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

Tenures almost finalized for Slocan Valley and Nakusp community forest groups

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley community forest group sent in its application for a Community Forest Agreement on January 18, and the Nakusp group is aiming to submit its application on or before June 15.

Stephan Martineau, spokesperson for the Slocan Valley group, is confident of success. "We believe the application meets or exceeds the requirements, so we don't anticipate any surprises," he said.

He says the group expects to hear back from the Ministry in the spring and hopes to begin operations in the fall.

Both the Slocan Valley and Nakusp groups were initially invited to apply for CFAs with a volume allotment of 10,000 cubic metres. Based on that, both went through the process of identifying operating areas from Springer Creek Forest Products tenure. From early on, it was known that there was a possibility for a second 10,000 cubic metres from BC Timber Sales (BCTS) tenure for each group. That became a reality last fall, and both groups have recently reached agreement in principle with BCTS on their additional takeover areas. They are both now waiting for their area volume allotments, like a timber supply analysis, for the new areas from the Ministry.

The Slocan Valley group, anticipating the invitation for the second 10,000 cubic metres, had shown the areas it wanted from BCTS on the map it distributed to residents from Silverton to Winlaw last fall. "We ended up with what we wanted," reported Martineau. All the areas on the map were successfully negotiated, except the Lemon Creek chunk. So, the very-near-to-finalized chart area looks like three chunks: Pedro/Winlaw/Trozzo; an area between Lemon and Springer Creeks, and an area between Enterprise and Silverton Creeks.

The application submitted in January does not include the second 10,000 cubic metres. Martineau says the group will send in an amendment to the application to reflect the additional tenure, probably by mid-March. "We won't have to do much tweaking," assured Martineau.

The Slocan Valley group's registration as a co-operative came through just before Christmas, he reported, so the group is now officially the Slocan Valley Integral Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo).

The Nakusp group has picked up the fairly large Box-Summit area from BCTS. This is near the group's biggest chunk from Springer Creek, in the McDonald Creek area. Other areas from BCTS are small and include chunks near East Arrow Park, Wilson Lake, the hot springs (Kuskanax), and Fosthall and Galena Bay further north.

Jesper Nielsen of the Nakusp community forest group updated council on the group's progress at the January 23 council meeting. He presented maps of the takeover areas that have been agreed to in principle. Council asked about the area near the hot springs, because the Village has been advised to protect the land surrounding the springs from development. Nielsen said the wood was not of good quality in that area and that logging there would be expensive. "It's so little volume that it's no big deal if we don't log it," he assured. He also mentioned that the Wilson area had been cut over and would be "good in about 60 years."

All in all, though, Nielsen was happy with the areas and acknowledged that "for the most part, we're getting off pretty easy in terms of contentious stuff." He said the Wensley area from Springer Creek's chart was potentially contentious because there are domestic water sources up there, but did not see it "as a huge bone of contention unless we manage it poorly."

Nielsen reported that the Ministry was to deliver the results of the area volume allotment by the end of February, and then the areas would be finalized. He said the group would have a meeting to discuss the transition agreement with the two current licencees, Springer Creek and BCTS, and would hold a public meeting where people could view the Business and Management Plans.

Nielsen said the profit margin looked good and the group was hoping to get $271,000 in start-up funding from Columbia Basin Trust. This amount represents the costs of 3-5 years of development. Nielsen said it would be preferable to start with this much, but that they could "get by" with about 1/3 of that.

The group's preference for its organizational stucture is to set up a corporation wholly owned by the Village. The other two options would be for the Village to share ownership with the RDCK or to set up a non-profit society. Nielsen asked council to consider the structure, division of profits, and alternative financing if CBT funding does not come through. Mayor Hamling indicated that council would discuss these and then meet with the group.

Natalie Lucas was the recipient of a Prime Minster's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Making the presentation is MP Alex Atamanenko.

Grand opening of new Selkirk College in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

The Grand Opening of Nakusp's new Selkirk College building on January 25 was a celebration of a building transformed into not just a wonderful new space for the college, but also a symbol of Selkirk College's commitment to Nakusp.

The event was very well attended. Local musicians Wren, her daughter Alexis, Liz O'Neil and DJ Wright performed, and there were several speakers. Sharon McNeill, alumni student of Nakusp Selkirk College ABE, had the crowd riveted when she told her story of growing up at Halfway Reserve, becoming a working mother in Nakusp and the journey she went through to go to Selkirk College's ABE program. She went on to get her law degree at UBC, to assist her with her life mission to help aboriginal people. "Education is your own key. It is a gift you can use to serve others," she said.

New Denver's Bill Roberts, who is the newest Selkirk College board member and will be replacing the current chair, spoke about the college as a truly regional institute, serving the community from Grand Forks to Nakusp and Kaslo.

Nakusp Mayor Hamling mentioned the staff at the Nakusp Centre – Richard Allin, ABE instructor since 1981; Chris Faint, Co-ordinator since 1985; and Allison Alder, ABE instructor since 1991. She also brought greetings from MLA Corky Evans.

Other speakers included Marilyn Luscombe, President of Selkirk College; Founding board member Glen Weatherhead; Chris Faint, Nakusp Selkirk College Co-ordinator; Allison Alder, ABE teacher; and Jessica Hogg, current ABE student.

There was a big round of applause for Selkirk College maintenance staff, who did the renovations. The building represents over a half-million dollar investment for the college.

Chris Faint, Richard Allin, Glen Weatherhead, Allison Alder and Renata Neftin cut the cake at the grand opening of Nakusp's new Selkirk College building.

Stream of Consciousness

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Glacier/Howser hydro project at environmental assessment stage

by Jan McMurray

The environmental assessment process is underway for the Glacier/Howser run of river hydro development up in the Lardeau/Duncan. Project proponents expect to submit their environmental report to the Environmental Assessment Office in September.

Neil and Sean Murphy of Glacier Power BC, the father and son team who envisioned this hydro project, along with Nelson environmental consultants Sylvie Mass and Eric Miller, and several other representatives of the project attended the RDCK board meeting on January 27. Project Manager Alex Stoian made a presentation to the board.

The estimated $240 million Glacier/Howser project consists of two run of river hydro developments that will produce enough power for 20,000 BC homes. As contracted by BC Hydro, the project capacity is 90.5 MW, but the company plans to build it with a potential capacity of 125 MW.

"With the increasing costs, we needed to look at this," said Stoian, adding that the company will put a bid in for the extra power during the current BC Hydro call for power. He said the company decided to move the intakes up about 100 feet higher than originally planned so that the project would have the extra production capacity. "This has no more environmental impact in either valley, so why not move them higher?" he said.

There will be two power stations – one on Glacier Creek (40.5 MW) and one on Howser Creek (50 MW). Water will be diverted from Glacier and Howser Creeks, and travel through underground tunnels to the power stations on the shores of the Duncan Reservoir.

Three secondary water intakes will be set up to optimize the electricity production for both sites. Partial flow will be diverted from Birnam Creek to be conveyed to the Glacier powerhouse, and from Suck and Behrman Creeks to be conveyed to the Howser powerhouse.

Stoian explained that they first looked at running a penstock along the road to convey the water from the intakes to the powerhouses, but that had too much impact. "We always try to have minimal impact on the surrounding environment," he said.

After doing a flyover of the area, the company has a new plan for the path of the transmission line. The 91.5-km-long overhead transmission line that will service both power stations will cross the Purcell mountain range at Edouard Pass and interconnect to the Invermere BC Hydro substation. The overhead line mainly follows the Howser Creek and Horsethief Valleys. Total line capacity will be 150 MW at 230 kV.

The previous plan was to tunnel the transmission line through Jumbo Mountain, because maps showed that there was a glacier in the way of the path now chosen. The flyover proved the map wrong.

The project schedule puts the start of construction at August 2008 and the start of power production at November 2010. The project was awarded by BC Hydro in August 2006.

RDCK board directors had questions for the project proponents. Director Kettle asked about the tax benefits of the project. Stoian said that they will pay taxes to the Regional District and the government based on assessment, and the book value of the project is $65 million - $70 million.

Director Holland asked how it could be cheaper to build 100 kms of power line through the bush than using the existing Meadow Creek power lines. Neil Murphy replied that he spoke with Fortis to see if this would be possible, and Fortis engineers explained that the Meadow Creek lines would need at least a $50 million upgrade to handle the extra power, and this cost would have to be borne by the project. "That made it unviable financially." Holland said that he thought cost sharing would be possible, seeing as how the project would involve putting in fibre optic cable along the entire length of the powerline, opening up more opportunities for communication services such as high speed internet. Murphy replied that Fortis did not see this advantage, but BC Hydro did.

Director Shadrack pointed to a recent CBT report on glacier melt, asking what impact this could have on the project. "How long will that water be there and will you have enough to run the operation?"

Murphy said that this was a prime concern and scientists simply do not know what is going to happen to the glaciers. He said most of the water for the project does not come from glaciers. "The project has 40 years so hopefully the glaciers don't run out until we've at least paid the bills," he said. "This is a $240 million investment. We wouldn't make this investment unless we thought we would get it back." He also pointed out that there are hydro sites in BC that have been running since the early 1900s.

Director Dooley asked about the local economic impact of the project. Murphy said that all construction would be done by local companies, and that he considered the highly skilled Kootenay work force as a big asset.

The company that will be in charge of the entire project is privately owned Axor, with headquarters in Montreal, and offices in Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto. The company has designed and built wind farms and small and medium hydro projects in Quebec. It has also completed major construction projects such as building the US embassy in Ottawa. Axor owns the numbered company (3986314 Canada Inc.) which is the project's development company.

Sean and Neil Murphy are planning a hydro project in the Lardeau/Duncan.

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Down to the finishing touches at Halcyon Home

by Jan McMurray

About four years after the government announced it would be closed, Halcyon Home is a beautifully renovated Assisted Living facility. Formerly a 27-bed facility, the building now houses 16 assisted living units.

Doug Switzer, Executive Director of Halcyon Assisted Living Society (HALS), pointed out that despite the anguish Nakusp has gone through since the announcement four years ago, it looks like the community will end up in a better situation. With 16 assisted living beds at Halcyon, and eight existing complex care beds plus 10 new ones coming at the hospital, the community will have 34 beds that will allow for aging in place.

Ten of the rooms at Halcyon are brand new, and will be subsidized by BC Housing and IHA. The new rooms are spacious, most taking the place of two of the old rooms. They are equipped with a kitchen area with bar fridge and microwave, and bathroom with wheelchair accessible shower. The facility will provide three meals a day and laundry service, and it will be staffed 24/7.

Rental rates for these 10 rooms, including meals and housekeeping services, are set at a maximum of 70% of the resident's after-tax net income.

The six rooms that were not renovated will not be subsidized. Switzer says HALS is in the process of registering them as assisted living rooms. All the common areas have been spruced up with a fresh coat of paint and new furniture.

IHA will pay for the staffing and the assessments of prospective residents. BC Housing will pay for the operation and maintenance of the building. HALS will manage the facility. Switzer says that HALS will be hiring a site manager.

Renovations to the building began at the end of August and are scheduled to be finished February 1. "The Hil-Tech [the contractor] crews were excellent," said Switzer. "They went out of their way to minimize noise and disruption."

Four residents remained in the facility during the renovations. Two of these have been assessed at assisted living level and will stay. The other two will be accommodated at Arrow Lakes Hospital.

Anyone interested in an assessment should call Ann Graham at 265-3608.

Doug Switzer, Executive Director of Halcyon Assisted Living Society (HALS), shows off the interior of one of the new units at Halcyon Home.

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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.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Slocan Lake Detachment

On Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 am, Slocan Lakes RCMP in New Denver received a report of a single vehicle accident on Highway 31A, one kilometre east of Denver Siding Road.

The westbound commercial log transport truck was driven by its owner/operator, a 62-year-old Nakusp man. The truck driver lost control of the loaded tractor trailer unit on the snowy highway, ending up in the ditch. No charges were laid.

Nakusp Detachment

On January 13 at 4:30 am, Nakusp RCMP responded to a call of a possible break and enter in progress at Shakespeare Road. Upon arrival at the scene, a male was observed in the complainant's driveway, near a vehicle. The accused was being held by the complainant until police arrived. The suspect was arrested for Trespassing at Night and held in Nakusp cells. He was later released, with conditions: he is not to contact any of the family involved, either directly or indirectly; must not be near the property; and is bound by curfew to his residence between the hours of 8 pm and 6 am. Nakusp RCMP are reminding residents to remember to lock their doors when not at home or when going to bed for the night.

ICBC Loss Prevention Coordinator Michelle Hargrave braved the icy roads to drive from Nelson to Silverton and present council with its $2500 award for Zero Crash Month on the evening of January 23.

Federal contribution to Spirit Bear fund seen as political

by Art Joyce

The federal government has announced a $30 million dollar contribution in support of the Spirit Bear Conservancy on BC's west coast, as part of the Conservation Investments and Incentives Initiative. The Province of BC has matched this amount, and with private philanthropists and conservation groups contributing a further $60 million, the figure reaches $120 million.

"Today we have secured the largest integrated conservation investment package in North American history," said Amanda Carr of Greenpeace.

The fund is designed to provide seed money for economic development initiatives in First Nations territory within the Great Bear Conservancy areas. This will ensure that potential lost revenue from logging or other industries will be replaced by environmentally sustainable initiatives such as eco and cultural tourism. The total protected areas are 1.8 million hectares, more than three times the size of Prince Edward Island. Of this, 200,000 hectares is Spirit Bear habitat, including the 103,000 hectares of the Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy announced last year.

"Coastal communities can finally move forward to create meaningful, sustainable solutions for their people and the environment they depend on," said Lisa Matthaus of Sierra Club BC.

But before the champagne corks are popped, Valhalla Wilderness Society bear biologist Wayne McCrory says a cautionary note is in order. "It sets a dangerous precedent—it means First Nations are now going to expect funding not only from government but from conservation groups."

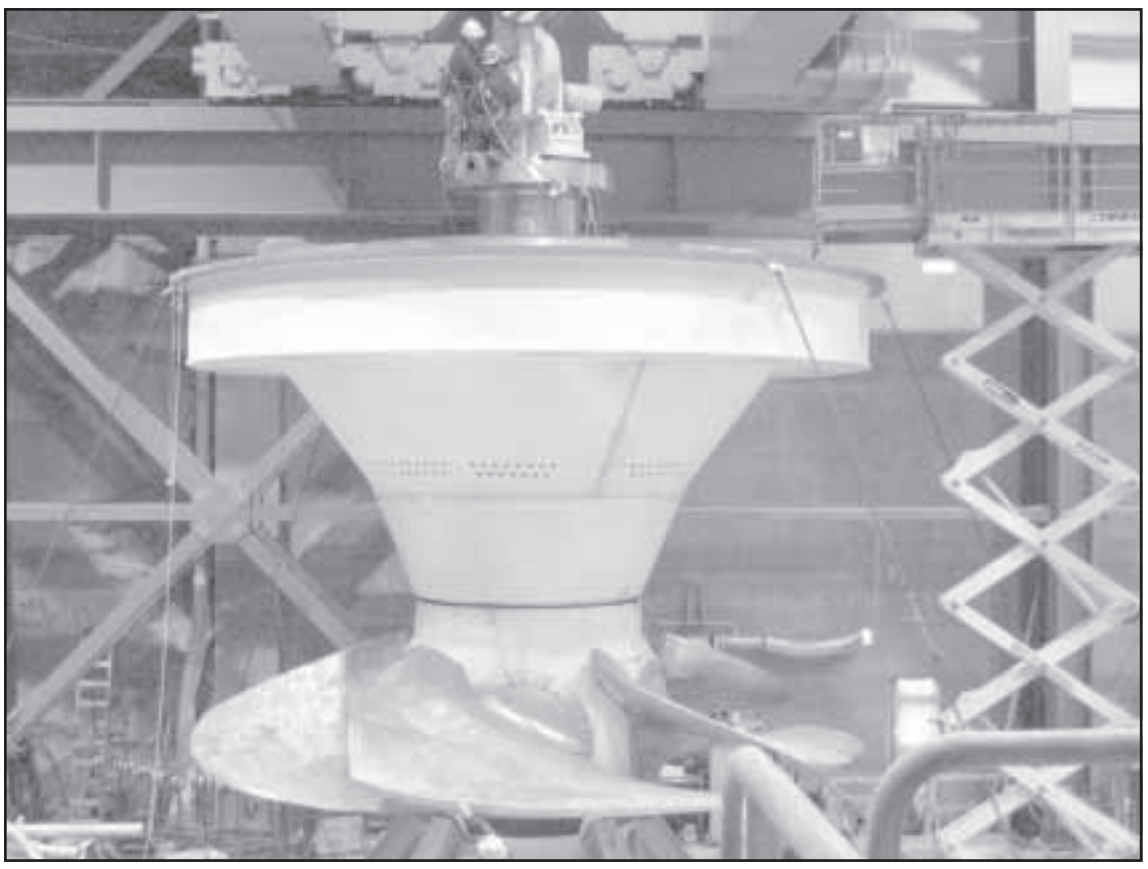
McCrory says he respects the fact that conservation groups have raised $60 million, especially given that unemployment rates are as high as 80% among the Kitasoo/Haishais and Gitga't nations. But he characterizes the federal government's attitude toward the conservancy project as "continuous foot-dragging" during VWS's 18 years of campaigning. There remains to be protected several critical habitat areas both within the Spirit Bear range and in the BC interior, in particular the Robson Valley. Glacier National Park could easily be expanded to take in the Incommapleux River valley.

McCrory sees the latest move as an attempt to make political capital out of the situation and appear 'green' while the environment is in critical condition. The current federal government has diluted the Species at Risk act to a toothless shadow of its former self, he says.

"With regard to migratory shore birds, salmon and other endangered species, the government has been irresponsible. They've continually ignored efforts by us to protect their habitat."

Time is running out, says McCrory, as the effects of global warming compound the effects of habitat loss. The US in the lower 48 states now spends more on grizzly recovery alone than Canada spends on habitat protection.

"We don't have the luxury of time to debate the matter. We can either protect more areas now or spent tens of millions on endangered species recovery."



Two major mechanical milestones have been reached at the Brilliant Expansion Project in Castlegar. The turbine runner has been placed into the turbine pit (pictured here). Also, the gate at the opening of the intake channel has been put into place and the hoist that will raise and lower the gate has been installed. When testing of the gate is complete, the much anticipated removal of the rock plug currently holding back the Kootenay River will begin. This is expected to happen at the end of January.

Turnout at End-Poverty forum highlights regional concerns

More than 150 people braved snowy roads to take part in the West Kootenay Poverty Forum in Castlegar on January 16. Delegates voiced their concerns about local poverty to federal NDP Social Policy Critic, Tony Martin, MP. Martin was invited to speak at the forum by Alex Atamanenko, NDP MP for BC Southern Interior.

"People grappling with poverty, and the community organizations and volunteers – they're in the best position to describe the issues and propose solutions," said Atamanenko.

Martin is on a national End Poverty Tour to hear from and about people living in poverty in Canada, with the goal of raising awareness and building political will for change. This was the largest forum so far, exceeding attendance at events in much large centres such as Calgary, Victoria, Vancouver and Mississauga. Speakers came from Trail, the Slocan Valley, Nelson, and Castlegar, representing both well-paid workers and the working poor, both rural and urban centres.

"Hearing those diverse voices naming the same issues was striking," said Al Graham, President of the West Kootenay Labour Council. "Affordable and safe housing, access to training and living wage jobs and effective transportation - all these issues affect people living poverty."

Among the facts and issues raised: Close to 20% of people do not have enough money to meet basic needs. Welfare rates in BC have remained frozen for 10 years, and are far below what is needed to meet basic shelter and nutritional requirements. Little support is now available for someone living on a low income to get skills training or complete Grade 12 to find work, stay or get off welfare. Increasing child care fees and the elimination of supports such as the Child Care Resource and Referral program are making the situation even worse for parents wanting to join the paid workforce.

Ann Godderis, a forum organizer from Castlegar, held out some hope, explaining that some countries have been able to reduce poverty to below 5% (Canada's is closer to 20%), while maintaining robust economies. A number of participants signed up to attend a follow-up meeting and discuss follow up action. Martin is compiling the information he heard at the forum and is putting it into a report to be presented in the House of Commons.

"The voices of Canadians will be heard in the fight to end poverty," he concluded.

Nelson Committee on Homelessness spokesperson Vanessa Patry presents the poverty situation in Nelson, with forum moderator Gary Ockenden (background) listening and NDP Federal Social Policy Critic Tony Martin, MP taking notes.

All Parents Belong! conference to be held in Nelson

submitted

The Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) will once again offer its All Parents Belong! Conference on Saturday February 10, at LV Rogers Secondary school, 1004 Cottonwood Drive, Nelson. This conference is free to all parents in the Kootenay Lake school district with thanks, in part, to Kootenay Lake School District #8. Lunch is provided so please register by Wednesday, February 7.

The welcoming address and introductions begin at 9:45 am with the first presentations beginning at 10 am. Parents will have their choice of two out of six presentations. Lunch will be served from 11:45 am – 12:45 pm with the afternoon sessions beginning at 1:00 pm sharp.

For more information, and to register, please visit www.dpac.kics.bc.ca or call (250) 352-DPAC.

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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.

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

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Voices from the Valleys

Solving our problems in Afghanistan...

Normally I devote this column to issues of local concern. I leave international affairs to the daily papers and to television and radio. There's plenty to comment on within the circulation area of the *Valley Voice*. Sometimes, however, I feel a need to suggest a solution that hasn't been mentioned in public debate.

I was having a conversation about Afghanistan with my friend, Rob Riley, not long ago. We're both of the opinion that things are a mess there, and only going to get messier if something isn't done. It was Rob who pointed out to me that Afghanistan has only been successfully conquered once in its entire history. It was Alexander the Great, and he did it by marrying an Afghan Princess. This observation sent us both off into gales of laughter, as we had visions of marrying some poor Afghan Princess to the Prime Minister.

Of course, this would never do. It would be in violation of Canadian Law. None of us are really keen to revisit the definition of marriage. We've just been through a bitter debate in this country on the subject of same-sex marriage. Most of us are quite happy with 'the union of two persons to the exclusion of all others.' I don't think that anyone really wants to open up the subject of polygamy, even to end the war in Afghanistan.

Besides, our Prime Minister has a lot on his mind these days, and might not be the most attentive husband, particularly towards a newlywed bride.

I've been thinking, though, that we've got this young Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter McKay. He's a single guy, and not bad-looking, in a bucolic fashion. He's got a pretty good job, with a secure pension.

Afghan women are used to marrying Conservatives. Under the Taliban, they had no choice. Peter probably is considered a liberal in most Afghan households. It might not be impossible to convince the daughter of one of these tribal chieftans that he was actually quite a catch. Her dad might be convinced that having the Foreign Minister of Canada as a son-in-law might not be a bad thing. Not exactly what he had in mind for his little girl, I'm sure, but he'd get used to the idea in time.

The Conservative government talks a lot about 'showing our commitment to the people of Afghanistan' and reminds us frequently of the status of women under the Taliban. There's got to be a better way to show our commitment to the people of Afghanistan than by killing their sons. There has to be a better way to bring the benefits of education to Afghan women than by occupying the entire country.

I'm not suggesting that a state marriage would solve all the problems that we're having in Afghanistan. It is, however, the sort of symbolic event that would indicate both rapprochement and commitment. It could be the catalyst for change in our relationship with that war-torn country.

Our troops might be seen in a different light as well. No longer would they be seen as agents of a foreign occupier, they would be employees of one's kinsman. I'm not saying that Uncle Peter would have a lot more influence over the young men of Afghanistan, than most uncles have over their nephews in the rest of the world. But if one less young man decides to blow himself up (with a bunch of Canadian soldiers at the same time) it will have been worth it. If our soldiers have to kill one less boy armed with an AK-47, because of an arranged marriage, it will have been worth it.

Peter's been spending a lot of time over there lately, and that's a good thing. He's our Minister of Foreign Affairs, after all. He's got important responsibilities. Meetings with Prime Minister Karzai, supporting the troops, photo opportunities, and such don't leave lots of room in one's schedule for courting. That's probably for the best. It wouldn't do to appear too desperate. Peter's been rejected so often, he should learn to stay away from ambitious women that are used to thinking for themselves. Under the Taliban, though, women were forbidden to think for themselves. He might still be able to find one that would take him.

While I'm not sure that it's a good idea to go over there looking for a bride, if a young woman caught his eye, and he could come to some arrangement with her father, it might not be the worst thing that ever happened for Canadian foreign policy.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Zen and the art of driveway maintenance

Ideally it's one fluid movement: the snow piles up in the scoop, arms are wide, legs are bent, spine is straight, and then everything bursts up and forward. The cloud of newly removed snow arcs and spreads across the sky, hopefully coming to rest on the other side of the ever increasing mounds that line the driveway. Given the sheer volume that has fallen this year, one has but two options – okay maybe three: hire someone, wallow in frustration or embrace the rhythm and flow of snow removal. It is a fantastic way to stay fit, get fresh air and keep the winter blahs away.

P.S. If anyone needs to get some exercise they can come and do my driveway the next time it snows, because I'm really getting sick of it.

Joe Yaremchuk
Hills

KDCFS board invites public participation

As a member of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) board, I read with interest Randy Simpson's letter in the January 17 Valley Voice. He complained that he hadn't been notified of an Operations Committee meeting, despite having expressed a desire to participate. The identical letter was received by the KDCFS board on January 9, and raised at the regular January 10 board meeting. A director apologized for not contacting Randy and stated that he would be invited to future committee meetings.

Randy sent his letter to the newspaper – the editorial deadline was three days after his complaint had been resolved. Since he also extolled the glories of his own participation on the KDCFS board, criticized the present board and pretended that Barry Rempel's refusal to accept the board's offer to continue working was a "dismissal," a reader might wonder...

The KDCFS board members will be grateful if Randy tries to help the Community Forest Society. We have established a civil working environment with co-operation and openness to all points of view, and encourage the public to attend our meetings and participate on committees.

Donald Scarlett
Kaslo

Small town politics

I moved here from a big city not too long ago. After living here now for a few years, and reading your newspaper regularly I am surprised how much infighting is going on in all these very small communities. If you read the reports from the different council meetings there seems hardly one meeting goes by without mud slinging or someone being accused of something. Councillors seem to be bringing their personal problems that they have with neighbours or other people in the community to the Village meetings – and if they have to vote on something they vote in that mindset. Also, people who appear as a delegation sometimes behave as if they are running the meeting. I do not understand why people in small communities have to behave like spoiled children. I think it is appalling that a council meeting (Slocan council) has to be postponed to let some of the participants cool off. I wonder how all this behaviour reflects on the children in the communities, especially the high school kids that read this newspaper? Maybe it is just me, maybe this is the way council meetings are to be held and the participants are to behave like they do.

Albert Boers
Hills

Call for input on Peace Dove project

The symbolic Dove of Peace has existed in the Central Kootenays for many decades. In all these years, its representation has earned its reputation as our symbol and now it is time to expose its wings to the visitors to our area. Ten years ago, an effort was made by Castlegar citizens to install a symbol of a dove with white rock on the slope of Dove Mountain overlooking the Castlegar Airport. Environmental concerns halted the project and the idea died because of that.

During the NDP conference this fall at the Fireside Inn, MLAs hinted at reviving this worthwhile project and indicated their willingness to find solutions that would satisfy all concerns. KRUNA has recently discussed the possible new location and also the mechanical design that would be most effective and appealing to visitors to the Central Kootenays.

As a member of KRUNA, I was given the task to investigate site permits from RDCK, funding for design and construction, transporting the Dove to the site, preparation of the site for anchoring and electric power necessary for greatest effect. I will be making an appointment with the Castlegar City Council and Mayor to obtain their permission and guidance to proceed with this project.

I am seeking input from citizens of our region and beyond on all matters in regards to the Peace Dove project. My mailing address is Box 18, Crescent Valley, BC V0G 1H0. My email address is: wswetlishoff@shaw.ca. Please provide your input within the next three months.

Walter Swetlishoff
Crescent Valley

Jumbo bumbles along

Ever eager government grizzly bear experts continue trying to find ways to convince us (and themselves) that this species at risk will in no way be a species at risk should the powers that be decide to plop the infamous Jumbo Glacier Resort into their prime Central Purcell habitat. By official lingo they are "still creating mitigating measures" that will eventually find their way into the Final Resort Master Plan (FRMP).

Concurrently government continues to court the Ktunaxa (Kootenay) Tribal Council now with workshops and committees. These First Nation peoples have said "NO" to the proposed resort right from the get go. Although, in the final countdown of any development issue, a negative reaction from the local aboriginals will never stop the proposed development – it does behoove government to take strong steps to smooth out as much resistance as possible.

Now, any of us who have participated in government workshops and/or committees pertaining to forestry, watershed and other land use plans know that the "no" option is never available. The official timeline always allows for coercion, double talk and baffle gab. So when I'm told that "this has been a very successful process with all parties working together," I can only conclude that by the time "the results of the recommendations are summarized" and entered into the FRMP, any Ktunaxa continuing resistance will be covered by a thick layer of whitewash.

Grizzly bears as a species at risk and any First Nations concerns are the two issues that must be satisfactorily dealt with before the FRMP can be created which "will probably be another couple of months."

After the FRMP is approved there will be a "couple more months" as the proponent and government create the Master Development Agreement, a document that legalizes the terms and conditions under which the FRMP operates on the ground.

It is after all of the above that the proponent will request that the Regional District of East Kootenay rezone the Jumbo Valley area into a Resort Municipality.

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

Flaggers – unsung heroes of the road

The phone rings just past 7 am. A voice asks for my husband. There has been an avalanche on the road to Trout Lake and they need traffic controllers right now. He may have to be there for 10 or 12 hours, so bring some sandwiches. We were just about to have breakfast, but within 15 minutes he is packed and gone.

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Voices from the Valleys

Other times the call has come late in the evening. A truck may have gone off the road somewhere, or there's been a landslide, and someone needs to be there through the night to alert drivers to the hazard.

How is a person supposed to stay awake all night without a nap in the afternoon first? Somehow they do it.

Even without emergencies the world of traffic control is full of last minute arrangements. It is not unusual to get a call after 9 pm, asking you to be somewhere nearly three hours away by 8:00 the next morning.

Do the math: That means getting out the door before 5 am, which means you should have been in bed with your gear packed well before 9 pm if you want to get your eight hours sleep.

Flaggers stand on their feet all day in all kinds of weather and have to stay alert through hours of boredom. I couldn't do it to save my life, let alone someone else's.

Then there is the danger of being overrun by aggressive drivers, and the aggravation of people who take their anger at a delay out on you.

At least many years ago it used to pay well. These days the pay is just a bit above minimum wage. The fierce competition between contractors is partly subsidized by the low wages of the people on the road. All hail the dogma of the free market.

So folks, next time you get stopped by a flagger, don't give them the finger. Give them a big thumbs up and a thanks for an essential job well done.

Ieneke van Houten
Nakusp

Open letter to Premier Gordon Campbell

Happy New Year. You have probably already made a few New Year's resolutions, but please read the following suggestions, and add any you've forgotten to your original list.

1. I resolve to restore the BC Human Rights Commission, which I disbanded after winning the 2001 election.

2. I resolve that since taxes contributed greatly to the province's billion dollar surplus, those tax dollars should be spent on improvements to the quality of life of non-millionaire taxpayers, for example, by increasing the amount sent on healthcare from approximately $3,400 per person to $4,400, which is the norm in other wealthy provinces.

3. I resolve to spend more tax dollars on funding to public schools to reverse the lower graduation rate and poor scores on grade 7 standardized tests, and to scrap the accountability plan which replaces learning with standardized tests.

4. I resolve to encourage my business cronies to build affordable housing for middle- and low-income people.

5. I resolve to increase the rates for social assistance, and to remove barriers to education for recipients of assistance.

6. I resolve to raise the minimum wage to $10 per hour, and to end child poverty, which is currently experienced by 30% of British Columbia's children.

7. I resolve to cancel those stupid coal-powered furnaces. What was I thinking?

8. I resolve to support communities by encouraging them to develop businesses that serve their needs, such as by allowing certified butchers to continue to ply their trade locally.

9. I almost forgot: I resolve to disband the appointed health boards, and replace them with democratically elected hospital boards.

10. And speaking of democracy, I resolve not to cancel any more sittings of the Legislature.

You can do it, Gordie!

Margaret Hill
Crescent Valley

Open letter to KDCFS directors:

Your update, published in the last issue of the Valley Voice, implied that Barry Rempel did not respond to your letter in which you informed him of the December 6 resolution that the board a) considered his contract to be at an end and b) was offering him hourly employment. In fact, Barry's December 11 response to your letter is currently on Kaslo Cable. Barry's letter indicates that at the time he received your letter, he had all his insurance obligations in place, and that if the board wished to discuss any other issues, the directors should follow the conflict resolution clauses that are written into the contract.

With all current woodlands operations and future planning brought to a grinding halt, you have put the current license at risk and you have jeopardized the credibility the Society once had with the MOFR. It was this credibility that secured for KDCFS an invitation for a long-term area based tenure (another opportunity currently on hold because of your decision).

Another casualty of your personal dispute with Barry is Erika. Since she is the most familiar with the application and highly respected by the community, you should make every effort to get her back on the board.

You say that you will investigate all options to secure the services of a manager. Starting a management search from scratch will take a minimum of 8 weeks - and then, if you choose a manager that has no recent experience with the Society's operations, there will be a further 3-6 months before that individual will be anywhere near on top of the job. During that period you will have to plead for deadline extensions from the Ministry, you'll be borrowing money just to keep afloat (from where?), and you will be very far away from the goals of the current license, or the goals in the PCFA application.

There is one option that you have, right now. Get back to the table and revive the contract with Barry (and the local team he assembled). Get mediation. Get back on track. Kaslo and Area D needs to see this Community Forest working again.

Ken Wapple
Kaslo

Time to explore other options for Galena Shores

I am a year-round resident of Galena Bay and work as a chef at the Windsor Hotel in Trout Lake. I was a cook at Halcyon Hot springs for three-and-a-half years prior to moving to the Windsor last spring. Through my work, I have seen the demand for locally produced food rise exponentially, and the organic and slow food movements gain tremendous momentum. Having lived in Galena Bay on and off my whole life, I can also attest to the naturally great farming conditions my family and others enjoy here. Galena Bay, being in the heart of the only inland temperate rainforest in North America, is literally a jungle. District lot 8682 (the 131-acre piece of land proposed to be removed from the ALR) in the heart of Galena Bay is no exception. Although it has been logged and is littered with debris, one only has to visit the land to see that the natural regrowth of the vegetation is vigorous.

Whoever is in charge of developing the land can obviously nurture or manipulate it to serve their own purpose – whether this be to accumulate more wealth while providing second homes for wealthy Albertans (as in the case of ALD), or to work towards gaining independence from foreign and domestic corporate agriculture by creating more sustainable, community based agricultural ventures. By growing the food we eat, we ensure our survival first as a community, then as a province and beyond. This, to those of us not looking to invest in a second 'play home' is economic security. Galena Bay, being centrally located among many larger communities, as well as being naturally fertile, is an ideal place to begin an eco-friendly agricultural business. With new methods of indoor farming and greenhouse technologies being developed all the time, agri-business in many forms could be pursued year round.

In his argument to remove lot 8682 from the ALR, head of Arrow Lakes Development Ltd. (ALD) Lindsay Moir "had a report prepared by a past president of the British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA)." This report describes negative attributes relative to the agricultural potential of lot 8682. The points listed are misleading, and are clearly from a corporate point of view. I would like to see a report on the agricultural viability of lot 8682 by someone not hired by ALD. Mr. Moir has also been very vocal at claiming that "residents here don't want to live near a dirty, stinky pig farm." As if, other than his development, that's the only option. In our changing political and environmental landscapes, with produce shortages as close as California, more and more people want to be independent of a global corporate economy. I think it's time to explore other options.

Andrew Harding
Galena Bay

SnoWest article could have negative effects

Our communities are not prepared to preserve the values we hold dear in the face of the onslaught of high-impact tourism that seems to be indicated in our future. This is why I am concerned about SnoWest Canada featuring New Denver's backcountry as a snowmobiling mecca (Valley Voice, January 17).

The SnoWest article was in conjunction with the local snowmobile guiding business. It will undoubtedly be good for that business, and the business is undoubtedly good for the valley economy. But life here is more than a flow of dollars, and there's an old saying that "too much of a good thing can be bad."

Currently there is a huge explosion in the use of snowmobiles. Some snowmobiling areas are being swamped with dozens and dozens of snowmobiles in a single day. Human disturbance in winter is now a serious threat to mountain goats, wolverines, and mountain caribou. With the presence of large numbers of loud machines, almost any wildlife will withdraw from an area. But increasingly, there is nowhere else to go.

At one time, the snowmobiles were not strong enough to travel in heavy snow and up steep slopes. That left some areas for wildlife, and for non-motorized recreationists. But the newer machines can go almost anywhere.

If it were mostly people from our community that were out snowmobiling, the problem would be less serious. But articles like the one in SnoWest will begin to concentrate the impacts of people from all over the world in our backcountry. And it isn't just one snowmobile business. If you look at the big picture, snowmobile guiding businesses, clubs and mass gatherings are rapidly increasing in many places. The total impact on wildlife must be huge.

For many years the Valhalla Wilderness Society has recognized that there should be some places for snowmobiling in this area. We asked the provincial government to create a recreational plan that would designate places for different kinds of recreation, and even for no recreation so that wildlife can have refuges. Instead, the government has been handing out tenures for commercial motorized recreation for years without such a plan.

I have seen cross-country skiers pushed out of one area after another by the spread of commercial motorized recreation in this region. Many places easily accessible from roads have been packed into ice by snowmobiles. Some skiers are now using snowmobiles to get to where they want to ski because they have to go farther and farther to find good skiing. Some of them, like VWS director Craig Pettitt, use them only for transportation on backcountry roads. But a new form of skiing is now using snowmobiles to climb slopes and skis to come down.

I hope that, despite the joys and profits of using snowmobiles, many in our community will continue to support balancing good fun and good business with good planning and restrictions to protect animal life and the environment.

Anne Sherrod,
VWS Chairperson
New Denver

Execution of Saddam Hussein – justice, or the Mother of All Cover Ups

George Bush must have done one helluva dance on New Year's Day. He calls it "justice served" but I for one wonder how he would feel to be tried in an Iraqi court!

Hussein should have been brought to trial in front of the world court, not the Iraqi court. His crimes were against humanity, not just Iraq. Had he faced the world court he would have received a fair trial. It is questionable whether his trial in front of an Iraqi judge was fair at all. The situation being what it is in Iraq, it could be argued that neither the current Iraqi government, or its courts, are legitimate. Both exist at the courtesy of the American and British occupiers, and not, some would argue quite correctly, at the will of the Iraqi people.

Furthermore, had Hussein been tried in front of the world court, he would undoubtedly still be alive. And if Hussein were alive there would still be a chance he would talk. If he talked, maybe he would explain how he became the president of Iraq, where he got his guns, who supported him, and why they turned on him in the end. With him dead, his lips are sealed, which is why I think Bush is probably dancing.

There is also the little matter of capital punishment. Death penalties are supposedly deterrents, but criminals do not think about deterrence when they commit crimes. Most criminals do not believe they will be caught, so deterrence does not figure into criminality, at least there is no evidence that it does. Many US states still practice capital punishment, but there is no evidence the practice has resulted in less capital crime.

Revenge is another motive for capital punishment, an eye for an eye. However, there is no evidence that revenge ever solves anything, nor is there any evidence that it makes any of the victims feel better. I'm sure there are a lot of people glad Saddam is dead, but does his death improve their quality of life? Not likely. Iraq continues to be in deadly turmoil, even with Saddam gone, and it will continue to be in turmoil.

What is learned from executing criminals such as Saddam? When Hitler's henchmen were hanged, did it stop the advent of neo-Nazi movements in Europe? I think not. In fact, it gave neo-Nazis some martyrs to rally behind. Has the execution of serial killers brought an end to serial killing? No!

When are the people of this planet going to learn? We don't learn how to stop crime by killing criminals. Maybe, just maybe, if we kept them alive, studied them, interrogated them, watched them, ran tests on them, we might learn something about them. And if we learn something about them we might, just might, find out what makes them tick. And if we find out what makes them tick, then maybe we might, just might, find out how to prevent such people from committing crimes in the first place. If we kill them, then we never know.

Finally, what about the criminal. Seems to me that killing these people just lets them off. They never have to live with their actions, they don't have to be around to see what their crimes do to their victims. They never have to answer any questions. They don't have to live with their actions. Some believe they are judged by God, but we have no evidence of that. In fact, to folks like Hussein, a death penalty is something of a reward. Saddam went to his grave believing himself a martyr to a cause. If he'd lived he would have had to face the rest of his life in jail, his power stripped from him, his cohorts gone, his wealth lost, his life ruined. If we really want revenge, would it not be sweeter knowing he had to live with himself and his actions?

Personally, I think the execution of Saddam was a crime against humanity because now humanity will never know the whole story, the history, and without that history in our consciousness, we mostly likely will have to relive the whole experience again, with some other tyrant.

But the worst thing about the murder of Saddam is that we will never know, from the horse's mouth, just what role the US played in his ascension to power and his many years of abuse, and that amounts to the Mother of All Cover-ups, because his accomplices will never be named. Methinks George Bush Sr. is also doing a dance today.

Will Webster
Kaslo

The Silverton Memorial Hall gets a new lease on life thanks to volunteers

by Art Joyce

At what point does a building become far more than wood, glass and nails? Maybe when it holds a community's collective memory and affections. The Silverton Memorial Hall has become just that since its construction in 1919. Organized by a group who called themselves The Get Together Club, the hall was built entirely by volunteer labour and subscriptions to honour veterans of World War I. Village Councillor Linda Laktin says her father Dick Hambly has told her stories about the hall since she was a girl.

"There used to be dances every week. Miners from the Standard Mine would walk down for a dance, then walk back up the hill to be at work early the next morning."

Now in the 21st century it's gaining a new lease on life, once again thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers. The most recent restoration project, headed by Ken Butler in 2001-02, provided a much-needed exterior paint job, insulation, foundation work and a new roof. Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall director Kathy Provan was astonished to see 50 people show up in one day for a work bee.

"When the front panel was pulled off, we found the original Get Together Club sign, so that was really exciting," says Provan. "I just fell in love with the place."

The Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall are building on a long-standing tradition, raising funds for its latest reincarnation. A Spirit of 2010 grant of $88,000 has been received so that a new washroom addition with handicapped facilities may be built adjacent to the kitchen. The Village of Silverton will match this amount, partly from funds it received from the sale of its Leadville Street property. A fire suppression sprinkler system will be installed, and air conditioning to relieve those stuffy summer days. The interior will be repainted and the maple floor refinished. The 2010 grant also includes money for a projection screen and state-of-the-art sound equipment, enabling the hall to become a viewing site for the Olympics. An alarm system for fire and security will be installed in the hall and other Village-owned buildings.

"There'll be hot water in the washrooms—what a novelty," laughs Provan.

The architectural plans have been approved, and this week a mechanical engineer will inspect the hall prior to renovation. The hall will be closed in mid-February as contractor Laurie Hicks begins work, with a projected completion date of June 15. Village CAO Junko Ida will be project manager.

But the hall's facelift won't stop there. The kitchen hasn't been upgraded since it was built in the 1950s. The next phase of the project will raise money for a kitchen renovation, new tables and chairs, and a stage that breaks down into 12 components. The new kitchen will take in the area of the current men's washroom and add much-needed equipment such as a commercial dishwasher, range and fridge.

"As it is right now, it's difficult to cater events because the kitchen is quite cramped, and not up to code," says Mayor Everett. "With the new kitchen, conventioners could come in for an event and not have to leave."

Fire Brigade Battalion Chief Ron Provan says the renovations will bring the hall up to standard as an emergency gathering point, where families affected by fire or other disasters could be temporarily housed and fed. And for performing arts, the hall's acoustics are said to be the best in Western Canada, for its size and age.

While doing research for the Silverton Historical Society, Kathy Provan made an interesting discovery. During the 1950s, the Women's Institute (WI) had discussed installing a memorial plaque for fallen World War II soldiers, but were unable to do so. The Friends will apply to Veterans Affairs for funding to finish what the WI began.

She says they should know within the week whether their application to the Columbia Basin Trust Community Development program has been successful. If approved, the grant would provide $30,000 for this phase of the project, plus $5000 for marketing the hall. The Friends are also in the process of applying for grant funding of $110,000. Mayor Everett has said that the Village promised not to raise taxes to meet its share of renovation costs, but is committed to seeing the project through to completion.

"I really think the hall is the centrepiece of our village," says Mayor Everett. "It brings much-needed business to town and its acoustics make it very desirable for all sorts of events."

New Denver council, January 27: Stormwater system upgrades

by Michael Dorsey

•Council decided to apply for funding through the provincial Towns for Tomorrow program to upgrade the existing stormwater system. The project will involve installing new catch basins and a bio-retention swale system along Slocan Avenue.

•Councillor Bunka continues to attend Emergency Preparedness meetings and Councillor Campbell complimented Village staff for their excellent work during the recent "heavy weather." Mayor Wright reported that MP Alex Atamanenko is working towards better service for rural passport applicants. He also met with Dianne Gagon of the IHA, who updated him on meetings with Drs. Skrenes and Burkholder to work out ways that IHA can help in the recruiting of another doctor to replace Dr. Skrenes in the fall. He also urged School District No. 10, in its involvement with the community connections program, to work with educational groups that are not part of the public system, i.e. childcare centres, Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts and with Liza Ireland, who has written a concept paper on an educational centre for sustainability.

•Councillor Brookfield reported on the AGM of the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce. Area H Director Don Munro and RDCK's planner Dave Wahn attended as guests to speak about the OCP. The Chamber board was re-appointed for this year, with the exception of Lee Hammond, who said he would find someone to replace him.

•It was decided during discussion of the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) between BC and Alberta, that council would comment through UBCM, which is sending out questionnaires on the agreement to all municipalities in the province.

•It was also decided to authorize to send with expenses Administrator Gordon to attend GIS database sessions with Regional District. Subject to agreement, Catherine Allaway will be the Village representative to CMON.

•Public works reported that new loader chains were purchased for the cost of $5,000.

•Council approved Accounts Payable of $45,050.79 for December.

TV Society offers residents solid value

submitted

Residents of New Denver, Silverton and much of RDCK's Area H have a good deal when it comes to television and radio reception. For many years the Area H North TV Society has provided a quality selection of both video and audio choices to listeners and viewers at a very reasonable cost, with few interruptions of service.

Although some have satellite television or radio receivers, monthly fees can be considerable, and there can be an excess of lower grade programming. The Area H Society provides seven television stations and six radio channels to any home with a modest antenna for about $36 per year, levied from property taxes. Whether you're at home, in the car or using a portable set, these program choices can be enjoyed anytime.

The TV Society has been active for many years, relying on a group of volunteers to administer details and perform minor upkeep tasks while technical matters are seen to by a contracted technician. Currently, an array of antennae, dishes and hardware in the small compound by the lakeshore keeps the signal up and running.

In coming months channel 7 will be activated with the CTV signal, after attempts to procure the Discovery channel proved unworkable. The new channel 7 will join the current offering of CBC, Global, KOMO, KIRO, NBC, KCTS and Knowledge channels, along with the radio choices of CBC 1, CBC 2, KBS, KISS, CFMI, and Knowledge audio. Also Kootenay Co-op radio from Nelson may be on the air here in future.

Please take note of the annual General Meeting of the Area H North TV Society to be held on February 7, 7:30 pm at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver. Everyone is invited to share ideas, concerns and suggestions, and new members would be welcomed by the executive.

The Lancet moved to begin restoration process

On Saturday January 6, 2007, the historic motor launch *Lancet* was moved from her perch in the Silvery Slocan Museum's yard (next to the Apple Tree garden) to Tracy and Francie Oldham's garage to begin its restoration. Despite the power outage, the move was accomplished by the New Denver-Silverton Fire Department with a little help from Chevy power.

The *Lancet* will undergo a historic restoration that will highlight the lines and construction of this Edwardian-era craft. The work will use historic boat-building techniques and, wherever possible, original materials. The project will be spearheaded by Mark McKenzie of Kaslo, who has considerable restoration experience. If anyone is aware of the whereabouts of the *Lancet's* original engine, please contact Bob Dubreuil at 358-2828. Once restored, the Lancet will be returned to the museum's yard as the centrepiece of the outdoor exhibit.

The *Lancet* was built in 1912 by Dr. Edwin Brouse, New Denver's first doctor, on the second floor of the old hospital (where the Brouse Lodge now stands). Considered the only remaining Kootenay example of a wooden motor launch, it represents an era when stately cruising on the lake was a popular pastime. Afloat into the 1940s, the *Lancet* was beached across the lake and used as a plant container until moved to the museum yard in 1995. Although the *Lancet* is far too deteriorated to ever float again, there has been talk about the possibility of building a replica that could be launched.

The other boat known to have been built by Dr. Brouse was the *Tonic*, a larger and considerably more modern boat reportedly sunk in the lake in the 1960s. Anyone with knowledge of its sinking is asked to contact Dubreuil, as recovery may be possible if the water depth is not too great.

Anyone interested in getting involved and gaining expertise in the construction of heritage boats please contact Bob Dubreuil or drop down to meet Mark at the worksite.

The Lancet was recently moved to Tracy and Francie Oldham's garage by the New Denver-Silverton Fire Department, with a little help from Chevy power.

Silverton council, January 23: Village website to be developed

by Art Joyce

•CAO Junko Ida reported that a manager has been hired for the Village of Silverton website. Meeting agendas, minutes and bylaws will be posted first, with photos added later. Ida also reported the Village's emergency preparedness plan is badly in need of updating – the current plan dates from 1996-97. Funding of up to $5,000 is available from the UBCM's Emergency Planning program and the Provincial Emergency Preparedness Plan (PEP) for the Village's part time employee to work on the update.

•Mayor Everett reported that he has had a flood of phone calls and letters regarding snow removal during the recent heavy snowfall. Everett said in his opinion the public works department has done an excellent job, starting at 5:00 or 6:00 every morning and putting in overtime to keep streets cleared. He is encouraging residents to pitch in wherever possible to help the Village keep sidewalks clear.

•Councillor Bell reported attending the RDCK Committee of the Whole meeting January 17 and said the Sandon regional park proposal has majority support from the board.

•Councillor Masun reported attending an RDCK Area H Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting. Discussion centred on funding received for new equipment and training. The committee is tentatively planning more training exercises this year on Slocan River for flood preparedness.

•Councillor Provan reported on attendance at the Slocan Lake Arena Society meeting. She says the society's application for funding to BC Hydro was unsuccessful; the society will be making an application to the BC Gaming Commission. However, it's unlikely the arena will be ready for use this season.

•The mechanical engineer was to come to Silverton soon for the Memorial Hall inspection, to provide a firm quote on services required for the new addition.

•A report was received from Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC with a detailed breakdown of costs for the OCP review process, amounting to a total of $19,955.

•A request from the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts (VSSFA–formerly Valhalla Summer School of Music) for 50% rent relief at Memorial Hall plus a grant in aid of $200 for its theatre program was tabled until next meeting.

•A letter was received from Silverton resident Nana Archibald expressing her support for keeping the day park for day use only. Archibald has offered to help with the purchase of a shade tree for the area and enclosed a donation for the Memorial Hall renovation. The Village will contact Mrs. Archibald with thanks for her generosity.

•Bylaw 443-2007, Council remuneration and expenses, was passed with the amended salaries of $3,000 annually to the mayor and $1,200 to councillors.

•Bylaw 445-2007, dog licensing and control, was passed with no amendments. Council is providing incentive for dog owners by reducing the license from $100 to $25 annually for pets neutered or spayed. Pit bulls will cost their owners $300 a year to license.

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

Slocan council, January 17: Neighbourhood pub turned down

by Don Currie

•Council voted 3 to 1 against granting a business license to Duvamel Properties Ltd. of Edmonton to operate a neighborhood pub at 520 Harold St. Citing a "perceived conflict of interest" Councillor Gates left the chamber and returned after the matter was decided. Councillor Perriere, in opposing the application, said council had followed the process, held two public meetings and solicited opinions of the people living in the area. She said people in Slocan are not opposed to a pub, or the proposed manager, but they are opposed to the location. Councillor Joanne Ellis said the decision wasn't easy but she had to listen to the people and vote no. Councillor Marc Septav also voted no, but was concerned that council might be sending the wrong message. He said it was important to encourage business and employment opportunities. BC Tourism rated Rails to Trails as one of the most popular in BC and Slocan needs facilities for tourists, he said. He was also concerned about discouraging non-resident investors seeking to establish long term businesses. Mayor John Van Bynen cast the lone vote in favour of the application and asked that his vote be recorded.

•During question period, May Gingras, a member of the Women's Institute (WI), said she was surprised to see an ad for an event at the Women's Institute Hall after council had requested the WI to vacate the building last September for repairs. She wanted to know if Council had a reported $16,000 budget for repairs and when it would be done. Councillor Perriere asked if council had received a report on the repairs. Works Foreman Jerry Simmons said he wasn't the person to determine the safety of the building. Council adopted a motion to authorize an inspection and a report prior to the February council meeting.

•Administrator Ludlow presented council with light industry tax rates for seven small BC communities to compare to the rate levied by Slocan. Slocan was shown to be extraordinarily high at 46.6% compared to an average of approximately 15% for other small communities. The issue arose when the Village's sole light industry, Western Aircraft Supplies Ltd., was assessed a 130.98% increase in taxes over the previous year. Ludlow recommended the rate be adjusted in the new budget process. She said she had consulted the ministry and nothing can be done about the previous rate.

•Works Foreman Jerry Simmons reported on quotes received to upgrade, service and maintain all alarm systems at the water plant and Village facilities so that they would operate automatically on a 24/7 basis. Currently employees are on standby and are phoned in the event of emergency. Simmons recommended that lights on the sleigh riding hill that are regularly vandalized should be replaced with regular street lights that go on at dark and off in the morning. Work is progressing on the library at the old elementary school. Planning was underway on assessing future equipment needs including a new snowplow and truck. The foreman reported that two employees were being sent for courses on operating the water plant.

•Councillor Gates, reporting on RDCK, drew attention to money available from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for energy improvement that might be applied to the Village hydro plant project. Grants are also available from the Innovation Fund to reduce greenhouse gases.

•On advice from legal counsel, a letter from John Sarjeant was not put on the agenda as "legal representation indicates that this letter is defamatory in nature."

•Council gave first and second readings to Bylaw 560 to increase garbage rates from $52 year to $104 per year.

•Acting on a letter from Sabine Wolters, who owns four lots on Ward Ave, requesting that the Village clear Ward of obstructions to provide access to her property, council decided to explain in writing what the Village had done to date. Council opened a laneway to provide access to the lots. The Village crew was dumping rubble to fill a depression to build up the roadbed. Councilor Perriere called for council to find money to fence the Village works yard. Councillor Gates thought that council had previously adopted a resolution to do something about the situation.

•Council noted the results of an Appeal For Variance at 603 Slocan Street, to allow construction of a covered walkway in accordance with submitted plans.

•Council agreed to get the details in writing of all procedures and costs required to apply for a Village liquor license for use at community venues such as the curling rink, Legion Hall events, Oktoberfest and Logger Sports Day.

Dr. Fun & the Nightcrawlers will be playing February 3 to another sold-out crowd.at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

Slocan Valley Streamkeepers community report

by Jennifer Yeow

In 2003, when Streamkeepers began doing assessments on the Slocan River, many knowledgeable folks recommended we look closely at temperature. Because of its lake origins, size and slow velocity, our river tends to be warm and this impacts all aquatic life. So we began monitoring temperature as well as parameters influenced by temperature like spawning fish numbers, invertebrate populations and coliform bacteria.

Now, after four years of study, are we seeing trends? Last summer we saw the highest number of days since we began the study that mean daily temperatures rose above 19 degrees centigrade at all four stations.

Some good news: fish populations are up. The number of redds in spring, 2006 was the highest total count observed in the four years of monitoring. Fish create redds or 'nests' in the gravel to lay their eggs.

This fall, biologists and technicians swam most of the river in order to count the rainbow trout. Their findings were encouraging. Again, counts of fish over 30 centimeters were up at all historic sites from Lemon Creek to Crescent Valley. Why? We know that last year's (2005) water temperatures were relatively cool during midsummer. When water temperatures are cool fish have good appetites and they eat well, so they go into winter healthy and fat.

We also saw high numbers and varieties of benthic invertebrates (insects which are fish food) and high flows in spring. Historic records indicate we had a one in 60-year high water event and lots of water benefits all aquatic creatures.

An important component of the Streamkeeper's program is restoration. Strategic projects that involve bank stabilization using large logs and planted trees and shrubs is the best way we can help the river. Trees shade the river and provide habitat for aquatic life. Since 2004, we've worked with students and riverside landowners to plant hundreds of trees and stabilize banks using wattle fencing. Wattle fencing uses live stems to create a living structure that holds the bank. You can see some of our work downstream of the Trozzo Creek confluence where erosion is occurring due to ground water seepage.

As in past years, we are grateful to the Columbia Power Corporation for its Slocan River Restoration Program and the Columbia Basin Trust, which helps fund our school outreach program. The Riparian Restoration Program will again be offered in spring 2007.

Please contact Jen at 226-7339 or Eva at 226-7309 if you would like to learn more about our findings, are interested in becoming a Streamkeeper or in submitting a project for the Riparian Program.

Students working with Slocan Valley Streamkeepers sort invertebrates.

Beginner's Luck Chess Tournament returns

If you're between the ages of 6 and 13 years and have a hankering to play chess, 'check' out the Beginner's Luck Chess Tournament hosted by the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission on Saturday, February 10 at the Slocan Park Hall from 1:00 – 4 pm.

Now in its 6th year, the event is a fun-based round-robin event where every entrant really does walk away a winner. Entrants are matched by skill levels to keep things interesting and enjoyable. The entry fee is $7 per player, or $12 for two in the same family.

The tournament is the brainchild of local educator Chris Laurie, who has been digging deep into his bag of tricks to inspire kids with the magic of chess. During the afternoon, Chris will sneak in a few chess tips for players looking to improve the quality of their game.

Contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008 by February 5 (so there will be enough prizes for everyone).

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

The Slocan Valley Program of CBAL would like to thank Winlaw School for generously letting us use the library for Parent-Child Mother Goose this fall.

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PUBLIC MEETING

Residents of the Villages of Slocan, Silverton,New Denver & Electoral Area H are invited to attend a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the Regional District of Central Kootenay 2007 BUDGET on Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 3:00 pm at the Slocan Fire Dept. 8877 Slocan St. South in Slocan

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

NOTICE
VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Pursuant to Section 166 of the Community Charter the Village of Slocan invites public consultation in the preparation of the Village's 2007 Five Year Financial Plan. Council will be holding its first Public Budget Meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7 pm at the Silvery Slocan Hall. Council welcomes public input from residents of the village with regards to items they would like to see addressed in the budget.
Please submit your comments or advise the Village of Slocan Office if you wish to make a presentation, by 4 pm on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. Village of Slocan Office, 503 Slocan St. P O Box 50, Slocan, BC. Phone: 250-355-2277

Eunice Ludlow
Village Administrator

Isaac Flamond shows off his new face during Family Literacy Day celebrations at Stepping Stones Childcare Centre in Nakusp on Saturday,

Jack and his dad Hugh Watt take a break from reading to climb the activity bars at Stepping Stones on Family LIteracy Day.

Sarah Sanders reads to Amber LaMarsh and Zacora Hansen during Family Literacy Day activities at Stepping Stones in Nakusp.

Family Literacy Day champions one card program

The Slocan Valley Program of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) celebrated Family Literacy Day by helping the kids at WE Graham, Winlaw and Vallican Whole Schools register for library cards at the Nelson and Castlegar public libraries.

The new Card for Every Child program has extended free service to all children in the province who were formerly unable to be members of a library without paying a membership fee.

WE Graham was also the site of a snowsculpture to mark the event and celebrate how storytelling feeds the imagination. Sculptor David Ducharme frequently lends his talents to help with Literacy Day events.

For more information on CBAL programs or to inquire about tutoring, please call Chris at 355-0032.

WE Graham was the site of a snowsculpture to mark the event and celebrate how storytelling feeds the imagination. Sculptor David Ducharme frequently lends his talents to help with Literacy Day events.

The kids dressed up as their favourite Robert Munsch character for the Family Literacy Day celebration at Lucerne in New Denver.

The dragon and the Paper Bag Princess meet again at Lucerne for Family Literacy Day.

Annie Collins with Charlene Alexander, New Denver's Literacy Co-ordinator.

Jude Nicholson-Chodat

Angela Ryu

and Ashley Friedenberger enjoyed New Denver's Family Literacy Day.

The kids at WEGraham read their books outside in the snow, just like the snowdragon.

RDCK, January 27: New library programs called into question

by Jan McMurray

•The City of Nelson raised concerns about the equity of recent provincial programs that make library services more accessible to the public (BC OneCard and Every-School-Child-A-Card). Although the City supports the goals of these programs, it points out that the grant received to offset the cost of administering the programs falls short. Also, some rural residents do not contribute to library taxation, but can now use the service.

Area H Director Don Munro said he felt embarassed to be part of the 2% of the province that does not contribute taxes to any library service. He said a year ago, he talked with some Nelson Library board members and the head librarian about having residents from Slocan south join with residents of Areas E and F to pay taxes to the library. With the new provincial programs, Munro said, "Now I see no chance to become part of the Nelson library." He added that he was assured when Nelson expanded its boundaries into Area H that the higher non-resident fee to join the library would disappear, but instead it has just about doubled.

The RDCK board will write to the Minister of Education to encourage the adoption of a province-wide approach that will be equitable and manageable for all public libraries.

•Marcia Braundy and Dale Norman, P. Eng. emailed the board with their concerns about the potential of ongoing flooding on Indian Point Road in the Slocan Valley. This email was referred to the Manager of Community Services, who is preparing recommendations on flood response as a result of the Slocan Valley flooding last spring.

Braundy attended the RDCK board meeting and told the members that MLA Corky Evans had set up a February 7 meeting to discuss the issue with Ministry of Environment, Highways, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Area H Director Don Munro and some residents of Indian Point Road. She said she would be making a presentation at that meeting, and would like to make the same presentation to the Rural Affairs committee of the RDCK on February 8. The board agreed.

•All of the bylaws amending water rates for all RDCK owned water systems were postponed. The amendments bring the rates to a level where the cost of operating and administering the systems is recovered by the Regional District. Directors wanted more time to let their constituents know about the change.

•Bylaw 1871, a bylaw to set the rates, conditions and terms under which water may be supplied and used within McDonald Creek Water Service Area, was adopted.

•RDCK staff will apply for a $6,675 grant from the provincial Local Motion Fund program to complete rebuilding the boardwalk in Winlaw Regional and Nature Park. It will also apply for a $15,000 grant under the same program to build and install a bridge along the Galena Trail to replace the old one. Local Motion will cover half the cost of the project – the rest of the funding will come from the Slocan Valley Regional Park service, upon review of the budget.

•The board will write letters of support for the Burton Community Hall Board, the Fauquier Communication Centre Society and the Edgewood Community Internet Society for their applications under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for $15,000 each to expand their wireless internet services.

•Community Tourism funding of $6,390 will go to the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society and of $3,000 to the Burton Hall Board for Burton signage, pending UBCM approval.

•BC Hydro grants-in-lieu were approved as follows. Area D: Kaslo Area Youth Council - $1,000 for skatepark; Area H: Hills Community Hall Society – $1,000 for construction of community fire hall; Wayne McCrory - $1,000 for Bear Awareness project; Area K: Nakusp Public Library – $1,500 for shelving; Bayview Residents' Association – $3,000 for internet support ; Fauquier Communication Centre Society - $900 for Summit Conference; Burton Hall Board - $900 for Summit Conference; Edgewood Community Internet Society - $900 for Summit Conference.

•A grant-in-aid of $500 from Area D will go to the West Kootenay EcoSociety for a climate change conference to be held April 23-24 in Nelson.

•The following appointments were made to the Glacier Creek Regional Park Commission: Kelly Abey, Mark Healy, Roger Leroux, Cheryl Hillier, Glen Walker and Coriene Greenlaw.

RDCK grants-in-lieu of taxes will go to rural areas

by Jan McMurray

The announcement that local governments would receive a substantial increase in grants-in-lieu of taxes from BC Hydro and Columbia Power Corporation this year has opened a can of worms around the RDCK board table. Director John Kettle said that it is "the most divisive thing I've seen since I've been on the board."

The board will receive $574,232 in grants-in-lieu this year, compared to the $392,867 it got last year. A decision on how to distribute that money was finally made at the January 27 board meeting, after having been discussed several times before.

Of the $574,232, $500,000 will be divided up among the 11 electoral areas of the RDCK. The electoral areas most impacted by the dams – D, E, H, J and K – will each receive $70,000. The remaining rural areas will each receive $25,000. The $74,232 balance of the grant money will go into the Rural Administration budget.

In the past, 70% of the total grants-in-lieu received were divided the electoral areas most impacted by the dams. The remaining 30% was used for a general purpose that would benefit the whole board.

So, the difference this year is that all of the RDCK's grants-in-lieu are going to the rural areas, and the municipalities have been left out of the equation.

Any local government that has a public power generating facility within its borders or that is impacted by a public power generating facility receives grants-in-lieu (in theory). Castlegar, Nelson and Nakusp are the three municipalities within the RDCK that get grants-in-lieu on their own merit, over and above the RDCK amount. Nelson, which has never received a BC Hydro grant-in-lieu in the past, will be receiving $247,562 this year as a result of its boundary expansion which took in Kootenay Canal. Castlegar will be receiving $291,596, up from $73,727 last year. Nakusp will be receiving $14,755, up from $7,136.

During discussions about how the RDCK board should handle its grant, Directors Dooley (Nelson) and Chernoff (Castlegar) were asked if they would put their grants into one big pot with the RDCK grant. The two directors said no. The same two directors voted against the motion to divvy up the RDCK grant among the rural areas only.

Director Mann, who has been working on the issue of grants-in-lieu of taxation for utilities for some time, says the problem is the way the Province has set up the system. He pointed out that utility companies give municipalities, and not rural areas, 1% of their operating revenue. However, grants-in-lieu for power generating assets in rural areas are given to Regional Districts as a whole, and the RDCK has been putting a portion of this grant money into services that benefit the whole district, municipalities included. "The Province has created a have / have not, unfair system. If we wanted to be really fair then we'd put the money into a common pool. If the municipalities want to keep their share, then let us keep our share. Rural areas already share with municipalities a lot more," he said.

In attempts to get answers from the Province about the way it has set up this grants-in-lieu system, RDCK Chair Gary Wright, Vice Chair Josh Smienk and Treasurer Barry McLean flew to Vancouver in December to meet with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance. Wright reported that the meeting brought no results. "The Deputy Minister made it clear that revisiting the formula ... would be as political as what we have been going through around this table," he said. "They don't want to mess with it at all." He said when they asked why they were basing the grants on 1989/90 assessments, the ADM pointed out that if they based them on current assessments, Nelson and Castlegar would get even more than they do now because they have expanded their boundaries. "So almost everything is a double-edged sword," he concluded.

Both the junior and senior Lucerne Lakers basketball teams triumphed over Salmo at home games on January 24. The junior team beat out its opponents 46-31 and the seniors won by a landslide – 82-43. Senior player Daniel Delaney scored 57 points in the game, breaking the former school record of 41 points scored in one game, held by Zoel Thibault.

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Nakusp Museum AGM installs new board by acclamation

A full executive and board of directors for 2007 was installed by acclamation for the Nakusp and District Museum Society at its recent AGM. Members were asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food bank and were generous in their donations. The attendance was one of the best in years.

The Nakusp Museum would like to thank the community for its support in 2006 and particularly Woodfire Pizza for caretaking the sandwich board sign and referring tourists to the museum. The new board consists of co-chairpersons Ganishka Dann and Richard Sharpe; vice-chair Gerald Lewis; treasurer Maryellen Harris; secretary Mabel Matischek; directors Dawna Dinning, Beverly Graupe, Bill Barrow, Werner Schneeberger, Wayne Smith and Denis Stanley. Past chair: Sharon Montgomery.

Watch for the seasonal opening in mid-May.

Cycling for houses program attracts Slocan Valley cyclist

Tara Smedbol, a keen cyclist who grew up in the Slocan Valley, is pedalling for a cause. In the summer of 2006 she joined a bicycle challenge organized by Habitat for Humanity International. College students in three groups of 30 riders each pedaled more than 4,000 miles, or 6,400 kilometres, across North America in an effort to raise money and awareness.

Tara Smedbol celebrates the end of her 6400 km ride at the Pacific Ocean near Portland, Oregon.

Founded in 1976, Habitat for Humanity builds houses in partnership with low-income families to make home ownership a reality. A family contributes 400 hours of labour (sweat equity) towards the construction of their own home. When complete, Habitat issues a no-profit, 0%-interest mortgage to the family. The mortgage payments help fund future Habitat projects.

Tara and her fellow cyclists were part of a fundraiser for Collegiate Build of New Haven, Connecticut, a chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Each participant had to raise a minimum of $4000 US before being allowed to join the trip. The monies raised will go to support Habitat housing projects in the US as well as international projects in Botswana. Starting in New Haven, Connecticut, each group pedalled a different route, ending their nine-week challenges in Seattle, Washington, Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco, California. Tara's group was assigned the central route ending in Portland, Oregon.

On a typical day the cyclists would pedal 100 to 150 kilometres to a destination town, share a meal with their hosts, then spend the night in a church or community centre. But getting from point A to point B was only part of each day's obligation. In each of the towns along the route they made presentations about the work that Habitat for Humanity does, and how to start new chapters. Occasionally they had a 'day off' to help a local chapter build a home, giving cyclists a first-hand look at how the monies they were raising are helping people in need.

Tara considers it the trip of a lifetime, for a cause she believes in.

"The most awesome day was when we first saw the Pacific Ocean," said Tara. "We waited at the top of this mountain pass until everybody was together and then all 30 of us rounded a turn together, and there it was, the Pacific Ocean, the end of our journey. New energy filled our tired bodies as we anticipated soaking in that heavenly blue water."

Snowday at Brent Kennedy a success

submitted

Snowday at Brent Kennedy School was on Monday, January 22 for students of grades 1 – 4, with grades 5 and 6 doing snowsculpture. The weather was perfect, with snow falling steadily all day.

Events included snow-sculpture with Peter Vogelaar, internationally acclaimed sculptor of snow and sand from Winlaw; snowshoeing with outdoor leader Howie Ridge from Nelson; snowshoeing and making snow caves with naturalist Shanoon Bennett of Winlaw; Bonhomme the world's only French speaking snowman; cross-country skiing with ski instructor Roger Pratt of Nelson Nordic Ski Club and GTing and sledding on the school hills. Many parents volunteered to make the day fun for all.

Outdoor leader Howie Ridge of Nelson leads the kids in snowshoeing at Brent Kennedy school's Snowday.

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

FortisBC Inc.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application for the Black Mountain Substation Project

Notice of Procedural Conference

Date: Monday, February 19, 2007
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Grand Okanagan Hotel, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, BC

THE APPLICATION

On December 19, 2006, FortisBC Inc. applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (the Commission) for approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct and operate the proposed Black Mountain Substation Project. The new substation will consist of one transformer and a 138 kilovolt ring bus. It will be located in east Kelowna on a new site immediately north of Highway 33 and the Joe Rich Road, and adjacent to the existing right-of-way for transmission lines 54 and 73 and a distribution feeder line. Transmission line 57, which supplies power to the Joe Rich Valley, will also be connected to the new substation. The substation will be connected to three distribution feeders on existing rights-of-way and approximately two kilometers of new right-of-way accessing the Gallagher Canyon Area. The distribution feeders will supply the Bell Mountain, Kirschner Mountain, Gaudie and Gallagher Canyon areas.

The Project is estimated to cost $11.96 million, and is proposed to go into service in the third quarter of 2008. The Application states the Project is required to serve the growing load in the Black Mountain area, as well as to maintain regional reliability and to reduce risk to the bulk power supply in the Kelowna area.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission will hold a Procedural Conference in Kelowna on Monday, February 19th to discuss procedural matters related to the hearing to consider the CPCN application for the Black Mountain Substation Project.

INTERVENTIONS

Persons who expect to actively participate in the proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, **by Wednesday, February 14, 2007**, identifying their interest in the Application. Intervenors will receive copies of the Application as well as all correspondence and filed documentation and should provide an e-mail address if available.

Persons not expecting to actively participate in the proceeding, but who have an interest in the Project, should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by Wednesday, February 14, 2007, identifying their interest in the Application. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Executive Summary of the Application and all Orders issued.

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

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

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

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

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

Websites www.fortisbc.com www.bcuc.com

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

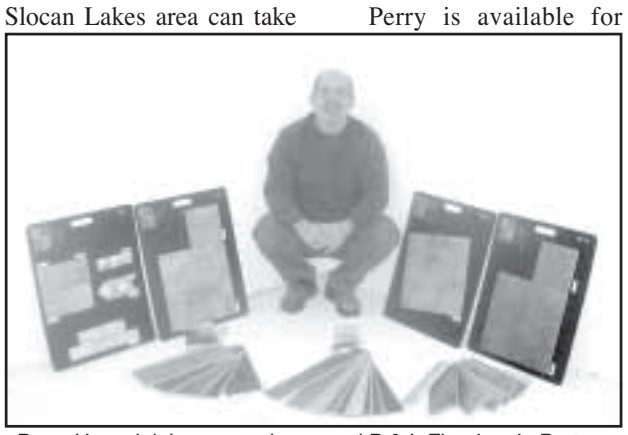
Mr. Brian Williston
Telephone: (604) 660-4700
Email: brian.williston@bcuc.com

New flooring business in Burton

Perry and Lori Hawryluk have recently moved to the Burton area and have opened their business, P & L Flooring. Customers in the the Arrow and Slocan Lakes area can take advantage of Perry's twenty three years of experience in the flooring industry to find quality floor covering solutions for their homes.

Perry is available for professional advice and assistance in measuring, and can help co-ordinate installation for those customers who don't want to do it themselves. There are currently over one hundred samples available to choose from, with many more yet to arrive. The selection includes laminates, hardwoods, and engineered hardwoods, plus cork, slate, marble, granite and ceramic tiles. Most products carry 15 to 25 year warranties.

P & L Flooring invites you to come out to the showroom, view the product selections, and borrow samples to take home with you. Phone them at 265-9983.



Perry Hawryluk has recently opened P & L Flooring in Burton.

NOTICE
VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Pursuant to Section 127 and in accordance with Section 94 of the Community Charter the Village of Slocan 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 pm in the Village of Slocan Office at 503 Slocan St. Slocan, BC

January 17, 2007
February 14, 2007
March 14, 2007
April 11, 2007
May 9, 2007
June 13, 2007
July 11, 2007
August 8, 2007
September 12, 2007
October 10, 2007
November 14, 2007
December 12, 2007

Nakusp council, January 23: Villagers to receive survey on hot springs

by Jan McMurray

•The Hot Springs OCP committee has decided that it would like to develop a survey and send it out to all residents to get public input on what the goals and strategies of the hot springs should be. Councillor Mueller said that the committee wants to do the survey because the hot springs goals have a potentially huge financial impact. "Our concern is the potential financial implications if taxpayers have to come up with money in the future," she said. She said the committee felt the survey would get a better response from the public than would a public meeting. The Village will take care of the photocopying and mailing of the surveys.

•Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering updated Council on grants he is applying for to upgrade the water and sewer sytems. The plan is to put in a water treatment plant for the existing Brouse Creek surface water gravity system, and to get the second well up and running. For the sewer, Shephard said he was looking at a sand filter and UV system.

Shephard explained that the first well would be online next month. The current gravity water system is chlorinated, but not filtered or treated with UV. New provincial health regulations require surface water to have this triple treatment. He said the infrastructure of the surface system is in good shape. The total cost of the water treatment plant, which would treat the water with filtration and UV, is estimated at $1,320,910. The grant would cover 2/3 of this cost, with the Village picking up 1/3 or about $440,303. Of this, $180,000 can come from the new gas tax money coming to municipalities from the federal government. Treasurer Richard Mahoney confirmed that the Village had over $400,000 in the water reserve fund. Thus, with the gas tax funds, the Village can cover its portion without depeleting reserves.

The second project is to get the second well drilled and functioning, and to install pumping equipment so that well water could be pumped up to the Brouse area in an emergency situation. The total cost for this project is estimated at $521,000. The grant would cover $400,000 of this, leaving the Village with a bill of about $121,830.

Mahoney acknowledged that ongoing operation and maintenance of the new water systems would end up costing Villagers more.

The surface system will service the Brouse area; Well #1 will service the core Village area and Well #2 will serve as back-up to Well #1 and for new development. However, Shephard warned that there is limited water for new development, and that bringing the first well online would bring the village up to where it should be currently for water supply.

•Beth McLeod and Rosemarie Parent from the Cultural Conference Centre (CCC) Committee attended to update council on their project to upgrade the arena auditorium, and to ask for a letter of support to accompany their grant application to the 2010 Live Sites funding program.

The committee has broken the project up into phases. The first phase, with an estimated cost of $60,000, is to purchase equipment "that will enhance the usability of the auditorium for audio/visual and other not-so-technical presentations" according to McLeod's written submission. She says acoustics will be improved with acoustic panels and a high quality window covering, which will be wide enough to act as a backdrop for plays and presentations that are set up along the side wall rather than on the stage at the end of the room.

Because the Village owns and manages the facility, the funders have indicated they'd like a letter from council stating that the Village is working in partnership with the group. Also, the grant will cover 50% of the project cost, and the CCC committee must show on the application that it has the matching funds. McLeod said that the group has "several other funding sources, some confirmed already. However, it will be several weeks to three months before we have confirmation of some of the matching funds..." The group asks the Village to state in the letter that it would temporarily commit up to $30,000 while the committee continues to secure the funds from other sources. The group promises not to start the project until the $30,000 is covered by funds raised from other sources.

Council agreed to write the letter, and thanked the committee for all its work.

•Council committed to making an application to the Spirit Square program for funds to design a town square or outdoor public gathering place in Nakusp. Mayor Hamling mentioned that the Downtown Revitalization Committee had recommended a 'spirit square' to be on the waterfront or in the downtown core somewhere. She also mentioned that Music Fest may be interested in working on this with the Village.

•Public Works Manager Dom Castellano submitted a report comparing the costs of supplying the Village with sand and gravel by contractors vs. public works staff. The report indicates that public works staff could do the job for less, and recommends that the Village purchase a screening plant, estimated at $50,000 to $100,000. The purchase would save the Village money in the long run. Council will work towards putting this in the budget.

•CAO Bob Lafleur showed council two more mock-ups of websites, emailed by iCompass. Council asked staff to fasttrack the website project, as the site is now quite outdated.

•Treasurer Richard Mahoney provided council with information on policing costs. He says that UBCM has calculated Nakusp's share of policing costs to be $54,601. Traffic fine revenue is deducted from that, leaving $50,233 for the Village to pay. They have caluculated that the average residential property will pay $42 in 2007. "Even though our residential assessment has increased by 45%, this figure should remain fairly constant," he says.

•Council committed $1,050 to cover half the cost of an Automated External Defibrillator, a piece of equipment that prompts a person with appropriate rescue techniques when trying to help someone who is in cardiac arrest. AM Ford wants to partner with every community in the Kootenay Boundary to put an AED in the local recreation centre or arena.

•Council approved a fee waiver for the Rotary Club's use of the arena auditorium facility for its annual dinner theatre, to be held February 16 and 17. The grad class was also granted a waiver for the facility for graduation ceremonies June 8 and 9.

•Council gave the Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders permission to use the recreation fields and park for a family oriented snowmobile event in late February or early March.

•Council decided to provide a letter of support for cell service in the Slocan Valley, as requested by the Village of Silverton.

•Mayor Hamling noted that the Fire Chief's report included 24 medical assists, and indicated that ambulance shifts were still not always adequately covered.

Valentine's dinner and theatre in Edgewood

submitted

Throughout the 90s the Wild Goose Coffee House staged a succession of Valentine's dinner theatre events to packed houses in Edgewood. This year that tradition is being revived by the Edgewood Legion (Branch 203) with a performance of *There Goes the Bride* on Saturday February 10. The evening begins at the Legion Hall with a potluck dinner and bar at 5:30, with the performance to follow at 7 pm. Bring either a main dish or salad. Tickets are $8, available at the door. (Sorry, no minors.)

Nadine Douglas as the bride-to-be (or not-to-be?) in the Valentine's dinner theatre production of There Goes the Bride at the Edgewood Legion.

After the feast comes the wedding of the century in veteran playwrights Ray Cooney and John Chapman's brilliant, gut-busting comedy. Described by the British tabloid *The Daily Mirror* as "a fiendishly clever farce that gets madder and funnier as it goes along," *There Goes the Bride* looks at what a father's overwork, outmoded moral standards, and wistful imagination can do to his daughter's 'society wedding'.

A full family performance (without the dinner) will run on Saturday, February 17 at Fauquier Community Hall. Doors open at 6:30 pm, performance at 7 pm. Tickets are $8 (regular), $5 (minors) and $22 (family rate).

Nakusp Warriors clean up on ice

submitted by Kris James

Nakusp took to the ice Saturday, January 13 against Beaver Valley. The Warriors were saving their energy because it took a long time before Andrew Likness got a puck past the keeper on a pass from Danielle Hascarl. It was ten more minutes before Nathan Weibe put one in, with Jesse Cann and Logan Marshall getting assists. (Weibe just got back from the Czech Republic.)

Whatever the coach said in the dressing room brought out the fire in the players in the second half. Bryce Cann took passes from Weibe and Nic Watson, and then Hascarl put one in the mesh with some help from Watson and Likness. Jesse Cann got two quick ones with Weibe, Briar McQuair and Kayla Yoshida there to help him. Kris James tipped in a shot fired by Bryce Cann and less then a minute later Nic Watson was set up by Nathan Weibe.

Terryn Stenseth played an amazing game tending goal for the Warriors. He let in one shot to break his shutout, but not before Watson got another one from McQuair. Nakusp Warriors blew out Beaver Valley with a final score of 9-1.

Sunday the 14th wasn't much different as Nakusp took on Kaslo. Jesse Cann had no time to save his energy that weekend. Once he got the pass from Ross Zelzenik, it was in the back of the net. Zelzenik set up some more with Likness sinking it deep into the mesh. Zelzenik was at it again, this time scoring on a pass from Hascarl, putting one more on the board.

Nakusp thought now that they have three goals they can just sit back, but Kaslo took advantage of that. Jake Rempel took a pass from Leah Aasen and slipped an easy one past Peewee goalkeeper Carter Stenseth. Brody Simpson thought he needed a three goal lead, so he took full advantage of his chance with some passes from Hascarl and Jesse Cann. Kaslo's Cam Settle took a pass from Matt Guttensohn and put it 'five hole' on Stenseth.

Going into the break Nakusp got fired up again and came out with Likness putting it top shelf on a one man effort, then making a pass to Jesse Cann to put another one past the Kaslo goalkeeper. James kept up the pressure. Simpson set him up in front of the net and James put it inside.

Weibe set up Jesse Cann for his hat trick and Yoshida was set up by Hascarl and Simpson. Bryce Cann took an 'on the tape' pass from Simpson to finish the game with the 10th goal. Terryn Stenseth had his birthday that day so we pulled up peewee goaltender Carter Stenseth to play, and play he did. Final score for Nakusp was 10-2, once again blowing the roof off the arena.

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PUBLIC MEETING
Residents of the Village of Nakusp & Electoral Area K are invited to attend a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss the Regional District of Central Kootenay 2007 BUDGET on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 1:00 pm at the Village of Nakusp Council Chambers 91-1st Street NW in Nakusp

AGM for Summit Lake Ski Hill
Feb. 22 • 7:00 pm
Nakusp Secondary School, Room 20
For more information call Chris – 265-4684

Rotary Club of Nakusp Presents
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Dinner Theatre is set for February 16 & 17, 2007
Tickets are $30.00 each • Reserved seating

Kaslo council, January 23: Drawings for hotel renos presented

by Jan McMurray

•Bob Inwood presented conceptual drawings for renovations to the Kaslo Hotel (former Mariner Inn). The drawing shows a heritage style building with a third storey. The front overlooks Water Street and the lake; the back is to the main street. There are balconies on the front and back of the building and decks looking over the lake.

Inwood spoke to the need for a variance to allow balcony construction over the sidewalk. Council referred the Kaslo Hotel Development Corporation's applications for development and for development variance to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council. Administration staff was directed to report to the committee on encroachment issues.

•Lynn van Deursen informed council about an ad hoc committee that would like to create a market square on Front Street. The committee wants to apply for $50,000 under the Spirit Square provincial funding program to do the planning for the project. Council agreed to provide a letter of support in principle.

•The Village will advise the RDCK of its agreement in principle to expand the Kaslo fire service area north to Schroeder Creek and south to Coffee Creek. Fire Chief Bryan McMillan sent a memo to the Village and RDCK stating that the fire department was in agreement with the expansion, but indicating that it would like some concerns addressed regarding access roads and water standpipes/hydrants. The memo also mentions that an additional fire hall in the Woodbury/Ainsworth area, to be part of the Kaslo fire department, would be useful.

•The Village received an email regarding the provincial building from BC Accommodation & Real Estate Services. Real Estate Manager Charles Chan is in the process of drafting the 'Offer of Purchase and Sale' of Kaslo's provincial building. The offer will include the terms and conditions for the 10-year leaseback of the space occupied by the government agent. He will also prepare documentation assigning the other leases to the Village. When complete, the documents will be sent to the Village for review. The email also confirms that the offer will be subject to voter approval of the purchase by referendum.

•The Kaslo Area Youth Council requested a five-year lease of the Kaslo Community Hall at $1 per year. This was referred to the Administration & Finance committee for recommendation to council.

•Mayor Holland emailed Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC to update him on Kaslo's OCP review process. RDCK staff is developing terms of reference for the OCP review, which is to be done co-operatively by SmartGrowth and RDCK staff. Lancaster replied, indicating that he was happy with the idea of a co-operative arrangement.

•Council received a report on Kemp Creek reservoir rehabilitation. The report recommends that the reservoir liner be replaced with the same material (Hypalon) that it is lined with now, at an estimated capital cost of $160,000. It also recommends that the Village apply for funding under the Towns for Tomorrow provincial program. This program will cover 80% of the project cost. The report states that the reservoir liner is in reasonable condition and could last another five years. It also states that replacement with a concrete or steel tank is much more costly and not warranted. The Village will apply for Towns for Tomorrow funding and will also set aside its 20% portion of the funding in the 2007 budget.

•CAO Rae Sawyer will meet with Urban Systems, Peter Ward and RDCK Development Services in Nelson to discuss overall planning for Marina Ridge development.

•Mayor Holland was authorized to further lobby for BC Hydro grants in lieu of taxes for Kaslo, both at the Regional District level and with MLA Corky Evans. Currently, 100% of the grant for Duncan Dam goes to the Regional District. Holland will lobby for Kaslo to be recognized as an impacted area. BC Hydro's grants for its power generating facilities are generally split between the host community (40%) and the impacted community (60%).

•CAO Sawyer will contact Village lawyers Staples & Company for an opinion on implementing municipal homeowner grants.

•The Village will share the cost of an automated external defibrillator (AED) with AM Ford (Trail). The AED is a piece of equipment that helps a person rescue someone who is in cardiac arrest. AM Ford wants to partner with every community in the Kootenay Boundary to put an AED in the local recreation centre or arena.

•The Village endorsed the Village of Silverton's efforts to get cell phone service in the Slocan Valley.

•As recommended by the Administration & Finance committee, it will be Village policy that the CAO do employee evaluations and that council does an evaluation of the CAO before November 30 every year. The A&F committee will develop an evaluation process for the CAO.

•Bylaw 1040, Revenue Anticipation Borrowing, was adopted.

•The Village will purchase a snow bucket for the loader for a total cost of no more than $3,500.

•Accounts payable of $56,743.78 were approved.

New Kaslo community forest board faces challenges

by Jan McMurray

The new Kaslo and District Community Forest board finds itself without an operations manager, minus a board member and in the face of a financial crunch. However, as evidenced by the draft minutes of its January 10 meeting, the board is taking steps to deal with these challenges.

Board member Don Scarlett describes being without an operations manager as an "unhappy situation," but reports that the board is currently drafting an advertisement for the available position.

Scarlett also reported that the board had communicated with Barry Rempel and was waiting for a response "to determine if there will be an amicable settlement. We are trying to seek resolution." Rempel most recently held the position of manager, having signed a contract with the old board the evening before the Society's AGM in the fall. In December, the new board decided to consider the contract with Rempel terminated, claiming that Rempel did not have the required insurance. Rempel claims that he was insured.

Dave Collier and Greg Lay were doing contract work on the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP). Both have been contacted by the board for clarification on the status of the FSP and of their work relationship with the Society.

The board, at its January 10 meeting, voted to notify Ministry of Forests and other business contacts of the vacant operations manager position and the change in signing authority.

Erika Bird recently resigned as board member. Rather than appoint someone to replace her right away, the board members decided to call for interested people to contact them.

The response to the Society's application for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) came in mid-December from the review committee. In its introductory remarks, the review committee is positive about the KDCFS application for a PCFA, but says that changes will have to be made to the application before the committee can recommend a PCFA for Kaslo. Generally, the committee is looking for more details, and more measurability and accountability in many of the issues addressed in the application, such as public input, the local hire policy and the fire preparedness plan.

The review committee has requested a meeting with the board about the application. Ministry of Forests has also requested a meeting with the board.

At the January 10 board meeting, treasurer Steve Anderson presented a budget for the next nine months. No income is expected for about that long, until logging operations are underway at Kemp Creek and Shutty Bench. The budget shows a shortfall of $218,000. The finance committee was to meet with the board on January 18 to present a "budget structure proposal" for 2007.

The AGM was set for May 16 at JVH School, pending availability of a room and completion of the financial report.

The new board, as of the September 27 AGM, is Rob Mitchell (President and Village appointee), Dave Russell (Vice Chair and RDCK appointee), Don Scarlett (Secretary), Steve Anderson (Treasurer), Suzan Hewat, Stan Baker, Donna Cormie and Kelly Abey.

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Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake announces grants

submitted

The Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society (CFNKLS) is entering its second year of making grants to registered charities in Kaslo and Area D. CFNKLS, which operates under the wing of the Osprey Community Foundation, now has assets of nearly $180,000, which will generate some $7,000 in grants for 2007.

In 2006 CFNKLS made the following grants totalling more than $4,000: Andy Shadrack (RDCK Director), to send several kids to summer camp; Kootenay Lake Independent Schools Society (Periwinkle), to install a water filtration system; Kaslo & Area Hospice, for the purchase of a new computer; North Kootenay Lake Community Services for facility renovations; Argenta Community Association for the publication of *Bound Together*, Volume Two; and $800 to the Langham Cultural Society to upgrade theatre lighting.

CFNKLS has also established two 'field of interest' funds – a Seniors Fund, and a Child, Youth, and Family Fund, each established with initial donations of $5,000. These funds must be raised to at least $10,000 in order to make significant grants in those fields of interest. Sean Kubara and Elizabeth Scarlett are campaigning to build the Seniors Fund, and Carolyn Schramm has a special interest in the Child, Youth, and Family Fund.

Grant application forms for 2007 will be available March 1. The deadline for all applications is April 27. Grants will be announced at the annual general meeting at the Langham Cultural Centre on June 1. According to Canada Revenue Agency rules CFNKLS can only make grants to registered charities.

For further information or to request a grant application package, contact President David Stewart at 366-4623 or sjdks@direct.ca.

David Francey plays the Langham, February 12

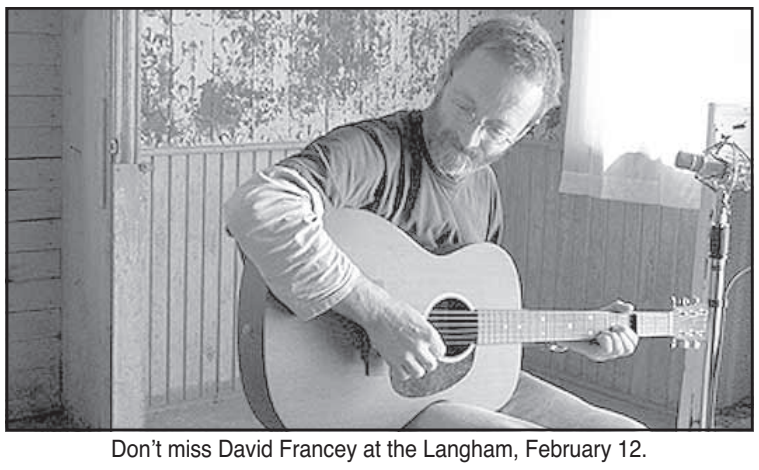
submitted

David Francey will perform in the Langham Theatre on Monday, February 12 at 7:30 pm. Francey's song *Skating Rink* is the official theme song for Hockey Day in Canada. Francey also hosted a two-hour CBC Radio 2 special last October 27 called *Voices Of The Celts – A Family Reunion*. He is touring in support of his new album, *The Waking Hour*.

Voted Best Male Artist of the Year 2006 by the International Acoustic Music Awards, Francey has also won numerous Juno awards and has been covered by artists like Del McCoury and James Keelaghan.

Francey has been described as creating "words of eloquence, beauty and charm, hung on a jewel of a voice." His politically-tinged poetry has echoes of folk legend Woody Guthrie, with multi-layered strumming and picking reminiscent of folk legend Mississippi John Hurt. Francey seamlessly blends elements of traditional Scottish folk music, rural American music and a deep sense of wisdom.

Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals for $18.



Don't miss David Francey at the Langham, February 12.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Takin' it to the streets

It's sure nice living in a small West Kootenay village where recreational opportunities are so nearby and often involve only a short ride or drive to 'get outta town'. There are also some chances to enjoy the outdoors right in town as well, such as walking, cycling, wildlife viewing and, several times each winter, urban skiing!

Urban skiing may be undertaken in New Denver on Saturdays or Sundays following overnight snowfalls that don't get plowed by Village crews until Monday morning. Quite simply, the Village can avoid some overtime costs and give the crew at least a couple days off unless the conditions are too severe. With decent snow tires and careful driving, traffic still can get around okay and things are really rather slow and serene.

On such days, it's neat to be able to lace up boots and click into skis and go ski touring around town right from the end of the driveway. Some streets will be rutted up or generally packed down, so you simply ski according to conditions and terrain. My ski of choice for this kind of adventure are my high mileage skinny steel edged boards, the sort of skis that are easily found at ski swaps or used sport stores. No need for gaiters or much survival gear because you'll be just minutes from home, or the cafe.

By midday there may have been enough traffic to pack the streets for some excellent ski-skating, making the best use of the steel edges and double camber spring in the old skis. In New Denver, I find Columbia, Kootenay, Kildare, Josephine and Bellevue streets to be good traverses, while the numbered avenues offer either fast descents toward the lake or more demanding effort to classic or skate back up towards the highway. There's also the beautiful open greenways along both sides of the creek and through Centennial Park.

The coldish weather recently built up some ice dams in Carpenter Creek which finally blew out and scoured some deep gullies through the new delta at lakeside that developed last May during that brief intense runoff period. Tracks from dogs, deer, beavers and birds are evident and this is the time of year to maybe see cougar or elk prints, even here! With enough snow cover, the urban skier can enjoy scenic waterfront exploring from the marina compound southward to the hospital and Union beach.

There's little risk involved in village ski pursuits. There's probably no avalanche risk at all, and there's barely enough traffic here to even pack and groom the snow enough. Care should be used when schussing through intersections and you should likely give way to the normal persons out strolling or dog walking. Shelter can be sought at neighbours' homes or by stopping to shop for awhile, and like I said before, in emergency conditions, you can likely be back home watching TV in 15 minutes.

So keep on hand a pair of old steel edged touring skis – they're quiet and take up very little room. When the streets are snowbound and inviting on a weekend morning, get out there, guess I could say 'get inta town' to savour the peace and quiet of small town life as seen not through the windshield. If you're on foot walking, maybe take one ski pole for those slippery moments on ice. By Monday morning the streets will all be plowed and sanded again for safety and speedy commerce and you can plan the next ski trip further afield.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and still likes to use his old beat-up skis. 358-2133

with Jamie Barber

I should know by now, but some things are so anti-intuitive that they just don't seem to register, no matter how many times you have fallen into the trap. Be careful, my friends of the evil eye.

I speak of course of my last column that discussed the appropriateness of those canvas storage garages that are springing up around this country. I was giving a reliability report from first hand experience here in the snow belt. You may recall that the question of how much snow they can hold was held in abeyance and the answer unclear. No more unfortunately. I should have foretold that the mere discussion of this subject would bring on the wrath of the Snow Gods or the swiveling of that old EE, (evil eye - but shhh!).

We had a great time visiting relatives in sunny Manitoba over the Christmas holidays. The weather was appropriately cold and predictably sunny. I probably drank too much single malt scotch and certainly ate too much food, but it was great reconnecting with all those folks I seldom get a chance to visit. The trip back held a few adventures and I certainly could have given a pass to the white knuckle driving we encountered from the Crow's Nest Pass until we reached home. The #1 Highway was closed at the time and we felt lucky to safely make it through the Salmo-Creston Pass without incident. The pickup truck decided to get stuck in our driveway on arrival, but we were at the end of our journey so that didn't concern me much.

What was disheartening was glimpsing the chrome headlight rims of my newly restored Triumph TR6 sticking out of the twisted wreckage and piles of snow that should have been perched above said sports car. This was not something I wanted to investigate after 12 hours of stressful driving, so I just picked the gear out of the truck and concentrated on starting the wood fire to warm up the house.

It wasn't until the next day that I had the heart to shovel off all the snow and slowly uncover the wreckage to ascertain damage. It wasn't a pretty sight. Almost all the supporting pipes had bent back on themselves in the collapse. The damage occurred when the overlying structure collapsed on the car, leaving deep dents in three out of the four fenders. The only redeeming feature was that the new top and windshield stanchions were left unscathed. It took half the day to clear off all the snow and remove the wreckage. I then had to build another temporary structure to protect what was left of the car.

This was the structure I should have built in the first place – a simple triangular, cross-braced, 2x6 frame with a 60% pitch to the roof. I covered it with a tarp and now the snow simply slides off rather than accumulating as it did with the failed canvas structure. It might not look as pretty, but it works well.

Well, I guess the experiment is conclusive. Canvas storage garages are not that great if you expect any appreciable accumulation of snow. It isn't particularly easy to simply go inside and push off the snow as the accumulation bows in the canvas so it is trapped in a sort of a pocket. The only effective way to clear it off is to stand on a ladder and carefully remove it so you don't poke a hole into the covering.

If you go away for a while and are unlucky enough to experience one of our famous Kootenay dumps, you may find yourself in the same pickle I did. My advice – forget about them and build a proper shed right from the get-go.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Twisted Shepherd's Pie?

Hello out there all you food fans. No restaurant to review this week, but I have something BETTER to tell you about. Several years ago Kayte Rock and Jay Buttle, a young couple from Ontario, were on a Cape Cod beach enjoying a lobster bake. After the meal Kayte insisted on saving the lobster shells. Later on, back on the road on their way to a rock concert, they became entangled in a monstrous traffic jam leaving them at a standstill for many hours. Kayte decided there was only one thing to do – make a lobster bisque. So that's what she did, using the tailgate of their station wagon as a kitchen.

When the bisque was prepared they began ladling it out to other folks who were caught in the same traffic tangle. That's just the kind of people Kayte and Jay are. A year ago Kayte and Jay found themselves in the Kootenays. This past September they settled in New Denver and created a business called Soup Du Jar- a company that prepares and distributes fine food to stores, families, groups, schools and anyone who is interested in fabulous food.

I first met Kayte and Jay at last year's Hills Garlic Fest, but over the last few weeks I've had the extreme pleasure of getting to know them. Kayte is the owner-operator of Soup Du Jar, and Jay is the CFO. They are full-on foodies, and soup is only the beginning of what they offer.

In short, Kayte's philosophy is: 1) Provide comfort and entertainment through food; 2) Support local farmers and businesses; and 3) Use seasonal, local, and organic ingredients. All the foods she offers are hand-made and cooked with love. Sounds good to me, but lets talk about the food! All the dishes I'm about to mention are available from Soup Du Jar now!

I had dinner last week with Kayte and Jay. We started with a glass of wine and then dove into the Black Bean Soup. Now, I make a pretty mean B.B. soup, but honestly, Kayte's is better. It is sweet and spicy, and there must be a secret ingredient. But–it's a secret. We also enjoyed some Greek Red Lentil soup. These two delicious soups were followed by a salad with pomegranate seeds jumping out of it. Excellent! Next, Kayte brought out her Veggie Pot Pie. How can I describe this? The pie is about a foot in diameter and four inches deep. It contains all your fave root vegetables braised to perfection and simmered in a miso-garlic gravy (Ahhhhhh) all topped with a wonderful whole wheat crust. That miso/garlic gravy is a show-stopper. Then, as I recall we had a dessert of home-made tarts. You can tell Kayte loves to cook and to share what she creates. It was a particularly wonderful dinner, and remember, you can order any of this food from Kayte at Soup Du Jar.

Soup Du Jar also features Moroccan Tomato Peanut soup or classic Chicken Noodle. There is Asian Chicken Corn soup, Greek Red Lentil, and don't forget the Carrot Lemongrass soup. All these choices are made by Kayte with TLC and are available to you. All this fare is home-made and has no artificial flavours or colors. There are no preservatives involved. In short, this is fine food at its best.

Kayte makes a dynamite chicken pot pie. It's not one of those tiny little pot pies you may have tried. Hers is eight inches across and I guarantee it will please even the choosiest pot pie fan.

What about Twisted Shepherd Pie? Okay. Ground buffalo meat in a tangy tomato-veg puree and garlic smashed potatoes. You have to try it to believe it!

Soup Du Jar will offer food tastings in Nakusp at Harvest Thyme February 3; New Denver at Ann's Natural Foods February 6; Crescent Valley at Evergreen Natural Foods February 10. You must attend at least one of these! You'll be glad you did. Soup Du Jar can be reached at Box 457 New Denver, 358-2501.

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February 6 11 am - 2 pm
Ann's Natural Foods in New Denver

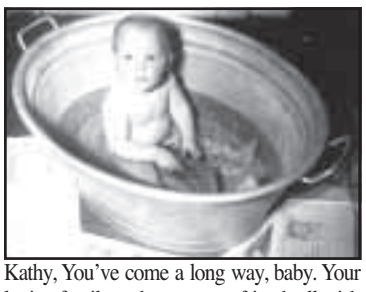
February 10 11 am - 2 pm
Evergreen in Crescent Valley

Come in, meet Kayte and indulge in the rhythm of the seasons.

For info contact Kayte
Phone (250) 358-2501 E-mail: kayterock@gmail.com

Read more about Soup du Jar in this week's Valley Voice

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kathy, You've come a long way, baby. Your loving family and your many friends all wish you a very happy 50th birthday.

Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary
Bill and Dora Evdokimoff
Married January 28, 1942

From all your family; Daughter Mary and Peter Poznikoff of Shoreacres, Grandson Kelly and Lisa Poznikoff and Great Granddaughters, Ariel and Miranda of Shoreacres; Shane and Eva Poznikoff of San Diego, California.

Daughter Lorraine and Fred Maloff of Crescent Valley; Granddaughter Shellie and Barry Farynuk of Crescent Valley, and Granddaughter Janet Maloff and Jason Ozeroff of South Slocan. Son Willie Evdokimoff of Winlaw, Grandson Will Evdokimoff and Stacy Hopkins of Sicamous, Granddaughter Amanda Evdokimoff and Patrick Zeibin, and Great Granddaughter, Kirah of Crescent Valley. Daughter Evelyn Harrison of Squamish, Granddaughter Billie Harrison of Squamish, Grandson Scott Harrison and Veronika Tyrkin of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Son Steve Evdokimoff and Lynn Moffat of South Slocan and Grandson Stevie Evdokimoff of Slocan. Son Stan Evdokimoff and Granddaughters Savannah and Cassidy of Crescent Valley.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

COMING EVENTS

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

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

CRYSTAL HEALING WORKSHOP with Swiss trained crystal healer Karin Burgermeister. February 17 and 18, Hand & Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. Please call Karin for more information at 358-2362.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, be at the Silverton Hotel at 8:30 pm for Sextet a tete – blues, rock and blues, jazz, Latin, etc. LIVE GOOD MUSIC. Pub service with food. Hotel open specially for the blues weekend. Info: 358-7704.

WARM UP THIS VALENTINE'S DAY! A trip to the tropics is just around the corner. The Hidden Garden Gallery will show Impressions of Mexico, a collection of watercolours by Hoot Owl. Opening is February 14 from 8 to 10 pm. Gallery will also be open February 15-17, from 12-4.

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OBITUARIES

Marie Rosalia Hopp, born December 28, 1919 in Weyburn, Sask., passed away Jan. 7, 2007 at Minto House, Nakusp, BC.

Marie leaves behind to mourn daughters Marion (Bill) Marshall of Nakusp, BC, Ellen (Jim) Ivens of Edgewood, BC and son Bill (Joan) Hopp of Castlegar, BC, seven grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, brother John (Evelyn) DeYaeger of Penticton, BC, sister Teresa (Victor) Nesbitt of Edgewood, BC and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Richard, granddaughter Cheryl Marshall-Young, her mother and father Augusta and Leonce DeYaeger, brothers Carl, Albert, and sister Ann Baker-Stern. Marie was devoted to her family. She had a life membership to Ladies Auxiliary Branch #203.

Mass of Christian burial with Father Scott Whitmore as celebrant was held at Our Lady of Lourdes in Nakusp on January 13. Marie was then brought home to Edgewood for interment.

The family would like to thank: Father Scott, Rose and Larry Jones, Valley Funeral Home, all the Pallbearers and Honourary Pallbearers, Kurtis Hopp, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 203, and everyone for their expressions of condolence. Thank you to all of Marie's "Angels."

Marian, Bill, Ellen, Jim, Bill, Joan, Teresa, Spike, John, Evelyn and Iowan

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British Columbians targeted by phone scam - hang up your phone, don't dial '9'

submitted

The Better Business Bureau of Mainland BC (BBB) and Telus are teaming up to warn BC residents about a local telephone scam where an automated caller promises the recipient a free vacation if they dial 9. The scam surfaced about two weeks ago, with complaints coming in from around BC.

"If you receive a call from someone trying to convince you to dial 9 for any reason, hang up," says BBB president Lynda Pasacreta. "For that matter, any call from someone claiming you have won a prize in a contest you don't remember entering is a scam."

Calls in this most recent scam come from outside Canada, likely using an automated dialer producing thousands of calls a day. When a recipient picks up the phone a recorded message claims they have won a trip and asks them to dial 9 to claim it or 8 to be removed from marketing lists.

If the call comes into a business with a commercial switchboard requiring employees to dial 9 to gain an outside line, going along with the request would give the caller an outside line they can then use to make an expensive overseas phone call. If the call comes into your residential line and you dial 9, someone will attempt to obtain your personal information, likely for use in identity theft. Even pressing 8, which the recorded message says will remove you from their distribution list, confirms your phone number and that you are susceptible to this type of marketing, likely resulting in your name being added to other marketing lists.

The solution is simple – hang up the phone.

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BEGINNERS LUCK CHESS TOURNAMENT - Ages 6 & older. Sat.Feb. 10th Slocan Park Hall.1 to 4 p.m. $7 per player.

RED CROSS WINTER SWIM PROGRAM - Castlegar Swimming Pool. Feb. 13th to March 8th (Tues. & Thurs.) We provide the bus, you supply the kids.

SLOCAN VALLEY MIXED SOCCER LEAGUE - It's not too early to sign kids up for this spring's season.

BELLY DANCING WITH SHAUNA ROBERTSON - Feb. 6th to March 6th, Crescent Valley Hall.

VALENTINES FOR CHOCOLATE LOVERS - With Carey Gahimer. Sunday, Feb. 11th, Winlaw Hall. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

PRINCIPALS OF GRAPHIC DESIGN - With Evelyn Kirkaldy. February 8th & 15th (Wed.) Mt. Sentinel School

226-0008

Looking for love in all the wrong places?

Due to popular demand, Speed Dating is back, just in time for Valentine's Day, Saturday February 10, 7 pm, Swingers Lounge on Baker Street in Nelson. Once again Central Bark and Second Chance Animal Shelter will be raising funds for the animals in the name of love.

All participants must pre register at Central Bark by February 5. The cost is $20 per person and all proceeds go toward helping homeless animals. Last year over 50 people showed up, raising $1000 for both local animal shelters. This year all proceeds will go to Second Chance, as its volunteers are hosting the evening. The emphasis is on fun and fundraising. There will be huge range of ages and personality types so please attend with an open mind.

More restitution for Steele victims

by Jan McMurray

Victims of Kevin Steele's investment scam can expect another restitution cheque fairly soon.

Sandy Scott, Nakusp court administrator, reports that the court has recently received the $277,000 that was in Steele's US accounts at the time the scam was discovered and his assets frozen in May of 2005. She will distribute the money on a pro rata basis to the 229 victims.

This brings the amount of money recovered from the Steele case to $369,370. Last August, the Nakusp court received $92,370 to divvy up among the victims. This was money that Steele delivered to his counsel after he was found out. Scott reports that some of these cheques have been returned. She encourages victims to notify her of a change in address.

Steele was sentenced to six years in prison after pleading guilty to defrauding 229 people of approximately Cdn$10.3 million in an investment scam that affected many people from the New Denver area.

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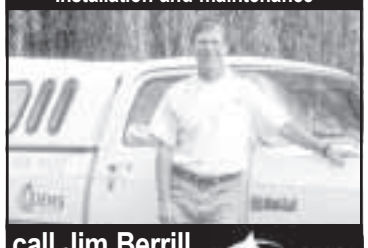
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Slocan District Chamber AGM focuses on OCP process

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan District Chamber of Commerce AGM was held on January 22.

President Steve Hammond opened the meeting by talking about the big change in demographics that has happened in our area over the last couple of years. "You as members of your local Chamber of Commerce can have a strong voice. How do we encourage development and what kind of development do we want?"

He listed the establishment of high speed internet, the website and the community's emergency health care as some of the areas the Chamber has been involved in. "Let's keep the ball rolling. Let's encourage expansion and let's move for greater development. But let's decide how and what direction and then how we can influence our area's future path."

Area H Director Don Munro and RDCK planner Dave Wahn, guest speakers, spoke about the OCP process for the North Slocan Valley, from the Village of Slocan to Summit Lake. Munro said he wanted to involve as many groups as possible in the planning process and encouraged the Chamber as a group to attend an Advisory Planning Committee (APC) meeting as a delegation. He explained that the APC was putting together a survey to send out probably in March, and suggested that the Chamber might want to put forward a business question for the survey.

Munro said that two significant issues were emerging from the process: Sandon as a regional park and a foreshore plan for Slocan Lake. Both these require the involvement of the provincial government and are far from being settled. Munro spoke about an upcoming meeting with several government agencies where these would be discussed.

Dave Wahn spoke of the importance of identifying the vision for the community before coming up with the tools, such as zoning, to achieve the vision. In response to a question about how to approach economic development in our community, Wahn suggested a visioning process for the Chamber. He suggested working with current assets in the community.

To another question about the lake, he told us that many lakes in the province have design guidelines, and said that no new docks are allowed on Columbia Lake. He called this "somewhat unprecedented."

Mountain Film Festival Hits Silverton Gallery, February 10

Inspired by our own mountain culture in New Denver, some local adventurers are bringing the first North Valley Mountain Film Festival to the Silverton Gallery on Saturday, February 10.

"We're organizing this festival to help unite our mountain community, inspire youth, and showcase amazing local adventures and beautiful places," says Myles Berney, lead organizer and local photographer. "It will be a fun and interactive opportunity for discussion on mountain culture in and around our region and community."

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival will feature films produced locally, such as *Yes to the No*, a short film about No Boarding, as well as films on backcountry skiing, biking, and whitewater kayaking in the West Kootenays. There will be slideshows on ski mountaineering and backpacking in the mountains of our backyard.

Community members have been invited to display their representations of mountain culture and local wilderness in a Mountain Photo Showcase. Students from Lucerne School are also making their own short films about mountain culture – a few of which will be presented at this festival.

The festival has been titled the 'North Valley' because the organizing committee appreciates the distinct culture of the northern part of the Slocan Valley. "Recognizing and celebrating what drew many of us here – the lake, the mountains, the wilderness, the adventure, and simple living will hopefully work towards uniting us as a community," said Berney, "especially as this region becomes discovered, and we may face pressures that threaten the very reasons we live here."

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival will take place at the Silverton Gallery on Saturday, February 10, from 5-9 pm. Admission is $5 for adults and $2 for students (advance tickets at Silverton Building Supplies and Ann's Natural Foods). Refreshments will be served.

To display a photo or image for the Mountain Photo Showcase, please contact Kaitlan Murphy at 358-2547.

Weigh in on Mountain Caribou

submitted

The public input for Mountain Caribou recovery ends Feb. 28 – anyone who would like to learn more or write a letter should come to the Vienna Cafe in Nelson on Feb. 3 from 10 am to 4 pm. The EcoSociety and Forest Ethics are sponsoring the event. There will be short presentations at 11 am and 2 pm.

Mountain Caribou populations have been in decline for several decades. The BC government is now considering several recovery options, including culling predators. Most conservationists disagree with this approach and instead argue for habitat protection. Habitat protection means cutting less trees and restricting snowmobiling and heli-skiing. Studies have demonstrated how habitat protection would naturally balance and stabilize populations of all these large mammals.

More information can also be obtained at www.mountaincaribou.org.

Impressions of Mexico from longtime local resident

submitted

Dianne Perry (also known as Hoot Owl) will be hosting a show of original watercolours, *Impressions of Mexico*, at the Hidden Garden Gallery from February 14-17. The public is invited to the opening the evening of February 14 from 8-10 pm.

While on vacation in Mexico in 2001, Perry took along a paintbox and packet of blank postcards. Inspired by the lush palms and blue Pacific, she began painting to take home a memory. The postcards were a unique way of sending a glimpse of the tropics to family and friends. On each subsequent trip to Mexico she has devoted time to painting, trying to capture the tropical beauty. Mainly self-taught, Perry says she has her own "primitive" style.

Relieve your midwinter blues by getting a glimpse into that faraway land of sunshine through Perry's art.

Dianne Perry shows her watercolours, inspired by her annual trips to Mexico, at the Hidden Garden Gallery, February 14-17.

Subdivision proposed for property near Nakusp airport

by Jan McMurray

The decision on a controversial application to re-zone property just outside Nakusp in Area K, up Hot Springs Road beside the airport, is expected to be made at the February RDCK board meeting.

The re-zoning application has been revised since it was first submitted in November. Originally, Blaine Coates and Walter and Shirley Coates applied for the rezoning of an 83-acre portion of their properties from agricultural to residential. The site plan submitted with the application showed that they intended to create 51 lots on this acreage, done in phases according to market demand. The first phase of the project was to create eight lots, ranging in size from .57 acres to 1.25 acres. The development was proposed to be serviced by a community water and sewer system. The plan also identified two large 'Future Development' areas. The Coates own 191.3 hectares (472.8 acres) of land in this area, and most of it is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). However, the rezoning application and proposed subdivision was for an 83-acre portion of the properties that is located outside the ALR.

The application was referred out to agencies that could be affected by the rezoning, and the Village of Nakusp was one of them. The Village had several concerns with the subdivision, and informed the RDCK that it was opposed to the development. The main concern is that this area will likely become part of the Village of Nakusp, as boundary expansion is being discussed as part of the Village's OCP process. The Village would then inherit the infrastructure and subdivision layout, and these do not conform to the Village's subdivision servicing bylaw requirements.

At the RDCK Rural Affairs committee meeting in January, where the application was being considered for recommendation to the full RDCK board, the Coates submitted a revised development proposal. The revision takes the block of land owned by Blaine Coates out of the proposal, and makes the piece to be rezoned only about 45 acres, down from the original 83. Coates says 24 lots are planned for the 45-acre piece, with eight lots to be created in the first phase of the project. He says all lots will be over a half acre.

The new plan, he says, "will give us more flexibility in the engineering and planning of the project, and will address the concerns of all parties."

The Rural Affairs Committee of the RDCK considered the application at its January meeting and recommended to the full RDCK board that the zoning amendment bylaw be given two readings and referred out to a public hearing. When this news came before Nakusp council on January 23, Mayor Hamling said she was "a little bit disappointed" with the committee's recommendation. Councillor Dahlen, Nakusp's RDCK representative, explained that the proposal had been revised down to the smaller piece of land. CAO Bob Lafleur pointed out that the revision did not address the Village's main concern.

"It would be nice if they could wait because of the OCP. Sooner or later we will be taking that land in and blessed with their private water system, and the Ministry is trying to eliminate those." He said the Village would soon be meeting with government representatives to discuss a development plan for the Village, and to have "a satellite subdivision is not good planning."

Council decided to ask the RDCK board to delay the approval of the re-zoning so that it could review the revised proposal. At the January 27 meeting of the RDCK board, the matter was referred back to the Rural Affairs Committee, thus delaying the process. Area K Director Paul Peterson has set up a meeting to discuss the application with the Village of Nakusp for January 30.

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