The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Area H representative Don Munro receives threatening letters

by Jan McMurray

Don Munro, elected representative for Area H - the Slocan Valley, has received two identical letters with threatening content. The letters are anonymous and have been handwritten in a way that disguises the person's handwriting.

The letter, presumed to be referring to the Official Community Planning process in the south Slocan Valley, reads: "Some people live here 3, 4, 5 generations. You come here like a terrorist to tell us how to live? You have two weeks to stop and make it known publicly. Otherwise you and your friends will regret it to the end of your days. You are warned. Is your dog dead yet?"

One of the letters was postmarked December 11 at Slocan Park. Munro has lost the postmark on the other. He has taken the two letters to the RCMP and has notified the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Munro said he was not "overly concerned" but expressed disappointment that someone would use such a tactic. "One of the reasons I ran in the first place was to try to create an atmosphere of respect, where residents could express their opinions without fear of bullying or intimidation. I think we've come a fair distance on that, but obviously not as far as I had hoped."

He said that when people are asked what they like about the valley, they often reply that they appreciate the diversity of the population – different values, interests, priorities, and so on. "I think one group does not override another. The Community Forest project is a perfect example of people with varying opinions on what should and shouldn't be done in watersheds, but they've agreed to respect the opinions of others," he said.

Staff Sergeant Steve Robertson at the Nelson RCMP detachment has opened a file on this and is interested in hearing from anyone who may have information leading to identifying the person(s) involved and determining their intent.

"These types of anonymous threats have to be taken seriously," said Robertson. "You can't ever minimize these things, especially when they are directed towards a public figure – someone who puts himself out there. As a public figure, you inevitably draw the attention of people who don't agree with you, but this is certainly not the way to express your disagreement. This is a somewhat cowardly way of trying to scare someone."

Robertson confirmed that uttering threats is a criminal offence. "We are working with Munro. He knows that if anything else comes to his attention, he will contact us and we will work together to put a stop to this or arrest and charge the person or persons responsible for it."

Anyone with information can call the Nelson detachment at 352-2156 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Lucerne teachers Patti Sebben and Terry Taylor, with School District No. 10 Superintendent Walter Posnikoff, display the plaque they earned for making a presentation about Lucerne's Spring and Fall into Learning programs at the Learning in Action Showcase held in Vancouver, December 8. This was the first time school districts from across BC met to showcase state-of-the-art teaching practices and display their best ideas for improving student achievement.

New Denver Official Community Plan begins to take shape

by Jan McMurray

About 30 people came out to the first public meeting in New Denver's Official Community Plan (OCP) process on December 18.

Mayor Wright facilitated the meeting, and Ramona Mattix from the Planning Department of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) offices in Nelson, hired to help with the process, was in attendance. Wright explained that the OCP review was essentially a discussion on how residents want to manage growth in the Village.

This discussion is certainly timely, as statistics on building permits and land ownership in the Village illustrate. The value of building permits has risen 1200% since 2002. This indicates more new construction in recent years, where most permits were issued for renovations in the past. As of October 2006, 15 permits had been issued for that year, valued at $693,456. In 2005, 16 permits were issued with a value of $325,091. In 2004, 21 permits were issued, valued at $180,695. In 2003, the 20 permits issued were worth $70,761 and in 2002, the 10 permits were worth $42,413.

People who are not BC residents own 14.5% of all parcels in New Denver, compared to 6% in Area H. In New Denver, 47 parcels are owned by Albertans, 21 by people from other provinces, 28 by Americans and 5 by people internationally. Of the 802 parcels in New Denver, over 10% changed hands in 2005. In Area H, 7% of all parcels sold in 2005.

A number of issues were discussed at the meeting, and then posted on the wall. People had a chance to register their thoughts about each issue by placing a blue sticker to indicate a bad idea and a red sticker for a good idea.

The meeting explored whether or not people should be allowed to rent out their homes as vacation rentals. Currently, a resident can get a special permit to run a Bed & Breakfast in their house, and anyone can have a lodger. However, renting houses during the Valhalla Summer School of Music, for example, is not allowed. Mayor Wright explained that the difficulties with home vacation rentals were that they create competition for the accommodation businesses in town, and they put less pressure on people to rent out their homes to year-round residents. Going by the red and blue stickers, people favoured home vacation rentals by special permit, with a limit on the number of days per year a home can be rented out.

Whether or not to reduce residential building heights was also discussed. Currently, residential buildings can be two-and-a-half storeys high, and 45% of a residential parcel can be occupied by buildings. One resident pointed out that when a tall building goes up, neighbours can lose their light. Six people indicated that reducing residential building heights was a good idea – there were no blue (bad) stickers.

The Orchard generated a lot of discussion, resulting in four posters on the wall: "Consider design guidelines for Orchard" got two bad stickers and five good ones; "Heritage (1900-1940) style in Orchard" got three bad stickers; "Limit building heights in Orchard to single storey" got no stickers; and "Modest, internment feel for orchard" got one bad one.

Charlene Alexander spoke of the cultural and historic importance of the Orchard and its value to tourism. Barb Yeomans agreed, saying she had come to realize that the Orchard was an existing heritage site, not a "fake" one like Barkerville. "That whole area should be looked at as a potential heritage site," she said.

Bill Roberts said that when the grid street pattern came in in the 1960s, we lost the feel of the Orchard as an internment centre, created in the 1940s. Tamara Barkowsky said she felt that limiting buildings to one storey in the Orchard was "a major restriction on new people coming in."

Whether or not we should support the Bear Smart program was another big issue, with nine stickers indicating we should support it and five indicating we shouldn't. Erica Mallam, local bear biologist, confirmed that if New Denver achieved Bear Smart status, different management options such as relocation would be allowed. Some people were afraid that Bear Smart would mean disallowing fruit trees. Mallam explained that the program calls for minimizing attractants, not disallowing them. Peter Roulston said that there are aspects of the program that will "repress our lifestyle," and that we need to be clear about the program's ramifications. Bill Roberts felt that the costs of the program should be known before making any decisions.

Another issue was whether or not to allow a limited number of goats or sheep to be kept in the Village by special permit. This one came out with ten favourable stickers and only one unfavourable one.

Julia Greenlaw of the Healthy Housing Society suggested that the Village consider setting aside money and land for an affordable housing program. That suggestion was given 12 blue (bad) stickers and 10 red (good) ones.

Expanded recycling was very popular, with 15 red stickers, as was limiting noisy machinery operation to certain hours and days (2 blues and 11 reds). An air quality improvement program got six red stickers. Increasing the allowable height for fences and hedges, currently 4' high in front and 6' high in back, was supported by only one person, with five against.

There was some discussion relating to the unprecedented real estate and development boom in the area. Mayor Wright let us know that the septic system limits growth. "We have the capacity to supply twice the amount of water, but the disposal of it is a huge problem," he said, quoting the cost of a sewage system at about $4 million some years ago, when the Village last looked into it.

A few people voiced concern about the increasing number of part-time residents in the village. Charlene Alexander asked how we could attract families. Mattix said that septic systems and attracting families were incompatible. She confirmed that people are generally drawn to an area when there are more amenities, such as arenas, which means increased property taxes. Wright assured that all council members want to encourage full-time residents. He also said the Village of Kaslo was researching the possibility of a municipal homeowner grant, where full-time residents would get a discount on their municipal taxes.

Anne Sherrod urged the community to do something about major development such as the Kokanee Falls cottages going in at Enterprise Creek. "It will drive up our taxes and it's an established fact that people who are longtime residents sometimes have to leave because they no longer can afford the taxes." She suggested that New Denver co-operate with other Villages to take care of the lake.

In an effort to gather as much public input as possible on OCP issues, surveys were handed out at the meeting and were recently sent out to all home owners. The surveys are available at the Village office. Residents are asked to submit the completed surveys to the Village office as soon as possible. Based on public input from the meeting and the surveys, a first draft of the OCP will be done and presented at the second public meeting in the process. .

COUNTRY FURNITURE & HOME DECOR

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A variety of power alternatives are available for valley residents

by Art Joyce

With the increase in 'extreme weather' events caused by global warming, intense pressure is put on power lines and hydro reservoirs. Two power outages in the New Denver-Hills area the first week of January each lasted more than 13 hours. A single outage in the lower mainland on January 9 left 89,000 people without power, due to 60-90 km/h winds. People may be wondering: is it time to switch to alternate forms of energy, or at least, to have backup power systems?

"Now it's starting to hit the mainstream that it's not necessarily good to be on-grid," says Jennifer Stephenson of Jenergy Technology in Nelson, a consultant for solar and micro-hydro energy sytems. "People are starting to question their energy usage rather than just using energy flagrantly. So it's consciousness raising."

She says the problem for alternate energy in BC is the artificially low power rates compared with other countries. Even so, the market for on-grid customers moving into alternative energy systems has grown by 40% in the past 2 years. Many are motivated by concern over greenhouse gas emissions, others by a need for greater independence.

The first step is insulation. By reducing heat loss you reduce energy consumption. A second step is to do an assessment of your 'critical load' — those things you can't do without if a power outage lasts many hours or days. The first concern in winter is heat, but chest freezers storing large amounts of food could be another critical load item. Wood pellet stoves or those fuelled by propane can be reliant on electronic controls. Separate critical load items into a sub panel that can be connected to an alternate energy system or backup generator. An inverter will be needed to convert electric current from DC to AC.

If you're planning a micro hydro system, you should first obtain a water power license from the provincial government. An assessment of your creek geography will be needed to determine whether your property has enough vertical 'drop' to run a small turbine, and whether consistent flow is available. Making sure downstream flow isn't reduced is equally important.

Aren't Kootenay skies too gloomy most of the year to keep a solar panel operating? Stephenson says this is a popular misconception. Canada actually has more solar energy available in the winter than countries like Japan and Germany—both heavy investors in solar technology. Thin film solar panels are best for shady areas and overall winter energy gain but take twice the space of monocrystalline or composite units. A battery system with a three-day reserve is recommended. Every homeowner's situation is unique and each system must be tailored accordingly. A composite of energy sources may be better than reliance upon a single system.

What are the costs? To get a solar system could cost between $5000-50,000. Micro-hydro varies from $8000-12,000, not including installation. Backup generators of any quality, including all hookups, probably $5000. Jeff Ankenman, of Homestead Hydro Systems at Three Forks, says people need to assess their reasons for going micro-hydro. With BC Hydro rates at six cents a kilowatt, it could take a decade to pay off the initial investment in a micro-hydro system for the average electricity user. For families in remote areas, however, the installation of BC Hydro poles and transmission lines can cost thousands of dollars, making micro-hydro the better deal. There are probably a dozen families with micro-hydro systems between Cape Horn and Rosebery alone.

"It's not free power, but it's satisfying," says Ankenmann. "We live off-grid and have electricity that is virtually benign to the environment."

As the economy of scale continues to build, prices will drop. Venture capital investment in the clean energy industry has soared from a paltry $500 million in 2004 to over $2 billion in 2006, according to *The Economist*. Sales of solar panels are at an all-time high, leading to a serious shortage during 2006.

"Solar panels are one of the only products you can buy that will last 40 years and are guaranteed for 25 years," says Stephenson. "When you look at the prices, you're looking at buying energy independence for years and years."

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

January brings weather in and power out

by Jan McMurray

Heavy snow and wind caused many trees to fall on power lines at the beginning of January, resulting in power outages in Nakusp, Burton, Trout Lake, Hills, Rosebery, New Denver, Silverton and Kaslo. The power was out for more than 12 hours in some of these communities on two occasions – overnight January 5 and 6 and overnight January 7 and 8.

BC Hydro representative Amy White explained that the outages lasted so long because of the volume of work for the crews, who work in a priority sequence to restore power. "For example, we need to ensure we restore power to our priority services first, such as hospitals and care facilities, then moving to the substations and then the major circuits to ensure they are working before we can connect individual homes," she said.

BC Hydro encourages customers to call 1-888-POWERON for outage information and to notify the company of trees down on the lines.

Crime statistics released for West Kootenay

by Art Joyce

A police report on crime statistics released by Solicitor General John Les charts crime trends for 1996-2005 in the West Kootenay. Overall, crime has been on the decline for the decade, with a slight boom in 2005.

The number of offenses per 1000 population in the region declined from a high of 99 in 1998 to a low of 71 in 2001, with a gradual increase to 88 in 2005. Multiplied by 100 (8800) to compare with BC offenses for all crimes per 100,000, this still places the West Kootenay far below the provincial total of 11,974 per 100,000 in the year 2000. This figure for the Nakusp area has declined steadily from a high of 100 offenses per 1000 in 2000 to 65 in 2005. The same figure for the Slocan Valley area dropped from 35 per 1000 population in 2000 to 31 in 2004, then surged in 2005 to 42. Kaslo reflected a similar trend, dropping from 97 in 2001 to 83 in 2004, then jumping to 125 offenses per 1000 in 2005.

According to the Solicitor General's report, the case load per officer is actually a better indicator of demand for police services. Again, Nakusp shows a consistent year by year decline, from a high of 111 in 1998 to 64 in 2005. In the Slocan Valley, this figure declined from a high of 52 cases per officer in 2001 to a low of 33 in 2004, with a spike to 46 in 2005. In Kaslo the case load declined from 72 per officer in 2001 to 62 in 2004, then surged in 2005 to 93, the highest level since 1997 (104).

A note of caution: statistics are slippery at best and easily misinterpreted. According to a 2002 report by UBC Professor Werner Antweiler, crime statistics are not necessarily reflective of increases or decreases in crime rates. This has as much to do with willingness to report and the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect certain crimes (such as prostitution and drug-related offences) as it does with actual crime levels. Statistics can also be reflective of policing priorities (and therefore enforcement) from year to year.

For example, averaging crime statistics for the entire West Kootenay region gives a misleading impression of a steady increase. Especially if one only reads the chart for the total number of Criminal Code offenses, with 2005 showing the highest number (5370) since 1998 (5999).

Despite this overall decline in crime during the past decade, the provincial government has added more than 400 new RCMP positions. Some of this increase is reflective of urban priorities, such as major crime, cyber crime, and a new Integrated Gang Task Force. Other staffing increases are for rural and First Nations policing and road safety units.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Kaslo RCMP notes

•On December 31 at 9:20 pm, the Kaslo RCMP and the Kaslo Fire Department responded to a fire at a home in the 1700 block of Zwicky Road. The home was engulfed in flames upon attendance and due to safety concerns, the fire department was unable to get near the fire. The home owner, Vaughn Blais, was not at the residence at the time. There were no injuries and the RCMP investigation is continuing.

•On January 1 at 9 pm, the Kaslo RCMP and the Kaslo Fire Department responded to a fire at the recycling bins on Spruce Avenue. Several of the paper bins had been lit on fire. Two local youths were located near the scene and taken into police custody and later released. Estimate of the damages is over $10,000. The investigation is continuing.

•On January 5, two male youths were seen damaging outdoor equipment that was chained to a wall in the 400 block of Front Street. These youths may also have been involved in damaging the passenger side of parked vehicle. Anyone who may have witnessed this senseless damage being done is asked to call the Kaslo RCMP.

•On January 10, Kaslo RCMP was contacted as a result of an assault with a weapon. While playing in the snow at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Brennand Street, a youth was shot in the leg with a plastic pellet from a soft air handgun. The youth suffered non life threatening injuries and was not required to be hospitalized. A second youth was questioned and as a result, a loaded soft air gun was seized. The investigation continues.

•At 12:22 am on December 22, Kaslo RCMP responded to an intruder alarm at the SS Moyie. As a result of the search of the ship, a 19-year-old female from Kaslo and a 20-year-old male from Kaslo were arrested and taken into custody. Both were charged with break and entering and released. Both are schedule to appear in Nelson Provincial Court on March 19.

•On December 6 at approximately 12:30 pm, a vehicle was parked on Front Street when it had its driver's side window smashed out. The window may have been smashed out by the use of a sling shot or similar tool. Anyone with any information on this incident is asked to contact the Kaslo RCMP or Crimestoppers.

•Kaslo RCMP, with the assistance of the Calgary Police Service, conducted an investigation of a sexual assault involving young persons. As a result of this investigation, one time local resident Ben Charles Christie, age 61, has been charged with two counts of sexual assault and two counts of touching a young person for a sexual purpose.

Students participating in Lucerne School's Friday Lunch and Healthy Snacks programs have earned their Foodsafe certificates. Front row L to R: Brad Mellen, Max Bonazzo, Rumi Nakabayashi, Chelsey Mellen. Back Row: Kyle Bernof, Jamie Magnuson, Brandon Gustafson, Dahv Reinhart,Jeremy Reitmeier, Travis White. Missing - Wade Nelson.

Central Kootenay Regional District
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

CALL FOR PROJECT SUBMISSIONS
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Funding Program

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is accepting region wide proposals for funding consideration from the Community Initiatives & Affected Areas Program sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust. Funding for **2007** is to be used for new initiatives or the enhancement of existing programs and must conform to the goals and objectives of the Columbia Basin Management Plan.

Application packages are available at the RDCK Office at 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson BC, at all participating municipal offices, or can be downloaded from our website at http://www.rdck.bc.ca/corporate/grants/cbt.html

Completed Applications must be submitted *no later than* **4:30 p.m. March 19, 2007** to the RDCK Office, Box 590, 202 Lakeside Dr., Nelson BC V1L 5R4, Attn: Trish Gerald.

For more information, please contact Trish Gerald at Phone: 1-800-268-7325 or (250) 352-8190 Fax: 250-352-9300 e-mail: tgerald@rdck.bc.ca

Public Meetings to review proposals will be announced at a later date.

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West Kootenay Libraries:

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Castlegar Public Library	365-6611
Kaslo Public Library	353-2942
Nakusp Public Library	265-3363
Nelson Municipal Library	352-6333
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Trail Public Library	364-1731

To find out more about literacy programs in your community call 1-866-517-2225 or go to www.cbal.org.

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High property assessments prompt increase in homeowner grant threshold

by Jan McMurray

With BC property assessments for 2007 up overall by about 23%, the Province has raised the homeowner grant threshold to $950,000 from $780,000. If you are among the more than 95% of BC property owners whose home is assessed at $950,000 or less, you will receive the full grant of $570. An additional grant of $275 is available if the owner is over 65, permanently disabled, or eligible to receive certain war veteran allowances.

If your home is worth more than $950,000, the grant is reduced by $5 for every $1,000 in assessed value over this threshold. By the time a home is assessed at $1,064,000, the owner is not eligible for the grant.

The assessed values are the estimate of a property's market value as of July 1, 2006. In our area, assessments are up by more than the overall provincial rise of 23%. This may be because of our lakefront properties.

Dennis Hickson of BCAA says that due to the increased demand for recreational properties, lakefront assessments have increased substantially. "There is a proportionately higher increase for lakefront properties than for upland properties in the villages and rural areas in the Slocan, Arrow Lakes and North Kootenay valleys."

The Village of Nakusp's assessment roll increased from $140 million last year to $187 million this year. A home in Nakusp that was assessed at $110,000 in 2006 is up to $172,000 this year.

The Village of New Denver's assessment roll increased from $53.7 million last year to $71.4 million this year. The sample assessment provided by BC Assessment Authority is a home valued at $124,000 in 2006 and is up to $178,000 this year.

The Village of Silverton's assessment roll increased from $25.2 million last year to $32.0 million this year. A home assessed at $122,000 in 2006 is up to $148,000 in 2007.

The Village of Slocan saw an increase in its roll from $20 million last year to $27.1 million this year. A home assessed at $70,000 last year is up to $110,000.

The assessment roll for the rural area surrounding Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton increased from $486 million last year to $603 million this year. Nelson's rural area increased from $1.55 billion to $2 billion.

The Village of Kaslo's assessment roll increased from $95.9 million last year to $120 million this year. A single family home in Kaslo that was assessed at $100,000 last year is assessed at $127,000 this year.

The rural area surrounding Creston and Kaslo increased from $1.2 billion last year to $1.5 billion this year. According to a press release issued by BC Real Estate Association, "Although not directly tied to property taxes, the increase [in assessed values] traditionally suggests some owners may see a bump in their property tax expense in the future."

Major new construction and development totals more than $19 billion in the province's 2007 assessment roll, a record level for new construction.

Over the past few years residential property values have increased significantly, while commercial and industrial property values remained relatively stable. However, for the 2007 roll, commercial and industrial properties across the province have seen significant increases. Multi-family zoned, and development lands have also shown significant increases over 2006. More info at www.bcassessment.bc.ca.

Property assessments and taxation

New Denver Mayor's message

Like most villagers, I just got my property assessment notice. It's more than 40% higher than last year's. Does that mean my Village taxes will rise by 40% in 2007? Not if my neighbours' assessments went up by the same percentage, and not if New Denver's budget doesn't balloon. Let me explain in general terms.

Let's say I live in a village of just 10 homes, each assessed last year at $100,000. Let's say council voted to raise $5,000 in taxes last year. I would have been billed $500.

What if assessments double for everybody this year; will taxes double, too? Not as long as council only wants to raise $5,000 again. If that happens, I will be billed exactly $500, just like last year. The only difference will be that the tax rate will be cut in half to raise the required money.

In reality there are many wrinkles to this simplified scenario: if my assessment doubles and everyone else's stays the same then of course my taxes will rise and theirs will fall; if the village budgets to raise more money, and there is no new construction to increase the tax base, then somebody in town is going to pay more in actual taxes; even if the village budgets to raise more money, even if assessed values (say) triple, if there is lots of new construction it is possible that my actual tax bill will go down!

Tax implications aside, there is good news for me in my rising property assessment: it indicates that my net worth (at least on paper) is increasing; banks will be willing to loan me more money on a home mortgage.

Forgetting the theoretical stuff, here's what I think my tax bill will really look like in 2007: municipal taxes will rise – not because of assessment increases, but mostly to pay for provincial policing (like towns and cities have long had to do); hospital district taxes will fall (the province is spending less on capital items in our area this year); our share of Regional District taxes may increase because (in this case) New Denver's assessed values have gone up by a greater percentage than the district's as a whole.

School fees issue to become clear during budget time

by Jan McMurray

Since the September 29 BC Supreme Court decision on school fees, school districts have been trying to determine when they can and cannot charge fees, and how this will affect the programs in their schools.

The result of the ruling is that school boards can continue to charge fees for school supplies for a student's personal use, such as paper, writing tools, planners, exercise books and computer discs. However, they cannot charge for any course that is providing credits leading to graduation. Neither can they charge for mandatory field trips.

Both Superintendent of School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) Walter Posnikoff and Superintendent of School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) Bill Reid indicated that the ruling won't have a huge impact this year, as much was already in place and many fees had already been collected before the ruling came down. It is when next year's budgets are being prepared that the impact will become clear.

School District No. 10 has determined that this year, it will have to pay about $27,000 over what was budgeted in order to make up for fees that can no longer be charged to parents. The district will pick up the tab for items needed for the outdoor, textiles and woodworking classes, and the ski program. Thanks to a grant, the Summit Lake Ski Area was able to reduce the cost of the program this year from $18,000 to $10,000.

School District No. 8 has determined that it collects about $120,000 in course fees every year at the secondary level district wide. With about 2,500 secondary students in the district, this comes to about $48 each. The $120,000 does not include fees collected for activities which could be considered extracurricular, such as ski and swim programs. It does include the Valhalla Wilderness Program offered at WE Graham in Slocan. Parents have been paying $750 per year per student for the program, accounting for $8,000 or $9,000 of the total $120,000 collected in course fees.

Reid said he is supportive of the wilderness program and will do whatever he can to make sure it remains.

In response to parent concern over school fees, the Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) spearheaded an online survey for parents. The survey polls parents about the school fees and other related issues, such as the purpose of public education, appropriate funding from various sources, equity and opportunity for every student, and effects on parent involvement. There are now 13 DPACs involved, representing 175,000 students across the province.

Parents of students in School District No. 8 have until January 31 to fill in the survey. It is found at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=304763056195. A link is also available at www.sd8.bc.ca. Those who do not have access to the internet can call 259-352-DPAC for a paper copy.

School District No. 10's DPAC has not signed on to participate in the survey as it has not had a meeting since the survey was launched.

NOTICE OF EXCLUSION APPLICATION REGARDING LAND IN THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

I, Lindsay Edward John Moir of 5539 Dalrymple Hill NW, Calgary, AB, Canada T3A 1R1 acting as agent for Jonn Lillace of PO Box 2320, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4R3 Canada

intend on making an application pursuant to Section 30(1) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act to exclude from the Agricultural Land Reserve the following property which is legally described as,

District Lot 8682, Kootenay District, Except [1] Parcel; A [sketch plan 41801] and 2 Parts included in Plans 7630 and 10512.

and located at Galena Bay off of Ward Road on Upper Arrow Lakes, BC.

Any person wishing to express an interest in the application may do so by forwarding their comments in writing to,

Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD)
781 Marine Park Drive NE
Box 978
Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1
Canada

by January 31, 2007

for further information on the development please go to www.aldl.ca.

January Inventory Clearance Specials

Flooring Department:

1) Lino 12′ Gibraltar "Yellow Sand"
reg $16.95/sy **sale $12.95/sy**

2) Lino 6′ Armstrong Etching "Coffee"
reg $27.99/sy **sale $16.95/sy**

3) Ceramic Tile 12″ x 12″ Autumn White Floor
reg $2.19/ea **sale $1.69/ea**

4) Ceramic Tile 12″ x 12″ Aida "Coffee" Floor
reg $2.99/ea **sale $2.39/ea**

5) Ceramic Tile 12″ x 12″ Hellas "Green" Floor
reg $1.89/ea **sale $1.39/ea**

6) Ceramic Tile 8″ x 12″ Autumn White wall
reg $1.11/ea **sale $ .89/ea**

7) Hardwood Floor 3/4″ x 3 1/2″ Birch "Carmel" prefinished
reg $16.95/sy **sale $12.95/sy**

8) Hardwood Floor 3/4″ x 2 1/4″ Maple prefinished 100 sf only
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9) Laminate Floor 8mm Cherry Plank reg $2.10 s/f **sale $1.69/sf**

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Pursuant to Section 66 of the Transportation Act, notice is hereby given that load restrictions may be placed, on short notice in the near future, on all highways in the following Highways District:

West Kootenay District

As a result of warming trends, temperatures in road bases are increasing. Restrictions will be imposed as conditions warrant.

The restrictions may limit vehicles to 100 per cent, 70 per cent or 50 per cent of legal axle loading, as allowed under the regulations pursuant to the *Commercial Transport Act*.

Overweight permits will not be granted and all term overweight permits are invalid for the duration of the restrictions.

The public and trucking and transportation companies should govern themselves accordingly.

Your cooperation in adhering to the above regulations is appreciated.

Load restrictions can be viewed on the Ministry of Transportation's website at www.DriveBC.ca by clicking on the link for Load Restrictions in the left-hand menu. Service areas 9 and 10 are located under District 4, West Kootenay District.

For further load restriction clarification please contact your local weigh scale.

Glenn Olleck, A/District Manager
West Kootenay District

For more information, please contact:

Duane Neufeld, District Technician
Phone: 250 354-6628

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Voices from the Valleys

The great planning debate...

The pages of the *Valley Voice* continue to be a forum for the ongoing debate on planning in the Slocan Valley. I'm enjoying reading the well-reasoned and passionately held views of all sides.

Can an OCP be developed that will protect and nurture those values that attracted most of us here in the first place? Can we find a way to encourage the individual initiative and entrepreneurial spirit of the residents, and still protect the nature of the place in which we live? How much planning is too much? How much is too little? Is it really necessary at all?

These are all subjects worthy of debate, both in these pages and in the community at large. I tend to support some limited form of planning, but I know many who'd like to see a more detailed document, and a few who'd rather see none at all. Both of these points of view have their merits.

What I'd really like to see is more respect for other points of view. Less shouting at public meetings and anonymous threats delivered by Canada Post. Less pooh-poohing the concerns of those who see planning as a threat to their way of life. More salesmanship and less inuendo. All of us have a stake in this debate. It will affect the way that we live together for years to come.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Values agricultural land

First it's a highway through a blueberry farm, then 130 acres from the ALR at Galena Bay, now a treaty that removes hundreds of hectares of land from the ALR. Has anyone figured out where we will get food from when our agricultural land is all gone?

EI Varty
Winlaw

Alternate approval process flawed

Well the ski hill tax supporters must really be happy now, what with the recent property assessment notices everyone received–what a windfall!

Not wishing to belabor the point, I do feel that people should be aware of what really took place with this alternate approval process.

Right from the start the whole process smacks of what we would expect of some Third World dictator. This exercise starts with the premise that everyone who is eligible to vote has already voted yes without even casting a ballot. Go figure that out! There are no abstentions or fence-sitting, and of course for the yes side no spoiled ballots to discount.

For those who wished to vote no, it wasn't just a stroll down to the polling station to mark your ballot. You had to call the RDCK and request the form to vote no–not too secret, eh? The no voters had to make a very public effort and there was no onus on the yes side to do anything, except laugh.

A few years ago cable TV tried the same thing. They added some programming to their TV cable lineup then billed you for it, and unless you actually took it upon yourself to make the effort to cancel the new programming you were stuck with it–and the bill. After people clued into what had been foisted upon them and the complaints started to pour in, I believe the CRTC ruled against the cable company. Please, tell me the difference? Let's have a proper vote!

Charles Maxfield
Nakusp

Kaslo should buy provincial building and restore City Hall

In spite of repeated opposition by Mayor Jim Holland, all four councillors of the Village of Kaslo have finally got their wish: to allow the voters of Kaslo to have a referendum on the purchase of the provincial building.

The price tag of $120,000 for the building and eight lots will cost the property owners $17 per $100,000 assessment on a 10-year loan and is certainly a bargain. But the question remains: why buy it? The answer leads to another question: are we going to restore the City Hall?

Once again we are dealing with Holland. He steadfastly maintains we can sell the City Hall for $1, someone else will do the restoration and it will be unnecessary to move the council chambers, the building inspector and Village offices while the work is being done.

I disagree, and say we should buy the provincial building now while it is available, leave the library where it is and move everyone over to the provincial building as it provides space while the work on City Hall is being done.

There won't be any savings had by staying put, and using the Province of BC and Village figures, the annual cost to run the provincial building will be approximately $17,500. This could be reduced with a modest rent increase to the current tenants and still be affordable.

It's been two years of overcoming opposition to get to the point where the voters can decide and two and a half years since discussions started on restoring the City Hall.

Something has to be done. Is council capable of setting a budget, timeframe, and end use for the City Hall, or do we have to decide that one too with a referendum?

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Planning needed in Slocan Valley

In my opinion, Director Don Munro is working pretty hard trying to do the right thing.

On the topic of bylaws in this and other regions, I believe that they are very much needed. Just because we live in a rural area doesn't mean that we can do as we please without any regard to the environment or other people. Laws are needed to have some protection against some individuals who couldn't care less about the rights or welfare of others.

Because of bad experiences over the years, I strongly support bylaws for noise and dogs. Fortunately, the Province passed legislation to hold dog owners much more accountable; it was high time.

Development has to be regulated with bylaws to ensure that there is no negative impact on the community or a liability to the municipality.

How would you feel about dust and noise if suddenly your neighbour would open a gravel pit? Or, a kennel with dogs barking day and night? A pig farm with the associated smell? Or, a car repair shop hammering into the night? Maybe a pub with some noisy yahoos leaving at 2 am? How about a bunch of bongo-drumming transients squatting on land owned by an absentee landlord?

We definitely need laws to ensure that the rights of residents are protected and not trampled on by certain individuals. And no, just talking to them doesn't help; they just don't care.

It's enough that there are no laws regarding private land logging, or effective protection for water in this province. Nothing comes easy. It was a 10-year struggle to keep Perry Ridge from being devastated and it's not over; BC Timber Sales (MoF) is going to try again.

Most people live here to enjoy quality of life, not to bring back the 'Frontier Spirit' from 200 years ago and endure some unregulated 'Free Enterprise' or selfish activity.

Yes, we need business and enterprise but not when it brings only profit and benefit to one party while the neighbourhood suffers the negative impacts.

For any development or activity, the first concerns should be: What is the impact on the neighbourhood? Do I have respect for my neighbour? What is the liability to the Municipality?

Globally, disgusting overpopulation, free enterprise, and mindless consumerism is killing this planet. Let's try to hang on a little longer in this region by planning and regulating developments.

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

From the developer of Galena Shores

I am the lead developer on this property (Lindsay Moir) and would like to respond to comments that have been made.

This land was logged in 1994. It currently has a number of rotting ATCO trailers, rusting and abandoned machinery and other equipment on it. Frankly it is an eye sore.

We are planning on three waterfront parks, a green belt, a 60-acre natural forest, and providing the equipment and building for a volunteer fire department. The property is 131 acres and approximately 76 acres will be parks/green belt. All of the parks/green areas will be community accessible. This is not a gated community and we very much want to be members of the Arrow Lakes community.

We were asked by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) to be truthful with them and tell them our plans for the entire life of the project. So, yes we would like to do integrative development in subsequent phases with a range of housing options. We could have avoided this issue and created much less resistance to this project. However, we want to deal with the regulatory authorities and community members in an open fashion from the start. We plan on being members of this community and living here for much of the year.

We are currently preparing our application to exclude the land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). We had a report prepared by the past president of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA). His conclusions are as follows:

(a) The productive agricultural land in the upper Arrow Lake area was flooded during the construction of Keenleyside Dam and Arrow reservoir. There is no agricultural use of land adjacent to the current flood plain of Upper Arrow Lake.

(b) Considering a range of crops that could be adapted to the area, the property has very limited suitability to most crops due to stoniness, the shallow soil profile and seepage. Improvement to these limitations is not considered feasible.

(c) Soil and non-soil bound uses of the property are limited by logistics and capital investment costs related to market access and access to the necessary inputs and infrastructure needs.

(d) Development of an agricultural enterprise on the property could create conflicts with the surrounding properties related to noise, dust, pollution, odour, livestock containment or other activities typically associated with agricultural operations.

When we had our neighbours meeting at our property in Galena Shores we invited our eight adjacent neighbors. Other community members were also interested in attending. We said whomsoever wanted to attend was welcome to. Of the eight adjacent neighbors, one is against the property being developed, one has not responded, one has strong concerns but stood up in the meeting and said that he would support us as developers and requested that the people there do the same, and the other five are all for the proposed development as we have put on our website at www.aldl.ca. We do not have one neighbour that lives full time adjacent to the Galena Shores property.

People who have concerns about this development ARE supporting our ALR exclusion application. The reason is that the best agricultural commercial use (if there is one) for this property is as forage or something like a pig farm. None of the neighbours want this in their backyard.

There was an unfortunate experiment in 1996 when the property was used as a sheep farm. That experiment failed after the sheep destroyed much of the natural fauna in the adjoining area (they escaped) and many were predated by bears and coyotes. Sheep will stand on their hind legs and strip the bark off any tree they can get at, ultimately killing those trees.

As one member of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) put it, this land was raped. Galena Shores will rehabilitate this land, create a wonderful place for the community to enjoy via the waterfront parks and natural forest preserve, provide new ownership possibilities for British Columbians and Albertans, and create many jobs and business opportunities for people in the Arrow Lakes area.

Instead of creating more heat than light, I want to dialogue with people so that we can design a better community for today and tomorrow. The parks we are putting in will be there 100 years from now. The volunteer fire service will make the area safer and provide a sense of community.

If you want to discuss this development please contact me. We have already made several improvements to the plan that are the direct result of community suggestions.

Lindsay Moir, President
Arrow Lakes Developments Ltd.

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

To the KDCFS board and membership:

After a two-month trip away, I expressed my interest to continue offering my planning expertise to the operations committee. I spoke to Robert Mitchell after the last regular meeting of the Community Forest (CF) on December 13, and he expressed his thanks. Both Ken Wapple and myself have been successful in the operations committee and hence helped to make the CF successful over the two and half years of the previous board's mandate.

I learned late last night (January 8) from a CF member that an operations committee meeting had been called. I had not been notified by Robert or any other director. Given the recent history of the CF and its failure to accomplish much of anything since the AGM in September, I felt it was very critical to volunteer my time to ensure the CF meets its obligation to the license and the expected area based tenure.

I will reiterate once again, and I have 25+ years of access planning and development experience, that it is very crucial that this CF not stall operations. It needs to move forward and meet this urgent challenge!

It is very unfortunate that this present board dismissed Barry Rempel. He was chosen after a great deal of deliberation to be the one who could pull all the different resource people together to build a strong viable plan to operate this CF. It seems because of personality issues, issues that may have clouded rational judgement, that we (the CF) are floundering due to indecision and inaction.

I am requesting a response as to why this organization is unwilling to invite previously successful advisors to the operations committee meetings. It is very painful for me to watch the demise of this CF due to a lack of foresight, or a lack of time or energy, certainly a lack of awareness of the amount of work that needs to be accomplished.

Perhaps it is easier to watch the whole thing go down in flames and say we had at least two good years of benefit to the community.

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

Kayden is OK

It really does take a community to raise a child.

There are many of you out there who have helped out a young family in need and then whispered to the person next to you "what happened to them anyway?" Well I think it is only fair that you know what has happened and what you have just donated toward.

Just before Christmas our 13 month old grandson Kayden was air lifted to Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Due to an enlarged heart and a lung infection he experienced cardiac arrest and we lost him for 20 minutes. The Good Lord granted us a miracle this Christmas when he gave Kayden back to us and although he spent three long weeks in the hospital and will endure many medical trips back to the coast, we anticipate that he will live a full and happy life. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our good friends and families for all their love and concern during a very difficult time in our lives. Our little pride and joy, Kayden, is on the right road and although it will undoubtedly be a long and bumpy road we know that with people like all of you on our side we will travel it a lot more smoothly and safely. Having almost lost Kayden was the hardest thing we have had to encounter and we never want to have anything like this happen again.

Thanks to the fantastic care from Dr. Thibadaeu and the staff at Kaslo Hospital and the numerous ambulance attendants, as well as the terrific doctors and nurses at Vancouver Children's Hospital, we feel confident that things are going to get better all the time. We would also like to say thank you to the RCMP for assisting us in contacting Travis in a remote area. It is people that voluntarily help all of us, protecting us and making us feel so safe and secure, that we need to thank. Everyone has been so generous and helpful from donations of merchandise for a silent auction to cash donations from both Kaslo and New Denver in a trust account for Kayden's ongoing medical needs. Thanks to our good friends for the upcoming fundraisers that you are all working so hard on.

Thank you for the financial assistance that Trust for Kids has given Tiff and Cory long before this situation and all throughout. Thanks to Dan and Jan for allowing us to write you here today and inform you all about this tragedy. We can never say thank you enough but please know that without each of you we would have had a tougher time with all of this. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

From the Reitmeier family and the Laybourne family
Kaslo/New Denver

Raccoons in New Denver

We have raccoons in New Denver! My guess is that they were caught in a live trap further down the valley and then dropped off here in the hopes that they wouldn't be able to find their way back. Raccoons are members of the procyonid family and are the only procyonid species in Canada. (The other procyonids are ringtail 'cats' or coatimundis.) These animals are clever and have extremely well-developed and useful front feet, each with five finger-like digits. They walk on their toes and at least part of their soles. Their tracks are unique and easy to recognize.

I lost two chickens to them this winter and my last surviving chicken was killed by a dog that snuck into the coop while I was away at the store. Others in the orchard have lost chickens to the coons and probably to the dog as well. Obviously we will have to build stronger enclosures for our domestic fowl. Not only stronger, but smarter. The raccoon was able to unlock the latch and pull open the coop door with ease. We met eye-to-eye one night. I'm not mad at the coons. I understand that they need to eat, but I'm concerned that they may not be able to find a suitable niche in our local ecosystem and may be forced to raid the local villages for food. Fortunately they are omnivorous and can eat pretty well anything. They like to be close to water and agricultural river valleys seem to provide ideal habitat, so if they find the pickings to be slim up here in the upper valley, they will likely move down towards Slocan. I've run out of chickens, so unless they can find a snack in my compost, they really have no reason to come back to my place. If we're going to catch them, I suggest setting a live trap near a chicken coop because they are attracted to that scent.

These coons are likely a mother and her two surviving young. They usually have four to a litter and the mother stays with them for a full year. Males tend to be loners and are promiscuous; they have no sense of loyalty or obligation to help raise their own offspring. Interestingly enough, raccoons can be great pets, although very mischievous and inquisitive. They can turn on faucets, open latches, pull out drawers and manipulate other devices. Coon-proofing is just as intricate as baby-proofing, and coop-proofing should be done with the knowledge that these animals can do just about anything that a monkey can. They are as smart as a human child when it comes to dexterity and figuring out how to access a reward.

Raccoons are nice little animals and I hope that we can find a way of dealing with them other than just blowing them away. Time will tell.

John White
New Denver

Protest the Alberta/ BC agreement

The free ride for corporations is finally over. Well, not quite. But wouldn't that be a headline to celebrate? Don't give up yet—help make it happen! (Read on.)

The latest round in the incremental impoverishment of our economies and democracy is the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Act (TILMA). TILMA is essentially an inter-provincial free trade act that seeks to remove any remaining regulatory boundaries to corporate profit. Provinces signing the deal must agree to 'harmonize' regulations, meaning they must be reduced to the lowest common denominator. In the case of BC and Alberta, if the latter province has lower environmental standards than ours, then ours can be struck down by a TILMA arbitration panel as a potential 'trade barrier.' This would likely come in the form of a lawsuit by a corporation claiming 'damages' or 'lost income' from a regulation limiting its activity.

Heritage regulations requiring restoration over demolition could be among the first to go as developers argue that they represent a barrier to cost-effective construction. The same could go for municipalities that have chosen not to allow billboards: under TILMA, this could be construed as a trade barrier, a legitimate cause for a lawsuit against the municipality. Although suits are limited to $5 million, there is no limit to the number of lawsuits that could be brought by different companies. Small communities could easily be bankrupted.

A similar legislation introduced in Oregon, Measure 37, was slipped in under the guise of 'protecting property owners.' The state government is required to either pay compensation to property owners for regulations that potentially lower assessed values, or waive the regulations. Under this Trojan Horse, 85% of the cases brought up have been by property developers, not homeowners.

Publicly owned utilities, hospitals, libraries and anything else representing an 'unfair subsidy' (i.e. one private industry doesn't have yet) are all potentially on the TILMA hit list. A municipality choosing to support local over non-local businesses could also find itself facing a TILMA lawsuit.

By the way, thanks to Premiers Gordon Campbell and Ralph Klein, you already signed up for this agreement, even before you knew a thing about it! TILMA will go into effect for BC and Alberta in April this year. So while we good citizens have been attending Regional District and Village OCP review meetings to determine how we want to run our communities, TILMA has been put into effect to undo aspects of these OCPs should they ever stand in the way of business interests. TILMA makes a farce of our public participation unless we make it clear to the likes of Campbell and Klein that we — their employers, after all — won't stand for it. Write them today!

Art Joyce
New Denver

Opposes removal of land from ALR for Galena Bay development

I oppose removal of District Lot 8682, Kootenay District, located at Galena Bay from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

I am the long-time owner, and now co-owner with my brother, of that part of District Lot 7819 which has an adjoining corner with District Lot 8682. Our property is in the ALR.

Protection of agricultural land is vital to the future of the human species.

Searching a local history book, (*Silent Shores and Sunken Ships*, published by the Arrow Lakes Historical Society in Nakusp), I found that the lots on either side of Lot 8682 were originally farmed. The Shaw farm was on Lot 2111; and the Nelson farm was Lot 2110. In fact, the Genelle Logging Company had cleared both lots 8682 and 2110 prior to John Nelson's purchase of Lot 2110. There were, and are, no magical boundaries around Lot 8682. It would be no different from the lots on each side of it.

Further reading in this excellent resource, plus information given to me in the past by Mr. Walter Nelson, son of John Nelson, the owner of Lot 2110, and a lifelong resident of Galena Bay to that time, showed that Galena Bay, when settled by those of European extraction, became a close-knit farming community. That fact convinces me that the inclusion of land at Galena Bay in the ALR constituted recognition of the historical agricultural use of the area.

A large part of Electoral Area B – the Columbia River Valley south of Revelstoke, the northeast arm of the Arrow Lake, and Galena Bay – was deprived of excellent farmland by implementation of the Columbia River Treaty, and creation of the Arrow Reservoir. In light of that, I would respectfully request that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District remember this historical wrong, and not add insult to injury by sanctioning an application to remove still more land in the area from the ALR.

The use to which a piece of land is put depends greatly upon the owner! For instance, I believe that Lot 8682 would be ideal for an agroforestry development. I belong to a group which is currently exploring rural economic development and diversification through agroforestry. The West Kootenay Herb Growers Co-operative's purpose is to develop herbal opportunities that balance core economic, social, and environmental values. We are currently conducting growing trials of Hawthorn. This agroforestry initiative involves growing and replanting medicinal woody perennials such as Hawthorn, and native rose bushes. We seek to protect or restore riparian areas, support biological diversity, and create sustainable economic development. Co-op members aim to grow, harvest, or ethically wild-craft such herbs as: Cascara bark; Hawthorn flower, leaf, and berry; Wild Sarsaparilla; Rosehips; Wild Huckleberry; and Devil's Club. The very wet and open conditions of Lot 8682 would make it well-suited for growing Hawthorn plants. Judging by plants found on lot 7819, Wild Huckleberry, Wild Sarsaparilla, and Devil's Club are likely to be found on Lot 8682 as well. And the fact that this property was logged twenty-two years ago would make it well-suited to restoration efforts.

I also believe that a productive market garden could be developed on Lot 8682. I gardened successfully on Lot 7819 for many years. The Spicer organic farm at Nakusp has supplied residents of the area for decades (including Revelstoke's farmer's market in past years). As the slow, and local, food movements grow, there will be ample opportunity for such agricultural developments. Revelstoke's new resort development, or the Halcyon Hot Springs development south of Galena Bay, could keep an organic market garden undertaking very busy indeed.

Marilyn Taylor
Nakusp

New Denver council, January 9: Centennial Park plan finalized

by Michael Dorsey

• A plan for Centennial Park was approved. The original plan was substantially revised after gathering input at two public meetings. There will be no space set aside for a skateboard park; the ball diamond will stay where it is; a gate will go in at the backstop so that it can be opened up during events; ball park seating will be fixed up; a bearproof locker will be attached to the back of the dugouts for cyclists; a concrete pad will be poured at the cook house for a possible future barbecue pit; playground equipment will be replaced; camping will be expanded; the boat launch will be fixed and extended. Also, the May Days committee is planning to replace the bingo gazebo with a bandstand. More information is available at the Village office.

• Mayor Wright attended a meeting with Student Association President Isaac Carter. He reported that the association supports a skateboard park.

• Councillor Bunka praised Valerie Piercey, New Denver's Emergency Social Services Co-ordinator, for her efforts during the long power outage on January 6. Bunka and Piercey visited a number of residents that day to let them know they could go to the Slocan Community Health Centre to get warm and have a bowl of soup or a hot drink. They also shovelled people's walks where necessary. In the event of a prolonged power outage or other emergency situation, residents who need help can call Bunka at 358-7141.

• Mayor Wright reported he would meet with Silverton Mayor Everett to assess the shared garbage pick-up. He was also to meet with Valhalla Fine Arts (Valhalla Summer School of Music) to hear about the society's plans to continue expanding. This year, the society would like to offer a film program, and will continue with its music and drama programs.

• Wright also reported that he had attended a meeting initiated by School District No. 10 regarding the Community Connections program. This program provides funding for school districts to get together with local governments and other community groups to explore ways they can work together, i.e. share facilities, to realize cost savings. School District No. 10 received the first round of funding, which was used to facilitate this meeting. The second phase of funding amounts to $40,000, and the third phase would provide 25% (up to a maximum of $125,000) of the total cost of an approved project. Ideas shared at the meeting included promoting early learning and educational programs that are offered outside of the school system, such as Valhalla Fine Arts programs.

• Mayor Wright also reported on Regional District business. He spoke of the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital board meeting, where the budget was revealed at $4.8 million – a 50% decrease from 2006. Included in Projects is a $600,000 parking lot at the Trail Regional Hospital, suggesting the hospital is not being phased out at this time. Locally on Health Matters, it was reported that the gym at the health centre is working very well.

• The Slocan Lake District Chamber of Commerce requested a grant-in-aid in the amount of 80% of the 2006 business licence fees (about $2,000) to buy a digital projector for the Visitor Information Centre. Council approved the request.

• Council will begin 2007 budget planning meetings February 5 at 9:30 am. This meeting is open to the public.

• Public Works requested direction on the water tank, which needs to be either lined or replaced. This was referred to budget discussions.

• Council is looking at BC government funding programs, which all have an application deadine date of February 16. These programs are available to community groups as well as to local governments. For more information, contact Administrator Carol Gordon.

• A letter from resident Steve Lones complimented BC Hydro on the new streetlight installed on Bellevue near 8th. The light is shaded, so it does not shine in upper windows of homes or interfere with the sky view. Council directed staff to find out about Hydro replacing the village's existing lights with these.

• Councillor Bunka reported that she will be meeting with Fire Chief Casley, Administrator Gordon, and Silverton Councillor Stephanie Masun regarding wildfire risk management. Council agreed to set aside funds to have an expert on the subject come to New Denver in the spring, when he is next scheduled to be in the area.

• Council received a letter from Liza Ireland, director of the Changing Climates Environmental Society, requesting a letter of support for the establishment of the Canadian Educational Centre for Sustainablity. This is envisioned as an "international centre for excellence in education for sustainability," according to the concept paper Ireland submitted with her letter. Council will provide a letter of support.

• Council received a letter from resident Art Joyce regarding the BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). Mayor Wright directed staff to gather more information on the agreement.

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

Dog owners in the Village of New Denver are reminded that all dogs residing in the Village of New Denver are required to have a current dog licence. There is a $15.00 discount for all dog licences purchased by February 15, 2007.

License fees are:

Unspayed Female	$50.00
Unneutered Male	$50.00
Spayed Female	$25.00
Neutered Male	$25.00

PUBLIC NOTICE

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

Pursuant to Section 127 and in accordance with Section 94 of the Community Charter the Village of New Denver is required to post notice at least once a year of dates, times and place of regularly scheduled Council Meetings:

2007 MEETING SCHEDULE

Council Meetings – held at 7:00 p.m. in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC.

January 9th and 23rd	July 10th and 24th
February 13th and 27th	August 14th and 28th
March 13th and 27th	September 11th and 25th
April 10th and 24th	October 9th and 23rd
May 8th and 22nd	November 13th and 27th
June 12th and 26th	December 11th and 25th

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

Subject to section 166 of the Community Charter, the Council of the Village of New Denver invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village's 2007 Five Year Financial Plan. Council will be holding its first budget meeting on Monday, February 5, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. Council welcomes public input from residents of the village with regards to items of concern they would like to see addressed in the budget. Please submit your comments or advise the Village of New Denver Municipal Office should you wish to make a presentation, by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, 2007. Village of New Denver Municipal Office – 115 Slocan Avenue, PO Box 40, New Denver, BC. Phone: 250-358-2316.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Silverton council, January 9: Mayor and councillors get raise

by Art Joyce

•A late addition to the agenda was Bylaw 443-2007, to set the mayor and council's salaries and expenses. Mayor Everett explained to the public that the last time these amounts had been increased was in 1994. Current salaries are $1,200 per year for the mayor and $800 for councillors, which places Silverton at the lowest paid municipality in the province, Everett said. The bylaw proposed new rates of $4,000 for the mayor and $2,000 for councillors, to be offset by a recent increase of $30,000 in the annual Small Communities grant made to the Village.

Councillor Provan expressed discomfort with the steepness of the rise in pay and proposed an amendment setting the rates at $3,000/$1,200.

Councillor Laktin was also uncomfortable with the raise. The amendment passed, with Councillor Bell abstaining. The bylaw passed its first three readings and awaits final adoption.

•Dog licensing and control Bylaw 445-2007 generated some discussion around the issue of enforcement for newly introduced penalties. CAO Ida said an animal control officer could be appointed as needed on a case by case basis from Village staff. Councillor Bell said the job often falls to Commissionaires, retired members of the police or armed forces, of whom there are many in the area who would likely be willing. The bylaw passed its first three readings, with Councillor Provan abstaining.

•Bylaw 444-2007, setting new business license rates passed its first three readings. Cost increases in business licenses are reflective of increased costs for fire inspections.

•Mayor Everett brought forward his amended resolution to petition Telus and Rogers Communications for cell phone in the Slocan Valley, specifically the communities of Slocan Park, Winlaw, Appledale, Slocan City, Silverton, New Denver, Rosebery, Hills and Summit Lake.

The mayor's resolution states that "the travelling public consider cell phone service essential in 2007 and Telus no longer wishes to support, maintain or install pay phones," citing the lack of service as a hindrance to "the economy, health and safety of the above communities." The resolution passed, with Councillor Provan voting against, and is to be forwarded to the Village councils of New Denver, Nakusp, Kaslo and Regional District directors for Areas H & K for possible endorsement.

•The Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall asked for Village support for an application to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program (MRIF) for upgrades to the hall. The proposed budget of $85,000 would cover kitchen renovations ($40,000), used commercial appliances ($25,000), tables and chairs ($10,000), staging and lighting ($10,000). The grant covers up to two-thirds of project costs, provided the Village and Friends partner to raise the remaining third. Council voted to support the application.

•A $400 grant was received from Trees Canada to replace trees cut from the main street. Council discussed the possibility of combining this money with the Zero Crash month award to complete boulevard restoration. Councillor Provan noted that there are still grants available from the federal Municipal Rural Infrastructure program (MRIF) that could be used for sidewalks, water, campgrounds, etc. to meet the program's completion date of March 31, 2010. Mayor Everett and other councillors agreed the Village has its hands full with projects to manage this year.

•The Valhalla Wilderness Society's request for Village support of its BearSmart initiative was referred to budget deliberations. Liza Ireland's request for a letter of support for her proposed Canadian Educational Centre for Sustainability was granted. A request to waive the Memorial Hall rental fee for the Winter Blues Boogie was granted.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

OCP Review Questionnaire

Those residents of the Village of New Denver living in rental homes are invited to stop by the Village of New Denver Municipal Office at 115 Slocan Avenue, and pick up an OCP Review Questionnaire. The questionnaire was mailed out in the 2007 utility billings to all property owners, however Council would like to hear from all residents of the village as to how they envision the future of our community. Please return all questionnaires by either dropping them off or mailing them to the Village of New Denver, PO Box 40, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0, by February 8, 2007.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Slocan Lake Early Learning looks forward to 2007

submitted

The children at the New Denver Nursery School want to thank everyone in the community who help make their program happen. They love their home in Lucerne School, and enjoy the use of the gym and library. They occasionally have big buddies from the older classes. The program couldn't happen without the support of School District #10 and all the local people who make regular monthly donations, buy raffle tickets, save bottles, participate in the cake walk and attend the yearly Dr. Fun Dance. All of these help with the cost of having a preschool program.

National snowmobiling magazine features New Denver

by Art Joyce

Has New Denver been 'discovered'? The joys of snowmobiling the back country around New Denver were featured in the October issue of *SnoWest Canada* magazine. The eight-page spread features spectacular photographs from two days of snowmobiling the Enterprise Creek and 12 Mile Creek wilderness.

SnoWest editor Lane Lindstrom was guided by Joan McKay and Albrecht Jost of the Valhalla Inn. "If you're making a list of must-rides in BC, then put New Denver right near the top," writes Lindstrom. "This is a huge swath of land with at least nine different and distinct riding areas, all within about a half-hour of town." Hicks Creek, Shannon Creek, Lemon Creek, Springer Creek, and Harlow Creek are also listed.

The magazine feature is a coup for local business owners McKay and Jost, who have been licensed snowmobile guides for about four years now. The couple are acquainted with Lindstrom through snowmobile trade shows. Lindstrom travels across Canada and the US doing features for both the American and Canadian editions of the magazine, and suggested the New Denver story.

"When they approached us and asked us about our interest in doing this, we expected maybe a half page, so we were more than happy with what we got," says McKay.

Avid snowmobile hobbyists, the couple decided one way to boost the long winter slump in business at the inn would be to get certification to do guiding. This requires training in wilderness first aid, usually from the Red Cross, and avalanche training from the Canadian Avalanche Association. The CAA provides daily e-mail updates on snow conditions, weather reports and avalanche activity.

McKay and Jost market their snowmobile tours through a circuit of trade shows in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Washington state. They also have a website but McKay estimates that probably 90% of their business comes from the trade shows.

"That's been the focus of our advertising because you're face to face with your potential customers."

Although McKay feels the New Denver area could use more winter recreation, she acknowledges that the infrastructure — a commercial ski hill for example — isn't there. She says it's too early in the season to tell whether the SnoWest feature will boost business, but they have had phone calls about the story. The same article appears in an annual publication known as the *Western Guide to Snowmobiling*.

"October was actually a good month to have it come out, because it's just pre-season and the trade shows start happening then too."

Vallican Whole Tropical Cantina beats the winter blues

submitted

Sick of winter? On Saturday, January 27, samba on down to the Vallican Whole Community Centre and bask in that tropical glow! At 5 pm, the doors open on the Tropical Cantina, guaranteed to be the most fun you and your friends will have so far this year.

Last year's Tropical Cantina at the Vallican Whole sure looks like a whole lotta fun! Don't miss it this year – January 27 at the Vallican Whole.

Admission is by donation, but organizers will be happy to relieve you of any extra funds you have throughout the evening. Proceeds from the event go to further the work of the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS), the organization whose main focus is running the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

The fiesta features Barb's scintillating selection of southern sounds, emanating from a large, ersatz Wurlitzer jukebox. Comestibles include Sam's bodacious burritos, Sally's and Carolyn's tempting tamales, a selection of sugar treats from Fomi's, and Moe's mesmerizing margaritas. Non-alcoholic and other beverages will also be available.

At centre stage will be tables laden with silent auction items, including original art, intriguing collectibles, and even electrical services. Another fun feature will be the Guess the Number of Beans in the Jar contest, the proceeds from which will be donated to a worthy cause somewhere in Mexico.

Kaila is putting together two piñatas, one stuffed with a decidedly adult selection of goodies, and the other geared toward children. This is an adult-oriented event, however, so any youngsters who show up will have to be content in the company of the older set.

Last year the Cantina was a hugely successful and enjoyable event. Organizers were delighted to find that for most people, the best part of the evening was enjoying each other's company. When was the last time you sat down for a few hours with your friends, family and neighbours to hang out, eat, drink and gab?

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

Knotty Roots Hardwood Flooring open for business

A new family business in the area is now offering installation, sanding, finishing, and refinishing of hardwood flooring. Knotty Roots Hardwood Flooring also supplies locally milled wood flooring products.

The name of the business pays tribute to the trees from which a wood floor originates and recognizes that flooring is part of where a family puts down roots: in the home.

Knotty Roots Hardwood Flooring uses mainly water-based finishing products that are more environmentally sound and healthier for clients than petroleum-based products. A dustless sanding system virtually eliminates the amount of dust created while sanding a hardwood floor. Clients do not need to employ costly cleaning services to remove wood dust from their house and furnace ducts.

Providing quality service at a fair price is important to the Knotty Roots business partners. They are committed to seeking out wood and finishing products that are cost effective, ecologically viable, and sustainably produced.

Two families have partnered to bring this business to the area. Justin Swainson and Tim Reilly provide the contractor flooring services, while their wives, Meaghan Swainson and Raina Gardner, work together to manage the office and care for the children.

Contact Knotty Roots Hardwood Flooring at (250) 226-6773.

Fifteenth anniversary for Dr. Fun at Silverton Blues Boogie

Dr. Fun and the Nightcrawlers will celebrate the band's 20 years together while playing at the 15th Annual Winter Blues Boogie on Saturday, February 3, in Silverton.

Popular high energy vocalist Wren Hobson will join the band onstage for a few numbers to commemorate the anniversary. The main attraction, as always, is the 11-piece R&B group. Fronted by Dr Fun, the consummate showman and vocalist, and backed by the five-piece Hounds of Sound Horns, they induce a mood so danceable that the floor is packed from the opening downbeat into the wee hours.

At evening's end, with the 150 or so remaining diehards chanting for one more tune, the exhausted band plays the final encore. The grateful crowd cheers and applauds, the stage is cleared of overheated equipment and the community is already contemplating next year's extravaganza as the floor is being swept. And as if by a miracle, the sun always seems to shine brightly on the mountains Sunday morning.

This gathering has grown from a local event to a major attraction for dance fanatics from all over southern BC, Washington, Idaho, Calgary, and even South Carolina, as fans bring back friends for this exciting blues party.

The Village of Silverton is buzzing in anticipation of visitors who have already reserved lodging and tickets. Local businesses are planning extended hours and 15th anniversary T shirts are being printed for sale. For the heartier partyer, there will be a Groundhog Plunge into the icy waters of the lake Sunday morning.

The party has been sold out for the past 11 years, and no tickets are available at the door. Admission is $15, and all profits this year go to the Slocan Lake Preschool. For further information on tickets or lodging: call Dick or Barb at 358-7765.

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

Area "H" North TV Society
AGM
7:30 pm Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Hidden Garden Gallery

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy would like to thank their fabulous Staff, Volunteers and Advisory Committees for all their hard work and dedication to making the communities of the Arrow and Slocan Lakes area, The Slocan Valley and Kaslo area literacy-friendly.

Special thanks also to our funders and supporters:
The Columbia Basin Trust
Selkirk College
School District # 10 & School District # 8
The Nakusp and Kaslo Public Libraries
Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society
KootenArrow Networks & The Edge
Nakusp & Area Community Foundation
Literacy Now & Literacy BC
BC Ministry of Advanced Education
Office of Learning Technologies (HRSDC)
Industry Canada
BC Gaming Commission
Terra Pondera Clubhouse
WE Graham Community School
Vallican Whole School
Village of Slocan
Regional District of Central Kootenay
MLA Corky Evans & Staff
Susan Mulkey and Associates
Our Public Health Nurses & Interior Health
Slocan Valley Recreation
The Valley Voice, Arrow Lakes News & Pennywise
WK-Boundary Supported Child Development Program
Jennie's Book Garden
Polestar Calendars
Sono Nis Press, Orca Books, Rainforest Books
Rotary
Kootenay Lake Family Network
Our local youth and seniors groups

Happy Family Literacy Day Everyone!

Minor Hockey Week celebrates 50 years in Canada

submitted

Can you guess where Minor Hockey Week originated? It started in the only city that can claim two world hockey championship teams.

If you guessed Trail, you're a hockey history expert!

Cities and towns across Canada plan Hockey Week festivities every year. Seven years ago, CBC jumped on board with three NHL games and a host city, branding their broadcast day "Hockey Day In Canada." This year's 13-hour hockey marathon, serving as the unofficial kickoff to Minor Hockey Week, was on Saturday, January 13 – and the CBC hosted the show from Nelson.

In 1953, a hockey fanatic in Trail by the name of Charlie MacLean originated the idea for Minor Hockey Week in Canada. He drafted a proposal which was accepted unanimously by the Trail Minor Hockey Association and with its instant success, it moved to the provincial level and then a few years later on to the national level where it was adopted by the Canadian Amateur Association. From 1957 onwards, Minor Hockey Week was celebrated across Canada.

"Although Charlie MacLean passed away 40 years ago, he represents the heart of the many sports volunteers we have in Trail today," says Trail's Mayor Dieter Bogs.

Minor Hockey Week in Canada turned out to be a huge success. The idea was to celebrate the people who make our national game available to our children and reinforce the idea that minor hockey is a community asset to be cherished.

Play safe, have fun!
PETRO-CANADA
Glacier View Service
Hwy 6, New Denver

Players' strikes.
The Goon Squad.
Outrageous ticket prices.
AVOID IT ALL AND GET IN THE *REAL* GAME!
Enjoy hockey at its purest and finest— support Minor Hockey!
Kaslo Automotive
441 Front St • 353-2645

We are proud of all our players, and grateful to all the coaches, referees and other adults who help make it all work so well.
Congratulations and have fun!
Village of Kaslo

Keep your kids out of hot water - put them on the ice!
Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"
422 Front • Kaslo • 353-2594

Hockey not only teaches our kids how to accept a loss with sportsmanship, but also how to be a gracious winner. What a great way to learn how to be a Class Act!
Play safe & have FUN!
North Kootenay Lake Veterinary Services
Pat Haegedorn, DVM and staff
9580 Cowan, Kaslo • 353-7125

Message from Christine Rempel, Kaslo Minor Hockey Association President

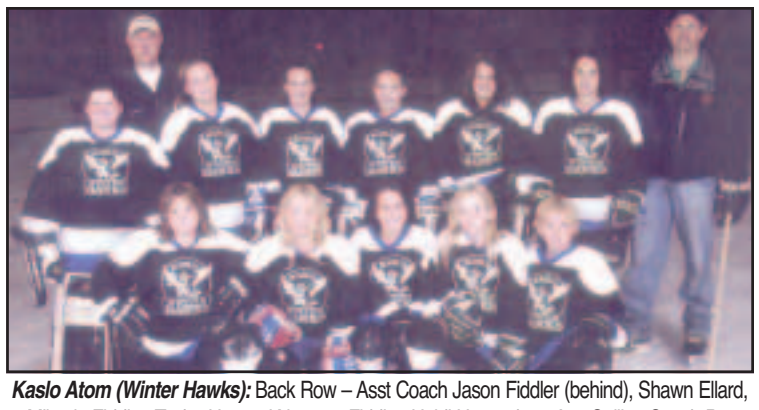
This year in Kaslo we have been able to field house teams at all levels, from Initiation, to Midget. The coaching staff has been great, working hard to develop individual skill and team work.

Each team has hosted or will host a tournament this season, which is always an adventure for the management of the team. So far all have been successful. With the renovations on the arena, hosting large crowds has become much more manageable. We have received many compliments on our new lobby and change rooms.

The referee staff is smaller this year with four exceptional adults on board, and many keen and talented young refs coming up and being kept quite busy. The decline in referees is a reflection of a problem across the country and the minor hockey associations are trying to address this issue by educating coaches, players and spectators to have more respect for the on ice officials. I believe there are more potential refs in our community that are stepping forward. It will be nice to have them out next year!

I would like to take this chance to thank all the volunteers in Kaslo which are required to make each and every hockey game happen. Without all the hours of hard work we would not have the pleasure of seeing those bright smiles come off the ice after a hard fought hockey game. Come on up and watch a game!

Kaslo Midget (Winter Hawks): Back Row – Asst Coach Jeff Zilkie, Tim Tyers, Joe Wood, Shane McKinnon, Morgan Mattas, Kirk Settle, Nick Jones, Cody Bens, David Zilkie, Coach Rob Zilkie. Front Row – Chad Jones, Amanda Turner, Cari Walker, Luke Weber, Brad Reimer, Nicolas Gagnon. Missing – Cheryl Rempel, Francois Gagnon, Jared Berry.



Kaslo Atom (Winter Hawks): Back Row – Asst Coach Jason Fiddler (behind), Shawn Ellard, Mikayla Fiddler, Tasha Hewat, Kristanna Fiddler, Heidi Haegedorn, Ava Collier, Coach Pat Haegedorn. Front Row – Kathryn Haegedorn, Savanah Cockrell, Ellie Hewat, Breanna Tate, Ishmani Baker. Missing – Asst Coach Rye Cockrell.

Kaslo Novice Team (Winter Hawks): Back Row – Coaches Bub Patience, Owen Bendis (missing), Asst Coach Shane McKinnon. Middle Row – Liam Patience, Chance Harper, Ethan Early, Cat Hartland, Mieszka Weeks, Adam Khadikin, Conor McIntyre (goalie). Front Row – Hannah Command, Haley James, Ayden Boulton, Cole Bendis, Kevin Alexander. Missing – Daniella Hansen.

Kaslo Bantam (Winter Hawks): Back Row – Mike Guttensohn, Dustan Tyers, Matt Guttensohn, Leah Aassen, Liam Mitchell, Cam Settle, Shawn Sicotte, Coach TJ Tyers. Front Row – Alan Grant, Lindsay McKinnon, Peter Reimer. Missing – Angus Collier, Jesse Berry.

Kaslo Pee Wee (Beachcombers): Back Row – Coach Rob Tate, Connor Robertson, Gillis Leathwood, Andrew Pelletier, Ross Jacobs, Ryan Tate, Shawn Sicotte, Asst Coach Colin Jacobs. Front Row – Biaki Weeks, Braelyn Patton, Scott Mitchell, Sam Weber, Peter Reimer. Missing – Asst Coach Glen McRae.

Kaslo Initiation Team (Mackers Attackers): Back Row – Emily Early, Brendan McIntyre, Avery Enns, Mikenna Hansen, Kittel McKenzie. Front Row – Ember Hartland, Allison Bendis, Holly Boulton, Kai Simmonds, Harley Command, Elijah Havers. Coaches (missing) – Jason Boulton, Blair Enns, Deedee Bendis, Kirk Settle.

Just as hockey players need support from the team, our kids need support from the community.
We salute our minor hockey players and all the coaches, officials and fans who work so hard to support them!
Kaslo Building Supply is a proud supporter of Minor Hockey Week and wishes all players the best of luck!
Kaslo Building Supply
6521-Hwy 31, Kaslo • 353-7628
True Value Hardware

"The fortunate side to our losses, is that they frequently teach us much more than our victories."
Mark Twain

Have a great Hockey Week!
FALKINS INSURANCE GROUP
405 Front St, Kaslo • 353-7633

Want to know what's become of today's youth?
Check the rink. They're learning skills, like teamwork and sportsmanship, that'll last them a lifetime.
Kaslo Drugs
403 Front St, Kaslo • 353-2224

Congratulations on your dedication and achievements. Be proud of your sportsmanship, but most importantly...
HAVE FUN!
Kaslo Bay Resort
formerly "Beachcombers"
551 Rainbow • 353-7777

The door to Success is often locked.
One of the keys to that lock is Teamwork, on the ice and off.
Best wishes to all our great teams for Hockey Week!
Megla Trucking
Box 924, Kaslo • 353-2918

This is what Dave & I like about hockey - there's no 'i' in team.
IT'S ALL TEAM WORK!
Teresa's
More than a Sandwich Shop
400 Front • Kaslo • 353-2115

Enjoy the COOLEST game in town!
Woodbury
4112 Hwy 31 • 353-7717

HARTECH AUTOMOTIVE
Just as important as being a good loser, is knowing how to be a gracious winner.
Have a great time for Hockey Week!
8845 Hwy 31 • Kaslo • 353-2800

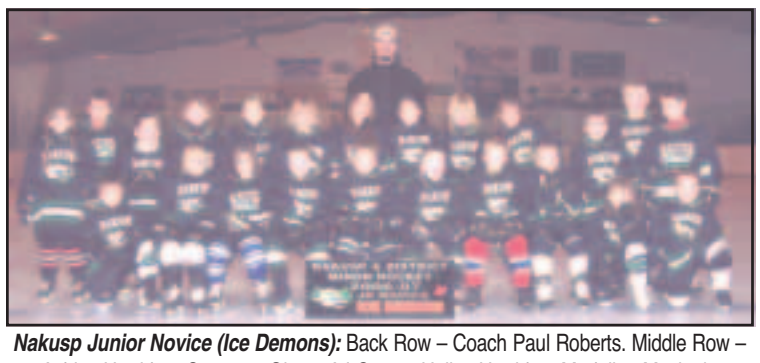
Nakusp fields seven minor hockey teams this year

Nakusp Atoms House (Bandits): Back Row – Coaches Ralph Dachwitz, Barry Streliev, Malcom McInnes. Middle Row – Quentin Volansky, Kira Streliev, Greyson Reitmeier, Zachary Friedenberger, AJ Hughes. Front Row – Josh Rivers, Luke Raboud-Neil, Colton Dachwitz, Tony Kohler, Greg Markholm, Dugan McInnes

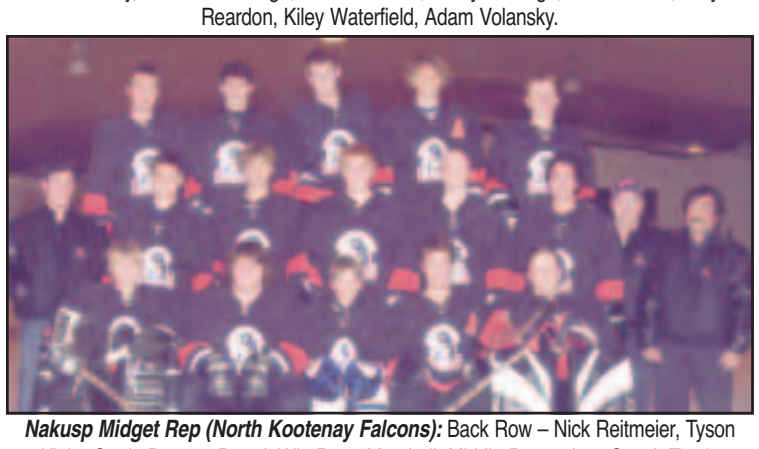
Nakusp Pee Wee Rep (Falcons): Back Row – Jade Streliev, Ray Brown, Coach Rich Brown, Jacob Balske, Damin Devlin. Middle Row – Asst Coach Ken Nishida, Kellan Nishida, Mitch Zorn, Mateus Dachwitz, Levi Cordingley, Dylan Hascarl, Asst Coach Wayne Hascarl. Front Row – Ryan Bateman, Garrit Krbyla, Carter Stenseth, Shea Weighill, Mitchell Hascarl.

Nakusp Bantam House (Warriors): Back Row – Bryar McQuair, Jesse Cann, Brody Simpson, Danielle Hascarl. Middle Row – Asst Coach Dan Wiebe, Kris James, Logan Marshall, Coach Tom Zeleznik, Ross Zeleznik, Nathan Wiebe, Asst Coach Daryl James. Front Row – Bryce Cann, Nick Watson, TerrynStenseth, Kayla Yoshida, Andrew Likness.

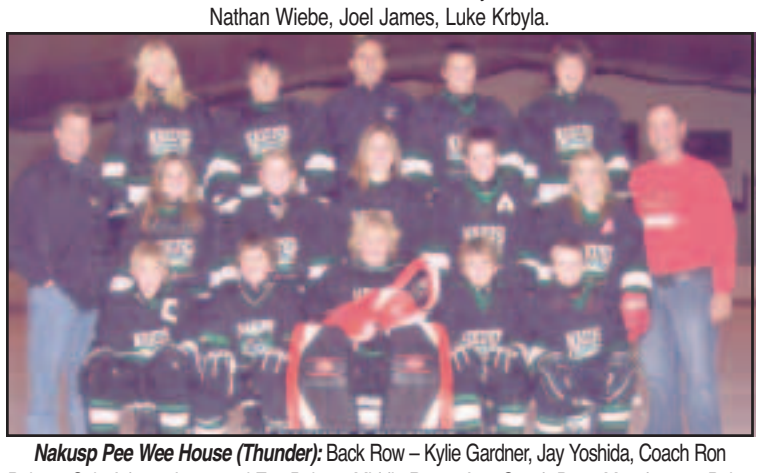
Nakusp Senior Novice (Ice Demons): Back Row – Coaches Dave Jackson, Paul Roberts, Laurie Hicks. Middle Row – Angus Jackson, Clinton Surins, Logan Hascarl, Nathan Hawe, Ben Gardner, Colten Petterson. Front Row – Dane Bateman, Alex Roberts, Kobe Nishida, Dustin Graup, Everett Hicks, Ryan MacDonald.



Nakusp Junior Novice (Ice Demons): Back Row – Coach Paul Roberts. Middle Row – Ashley Herridge, Cameron Olson, AJ Crowe, Hailey Herridge, Madeline Maxinuk, Kennedy Pazurik, Reese McCrory, Courtney Hall, Isaac Thiessen, Ivy Tourand, Anthony Maxinuk, Arturs Vilks, Ethan Grierson. Front Row – Garret Waterfield, Baleigh Wright, Killian McCrory, Jackson Herridge, Reid Bateman, Brody Herridge, Victors Vilks, Brayden Reardon, Kiley Waterfield, Adam Volansky.



Nakusp Midget Rep (North Kootenay Falcons): Back Row – Nick Reitmeier, Tyson Klein, Curtis Rogers, Ben deWit, Rane Marshall. Middle Row – Asst Coach Travis Rebman, Laine Weighill, Darrin Hicks, Brad Dupuis, Brett Zeleznik, Satoshi Yano, Coach Robert Coates, Asst Coach Rick Yano. Front Row – Taylor Reitmeier, Kalum Stevens, Nathan Wiebe, Joel James, Luke Krbyla.



Nakusp Pee Wee House (Thunder): Back Row – Kylie Gardner, Jay Yoshida, Coach Ron Palmer, Cole Adams, Immanuel Ens-Palmer. Middle Row – Asst Coach Doug Macpherson, Paige Dupuis, Jessica Carter, Morgan Black, Connor Reimer, Avery Palmer, Asst Coach Rusty Reimer. Front Row – Jesse Jensen, Nathyn McInnes, Cameron Macpherson, Tyson Cann, Max McCoy.

Practice good sportsmanship, in hockey and in life.
Arrow Lakes Ready Mix

Jacque Plante was once asked what being an NHL goaltender was like. He replied, "How'd you like a job where every time you screw up a big red light comes on?"
We salute the best game on earth, and the boys and girls who play it!
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Good Sportsmanship always pays off!
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Community, it's who we are.
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Play hard and HAVE FUN!
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DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN!
NOVUS AUTO GLASS REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

Congratulations to all the players on a great season! Keep up the hard work and have fun!
Selkirk Inn
210-6th Ave. • Nakusp • 265-3666

Hockey helps kids score life's big goals!
MARVIN'S SMALL MOTOR REPAIRS
98-1st Ave NW, Nakusp • 265-4911

Congratulations to all the players on a great season - and enjoy Hockey Week!
Arrow Lakes Welding

Win, lose or draw, play proud... play with confidence!
SLOCAN LAKE Home hardware

HAPPY HOCKEY WEEK!
Touch of FASHION
309 Broadway • Nakusp • 265-3517

You're ALL winners - remember to have fun!
LOMA LUMBER
IRLY BUILDING CENTRE

PLAY HARD, PLAY SAFE & HAVE FUN!
Pope & Talbot
www.poptal.com

The best thing about hockey is that it's KID'S STUFF
Tracy and the staff are pleased to recognize our minor hockey players, coaches,officials and fans.
Shaggyz Haircare
92 Broadway • Nakusp • 265-3424

GO TEAM GO!
We are proud supporters of our minor hockey teams— Have fun and play safe!
ROYAL LEPAGE
Selkirk Realty
306 Broadway • Nakusp • 265-3635

HALCYON HOT SPRINGS
Halcyon is a proud supporter of Minor Hockey Week and wishes all players the best of luck!
Special passes available for team members.
Call toll-free 1-888-689-4699

Just as hockey players need support from the team, our kids need support from the community. We salute our minor hockey players and all the coaches, officials and fans who work so hard to support them!
Bon Marché DOLLAR $ DOLLAR

Want to know what's become of today's youth?
Check the rink. They're learning skills, like teamwork and sportsmanship, that'll last a lifetime.
NICK'S PLACE
93-5th Ave • Nakusp • 265-4880

We're proud of all our players!
Happy Hockey Week!
VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

Play with Confidence and Pride!
Hiway 6 Service
BCAA Towing
Nakusp 265-4644

Kaslo council, January 9: One step further toward the purchase of the provincial building

by Jill Braley

•Proceeding with the motion passed at the December 12 meeting to purchase the provincial government building for $120,000, subject to a referendum, the bylaw authorizing the borrowing for the purchase was read three times. Mayor Holland was opposed. This bylaw assumes a 10-year payback. With today's rates, this would translate to annual payments of $15,334.99, for a grand total of $153,349.93. If the Municipal Finance Authority approves the bylaw, a public referendum must take place within 80 days to determine if the public is in favour of purchasing the building.

•A meeting regarding the community forest will be set up between Area D Director Andy Shadrack, Kaslo council members, and the RDCK and Village appointees to the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society (KDCFS). The scheduling of this meeting was precipitated by an email to both Shadrack and Kaslo council from Dave Collier of Upwest Geomatics. Collier has been doing some operations work for the community forest society. He says "...it is hard not to say that the decisions that have been made in the recent past...are having the effect of stalling ongoing planning and exposing the Society to a credibility risk..." Collier lets it be known that work on the Forest Stewardship Plan has not progressed since Barry Rempel's contract as operations manager was terminated in early December. He also indicates that he feels there is a lack of respect for KDCFS contractors by the board.

•Councillor Jones submitted a detailed list of concerns regarding the cost to the Village of providing water to Regional District residents (McDonald Creek Water Users) since their system was destroyed in a storm. Jones feels the RDCK owes the Village of Kaslo approximately $70,225. His concerns will be referred to Urban Systems Ltd. for clarification and comment as soon as possible.

•Council discussed the coyote problem in Kaslo, having received a response from Bear Smart Co-ordinator Gillian Sanders on the subject as well as a letter from Jill Braley. CAO Rae Sawyer had also spoken with Conservation Officer Len Butler about this. Council decided to hold further discussions with Butler and to make information from wildlife biologists available to the public.

•Ursula Ringwald, on behalf of the Kaslo & Area Youth Council, attended the Administration and Finance committee meeting in December as a delegation to ask if the youth council could lease the community hall for $1 per year. She stated the group's current location is too small, and spoke about the intent of the youth group to apply for funding to repair the community hall building. Council voted for the Village to provide the youth council with a letter stating its intent to enter into an agreement in principle for the lease of the hall.

•Am Naqvi, representative from the Village's accounting firm, attended the December 13 Administration and Finance committee meeting to address concerns about the high cost of Kaslo's audit bills, which were more than $21,000 for both the 2004 and 2005 audits. He spoke at length regarding the preparation of the 2006 audit, new accounting standards and the difference between audit and accounting costs. Naqvi said the work this year will increase by approximately one-third, although he expects to bill $9,500 for the audit and $5,000 for the balance of accounting fees, for a total of $14,500. Naqvi stated the CAO did not have the financial expertise in the more complex areas of accounting, in which case his firm is called to complete these tasks and this increases the bill. Councillor Jones inquired about a $67,000 negative variance which appeared on a Village financial statement covering the first 10 months of 2006, given to council by the CAO during the November 14/06 council meeting. Naqvi said he would check to see if this was indeed an accounting error or a programming error.

Council voted to bring in Kelly Swetlikoe from the RDCK to provide a day's training on the Village's new accounting system.

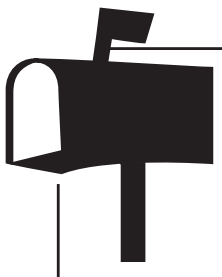
•Mayor Holland contacted Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC to let him know the RDCK was also in the running to facilitate Kaslo's OCP review. The Village will contact Lancaster again after a preliminary meeting with the RDCK.

•Paperny Films wrote to advise that they did not choose Kaslo for the 'A Week Without Women' television series to be broadcast by CBC.

•In response to a letter from Bill Hansell, Mirror Lake Water Users, council will advise that it has no plans at this time to divert Bjerkness Creek water to serve the municipality. The Mirror Lake group has its water system on the creek.

•The Village will send a letter of thanks to the Kaslo Chamber of Commerce for organizing a successful Christmas Light-Up celebration. Councillor Jones was opposed to the motion, citing several businesses owners had voiced their disappointment regarding the event.

•Accounts Payable in the amount of $53,479 was approved for payment.



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Assessment Notices were mailed to all owners of property in British Columbia on December 31, 2006.

If you own a property, and do not receive your notice by January 17, please contact BC Assessment to ensure that we have your current mailing address.

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Board and staff welcome Wally Penner who started as Vice-President of Community Partnerships on January 8, 2007. Wally will be responsible for CBT's communications and engagement with Basin residents and communities.

Most recently Wally worked with Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) as the Executive Director of Community and Regional Affairs. At CPC he was responsible for engaging communities and stakeholders during the construction of the Arrow Lakes Generating Station, the Brilliant Expansion Project, and the planning of the proposed Waneta Expansion Project, on behalf of the joint ventures partners, CPC and CBT.

Throughout Wally's extensive career in the Columbia Basin, he has focused on consultation and engaging communities in meaningful, productive ways. Wally's career in the region began in the 1960s and has included managing a Basin-wide advisory group for the Ministry of Regional and Economic Development, and six years as an elected official in municipal politics.

The creation of this new position is part of CBT's strategic plan to strengthen relationships between CBT and Basin residents.

Wally plans to visit several Basin communities early in the New Year to meet with community members. Wally can be reached by calling 1-250-365-6633 or 1-800-505-8998, or visiting our website at www.cbt.org.

Burton Seniors enjoy Christmas celebration

submitted

What a wonderful evening December 14, 2006! Burton Seniors sat down to a scrumptious Christmas dinner of turkey and ham along with all the trimmings. Many thanks to Ann, Maria and Cheryl.

In the morning Burton Seniors transformed the hall into a beautiful Christmas scene with bright coloured lights, a Christmas tree, candles and decorations.

This is the third year the members have been asked to provide the entertainment and what a fantastic job they did once gain.

Many thanks go to Joan Krey for playing the piano.

Pat and Theo enacted "Flu Time Coming" and Pat as a nurse tried to convince everyone if you don't want the flu get your shot. With the one she used, Theo should be good for 10 years.

Another group sang "The Twelve Months of Christmas" using props. They reminded us of things we need to remember each month. The skit "Annie's and Willie's Prayer" was a very special Christmas wish come true. The skit "The Great Parking Space Race" done by Ellen and Stephanie reminded us all of the true life experiences we had when trying to find a parking space and park when trying to shop during the busy Christmas season.

With Joan and Gale accompanying the singing group, they sang "Now the Holly Bears a Berry," "There's a Song in the Air" and as a tribute to our longest time member, Lily Grimmett, who passed away in October 2006, her favourite - "Star of the East."

The door prize was won by Ken Ball. The red poinsettias which adorned the tables were also drawn for as door prizes.

Skills Link program to continue in Arrow and Slocan Lakes region

submitted

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services will be running the Skills Link program again this year. The aim of Skills Link is to help youth find work and guide them through any employment problems they have.

Skills Link works with a group of 12 youth aged between 15 and 29, who are paid $8 an hour for attending the program. Workshops include First Aid, WHMIS, resume writing and mock interviews.

After completing the workshops, youth are placed with local employers for the remainder of the program, for valuable on-the-job experience. Past participants have been successful in maintaining employment after the program ends, as employers recognize the valuable contributions of these young workers. Skills Link is funded by Service Canada.

Space is still available in the program for any youth interested in participating, or employers willing to hire a youth on work placement. Please contact Farhana Alam at the outreach office, 265 3318, for further information.

Summit Lake racers start season on new snow

submitted

On Sunday, January 7, 21 Alcan Nancy Greene skiers and coaches sharpened their racing skills at Summit Lake. The snow fell hard all day, increasing the excitement. Racers reported that each run was like "first tracks."

Energetic, devoted coaches gave up their Sunday to provide an excellent experience for the community's children. Susan Madden, Doug and Brenda McQuair, Frances Swan, Elizabeth and Eric Waterfield, Matt McKee, and Alistair Skey have been volunteering for years, as have Trish Cannon, Allison Alder, and Karen Likness. In some communities, it's common for parents to pay from $600 to $1000 for their children to participate in the Alcan Nancy Greene Ski League. At Summit Lake, the fees are only $95 per child, since coaches volunteer their time.

Practices will be held every Sunday morning from 9:30 until noon for the younger racers, and from 12:30 until 3:30 for the High School Ski and Snowboard Team. There will be a few out-of-town events, and on February 10, Summit Lake will host a West Kootenay Zone E2 race. Volunteer help will be needed for this race, and the ability to ski is not a pre-requisite. The zone finals will be held at Phoenix, outside of Grand Forks, on March 11.

There's still time to register for either racing program. The ANGSL racers are from 6 to 12 years of age, although 5 year olds with skiing parents are encouraged to join this year. Competition is a secondary component and is optional.

Call Trish Cannon at 265-4355 if you're interested in enrolling your child or volunteering.

Assisted living units to open soon in Nakusp

Renovations to the former Halcyon Home are expected to be complete by the first week of February, and the 10 newly created assisted living units will be ready for occupancy on March 1.

If you are interested in moving into the new facility, call Ann Graham at 265-3608 as soon as possible, even if you have talked to someone in the past about it. Graham is returning to Nakusp to be the long term care case manager. Interviews and assessments for the units will begin shortly.

In her most recent report to council, Mayor Hamling said that of the four residents currently in the facility, two have been assessed at assisted living level and will remain. The IHA will meet with the families of the other two on January 18 to determine where they would like to be placed.

Halcyon Assisted Living Society reports that plans will soon be underway to redevelop an additional six privately funded rooms for occupancy in the near future.

For more information, call Doug Switzer at 265-3674 or drop into Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services at 205 Sixth Street. Or call Ann Graham at 265-3608.

February is Heart Month in Nakusp

submitted

We need you this February – Heart Month! Join the thousands of volunteers collecting donations for research into the causes of heart disease and stroke.

If no canvasser is in your neighbourhood, you can also donate at the Overwaitea where volunteers will be collecting donations every Saturday in February from 10 am till 2 pm.

For more information on Heart Month activities in February or to volunteer, please visit www.heartandstroke.ca/heartmonth or call Tina Choi at 250 359-8198 or toll-free at 1-866-432-7833.

Nakusp council, January 9: Two new doctors in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Hamling reported that Nakusp has two new physicians in town. Dr. Stefanie Falz and Dr. Travis Hunt are here for three months – and the hope is that they will stay. This brings the number of doctors in Nakusp up to four. Drs. Falz and Hunt are sharing Nakusp's third practice, which has traditionally been filled by a locum.

•CAO Bob Lafleur reported that the permit application process was underway for the 10-bed expansion at Arrow Lakes Hospital. When this expansion was approved by IHA last year, the original plan was to complete six beds and to shell in four beds. Lafleur reported that the plan is now to complete all 10 beds by June 2008.

•Councillor Switzer reported that the Community Forest group had rewritten its business plan to include the second 10,000 cubic metres they have recently been granted. He expects a delegation to come to the next council meeting, and a public meeting to be scheduled in the next couple of months.

Switzer also reported that there is now a counsellor specializing in youth addictions working out of the Arrow and Slocan Lake Community Services office.

•Bylaws increasing water and sewer rates by 2% were adopted. Regular council meetings have been changed to the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

•Council received an update on the new police financing model, where residents of small municipalities will begin paying taxes for policing costs this year. It has been estimated that the average Nakusp property owner will pay $42 this year, and the Village of Nakusp will pay a total of $50,233.

•Council will write to the West Waste Management committee of the RDCK asking about recycling bins for plastics in Nakusp.

•Council will write a letter of support for the Wellness Festival so that organizers can apply for funding.

•Council received a letter from the Official Opposition asking for input on the BC/Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA). This agreement has been signed and comes into effect April 1. However, there has been no public consultation on it, and concerns have been raised about the Province and municipalities possibly being open to lawsuits on actions construed under the agreement as restricting investment. Council decided to write to the Province asking for some dialogue to take place on the agreement.

•Accounts payable of $225,148.36 were approved.

Nakusp boat ramp players connect at last

by Jan McMurray

Some steps are finally being taken to decide whether the Nakusp boat ramp will be repaired or replaced.

The ramp was the topic of discussion during a teleconference on December 7 between members of Nakusp Village council and staff, Area K Director Paul Peterson, Kindy Gosal from CBT, BC Hydro representatives, the provincial Comptroller of Water Rights and the Deputy Water Comptroller.

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling reported, "We told them the bottom line is we don't want the current ramp to remain. We feel it's unsafe and we want it replaced. The Columbia River Water Use Plan recommended this. I think the community deserves it after what we've put up with through the years – the rise and fall of the lake and the issues it causes. We feel the rise and fall of the lake is affecting the wooden structure [boat ramp]."

It was decided during the teleconference that BC Hydro would have emergency repairs done to the ramp as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Hydro will prepare to have a feasibility study done that will identify possible long-term solutions for the ramp.

"We have asked that we be part of developing the terms of reference for the feasibility study," said Hamling. "We've also requested we be part of the decision making process on the various options the study comes out with. They've agreed to that." She says she hopes the feasibility study will be completed by summer.

Before emergency repairs can be done, Hydro needs permission from the Village to access the boat ramp, which is Village-owned. Hydro has sent the Village a draft access agreement, which is now being reviewed by the Village's lawyers.

"We want to make sure that any repairs done at this point fall in line with all building code requirements. We need to make sure that whatever repairs they do address liability and safety issues," said Hamling.

Last year, BC Hydro contracted Westmar to do an inspection of the boat ramp, which was completed in June. The Westmar report estimates the cost of the substantial emergency repair work at about $400,000. "That will give the ramp life for a few more years, and then they'll have more to do," says Hamling.

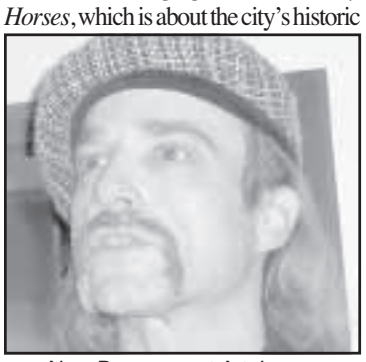
During the teleconference, Director Peterson says they questioned the wisdom of continually patching the existing launch instead of replacing it.

The Water Comptroller issued an order in January 2006 directing BC Hydro to provide and maintain boat launching facilities on the Arrow Lakes reservoir. Hamling said the Comptroller indicated during the teleconference that he does not want to tell BC Hydro how to go about complying with the order. The Water Comptroller has not yet approved the Water Use Plan submitted by BC Hydro in August 2005. The WUP recommends replacing the Nakusp boat ramp.

Nakusp library hosts reading by Art Joyce

submitted

Art Joyce, New Denver author and poet, will read at the Nakusp Public Library on Friday, January 26 at 7:30 pm. Joyce is the author of two books on the history of Nelson: *A Perfect Childhood*, which explores the classic homes and personalities of frontier Nelson and *Hanging Fire and Heavy Horses*, which is about the city's historic streetcars and buses.



New Denver poet Art Joyce.

Art's latest book is *Charlatans of Paradise*, a book of poetry. One of the poems from this collection appears in the recently published international anthology, *The Book of Hopes & Dreams*, which also features Margaret Atwood, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and other notable poets from around the world. The anthology was published as a fundraiser for Scottish Charity Spirit Aid, to benefit child victims of the conflict in Afghanistan.

RW Meyer has reviewed *Charlatans of Paradise* and wrote, "Joyce's vision...is steeped in the spiritually restorative and supernatural (powers) of Nature. His ability to recapture that nature in minute detail is his forte. ...another one of Joyce's great strengths (is) his ability in taut language to paint a landscape without befouling it with clichéd metaphors, and the effect is luminous and healing."

Art Joyce was born in Kimberley and began writing and publishing in high school in Nelson. His popular weekly heritage column *Heritage Beat* ran for five years in the *Nelson Daily News*. Joyce's poems and essays have been published in various Canadian literary magazines. In 2000 he produced and directed a poetry video, *The Muse: Chameleon Fire*. He is also a co-founder of Poets Against War Canada.

Art Joyce's author reading is made possible by a Writers in Libraries grant from the Public Library Services Branch, BC Ministry of Education. Everyone is cordially invited to this free special event in the library's lovely new space. Refreshments will be served.

Nakusp Christmas Spirit is Saddle Mountain High

submitted by Jonathan Buttle

On Christmas day the community of Nakusp held a celebration for all to enjoy. The Nakusp Seniors' Centre played host again to the Nakusp Community Christmas dinner. This year, over 50 people from Nakusp and area came together to celebrate and to support one another. In addition to putting on a first class dinner, the event raised just over $300 that has been donated to the Nakusp Food Bank.

The menu included turkey with all the fixin's, roast ham, a beautiful selection of roast vegetables, and a complete dessert table. Local merchants supporting the cause donated most of the food and presents.

Event organizer, Kayte Rock, said, "Support from the community, in particular the store owners, was outstanding. It really makes you realize what a generous town this is when we fed more than 50 people, had gifts for everyone and raised so much money for a good cause – and, with only 10 days for people to come together."

Rock moved to the area early this year and recently started a prepared foods business called Soup du Jar. When she heard that the seniors' dinner may be cancelled, Kayte took on the job. "I've had such a warm welcome from this community I felt this was something I could give back."

Kayte worked with Deb Guest to secure the Seniors' Centre and work on logistics. In past years the dinner had been put on for seniors only. "I thought there might be more people in the community with no family or friends around to share the holiday with," Kayte said about her decision to open the dinner to the wider community.

A volunteer crew came together on Christmas day to prepare the hall and serve dinner to approximately 50 people. The food was excellent by all accounts. A group of musicians put on a lively bluegrass / Celtic show highlighting Avery Bremner's fiddle playing. As a finishing touch, everyone received presents that were donated by local merchants delivered by local elf, Calla.

"It was the most fun I had all year," said Darlene Cennon.

Kayte Rock (left) organized the Nakusp Community Christmas dinner this year after her friend Donna Parsons (right) told her it might be cancelled.

Planning underway for mixed martial arts tournament

by Jan McMurray

Another big sports event is in the works for Nakusp.

Hoss Cann and Morrie Curry are organizing a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) tournament to take place on June 30, the Saturday night of the July long weekend. They attended the January 9 council meeting to ask if they could rent the ice surface area of the Nakusp Sports Complex for the event. Council agreed, provided that insurance is in place and other details looked after.

At the council meeting, Curry explained that MMA brings together several different martial arts disciplines, and they compete against one another. "It is the biggest pay per view sport right now – it's huge," he said. He also described it as a very "sportsmanlike" sport. When Councillor Mueller asked if it was violent, Cann answered that it is a full contact sport, but participants wear protective gear and there are many rules. "It's not a 'so you think you're tough' contest," he said.

Cann and Murray said they expected to sell 500-700 tickets to the event, to be held this first time during Nakusp's slower summer long weekend. Their vision is to hold the event twice a year, in the spring and fall.

The arena would be set up with an octagon ring on the ice surface area and a beer garden in a designated space. Cann and Murray said they hoped Minor Hockey would run the food concession during the event as a fundraiser for themselves.

Cann said they would only need insurance for the spectators, as the fighters all have insurance through their clubs. He said it will be a non-profit event, but there is not enough time to get non-profit status. Village Administrator Bob Lafleur suggested they approach a non-profit group so they would qualify for better rates on the rental and on their insurance, but Cann said he had tried with no success.

Lafleur also said that Superintendent of Operations Jason Chernoff had met with the organizers and did not have a problem with the proposal, as long as they covered the estimated $400-$500 for staff to do the necessary preparation work in the arena, such as removing glass and boards.

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

Kaslo Legion launches events calendar for 2007

by Jill Braley

With a full roster of events for 2007, the Kaslo Legion is encouraging more locals to consider becoming members. Membership dues are reasonable and available for Canadian and Commonwealth citizens, whether or not you are related to a veteran. New events this year include music and food nights.

On Thursdays members and guests play euchre just for fun – games start around 4 pm or as soon as there are enough players. On Friday night, starting at 5 pm, it's the meat and 50/50 draws. Funds raised from these draws go to Kaslo charities. A new event at the Legion this year will be Saturday food nights, organized by Lynn and Shelley. These will occur every two weeks, starting January 13 and 27. Sundays it's the weekly crib tournaments, starting at 1 pm.

The Legion invites musicians who would like to play a few tunes on these nights to contact Shelley Sutherland at 353-2616 ASAP. Kaslo has plenty of talented people and we would also like to organize future jam sessions and/or open mike nights.

Lounge manager Shelley Sutherland and staff members Terry Geche and Tom Coombs invite all members and guests to the lounge for various events or just to visit with friends and neighbours. Pool is free on Saturdays, shuffleboard is always free.

January 2007 will see the installation of the following new executive officers for the Kaslo Legion: Cam Clayton, president; Lynn Gouldsborough, first vice-president; Tracy Wallace, second vice-president; Mary Linn, secretary-treasurer; Diana Wilkinson-Cosnett, director; Hugh Walker, director; Rod Dunnett, director; Bill Seafoot, immediate past president.

The Legion is open six days a week – Tuesdays through Saturdays, opening at 3 pm. It's a great place to meet your friends and make new ones.

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Kaslo quilters to hold show

submitted

It has been said that there are only two seasons in the year – gardening and quilting. The Kaslo Quilting Group will host an unjuried quilting show, *The Quilters of Kootenay Lake*, on Saturday, March 3 from 10 am. to 4 pm. in St Andrew's Church, Kaslo.

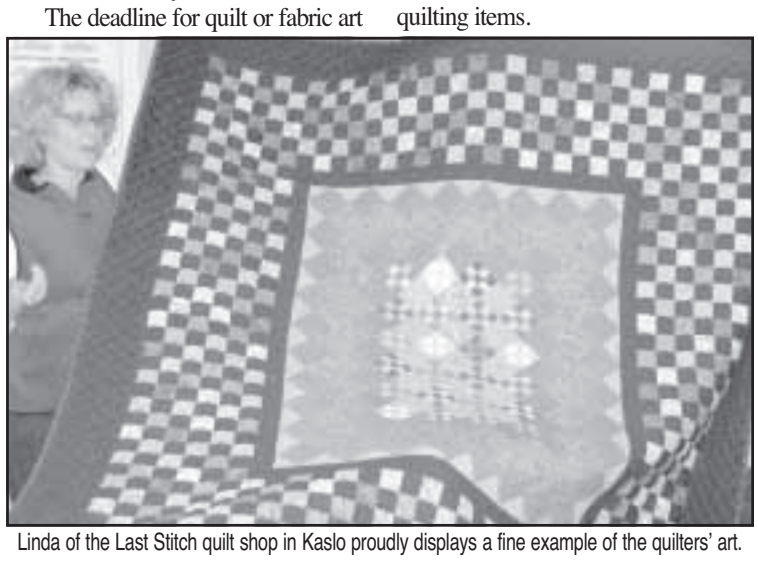
A Victorian Tea and raffle ticket for a quilt is included in the $3 admission. Tickets are available from the Last Stitch and quilting group members. The 100-year-old Kaslo Heritage Quilt will be on display.

The group is encouraging submissions from quilters in the Silverton and New Denver area as well as North Kootenay Lake.

The deadline for quilt or fabric art submissions is February 15. Please direct enquiries to Linda at the Last Stitch, 353-2886.

The resurgence of the art of quilt-making is a phenomenon across the province. Quilt shops and quilting groups are springing up everywhere. Many in the Kootenays have taken up this pastime, although quilting has been going on for years in Kaslo. It's an addictive pastime for some, and helps the long cold winters fly by.

The Kaslo Quilting Group is an informal association of quilt enthusiasts that have recently begun meeting. On December 11, they held a final pre-Christmas meeting, celebrating with a pot-luck lunch, and a display of current quilting items.



Linda of the Last Stitch quilt shop in Kaslo proudly displays a fine example of the quilters' art.

Eden plays the Langham, Jan 27

Johnny Eden will be playing in the Langham Theatre in Kaslo on Saturday, January 27 at 8 pm.

Johnny Eden has been hailed as a "serious songwriter capable of writing in a variety of styles and tempos with a blend of jazzy funk, rock, country and blues-folk." (Bill Polonsky, What's Up, YUKON!). Recklessly abandoning a permanent address, relentlessly touring across Canada on the Greyhound, Johnny has been called "the last troubadour" (Poor Pelly, Pelly-Pell-Ooza A.D.), and garnered a reputation for being "a bold lyricist and musical adventurer" (Noah Zacharin, CKLN).

Johnny Eden will be playing in the Langham Theatre in Kaslo on Saturday, January 27 at 8 pm.

Audiences have been warned to "look for exciting discoveries over the next few decades" (NZ) as this fresh talent matures.

Tickets are $12 and available at Sunnyside Naturals.

Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society presents annual artwork contest

Artists and graphic designers are encouraged to submit entries for the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society annual artwork contest, sponsored in part by the North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council.

The winning design will be used on posters, T shirts, and promotional material for this year's festival. There is a $500 prize for the successful selection. Deadline is February 10, 2006.

Preference will be given to creative, original 4 colour art that reflects bright, festive, simple, clear images of professional quality that is camera ready and transfers well to posters, t-shirts, etc.

Please include all relevant information and advise whether you wish your artwork returned. Selected artwork becomes the property of KJES. Posters from previous years can be seen on the website: www.kaslojazzfest.com.

Send artwork to: Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society, Box 1293, Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0 or email kaslojazz@netidea.com.

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Kaslo & District Community Forest Society

Update to KDCFS members and Kaslo/Area D residents

The KDCFS Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on September 27, 2006 culminated in the election of four new directors the Board. There are presently eight directors: Kelly Abey, Steve Anderson, Stan Baker, Donna Cormie, Suzan Hewat, Rob Mitchell, Dave Russell and Don Scarlett. Erika Bird's resignation was received with regret on December 13. Subsequent to the AGM, the directors elected Rob Mitchell as Chair, Dave Russell as Vice-Chair, Steve Anderson as Treasurer and Don Scarlett as Secretary.

At the AGM concerns were raised about a controversial management contract with Barry Rempel (formerly an appointee to the Board) which was signed by members of the outgoing Board the night before the AGM. Also, the outgoing Treasurer was unavailable to answer members' questions. Accordingly, the first order of business for the new Board has been to determine the operational and financial state of the Society. It has been a time-consuming process, but we are now able to present an accurate and understandable account of the present state of the Society.

Management:

The new Board requested and eventually received copies of the management contract between the Society and Barry Rempel, a former appointee to the Board. It was discovered that terms of the contract insuring the Society against liability had not been fulfilled by Mr. Rempel. In the high risk logging industry, operating without insurance is unacceptable and could jeopardize the very existence of the Society.

Mr. Rempel was asked to account for his failure to meet the terms of his contract at the beginning of November. By mid-November, when the Board learned that the required coverage still had not been acquired, legal advice was sought. Mr. Rempel was required to work only at the Society office, to reduce the risk to the Society, until a solution could be found.

Finally, on December 6–as Mr. Rempel still had not fulfilled fundamental requirements of the management contract–the Board elected to treat the contract as at an end. The Board made a proposal to Mr. Rempel in an effort to provide management continuity for the Society and to allow Mr. Rempel to remain involved as an hourly rate employee. On December 11, the offer expired without a response to it from Mr. Rempel, leaving the Society without a manager.

Following the holidays, the Board is proceeding to investigate all options to secure the services of a manager. This process will be open and transparent, and will protect the Society against liability while ensuring its performance requirements are met.

Operations:

Forestry operations are currently on hold until the management position is filled. The following tasks will be completed during 2007:

- completion of the Forest Stewardship Plan
- finalization of the Probationary Community Forest Agreement (area-based tenure)
- logging of CP10 above the airport
- building a road above Shutty Bench to access CP13
- logging of CP13
- development work for future logging blocks

Finances:

Before timber can be harvested and income realized, the Society as a licensee must invest in surveys, obtain permits, lay out roads, etc. in order to establish cut blocks. Prior to the cut, bids must be received, contracts secured, and roads built. Most of the KDCFS cut permit development work was performed and paid for a few years ago. Since then, the Society has primarily focused on logging and distributing the income to community organizations. Now, however, the Society finds itself with just a few developed cut blocks remaining (CP10 & CP13) and expensive road building required to reach CP13 (estimated at $225,000). Our cash reserves are largely committed to management costs, promised disbursements, silviculture and the water contingency fund.

We don't have enough money to pay up front for everything we need to do during the next nine months. Although there are strategies that can prevent us from going into deficit, they leave us with fewer options and may reduce the income we ultimately receive. Investment in the development of future cut blocks is necessary, and these initial costs will increase as we transition to area-based tenure – more than doubling our annual cut.

The bottom line: there will be a moratorium on disbursements to community organizations until the Society can achieve a sustainable balance of income and expenses while meeting its license obligations. This hiatus will present an opportunity for the Board to consult with the membership and general public to establish a long term disbursement policy in accord with the Society's purposes as stipulated in the Constitution.

The Board has set May16 as the date for the 2007 AGM – a return to normal timing. Three directors are to be elected. The new Board has made a point of fostering co-operation and openness to all points of view both within Board meetings and to the membership. If you are interested in community forestry and want to help realize its many environmental and economic benefits, please consider

- attending our regular meetings, held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM upstairs in the Provincial Building in Kaslo,
- participating on a committee (such as Operations, Finance, Policy, Personnel and Residents Advisory)
- or becoming a director on the Community Forest Board. It's guaranteed to be a learning experience, and valuable to the community. Please give it some thought.

The 6th annual Winter in the Forest Festival is happening February 4 at Kaslo Airport. Mark your calendar and get ready to join in the fun.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Out breaking trail between storms

Even the most rabid skier would likely admit that we've had enough snowfall. Though the Kootenays have generally been spared the violence of the coastal storms of recent weeks, most diggers, shovelers, scrapers and plowers could use a little break. Recreationally, it would be okay to have a shift to cooler, less stormy weather so that all those ski tracks/sledding trails would stay open.

My various sheds have shed snow pretty nicely this winter and I sorta missed that task of being up high dumping great wads of snow to the ground. So the other day while en route to go skiing, I stopped at Three Forks to clear off the somewhat frail bridge over Carpenter Creek at the east end of Galena Trail. Actually getting to the creek through the waist-deep snow was the hard part, and carving off big blocks of snow that fell into the creek was fine fun. At one point it looked like Carpenter Creek was full of floating kitchen appliances slowly bobbing downstream.

I struggled back out to the road and then drove 3 km further east to ski a portion of the old CPR grade on the north side of the highway. There's a good parking area on the creek side of the road just short of an avalanche area warning sign and it's generally well plowed out. There was a further warning sign about traffic control because of some stabilization work. As I dug out the skis a helicopter buzzed over, headed for the usual control areas up at Bear Lake and Zincton.

My plan was to do a small loop ski due to the heavy trail breaking needed, and I can't be bothered to ski up high when such deep snows are smothering everything. This section of the valley was logged over four years ago. There's a good access road up to the rail grade from the highway just back a little off a corner. The rail grade was really well opened up to haul logs along and remains an open, pleasing 2-km segment.

As I got up to the rail grade, I came upon the deep trench of the trail left by maybe a couple of deer. On skis I sunk about knee-deep and the going wasn't too bad. You can look across the valley up to where the old narrow-gauged K&S rail grade clings to the cliffs just above the logged areas. Further upslope but not visible is the road linking the Antoine and Washington mines with the Payne claims above Sandon.

Heading west at a descent of 2%, you get a terrific look at the Denver Glacier across Slocan Lake and even a shot of sunshine later in the season. Nearing Three Forks, the newer trail climbs steeply up to a big logged area and the rail grade soon declines into a brushy tangle. There's also a steep skid trail leading down to the highway where you can then enjoy the 20-minute walk back to the vehicle. And of course if you've been packing a fresh trail you can enjoy the ski back along the rail grade again.

So just as I approached this junction and trail choice, I saw an enormous moose rise up from a bed in the deep snow, big as a cow and curious as a cat. From under a birch tree rose up a calf, half her size but just as curious. We were only 30 metres apart for easily two minutes but I just gawked away, figuring that digging for the camera may spook them and the photo would likely be less than spectacular. The big cow was not real pretty and the calf was only slightly cute, but then I doubt they thought much of me either.

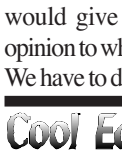
Finally I moved a few metres forward, which prompted Mrs. Moose to amble very casually up the steep route for 50 metres then turn right around to wait for the calf. They very slowly went up the hill in this halting manner and I then had a look at their nesting "craters" before skiing down the skid trail to pop out at the highway. The deep trench they left in the snow from their passing made me appreciate my touring skis.

Back at the car I loaded up and decided to drive to the rest area to safely turn around and to see if the YRB highways guys had been able to blow down any slides. Right by Zincton there's an old 9.9 mile sign (from New Denver) and this slide zone had run nicely across the highway and was already plowed aside with dirt and broken alders shoved up with all the snowy debris. Bear Lake was even more striking, with a broad wave of debris sweeping onto the lake and the shoreline exposed where the ice had been blown open with the force of the runout deposition.

Highway 31A is an important artery for industry and commerce, and it sure is a handy corridor to explore for outdoor recreation. The YRB crews do an amazing job of keeping this tough route open to all drivers, and even keep a generous selection of pullouts clear and usable when time permits after the main arteries are cleared. For the small volume of traffic that we constitute, I sure think we get well defended by these crews. Let's hope these storms become a bit less frequent so that we can all find time to enjoy winter in these valleys.

Peter Roulston has operated THE BICYCLE HOSPITAL for 15 years and now lives in New Denver, 358-2133.

Financial forum



with Debbie Pereversoff

Economic predictions for 2007

It seems like the month of January has different meanings for everyone. For some, it means a fresh start – new beginnings and hope for a wonderful year ahead. For others, it seems to be the anti-climatic end to the traditional Christmas season where the winter blues take hold. Regardless of where you fit in, 2007 is here and only time will tell what this year will bring.

Some advisors may consider some 'crystal ball methodology' to determine what direction the stock markets may take. This unofficial prediction takes the stock market performance of the first week to set the trend for the remainder of the year. If the first week ends positively, then the prediction is that the year ahead will be positive as well. Just in case you are interested, as of Friday Jan. 5, Toronto's S&P/TSX Composite index was down 445 points or -3.3% – its biggest weekly loss in six months!

For those of us in the financial services profession, we are poring over data and reports trying to get a sense of what the economists are predicting for 2007. We often wonder what it would be like to have a dozen economists in the room. No doubt each one of them would give a different outlook and opinion to what they see on the horizon. We have to decipher all of these reports and form our own opinions of what we think may happen in the months ahead.

The national economy has been losing momentum over the course of 2006 with the growth rate declining in each quarter. Most economists are forecasting that the Canadian economy may not be a rip-roaring success in 2007 but not all are convinced it will necessarily go into the tank either.

On the inflation front, the current low rate (0.9 percent in October) will not be sustained. This low rate reflects the unwinding of the energy price spikes that followed Hurricane Katrina. Most economists are forecasting that the inflation rate will be two percent over the coming year.

The national unemployment rate has been on a declining trend over the last few years and stood at 6.3 percent in November. However, this trend hides considerable variation across the provinces. Over the last year, the unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points in Alberta (reaching 3.1 percent in November), while it rose by 0.3 percent in Ontario (reaching 6.4 percent in November). Economists are forecasting that the national unemployment rate will rise slightly to 6.4 percent over the coming year.

The Bank of Canada substantially hiked interest rates over the first half of the year, but has been in a holding pattern since May. The current target for the overnight rate is 4.25 percent and the business prime rate is 6 percent. The panel forecasts a modest decline in both rates of a quarter of a percentage point over the next twelve months. Expect short term interest rates to decline by about 25 basis points (0.25%) during 2007, while long term rates should remain about the same.

After a good year in 2006, stock markets will continue to be volatile with investors encouraged to shift to value style investments rather than growth investments. The growth style funds have been in favour over the last few years while value style funds may not have had strong performance numbers. There may be a temptation to chase past performance numbers but this may be the time to shift focus once again. Energy prices should not increase substantially but there could be periodic volatility due to world events.

As we have mentioned in previous articles, the economic and stock market cycles can be somewhat predictable – to a point. There is a natural growth cycle trend that far outlasts any recessionary period. It's the timing of these cycles that is difficult to predict. If we can review historical trends it appears that a growth cycle can last anywhere from 3 to 5 years on average with a recessionary period lasting about a year. Since early 2003, we have had steady growth with positive performance numbers in '03, '04, '05 and '06. The upwards trend cannot continue indefinitely – there will be a downward cycle in the near future. We remain cautious as we move into 2007.

On behalf of everyone at The Affolter Financial Group Inc. we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

Debbie Pereversoff CFP CSA is the co-owner of the Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in wealth management and investment planning.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Turn left at the Chocolate Croissants

Hello all you fabulous food fans. Hope you had a great holiday and are beginning a happy new year. On Christmas Eve I roasted a 16 lb turkey. It worked out so well that on New Years Eve I roasted a whole lot of chicken and managed to burn it all to a crisp. I guess I'm batting .500 so far.

Meanwhile, here's a skill testing food question for you: Where in New Denver can you go for a little something to eat, a coffee, some sweets, and where every single table has a glorious view of Idaho Peak? Well, FAT KAT'S of course, located at the corner of Hwy 6 and Main Street (also known as 6th Ave). Fat Kat's is operated by none other than Kate Campbell (of Sappho's Bakery fame). She opened this fall after overcoming some equipment problems. She then had the place smudged and blessed by qualified smudgers and blessers, and now the place is humming along offering, among other things, sweets that will make your brain twirl and flip. My own brain is still reeling from a bite of French Silk Pie I had there recently. How was I to know it's made from chocolate, brandy, almonds, hazel nuts, sugar, eggs and coffee? Wow! Try it! The sweets don't end there. There are chocolate croissants, and if you turn left at the chocolate croissants you'll find rum balls, cream cake (Black Forest, raspberry, and lemon), long johns, chocolate pie, cinnamon buns, muffins and cookies and other decadent delights. But that ain't all! Fat Kat's is also an outlet for bread and pizza from Sappho's Bakery where Karen Stevens works her magic. She also supplies Fat Kat's with her pizza (YUM!) and veggie quiche. There's more. Chicken pot pies are available. Don't forget to try the chocolate truffles by Linny Lamarche. Also on offer are many kinds of homemade organic Jams from Liz Neuman, and this is just the beginning. In the Spring Kate's Fat Kat's will become a full-on ICE-CREAM PARLOUR. YAAAAAY!!! There'll be cones, shakes, sundaes, B-splits, smoothies and floats. Remember, root beer floats are an excellent source of ice-cream. Kate also has a selection of Monin Flavor Syrups. You can pour them on your sweets or on your head– whatever you like.

If you need to keep your hands busy while you eat, there is a deck of cards, board games, jigsaw puzzles and a pile of books and mags to investigate. As I said, every one of the four tables has a great view of Idaho Peak. Also available is a great big comfy chair with a foot rest and the same view. I love that.

In the Spring, Kate and FAT KAT'S will sponsor 'afternoon teas' where you can eat small sandwiches and sip hot tea and try out your British accent. Also in the Spring, seating will be available at the picnic tables on the patio where you can just go ahead and have another root beer float.

Coffee at FAT KAT'S is the straight foreward kind that comes out of a pot and into your cup. There is a variety of teas available.

Kate calls FAT KAT'S 'a work in progress,' and I must say: FAT KAT'S is definitely going places.

Have you ever heard of Death By Chocolate? Ask Kate. You can also ask her about her swimming rabbit. Hours: 11:30 - 8:00 Tuesday - Saturday. FAT KAT"S is wheelchair accessible.

There are chocolate croissants, and if you turn left at the chocolate croissants you'll find rum balls, cream cake (Black Forest, raspberry, and lemon), long johns, chocolate pie, cinnamon buns, muffins and cookies and other decadent delights. But that ain't all! Fat Kat's is also an outlet for bread and pizza from Sappho's Bakery where Karen Stevens works her magic.

Andrew Rhodes
Food Editor

Fat Kat's Sweets & More

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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

Thank you for your love and support and donations.

Kayden Laybourne has begun the long journey to better days. However, the family will have to continue trips to the coast for ongoing medical care. There is a trust fund in place at KSCU for anyone who wishes to assist in this very intense and costly time. Acct #1177518. Tiffany, Cory and Kayden and their families would like everyone who has so generously helped them during this trying time to know how much they appreciate all their love and support. Please watch for upcoming fundraisers.

Love and Best Wishes from Tiffany, Cory, Kayden and families

THANK YOU to everyone that donated cards and food to me. To all the medical people in New Denver, Nelson, Trail and Castlegar that helped Gladys along her way, and to all my friends for their support – thank you.

William J. Nixon

A SPECIAL SENIORS CHRISTMAS TEA THANK YOU - To the Slocan Valley Community Band and Crescent School of Music. For the incredible Christmas music they shared with the seniors at the tea. You made the day magic! SVRC 226-0008

The Board and Staff of W.E. Graham Community Service Society would like to thank all the wonderful supporters of The Slocan Valley Food Cupboard and Christmas Hamper project this past year. The Food Cupboard continues to be a much appreciated and well used resource in the Valley and the Hamper Project made Christmas better for 97 people this year. So in no particular order, a warm Thank You to: St. Mary's Church, Slocan; Springer Creek Forest Products, *especially the week end clean up crew; Slocan Valley Rec; Slocan Valley Royal Canadian Legion Branch 276; RDCK Area H Director Don Munro; Slocan Valley Covenant Church Congregation; Nelson Food Cupboard and Endless Harvest; Slocan Valley Lions Club; Fomi's Bakery; Evergreen Natural Foods; Slocan Valley Coop; Gaia Tree Natural Foods; Winlaw Mini Mart; Slocan Village Market; Knotty Farms; Fulla Beans; W.I.N. Thrift Store; S.H.A.R.E. Nelson; Wal Mart; Crescent Valley Maple Leaf Store; Polestar Calendars; Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy; and the many private donors for their personal generosity.

It is such a privilege to have the opportunity to gather together all the generosity shared by those in our community, and we are always amazed at how many ways people find to share with others who are having difficulty. It is wonderful to experience the ways that some people express what they feel is important for others to have, while others feel that providing the cash to purchase needed items is the best way they can be supportive. The simple truth is every one of those thoughts is of equal importance, as are the gifts they provide.

You have blessed us by allowing us to convey your gifts to those who most need it! We could not do it without you!

COMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE FAMILY LITERACY DAY – Accompany your children on Friday, January 26, 7:00-8:00 pm to the Lucerne School library. Dress up as your favourite Robert Munsch character! Prizes, activities and, of course, munschies!

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

AUTHOR READING by Art Joyce at the Nakusp Public Library on Friday, Jan. 26th at 7:30. Free. Refreshments. Everyone cordially invited.

ESSENTIAL OILS – WELLNESS EDUCATION AND TRAINING. Workshop #1: Jan. 27/07, 1-4 pm, $20. Workshop #2 (pre-requisite workshop #1): Feb. 3/07, 1-4 pm, $25. $40 for both. Must pre-register by Jan. 20. Karen Dubreuil 358-2828.

SOULGARDEN WORKSHOPS: "LISTEN TO BODY WISDOM" Wed Jan. 24 (10:30-12), "DREAM IMAGERY" Sun Jan. 28 (10-4) and "JOURNEY TO SELF" Group series all Wed's in Feb (12-3). For flyer/info/regis call Sue 358-2177(Silverton).

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY AGM. Sunday, January 21 at 2:00 in the gallery. All welcome.

AGM for LACE on Jan. 24 at 3:00 pm at the Bosun Hall. Viewing of architectural plans. Info 358-7771.

AREA H NORTH TV SOCIETY AGM. 7:30 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007. Hidden Garden Gallery.

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ONE-BEDROOM COTTAGE in New Denver's Orchard. New kitchen and bathroom, fenced yard, deck. No party animals, no pets. $425 + utilities. 358-2272.

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FREEBIES

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GREETING CARD

TO MY DEAR FRIENDS: Pavillion, school, choir, Brouse Lodge, St. Anthony's, the Apple Tree, the post office, the bank and Valley Voice. I miss you! Hoping you had a happy Christmas and wishing you all the best in 2007! Mary O'Shea.

HEALTH

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

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ARE YOU A WEB MASTER? Do you have the skills and expertise to build a web page that will show what happens at Lucerne School? Are you a supporter of our town, our communities and our local school? If you are interested in working with a group of parents who want to get a web page happening please contact the school. 358-7222.

MISC. FOR SALE

S.H.A.R.E. Nelson (Supporting Humanity And Responsible Ecology) The Kootenay's Largest Recycled Goods Store. Furniture, appliances, household goods, electronics, music, books, windows, doors, plumbing, lighting, cabinets, lumber all at low cost. All large appliances reconditioned by a licensed repairman have a 90 day store credit/exchange warranty. Why buy new when you can recycle and save? 612 Lakeside Dr, Nelson 352-1222.

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NOTICES

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

OUTDOOR CLASS Grades 5/6 is interested in having a **BOTTLE DRIVE** on January 27. The proceeds from this drive will be split 50/50 with half going towards Tiffany Reitmeier in Vancouver. You can call the school at 358-7222 so we hopefully don't miss your house. Or you can drop your bottles off at Steve and Katrina's house.

The VALHALLA FINE ARTS SOCIETY is the new title for what was previously known as the Valhalla Summer School of Music. The new title is to include all the programs. The society now has five weeks of instruction during the summer and is possibly adding programs to the spring and fall. There is currently a survey being given out to ask you, as community members, to let the board of directors know your feelings about the summer programs. If you are interested in sharing your opinions stop in at the Valley Voice and Silverton Building Supplies to get your survey.

STRUGGLING TO FIND CHILD CARE? Or do you have great child care? Are you an employer with employees that need child care? We want to hear your stories. Children First Coordinator Kim Adamson is working on a report, "The State of Child Care in the West Kootenay." This report will be given to community leaders and decision makers throughout the West Kootenay. Call Kim and tell her the good or bad of how child care or the lack of child care impacts your family or business. Call 352-6786 or email childrenfirst@thekoop.ca.

ATTENTION!
Youth at work!

Come,
Thursday, January 18th 7:00 pm at the Silverton Gallery
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OBITUARIES

ALFRED BECK of Camrose, AB passed away in Edmonton AB on December 11, 2006 at the age of 77 yrs.

He is survived by his wife Jeanne; four sons, Albert (Terry) of Antler Lake, AB, Harvey of Fayetteville, PA, Douglas of Inwood, WV, Donald of Edmonton, AB, one daughter Pattie of Nakusp, BC; grandchildren, Kim (Lindsey), Dyanna-Marie, Sherry, Steffan, Justice, Austin; great grandson Ryker; one sister Wanda (Art) Ceretzke; numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four sisters. Alfred married the love of his life Jeanne Provost on December 1, 1956 in Kamloops, BC. They moved to Edmonton AB in 1958. He was the inventor and owner of Allied Flux Reclaiming in Edmonton until 1987. Alfred retired to Rosebery BC until December 2004, then residing in Camrose AB.

Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on January 29, 2007 in Camrose AB at Weber Funeral Home 780-672-3131. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association or the Heart and Stroke Fund.

GLADYS MAY NIXON - Born in 1924, Feb. 3 and passed away Dec. 22, 2006. There will be a memorial May 20 at the Legion Hall at 11 am.

LISTER, WILLIAM BENJAMIN (Benny) passed away peacefully in Trail Hospital on January 2, 2007, aged 80 years. He was born in Nelson September 30, 1926 and lived in Winlaw and South Slocan. After leaving school he worked at various jobs and served in the Canadian Army before driving logging truck for Burns Lumber Co. at Passmore in 1947.

On December 22, 1950 he married Viola Gustafson and in June 1951 they moved to Slocan. He drove logging truck for Hicks Bros. Sawmill, Erickson Lumber, Pacific Logging and drove school bus for a few years. In 1972 he and his son purchased two logging trucks and formed K&B Trucking. He was forced to retire in 1985 following heart surgery.

In his younger days he played hockey and baseball. In later years he spent countless hours making ice so the Village kids could learn to skate. He also helped coach kids' baseball and hockey teams and was involved in fixing up a ski hill at Appledale, complete with tow rope, so the youngsters could learn to ski.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, photography, his daily walks and his five grandchildren – and especially enjoyed teaching them new ways to get into mischief!

He was predeceased by his parents William and Blanche Lister, sister Evelyn Fletcher and brother Wallace Lister.

He is survived by his wife Vi, son Ken (Bonnie) of Slocan, daughter Tanis (Hans) Hamacher of Kimberley, grandchildren Kathleen (Shawn) Tissington of Calgary, Denise (Pat) Waurynchuk of South Slocan, Stacy (Neil) Wood of Fort St. John, Cindy Walker of New Zealand and Christopher Lunn of Fort McMurray; and three great-grandchildren Matheu and Ana Waurynchuk and Reese Tissington. He is also survived by brother Bob (Sylvia) Lister, Cranbrook, and three sisters Bernice (Mel) Aitcheson, Edmonton, Iris (George) Grieve, Quesnel, June (Bob) Rae, Cranbrook and many nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the doctors and nurses of Trail Hospital for their TLC. Thanks also to family and friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls, food and offers of help. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke fund or charity of their choice.

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Slocan council, December 13 and January 10: Cooling off period needed to finish meeting

by Don Currie

Slocan Village council concluded its December 13 regular meeting on January 10. Mayor John Van Bynen adjourned the December meeting before the business was concluded after a sharp exchange broke out between some residents and members of council.

The December meeting got off to a tense start when Councillor Madeleine Perriere asked about the pub issue. Community interest in this has heightened since a lively public meeting on November 2, reported on in the November 8 *Valley Voice*.

Council sent letters to all neighbours of the proposed pub asking for feedback and received a flurry of responses, including a petition with 13 names. The letters and petition were not on the December 13 agenda. Councillor Perriere asked that every letter received on the pub issue be recorded in the minutes as received by council. Ludlow said all letters had gone to file and would be reviewed at the second public meeting on the issue, to be held January 11. Council will make its decision on the pub application at its regular meeting on January 17.

During question period, John Sarjeant drew attention to what he believed were irregularities in expenditures relating to indemnities that may have been authorized in camera. He suggested council give its budget another read with the help of auditor Elaine Rogers as it may not conform to the requirements of the Community Charter. Administrator Ludlow said that council follows the bylaw on the prescribed budget process and that all expenditures had been scrutinized by the auditor and sent forward as required by the Charter. She said all of the large amounts spent in 2005 were reported and examined in the auditor's report and said council was not required to re-submit its budget unless the provincial government requested it. Councillor Gates said that once ratified, the budget documents were now official documents.

Administrator Ludlow submitted a year-end report stating that in the final month of 2006, 95% of the annual budget had been used. General and Water revenues combined showed a surplus of $50,400 at the end of November. Ludlow said problems with converting to a computerized accounting system would continue for some time and residents should come to the office with any questions. She expressed disappointment that council lost out on an FCM grant to install water meters because of lack of unanimous support by council for the proposal. She dealt at some length with what she considered unreasonable and unacceptable expectations of staff by some residents. She explained that council sets policies and staff administers the general running of the Village. She urged residents to visit the Village website at www.slocancity.com to read minutes also available as hard copy at 75 cents per page. Ludlow welcomed inquiries but objected to attempts to "micro-manage" Village business and last-minute requests for large quantities of copies of documents. Ludlow described some behaviours as "verging on the obsessive" and said if these incidents increased they would be reported to the RCMP. Ludlow greeted the establishment of a Board of Variance and outlined its terms of reference and procedures.

John Sarjeant appeared as a delegation to make suggestions for accurate minute keeping. He pointed to typing errors which recorded a $22,000 item as $22 and a reference to "2007 total taxes for residential" instead of "2007 total taxes." Sarjeant proposed that council use audio-taping and requested corrections to the May 10, 2006 minutes incorrectly recording information from Bylaw #557, Schedule A of the General Fund Review.

In the discussion that followed Sarjeant's presentation, Councillor Gates demanded, "What's your agenda?" At this point some members of the public rose on a 'point of order' objecting to the lack of decorum in the meeting. Mayor Van Bynen demanded residents take their seats and when they refused he adjourned the meeting.

The meeting reconvened on January 10. Bernadette Robichaud, appearing as a delegation, outlined her objections in writing to the location of a pub in her neighbourhood. She was disappointed that the Mayor had not taken the time to read the petition from residents and that his opinion was "that there were only five people who were negative" about the application. Robichaud reiterated her concerns about traffic, parking and alcohol related problems. She cited incidents requiring the RCMP to investigate. She said her message is prevention declaring, "I am sure the Village will survive without a pub."

Patricia McGreal was unable to attend and asked that her letter be considered at the public meeting to be held the following day.

Margaret and Shirley Markovic presented a detailed report to council on the operation of Springer Creek RV Park and Campground that recorded total revenue of $11,027.66 for the period May 19 to September 30, 2006. A total of 350 parties comprising 701 individuals attended the campground. The report cited continued problems of vandalism, theft, drunkenness and dogs and unauthorized ATV use in the park. The report cited a reduction in destruction at Slocan Beach but a sharp rise in the workload with the installation of the new boat dock.

Council congratulated the pair on their work and the increased revenue. Councillors were unable to come up with a clear policy or solution to the vandalism problem but took it under advisement for action.

Council decided to meet with Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering Ltd. to discuss his concerns that "something happened with the boat ramp project that was not quite right, and wish to discuss and work through any glitch that we have had." Council discussion revealed that Works Foreman Jerry Simmons was required to correct a flaw in the angle of the placement of breakwater.

Council agreed to review the taxes assessed, under the category of light industry, on a property owned by Western Aircraft Supplies Ltd. The company's tax bill revealed a 130.98% increase over the previous year.

A day on the Slocan Valley Rail Trail

submitted

On Sunday, January 28 from noon to 2 p.m., the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) is hosting its third annual Day on the Trail event. It's an opportunity for everyone who enjoys winter recreation to meet with the directors of the SVHTS at one of the many picturesque locations along the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Catch up on what has been happening on the trail or just come out for a day of skiing. This year, they'll be waiting with hot chocolate, hot dogs and a toasty bonfire just south of the ValleyView Golf Course on the Slocan Valley's only linear recreational facility.

How do you get to this year's gathering? You can park at the Perry Siding crossing off Highway 6 and head south for about 2 km. Another option is to park at Nixon Road and ski north for about 2 km. Of course you can come in from further afield if you wish. Wherever you come from, signs will be out so you don't get lost.

Thanks to the efforts of trail volunteers, the trail is being groomed and track set over the winter from Winlaw to Slocan, so it'll be optimum skiing conditions. Everyone is reminded that this trail has been designated non-motorized by the property owners, TourismBC.

Because of winter's sometimes unpredictable weather, the event may have to be cancelled on short notice. If this is the case, a message will be put on the SVHTS hotline 1-800-683-SVRT(7878) on the morning of the event. You can also phone that number if you require more information or visit the SVHTS website at www.svrt.ca

Energy incentive program launched by Green Realtors

submitted

As of January 1, 2007 GreenerHomes.ca Realtors, including Slocan Valley's James Rodgers, will be giving their clients $500 to assess and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

With the environment foremost on Canadians' minds, and federal incentives for residential energy-efficiency in short supply, GreenerHomes.ca is taking the lead on making Canadian homes more environmentally responsible.

"Realtors can, should, and now are, playing a significant role in addressing the health, energy-efficiency, and environmental impact of our homes," remarks GreenerHomes.ca Realtor James Rodgers. "We are the ones sitting down at the kitchen table exploring people's housing needs and choices. More and more those needs require finding a home that is Green - energy efficient and therefore affordable to operate (heat or cool), healthy to live in and built with environmentally sustainable materials."

The $500 Rodgers and his fellow Green Realtors are giving their clients will result in ongoing monthly energy and cost savings in the homes they buy and sell. As well, the GreenerHomes.ca Realtors will utilize the Energuide for Homes rating system to help their clients access thousands of dollars in various energy-related financial incentives.

"The EnerGuide for Houses rating system – a number between one and 100 for each house where 100 is extremely efficient – is a critical tool designed to reveal to homeowners the quality of hidden renovations like insulation and proper air sealing" says Paula Steele, Energy Efficiency Coordinator, City Green Solutions (www.citygreen.ca). "Clients will value a realtor who can help them compare two 1950s homes and know which one will save them energy and therefore money over the long-term."

When asked how a handful of green realtors in a sea of 16,000+ licensed BC realtors can make a difference Rodgers comments, "By pioneering and modeling a new, green paradigm of real estate practice we hope to inspire industry-wide changes in the way resources and property are valued. As an industry we must change as consumer values change. An increasing number of home buyers are looking past the stainless steel exterior of appliances and are concerned with their energy efficiency."

Beyond the immediate financial incentives that translate into energy savings and the related reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, GreenerHomes.ca Realtors offer clients across BC a full Green Realty service. This includes being able to offer guidance and resources related to the environmental aspects of a home, property, or community.

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