, all from the Basin, and most from the East Kootenay, including the Mayors of Radium and Golden, Regional District Directors from the Columbia-Shuswap and the East Kootenay and a Ktunaxa elder. Four of CBT's board members appear.

Kindy Gosal of CBT Water Initiatives explained that the PSA highlights the CBT's intergenerational aspect as well as the importance of water to the organization.

"The focus of the PSA is that we are collectively building a better future for our children. The other main theme is that CBT's roots are firmly planted in what happened with respect to water management in this basin – the building of the dams and the flooding that ensued – and that water is the foundation of our economy, community and culture. And as an organization we have a strong mandate to make sure that major decisions on water include the people of the basin."

At the RDCK meeting, Smienk reported that the executives at Global were so impressed with the commercial that they have said they will play it on some of their affiliated channels as well. They have also asked CBT to make a second one.

CBT paid for the production costs, which Smienk says amounts to about $20,000, and Global will air the PSA at no charge over the next two years. It will be seen throughout the country.

Albo family meets with Health officials

Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Wendy Hill met with the family of Frances and Alfred Albo on December 6 to evaluate IHA's implementation of Dr. Ballem's recommendations. In response to the family tragedy, concerned Trail and area citizens formed the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Seniors (SPCS) in August.

While Jim and Jerome Albo acknowledge that some positive actions resulted from changes implemented by IHA following the deaths of their parents, much more needs to be done to bridge the gap between communities and health authorities. The issue of distrust by the community is only heightened by the fact that the Kiro Manor sits vacant while more beds are needed.

"The incompassionate and dictatorial methods of the IHA need to change, in order to bridge this gap," concluded Jim Albo after the meeting.

"Although eleven much needed beds have been added in the area and 15 promised for 2008, we continue to feel patronized," says Carol Albo. "IHA made piecemeal changes in an attempt to appease public outrage, rather than a serious commitment to deliver reasonable service to seniors."

Carol Albo says IHA has yet to implement three critical recommendations made by Dr. Ballem and Martin McMahon following the death of Frances Albo. The two high priority recommendations are that additional transition beds be opened in the KBH service area to relieve exigencies arising from acute, in-patient pressures; and that additional resources and spending be committed to existing services, particularly in the area of palliative care.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER – OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that the village is preparing to review and update the Official Community Plan with the assistance of the Regional District of Central Kootenay. The first in a series of Public Meetings to gather input from concerned village residents will be held on Monday, December 18, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Knox Hall. Please come and share your views on how you envision the future of our community.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

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Paul Peterson, Area "K" Director Rural District of Central kootenay

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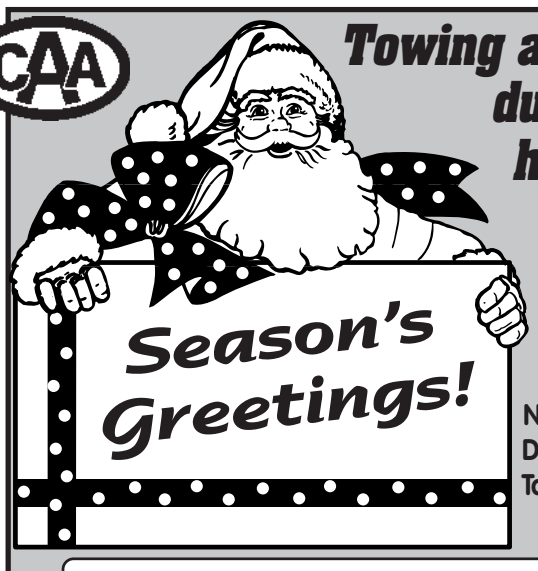

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Voices from the Valleys

Coffee Creek needs re-thinking

To my mind, the construction of a new bridge on Highway 31 at Coffee Creek would primarily be for the safety of the travelling public. The same for the reconstruction of Highway 1 at the Kicking Horse Canyon, east of Golden, where millions of dollars are currently being spent.

Whilst Highway 31 is certainly a less travelled roadway than the Trans Canada at Kicking Horse Canyon, it is my opinion that the Kicking Horse never had a death curve as dangerous as that at the entrance to Coffee Creek from the Queen's Bay side.

Present construction of the new bridge alongside the old bridge should be halted and some fresh thinking should be considered in the interests of public safety.

The contractors for the new bridge seem to be finding it difficult to locate any solid footing for a new bridge following the flood of several years ago.

If it is all about saving a few dollars, why not just widen the existing old bridge?

Kenneth John Frie
Kaslo

Kaslo should move on Provincial building

When the Village of Kaslo made an offer of $120,000 for the Provincial building and adjoining lot two years ago, it seemed like a lot of money, so a referendum on the question was promised by the Kaslo politicians. To date the politicians have not kept their promise, but we have got a negotiable counter-offer of $225,000 from the Province of BC. We also have false claims by Mayor Jim Holland that the building is dilapidated, maintenance costs are too high and there are no plans for its use.

Currently the building houses the government agent, which holds a five-year lease, the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society office, Westland Television office, and the extensive archives of the Kootenay Lake Historical Society. If the building is sold privately, it is not clear if the present occupants will be assured of continued occupancy.

I would like to point out to Holland that I presented plans to council in January and February for continuing and additional uses of the building. These include relocating the village offices there during restoration of the city hall and relocation options for the fire hall. Holland has seen these plans and he has not produced any plans of his own.

So far all he has accomplished is to hold up democracy and quit as chair of the City Hall Conservation Committee when he realized it would be all work and no glory.

Today, the Provincial building purchase looks like a wonderful opportunity but without a referendum and without any original ideas from Holland, we'll be guessing the outcome as he makes it up while he goes along.

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Open letter on recycling

Dear Mr. Reinhard Trautmann:

At the Kaslo Council meeting dated November 28, the subject of recycling facilities pertaining to disabled (handicapped) citizens was on the agenda. When the item was mentioned, ever so briefly, the resolution was moved by Councillor Vass and seconded by Councillor Jones, which read, "That the RDCK be advised handicapped accessibility to recycling facilities in Kaslo would not be improved by delivering recyclables to City Hall."

I am in receipt of a copy of your letter dated November 16, 2006 to Kaslo Village Council in which you stated, "Accommodating the needs of physically challenged users may be achieved by allowing users to drop off material at your office."

You also stated the program would not require an extensive time commitment for staff to deposit in the proper bins. The recycling bins in Kaslo are located in the Village works yard and are not the easiest for everyone to reach. I also have disabilities and require assistance at times, however I am writing this letter as others here are even more limited. When council wouldn't even discuss this matter I was personally offended. Disabled people are pushed off by the majority of the public. They also deserve respect as everyone else. Are not all facilities supposed to be made user friendly?

The recommendation from RDCK board resolution #147/06 reads as follows: "Staff be requested to investigate all possible options for making recycling depots handicapped accessible."

Therefore I recommend this subject be revisited for further discussion and consideration for disabled citizens. Are not all facilities that citizens use supposed to be accessible to everyone? Kaslo certainly does not conform. The Village Hall itself is a prime example.

Remember that a disability can strike anyone at any time. Age is not a factor.

Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

A controversial WWII museum exhibit

There has been great controversy reported in the national newspapers about an exhibit at the federal museum in which the toll of civilian deaths in Germany from Allied bombings is documented and deplored.

Across the nation, many war veterans' groups and civilians have protested this exhibit as a disgrace and dishonour to the brave airmen who conducted these bombing raids, and insisted that there is nothing for which they should be ashamed. This backlash in the name of patriotism omits crucially important facts and significances.

For those who, reading of the controversy, believe the exhibit does attack Canadian honour, it might be well to recall the following: The Nazi leadership conditioned millions of Germans into believing that the Jews were vermin, subhuman, bent on destroying the German race. And so they killed six to eight million Jews and rejoiced in the deed. They felt they had nothing of which to be ashamed.

The British, US and Canadian airmen, knowing full well that they were bombing civilians while dropping tons of bombs on cities indiscriminately, killed 600,000 persons. The bombings of Hamburg killed 50,000 men, women and children in one night, using incendiary bombs which created horrific fire storms that nothing could outrace, the gigantic fires sucking up and consuming all the oxygen in the bomb-shelters below the streets, asphyxiating those not burned to death or killed by smoke. In that one night, more German civilians died than the British civilian population lost to bombing during the entire war. Bombing medieval Dresden, of no military importance, cost 70,000 lives.

These raids, and those directed at German cultural monuments – opera houses, libraries, museums, were meant to demoralize the surviving population but it banded them together in hatred even more intense, just as the German blitz of Britain had similarly banded together the English.

In addition, under pretext of bombing industrial installations, other German cities were bombed day and night, while the Allied advance into Germany, in combination with these raids, took the lives of over 2 million civilians. The industrial aspect was only injured in a relatively small percentage. Even Winston Churchill, the British leader, said in 1943 after watching a film about the bombing of a German city: "Are we beasts? Are we taking this too far?"

It wasn't until the war was nearly over, on 17 February 1945, that the Allied Air Chiefs finally threw aside the fiction, which had been long told the US and British civilian popula-tion, that only military and industrial targets were being bombed, and disclosed that a "long awaited decision (had been made) to adopt deliberate terror bombing of the great German population centers as a ruthless expedient to hasten Hitler's doom." This is the language of the communiqué.

The Nazis were not ashamed of their appalling tactics; now, it turns out many veterans and civilians here have no shame for our wrongdoing. There is much in the history of World War II which both sides should greatly regret. This does not deduct from the heroism of many of our brave soldiers and airmen, but – in truth – we did go too far, and if history is not to constantly repeat itself both sides need to learn from the mistakes.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

States can be terrorists too

I refer to Mr. Rice's recent letter "Troops not terrorists." Terrorism is defined by the US Department of Defense as "the unlawful use of – or threatened use of – force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives."

Clearly all the foreign troops in Afghanistan fit the above definition of "terrorists" if their occupation of that country is unlawful, which is arguably the case.

Firstly, although the UN permitted a "retaliatory" attack on al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan (the US has still to provide any evidence as to the perpetrators of 911) it did not sanction an indefinite occupation. The president of Afghanistan was elected whilst his country was occupied by US troops, a situation which, when applied to other countries, the US says precludes free and fair elections. There is evidence that the largely illiterate population was instructed or told how to vote. This president, an ex-oil man, is therefore widely regarded as a puppet of the Bush regime, and his request that the foreign occupying troops remain in Afghanistan is at best a legal facade covering a cynical hypocrisy. Without the foreign troops and his body guard of US marines, this president would soon be history.

While I respect and admire our troops, I believe they are being misused. It is important that we understand one another – my criticism of Canada's "mission" in Afghanistan is directed at the politicians who made the decision to kill, maim and torture for geopolitical gain, not the soldiers who daily risk their lives following orders. I too want them home safely.

We have no right to back one side against another in Afghanistan to suit our own purposes. The simplistic propaganda message our government would have us believe "Taliban - bad, Northern Alliance - good," is nonsense. Even in purely practical terms it's not working, and sooner or later negotiations have to take place between all interested Afghani parties. Let's get on with it and stop the killing of innocents.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Some Christmas ideas

Christmas is coming and I know we are all hoping that we can spend some wonderful times together. In the meantime we are all beginning to think – "What are we going to do about Christmas presents?"

Can I make a suggestion?

As we get older we seem to be surrounded by more and more things: "stuff" which owns us; stuff which jumps out at us every time we open a cupboard; stuff which fills basements, outbuildings, patios, garages, boxes, cupboards, drawers, closets and lives until we begin to feel almost like we are stuffocating. If you don't sometimes have this feeling it means you just haven't yet lived long enough. I can't remember the last time I could open a cupboard and actually have room to put something into it easily!

So I have been thinking about Christmas presents and I came up with a few ideas I would like to share with you.

1. We just forget about presents and bring our love, gift wrapped with song and joy and, decorated with hugs and kisses.

2. We go through our own "stuff" and find some of those things too wonderful to throw out, and re-gift them to someone who can put it into their cupboards, and re-gift it next year! We might even find some useful stuff like books we would love to share with each other, fresh baked cookies, or a shirt we never wore because purple with red stripes just isn't the real "us," or that brand new sweater that we never wore because it just never did fit!

3. We could just bring a box of things – old, just as good as new, repaired, unwanted and have a grand Christmas give away table where we pile everything on it and people can just help themselves – no gift wrapping! Anything left over can be taken to the Salvation Army or The Thrift Shop.

So let's do something different this year – no waste, no stress on the planet or our pocket books, no coming home with things we have no idea what to do with. And if we really feel we must give something for Christmas then there are really needy people who we can help, beginning with our food bank.

Linda Harrington
Galena Bay

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

Why another large audit bill for Kaslo?

On November 16, 2006 I sent a letter to the Mayor & Council of the Village of Kaslo asking for an explanation regarding the 2005 audit completed by the Nelson firm of Berg Naqvi Lehmann. This audit bill has cost the taxpayers of Kaslo approximately $21,000. Why?

Once again, it appears that the taxpayers of the Village of Kaslo are having to pay for another enormous bill.

In 2004 the audit bill was $20,000+. In October 2005 I wrote to council voicing my concerns. Council at that time all agreed the bill was way too high, and a resolution was passed by Councillors Leathwood and Hewat to find a way to resolve this high expenditure. At that time I called several small communities for information and I provided council with the following.

In 2004, New Denver had 538 citizens and a $4,600 audit bill = $8.50 per person; Kaslo had 1,039 citizens, $20,000 audit bill = $19.25 per person, and Nakusp had 1,800 citizens, $11,700 audit bill = $6.50 per person. Why is it that Nakusp's audit bill was $8,300 less than Kaslo, when Nakusp had 761 more citizens??

Re: 2005 Audit Bill – I recall that an interim audit was done this past spring (2006) to the tune of $4,300 and during the November 14, 2006 council meeting, a further $16,721 was presented for payment to the same accountant of Berg Naqvi Lehmann, for a new year-to-date total of $21,000+ for the 2005 year end – Why??

This amount of course, would not include the new accounting system installed this year (2006), program changes, nor $$ paid out for system help (past and present) or any other associated costs.

As we all know, Kaslo is a small village and we don't have the resources to continually be saddled with this type of unnecessary expenditure. I am aware that council passed the following resolution on October 25, 2005: "That administration be directed to contact Berg Naqvi to ask what staff can be doing to reduce the cost of the annual audit." (Hewat/Leathwood).

I believe this council needs to take a very serious look at this situation and take immediate appropriate action that is obviously needed within the Village office to eliminate these types of audit costs in the future.

Taking into account this $21,000 bill (2005) I would like to know if Berg Naqvi is now performing 'all' the accounting duties for the Village. If not, why are we faced with another unacceptable large audit bill? I thought the accountants' role was to perform an 'overview' of the Village books only, not to perform the entire job.

To add insult to injury - when I reviewed a financial statement (covering the first 10 months of 2006) that was presented to council by the Chief Administrative Officer, during the November 14, 2006 council meeting, I noticed what appeared to be a negative balance of $67,467.66, which has created a variance of this same amount. I am curious to know what this negative amount represents? Is the village over budget? Or, is this an accounting error?

During the last council meeting of November 28, 2006 both of my inquires (plus three other letters from concerned citizens of Kaslo regarding the high audit costs) were sent to the next Administration and Finance Committee meeting which will take place on December 13 for recommendation to council.

I shall be most interested to hear the outcome and explanation as to why our tax dollars are being wasted year after year. When is this council going to act on its own resolution and resolve this situation? Maybe it's time for an operations review of the Village office?

Jill Braley
Kaslo

'Truthiness' doesn't play well in Canada

Someone please tell our neo-conservative American Prime Commander Steve and our neo-liberal Conservative Premier Campbell that 'truthiness' doesn't play well in Canada. Don't get me wrong – Canadians can tell lies with the best of 'em – whoppers! But we suspect 'truthiness.' It smells like bad farm salmon and we see blood in the oil. We ask for reasons but are recited clichés with no meaning. We feel duped by empty promises and false hope, again, and our bewildered children are forced to taste the bitter pill of War.

Canadians understand the difference between Right and Wrong. We are honest, renown for our 'do rightness' and we expect all our elected representatives to carry out their fiduciary duties, their sacred trusts, to maintain the highest quality of life for all Canadians: food, housing, fresh water, healthcare, personal safety, communications, education, infrastructure. We expect an honest day's labour for the generous day's wages we pay Canadian MPs and MLAs through our taxes, but instead we are getting arrogant disregard of expert advice, rampant waste and absenteeism, social democratic incompetence, systemic corruption and a continual run around with an unending string of very expensive, carefully crafted lies and public relations diversions. More bait and switch shenanigans.

Governments are secretly selling off the heart of our country and the soul of our province to their insatiable Corporate cronies who will lease them back for a substantial profit. That profit used to be ours. Meanwhile, more struggling people will die in our wind-chilled Canadian streets: thousands of desperate, destitute Canadians are hungry, homeless, diseased, frightened, voiceless and alone with another life-threatening winter settling in fast. Our most vulnerable citizens need immediate, coordinated assistance; however, our pathetic surplus bloated governments truthfully still have no viable plan to effectively help the people in need and at risk.

And there's that 'truthiness' about Harper's War in distant Afghanistan to make us safe, merging Canada with USA and Mexico through deep integration to make us safe, ill-founded partisan Middle Eastern support to make us safe, surreptitiously aiding and abetting occupations in the far off Holy Lands to make us safe. (Who will save us from Stephen Harper's madness, from our complicity?) Canadians can handle the Truth and we need the whole Truth, not deception. Only the Truth will free us to right the wrongs and create a more peace-filled world, returning to our compassionate Canadian ideals we yearn for our grandchildren.

Remembrance Day was particularly difficult with chicken hawk Harper's incoherent Canadian-Afghani War falling apart and a totally failed American Oil War in Iraq apocalyptically devolving from patriot's honour to depraved brutality, viscerally fighting for personal survival. More than a trillion dollars wasted to kill and maim a million heathen, brown people who had so much to contribute to life, so little to do with war.

War's painful news is not hard to remember, but it is truly hard to swallow. Harper and his duplicitous neocons must negotiate a ceasefire, extricate our stranded peacekeeping troops to safety before December 31, then do the necessary diplomatic homework to develop an real plan to help the Afghanis peacefully rebuild their own country, when they finally free themselves from foreign occupiers.

Let's remember: Canadians promote world peace, the Rule of Law, not crude military power; let's remember we, the Canadian People, are the Government of Canada, which must speak truthfully for us or be replaced, having lost the confidence of its Citizens; let's remember on Election Day, Steve Harper is rushing Canada blindly into an ill conceived, politically contrived Fortress North America with unscrupulous, greedy neo-conservative Corporatists driven mercilessly by their multinational corporate cronies' addictive needs for expanded sales, greater profits and perpetual war.

Let's remember the dead. Honour the living. Think Peace. Bring our brave soldiers home.

Joel Harris
Passmore

Centralization is killing rural regions

I attended the recent BC Electoral Boundaries Commission meeting in Nelson, chaired by Mr. Harry Neufeld, Commissioner. The commission's mandate is to review the area and boundaries of electoral districts to identify any boundaries needing adjustment due to population changes.

In his preamble, Mr. Neufeld declared the Commission's mandate was non-partisan and was apolitical in its purpose.

He also mentioned BC's population is growing – some communities are experiencing a rapid increase in population, some are growing at a slow and steady rate, while the number of people living in other areas is decreasing. The commission needed to consider these changes, and projections for population growth, in order to set boundaries that will ensure "effective representation."

While I agree the commission's mandate is apolitical, the mandate itself is a self-fulfilling prophecy. The Commission in considering possible changes is counting heads after the fact. What fact? That this Nelson/Creston region's population growth has over the years been manipulated, depressed and affected by powerful partisan political decisions made from the centre of government. For example, since the 1970s, BC governmental cuts have had a profound influence on the outcome of West Kootenay populations up to and including the present.

In Nelson alone since the 1970s there have been wholesale removal of institutions such as the Notre Dame University, significant regional governmental departments such as forestry, highways and environment plus the downscaling of health and hospital services and personnel – dispersing a whole professional class to larger population centres. These centres – places such as Kamloops, Kelowna and the lower mainland – are cities already having viable populations. This has created an unsustainable imbalance in regional power and shifted their voting capacity and power.

The commission may realize this is of no small concern. Like Canada needs strong provincial counterparts, the commissioners may acknowledge from their travels that British Columbia needs strong regions which are socially and economically self sufficient. For a region's viability, it needs to encourage its youth to stay and study, and its aging population to be secure in its health care programs. Moreover, this particular region needs resources to support an active middle and professional class to maintain a strong volunteer infrastructure, taking a load off governmental agencies and fashion a creative culture. Our problems are just too big, interrelated, and pervasive to yield to, or be directed by proxy from, other centres.

The commission recognizes that most powerful democratic tool in the hands of citizens is the vote. A vote is a person. But if regional populations are continually being depleted by decision makers fastidiously believing in centralized government, rural people will have an ever diminishing say in an equal partnership with British Columbians living in metropolitan areas. Furthermore, it is widely acknowledged people do not get involved in politics because their sense is it does not seem to make much of a difference. I believe centralization only serves to increase voter alienation.

To understand the challenges we face in each area of the Province, we need to: dialogue respectfully; discover our deep feelings of connectedness to place and to one another; creatively invent new solutions and to freely pitch in to serve the common good.

We need to decentralize government agencies, allowing regions to develop, enabling each citizen to feel meaningful ownership. To do otherwise would lead to a continuation of a colonial attitude towards regions, promoting inferior partners. On the other hand, to encourage regions would unleash the power of genuine and healthy democracy.

I recognize that this is not a request on the changing of a boundary or representation. However, I ask the Boundary Commission to include this statement as a corollary declaration to the government. While boundary decisions are based in real time, by deadline, all BC governments must recognize that their decisions affecting regions prior to this Commission's deadline profoundly affect the pattern of voting in the future and therefore influence future democratic outcomes.

Glyn Humphries
Nelson

An open letter of appeal

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Harper

With the fast approaching holidays commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ and in the spirit of Brotherhood/Sisterhood I wish you and your families the best of the season and may you all enjoy peace and tranquility in your lives. May your decisions in governing be inspired by a higher creative spirit that can truly have a positive influence on Canada and all inhabitants on earth, regardless of race, color or religion.

It is in the spirit of understanding and respect for the sacredness of ALL human life that I humbly appeal to you to reconsider the path Canada has embarked on in its 'seek and destroy' missions in Afghanistan. I feel this act of an 'all out war' in another country, on another race of people, is not a sacrifice that gladdens the hearts of many fellow Canadians. This is not the action of reconciliation, mediation, peacekeeping, reconstruction and humanitarian aid that Canada was previously so respected for in the World community. We are now an Aggressor and Not a Peace Keeper in a foreign country. Continuing on a similar foreign policy path set by our southern neighbors, when they initially attacked Afghanistan and subsequently when they invaded Iraq, is not a direction that will provide a more peaceful world. The escalation of violence in both Iraq and Afghanistan speaks for themselves. As adults, participating in all out war, regardless who it is sanctioned by, is contrary to what we teach our children in schools and at home, where absolute non-violence is constantly promoted and racial discrimination is not tolerated. Where all disputes and differences are encouraged to be discussed, rationalized and if necessary mediated towards peaceful resolutions.

We are seeing a greatly increasing influence by the Canadian Military on all aspects of civilian life, from public sports functions, the Grey Cup, to appearances at public schools and continuous advertisements on television. The military is being promoted as a glamorous and exciting career that gives a rewarding future, where opportunities for travel and training abound. Yes, especially to young people, it could be very enticing to become involved. In reality, the atmosphere presented is not showing a truthful picture of what militarism and war are about. Where soldiers, men, women and children are destroyed, crippled, raped and tortured. Where community infrastructure is leveled and human suffering becomes rampant. Where under the classification of collateral damage, the destruction of entire innocent families and communities is an accepted consequence. Where having to kill another human being is a glorified action, just because he/she is classed as an enemy that does not agree with your understanding and has a different way of life.

In our desire for Peace at home or in other countries of the world, Mr. Prime Minister, let us continue to sow peaceful seeds in all our actions. These seeds are what we were respected for as a nation and are what we could continue to be respected for in the future. I beg of you, in the spirit of the holiday season, in the spirit of The Prince of Peace and our common creator, bring Canadian soldiers home. Let them rejoin their respective communities and their loving families. Let Canada once again shine as a nation that participates in and promotes peaceful actions to achieve a better life for others. Actions that fellow Canadians are so able and willing to do. Mr. Harper, be the leader in the world today that speaks and acts not to increase militarism and war activities, but one who promotes continuous dialogue, mediation and re-conciliation between all peoples and factions of the world. May your cabinet, the opposition parties, the Canadian military and fellow Canadian constituents reinforce and call for this direction in striving to make a better world for all its inhabitants. God Bless all our Brothers and Sisters on our common planet and may Canada once again become a beacon in showing that there is a better way than War, to settling disputes and differences.

Leonard Markin
Slocan Park

Slocan Valley childcare provider wins national award

by Art Joyce

Natalie Lucas is the recipient of a Certificate of Excellence in the 14th annual Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The awards were announced December 5 and Lucas got the call notifying her of her award that morning.

She is one of only 10 Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in Canada to receive the award, which comes with a $5000 cheque for professional development, equipment, resource materials, or other childcare related tools. When contacted by phone to ask how she felt about the honour, it took her a moment to catch her breath.

"I know there's a lot of caregivers doing their best all across Canada. It's the best feedback I could get because it's at the national level."

Lucas holds to certain core principles when caring for children, best summed up in a poem called The Heart: "Take time to listen to the heart of every child."

"This time of their life is the most critical for learning social skills. I want to hear the innermost child. Each kid has different needs that need to be nourished. One day they may be caring for us."

Lucas says when children came to school without food, she started a kid's cooking program. She teaches them to cook basic foods by changing the recipe into pictures, and cultivating a small garden at the Valhalla Children's Centre. One preschooler learned how to make sweet potato pie but was sad because his mom didn't know how. So Lucas sent him home with the recipe.

"Cooking isn't just cooking, it's math, science and social studies."

Lucas guided kids through hatching eggs to teach them how to care for chicks. She said the experience actually helped transform one aggressive young boy from a potential bully into a caring kid.

Lucas has illustrated a children's book, *Brilliant - A New Place for a Way of Life*, with Ernie Verigin, on the local history of the Doukhobors. She is currently at work on a second storybook, *The Mitten Lady*, based on a Winlaw woman who knitted hundreds of mittens for kids in her community. "I wanted to teach kids that role models don't need to be superheroes."

Lucas started her Wee Ones Daycare in South Slocan 21 years ago after doing a phone poll of parents in the valley to assess local childcare needs. At that time all that existed was a preschool in Appledale run by a parents' cooperative. Children back then came to Wee Ones from as far away as Glade, Beasley, Blewett, and Pass Creek. She's seen many changes, most notably the increasing demand for childcare with the societal shift toward both parents being in the workforce. However, while demand has increased, wages have fallen behind. Lucas recently lost one childcare worker to a treeplanting job because she simply couldn't earn enough to live. Lucas herself has to juggle three daycare jobs: at Wee Ones, Valhalla Children's Centre, and as of last year, at the Vallican Whole Preschool.

"ECEs have to go to school quite a number of years and we get just above minimum wage. An unskilled labourer at a sawmill gets much more than I do."

While Lucas is grateful more daycare spaces are being opened up, without the pay scale to attract new ECEs, care simply won't be available for kids. At present, daycare supervisors can find that they are having to supervise both the kids and unqualified staff. If Lucas gets sick, she is forced to close down her daycare centres for a day. But she's grateful for the daily support and encouragement she receives from Joanne Ellis, who nominated her for the award.

Fire safety for the holidays

The Passmore Volunteer Fire Department wants you to stay safe this holiday season, so follow these simple reminders and enjoy it to the max!

1. Check your smoke detectors and replace batteries. Looking for the perfect gift? What better way to show you care than to give a smoke detector. At under $20 it's an inexpensive gift that helps to keep your family safe! If your smoke detector is wired into the house wiring make sure you have battery operated back-ups as in-wired products don't work when there's a power failure.

2. If you have a live Christmas tree keep the stand full of water at all times. Keep it away from heat sources and make sure it doesn't block a doorway. Check lights and extension cords, discarding any that are frayed or damaged. Never place lighted candles on or near the Christmas tree. Keep your tree away from woodstoves and clean your chimney periodically!

3. Keep your driveway ploughed with enough space for a fire truck to turn around. If your driveway isn't passable we can't safely take in fire trucks or risk the possibility of getting stuck and not being available for others in need.

4. Have your fire number sign visibly posted at the end of your driveway. Without a fire number we might not be able to find you in time. RDCK recommends dark lettering on a white background, numbers 3 inches high(preferably higher), reflective and numbered on both sides if possible. Post the sign at eye level for good visibility.

5. Please, slow down if you see 'accident scene' signs or flares. One of the riskiest duties for a volunteer firefighter is flagging at an accident or fire scene. Unlike other road workers we often aren't able to give you as much forewarning to slow down. Remember, we are volunteers, your community members, friends and family.

Village of New Denver

The Council and staff of the Village of New Denver would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Village Office Hours over the holiday season are:

December 25th – 26th	-	Closed
December 27th – 29th	-	Open
January 1st	-	Closed
January 2nd	-	Open

Residential and commercial garbage collection will take place on Wednesday, December 27th. All other garbage collection will take place on regularly scheduled days.

Welcome
Winlaw MINI-MART

Annie Chun's Express Noodles or Bowls $2.99

Cocoa Camino Fair Trade Organic Chocolate bars 100 g $3.99

Simply Organic Salsa – Product of USA 470 ml $2.99

Downtown Winlaw 226-7282

A warm Thank You to the community and Season's Greetings to all from

BONANZA CREEK Gallery SILVERTON

Santa's Gift Ideas

19 pcs Diamond Cut Knife Set never needs sharpening $80.00 value **Sale $29.97**

145 pcs Tool & Socket Set in a case Reg $76.99 **Sale $59.95**

Roper Leather lined gloves - Thinsulate Reg $11.99 **Sale $8.99**

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Many other gift ideas in store and remember we also have Irly Gift Cards for someone special!

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Happy Holidays from Steve, Lee & the Staff

Thank You!

to the crew of volunteers I worked with over the past year, maintaining old trails and opening up new ones! See you out there next year!
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to You All!

Rob. Rhonda & Charolotte

W.O.R.C. CYCLE

SEASONS Greetings from Dale, Lynda, Jasmin, Evan & Nyree

What a great community to have a business in!

www.vmt.ca 358-7905

WE Graham media arts program receives BC Arts grant

The WE Graham Community Service Society has received a $10,500 grant from the BC Arts Council to produce skills development workshops in media arts for West Kootenay youth. The Arts-Based Community Development program pairs professional artists with individuals and community groups to encourage cultural and artistic exploration.

Grant funds will provide wages for a staff of six audio/visual specialists, who will be coming to local schools in teams of three or four. Instructors will include Jacy Schindel, Reid McDaniels, Chris Born, Ruby Leanne Brunelle, Graham (Oz) Foulkes, and Felicity Gerwing. Storytelling, camera work, audio, media literacy and live video/audio mixing skills will be taught, with an emphasis on performance arts. Schools benefiting from the program are Brent Kennedy, Mt. Sentinel, Vallican Whole School, and W.E. Graham. The program will run one afternoon for six weeks in each of in the four schools, with students grouped according to ages, from K-12. Public screenings of completed projects at the end of the program will be arranged.

"This is a very talented team of professionals with a lot of diverse skills and who are excited about working together," says Felicity Gerwing. "We will be acting like a travelling film school, bringing the equipment into to the schools."

"We live in a culture where we're largely fed an urban view of the world," says WE Graham Community Service Society executive director Joanne Ellis. "The media arts program will equip students with state-of-the-art equipment and professional guidance to help them express a rural perspective. They will benefit from a greater understanding of the media, how it is made, and how it affects their lives and life choices."

Formed in 1997, the W.E. Graham Community Service Society offers a youth centre, licensed daycare, summer day camps, 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.

Since its inception by the province in 1996, the BC Arts Council has provided over $130 million in funding to assist artists, arts and cultural organizations throughout BC. Last year, the council's budget was increased by $3 million to $13.95 million. For more information on grant programs, visit www.bcartscouncil.ca/programs.

New owners for the Harold Street Cafe

One of Slocan City's most popular places just got some new faces. Dean and Antonia Crossley of Nelson have purchased the business from Pat and Gerry Simmons, effective November 30. Antonia is an Early Childhood Educator with more than 20 years' experience who decided she was up for a challenge and a change.

"When this opportunity came up I thought, what a fun thing to do. I enjoy cooking and baking, but I'm discovering there's a whole lot more to it."

The Simmons are helping shepherd her through the steep learning curve required to operate a restaurant, and no staffing changes are contemplated.

"They've been awesome. I find it confusing sometimes, but they're walking me through it."

The menu will remain unchanged from the Simmons' offerings, which were designed to cater to local tastes. However, the Crossleys plan to offer a few more specials. The cafe's breakfast menu, which runs until 4 pm every day, remains a perennial favourite. Sundays are reserved for seemingly endless varieties of eggs benedict. Village life comes into sharp focus in a small cafe.

"It's like a giant family," laughs Antonia. "Everyone knows everyone."

Antonia started her career as an ECE in 1983, then took leave when her first son was born in 1989. She has since done tutoring and home support, as well as returning to daycare work briefly in 2005. The couple have four sons, ranging in age from 11 to 17. Dean spent 10 years in Calgary working as a research counsellor for the Christian Research Institute, and home schools two of their sons. For now they're renting in Slocan, commuting from their home in Nelson.

Winter hours are seven days a week, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm.

Harold Street Cafe
717 Harold St.
Slocan City
355-2663

Merry Christmas to all our customers & thanks for your support!
From Antonia, Dean & Staff

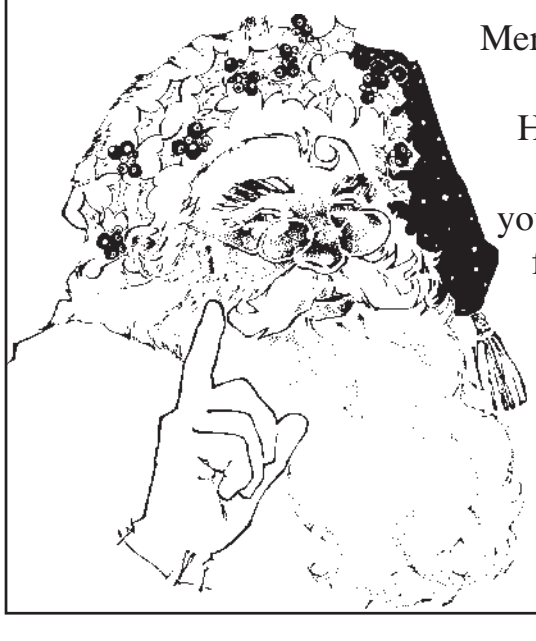
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
7:30 am to 7:30 pm
DEC. 24, 25 & 26
CLOSED

Merry Christmas
to our
Customers from
the Staff of
WinLaw
Mini Mart

HOLIDAY HOURS
DEC. 24 • 8 am - 8 pm
DEC. 25 • Noon - 6 pm
DEC. 26 • 10 am - 6 pm
DEC. 31 • 8 am - 9 pm
JAN. 1 • Noon - 6 pm

WINTER HOURS
Open till 8 pm
Sunday-Thursday
Open till 9 pm
Friday & Saturday
226-7282

Oh come ON! You didn't think Santa could keep track of all those naughty and nice people without the help of a good accountant did you?



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours, from your friends at

Mark Adams
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
NEW DENVER
358-2411

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – CENTENNIAL PARK PLAN

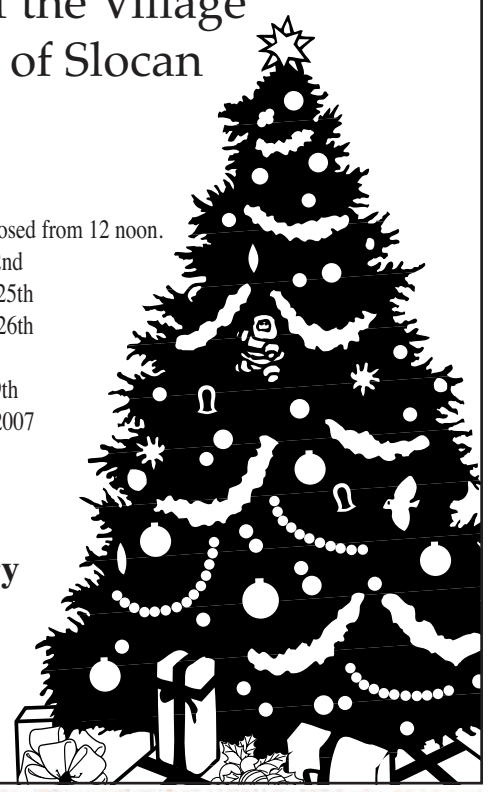
The residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that a second Public Meeting will be held in Knox Hall on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss revisions to the draft Centennial Park Plan. Please come and talk about our park plan.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Season's Greetings
from the Council & Staff
of the Village
of Slocan

Holiday Hours:
Thursday, December 21st closed from 12 noon.
Closed Friday, December 22nd
Closed Monday, December 25th
Closed Tuesday, December 26th
Open December 27 & 28
Closed Friday, December 29th
Closed Monday January 1, 2007

Have a Merry Christmas!



SLOCAN PARK SERVICE
wish you all
MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
All the Best in 2007
Thank you for shopping locally!
Shop closed 'til January 14
Parcel Pick up December 22
January 2-5 8 am - Noon

New owners at Glacier View Cabins in New Denver

by Art Joyce

New Denverites have not only a 'new' business but two new residents to welcome. Trevor Holsworth and Sara Rainford are the new owners of Glacier View Cabins. The couple bought the business in September from Cor and Sylvia Vandenbos, who have retired to Castlegar.

Glacier View now offers wireless internet service to their guests. Beyond that, the couple foresee few changes to the motel besides cosmetic touches, such as the newly painted red roof, done to increase the motel's visibility from the highway. An open house is being planned for spring, to get acquainted with the community. Rainford is deeply impressed by the friendly spirit she's encountered in New Denver.

"People stop us on the street to introduce themselves and say how glad they are to see young people moving into the community. I just can't say enough about how positive it's been for us, moving here."

Originally from Vancouver, Rainford came to BC from Calgary, where she worked for a non-profit environmental agency known as Clean Calgary. The agency promoted environmentally conscious lifestyle choices for Calgarians. But the pace of city life prompted her to consider the Kootenays, where she met Holsworth.

"Calgary was getting too big and crazy for me—I needed a complete change of lifestyle. I'd visited here before and climbed in the Valhallas, so this was perfect."

Holsworth hails from Australia and has been in Canada for about 15 years. Prior to moving to New Denver, he managed the Kootenay Experience store in Nelson. During the motel off-season he operates another business, Wild Horse Cat Ski, offering clients access to backcountry skiing.

Rainford keeps busy in the off-season with her photography business, Rainfoto, which she began a few years ago to capture images of adventure tourism. She has since shifted focus into the "more lucrative" wedding photography trade. Her photos have won both Canadian Geographic and Banff Film School photo competitions. She hopes to spend the winter months putting an exhibition together.

Entering into a new business during the off-season might seem an iffy proposition to most entrepreneurs, but Rainford is optimistic. Already locals have been regular customers, she says, billeting visiting relatives when there's no room at the family inn.

"Starting in the fall was good for us, actually," she says. "It gave us time to get oriented before the busy season."

Glacier View has six cabins, all with full kitchens. High season rates are $89 per night, low season $59.

Trevor Holsworth and Sara Rainford are the new owners of Glacier View Cabins.

New general manager at Slocan Valley Co-op

by Art Joyce

Gene Weatherall is the new general manager for the Slocan Valley Co-op, effective November 15. He was given a warm valley-style welcome at the recent Senior's Tea in the Slocan Park Hall.

"I was pleasantly surprised at how friendly people are here," he says. "This is by far the friendliest place I've ever been."

Weatherall brings his family of two daughters and wife Wenda from the tiny Alberta community of Oyen, where he managed the Co-op for two and a half years. Oyen is located near the Saskatchewan border about 3 hours east of Calgary. The family also lived in Pincher Creek, Alberta, another community known for its friendliness They have purchased a home in Passmore but won't get possession until May, so are renting in Slocan Park for the time being.

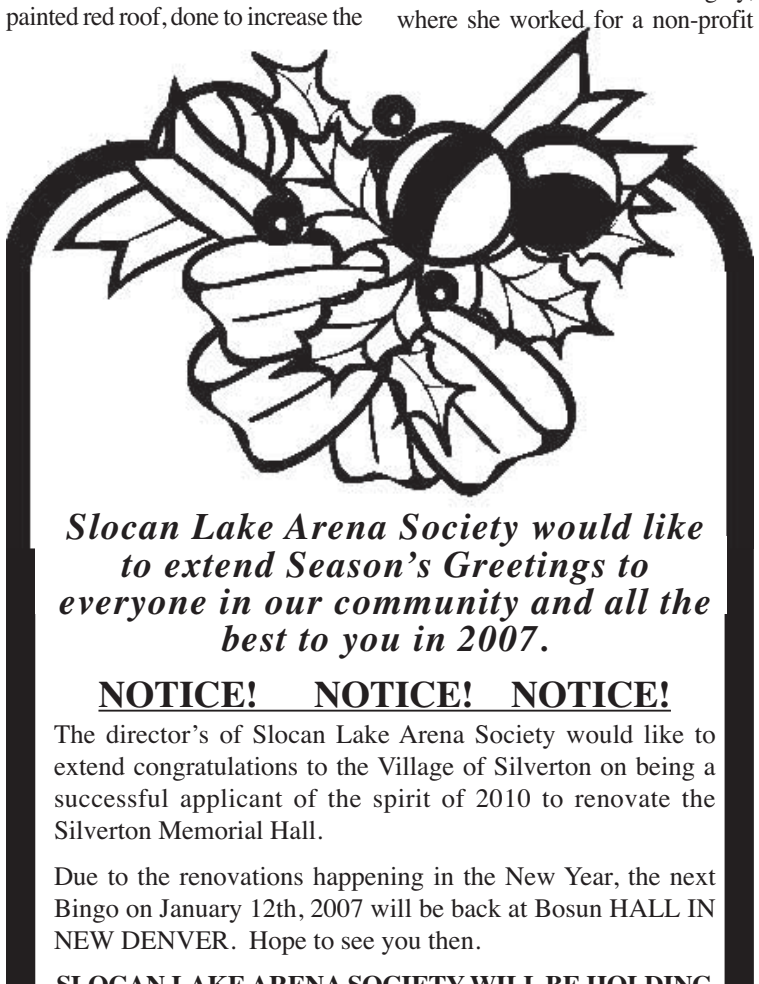
Working for the Federated Co-op network was a change from his former career as proprietor of service stations for Esso, PetroCanada and FasGas. This experience will be useful, since in many locations, such as the Fruitvale Co-op he will also be managing, fuel is a central part of co-op business. Weatherall was born in Saskatchewan, what he calls "the heart of Co-op territory." He was attracted to his new career by the decidely non-corporate aspect of co-operatives, and knowing that it's 100% Canadian-owned.

"I like the fact that all the profits are turned back into the community. The objective of a co-op is to serve members and meet their needs."

He was trained by the Co-op in food management in St. Paul, Alberta. His current posting in Slocan Park will involve spending one week per month in Saskatoon for the next four months at training courses. This will give him new skills in financial management, human resources, board management, and marketing.

Retiring manager Vince Salvo said Weatherall's broad background of experience was a deciding factor in hiring him for the position.

"The clincher for us was that he and his family were looking to become part of a community."



Slocan Lake Arena Society would like to extend Season's Greetings to everyone in our community and all the best to you in 2007.

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

The director's of Slocan Lake Arena Society would like to extend congratulations to the Village of Silverton on being a successful applicant of the spirit of 2010 to renovate the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Due to the renovations happening in the New Year, the next Bingo on January 12th, 2007 will be back at Bosun HALL IN NEW DENVER. Hope to see you then.

SLOCAN LAKE ARENA SOCIETY WILL BE HOLDING IT'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 2007 AT THE OFFICE AT 713 (BACK) JOSEPHINE STREET, NEW DENVER, B. C. AT 7:00 P.M. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society (VSSFAS) is holding its Annual AGM on December 28, 2006 at 9:30 am in the Silverton Gallery. Please come out & find out what our society is about — the Public is welcome.

SMOKEY CREEK SALVAGE
24 HR TOWING
New & Used Auto Parts, Back Hoe Work, Certified Welding & Repairs, Vehicle Removal
WE BUY CARS & TRUCKS
359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539
3453 YEATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN

Employment Facilitator (Youth)

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services is seeking full time employment facilitators for a term contract until July 13th 2007 (dependent on funding). The ideal applicants will be familiar with the Arrow & Slocan Lakes region, comfortable with the public, well organized with demonstrated computer, writing, presentation and communication skills. This program works with youth who are aged 15-29, applicants will show demonstrated experience of working with this population.

Preferred Qualifications: A Bachelor's degree in a related discipline with at least 3 years experience in a vocational counseling or training setting or equivalent combination.

This position offers a competitive salary. A valid Driver's License and current First Aid certificate are required. The successful candidate will be required to sign an Oath of Confidentiality and complete a Criminal Record Check.

Closing date is Jan 10th 2007 @ 4pm

Email resume and 3 references to Farhana Alam, Administrative Assistant at falam@aslcs.com

SLOCAN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Slocan District Chamber of Commerce would like to extend Season's Greetings to all the small businesses and members of our community and to wish all of you the best in 2007.

Also, please note that Slocan District Chamber of Commerce will be holding it's Annual General Meeting at the Silverton Gallery on Monday, January 22nd, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us there. New members are always welcome.

Season's Greetings

Wishing you all the best over the holidays! May you spend them with friends and loved ones, and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Have a great one!

Sappho's Bakery

Nice Buns!

We'll see you all in the New Year! Happy Holidays!

FAT KAT'S SWEETS

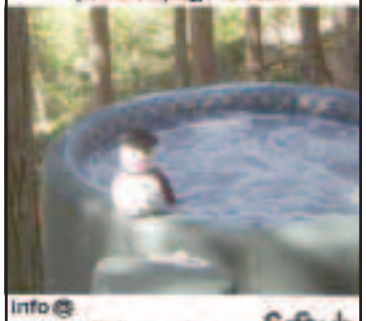
DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD THIS WINTER

Kootenay Springs Softub

home shopping, free delivery & set-up, rentals

250-354-8557

portableapa@msn.com



info@ www.softubcanada.com Softub

'Songs of Solstice' produced in the Slocan Valley

Local duo 'Solterre' has released an album of traditional Solstice and Christmas music based on Persian and Hindustani rhythms and East Indian influenced vocal and instrumental arrangements.

'Solterre' is a musical and vocal collaboration of mandolyn player and vocalist Felicity Gerwing of Slocan City, and percussionist and vocalist Marco Zonka, with featured woodwind player Randy Mead. Zonka and Gerwing tour the Pacific Northwest every summer playing classical Indian raga music with the Mishras, sitar masters from Varanasi, India. 'Songs of Solstice' was produced in the Slocan Valley with mixing and mastering by Reid McDaniels of Six Sense Sound in Crescent Valley.

In the spirit of exuberant joy and exaltation common to all love songs to God, Solterre brings new vibrancy and spirit to these fine songs of yore, affirming and celebrating the common thread of yearning, shared by all peoples, for love and light, on the longest and darkest of nights.

'Solterre' is on the road right now with the album, performing at Christmas events in Whistler, Vancouver, Seattle, Nanaimo and Gabriola Island. The album 'Songs of Solstice' is available online at kootenaykind.org or in Nelson at Gold Yogi Imports, Kootenai Clothing Company, Lonnie's Lingerie, Otters Books, and Packrat Annie's. It is also available at Gaia Tree Whole Foods and Jennie's Books in Winlaw and at Slocan Village Market (formerly Eldorado) in Slocan City.

Rotary President, Dr. Donato deSandoli stands with Maria Luisa Montero, an exchange student from Bolivia at the 20th annual Rotary Carol Sing in Nakusp.

Slocan Valley students win poster contest

submitted

The Kootenay-Slocan Lions have announced the local winners of this year's Peace Poster Contest. Aroha Graham (Vallican Whole School), Johnny Johnson (Brent Kennedy School) and Pele Krempl (WE Graham School) will each receive certificates and a cash award for $25. Their work has been forwarded to the next round in the international contest. All of the posters will be available for viewing in the meeting room at the Slocan Valley Co-op.

Ross Pease, President of the Kootenay-Slocan Lions, Vince Salvo, President of the Co-op board, Joel Harris, Moe Lyons and Leslie Mayfield judged the competition. The posters were selected on the basis of originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the contest theme, 'Celebrating Peace.'

Pease thanked Principal Carol Ann Liedloff and teachers Linda Out and James Wheeler at WE Graham, Principal Al Auringer and teacher Lois Lawrence at Brent Kennedy, and teacher Adriane Gradauer at the Vallican Whole School for their support.

Community Christmas Event at St. Matthew's

submitted

The congregation of St. Matthew's Church, South Slocan, will be hosting its 24th annual Christmas service of readings and carols. The service will be held on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24 at 7 p.m. in the church at 3370 South Slocan Village Road. If you enjoy singing carols and hearing once again the story of the first Christmas, you are invited to join your friends and neighbours at this annual festive event. Refreshments will be served after the service.

All is lit up at the Kohan Garden, thanks to about 15 volunteers who helped to string the lights on December 3. The garden was lit up on December 10 and will be every evening through to early January. Organizers have also decided to light up the garden for the weekend of Dr. Fun, February 2, 3 and 4. Slocan Lake Garden Society thanks everyone who donated lights. More LED lights would be welcome, and donations toward the Kohan Lighting can be dropped in the donations box in the entrance building.

WANTED TO BUY:
CEDAR AND PINE POLES
John Shantz
• 250-308-7941 (cell)
Please contact: Gorman Brothers Lumber Ltd.
250-547-9296

Season's Greetings, and best of the New Year to all!
Ann's Natural Foods
And remember...
Please party safely and responsibly over the holidays.
805 KILDARE, NEW DENVER
358-2552

Here's hoping that you and yours have a wonderful, "old-fashioned" Christmas and Holiday season, and that your New Year is filled with Cheer and good times.
- from the Management and staff at
POPE & TALBOT LTD.
— IN NAKUSP —

SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
FROM
MUSHROOM ADDITION RESTAURANT
and
FAUQUIER GAS WEST
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day

Season's Greetings
Columbia Power Corporation would like to thank those people who supported the *Slocan River Riparian Restoration Program* during the past year and wish all Slocan Valley residents *a very merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year!*
www.columbiapower.org
COLUMBIA POWER CORPORATION

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!

Season's Greetings from the staff at the New Denver Post Office.

CANADA POSTES POST CANADA

Notes from the RCMP

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

•A B&B in Nakusp has been the target of an email scam. A woman claiming to be a Unicef employee from England contacted the B&B by email and arranged for a lengthy stay during the upcoming holidays. The B&B owner contacted the Nakusp RCMP when she received a mysterious cheque for a large amount of money, followed by email instructions from England to cash the cheque, send a large amount to England and keep the rest to cover the cost of the accommodations. Nakusp RCMP contacted Unicef to confirm that this woman is not one of their employees and that the cheque is fraudulent and should not be cashed. RCMP advises the public to be aware that scams like these exist.

•Constable Tim Macdonald of the Nakusp detachment advises drivers to avoid using four-wheel-drive vehicles to cross plowed street meridians. This creates a driving hazard, creates a mess, and is an citeable offense under the Motor Vehicle Act. The Village of Nakusp can also charge offenders for the cost of cleanup.

Music Extravaganza

Sat. Dec. 16/06 - 7:00 pm

Silverton Country Inn

For Info:
Call Michael Dorsey 358-7704
or Jan Bradshaw 358-7967

• Musicians needed

All proceeds to ANKORS

The Clothes Hanger
441 Front Street
PO Box 881
Nakusp BC V0G 1R0
250-353-9688

Jim & Babs at the Clothing Store wish you Cheer & Happiness Galore!

We close on Saturday, December 23 and re-open on Wednesday December 27

250-353-9688

Prima Materia

Global Gift Discoveries

Inspiring Arts & Crafts

textiles . objects . artworks

Open late Friday night until 8 pm

318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

Merry Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To date, we have raised $179.20 from the sales of coffee for the Butuan mothers and children.

From John & Gale and our staff Jessica & Stacey

Cowpuccino

Coffee Sandwich Shop

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Saturday, Dec 23	CLOSED	Sunday, Dec 31	CLOSED
Sunday, Dec 24	CLOSED	Monday, Jan 1	CLOSED
Monday, Dec 25	CLOSED	Tuesday, Jan 2	6am-3pm
Tuesday, Dec 26	CLOSED	Wednesday, Jan 3	6am-3pm
Wednesday, Dec 27	CLOSED	Thursday, Jan 4	6am-3pm
Thursday, Dec 28	6 am - 3 pm	Friday, Jan 5	6am-3pm
Friday, Dec 29	6am-3pm	Saturday, Jan 6	8am-5pm
Saturday, Dec 30	CLOSED	Sunday, Jan 7	CLOSED

Regular business hours resume Jan 8, 2007
Monday- Friday 6am-3pm
Saturday: 8am-5pm
Sunday: 9am-4pm

Carol's Corner in New Denver wishes you and your family the best of the Holiday Season.

Clothing • Mending • Notions

422 6th Avenue 358-2441

Hit "the links" with Santa this Christmas morning!

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year to all our customers. Thank You for your support!

from Sher, Karolyn, Dave and Lloyd, at

LEGENDARY MEATS

2826 Highway 6, Slocan Park
Ph: 250-226-7803

RDCK chosen for Community Action on Energy Efficiency program

submitted

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources announced on October 25 at the Union of BC Municipalities annual conference that the Regional District of Central Kootenay has been chosen to participate in the expanded Community Action on Energy Efficiency program. Specific funding is based on available funds and the budget and work plan proposed by the Regional District.

The Regional District board has endorsed the Province's energy efficiency targets for new and existing buildings. As part of this endorsement, the Regional District will be conducting an inventory and analysis of its operational energy use in an effort to protect air quality, reduce energy use and manage greenhouse gas emissions.

Get Ready For Christmas –
Get Them While We Have Them!

FOMI's Bakery Ph. 226-7104

• Belgian Chocolate Box filled with 12 Handmade Truffles

• Gingerbread Sleigh filled with 6 Dozen Xmas Shortbreads

1 km north of the Winlaw Mini Mart at 6049, Hwy 6

Special Shopping Hours in Silverton

John & Joe Wish all our loyal customers the very best of the Holiday Season.
Free gift wrapping on Friday Night.

Open Friday Dec 15 & 22 Until 8 PM

Everett Computer Consulting
Sales and Repairs

Hours Tuesday—Saturday 9AM to 5PM

Try our new Red Mountain Internet

Gaze n Chat
Giftware, Coffee & More

217 Lake Ave. Silverton BC V0G 2B0
Phone/Fax: 250-358-2878
E-mail: jeverett@everett-computer.com E-mail: gazenchat@slocanlake.ca

Two Great Businesses One Location!

We've got all the tools you need to make your Christmas run smoothly!

Merry Christmas to all our friends and patrons, and a Happy New Year in 2007 !

from Darren, Debbie and the staff at

SLOCAN LAKE Home hardware

214 - 6th Street
New Denver
358-2422

X-MAS - TICKETS SPECIAL

	X-Mas Special until Dec.31,06	Early Bird until June 30,07	Gate July 1 - 15
July 13-15			
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

Nakusp Music Fest July 13 - 15 2007

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.

Brent, Dennis, Lex and all the staff at Jones Boys wish you a Merry Christmas & Prosperous New Year in 2007.

STARCRAFT MARINE

Closed December 23 to January 7

JonesBoys Boats

4080 Hwy 31, Ainsworth, BC
250-358-2550 jonesboysboats.com

RDCK board meeting, December 9: Summit Lake Ski Area taxation approved

by Jan McMurray

•Taxation for Summit Lake Ski Area is going ahead. The ski area will receive $20,000 per year through taxation of property owners from Edgewood to Enterprise Creek. The tax rate has been estimated at $4.20 per $100,000 of assessed value.

Voter approval for the taxation was established through the Alternative Approval Process, whereby at least 10% of voters must register their disapproval for the process to fail. The RDCK received signatures of 231 people against taxation for the ski area – and 400 signatures were needed for the process to fail. Most of the people who signed against the taxation were from Area K (211); 14 were from Area H; nine were from Nakusp; four from New Denver; and one from Silverton.

The tax will be charged to property owners in Area K – the Arrow Lakes, Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton in 2007, but it is not yet clear if it will show up on the 2007 tax roles for property owners in the northern portion of Area H (the rural areas from Summit Lake to Enterprise Creek). RDCK Treasurer Barry McLean explained that the problem here is a bureaucratic one at the provincial level. When electoral areas and municipalities are taxed as a whole, there is no problem, but there are delays when only a portion of an electoral area is to be taxed. He said he asked the Minister to consider speeding this up, seeing as how the same portion of Area H is already taxed for another service (Recreation Commission No. 6).

McLean indicated that if property owners in the northern portion of Area H could not be taxed in 2007, they would be double taxed in 2008.

•The RDCK will now do all of the administration for the annual Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives funding program. All applications for funding under the program, whether for municipalities or rural areas, will be submitted to the RDCK office only. Staff will then distribute copies of the applications to the appropriate directors. RDCK staff will coordinate all advertising and will be the designated contact for all program information.

In the past, some municipalities have preferred to do most of this administration work themselves. An RDCK staff report explains that this has resulted in inefficiency and some confusion for applicants.

•The board is in the midst of figuring out how to comply with its own policy and provincial legislation stating that water systems shall be funded on a 100% cost recovery basis.

The Water, Fire and Emergency Services committee asked staff to calculate the annual cost in staff time to operate, maintain and administer the 11 water systems owned by the RDCK. Staff has estimated that cost to be $212,625, which translates to about $93 per water connection. In order to achieve cost recovery on the water systems, staff put forward two scenarios. The first would achieve 100% cost recovery in 2007; the second would phase it in over three years. The board passed the first option.

Area H Director Don Munro spoke against this, favouring the three-year phase-in scenario. "I know staff are doing a lot of work in the water area but the residents don't see it," he said. He argued that if the fee were increased over three years, residents might see the benefit of the staff time.

RDCK Manager of Engineering and Environmental Services Marianne Crowe explained in a telephone interview that the resolution does not necessarily mean that water users will be paying $93 per year for their water connection. She said staff was now looking at the budget for each water system to see what impact it will have. Then some of the water user rate and regulation bylaws will have to be amended.

Because of the time constraint (water bills are sent out in January), it was decided to prepare interim water bills and send them out with a letter explaining that the fees will be increasing and why. Staff will meet with the water commissions to discuss the change. It is expected that the bylaws that need amending will be presented at the January board meeting. Final bills will be sent out after the bylaws are amended.

•Director Dahlen reported that at a recent UBCM meeting, the RDCK's recommendation to set up a task force to look at the new sewer and water regulations was passed, and the task force will be established very soon.

Area K

•The Nakusp Golf Club was granted $5,000 from Area K's Community Tourism funding. The club plans to replace the main sign for the golf course with the grant. Area K Search and Rescue was granted $3,000 from Area K's BC Hydro grants in lieu fund.

Area D

•The Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society was granted $5,000 from Area D's Community Tourism funding. The newly formed Area D Arts and Community Association was given a $1,000 grant-in-aid.

•The RDCK will sign a four-year contract with Morrow BioScience Ltd. to provide the mosquito control service from 2007 - 2011 for the portion of Area D in the Lardeau Valley and in the Pineridge subdivision.

Area H

•The WE Graham Community Service Society Christmas Hamper program was given a $500 grant-in-aid.

Appointments

•Director Dahlen (Nakusp) was appointed to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments.

•Director Shadrack (Area D) was appointed to the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan.

•Director Munro (Area H) was appointed to the Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel (West).

•Director Bell (Silverton) was appointed to the Westbank Treaty Advisory Committee, with Director Gates (Slocan) as alternate.

•Director Peterson (Area K) was appointed to the BC Hydro - Columbia River Water Planning Process, with Director Dahlen (Nakusp) as alternate.

•Director Shadrack (Area D) was appointed to the BC Hydro - Duncan Dam Water Use Consultative Committee, with Director Holland (Kaslo) as alternate.

•Director Peterson (Area K) was appointed to the BC Hydro - Revelstoke Unit 5 Water Use Consultative Committee.

the Beadloft

308 Broadway St., Nakusp • (250) 265-2228

M·E·R·R·Y CHRISTMAS

& Happy New Year

Thanks to our customers

Holiday Hours:

Monday - Saturday 11-10

Closed: December 24, 25 & 26. December 31, Jan. 1 and 2

Wood Fire Pizza N'more

Phone: 265-0060

Christmas Holiday Season
CHANGE to Operating Hours

EDGEWOOD TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday, December 26, 2006	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27, 2006	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Tuesday, January 2, 2007	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2007

For further information contact the Recycling Hotline 1-800-667-4321 or Regional District of Central Kootenay 1-800-268-7325

Christmas Holiday Season
CHANGE to Operating Hours

SLOCAN TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday, December 26, 2006	CLOSED
Wednesday, December 27, 2006	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, December 30, 2006	10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Regular hours resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2007

For further information contact the Recycling Hotline 1-800-667-4321 or Regional District of Central Kootenay 1-800-268-7325

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2006-2007
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SEASON
WEST SUB-REGION WASTE FACILITY HOURS OF OPERATION

LOCATION	SUN Dec 24	MON Dec 25	TUE Dec 26	WED Dec 27	THU Dec 28	FRI Dec 29	SAT Dec 30	SUN Dec 31	MON Jan 1	TUE Jan 2	WED Jan 3
Burton	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Edgewood	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	CLOSED
Nakusp	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Ootischenia	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8:30 am - 4:00 pm	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Rosebery	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Slocan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED

All RDCK Waste Disposal Facilities are CLOSED on Statutory Holidays

For more information on the hours of operation visit the RDCK's website at **www.rdck.bc.ca** or phone the Recycling Council of BC hotline at **1-800-667-4321**

Trout Lake mine production schedule delayed by weather

With more than twice the average monthly precipitation reported by weather stations in Revelstoke for November, the MAX molybdenum mine at Trout Lake is facing unavoidable delays in construction.

Most seriously affected is the tailings pond. Originally slated for completion by the end of 2006, Roca mines now projects a target date of March, 2007. Moisture sensitive materials have had to be re-assessed and upgraded to a more dense rockfill for the earth dams. The tailings pond is roughly the size of four football fields. Underground development has been unaffected, and is expected to be completed within the next month or two.

Construction of phase one of the mill, with a 500 ton per day production capacity and a 2500 ton per day rock crusher, has been marginally delayed. A second phase of equal capacity will also be installed next year, though this doesn't necessarily mean the plant will run at 1000 tons per day. The small mines permit held by Roca will allow them to process up to 75,000 tons annually, yielding up to 1.5 million pounds of molybdenum. However, the company can set its calendar year upon processing its annual allotment and then begin harvesting its second 75,000 tons. Roca's goal is to harvest three million pounds of molybdenum during 2007. The company is applying for a full mine permit that will remove tonnage restrictions, subject to ongoing engineering and environmental assessments.

Molybdenum currently sells at about $25 US per pound and is a key alloy in the manufacture of stainless and specialty steel, including pipelines and other energy-related steel infrastructure.

In further mining news, Roca will be purchasing from a group of Salmo prospectors a 100% interest in four separate properties in the Revelstoke area. These claims include the Farside, which contains potential for gold, bismuth, tungsten and molybdenum; the Bonanza-Butte, with four high grade silver-gold veins; the Ellsmere-Horne, with copper, lead, zinc silver and gold; and the Tin City property, a road accessible bulk tonnage tungsten and base metal target. The initial purchase price is $7500 plus 60,000 common shares, with a further $148,500 and 255,000 shares paid out by 2010, providing the claims are brought into production. At present, explains Fosbrooke, the properties are seen by the company as primarily a base for prospecting and exploration.

Honey Bear Bakery
Tues-Sat 9:00-3:00
311 7th Ave NW • 265-4633
Rear Alley Entrance

Welcome Señor...
Ricardo
RESTAURANT
Fully licensed and covered patio
401 Broadway Street
Nakusp, BC
Wylie's Pub
COLD BEER AND WINE TO GO
RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD-FAMOUS LONELY PLANET TRAVEL GUIDE

Nakusp RCMP welcome rookie officer

The Nakusp RCMP detachment welcomes Corporal Brandon Buliziuk, fresh out of the Regina RCMP Academy. Buliziuk also has a two-year course in criminal justice from Lethbridge College to his credit.

Corporal Brandon Buliziuk has joined the Nakusp detachment, RCMP.

Buliziuk was born and raised in Fernie, BC, and says his inspiration to join the force came from sports coaches he admired as a kid. Special skills he hopes to train for in future include the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and major crimes. Until he passes rookie stage, he expects to be in Nakusp for the full duration of his three year term.

"It's one of the most beautiful places I've seen. The people for the most part are great."

Constable Owen Wlodarczak will be transferring to Kelowna just 15 months into his Nakusp posting. He will be training with the polygraph section there, and will complete part of a six-month apprenticeship in training in Ottawa. No replacement has yet been named for Wlodarczak but the New Denver detachment will help make up the staffing shortfall.

Upbeat 50s music sets the stage for the 9th annual Rotary Dinner Theatre production of Peril on the High Seas, or Let's Get Together and Do Launch, by Billy St. John, February 16 & 17, at the Arena auditorium. A cruise ship sails for England with Captain Barney Kuhl and crew, villainous passengers, a movie star and Hollywood columnist, crazy chicks, and detective Willy Ketchum. Reservations recommended for the best seats. Right to left, cast members Jennifer Ferguson, Rob Luxemburger, and Anji Jones.

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

Rotary Club of Nakusp Presents
9th Annual Dinner Theatre
Set in the 50's - Come in Costume
"Peril On The High Seas" or
"Let's Get Together and do Launch"
By Billy St. John
Directed by Janet Royko

Tickets available at Barton Insurance on Broadway
Great stocking stuffers. Take your Valentine out for some fun!

Dinner Theatre is set for February 16 & 17, 2007
Tickets are $30.00 each • Reserved seating

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE COUNCIL & STAFF OF THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Please note the following holiday schedule:

NAKUSP SPORTS COMPLEX:

Facility Closures:	Monday Dec. 25; Tuesday Dec. 26 & Monday Jan. 1/07	
Public Skating:	Admission: Adults $2, Youth $1, under 6 – free	
	3:30 – 5:00 pm: Dec. 23, 24, 30, 31	Jan 6 & 7
	2:15 – 4:00 pm: Dec 27, 28, 29	Jan 2, 3, 4, 5
Shinney Hockey:	Must wear a helmet, $5/Player	
	12:45 – 2:00 pm: Dec 27, 28, 29	Jan 2, 4 & 5
Private Rentals:	Times are available. Please call 265-4500 to book	

The arena staff would like to wish everyone a happy holiday & best wishes for 2007!

VILLAGE OFFICE: (91 1st Street NW)
Closures: Noon on Dec. 22; Closed Dec. 25, 26, 27 & Jan. 1/07
Council Meeting: Dec. 14th @ 6:30 Council Chambers. Dec. 28th meeting cancelled.

PUBLIC WORKS:
Garbage Pick Up: Dec. 25th garbage to be p/u on Dec. 27 with Wednesdays garbage
Jan. 1st garbage to be p/u on January 2nd
Emergencies Only: Call 265-3861

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Horning's team cleans up at regional curling playdown

by Jan McMurray

The Brier Men's National Curling Championships is looking like a good possibility again this year for Nakusp's Deane Horning, Curl BC Athlete of the Year 2005 and recipient of the 2005 Premier's Award for Curling. His team came out on top at the Regional Playdown in Armstrong this past weekend, winning all four games played.

Deane Horning of Nakusp curls at the 2005 Brier in Edmonton.

"We played well all weekend. We caught a good break during the first game and played even better the next three," he reported.

Horning has been to the Brier three times in the past. In 2003, his team placed third, and he was on the fifth-place team in both 2002 and 2005. Before his team qualifies for the Brier this year, it will have to place in the top four at the Interior Championships in Smithers during the third weekend in January, and then first at the Provincials in Langley at the beginning of February.

In between the Interiors and the Provincials, Horning's team is off to Japan for the Kurizawa International Competition. Two Canadian teams are chosen every year to participate in this eight-team round robin and playoff bonspiel. The annual event is a tribute to the Nagano Olympics.

This makes for a hectic schedule for Horning and his teammates, but as Horning says, "It's hard to pass up the opportunity. You only get so many chances to go to the Brier."

This year, Horning is playing on a new team, with TJ Perepolkin as skip, Tyrel Griffith as lead, Garry Vandenberghe as 2nd and Horning as 3rd.

Nakusp's CBT Community Liaison announced

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has filled the Community Liaison position out of the Nakusp office. Lynda Lafleur, currently the publisher of the Arrow Lakes News, will begin her new job on January 8. She will work with all communities throughout the northwestern part of the Basin.

"I am very excited to begin my work as Community Liaison for CBT," commented Lynda. "I believe in what the organization stands for and am honoured to have been selected for the job. I'm eager to use my experience in economic development and community work to help Basin residents continue to build a prosperous and vibrant region."

Lynda has been in publishing since 1999, and has an extensive background in economic development at the community level. She also has experience in affordable housing and health care.

Naksup Senior Girls place 3rd in zone

submitted

The Nakusp Senior Girls Volleyball team had a very successful season this year. In October and November they travelled to Nelson, Castlegar and Kaslo to play the teams of Kaslo, Boundary, Salmo, Mt.Sentinel, Nelson and Castlegar.

On November 15 the team attended the West Kootenay finals at Selkirk College in Castlegar. They defeated Kaslo, Boundary and Salmo and as a result advanced to the Kootenay finals, which were held in Castlegar on November 18. There they met Salmo, Mt.Sentinel and the East Kootenay teams of Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie.

The girls defeated the teams of Salmo, Elkford and Sparwood but lost against Fernie and Mt.Sentinel and consequently took a respectable third place overall in the Kootenay Zone. Well done, girls!

Back row: Coach Heike Mense, Cassidy Wethal, Britney Currie, Jolisa Godtmark. Front row: Crystal McKinnon, Desirae Sinclair, Kristy Homis, Raelene Mahon, Casey Waldron.

Paul Peterson nominated for CBT board

by Jan McMurray

At the December 9 RDCK meeting, the directors nominated Area K Director Paul Peterson for a two-year appointment to the Columbia Basin Trust board, starting April 1, 2007. The nomination will be forwarded to the Province, which will make the appointment.

"I'm really honoured that the RDCK board nominated me for this appointment," said Peterson. "I will represent the whole regional district on the CBT board, but I think it will be beneficial to have someone on the CBT from the Arrow Lakes – to remind them why the Trust exists in the first place."

Josh Smienk currently holds this appointment, which will expire March 31, 2007. Smienk has been involved with the CBT ever since the beginning. Starting in 1992, Smienk chaired the committee that played a part in the formation of the Trust, and then chaired the Columbia River Treaty Commission. He has been Chair of the CBT since its inception in 1995.

When Peterson was asked if he would assume the Chair, he replied, "My shoes are not that big."

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International Selkirk Loop update

by Jan McMurray

Michael Rowland, Canadian Operations Director for the International Selkirk Loop, attended the December 9 RDCK board meeting to update the board on his work to promote the Canadian portion of this driving tour. The tour goes through northeastern Washington, northern Idaho and up into the West Kootenay – from Creston to Crawford Bay, across the Kootenay ferry to Balfour, down to Nelson and back to the US via Nelway. Most RDCK directors contributed a portion of their Community Tourism grant money to fund Rowland's position and office in Creston.

Rowland started the job in June 2006. He said advertising in BCAA and WestWorld magazines resulted in hundreds of responses and a marked increased traffic on the website this season. There were also 13 articles written about the loop in various publications. He gave special mention to an 8-page article in Acura Magazine, which he said highlighted the whole region.

Hundreds of survey cards were placed in the travel guides for the loop this year – the first attempt at gathering hard statistics about the people taking this drive – and there was a 5% response rate. Rowland said that 50% of respondents travelled the super side trips as well as the main route. One of the side trips is the Silvery Slocan Heritage tour, from Nelson to Kaslo, over to New Denver and back down to Nelson. The survey showed that people consider the free ferry ride at Balfour to be one of the highlights of the trip. The average number of days people spend travelling the loop is 3.6 days, with over half spending four days or longer. He says 77% of those travelling the loop come from the US, so Canada really benefits.

A survey was also done of people who asked for information about the loop. Results of this survey are being compiled, and will be available on the website in January. Also, a draft strategic marketing plan will be presented at a meeting in January.

Rowland reported that some progress has been made on signage. There are route markers around the Canadian portion of the loop – this has not yet been done in the States. Also, Rowland has spoken to Highways about signs on both sides of the free ferry.

Michael Rowland, Canadian Operations Director for the International Selkirk Loop

Rowland said he wanted to attract more members, and had put together a professional recruitment brochure.

Director Shadrack asked if there was any possibility for tourism operators in the Lardeau Valley to get involved. Lardeau is not part of a side trip, but Shadrack said that tourism is a growing part of the economy there. Rowland said that membership is not restricted to businesses right on the loop, that all members are promoted, and that it costs only $58 to join. He also offered to do a presentation in the Lardeau.

Check out www.selkirkloop.org for more information.

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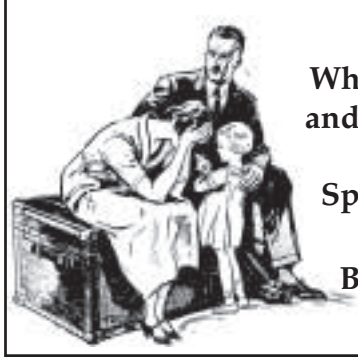

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Hokusai, the Library and the Sky, an installation of two- and three-dimensional components by Kim Huynh, will be featured in the Langham's Main Gallery, starting January 6, 2007.

Langham to host two exhibits in January

Featured at the Langham on Saturday January 6th from 7 - 9 pm will be openings for two art exhibits: *Hokusai, the Library and the Sky*, by Kim Huynh; and the 2007 *Salon of the Arts*, featuring the work of North Kootenay Lake artists. Refreshments are available by donation.

Hokusai, the Library and the Sky, an installation of two- and three-dimensional components by Kim Huynh, will be featured in the Langham's Main Gallery. The installation addresses the chaotic, awkward emotional landscape of an Asian Canadian artist attempting to find a place between traditional Eastern values and Modern Art. Huynh is a Calgary-based artist working in a variety of media. Her work is shown across Canada, Europe, and Asia, and is part of several international collections. Huunh was born in Vietnam and grew up during the war.

The 2007 Salon of the Arts will be presented in the Lobby Gallery by he North Kootenay Lake Arts and Heritage Council (NKLAHC). The visual component of the salon is curated by Philip Pedini.

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Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort wins provincial *go2 the top* award

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort has won the *go2 the top* award in the accommodation category of the BC Hospitality Industry awards. The award recognizes a BC tourism industry employer who has upheld standards of excellence in human resources management practices.

"It's the appeal of the hot springs pool and cave that brings people here the first time," says Megan Rokeby-Thomas, General Manager, "but it's the team that works here who keep the customers coming back again and again."

The resort's team of supervisors were presented with the award at the BC Hospitality Industry Conference and Exposition on November 21 at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Vancouver. The team is comprised of Jake Murfitt, Director of Sales, Jason Allard, Executive Chef, Cam McDougall, Dining Room Supervisor, Tom Vishloff, Maintenance Supervisor, Darla Campbell, Hot Springs Supervisor, and Jurita Boehm, Housekeeping Supervisor. They were nominated by resort staff.

A positive workplace culture is a primary criteria for the award, demonstrated by engaged employees, excellent communication, teamwork and appropriate recognition and rewards. Management at Ainsworth have used creativity to overcome the resort's relative isolation from major centres, holding brainstorming sessions to come up with seasonal events. Candy Cane Station, now in its fourth year, was one such idea, with over 200 giant candy canes hand-painted by staff.

Supervisory staff have been sent to Kelowna for training programs, all paid for by the company. The resort has conducted three salary surveys, resulting in valuable feedback and high-end compensation for employees. In-house mentoring, external training, and annual performance reviews are all part of Ainsworth's career development program. In an industry known for high staff turnover rates, Ainsworth has a 70% return rate for seasonal employees.

"Having top notch human resource practices is imperative for the tourism industry," says Arlene Kels, CEO for go2. "This is especially the case as we face a labour shortage."

Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort's team of managers were presented with a go2 the top award at the BC Hospitality Industry Conference and Exposition in Vancouver.

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Santa & Mrs. Claus attend Kaslo's 20th annual Christmas Light Up

by Jill Braley

On December 8, under a light rain, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in Kaslo to celebrate Kaslo's 20th annual Christmas Light Up.

Just prior to 6:00 pm, all the lights were turned off on Front Street. At 6:00, the parade began, with the RCMP leading. As the RCMP vehicle drove by each business, the store owners turned their lights on, and Kaslo was lit up. The fire truck came next, carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus, waving and wishing everyone Merry Christmas. Other participants in the parade included street entertainers, lots of young hockey players, members of the Kaslo and Area Residents Association, members of the Jazz Etc. Society, Kaslo's royalty, and Mayor Jim Holland throwing chocolates and candy canes to the crowd.

The JV Humphries grad class was raising funds by selling Christmas trees and hot dogs, the JV Humphries Choir sang beautifully, and the Red Hat Ladies looked wonderful with their colourful hats. Keleegh Sinclaire won a dozen red roses from Fern's Flowers for the best hat. After the parade lots of children waited their turn to have their pictures taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Most business owners stayed open later to enjoy the festivities.

The SS Moyie has all three decks lit up until the New Year, so do go check it out. The reading of *A Christmas Carol* at the Langham after the Front Street festivities was a sellout.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

PHOTO CREDIT: JILL BRALEY

Sarah, Kepler, Mackenzie and Cam Zuk share a moment with Santa and Mrs. Claus at Kaslo's 20th annual Light Up celebration on December 8.

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from the Mayor, Council and staff at the Village of Kaslo

Kaslo Trailblazers

The Kaslo Trailblazers Society had another busy year in 2006, its second year in operation. From a membership of 205 there were 35 volunteers who spent 455 hours to bring the South Side Trail & True Blue Recreation Area connector to 90% completion. The connecting trail from the highway to the bridge on the north side of Kaslo River has also been improved.

Two new information kiosks have been built and installed. Three tables and 12 new benches have been sponsored and placed by the wheelchair accessible North Side Trail. The bridge engineering has been completed and is slated for construction in the spring. Interpretive signage and trail maps are at the printers and will be available by year end.

Financial support has been strong this year, with $10,200 from the Columbia Basin Trust, $5000 from the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, $5000 from the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation, and $7000 from the RDCK. The Kaslo Trailblazers Society wishes to thank all those who generously supported the program with their time or monetary donations.

SNOW REMOVAL IN KASLO
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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Skiing's not all that difficult

I must confess that in 30 years of cross-country skiing, I've never had any success teaching novice skiers how to travel or turn on their new gear. I've developed my own unidentifiable style by watching better skiers perform and am comfortable with the level of skill that I've achieved, but it may only work for me. Luckily, there are all manner of instructors and mentors to whom we can turn for improving technique.

Where I can offer some help might be more based on my own struggles and success in things that I've learned that can make the experience less difficult in some ways. Giving some thought to when to be out in the snow, how to dress for it, where you actually go and stuff you take along will make the day go far better. Regardless of your skill level or how sophisticated your equipment is, common sense can play a big role.

When to go skiing involves more than just loading up and going crazy after the first big dump of snow. Ski resort areas like people to be out as early as possible to start paying off the huge costs of running ski hill facilities. Realize of course that the ski runs are well prepared and could even have a solid man-made base to ensure good skiing. Yet adjacent backcountry terrain may have less reliable snow depth and many natural hazards won't yet be cushioned by that nice established snowpack quite yet. Early season cross-country ski tours may be limited to smoother roadbeds or familiar places like meadows and park spaces.

Ski resorts also make great skiing after massive dumps of fresh snow with hip deep powder and fast chairlifts to get you the maximum vertical rush for the day. That same massive storm can make road access to your touring destination trickier, and the effort of trail-breaking up steep slopes in deep new snow can be daunting. Even skiing down can be tough and you'll need to do steep fall line runs just to maintain speed. Am I being lazy about this? All I'm saying is that if you have any choice in the matter and delay for a day or two, then the stormclouds will have cleared, the roads will be way better and that powder snow will still be shin deep and far faster to ski with less effort up or down.

Unless the weather is very cold and you know you'll be in the shade mostly, you can be dressed in much lighter gear than you may have thought. Big parkas or jackets can restrict easy movement, and really, it's the circulation of your system that keeps you warm. Likely a couple light layers and good gaiters will keep you comfy, and the real heat savers are good toques or chullas that cover your head and back of your neck. Warm overmitts with spare dry inner mitts will also hold lots of critical body heat and can be easily pulled off if you get hot during long ascents. Save your sweat but waste your water.

Well don't actually waste water, but drink it often and keep it handy. Having to stop to pee may be a hassle to some people, but if you're not well hydrated you'll be tired, cranky and even crampy, and your system simply cannot effectively keep you warm or active. Bring a couple water bottle and have a thermos with you or else back at the car. I make a point of gulping down lots in the last few kilometres while driving to the trailhead so that I start off the trip well quenched. Keep water bottles in your spare mitts in the backpack so they don't freeze. Your pack is a good idea even on simple outings because it can capture and retain lots of body heat.

Where to ski will depend on your skill level and time available, but knowing if a road is unexpectedly plowed or else blocked off can change the itinerary. Brilliant sunny days may be missed on a north aspect, but that same north slope is just fine on an overcast day when light levels are broadly even. Chillingly cold breezes beside streams might not exist at all only a short way upslope. Any sort of back slope or patch of trees can make lunch breaks easier, without the breeze nagging at you.

Employing some of the infinite wisdom delivered here, I did a little ski trip into Enterprise Creek last week from the highway pullout between Silverton and Slocan City. I favour this place for light tours because you start off above the main valley bottom in pretty good snow and the road usually has a decent skidoo trail already packed. The road is wide and climbs nicely to ensure an easy and rather fast ski out. The road stays to the north side of Enterprise Creek and is variously beside, above, and back of the creekside. The route is forested up to five kilometres, where logged blocks open up the view to the end of the valley, where you can then access Kokanee Park or Timber Creek drainage.

The Valley Voice now falls silent for a month as Dan and Jan and all the rest of us enjoy the Christmas break and passing of the Winter Solstice. Whether your plans are to ski, sleep, eat, drink, play, travel or work (yikes) enjoy each of these days on into the New Year and the rest of winter.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and enjoys all the seasons except maybe parts of November. 358-2133.

with Jamie Barber

The white stuff just keeps dumping down at the old homestead. It seems that I spend an inordinate time trying to keep the walkways and driveway clear. This is an unpredictable chore at my house, as I never know if my old 1956 John Deere track loader will fire up in the cold. Most days it does, but when it gets cantankerous, it takes hours to prompt it to sputter to life – not a chore that is appreciated when you just want to clear things out so the driveway can be used.

My daughter saved me from a near disaster the other day with a chance comment. We were coming back from Slocan on the school run and she remarked that the white tarp garage that had recently been erected along the highway had collapsed under the snow load. You see these structures more commonly these days – inexpensive storage in a time of ever increasing costs.

As a matter of fact, I had just erected one myself to temporarily store my newly restored Triumph TR6. I had every intention of building a proper garage to see this vehicle through the winter, but never got beyond laying the concrete pad before the snow threatened. It seemed like a cost-effective way to see me into the spring building season – a mere $300 including taxes. I wondered at the time if it would withstand the snow load, but like trying to suss out the best woodstove to buy, everybody has a positive opinion of something they have traded their hard-won money for - it's difficult to get the unbiased dope.

In deference to all those that may be wondering if these structures really work in this climate, here's the poop: First of all you should know that not all of these structures are created equal. Some have poles made of plastic, some of metal. Of the metal varieties that I prefer, some metal poles are of larger diameter than others. In actual fact, this isn't much of a consideration, as most models have a robust enough pole structure to sustain the tent. While all the types I investigated had side coverings, some models have both front and back tarps to keep out blowing snow and sideways rain. The one I purchased only had a back flap and I have been scheming to try to engineer a proper front covering.

The second consideration is size. Try to get the smallest one you can get away with, as the larger the structure, the more unstable they are under a heavy snow load. The problem arises in the span between the roof supporting poles. The greater this span, the more weight is carried on the fabric. This is where things fail. For most vehicles, a garage 10 feet by 20 feet is adequate. My full sized pickup truck will fit into this space.

The third factor is how the poles are secured into the ground. The side poles interconnect to the roof structure and any vertical force is transferred to the side poles. It is absolutely imperative that these poles are securely affixed to the ground. In my case, the garage was being erected onto a concrete pad so I simply used my Hilti gun to fire some concrete nails into the pad. If you are placing the structure directly onto the ground, (as many people do), use the largest nails you can get away with to spike it down to the earth. The wimpy aluminum nails supplied with my kit won't do the job. If these poles move sideways under a snow load, the whole thing will collapse.

The biggest factor, however, is that these tent garages will not support any more than about two feet of snow on them before the fabric rips and the white stuff covers everything you are trying to protect. Now to be honest, I haven't let the snow build up to ripping level yet, but I did shovel the snow off once it did reach this depth, and I judged that it wouldn't be safe to let things accumulate much past this. You just have to keep your eye on the amount of snow on the roof and sweep it off before it gets too deep. Remember that there's fabric underneath and don't poke holes in it. If you have experience beyond my own that you would like to share on these inexpensive storage structures, write to me via the Valley Voice and maybe we can compile a better fact file on whether or not tarp tents will indeed work in our climate.

Oh, and one more thing....have a great holiday season!

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Eating dessert at the Cedar Creek Café

Hello out there all you food fans. Christmas is coming, and here is your Christmas Quiz to see if you've been paying attention. Question number one: What is coleslaw an excellent source of? Question two: what is poutine an excellent source of?

Here are the answers. Mayonnaise, and gravy. You all get an A plus. Well done!

Speaking of A plus, I sincerely urge you to find some time this holiday season to eat at The Cedar Creek Café in Winlaw. It also gets an A plus. Right across highway 6 from the Winlaw store, you've probably known the place in various incarnations over the years, The Cedar Creek Café is hoppin'!!! When I walked in there on Sunday evening I walked into the pleasant din of happy eaters, hustling wait-people, the aroma of fine food and the sound of tasty jazz (live!) at a mellow volume. I immediately liked the place. I liked it even more as I cruised the menu.

Appys? Homemade hummus made with organic chickpeas. (I'll just say right now that this place uses a lot of organically grown food) Poutine is also on the appy page along with Pesto Garlic Foccacia using organic pesto of course. There are 'sides' on the same page, and you can get a side of brown gravy, or for the purists, a side of mayo! My kind of place. Next are home-made soups: Borscht and Wild Salmon Chowder. Are we paying attention yet? Organic greens in all the salads.

There are nine burgers including the Portabella & Asiago Burger along with a bountiful Bean Burger.

Paninis? There are five including Pesto Chicken and Broccoli Walnut with Blue Cheese. Quesadillas and Burritos take up their own page. Ok then. Roll out the pizzas with their thin crusts. There are seven to choose from, but with extra toppings there are at least 500 possibilities.

Dinner fare? Feel free to enjoy the Wild Salmon Dinner or Pesto pasta. Maybe you want fish and chips or a Beef Dip. Go right ahead.

And what did your intrepid food editor choose? Well, one of the specials on Sunday was a 10 oz. steak with all the trimmings. How could I not? The food arrived promptly. The steak was grilled to perfection–medium-rare. Trimmings included zucchini, carrots, mushrooms, onions and heavenly mashed potatoes. Everything was mouth-wateringly succulent. I had to use restraint to keep from inhaling my own dinner and everyone else's. I kid you not!

The Cedar Creek Café is owned and managed by Kim Sparks, Kurt Heimabach and Pete Slevin. They've been open since late September, and they run the biz as a co-op. Kim tells me that every week there are more customers, and I must say that by the time I'd finished my fabulous steak the place was packed. Every table was full. Families, couples, and groups of friends – all of them chatting and laughing and eating while the band played on. By the way, the jazz quartette really swung. I was very impressed by the music.

Kim appeared and asked if I wanted dessert. I don't have much of a sweet tooth and was about to decline when I remembered something on the appy menu.

Treat yourself and someone you really like to dinner at the Cedar Creek Café. It's wonderful, and you can have Poutine for dessert. I did!

Season's Greetings
and
Happy New Year
to one and all,
from Don Munro
Area "H" Director
RDCK

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By Valentine's Day, I'm already getting orders and calls for bicycle sales and repairs. Enjoy your Christmas ski season and remember to give me a call when you see the snow melting away and the bike peeking out!

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CEDAR CREEK CAFE

The steak was grilled to perfection–medium-rare. Trimmings included zucchini, carrots, mushrooms, onions and heavenly mashed potatoes. Everything was mouth-wateringly succulent. I had to use restraint to keep from inhaling my own dinner and everyone else's.

-Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

Season's Greetings and Best Holiday Wishes from Pete, Kurt & Kim

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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

For the last two years, I have been fighting an ailment, which has drained me, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Without the love and support of my family and friends, it would have been even harder to cope with. I wish to thank the following persons that have and are supporting me in every way. My daughter, Ana Kristina, My son, Michael Sean, My mother, Phyllis, My brother, Brian, my sister-in-law, Jane, and the following friends, Gretchen, Scott, Eleanor S., Jan, Dan, Debbie, Don, Jane, Kevin, Eloise, Bean(Charlene) Vanessa, Agnes, Linda, Grant, Sharon, Robin, Danya, Ron, Kate, Karen, Nikita, Garth, Marise, Ganishka, Ruby Lynn, Jean G., Rob, Jean E., Barb L., Penny, Betty, Terry, D.J., Gary, Anne S. Don, Alison, Wren, Anne C., Erika, Liz O'N., Joanne S., Angel S., Miranda H., Alan N., Frances M., Sharie M., Wendy N, Catherine C, Kathryn R, Stella, Michael D, Sharon H, Analisa, Joanne G. If I have forgotten anyone, mea culpa. Forgive me. Happy Holidays in whichever way you chose to celebrate it. Love and peace to all. Blessed be.

Kathryn Le Messurier.

COMING EVENTS

DRAWING/SCULPTURE classes (8x) at Silverton Gallery starting Tuesday, January 9 with Boukje Elzinga and Elly Scheepens. For registration / information, call 358-2689.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE of Lessons & Carols: St. Matthew's Church, 3370 South Slocan Village Road. Sunday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

WE GRAHAM'S ANUUAL SILENT AUCTION & CHRISTMAS CONCERT, Wednesday, December 20th in the school. Silent Auction from 8 am to 7:30 pm. Something for everyone, gifts, wood, firewood, services, a Blaze King Briarwood woodstove, etc. We are also having a book fair, pictures with Santa, food concession, the school concert, and local artisans market. Please join us as we raise money to support the transportation costs for the ski/skate/swim programs. For more information, call 250-355-2212.

DECEMBER YOGA - Tuesday nights 7-8:30 pm; Thursday mornings 9-10:30. Yoga starts up again Monday, January 8th. JANUARY YOGA - Monday and Thursday mornings 9-10:30; Tuesday nights 7-8:30. Mats available, come one and all, and explore your inner radiance!

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

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BEGINNERS HANDSPINNING - With JC Bradford starts January 14th at the Threads Guild Buidling

POLAR FLEECE INTRODUCTION - With Karin Markin, Sat. Jan. 27th in Slocan Park.

VINYASA YOGA - With Kathy Stowell resumes at the Art Farm, Tues. Jan. 9th at 6:30 p.m.

TAI CHI WITH PENELOPE SHANTI - New series begins Mon. Jan. 15th at the Slocan Park Hall.

LET'S GO CURLING - Free curling (with lessons) at the Slocan Curling Club Tues. & Thurs evenings Jan. 16th to 25th - bring the family. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WOMENS DRUMMING - with Bo Conlan resumes Jan. 13th at the Slocan Park Hall. Beginners welcome.

TRIPLE-STEP JIVE DANCE - With Simon Earl. Begins January 24th at Brent Kennedy School.

WINTER LEISURE GUIDE - Will be in valley mailboxes between Christmas and New Years. Watch for it!

226-0008

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

Cutting permits for Christmas trees required

Thinking of cutting your own Christmas tree this year? The provincial government reminds you that a permit is required for this, and can be obtained from FrontCounterBC or the local forest district office. Another option is to visit a U-Cut tree farm.

Free use permits for cutting a tree on Crown land are available from some forest district offices, though cut regulations vary by district, depending on the area's population, forest size, access and conditions. The province's Christmas tree permit website provides links to online permits, local forest district offices, FrontCounterBC, and a list of tree farms. Selling a tree cut under a permit or cutting in unauthorized areas is illegal.

For more information see the website: www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/xmastrees.htm.

CARD OF THANKS FROM ST. MARY'S IN SLOCAN

In Slocan, St Mary's parish worked during the summer and fall to raise money for numerous repairs that have become necessary for the little church. With generosity and support, many local businesses donated prizes for a fall raffle. The winners are: Darlene Whipple won a barbecue donated by Slocan Lake Home Hardware; Sydney Markovic won a Cross Stitch Angel donated by Dorothy Anderson; B. Robichaud won an Oven Dish donated by Sabine's Pottery; Mike Hiebert won a basic Starchoice donated by Slocan Lake Electronics; Pete Hiebert won a Video Basket donated by Mountain Valley Station; M. Hodgkinson won a Gift Certificate donated by the Harold Street Café; Joanna Van Bynen won an Oil Change donated by Larry's Truck and Auto Repairs; and Mike Naylor won a Turkey in a Canvas Bag donated by the Eldorado Market. Springer Creek Forest Products has kindly donated wood to help us fix our siding. We thank everyone who purchased tickets, the local businesses for their donations, and all neighbours throughout the valley who donated and supported our fundraising efforts. From all of us at St. Mary's: thank you and God Bless.

The Valley Voice

wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season!

Next issue: January 17, 2007
Deadline: January 12, 2007
Office Closed December 18, 2006 - January 8, 2007

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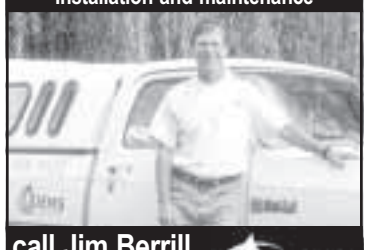

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FLIKS brings *Sketches of Frank Gehry* to The Vallican Whole December 15

Frank Gehry's buildings are like no other buildings on earth - dramatically blurring the line between architecture and art, form and function. FLIKS brings *Sketches of Frank Gehry* to Nelson's Capitol Theatre December 20, and The Vallican Whole December 15 at 7:30 pm.

Gehry's monoliths of stone, glass, steel and wood, like the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the DG Bank in Berlin, all begin with one of the architect's squiggly sketches. He is that rare kind of architect who has garnered both critical and popular fame.

Renowned filmmaker Sydney Pollack, in his first documentary, captures the essence of Gehry's unique architectural process - from squiggly sketch to model to monolith. The dialogue between the filmmaker and Gehry courses like a melodic line throughout, laced with the usual humour that comes with a 20 year friendship. *Sketches of Frank Gehry* runs 84 minutes and is rated PG.

The LA Daily News said of this documentary: "Gehry, a cheerful, energetic, self-deprecating man closing in on his 80th birthday makes for an engaging subject"

Frank Gehry's buildings are the subject of the documentary Sketches of Frank Gehry

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Pat & Peggy and the staff wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season, and all the best in the coming year.

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