The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Childcare community speaks out on government cutbacks

by Jan McMurray

Locally and provincially, the response to the childcare cuts recently announced by the Province has been very strong. An estimated 200 people attended a community forum on the subject in Nelson on February 1, and February 13 was a province-wide day of protest for childcare. There were protest marches in various BC cities, including Nelson.

At the February 1 event, the line-up of speakers included MLA Corky Evans, who said, "I don't ever remember a meeting about childcare that had such a large turnout, with politicians attending, and with so much anger."

Kim Adamson, local Children First and Success by Six Co-ordinator, described the cuts announced by Minister of State for Childcare Linda Reid, amounting to between $35-40 million and to be phased in over the next nine months. Adamson explained that childcare is funded mostly by parent fees. The government helps with subsidies for low income families, but Adamson says the program does not capture all the needy families.

Another way the government kicks in is with Childcare Operating Funds, which currently pays licenced group childcare centres $7.48 per child (3-5 years old) per day. As of July 1, this grant will drop to $5.48 per child per day. This cut represents a loss of $20,000 per year at the Care to Learn childcare centre in Nelson. The Childcare Operating Funds have also been capped, so no new programs will be able to access them. Capital grants to build new spaces have been cut. Finally, all 45 Childcare Resource and Referral Centres (CCRRs) will be closed by September 30. CCRRs are there to help parents find childcare and access the subsidy program, and to help childcare centres by lending them toys and other resources.

Mary Walters from the CCRR in Nelson spoke about the 2005 government decision to expand the CCRRs. The centres moved into storefront locations, and hired and trained staff. Now, they have been told to shut down, and that the government will buy out leases and cover layoff costs.

Jennifer Cowan, a volunteer director on the board for Kootenay Kids, described this as "an abject waste of taxpayers' dollars – to beef up the CCRRs last year and cut them this year."

Cowan also spoke from her perspective as a business owner. "It is important that my employees' children are well looked after. It affects us when an employee calls in sick because they can't find childcare."

An Early Childhood Educator from Nelson said her centre would have to increase parent fees because of the cuts. She referred to the federal program of giving $100 per month to families for every child under six. "The $100/month after taxing it isn't going to cover the increase that we're going to have to charge," she said. "I have been in this business for 25 years and I have never seen such a ludicrous decision. In the same year, they tell us to increase the CCRR program and then shut them down...We have a $2 billion surplus in this province right now and that's because they have taken money off the backs of our children. This is already an undervalued and underpaid profession. The kids are our future. We need to stand up for them."

Many expressed complete bewilderment over why politicians make decisions contrary to the results of the research. Todd Kettner, Dads for Childcare, co-sponsor of event, said, "Every dollar invested in quality childcare saves money in the long term. The money saved is not just in education, but in health, mental health and justice. It's a no brainer. All the political parties can come together now and learn to play in the sandbox like they did in Kindergarten."

Corky Evans gave an impassioned plea for people to get involved. He said the politicians understand that investment in children pays dividends. "It's not because they don't understand investment, and it's not because they are broke." They got a budget surplus "by selling your kids natural gas." He concludes that the reason they make the decisions they do must be one of ideology. "Some people have decided to move away from a social democracy and into a two-tier system. The decision is driven by politics. Linda Reid doesn't need faxes, she needs power! Don't go to work on February 13." He also said when he tries to push issues on our behalf, he loses a lot because he has no power. "We need all these people – parents, Early Childhood Educators, business owners – to get involved or else we will all lose. Canadians get it about early childcare but ideologically we have decided there should be two tiers of chances in life." He urged us to "change it now or kids won't even know what the Social Democracy of Canada looks like."

Contact information for the relevant politicians: **Premier Gordon Campbell**: 1-250-387-1715 (phone); 1-604-660-5488 (fax); Premier@gov.bc.ca; Room 156, Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC V8V 1X4. **Prime Minister Stephen Harper**: 1-613-941-6900 (fax), pm@pm.gc.ca, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2; **Minister of State for Childcare Linda Reid**: 1-250-356-8337 (phone), email: linda.reid.mla@gov.bc.ca; **Minister of Finance Carole Taylor**: carole.taylor.mla@gov.bc.ca; **MLA Corky Evans**: 354-5937 (fax), corky.evans.mla@leg.bc.ca; **MP Alex Atamanenko**: 1-250-365-2793 (fax), atamaa1@parl.bc.ca.

The New Denver Nursery School gang gets ready for their trip to Nelson on February 13 to join the protest march against the recent cuts to BC childcare programs.

Stream of Consciousness

Portable and baseboard electric heaters are real power hogs and if improperly used can be a fire hazard. Setting the temperature just a couple of degrees lower during the winter can save you a lot of money.
Save money by using a microwave oven or electric kettle rather than turning on the stove. Cooking with a microwave oven typically uses less than half the energy of an electric stove/oven because it wastes less heat.

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Columbia River Projects Water Use Plan gets stamp of approval

by Jan McMurray

The long-awaited approval of the Columbia River Projects Water Use Plan (WUP) came through on January 26.

"We worked hard with local communities and stakeholders for a number of years to develop the plan and we believe it provides clear operational criteria that will balance environmental and recreational interests," commented Jennifer Walker-Larsen of BC Hydro. She indicated that the company is happy that the plan has now been approved and Hydro can move forward.

However, it looks like it will still be a while before we see any work on the ground to improve on the recreational, fish and wildlife, and heritage and cultural values in the Arrow Lakes Reservoir. The next step for BC Hydro is to start putting together terms of reference for studies that will determine how best to do the work on the ground. Once the terms of reference are approved, the studies will be done. After the studies are approved, the actual work will begin.

The priority is the boat ramps. Within three months, BC Hydro must submit terms of reference for feasibility studies that will recommend options for new or extended ramps at Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier, McDonald Creek Park and two other sites on the Lower Columbia.

The Nakusp ramp is not mentioned in the plan, but Walker-Larsen assured that this does not change Hydro's commitment to improve the ramp. "The Water Comptroller decided the Nakusp ramp was outside the scope of the WUP because the ramp is functional at all water levels, but he is still requiring BC Hydro to make improvements to the boat ramp, using the order under clause m of the water licence."

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling, however, says the Village provided input during the public referral process arguing that the ramp should be part of the water use planning process. "We are disappointed that there is nothing in there about the Nakusp ramp," she said.

Ownership and liability have been identified as issues needing resolution before moving forward on the ramps. Walker-Larsen reported that access agreements are currently being worked on between the owners of the ramps and BC Hydro, and she expects that these agreements will clarify liability issues.

Within nine months, Hydro is to submit terms of reference for fish and wildlife monitoring programs. These will monitor the life history and habitat use of burbot to assess potential reservoir operating impacts on the population in the reservoir; monitor passage conditions at tributaries for rainbow trout, bull trout and kokanee; and monitor areas identified as providing high value wildlife habitat to determine opportunities for protection and enhancement.

Also within nine months, BC Hydro will do terms of reference for an archaeological overview assessment of the drawdown zones (area between the low and high water marks) of the reservoir, and erosion monitoring of the archaeological resources in the reservoir.

Within a year, Hydro must submit terms of reference for a reservoir-wide planting program that will benefit fish, wildlife, aesthetics, dust control and recreation, and for monitoring programs to evaluate the effectiveness of the planting program. Also within a year, Hydro is to submit terms of reference for an environmental review to assess the potential impacts of debris removal on fish and wildlife and identify potential uses of debris for fish habitat and wetland habitat restoration in the reservoir. Finally, terms of reference will be submitted for a feasibility study that will review physical works options to improve conditions for nesting and migratory birds and wildlife within the drawdown zone.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

Call for Applications

CBT Environmental Initiatives Program

Columbia Basin Trust's Environmental Initiatives Program is now accepting applications for community-initiated and supported environmental projects in the Columbia Basin. The Environmental Initiatives Program accepts applications for projects that address current and future impacts of human communities on local and regional ecosystems.

Completed applications must be received no later than March 9, 2007 at 3:30 pm PST/4:30 pm MST.

For a detailed program description, eligibility criteria, or an application guide and form, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org or phone 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-365-6633.

The Tanchiro Brothers premiere

Locally produced film *The Tanchiro Brothers* will be hosting a world premiere at the Capitol Theatre February 20 and 22. Doors open at 7 pm, showtime for both screenings is 7:30 pm.

The 110 minute action/drama feature is the story of two private detective brothers, Eddie (Randall Milton) and Kingston Tanchiro (Eli Bell), who are thrown into the pursuit of their lives when they find their oldest brother dead at the scene of a crime he was investigating.

The Tanchiro Brothers is the first feature film of its kind to be produced independently by youth within the Nelson community. The film includes many of Nelson's professional and amateur actors, filmmakers, and musical talents.

"This film has been a wonderful collaboration of talents of all ages. I feel very fortunate to have met, befriended and worked with so many enthusiastic people and artists over the course of this production," says Stefan Berrill, director, producer, and screenwriter.

"This could be the real start for indy film in Nelson," adds actor David Edgington.

Tickets are available at the Capitol Theatre Box Office for $8.25.

The Tanchiro Brothers premieres Feb. 20 at the Capitol in Nelson.

Caitlin, Dana and Shelley-Anne made these impressive snow bears while visiting their grandparents, Don and Donna Campbell, in New Denver this February.

Hired Equipment Registration
West Kootenay District

We are now completing our Hired Equipment lists for the upcoming fiscal year. **All individuals or companies who are currently registered through the Ministry of Transportation office in Nelson or Grand Forks will be receiving invitations to re-register their equipment for the coming fiscal year by mail by the end of February.**

Individuals or companies who were NOT registered in 2006, but who wish to have their equipment listed, are hereby invited to visit the Nelson or Grand Forks office to obtain the appropriate registration forms. You can also phone to have the forms mailed or faxed to you. Re-registering your equipment, or registering new equipment can be done electronically at www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca

You will be required to have Commercial (Comprehensive) General Liability Insurance with minimum $2 million third party liability, and a WCB clearance letter prior to starting work on any ministry projects. Dump trucks must provide a current weigh slip, front tire size, and manufacturer's front axle rating

Equipment can only be registered in one area in any given year, and must be "owned or lease-to-own" in order to be eligible for registration. Seniority is not transferable from area to area.

The deadline for new registrations for fiscal year 2007/2008 is 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Late registrations will be accepted, but may appear on the bottom of the open list. Note that there is no charge for registering new equipment, or for changing or deleting equipment already listed.

Glenn Olleck
District Manager Transportation
West Kootenay District

Contact the Offices at:

Nelson District Office: 310 ward Street, Floor 4, Nelson, BC V1L 5S4
Phone: 1 800 665-2515

Grand Forks Office: 7290 2nd Street, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0
Phone 1 800 665-2699

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Basin culture arts and heritage grants now available

submitted

The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) is inviting individuals of all artistic disciplines, as well as arts, cultural and heritage organizations, to apply for funding for arts and heritage community projects. The $200,000 fund is provided by the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and administered by CKCA.

This year's funding programs include: Project Funding for individuals and groups through community arts councils; Capital Funding for venues or organizations; Funding Support to Touring; Arts & Heritage Mentoring/Master Classes; Major Project Funding; Major Exhibition Funding; Arts Council Development; Basin Cultural Conference; Articulate and ArtsSmarts (funding for artists in the classroom activities in schools).

For deadlines and application forms, contact your local arts council, phone the CKCA toll free at 1-877-505-7355.

See www.basinculture.com, or any of the Columbia Basin Trust offices.

Indian Point Road resident's efforts to prevent flooding pays off

by Jan McMurray

Unlike provincial and federal agencies, the Regional District of Central Kootenay has come up with a way to help Slocan Valley residents in their efforts to prevent future flooding.

Dr. Marcia Braundy, owner of the property on Indian Point Road in Vallican that was most affected by last spring's flood, made a presentation to various provincial authorities on February 7 and to the Rural Affairs Committee of the RDCK on February 9. Her presentation made it quite clear that flooding is a distinct possibility for this spring. At both meetings, she asked representatives to undertake an engineering study that would assess flood hazards and provide options for flood protection, including associated costs.

"I was very, very disheartened after the meeting on Wednesday [with provincial representatives]. They made it clear that they have no responsibility for mitigation and prevention – only for emergency response," Braundy said.

At the RDCK Rural Affairs committee meeting, however, Braundy found some satisfaction. "I think the Regional District showed great civic responsibility in stepping up to the plate. I was very impressed by the quality of their discussion and the number of issues they considered in making their decision," she said.

The decision they made will result in the completion of the engineering study Braundy was asking for, as long as the full RDCK board endorses the committee's decision at the February 24 board meeting. The money that will pay for the study will come from the RDCK's 'feasibility study fund.' Any director can access $10,000 from this fund to determine the feasibility of setting up a service area. A service area allows affected residents to contribute tax dollars to the service. So, if it goes through on the 24th, Area H Director Don Munro's $10,000 portion will go towards a study to see if residents in that area would be willing to be taxed for flood protection. The feasibility study will include the engineering study, as it will provide the costs involved. Ironically, Munro declared a conflict of interest and excused himself for the discussion and vote, as he is Braundy's neighbour.

Braundy also informed the RDCK committee members that MLA Corky Evans, who set up the February 7 meeting with provincial agencies, "committed to going after provincial ministries for funding if the RDCK decides to undertake the engineering study."

Braundy's presentation, a powerpoint with photos and maps, showed that a key factor in the flooding of her and her neighbours' property last spring was the washing away of a log jam upstream from them. That log jam, which Braundy says had been there for longer than the 35 years she has lived there, helped to protect the area by directing the river around to the south of Indian Point Road and preventing the water from flowing toward the road. When it broke last spring, the river dug itself "a new channel down the middle of the riverbed and massive amounts of water were coming directly down a usually dry creekbed, and out onto Indian Point Road," she said.

Emergency response workers, unaware of the dispersement of the log jam upstream, ended up building a long berm of sandbags and tree stumps to protect Indian Point Road.

Braundy did not discover that the log jam was missing until late fall. Seeking a professional opinion, she asked Dwain Boyer from the Ministry of the Environment, who was on site during the flood, to walk the area with her. They did this on October 23.

Boyer's written report says that the breaking up of the log jam will result in more water going down toward Indian Point Road during high water. It says that the sandbag berm is in danger of failing because it was constructed on an oversteep, unprotected bank. "When/if the berm fails there may be flooding of properties along Indian Point Road again this spring." Boyer's report also describes a site further upstream, where erosion of a bank between the main river channel and a back channel could also result in the river flowing towards Indian Point Road. Boyer recommends an engineering study.

As it is unlikely that flood protection can be in place by spring, Braundy says she and her partner Dale Norman are working on a contingency plan for this season.

In Braundy's presentation, she said the snowpack for the West Kootenays was at 140% of normal on January 1. "Whether it is a quick or a slow spring melt, a significant portion of the river will come directly down the dry creek, push through the sandbags that are already disintegrating, and flow out onto Indian Point Road. Most likely the river will carve a new channel across what the maps are referring to as Passmore Lower Road, which is actually the Slocan Valley Back Road and will cut off the only access to the highway south of Winlaw, requiring the construction of a new bridge, just up the road from the other new one," she said.

Although provincial and federal agencies do not currently have policy that supports prevention of disasters, Braundy is somewhat encouraged by comments made in a news conference after a January 10 Emergency Management Ministers' meeting co-chaired by Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day and John Les, BC Minister of Public Safety. "I think we need to... invest some money in the prevention of disasters from happening in the first place whether it's flooding, whether it's fires or any of those kinds of situations," was a comment from Les during the news conference.

The cost to the RDCK of last year's flood has been estimated to be over $130,000, with $113,000 of this reimbursed by the Provincial Emergency Program. In her presentation, Braundy mentioned that rebuilding Indian Point Road after the flooding cost at least another $5000, according to Bud McRan of YRB.

PHOTO CREDIT: MARCIA BRAUNDY

This is the log jam that kept the river in check and protected Vallican from flooding until it was swept away this past spring. The photo was taken in 2005.

New business aims at indoor air quality

by Art Joyce

Did you know that in an average home, your air quality can be up to 80% worse than outside? Patrick Carr, of Ambient Indoor Remediation Services, says he has the solution. Carr's business uses eco-certified cleaning materials that can remove molds, chemical residues and allergens from your home.

"A lot of people call me a missionary," says Carr. "If you're eating healthy and living healthy, why not have healthy air quality too?"

Carr says there are over 30 different kinds of mold that can grow inside a house, and the Slocan Valley is no stranger to many of them. What is often worse are the off-the-shelf cleaning solutions many of us have in our homes that dry on surfaces and can create a low-level slow release of toxins. Fire retardants sprayed at the factory into furniture, drapes, and carpets have proven to be more carcinogenic than PCBs. And according to Carr, supermarket cleaning products are not tested for long-term health effects. As a result, more and more people are developing chemical sensitivities leading to immune suppression, allergies, and respiratory illness. Many of Carr's clients also note a decrease in energy as part of their symptoms. Ironically, newer houses can actually be worse than older ones because they are sealed and insulated so thoroughly they can trap chemical fumes and molds, creating an incubator-like effect.

"I had one client call me at 10 at night asking if I could come down right away," recalls Carr. "He sounded like he could barely breathe. I had to remediate his house before he could move in."

Carr provides free estimates tailored to the needs of each individual home. He uses a detection kit for molds, and if unsure, will send samples to a lab for testing. On his initial inspection Carr checks door jambs, windows, bathrooms, behind furniture – anywhere irritants can collect. His indoor air remediation services can remove allergens, mold, viruses, and bacteria and inhibit their return for up to three years. A typical home can take two to three days to remediate, and clients do not have to leave, as all his materials are non-toxic.

The products he uses were developed by the University of Victoria, University of Winnipeg and pioneering eco-remediator Mike Rochon. The products Carr uses meet the toughest environmental standards in the world, the European Green Seal standard, as well as the Envirosec program and the American Carpet Manufacturers Association seal. He uses an industrial quality vacuum cleaner capable of 5000 rpm and a carpet cleaning unit that is many times more powerful than a truck-mounted steam cleaner. No detergents are used by Carr to clean carpets.

Patrick Carr, of Ambient Indoor Remediation Services, poses with his mentor, Jim Gage.

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

Voices from the Valleys

CBT Board needs guidance

When the Columbia Basin Trust was being put together, a lot of care was taken that it would not develop a top-down management structure. A wide range of interests were represented on the board, and advisory committees were set up to give a voice for the legitimate aspirations of the people of the basin. It was envisaged that these advisory committeees would give guidance to the Board of Directors on policy matters and make recommendations on programs. The Trust needs engaged citizens making a wide range of recommendations in order to fulfill their mandate.

When directors suggest that advisory committees have no role in making policy and program recommendations, it's a cause for concern. It's an indication that they've lost sight of their own responsibilities. CBT directors are put in place to administer the Trust on behalf of the people of the basin. Without the guidance of the Advisory Committees, they're really operating in the dark. How are they supposed to know what the people want?

Mike Rouse, as a director of the CBT, ought to know better than to leave the impression in the minds of delegates to the All Committee Meeting on January 13 that their work was of no value – that they should provide advice only when requested. These standing committees were established as a way for citizens to contribute their advice on what the Trust should be doing.

By way of clarification, the CBT Board Chair, Josh Smienk sends a letter that indicates that Mr. Rouse feels "that when we ask volunteers to give up their valuable time then we as an organization need to ensure we have proper terms of reference, are focused and specific in what we ask of people who give up their free time. If we don't, we will loose (sic) that important grass roots involvement."

Mr. Rouse, people don't get turned off of volunteering because it eats into their free time. They get turned off when they don't see results from their efforts, when other people belittle their work and don't show proper appreciation. When their recommendations are ignored.

When the Premier gets around to making his appointments to the CBT Board of Directors, next month, it is to be hoped that he will choose individuals who have a history of working well with committees and implementing their recommendations.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

We need a National Childcare System

Childcare is an essential service for most young families in this country. Not essential in the life-or-death sense of ambulance, fire and police services, but essential so that both parents can participate in the workforce. The Canadian economy needs those workers, so we need to figure out a way to provide childcare that people can afford.

We all want our children to have the best of care and the happiest of childhoods. We want them to enjoy their early years and to learn some basic skills. We'd like to see them spend their time in the company of loving adults - trained professionals in early childhood education.

Sorry Mr. Harper $100/month won't cut it. Go back to the drawing board and come up with a plan for universally-accessible childcare for young families.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Porn service offered by Telus

I am astonished and disgusted by the recent Telus promotion of porn for their cell phone customers. Isn't it against the law to distribute porn? Don't we hear of people who get busted for doing this on the internet? So what about the big corporation of Telus selling it to their customers?

But beyond the legality, it is certainly a destructive action against our social fibre. Telus claims they are being "responsible." Huh? Telus claims they are sensitive to the needs of their clients. They are simply catering to the desires (not needs) of a few of their clients. And they are doing this for the profit motive only. Telus does not care what effect on our society this distribution of porn might be.

I will be taking my telephone, long distance and internet business to Telus' competitors unless they reverse their decision.

Bill Hansell
Kaslo

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Wake up call

G'day!

As surely as automation has freed us from lives of drudgery, and free trade has brought us a flood of cheap consumer goods, statistics show that every year your share of the pie is getting smaller.

Why do you even listen to the old line political 'parties' with their shiny new green fronts? The only thing these guys is representin' is their handlers' agenda. Wake up!

g. turner
Edgewood

Great vacation in Slocan Valley

Having made it back to college alive after a wonderful winter break at home, I would like to extend my thanks to many people all over the valley. So many people over the break stopped me to ask how I was doing and offer their best wishes. Others still had me over to their homes in displays of friendship that truly made my vacation special. Thus, I would like to thank all of those people, and everyone who has shown friendship to me and my dad over the years. You've made life special, and I look forward to seeing you all in the summer!

Geordie Rice
Rosebery/Calgary

Dog bylaw for Area H – Slocan Valley

The number of positive calls I received after my last letter to the editor of the *Valley Voice* led me to follow up with some details about a possible dog bylaw for Area H.

This would not require dogs to be licensed and the cost for such a bylaw is minimal – far less than a child being mauled or someone injured by a vicious dog.

And no, I am not looking for the job of control officer.

If you have had some bad experience with dogs, write to Don Munro, Director for Area H, with brief details and ask for a dog bylaw.

A referendum is not needed for this. If enough people ask for it, the District can initiate a dog bylaw for this area.

Areas I, J, K and Slocan City already have a dog bylaw and details can be checked out on the RDCK website.

Area H is the fastest growing area in the district and with more people come more dogs. Planning and bylaws are part of ensuring that nobody suffers the negative aspects of increased development.

Responsible dog owners have my respect and gratitude; they will not be affected by any bylaw and I hope for their support for protecting this area from aggressive dogs running loose.

I feel that any person has the right to walk or cycle on a public road without being charged by barking, snarling dogs.

We read quite often about children being attacked by dogs with tragic consequences. Why wait?

If you have problems with dogs, a bylaw will help. Please, write to Don.

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

Another way to help caribou

If the last of the local mountain caribou die off this winter, my point will be moot – nevertheless, it's worth a shot.

Another plan to help the caribou could be based on habitat enhancement techniques combined with the ecological agricultural principle of building the discipline into the environment. If we were to drop off the correct number of alternative food carcasses (possibly from road kills) into the correct strategic locations, we could attempt to open up predator free migration routes. At the same time we could drop off supplementary emergency food for the caribou along these migration routes in the correct strategic locations. This could be continued until the caribou numbers begin to recover. Habitat preservation and enhancement could continue in caribou habitat until it begins to move in the direction of becoming a climax ecosystem again instead of moving away from it.

Simply culling predators is not the right way to serve the needs of the ecosystem, which is after all an interspecies community where predators are vital. The problem is not too many predators – it is too few caribou. Various factors are reducing caribou food sources, and these are the real problems that need our attention. If the problem has gotten too far out of hand, it might be best to remove the caribou and relocate them in a temporary new location where their numbers can be artificially brought up to a safe size. When their habitat is stabilized they could be returned to it.

Nature is just one big meal and everyone is on the menu. Both the predators and their prey will go to wherever the food is. It is the one sure way we have to influence their movements and best interests.

John White
New Denver

Conservative candidate hopeful on Kyoto

In the last few weeks we have been hearing much of the new Leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Dion.

Some members of the mainstream media refer to Mr. Dion as "clearly an outstanding leader." This is laughable.

As for restoring our "global confidence... as a world leader" in peacekeeping, have major media forgot that after successive Liberal governments, our forces were perilously close to being obsolete through aging equipment, low morale and a disproportionate number of bureaucrats compared to troops.

Media claims that Mr. Dion will restore Canada's credibility by keeping our Kyoto commitments, yet ignores the fact that in the July 1, 2006 *National Post*, Mr. Dion conceded a future Liberal government would be unable to meet its Kyoto commitment of reducing greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels.

Furthermore, Mr. Dion stated, "In 2008, I will be part of Kyoto but I will say to the world, I don't think I will make it."

Currently, Canada's new government has replaced environmental talk with real environmental action by introducing a Chemicals Management Plan to regulate potentially harmful substances, tabling Canada's first-ever Clean Air Act, a comprehensive plan that tackles both greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, developing a bio-fuels plan that will ensure gasoline contains 5% renewable fuels by 2010, and that diesel fuel and heating oil contain 2% renewable fuels by 2012, investing $2 billion in three new ecoENERGY Initiatives to help Canadians use energy more efficiently, boost renewable energy supplies and develop cleaner energy technologies, exempting donations of ecologically-sensitive land from Capital Gains Tax, and creating a new tax credit to reduce the cost and encourage the use of public transit. This is a great start in only a few short months.

While Mr. Dion and the Liberals, Jack Layton and the NDP offer Canadians more empty platitudes, Canada's Conservative government is taking real action clean up our air, land and water for all of us.

I look forward to helping our government come up with real results that benefit everyone.

Rob Zandee
Nomination contestant,
Conservative Party of Canada
BC Southern Interior

Concerned about Kaslo community forest licence

I don't like doing this. The board really should be allowed to get on with the job of executing the license, on behalf of the community. The trouble is they are not doing that.

In 2004 nearly 400 members of the KDCFS elected, for the first time, directors to the board of the Society. In September 2006, 78 members elected the present board. This disparity in numbers is another story.

During the time it was my privilege to serve on that widely elected board, we did several things (and believe me I

continued on page 5

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

don't deserve the credit for a lot of it): opened the Society to the community; established a killer web site; managed the license profitably; ploughed that profit back into the community, as promised, very even-handedly; got the Society on track to benefit from an expanded license.

What anyone thinks of me is of little consequence. I am reasonably proud of my time and accomplishments on the board (not all perfect, admittedly) and I think Randy Simpson is justified in feeling the same way as are other past directors. Mr. Scarlett, in my opinion, is speaking with a forked tongue when he says Barry Rempel wasn't fired.

Well, how's the license Mr. Scarlett? How's the application for the new license? How are current logging operations, slated for this winter? Who were the successful bidders? Who is selling the logs? How's the FSP (deadline March 31,07) coming along? How's the bank account? How's the water-monitoring program you guys howled so loudly for? Are all the trees ordered for this season? Have planting contracts been finalized? There were to have been two meetings with MoF, concerning the application, since the AGM. Both of them were missed – can you tell us why? What's the state of the Standing Timber Inventory? What's that I hear, a resounding huh? Such eloquence.

In 1992 a simple four-word phrase helped keep Bill Clinton's presidential campaign in focus, "It's the economy, stupid."

Well Don, et al, it's the license. If you can't do the job, quit. If you can do the job get on with it and I'll shut up, happily.

Honesty, seasoned with a little incivility, is preferable to civility tainted by lies and half-truths.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo

Kaslo community forest – rebuttal

On January 8 I wrote to the KDCFS board. I copied this letter to the Valley Voice, published January 17.

In the letter I spoke of the board's failure to invite me to participate on the Operations Committee, despite having been welcomed to do so by the Chair, Rob Mitchell, in December. To date no director has called me to let me know when the Operations Committee is meeting. Was KDCFS Secretary Don Scarlett's letter to the editor of this paper the board's way of letting me know that they had apologized to me? If so, considering the insulting tone ("one has to wonder...") then that is one of the rudest apologies I have ever received.

In his letter, Don suggested that I was telling less than the truth when I referred to Barry Rempel's "dismissal" by the board. Allow me to be more explicit. Barry was FIRED moments before the regular meeting of December 13. I was there when he was approached by two directors and asked to step aside. Barry was ordered to "cease and desist" and that this termination of his contract was retroactive to December 6. He was not to deliver his Woodlands Manager report at the board's regular meeting.

That is being dismissed. It was clearly not an offer of employment! Barry had a contract that already had work and pay arrangements prescribed, and if there were any disputes, there was a conflict resolution clause as well.

One other item that should be corrected is a lengthy statement at the December 13 board meeting regarding the 2006 Winter in the Festival. Scarlett blamed the Festival's organizers for a plane wreck that occurred several days after the event. He stated that the pilot had to clear the height of the snow walls that were left from the shinny hockey and therefore was forced further down the strip and ran off the runway causing $500,000 worth of damage to the plane. That is NOT what happened. I was up there 20 minutes after the incident and talked with the pilot. He said he misread the snow and discovered it to be too soft and his nose gear dug into it. Another aspect relating to the incident was that the Village did not have the runway cleared – and it had not been listed as a non-usable strip at that time of year. I am under the impression that Don is involved with the Kaslo airstrip and I thought he might like to know what really happened.

Now, despite Don's written objections, I'd like to "extol the glories of my participation on the KDCFS board"... but no, I demur.

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

Open letter to PM Stephen Harper

While the Harper government is praising the anti-corruption language of its Accountability Act, it is showing arbitrary and overbearing behaviour in several ways. Shortly after his election last year, Mr. Harper muzzled the press by preventing the traditional post-cabinet interviews, and by choosing the questions he would answer at carefully managed press conferences. Harper further controls what news gets out by preventing members of his government from expressing their thoughts and/or opinions about government business or other topics.

A more recent display of Harper's imperious style was shown in his actions against the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). His government wants to dismantle the CWB's monopoly on wheat and barley sales, although most farmers have loudly voiced their disapproval of this plan. Between January 31 and March 6 of this year, farmers will vote on how they want their crops marketed. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture, fired the CEO who supported the CWB's monopoly. Strahl appointed Mr. Greg Areson to replace Mr. Adrian Maesner.

Another odd move by Harper is his bid to win the support of CWB employees by giving them $1,000 each for stress they suffered as the Conservatives fired a man supported by the majority of farmers. No stress money was offered to the farmers or to Maesner.

Ignoring unwelcome opinions is another characteristic of Harper's government. This trait of the "new government" is shown in the composition of the Canadian Fertility Board where there are no representatives of either fertility experts or infertile patients. All members of the board were appointed by Harper, and they all have large and small "c" conservative views – i.e., the former Conservative Premier of Nova Scotia and a professor of Jewish studies who is opposed to abortions unless there is a threat to the pregnant woman's health. Dr. Arthur Leader, a fertility expert, states that, "Given the public record for some of these people...one hasn't great reason to be optimistic that they're going to make things better for the infertile."

In appointing his choices for public boards, Harper is breaking one of the clauses of the Accountability Act concerning public appointments. He is able to ignore the language of his own Act by not having had that clause ratified by his Cabinet.

But it is Harper's pose as a macho military leader that has serious and negative consequences for Canada. Over $14 billion has been put into Canada's war effort in Afghanistan. No matching dollars were spent to improve Canada's social fabric which needs help in so many ways, such as housing for low and middle income people, healthcare and support for organizations that help others. In short, the fabric of our culture is being allowed to deteriorate while tax dollars are being spent on a war with Afghanistan that allows the US to focus on its ill-advised war with Iraq.

What Harper is really trying to do is to make Canada a mirror image of the US. Already the standard of living for non-wealthy Canadians is lower than it was 20 years ago. On CBC radio and television, the drums of war are beating louder and louder while the quality of life in Canada continues to decline. Who voted for this?

Margaret Hill
Crescent Valley

BC needs to develop an access management policy on snowmobiling

The recent article in Snowest Canada featuring the New Denver area as a snowmobiling mecca combined with the lack of policy regarding snowmobile use from our provincial government raises serious concerns about the impacts from this highly gasoline consumptive form of recreation on the back country areas of our valley.

With the advent of high powered light weight snowmobiles many areas that were previously inaccessible in winter are now routinely being used by sledders. An experienced sledder on one of these machines can climb mountain peaks when the snow conditions are firm. These machines can travel at high speeds in open terrain and as a result these riders are no longer content to ride on the over 10,000 kilometers of backcountry roads in the Arrow Forest District. This is posing disastrous consequences on endangered species such as the mountain caribou, mountain goat and wolverine, often forcing them to abandon habitat.

At the same time that snowmobile usage is increasing and being promoted by articles in magazines, government funding to agencies such as its Ministry of Environment is being cut. Hence there is little or no monitoring of snowmobile activities in critical wildlife habitat or areas already designated as protected such as provincial parks and wildlife management areas. Also there isn't any budget available for government agencies to plan and designate areas for snowmobile use. This lack of management seems to foster an attitude amongst the sledding community that unless people are using an area it has no value.

A recent example of this disregard for park boundaries occurred at the end of January. After parking my snowmobile on a forest access road in Maurier Creek, I ski-toured to a ridge at the head of the drainage to be greeted by the scream of sleds climbing into the high couloirs of Mount Fennell over a kilometer within Kokanee Glacier Park. I was well over 5 km away from these sledders yet the noise was extremely obtrusive and I could only speculate what effect that this would have on winter wildlife. This activity was in contravention of the Park Act, but because of budget cuts there is insufficient funding for Parks staff to adequately monitor activities within these parks. During this same period sledders also entered the Helen Deane Lake area in the central core of Kokanee Glacier Park. This isn't a first time occurrence. There are many examples from recent years of sledding activity in Valhalla and Kokanee Glacier Parks, as well as numerous examples of sledders detrimentally tracking up the terrain of licensed commercial ski tourism operators in our area. These high powered machines dig a trough approximately a foot deep and the width of the track that sets up hard within an hour. This makes it very difficult for skiers to negotiate plus the fact that these machines can and do cover enough terrain in several hours that would last the commercial operators for a week of skiing. What is going to happen in our backcountry areas if we get an influx of non-regulated sledders as a result of the SnoWest article? This will not only be very injurious to already established ski-tourism businesses but will also be devastating to winter wildlife habitat.

These activities demonstrate that there is unwillingness amongst sledders to regulate themselves and government intervention is required. Imposing a substantial recreational gas tax on fuel consumed by these recreational vehicles could fund this government intervention. The time is long overdue for adequate access and recreation management and planning. It is time that our government used some of the huge surpluses that it has been bragging about and reinvested it into adequate management of our rural resources.

Craig Pettitt, Director
Valhalla Wilderness Society
New Denver

Response to Galena Shores developer

I feel compelled, in the spirit of openness that the proposed 'Galena Shores' developer trumpeted in his January 17 letter, to set the record straight on a number of points.

First, let us consider what he wrote about the "unfortunate experiment in 1996 when the property was used as a sheep farm." He writes: "That experiment failed after the sheep destroyed much of the natural fauna in the adjoining area (they escaped) and many were predated by bears and coyotes. Sheep will stand on their hind legs and strip the bark off any tree they can get at, ultimately killing those trees."

Obviously, the developer is very concerned about trees – yet he claims that the sheep destroyed much of the surrounding fauna, which would make them carnivores! When there's no meat to be had, sheep may well strip bark off saplings, but they aren't the notorious tree-killers the developer suggests. In fact, my property, which adjoins the ex-sheep farm, suffered no noticeable loss of either fauna or flora when the ravenous beasts made good their escape.

But in the name of openness and honesty, let's look more closely at this 'sheep farm.' In his erudite explanation, the developer ignores at least two minor details: the lack of a shepherd and the inadequate fencing. The truth is that those sheep were left alone far too often, on a poorly fenced property, to fend for themselves. Part of the problem was that the fencing didn't take into account the fluctuating levels of the lake: when the water level dropped, why, off the sheep wandered – to eat and be eaten, as it were.

(Of course, the local predators that enjoyed their meals of mutton would definitely not be welcome anywhere near the proposed development. It would likely take no more than one summer for a few frightened city people to demand that conservation officers shoot any animal that might be tempted by a snack of poodle or cat in their cozy subdivision.)

Oddly enough, the developer also fails to mention on his website the fluctuating level of Upper Arrow Lake. For those of us familiar with the lake, this is an excellent opportunity to show our children exactly what 'buyer beware' means. For the wealthy Albertan investors who don't know the lake, however, they may be disappointed when they head down to the beach only to find the water far, far away. There's a good reason why this area is not the 'Shuswap, 30 years ago' the developer's website claims.

The developer has apparently decided that the only agricultural use for this land would be as a pig farm. Yet there are people close by who have productive fruit trees, which suggests that the property could support an excellent orchard. Guess it's hard to frighten the locals with the image of an orchard when one can conjure up the stench of a pig farm.

Finally, in the spirit of openness and honesty the developer is obviously striving for in his letter, I really must set the record straight on the number of residents and property owners who support his proposed development. His claim: "Of the eight adjacent neighbors, one is against the property being developed, one has not responded, one has strong concerns but stood up in the meeting and said that he would support us as developers and requested that the people there do the same, and the other five are all for the proposed development." The truth of the matter is that at least five of us have taken the time to write letters to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) opposing the development. Many non-adjacent neighbours have also expressed their opposition through letters and a petition.

We are asking the CSRD that there be no such development in Galena Bay until the Official Community Plan is finalized. It seems only fair that we who have invested time and energy over the years contributing to the wellbeing of this area should have a say in its future.

One last point: referring to the token fire truck he would no doubt be required to provide, the developer writes that "the volunteer fire service will provide a sense of community." That is utter nonsense. What creates a sense of community is when folks come together to save their quiet rural neighbourhood from slick-talking promoters whose only interest in an area amounts to nothing more than a get-rich scheme.

Glen Taylor
Calgary

Healthy Housing Society survey reveals high level of discontent

by Art Joyce

In July of 2006 the Healthy Housing Society distributed copies of its housing needs survey to various locations around New Denver and Silverton. The survey was drafted in response to increasing concerns about housing in the area, sparked in part by low rental availability and the huge spike in real estate valuations. The Society has now tabulated the results in its final report, compiled by Catherine Allaway.

Of the 800 copies of the survey printed and distributed in the *Valley Voice*, *358-Exchange* and dropoff points at local businesses, 111 were returned completed. Some 74% of respondents lived in the Villages of Silverton and New Denver, with 26% in the surrounding rural areas. Interestingly, 70% were homeowners, 26% are renters, and 4% had other living arrangements such as sharing with family or housesitting. A total of 41% were not satisfied with their housing arrangements.

Renters said they spent 33% of their income on housing, compared with 21% for owners. "Some rents are out of proportion for the space they purchase," wrote one renter. "For example, $600 for 650 square feet." According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), affordable housing is defined as that which requires no more than 30% of household income.

Although satisfaction with housing was higher amongst owners than renters (73% compared to 31%), many of these peoples' comments also reflected deep concern over housing trends. "We need to be more than a retirement village," wrote one, "we need children, we need to keep our school, we need young adults." A common theme was, "it's a shame that people who are willing to move here, set up a business, work, bring or have their children here, are unable to because of the housing shortage." Another respondent suggested subsidized housing as a means of attracting young families.

A common perception is that part-time residents are threatening the viability of the community. Nineteen survey respondents commented on out-of-towners buying up property and then leaving them vacant for most of the year, putting pressure on an already slim rental and affordable housing market. "Rentals are scarce and becoming scarcer as owners cater to the tourist market," one respondent wrote, and "too many new owners are part-timers, which has grave impacts on the year-round viability of the community."

Although not listed in any of the survey questions, an issue raised by respondents was that of affordable housing for seniors living on fixed incomes. Individuals over the age of 60 represented 26% of village-dwelling respondents, compared with only 4% of rural dwellers in that age group. One rural resident expressed the concern that aging will make his/her home seem more remote. "We will need live-in help, transporation, or a place in New Denver in 15 years." According to the BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA), "Affordable housing allows seniors and people with disabilities to maintain their independence; it helps create disposable income, enabling families to better participate in community life. It also helps people remain healthier, resulting in health and social service support cost savings."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Village of Silverton

Silverton
British Columbia

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Residents of the Village of Silverton and Area are invited to participate in new 2007 Official Community Plan.

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: MEMORIAL HALL

The above mentioned date is the first of three public meetings to begin the Official Community Planning process.

Please attend this very important meeting to launch the 2007 Official Community Plan. Your input and views on how you envision the future of our community is very much appreciated. The 1996 OCP is available at the Village Office during regular business hours:

Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Ms. Junko Ida, Administrator
The Village of Silverton

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

NOTICE OF CLOSING TO TRAFFIC AND REMOVAL OF HIGHWAY DEDICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 40 of the Community Charter that the Village of New Denver proposes to stop up and close part of a highway to all types of traffic and to remove the dedication of highway over this highway that is to be closed to traffic. In this regard, the Council of the Village of New Denver, at its November 28, 2006 Regular Meeting, gave 1st, 2nd, and 3rd readings to "Block 6 Highway Stopping and Closing Bylaw No. 609, 2006" which, if adopted, will have the effect of closing to traffic and removing the dedication of highway right of way shown on the sketch plan below as 'Subject Property,' such that it can be subdivided and one-half disposed of by sale to David Harley, owner of 111 6th Avenue, for the market price of $6,364.80 plus applicable taxes, and the other one-half disposed of by sale to John Powers, owner of 113-115 6th Avenue, for the market price of $5,786.80 plus applicable taxes.

TAKE NOTICE that more detailed information concerning the subject Bylaw can be obtained at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC (Telephone: 250-358-2316) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays.

All persons shall be afforded an opportunity to make written submissions on any matters respecting the subject Bylaw and submissions must be received at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 22, 2007. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to speak to this matter at the February 27, 2007 Council meeting when the Bylaw will be before Council for consideration of adoption.

Dated at the Village of New Denver this 8th day of February, 2007

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Local bear biologist featured on Knowledge Network

by Art Joyce

Bear biologist Wayne McCrory was recently featured in the Knowledge Network TV program *The Leading Edge* regarding his work helping to preserve Spirit Bear habitat. "From the physics of waterslides to counting grizzly bears to the psychology of magic," the program highlights innovations in various fields of scientific endeavor in BC. New Denver-based Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS) is prominently mentioned in the segment. "Thirty years of my life and Valhalla's went by in just ten minutes," he laughs.

The interviews with McCrory were filmed at Whistler last summer and the balance of the segment in the Incomappleux River valley near Nakusp during October. *The Leading Edge* segment features the Spirit Bear rainforest and then shifts to the inland temperate rainforest. Forester Craig Pettitt is seen guiding the film crew to see an 1800-year-old hemlock tree.

"The producer had tears in her eyes when she saw that huge tree," says McCrory.

McCrory is no stranger to the camera lens. A program called *Dogs with Jobs* which featured his dog Lucy as a 'bear detective,' made 15 years ago, still receives regular airplay. He also acted as a guide to film crews for the Discovery Channel's *Animal Planet* program on the Spirit Bear rainforest.

A wilderness survival film being produced in Belgium will feature his work to create the wild horse conservancy in BC's Chilcotin country. McCrory worked with the Zeni Gwet'in First Nation there to have an area half the size of Yellowstone Park protected. He is also featured as scientific adviser in a series of 30-second public announcement spots produced by the Whistler-based Get BearSmart Society.

"I expect we'll have two or three more documentaries this year. I really would like to see more done on the inland temperate rainforest."

He states in T*he Leading Edge* interview that VWS has been involved in campaigns that have resulted in the protection of 1.25 million acres of wilderness. The recently announced Spirit Bear Conservancy was an 18-year project of McCrory's and VWS, along with other environmental groups. This year another webcam will be set up at an undisclosed location on a salmon-bearing Spirit Bear stream to help further conservation efforts. The original Spirit Bear 'eco-cam' set up by the Hancock Wildlife Foundation was immensely popular, registering 500 million visits to their website.

"It's all about legacy," he says. "Legacy for our children, for the bears, for the salmon. That's the spirit of it – to leave something behind for future generations."

PHOTO BY MARCIA BRAUNDY

Rita Moir cheers for Carolyn Eaton, who guessed the closest to the 1611 beans in the jar at the recent Cantina Night at the Vallican Whole Community Centre.

Barb Lindsay and friend try out Legendary Meats sausages and hot dogs at the Slocan Valley Rail Trail Day.

Hidden Garden Gallery elects new board of directors

A new board of directors was recently elected at the annual general meeting of the Hidden Garden Gallery Society. Susie Bolivar, Betty Daniel, Teri Freeman, Evelyn Goodell, Daphne Hughes, Martha Nichols, Maureen Nicholson and Eleanor Spangler will co-ordinate the activities of the gallery for the coming year. Thanks were extended to Gretchen Perk and Karen Dubreuil for their past contributions and a special commendation given to Anne Champagne for her tireless efforts for the society.

The new board has begun monthly meetings to organize another exciting season of art shows and musical events for the comunity's enjoyment. The Hidden Garden Gallery is celebrating its seventh year of operation and wishes to thank landlady Ann Bunka for her consideration and flexibility over the years; the Best Friends for their dependable donations and the community for its invaluable support.

Throughout the year, the well-equipped facility, with its lovely garden and deck, is rentable for small functions such as meetings and parties for very reasonable rates. There are still some weeks available in the summer season for shows and concerts so arts and crafts exhibitors and musicians are encouraged to apply. To book the space contact Eleanor Spangler at 358-2145 (spangler@netidea.com) or Teri Freeman at 358-2297 (tfreeman@netidea.com).

A series of talks co-sponsored by the Silverton Gallery and the HGG entitled *Food For Thought* was a great success over the past year. The board would like to plan more of such presentations for the spring and fall. If you have ideas to present for the series please contact Lorna, 358-7965 or Betty, 358-2754 (penbet@netidea.com).

The gallery depends on volunteers to help, whether it's in the garden or sitting a show, so please consider offering some of your time and energy.

For more information check out the webpage at www.slocanlake\hidden gardengallery.

Peak to Peak to Peak puts climbers on top of the world

submitted

On Thursday, February 22 Thalia and Steve Vesterback will be hosting *Peak to Peak to Peak*, beginning at 7 pm. at the Slocan Park Hall. The program is part of the Winter Travel Series hosted by Slocan Valley Recreation.

Through slides and discussion, follow the Vesterbacks as they circle the globe hiking and travelling to unique and remote mountain ranges. In the past ten years they have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,344 ft) Kenya; Cotopaxi (19,347ft) and Chimborazo (20,702ft) in Ecuador; Mt. Logan (19,800 ft) in the Yukon; and their most recent excursion, hiking the Inca Trail to Macchu Pichu and taking on the Cordillero Blanca and Ampato (20,700 ft) in Peru.

Admission for the evening is a donation to the Slocan Food Bank. If interested in attending please let Slocan Valley Recreation know you will be attending. Phone 226-0008.

Ready Set Learn at Brent Kennedy School

submitted

Do you have a preschooler? Are you free to have fun with other parents and preschoolers on Friday, February 16? Brent Kennedy School and the Brent Kennedy Learning Centre are once again hosting a Ready Set Learn event, between 9:15 – 10:30 am.

This year's event is called *I Spy*. Vision is the theme, since 80% of school learning involves learning through seeing. Come prepared to use a magnifying glass, decorate 'spectacles,' hunt for clues around the school and share a snack. Parents will receive useful information to prepare their children for success at school, and also receive a free picture book to share with children at home.

For more information contact Margaret Stegman at Brent Kennedy School, 359-7292, or at home at 352-7646.

Sounds in Silverton – Got the Winter Blahs??

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society is once again presenting the Fundraising Concert Series *Sounds in Silverton* and would like to let you know about our first concert which is back by popular demand – *The British Isles: In Photos, Words & Music* - February 18, 2007 at 7pm in the Silverton Gallery, Admission by Donation. This is a multi-media presentation of pictures, poetry, & music. Let us transport you through the spectacular British Isle countryside while enjoying the atmosphere of live music and poetry.

Some traditional English refreshments will be served with tea. You won't want to miss this lovely presentation with pictures by David McMillan, poetry by some of the great British poets and music by the Garland Trio & Friends.

Come out and enjoy what the Valhalla Fine Arts Society has to offer you and support a very worth while cause in the process!

Storytelling returns to the Slocan Valley

submitted

A turn of the century radical, a good-hearted priest and a pioneer with a camera are some of the stories featured at the 6th Annual Slocan Valley Word of Mouth Storytelling Festival. This popular event, organized by Slocan Valley Recreation, will be taking place Sunday, February 25 at the Passmore Lodge from 1-4:00 pm. The festival began in 2001 and brings together storytellers and authors to share historical tales from our past.

This year Slocan Valley Recreation has once again brought together a collection of stories to enthrall and enchant both young and old.

Anne DeGrace will read from her popular book *Treading Water,* inspired by life on the Lower Arrow Lake, and stories from her new book.

Well-known storyteller Carolyn McTaggart will revive one of her classic stories, *Picturing Mattie Gunterman*. In 1898, Mattie Gunterman roamed the Kootenays with a Kodak Bulls Eye camera and an attitude ahead of her time.

Barry Gray, the founding storyteller of the Proctor Storytelling Festival, will tell his story *Saved by Father Pat*. Father Henry Irwin was a top athlete and champion boxer whose diocese included a boomtown turn-of-the-century Rossland.

Sam Simpson, a longtime Slocan Valley resident, relates the tale *Birth of a Cemetery*. Dumont Creek Burial Society was born from need, created in a week, threatened with exhumations and the discovery of a mystery tenant.

Besides being our MLA, Corky Evans is well-known for his oratory talents. He'll be sharing the story of Bert Herridge, *The Squire of Kootenay West*, a fighter for the working people who took on everyone, including his own party.

Selkirk College history professor Duff Sutherland will be *Remembering Ginger Goodwin*, the tale of Albert 'Ginger' Goodwin, a Kootenay labour radical and WW1 pacifist whose death in 1918 sparked BC's first provincial strike.

Admission is $8 advance and $10 at the door. Tickets are available at the Slocan Valley Recreation office and at the Silver King Campus of Selkirk College. Phone 226-0008 for more information.

The Passmore Lodge is located on Old Passmore Road which parallels Highway 6 in Passmore. It is approximately 15 km north of the highway 3A junction and 2 km north of Slocan Park. Watch for signs.

The British Isles:
In Photos, Words & Music

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society
presents a
"Sounds in Silverton" 2007 Fundraiser Concert

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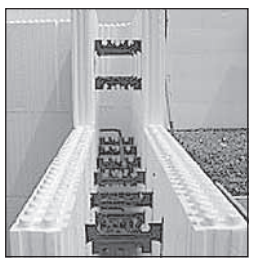

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Cleaning up some recycling myths in the Slocan Valley

by Art Joyce

We may not be urban, but we appear to have our legends. At least, when it comes to recycling. Some valley residents have expressed concern that cross-contamination of recycling bins is resulting in material being taken straight to the landfill.

However, as Reinhard Trautman, waste management director for the RDCK points out, with dumping fees of $65 a ton, the contractor, Waste Management (WM), would lose too much money by simply landfilling recyclables. It's in WM's interest to at least do preliminary sorting at their Castlegar 'material recovery' facility. Commodity prices for glass are at rock bottom, so the material is crushed at Nakusp and used for road-building and landfill cover. Being an inert material, crushed glass poses no danger to the environment. All other recycling materials are processed by WM for sale on North American commodity markets. The company provides the RDCK with a monthly statement of the tonnages collected. According to Castlegar facility manager Ron Armbruster, the only time the company has dumped recyclables has been when vandals have set fire to the bins, destroying the material.

In terms of sheer tonnage collected annually, mixed paper leads, at 510,178 kilograms in 2005, with cardboard second, at 375,603. Glass is third highest at 124,379 kilograms, followed by tin at 64,459 and milk jugs at 21,273.

So let's follow one of WM's trucks to Castlegar to see what happens. The bins are dumped onto a 'tipping floor,' where the materials are checked for contamination. Mixed paper and cardboard are baled separately, and stored on-site until of sufficient quantity to fill a semi-truck. WM's Recycle America program locates buyers with mills capable of dissolving the material back into pulp. Cardboard is often sent to a mill in Montana, while some of the mixed paper is shipped to the port authority in Tacoma, Washington. Tin, another low value commodity, is compacted and shipped to buyers in Kelowna or the US.

As to plastic collection, except for Nelson and Kaslo, only milk jugs – #2 HDPE plastics, are collected. The jugs are flattened and baled, but Armbruster says it can take a year to collect enough material to fill a semi. As for the idea of people 'making a statement' about the need for more plastics recycling by filling the bin with other kinds of plastic, this actually increases the likelihood that a bin could become contaminated enough to have to dump. A far better approach is to write a letter to your Village council or RDCK area director, expressing support for more plastics recycling. Armbruster says he has seen everything from jugs of used motor oil to old barbecues dropped off at recycling depots. Because WM must pay to have this material disposed of, these costs are passed on to the regional district, which can then translate into higher taxes.

"Contamination of plastics is our biggest problem," says Trautman. "We get styrofoam, toilet seats, meat packages, you name it. If we ship them sorted, it costs $12 a ton. If we ship it unsorted, it costs us $120 a ton."

For Nelson or Kaslo, write down the list of plastics numbers, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and keep them on the fridge at home for easy reference. There is also a bag of samples at the depot to demonstrate what kind of plastics to put into the bin. The Villages of Nakusp, New Denver, and Silverton have written the RDCK urging implementation of more plastic recycling. A decision will be made public after the RDCK board meeting on February 24. However, unless an amendment to the current contract with WM is approved, it would be November 2008 before other plastics can be collected.

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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.

Summit Lake Ski Hill news

submitted

The Trinity McQuair Memorial fundraising evening was held on February 2 at Summit Lake Ski Hill. Starting with a lasagna dinner, the crowd enjoyed music, night skiing, a raffle, and a very successful silent auction. Almost $5,000 was raised, thanks to local donors and purchasers. The proceeds from this successful event will be awarded to an NSS graduate wishing to pursue a career in film production.

The Nakusp Ski Club Fun Races will be held on Saturday, February 17. The race format will be Glalom (combined slalom and GS), and there will be a novice course for beginners. Skiers, boarders, and telemarkers can pre-register during ski hill hours until February 16, and up until 9 am on race day. A $5 entry fee will be charged, with late registrations costing $10 per entry. There will be an awards ceremony following the races.

Cell phone service planned for New Denver

submitted

According to Telus media relations spokesperson Shaun Hill, the corporation has New Denver in its sights for cell phone service. Hill said no details are available as yet, but the company's plan is to have service by the end of 2007.

Telus is exploring cost-efficient means of doing so by sharing existing towers where possible, since new tower construction can cost $500,000. Hill says Telus installed seven new cell phone towers in the Rogers Pass last year as part of the company's commitment to provide rural communities with high speed and wireless services.

PHOTO CREDIT: DEB HICKS

About 150 junior and senior novice hockey players on 10 teams participated in the Spirit of 2010 Hockey Tournament in Nakusp on the weekend. Karen Hamling, Nakusp Mayor and Karl Bender, Chair of the Nakusp Spirit of BC Community Committee were on hand for the ceremonial puck drop. Every player received a commemorative hockey puck, certificate and a special hockey shirt. The Castlegar Canucks, took home the Spirit of 2010 trophy. The draw for limited edition Spirit of 2010 hockey jerseys was won by Reid Bateman and Kennedy Puzurik of Nakusp.

Across the province, more than 42,000 young athletes will take part in 200 Spirit of 2010 Hockey Tournaments this season. It's the largest tournament of its kind in Canada and celebrates physical activity, amateur sport and community spirit.

Nakusp Maintenance opens new business

Nakusp Maintenance, a new local business specializing in repairs, alterations, painting and general building maintenance has recently opened in Nakusp. Julian and Caroline Sapietis moved to the Nakusp area recently and have opened their new home-based business, Nakusp Maintenance. Julian has over 17 years experience in the painting, construction and property maintenance industry.

The couple and their two young children moved to Canada in 2005 from England, where they had an established contracting business. The family lived in Taghum, near Nelson, before finally settling on Nakusp as the place they want to live and raise their family.

New customers are invited to take advantage of Julian's experience in order to make the most of their homes inside and out, from internal alterations, repairs to damage, or a new lick of paint on the shop or garage. All work is guaranteed and customer satisfaction is a priority.

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Julian Sapietis brings 17 years of experience to his new business.

Kaslo couple discovers money in unclaimed bank balance

by Art Joyce

They say money doesn't fall from the sky. Or does it? Anne Malik of the Silver Spoon Bakery in Kaslo recently had just such a welcome surprise. An acquaintance had been looking at the Bank of Canada website for unclaimed balances, saw the Maliks' name there, and contacted her. Malik contacted the bank, completed the necessary forms, and has already received the money.

"This came as a total surprise – we weren't aware we'd left any money behind," she says.

Anne and Laddie Malik had moved from Toronto to Saskatchewan in 1993, then to New Denver and then Kaslo. In the shuffle, the accounting firm in Toronto that had been managing the account was unable to locate them. According to the Bank of Canada website, "Unclaimed bank balances are maintained by the Bank of Canada, which acts as custodian on behalf of the owner, when there has been no owner activity in relation to the account for a period of 10 years and when the owner cannot be contacted by the Canadian bank holding that asset. They can be in the form of deposit accounts, bank drafts, certified cheques, deposit receipts, money orders, or traveller's cheques."

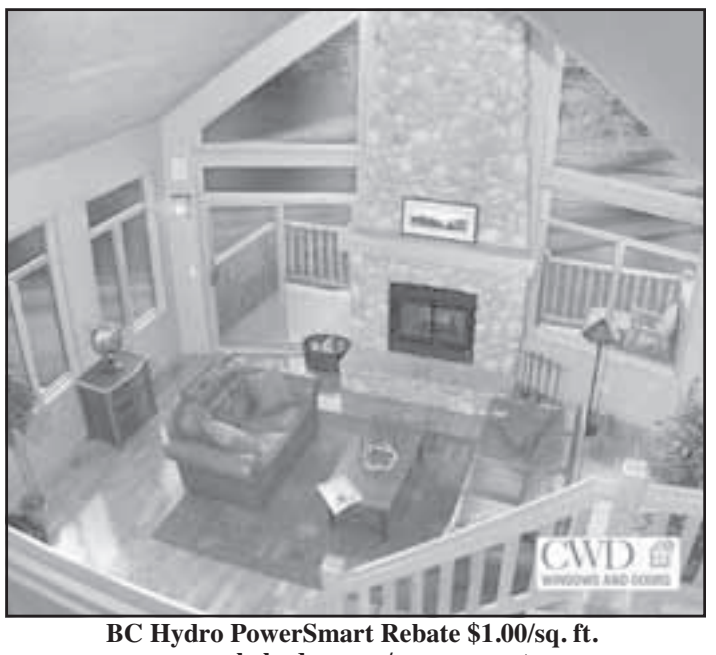
"To help find the owners, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) publishes all unclaimed balances of $100 or more in the year prior to their potential transfer to the Bank of Canada (i.e., in the ninth year of inactivity). This is published in the Canada Gazette; which is available at all public libraries."

Is there a 'statute of limitations' on unclaimed funds? No – the oldest balance dates back to 1900. "The Bank of Canada maintains custody of all balances of $500 or more indefinitely, until they are claimed. Unclaimed balances under $500 are retained for 20 years (10 years from the date of the last owner transaction at the Canadian bank, plus an additional 10 years at the Bank of Canada)."

"Just for fun, I started checking the names of my brothers and sisters on the website," says Malik, "and I found some money belonging to my brother."

As of December 31, 2006, there was a total of $294 million in unclaimed balances. Over 88% were for amounts under $500. To see if you have a dormant account held by the bank, go to www.bankofcanada.ca and click the 'unclaimed balances' link.

Take your Valentine to the annual Rotary Dinner Theatre at Nakusp's arena auditorium. On February 16 and 17, Mirror Theatre performs the Billy St. John play, Peril on the High Seas, or Let's Get Together and do Launch. Onboard the HMS Majestic, it's the 1950s rock 'n roll era, and theatre-goers are invited to come in period dress. Try for the prize for best dressed or best dancer. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Among the acting talent in the play, from L to R, is: Ellen Jones, Caroline Olsen, Gerry Johnstone, Anji Jones and Rachel Hughes.



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Preschooler reading event at Lucerne

submitted

The *Every Child Ready to Read* program will be offered to parents of preschoolers on Friday, February 26 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Lucerne library. The program provides parents with information about how to help preschoolers develop early literacy skills by taking advantage of opportunities in everyday life.

Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. Evelyn Goodell, librarian at Nakusp Public Library, will provide information about sharing books with children and will demonstrate examples of quality books, rhymes, games, and more. There is no charge for this program, which is provided by Nakusp Public Library with funds from a Provincial Equity Grant.

Restitution workshop for parents

School District No. 8 has begun using 'Restitution Self-Discipline' in working with the students in its schools, and an expert on the topic is coming to speak to parents about it on March 1 at Brent Kennedy in the library, 6:30-8 pm.

Diane Gossen will introduce the concept of restitution, a process by which youth learn self-discipline and skills needed to accept personal responsibility for one's actions. According to the website, restitution is based on the principle that people are internally motivated. "Restitution focuses first on the person. We then ask the persons to self-assess their behavior and how it affects others." It is also defined on the website as "creating conditions for the person to fix their mistake to return to the group strengthened."

The workshop will also give some good insights on how to use these concepts at home.

The Family Literacy Day/Card for Every Child effort in three Slocan Valley schools has garnered over 100 new members for each of the Nelson and Castlegar Public Libraries. Winlaw School was particularly successful as nearly 83% of its students now have borrower cards. To celebrate, everyone tucked into the big, amazing book cakes made by Nicholas Fominoff of Fomi's Bakery in Winlaw.
Chris Nichol (left) of the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy is here with Fominoff.
For more information about free literacy programs in the Slocan Valley, call Chris at 355-0032.

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Roots of Empathy program to educate Lucerne elementary students

submitted

Throughout this school year, baby Taylor Oldham and her mother Bobbi Jo is visiting Ms. Champagne's grade 1 and 2 class as part of the *Roots of Empathy* program. *Roots of Empathy*, offered through the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, is a vital and highly rewarding program that teaches human development, emotional literacy, and nurtures the growth of empathy. Empathy means understanding how people feel.

Baby Taylor and Bobbi Jo have made four visits to the classroom and will make five more by the end of the year. *Roots of Empathy* instructor Lane Haywood works with students before, during and after each visit.

The goals of the program include: fostering the development of empathy; reducing levels of bullying, aggression and violence in childrens' lives; building peaceful societies; preparing students for responsive parenting; and increasing knowledge of human development and infant safety. The program, developed by Canadian social justice advocate Mary Gordon, is used widely throughout Canada at a variety of grade levels.

Children learn to understand Taylor's needs by interpreting her body language and verbal cues. They learn how Bobbi Jo's love and help are enabling Taylor to grow into a loving person. The children learn that a baby cries to communicate and what they can do to help. They understand that we never hit or shake a baby. This month they will get out the scales and measuring tape to find out how much Taylor has grown since the fall. Eight-month-old Taylor loves to interact with the kids. After experiencing her enthusiasm for each child, her laugh and warm smile, the entire class seems to beam.

If you're in the school, check the *Roots of Empathy* bulletin outside Ms. Champagne's classroom, which is full of pictures of Taylor and the students' observations.

Baby Taylor and Bobbi Jo Oldham have made four visits to the classroom.

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Silverton Mayor's Report – February 07

Mayor John Everett

I was recently attending a meeting of the fire department and it was mentioned many residents of Silverton did not know the reason for amalgamating the Silverton and New Denver Fire Departments. This got me to thinking it has been a while since I last did a Mayor's report and now would be a good time to give everyone an update.

Fire department amalgamation was a matter of economics. A small community such as Silverton simply cannot afford to purchase the modern equipment to make a viable Fire Department. By combining resources with New Denver and Area H residents of Rosebery and Red Mountain Road we have a sufficient tax base to be able to equip the fire department. Providing manpower to two fire departments was also an issue especially for Silverton with its diminishing and aging population.

Sharing of resources is a great way for both Silverton and New Denver to save large sums of money. Currently we are sharing our backhoe with New Denver on a trial basis and if we formalize the arrangement this spring both villages will see a net savings of $30,000 each. Joint garbage pickup has been a huge success particularly in the winter months.

Water continues to be a priority for Silverton. A recent report by an independent organization made several recommendations, which I'm pleased to say were already underway by the time we received the document. Most notably were staff training, an emergency generator and increased security. We are now reviewing the entire water system and planning for future repairs, upgrades and capacity. One of the big issues is the old water lines were not decommissioned when the upgrades were installed in 2002, a second well, increased reservoir capacity and general repairs are also required. Recent estimates for this work are in the $400,000 range. The good news is we are applying for a grant from Towns for Tomorrow to cover 80% and we will pay our 20% from the gas tax revenues we will be receiving over the next three years.

Memorial Hall renovations will start in February with completion set for the beginning of June. Planned improvements to the hall will make the venue more usable. A business plan will be created with the hope that we can draw enough rentals to actually cover the cost of operating the Memorial Hall. The hall currently costs about $6,000 more a year than it takes in.

In conjunction with the businesses and residents we plan on revitalizing part of Lake Avenue to make our Village prettier, while working with highways to slow down traffic.

A new emergency plan is being created and Village staff are being trained in proper procedures in case of a disaster such as flood or forest fire.

February 23 will see our first public meeting to create the new Official Community Plan. This is the community's chance to set the direction you want your Village developed over the next several years. Tom Lancaster from Smart Growth BC will be the facilitator. Be part of the process.

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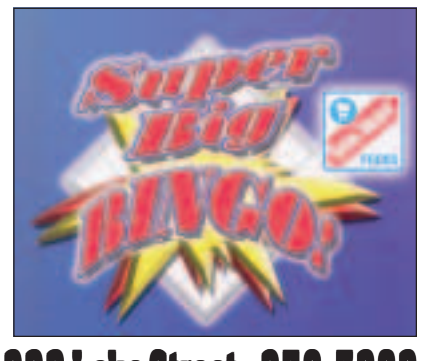

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Many Heritage Week activities planned in Kaslo during Heritage Week

submitted by Donna Cormie

For the first time ever, as part of a Heritage Week commemoration, many of Kaslo's heritage buildings will be open for tours.

The 1898 Village Hall, a national historic site and the oldest continually operated city hall in BC, will be open 9 am - 4 pm Monday to Friday. Be sure to tour the second floor and see the old courtroom. The 1911 provincial government building will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2-3 pm. Kootenay Lake Archives, an amazing collection of early documents, newspapers, maps and photographs, are stored in the old jail in the basement of the provincial building, and will be open for tours Monday 7-9 pm and Thursday 9 am-noon. The Langham Cultural Centre building (1896) houses the Japanese Canadian Museum, open every day 9 am to 4 pm, and the gallery, which will be open with refreshments Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 pm-4 pm.

Kaslo's three historic churches will also open their doors to the public – St. Mark's Anglican (1893), Tuesday 2-4 pm; St. Andrew's United (1895), Friday 1-4 pm; and Sacred Heart Catholic (1903), Saturday 2-4 pm, with mass at 4:30 pm. The Kootenay Star mining museum on Front Street will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 am-4 pm. Rocky Mountain Rangers' Drill Hall (1901), home of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #74, will be open Wednesday to Saturday, 3-7 pm. Drop by Kaslo Seniors' Hall (1898) on Saturday 1-4 pm for tea and conversation. The old Fire Hall (1894), now the VHS Thrift Store, is open Friday and Saturday 10 am-3 pm and the Masonic Lodge is open Wednesday 2-4 pm. At Kaslo's Selkirk College on Tuesday evening (7-9), Marilyn James will give an update on the Sinixt Nation.

The theme for this year's Heritage Week is "Vernacular Heritage, Architecture without Architects." In and around Kaslo, as in most of the other communities in the Kootenays, there are still lots of reminders of the mining boom which was originally responsible for the town's existence. These are often not glamorous structures, but they are reminders of the times that produced them. That old shack in your backyard may have once been someone's home!

Tour the elegant ladies' saloon on the SS Moyie during heritage week, February 18-24.It has been transformed from a plain room with linoleum flooring to a beautifully decorated elegant Victorian saloon with velvet plush settees.

Peeling away the layers of time reveals many previously unknown details of the SS Moyie's painting, decoration, carpeting, flooring and interior features.

Lynda Lafleur, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison for the area, presents a $1500 cheque for the Kaslo City Hall restoration initiative. Pictured are: Donna Cormie, Alice Windsor, Keleegh Sinclaire, Gillian Froese, Mark Mackenzie, Gwen Hale and Suzan Hewat, Village of Kaslo councillor. Missing from the photo are Ken Frie and Les Mallory.

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Mayor and Council
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The run of the Berry Boats on Arrow Lakes

by Bruce Rohn
Arrow Lakes Historical Society

Bottom land on the Arrow Lakes from Nakusp to Castlegar provided land companies with an opportunity to cash in on the region's resource as a productive fruit growing area. European residents keen on becoming independent farmers jumped at the chance to start afresh. Dozens of small points along the lake became settlements, some even large enough to see stores built along with churches and community halls. A great advantage the Arrow Lakes corridor had over the Okanagan farmers at this time was the ability to grow fruit trees without installing irrigation systems. The success of these farms was hindered only by the lack of transportation systems to get the fruit to market due to reliance upon the CPR sternwheelers. To alleviate the crisis, meetings were held.

With the opening of the Kettle Valley Railway and the daily boat service cut to a tri-weekly service on October 31, 1915, the small towns below Nakusp that were built up in the orchard boom of 1907-08 became vulnerable to getting their crops shipped out with the new schedule. On March 29 and April 1 of 1916, John Gore, superintendent of the BC Lake & River Service met with fruit growers from the towns between Needles and Nakusp to discuss a new schedule for getting their soft fruits to market.

At a meeting in the old Burton school, the following points were made.

1) Captain Gore introduced that the company was willing to run an additional boat on alternate days, but did not in any way mean the re-establishment of the daily service. When the berry season ended, the boat would be taken off.

2) FW Jordan advised those present to go ahead and help make this extra boat a paying proposition by finding a market for fruit and shipping it and using the service to its fullest capacity. The more they patronize it, the better it would be for all concerned.

3) The boat would start on about the 20th of June and continue till the end of the soft berry season. It would carry passengers and be fully staffed like the through regular boat. Only the schedule wouldn't be the same. The Burton Farmers Institute will be the ones to let the CPR know when to commence this service.

4) The last discussed topic was the routing. Most of the small fruits from Needles south went to points in southern Alberta – McLeod, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, etc. From Burton north it was shipped to Calgary, Edmonton and northern points. The fruit was picked in the morning and shipped by the northbound steamer and reached Calgary in the afternoon. Mr. Smily of Burton stated unless connection was made at Arrowhead, and suggested that if the boat had to lay over, that Friday was the best day to lay over, as fruit shipped that day got into the Calgary market for Sunday.

Before the *Minto* made its first fruit run of the season, the CPR had to renew the service of two steamers on the Arrow Lakes to take care of the delayed passengers from the washed out districts on the main line. To help, the Bonnington and Minto were put in readiness for a special crew from Slocan Lake in charge of Capt Kirby and left for Arrowhead on June 22. The berry run started on Monday, July 3, 1916. The first shipments of fruit made weren't as large as anticipated due to the late cold weather, but the shipment of strawberries on July 7 was double any previous day. In 1917, the second season of the berry boat, the service started a week later with Walter Wright in the wheel house of the *SS Minto*. The season ended July 21 and wasn't continued in the following years. The onslaught of WWI along with limited production of crops probably led to the discontinuance of the service.

The SS Bonnington and the SS Minto on route collecting fruit, in 1916 or 1917. The berry run started on Monday, July 3, 1916. In 1917, the second season of the berry boat, the service started a week later. The service ended July 21 and wasn't continued in the following years.

Nakusp and District Museum covers a vast time line

submitted by Sharon Montgomery

Here in the Columbia Basin, we have one of the richest and oldest histories of aboriginal people in British Columbia. Knowing that the Columbia Basin has been inhabited since the last ice age – that's 10,000 years – makes one shiver. The footprints of the past have long since been washed away by modern day politicians flooding our precious valleys.

The area's aboriginal ancestors, the Sinixt, were the mother tribe of the Pacific Northwest Salish people. The waves of migration westward from the Interior Plateau and the Columbia Basin started approximately two hundred years prior to the European explorers arriving on the west coast. Thus the Coast Salish people were firmly established on the lower mainland from Portland, Oregon to Bute Inlet, BC.

Meanwhile, the Sinixt Nation continued on as the judicial governors of their immense Columbia territory, holding county court as the need arose. They also dominated and delegated fishing rights at Hayes Island on the Columbia River to various other Salish tribes.

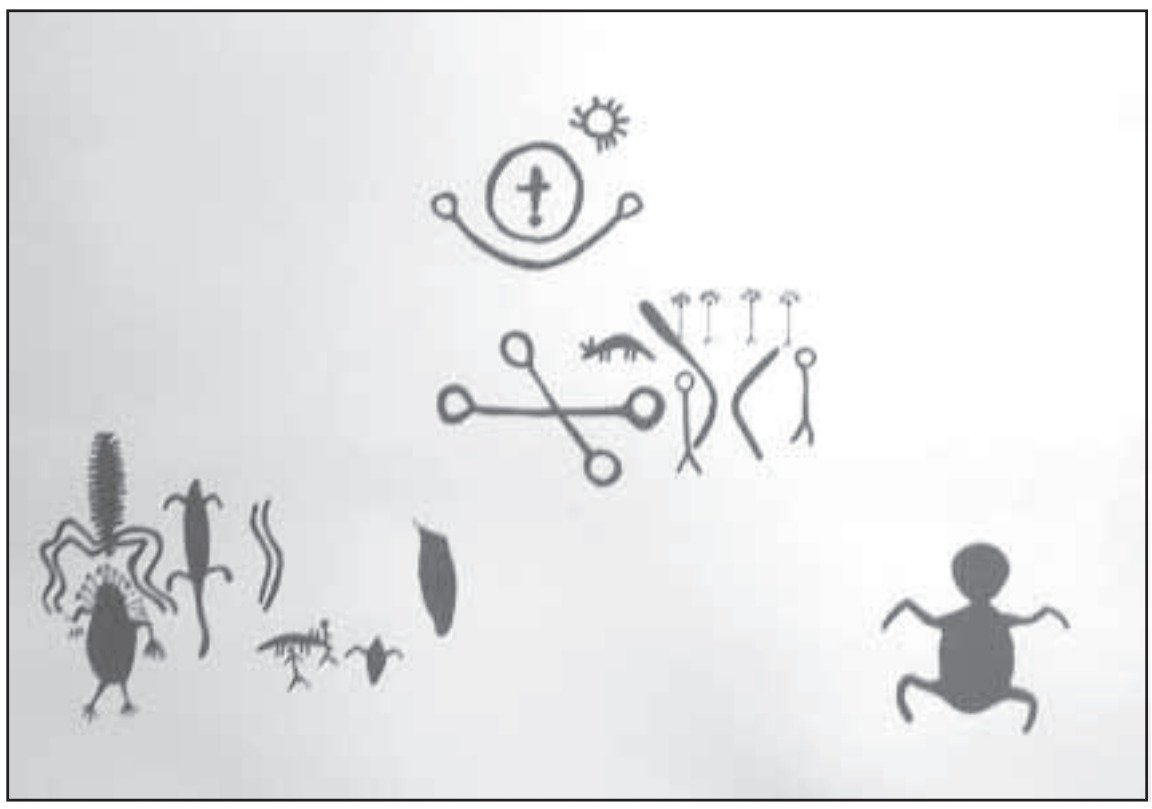
When the prospectors stormed through these valleys, they targeted Sinixt leaders with bounties on their heads and genitals. Five consecutive waves of diseased Hudson Bay Blankets were circulated in order to wipe out any opposition to their greed for gold, silver, the fur trade and healing hot springs.

The white newcomers couldn't tell the difference between the Sinixt Nation and the newly arrived Assiniboine Ktunaxa in the East Kootenays so they referred to all natives by the misnomer 'Kootenay Indians'.

In the mid-1800s when the 49th parallel was established as the international border, Sinixt people were caught below the border fishing at Kettle Falls. At that time there was a large reserve at Fort Colville, Washington. Upon trying to return home to Canada, they were told they had to make a choice. It was a difficult choice – in their Columbia Basin territory they still faced extreme danger due to persecution by white people.

Currently there are well over six hundred Sinixt people at the Colville Reserve. The Sinixt were mistakenly declared extinct in Canada in 1956 and are currently in negotiations with the federal government to have the extinct status removed.

To learn more about the early pre-history of this area, visit the Nakusp and District Museum – we are open mid-May until the end of September and welcome all nations.



Aboriginal people left their mark on the landscape of the Columbia Basin. An example is this Sinixt Pictograph from the South Arrow Lakes.

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SS Moyie celebrates 50 years since retirement

submitted by Mark McKenzie
Kootenay Lake Historical Society

The *SS Moyie* made her last run on Kootenay Lake on April 27, 1957 after 59 years of service. She is the oldest surviving intact passenger sternwheeler in the world. The *Moyie* was retired by Canadian Pacific and was sold to the Village of Kaslo for $1. The Kootenay Lake Historical Society was then formed to care for the vessel.

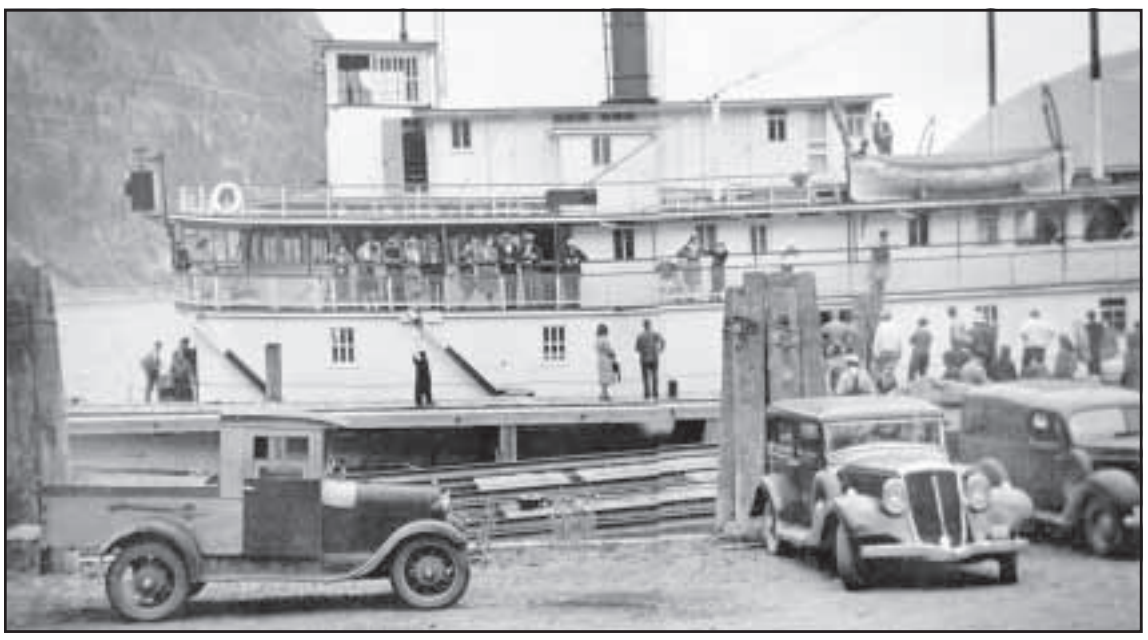
In 1987, major projects began to stabilize the vessel, provide fire protection and begin its restoration. The next 20 years saw an incredible amount of work completed on the restoration of the ship. The first years of work were critical to the structural survival of the vessel. This included the building of a steel cradle to support it, replacement of rotting timbers, complete exterior painting, and restoration of the paddlewheel and its box covering. The restoration of the interior of the vessel provided many challenges but the work was carried out slowly and systematically. Peeling away the layers of time revealed many previously unknown details of the vessel's painting, decoration, carpeting, flooring and interior features. The transformation of the Ladies Saloon from a plain room with linoleum flooring to a beautifully decorated elegant Victorian saloon with velvet plush settees is one such example.

The ship is recognized as a National Historic site and a British Columbia Historic Landmark. It was recently recognized by The Land Conservancy (TLC) as an outstanding example of heritage restoration, preservation and interpretation. The Kootenay Lake Historical Society in 2006 joined with TLC to promote the vessel around the world with such organizations as The National Trust in Britain and introduce it to many more visitors.

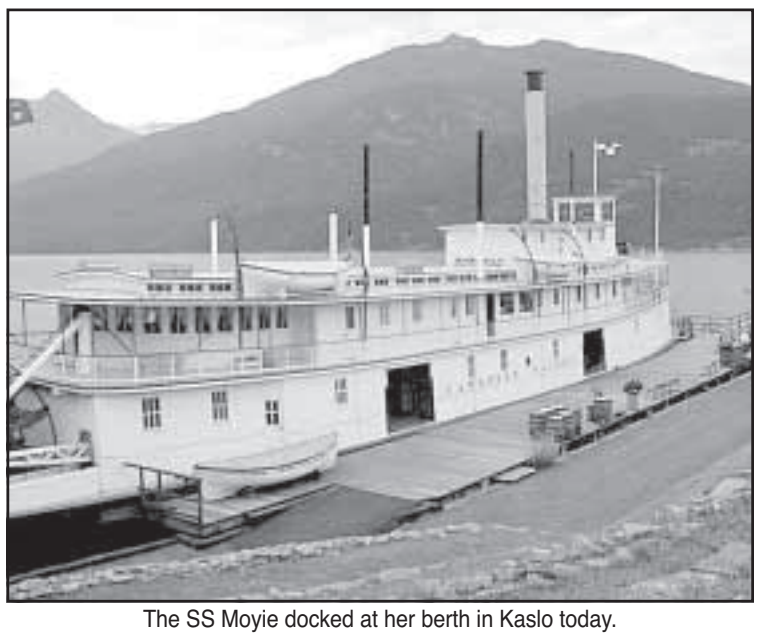
To celebrate Heritage Week (February 19-25), the ship will be lit up during the early evening hours. Be sure to stroll by. The *SS Moyie* will start the 2007 season with an open house on Mother's Day, May 13. We hope to see you there.

The Kootenay Lake Archives, which is a branch of the Historical Society, is celebrating Heritage Week with a display of copies of old newspapers published in Kaslo since 1893. These will be displayed in the windows of the vacant space in the Kootenaian Building, 404 Front Street, Kaslo. The Archives is open year round on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings in the basement of the Provincial Government Building in Kaslo. It is presently developing a reference library of books on local history and has an extensive photograph collection.

At the end of her working life, the SS Moyie served as a ferry on Kootenay lake.



The SS Moyie in her glory days as a working sternwheeler.



The SS Moyie docked at her berth in Kaslo today.

Thanks to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Thank you to the Board, staff and membership for preserving our heritage and teaching us about the history of the SS Moyie.

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

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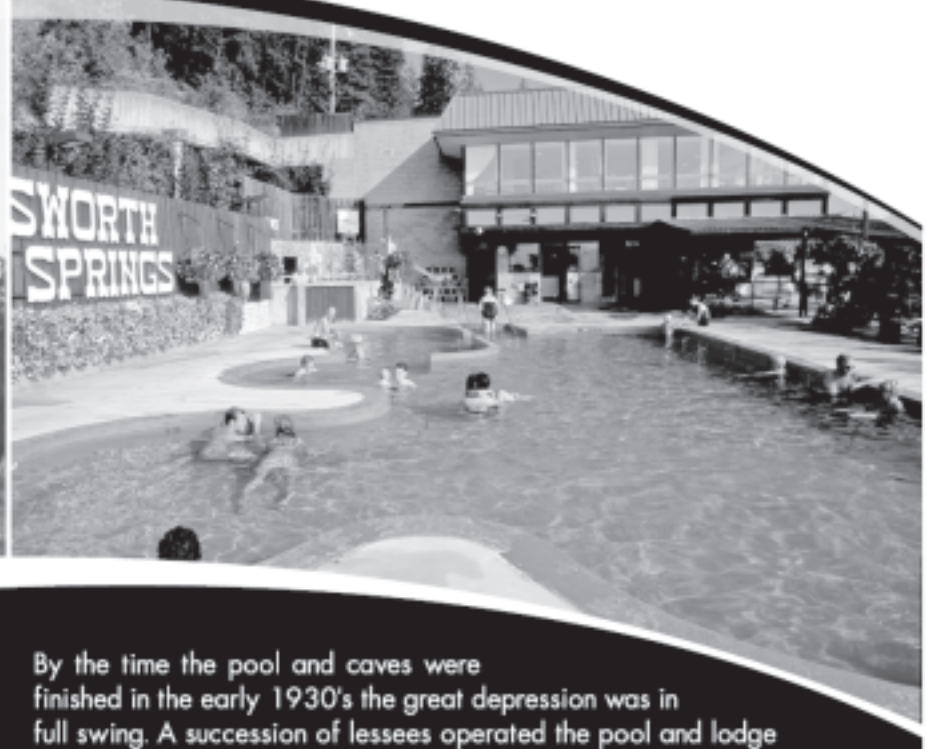

In 1882 George Ainsworth of Portland, Oregon, applied for a preemption of the townsite which is now Ainsworth Hot Springs. It was at first called Hot Springs Camp and had been founded on the strength of silver, lead and zinc discoveries in the vicinity. Names like the Krao, Keyline, No. 1, Let-Her-Go-Gallager and Highlander were the foremost of an impressive list of mining properties.

During this time the Hot Springs itself didn't seem to be very high on the priority list of Ainsworth. It wasn't until the 1920's when the town was starting to decline as a mining centre, that an effort was made to develop the hot springs. The mining company that owned the property at that time decided to build a pool to be used primarily by the miners.

By the time the pool and caves were finished in the early 1930's the great depression was in full swing. A succession of lessees operated the pool and lodge through the 30's 40's and 50's. In the 30's the pool was open 24 hours a day, and a swim cost 10 cents.

In the 40's and 50's, mining activity peaked and production was the highest ever recorded, mostly due to improved machinery. In the later 50's, silver prices dropped and the mines were closed. The owners of the Hot Springs, Yale Lead and Zinc Co. Ltd., decided to sell their property in the Ainsworth townsite, including the pool, cave and lodge.

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A brief history of wooden boats on Slocan Lake

submitted by Bob Dubreuil
Silvery Slocan Historical Society

In the first part of the last century, a common sight was a fleet of wooden boats cruising the lake. The Silvery Slocan Historical Society is working to preserve this part of our heritage through restoration of the motor launch *Lancet*, built in the early 1900s by Dr. Edwin Brouse in New Denver. The Society is also interested in establishing an interpretive display on the history of boating in the community.

As a result of the *Lancet* project, information has come to light about a number of other boats that plied the waters of Slocan Lake some 100 years ago. Besides the *Lancet*, in 1922 Dr. Brouse built the *Tonic*. This was a much more modern design and was used on the lake for many years. Jack Kelly Sr. acquired the boat from Dr. Brouse and it stayed in the family until the late 1950s when it was beached in Silverton and subsequently broke up on the rocks during a storm. Long term residents of New Denver and Silverton remember the boat well and there are stories that some folks caught their first fish on the boat.

It appears that the design of the *Lancet* was quite common in the area during the heyday of wooden boats. At least three other boats shared the same basic design – the *Leader*, the *Thurso* and the *Manxman*. Very little is known about most of these boats. The *Leader* was owned by the Angrignon family and was the winner of the Fisher Cup in 1908.

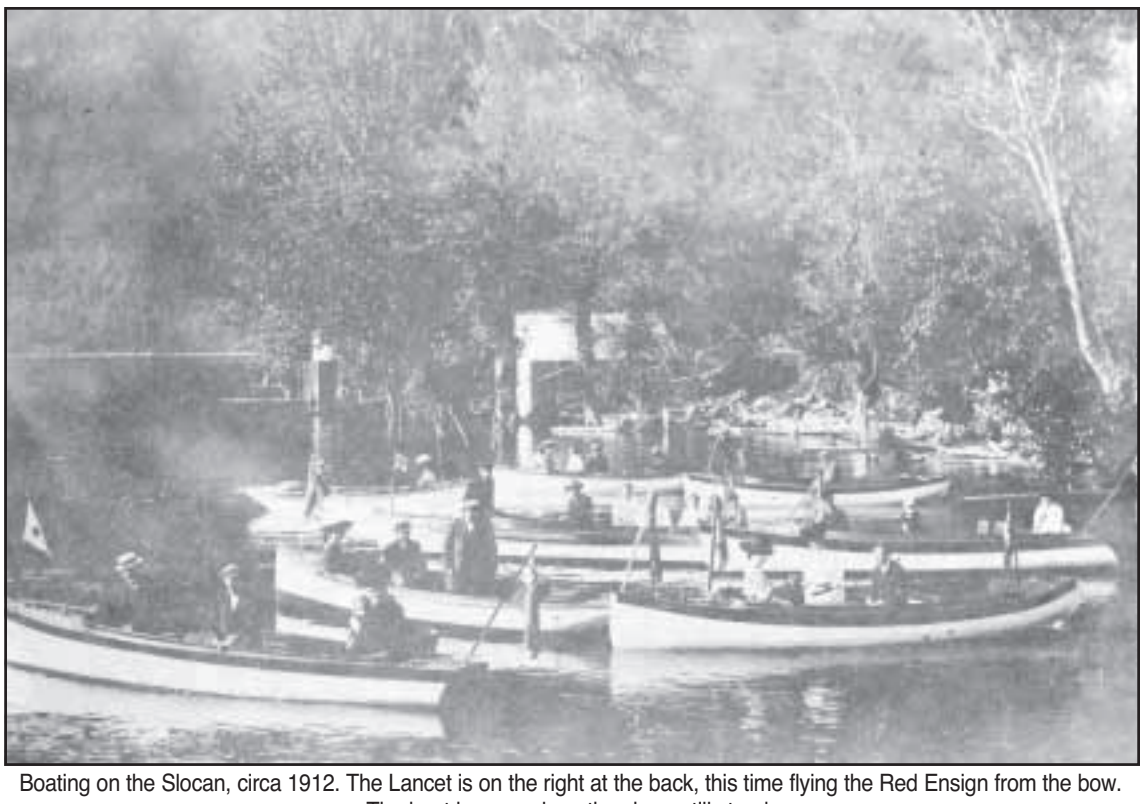
Other boats of the period include the *Nelson*, the *Maple Leaf*, and the *Denver*. The *Maple Leaf* was owned by Andy Wallace and participated in the 1908 Fisher Cup, losing a close race to the *Leader*. The *Denver* was owned by Andy Jacobson and also participated in the 1908 race, though no record of its performance was recorded.

During World War II and the internment of Japanese Canadians in the Slocan Valley, another chapter of wooden boat construction began. Among the internees were a number of accomplished boat builders. One boat, the *Arc Turic*, was built in 1943 by a man only known to us as Matsumoto, and survives to this day.

So what happened to all these boats? Undoubtedly, many sank or broke up on the rocks as the *Tonic* did. Many others probably were used to fuel a bonfire, and others probably rotted away behind someone's shed.

The *Lancet* restoration project is proceeding well. The hull has been coaxed back into its original shape, scraped and sanded. The keel, which was quite rotten, has been removed. A new keel has been fabricated from fir and will be reinstalled. A motor has been found that is similar to the motor originally used in the boat. It is a one-cylinder St. Laurant motor, fabricated in Brantford, Ontario in 1904. Thanks are due Doran Pearson of Cresent Valley who donated the artifact along with a propeller and shaft and a gear reducer. Everyone is welcome to drop down to the jobsite at Tracy and Francie Oldham's garage to take a look or lend a hand.

Anyone with information on any of the wooden boats built and used in the area is urged to contact the museum. Photos can be digitally scanned and then returned to you. Please call Bob Dubreuil at 358-2828 or Stan Wilson at 358-2478.



Boating on the Slocan, circa 1912. The Lancet is on the right at the back, this time flying the Red Ensign from the bow. The boat houses along the shore still stand.

New edition of *Old Silverton* launched for Heritage Week

submitted by Rick Tegeler
Silverton Historical Society

In celebration of Heritage Week, on Saturday, February 24 between 1 and 3 pm the Silverton Historical Society is honoured to hold a book signing for acclaimed author John Norris. The Society has successfully digitized and re-published John's dynamic history book *Old Silverton* after being out of print since 1986. This is a special opportunity to meet John personally and get your autographed copy.

Besides making *Old Silverton* available once again, 2006 was a year of many accomplishments for the Silverton Historical Society. Membership was almost doubled from 2005. The Interpretive Centre has been reorganized with new exhibits and displays, and was open on a regular basis throughout the summer. The first of several travelling exhibits has begun. Signage has been improved and increased both inside and out.

A second tram tower was erected on the grounds of the outdoor mining exhibit. These exhibits had expanded numbering added and were repainted.

The archives acquired valuable additions and have been catalogued and digitized thanks to a JCP grant. Archival reprints are now for sale at the centre and through the website, which has been expanded to include more images and current information. The Society now has email at miningmuseum@yahoo.com.

An oral history program for Silverton was instituted and is now available to the public. Two new videos of local historical interest are now available for public viewing.

The Society's plans for 2007 are equally optimistic. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the next exciting chapter of activities in Silverton is invited to visit the Interpretive Centre on February 24, meet John Norris, and become a member. Members enjoy a discount on *Old Silverton* and many other benefits. Be a part of preserving the legacy of Silverton.

Silvery Slocan Museum, New Denver

submitted by Webb Cummings
Silvery Slocan Historical Society

The museum is in the former Bank of Montreal, located at the bottom of Main Street (6th Avenue) in New Denver. The bank was built in 1897, six years after the discovery of silver ore near Sandon. The lake boats landed here and this area was the business centre of the village.

The building was acquired by the Village after the bank closed around 1970, and is leased by the Silvery Slocan Historical Society for use as a museum. The Heritage Trust (provincial agency) funded restoration of the outside and foundation. This was followed by restoration of the inside, the original finish, so that the building is now restored to its fine pre-WWI condition. It is a recognized heritage site.

Exhibits are all through both floors, with the storage of archives in a room off the back hall that is climate controlled. Over 2,000 photographs have been digitally stored.

The society's major project, the restoration of the *Lancet*, is now underway. *The Lancet*, an inboard motor launch, was built about 1912 by Dr. Brouse in the top floor of the hospital where Brouse Lodge now sits. It cruised on Slocan Lake and was found on a property near Nemo Creek. It was brought to the museum site and stored, and is now being carefully restored.

The museum is open from June to September, seven days per week, if the federal funding to hire a student is available. Volunteers operate the museum two days per week and the InfoCentre is maintained in the front of the building by the Chamber of Commerce. For info, or opening in the off-season, contact Webb Cummings, Stan Wilson or Bob Dubreuil.

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Thanking all the volunteers who dedicate their time to our local historical societies in New Denver.
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In celebration of Heritage Week, on Saturday, February 24th between 1 pm and 3 pm the Silverton Historical Society is honoured to hold a book signing for acclaimed author John Norris.

The Society has successfully digitised and re-published John's dynamic history book ***OLD SILVERTON*** after being out of print since 1986.

Come join us, meet John personally and get your autographed edition of ***OLD SILVERTON***.

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Input sought for proposed Nakusp Homestay program

submitted

Community support is being sought for a proposed program to bring high school students from other areas of the province to Nakusp for the 2007-08 school year. The program would be a matchmaking service between host families, who would be paid for room and board, and students.

Efforts would be made to fit the students with families who have similar interests. Families would be required to undergo criminal record checks, and comply with reasonable requirements, such as providing students with their own bedrooms. Students would submit applications for the program and be interviewed to ensure their commitment.

There are many advantages for the student. In a community such as Nakusp, which has produced an amazing number of junior hockey players for its size, this will include the opportunity to play hockey or other organized sports.

Having a venue to play hockey at a reasonable cost with reasonable practice times is something we take for granted. Hockey is only one sport Nakusp students have excelled in. Others include snowboarding, golf, running marathons, soccer, etc.

Another advantage is the ability to experience a small school education. Being in a small school means not being invisible. Class sizes are smaller than normal. Graduation rates are higher. Teachers are dedicated and caring, committed to ensuring that students have the opportunity to graduate with the foundations to successfully go on to further education or training.

Nakusp offers students opportunities to get involved in community theatre, community radio, and arts and culture organizations. It's a rare student who hasn't volunteered in some aspect of community life, whether it's at the music festival, cutting firewood for hockey or participating in a bottle drive, allowing them to develop organizational and practical skills.

The advantages for the community and host families are just as many. No matter how good our programs are, they cannot be sustained without the numbers to keep them going. Students buy clothes, lunch, coffee, rent DVDs, go to the show, buy lift tickets and golf passes, and generally contribute to the economy and vitality of the town.

If there is sufficient interest in the Nakusp Homestay program from potential homestay parents and others, the organizer will set up a non-profit society with a board of directors, and advertise for students in community newspapers, mainly in the Lower Mainland. The work would be done on a volunteer basis, but a funding application through the CBT Community Initiatives program would be put in place to cover direct costs, such as advertising and insurance.

Please contact Susan DeSandoli at 265-9919 or email dsandoli@telus.net.

Order of Eastern Star stamp collection drive

submitted

The Order of the Eastern Star, British Columbia and Yukon provides free dressings to post-op cancer patients and has done so for the past 60 years in BC. Members of Nakusp's Martha Chapter No. 24 of the Eastern Star are urging the public to support them in this campaign by saving cancelled stamps and postcards – used or unused.

Each year cancelled stamps and postcards are collected throughout BC, trimmed, sorted and sold to dealers and crafters. Last year $14,467.98 was raised by these sales. It takes 6400 stamps to earn $3.00. The remainder of the funds needed are raised by each chapter through various events such as the Nakusp chapter's strawberry shortcake sales. Last year the supplies purchased to make the dressings cost the Order approximately $45,000. Martha Chapter just delivered 30 pounds of sorted stamps to the headquarters in Vancouver. Leftover stamps are made into craft projects – book covers, dishes, boxes, etc.

Dressings can be acquired by asking your doctor for a slip to take to the health centre or hospital. The nurse then contacts a dressing station with directions for size, shape, number of dressings required and how often. The dressings are made, sterilized and delivered via the health care facility to post-op cancer patients, free of charge.

Please do not cut stamps off postcards. Leave stamps on envelopes or cut them off carefully, leaving one-quarter inch all around. Eastern Star members get together and trim them as required.

For more information, please contact Agnes Finch at 265-3369.

Curling takes Deane Horning's team to Japan

by Jan McMurray

Although Nakusp resident Deane Horning's curling team did not make the cut at the Provincials, they brought home the silver from the Karuizawa International Competition in Japan and experienced "the trip of a lifetime," according to Horning.

The team played nine games during the five-day competition (January 31 to February 4), which consisted of a round robin and playoff bonspiel. They won the round robin portion and beat Australia in the semi-finals, but lost to the American team in the final game, 10-7. "We had some horrible luck in the eighth end," says Horning. "The game was a real battle. It was well played and fun to be a part of, but really disappointing to lose. It was our first time representing country and maybe the only chance we'll have, so to lose..."

Horning reported that the Canadian women's team (Julie Reddick from Ontario) won gold. "They played fantastic – they were great," he said.

The considerable amount of travel involved was not without its challenges. Two of the women on the Canadian team were not quick enough to get off the train at the transfer point to get on the train to Karuizawa. "They were whisked off into the night to Tokyo," says Horning. This created quite a bit of stress for the Canadians, who waited at the transfer station until the last train to Karuizawa. When they arrived at the hotel, the two women were already there. "That was a relief, to say the least," said Horning.

This just goes to show how wonderful the Japanese people are, Horning said. The two women found someone who could speak some English, and managed to get on a train to Karuizawa at no charge – their tickets were left behind with the group.

"We were treated like royalty," says Horning. "We had three guides helping us full-time and they spoiled us rotten. The Japanese are so friendly, nice and respectful, and the country is so safe. The thing that blew me away is that nobody locks their doors ever – not in their cars or their houses."

He was very impressed with the final banquet, featuring a performance of traditional Japanese drumming. Horning's team took 48 maple leaf shaped bottles of pure maple syrup, donated by Anne Beliveau's Studio Connexion shop in Nakusp, to give out to other teams, and to the executives running the event. "That was a huge hit – we were very popular when we gave that out," said Horning.

Deane Horning's team members line up with their silver medals at the final banquet at the Karuizawa International Curling Competition in Japan. L to R: Tyrel Griffith, Brendan Willis, Deane Horning, and TJ Perepolkin.

Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Sara Buechner

submitted

For the fourth concert of the series, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Sara Buechner at the Bonnington Arts Centre on February 23 at 8 pm.

Sara Davis Buechner is a classical concert pianist whose performances and recordings have garnered acclaim on four continents. Career highlights include winning prizes in many of the world's most prestigious competitions, appearing with prominent orchestras all over the world, and an extensive list of recordings both on CD and Yamaha software systems.

Ms Buechner lives in beautiful Vancouver, where she is Assistant Professor of piano and chamber music at UBC. She is in constant demand as an adjudicator for important piano competitions and festivals, and presents lectures and master classes worldwide, from the Royal Academy in London to Indiana University to the Kobe-Yamate Gakuen in Osaka, Japan.

Sara is a dazzling pianist and witty speaker, with a gregarious personality that leaps from the stage. In informal concerts she has been known to talk about everything from cartoons to baseball to Japanese kabuki to connect with her audience on an intimate level and make her music a personal and enchanting experience for everyone.

For the fourth concert of the series, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Sara Buechner at the Bonnington Arts Centre.

This will be the first appearance of Sara Davis Buechner in Nakusp. All piano students will receive coupons to go to this concert for $10. Please see your piano teacher for these coupons.

Come and join us on Friday, February 23 at the Bonnington Arts Centre, part of the Nakusp Elementary School, for an evening full of exciting piano sounds! Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door, the evening of the performance. Doors are open at 7:30 pm and the concert starts at 8 pm. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank Huckleberry Inn for hosting this concert.

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Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

$10:00 tickets for piano students with coupon

Hospitality Host: Huckleberry Inn

Nakusp Bantam hockey play-by-play

submitted by Kris James

Nakusp took their game to Lumby for an exhibition game on Saturday, February 3. Once again the little line starts out early with Andrew Likness putting it in off the goalie's blocker just14 seconds in. Bryar McQuair gets passes from Danielle Hascarl and Jesse Cann and puts it through the goalie. Nathan Weibe makes a huge one man effort and dekes out the goalie. Kris James takes a pass from Hascarl and gets a sharp angled shot away to put it in the side of the net. Nic Watson and McQuair set up Ross Zelzenik to make it 5-0 but shortly after Lumby gets there first. Weibe gets his second on a passing play that includes James and Logan Marshall. Hascarl puts one in with Likness' help. Jesse Cann finishes the game off with Brody Simpson and Kayla Yoshida to lend him a little help. Terryn Stenseth plays one of his best games as he stops a penalty shot.

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Kaslo Midget hockey team wins Cranbrook tournament

The Kaslo Midget hockey team took first place overall at a tournament in Cranbrook in January. The goals and assists were as follows:

The Kaslo Midget hockey team after their victory sweep in Cranbrook.

Game One, Kaslo vs. Cranbrook, was the only game Kaslo lost over the weekend and only by one point. The final score was 6-5 for Cranbrook. Kaslo's goals were scored by Luke Weber with an assist by Nicolas Gagnon; Jayson Foley, unassisted; Joe Wood, assisted by Shane McKinnon; Nicolas Gagnon, assisted by Nick Jones; Joe Wood, assisted by Shane McKinnon.

Game Two, Kaslo vs. Calgary. The final score was 5-4 for Kaslo. Kaslo's goals were scored by Jayson Foley, assisted by Shane McKinnon; Nicolas Gagnon, assisted by Brad Reimer; Luke Weber, assisted by Nicolas Gagnon; Shane McKinnon, assisted by Cari Walker; and Cody Bens, assisted by Brad Reimer and Jared Berry.

Game Three, Kaslo vs. Creston Chiefs. Final score 3-1 for Kaslo. Goals by Francois Gagnon, assisted by Cari Walker and Shane McKinnon; Shane McKinnon, assisted by Jayson Foley and Joe Wood; Cody Bens, assisted by Francois Gagnon.

Game Four (final game) Kaslo vs. Okotoks. Final score 7-5 for Kaslo. Goals scored by Francois Gagnon, assisted by Shane McKinnon; Cari Walker, assisted by Francois Gagnon and Shane McKinnon; Luke Weber, assisted by Nicolas Gagnon and Shane McKinnon; Shane McKinnon, assisted by Francois Gagnon; Jared Berry, unassisted; Luke Weber, assisted by Nicolas Gagnon and Shane McKinnon; Shane McKinnon, assisted by Cari Walker.

No more RadioShack for Kaslo – or Canada

RadioShack Corporation of Fort Worth, Texas has ceased Canadian operations as of January 31, 2007. Kootenay Lake Computers in Kaslo was one of only 21 RadioShack dealer franchise stores in Canada, with others in Nelson, Revelstoke, Dawson Creek, and Keremeos.

Kootenay Lake Computers will continue as an independent business providing sales and service for Virgin Mobile, Bell Mobility & ExpressVu, Starchoice, XplorNet Satellite Internet and Panasonic (for products and prices see www.panasonic.ca).

KLC will continue to serve the technology, office supply, printing and copying needs of Kaslo and area residents. Sales and support in personal computers is a specialty, with more home electronics being added to its product line all the time. KLC will be clearing out existing RadioShack inventory in the coming months. Check out the new and improved store at 344 Front St.

A fresh start for St Andrew's United Church

The newly elected management team for St Andrew's United Church in Kaslo is creating a new schedule for worship services on each second and fourth Sunday of the month at a new time, 2:30 pm. This allows churchgoers to have a Sunday sleep-in, or brunch with friends, and still enjoy church services, with plenty of time left over for evening activities. There will be coffee time following the service for visiting and conversation.

"We are aware that people live very busy and often stressful lives, and need time for relaxation," says St. Andrew's board secretary Mary Stickel, "but they also need a time of gentle spiritual reflection. Can we provide this? We'll try. The new approach is not so formal, and we're open to hearing from you about your wants and needs."

The first service will be February 11, with Pearl Gyan Dyck giving the service. On February 25, Judy Walker will be the service leader. The Kootenay Presbytery is helping provide worship leaders.

The March 25th service will not happen, as the Concert Society has booked the church for one of their regular concerts. A special event, the Sacred Side of Jazz, is being planned for the Kaslo Jazz Festival this summer.

Coffee Creek bridge replacement postponed

by Art Joyce

Many who drive Highway 31 between Kaslo and Nelson have been wondering why new bridge construction at Coffee Creek seems to have stopped. Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Susan Williams says construction has been postponed due to the unusually high snowpack this year. The ministry is concerned that the spring runoff will create dangerously high levels in the creek.

Originally the new span, located some 60 metres downstream from the old bridge, was slated for completion by the end of summer '07. Williams says contractors will now be held off until July 1st, with a possible completion date in October this year.

Avalanche conditions along the highway were stable at press time. Motorists can check road conditions at www.drivebc.ca for updated reports.

Kaslo Food Security Project goes to round 2

submitted

It has been almost a year since the North Kootenay Lake Community Services food security project asked the community of the North Kootenay Lake region what would make the region more food secure.

The generous response to the food forum made it clear Kaslo is aware of pressing needs to improve food security. In several afternoon workshops, it became apparent to project leaders that the first step of action should be a community/commercial kitchen initiative.

Applying for grants has been successful and the first round of project funding, for a feasibility study, will come from Kairos Anti-Poverty Funding. The study will look at what the community needs in a commercial kitchen, and the costs to create it.

Project leaders would like to hear from anyone who thinks they could use such a facility for commercial purposes such as making jams, jerky and teas; or for accessing and contributing to healthy meals. Any ideas for community kitchen initiatives, such as community meals, workshops on canning and gardening will be welcomed.

Food security works to alleviate poverty and poor nutrition while increasing access to healthy, regional and culturally appropriate food. Food security, through small business ventures, can also supplement low incomes and stimulate the local economy.

Contact the project through Aimee Watson at 353-2827, or email eemiamay@yahoo.ca, or contact North Kootenay Lake Community Services at 353-7691. The full report is available online at www.nklcss.org.

Drama class to stage *Fiddler on the Roof*

The popular musical *Fiddler on the Roof* will be performed in Kaslo on March 1-3 at 7 pm in the Lighthouse Theatre at JV Humphries School. There will be one matinée performance on Saturday March 3 at 2 pm.

Delight in the familiar songs and dances, Russian Klezmer-style music and the charming story of Tevye, his family and all the Jewish villagers of Anatevka, as they struggle to survive in Tsarist Russia of 1904. This production of *Fiddler on the Roof* involves most of the JVH drama department and many members of the community. The show is a fundraising event for the school's tri-annual Ashland Oregon Shakespeare Festival Trip.

Tickets are $12, available at Sunnyside Naturals on Front Street in Kaslo and at JV Humphries School.

The JVH drama class presents Fiddler on the Roof, March 1-3 in the Lighthouse Theatre.

BC Outback female hockey team wins Provincials

by Jan McMurray

This is the last year for Kaslo's Amanda Turner to play on the prestigious BC Outback AAA female hockey team – and what a season!

The team won the Provincial Championships at the beginning of February and looks forward to attending the Nationals in Salmon Arm from March 5-10.

The BC Outbacks is an elite level hockey club, made up of only the top players and personalities from all over rural BC. It is from this level of hockey that Team Canada draws its players, and the universities scout to find their next stars.

Tryouts are in September every year. This year, the roster also includes Jennie Gallo from Castlegar, and young women from Dawson Creek, 108 Mile House, Merrritt, Penticton, Armstrong, Kamloops, Revelstoke, Vernon, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Kimberley, Jaffray, Fairmont Hot Springs, Golden and Port Alberni.

The team can only manage six or seven practices and 20-24 games per season, as there is a lot of travel involved. However, the Outbacks have attended the last seven Provincial Championship tournaments and have earned two gold and three silver medals.

Amanda has played on the Outback team for two years now, and the team has won gold at the Provincials both years. She will graduate from JV Humphries School this year, and although she has not firmed up her plans for next year, she has decided not to continue with the Outbacks. But, she assures, "I'll never give up hockey!"

Amanda Turner of Kaslo (right) displays the banner the BC Outbacks earned at the Provincial Championships for the elite AAA women's hockey league. The team now advances to the Nationals, to be held in Salmon Arm in March.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Low level leisure tour in Kane Creek

Now that it's mid-February, the low elevation snowpack is decaying and the mid levels are settling out and consolidating quite nicely, while around the treeline and snows should remain light and fluffy for a few weeks yet. If I go skiing down low these days I like to find a well packed snowmobile trail to follow so that the wet snow won't just keep collapsing under the skis. With softer wax or narrow climbing skins, you make good time.

My focus this winter has been to visit places that you can simply drive to and ski from. I sold my last skidoo some years ago and really don't miss that whole routine at all, but of course that obliges me to spend a big part of any ski trip climbing manually. Most tours end up with a nice ski down though, with final turns within the sight of the car...

I cycled up Kane Creek last fall to where the road fades out at 10 km and figured that by now the brush would be well snow covered with reasonable sun exposure there midday. Kane Creek is a large but not much visited drainage that emerges at Three Forks, some 8 km east of New Denver on Hwy 31A. The highway swings way into the creek and drops down to cross it about 400 metres short of the Sandon Junction. The YRB maintenance guys keep a handy pullout plowed open right off the corner at the creekside.

Although a sign here states that the bridge is out up at the 1.5 km crossing, the old structure remains and though maybe not real safe, does allow most users to travel further up the valley. There was a fresh sled track that I was able to follow which made the wet snow way nicer and I was content to tour up the valley for around 5 km to the turnoff where a branch road climbs steeply up to the McAllister mine workings. My oldest maps also make note of a Black Grouse mine on the left side of the valley, but I suspect it may now only be at the end of an obscure horse trail.

Kane Creek makes a fine ski tour for light gear because it climbs only 350 metres over a 10-km distance. With fishtail base ski gear on a skidoo track you can easily get far up the drainage and have a fairly fast but safe run back down to the car. Initially the road stays beside Kane Creek, then pulls away some through a logged area, and then after the crossing at 1.5 km climbs somewhat and now follows the right side of the valley. Sweeping views of the upper valley with the lofty peaks of Whitewater, Inverness and Marten Mountains on all sides, and the boundary of Goat Range Park lies just ahead.

The road remains narrow with no signs of logging or development here; however, there's enough natural openings to give relief from any deep wood claustrophobias. All the sights tend to be up and away from you, with the main creek never far below and the usual array of animal tracks and signs of wild scurryings...

Skiing past the turnoff to the right for McAllister Mine, which also climbs right over top of London Ridge and on down to Fish Lake, the road keeps climbing a little here and there with the brush at times annoying and then some very open and pleasant stretches. The defined road seems to sorta taper out (I'm not fond of the phrase "Peters out") around the 9 km point but here the trees are well spaced in old runouts and terminal morraines so that you could explore quite a ways up this untouched valley if you take time. The historic horse trail from Three Forks goes off up Marten Creek and originally was how you'd get to the mines and trails of the Alps Alturas area on Mt. Dolly Varden.

Ski tours up Kane Creek can be short family affairs just to the bridge and back or else full day efforts to the back end, though I can see where a snowmobile looks pretty good for anyone with intent to get onto the bigger slopes farther up the valley. My own trip was a perfectly okay three hours and made an easy, convenient afternoon.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and recreates in the Slocan Valley. 358-2133.

Financial Forum

with Collin Ludwar

Already tired of RRSP season?

RRSP season is here and no one is going to let you forget it! However, for some of you, RRSP season is like Columbus Day or National Kazoo day – it is basically a non-event. This may be because you don't believe in RRSPs or because you can't contribute due to having no RRSP contribution room. If you have a good pension or if you're a business owner paying yourself dividends instead of income, you will be limited in your ability to participate in RRSPs. For those of you that feel left out this time of year, I bring you a new type of investment season. We will call it Universal Life Side Account Season. This season will have everything RRSP season has and more – so much more, that you will feel like celebrating by drinking champagne straight out of the bottle!

The details that will make this a celebrated season are based on the design of a life insurance policy called Universal Life. Universal Life has two components: the first is the life insurance portion and the second is the investment side account. It is this side account that will be our focus. This side account is like any other investment account where you can choose to invest in mutual fund type investments, the stock market indices, GIC type products or other fixed income options.

The advantage of a universal life policy comes in the tax treatment. Similar to RRSP accounts, the money within the account grows tax deferred. However with these plans, you are using non-registered open money so only the growth portion is taxed when you pull the money out. With traditional RRSPs, you are forced to start taking the money out when you convert your account to a RRIF (usually the year following your 69th birthday). With the Universal Life policy, there is no stipulation of ever having to take money out unless you need to. From an estate planning concept, if you maximize the funding into these Universal Life policies, all of the proceeds can be passed to your beneficiaries tax-free. This is a huge advantage over RRSPs! With RRSPs the government receives the tax at some point, either when you withdraw the money or when you pass away. If you name your spouse as your beneficiary, your RRSPs will roll over to them tax free. The surviving spouse would be faced with the same tax treatment once they began to draw an income but the full tax bill would be payable upon their death. With the Universal Life investment account it is possible to keep 100% of the money sheltered from tax and then pass the proceeds to your family without paying any tax.

Let's say you do want to dip into this Universal Life investment while you're alive but want to avoid paying tax on the money. One strategy to use is to take a loan against the money in the insurance policy. There is no tax paid because you have not actually withdrawn the money – you've borrowed against it. The loan stays outstanding until you die at which point the insurance and the investment side account proceeds pay out tax free. The loan can then be paid off using this money and the remainder goes to the children. This technique does not work for RRSPs because you cannot borrow against your RRSPs. The cost of the interest on the loan is small compared to the tax savings, making it a desired strategy.

The one thing to remember when using Universal Life insurance as a financial planning or estate planning tool, is that not all policies are created equal. You need to compare the amount of investment options available – some have 20 options while others have over 300. You need to compare the cost of the insurance and any management expense ratios (MERs) to ensure you are receiving the most competitive product. So if you are tired of hearing about RRSP season but still want to save on taxes talk to your accountant or financial planner to fully understand the above concepts and to ensure you are making the right decision.

Collin Ludwar B.Comm CFP is a certified financial planner and risk management specialist with The Affolter Financial Group Inc.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

A tonne of garlic

Some time in the late ' 70s Katrie Skogstar made her grand entrance into the hospitality industry. She landed a job as a car-hop at the Tasty Freeze in Kitimat.

During the recession of the early '80s she did a lot of waitressing in Vancouver, Victoria and Nelson. Then it was back home to Finland where she tended bar for several years in Helsinki. Next she went to Mexico to research Mexican fare, then returned to Canada where she worked, usually as a manager, in almost every Mexican restaurant in Vancouver.

Finally in '94 she moved back to Nelson where she realized she'd had enough of Mexican Food and wanted, instead, to open a restaurant with garlic as a theme. This was the seed that sprouted in 1996 and grew into THE OUTER CLOVE, the first restaurant she owned and the only one in Nelson with GARLIC as its theme, and guess where I had the extreme pleasure of having lunch last Friday? Good guess! THE OUTER CLOVE.

It's located at 536 Stanley Street, a half a block up from Baker Street. Easy to find, even for me.

On Friday I arrived just as they opened at 11:30 am. The dining area is one good-sized room with four big old windows – bright and cozy with a friendly easy-going feel. The decor reminds you that you are in a garlic zone. More about that later, but let's cut to the chase and get down to what THE OUTER CLOVE is all about. We're talkin' food here. Food with garlic in it, on it, under it, surrounding it, or all of the above. Don't be scared.

I'm going to go ahead and tell you the sort of succulent selections on the menu. My choice of appetizer on Friday was the Saganaki: a favorite Greek dish of fried kefalgraviera cheese drizzled with an infusion of ouzo, garlic, and lemon, served with crusty bread. Now I've had Saganaki in many Greek restaurants in Vancouver and Toronto, and I'm here to tell you that the version at THE OUTER CLOVE is the winner. It's hot, fragrant and chewy, and the bread is perfect for soaking up every molecule left on the plate. It's a meal in itself (but I kept eating). Other appys awaiting you include selections where you will encounter steamed pork and shrimp wontons, whole heads of roasted garlic, deep fried squid, smoked salmon, garlic and pepper prawns, garlicky ribs, shoestring spuds and a guacamole that will make you swoon.

Now, before telling you about the entree I had, get this: there are twelve people on staff at THE OUTER CLOVE, and many of them come down to the place on their day off for a bowl of soup and to chat with their pals. Where else does this happen?

The soup of choice is the Ali-uum Soup, or you can have the 'other' daily soup created each day from scratch.

How 'bout salad? H'ail Caesar with roasted garlic and anchovy dressing. There are green salads, a Clove Bowl and a Sinful Chevre Salad with hazelnut crusted goat cheese on organic greens with roasted garlic and honey and lemon – oh man!

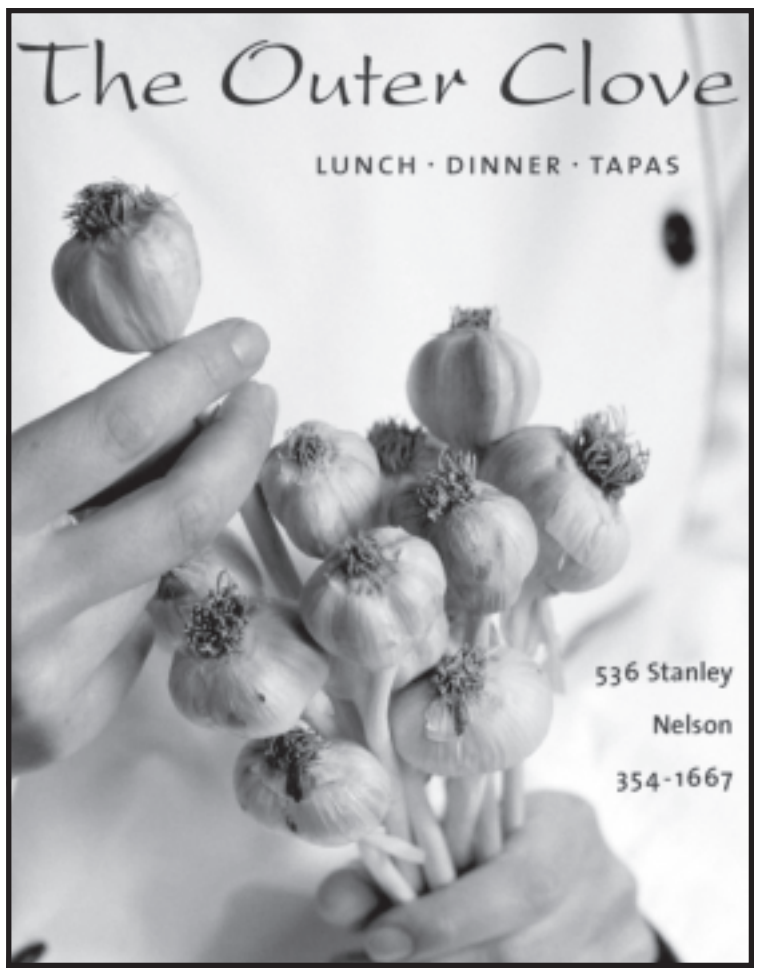
There are three noodle dishes, and I had to try the Linguine Garlioso: a mountain of linguine with in-house smoked chicken, garlic, olive oil, capers, Asiago cheese and tomatoes. I ate it all. Simply luscious!

I'm running out of breath here. Two big sellers are Guadalupe's Fiesta, and Buddha's Feast. You'll have to find out for yourself what they are. If I tell you I'll start to cry.

Yes there are burgers. Three of 'em. Veggie or with meat. Whatever you like.

Then there's a page listing five dinner entrees. Next time I'm having Braised Lamb Shank: Tender lamb shank in a rich orange port wine and lamb stock reduced to sweet magic along with daily potatoes and seasonal veggies.

THE OUTER CLOVE is fully licensed, open Mon. to Sat. from 11:30 am till 9:00 pm. Katri tells me they go through a tonne of garlic each year. Literally. You have every reason to GO THERE! I forgot to tell you more about the decor, but you'll see for yourself.



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COMING EVENTS

YOGA AT THE DOMES - Monday, Thursday and Saturday 9 to 10:30 am. All levels, all ages. Affordable.

KASLO TRAILBLAZERS SOCIETY AGM Wed. Feb. 28 /07, 7 pm. Curling Club Lounge in Kaslo. We urge all members and prospective members to attend. Get updated. Provide your input.

CELEBRATION OF WELLNESS festival in Nakusp on May 12/13 is inviting anyone who has a skill, service or wants to be a guest speaker around the topic of wellness to contact celebrationofwellness@hotmail.com. Anyone who would like to volunteer on the 2 day event is so welcome and should contact Beverley Darnell 250-265-9977 or bbdarnel@telus.net The world needs us to take back responsibility for our health.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP offered in New Denver. Those interested phone New Denver Nursery School 358-7768 or Andrea Wright 358-7995.

Come and experience a WEEKEND IN RETREAT with WILBERT ALIX (www.TranceDance.com). Unique insight into the relationships between traditional shamanic healing, western science and eastern mysticism April 13 to 15 2007 Winlaw BC (Hwy 6). Over 50 people attended a Soul Hunting Workshop held in March 2006 the North Shore Hall in Nelson. We are honoured that Wilbert is returning to the Kootenays this year to be with us in Winlaw. Accommodation list for all budgets, program schedule and costs: 250-226-0021 (be sure to leave a message).

EVERY CHILD READY TO READ Program for parents of preschoolers on Friday, February 26th from 11:30 to 12:30 at Lucerne Library. This is a free program offered by the Nakusp Public Library with a Provincial Equity Grant. For more information call Evelyn Goodell at 358-2355.

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IN MEMORIAM

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SLOCAN VALLEY ADULT BASKETBALL - Tuesdays at Brent Kennedy School, Wednesdays at Winlaw School.

PEAK TO PEAK TO PEAK - Travel to mountains around the world with Steve and Thalia Vesterback. Thurs. Feb. 22nd Slocan Park Hall. 7 p.m.

SLOCAN VALLEY STORYTELLERS - Word of Mouth 6 - Stories this year from Corky Evans, Sam Simpson, Barry Gray, Carolyn McTaggart, Anne DeGrace. Sunday, Feb. 25th 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Passmore Lodge. Tickets $8/advance,$10 at the door.

SLOCAN VALLEY SEED EXCHANGE DAY - Sunday, March 4th . Vallican Whole 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Book your table today!

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THANK YOU

I would like to send a very heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers that spent so much time and energy on the Nakusp Christmas Hamper Project through Community Services. Fantastic! I would also like to thank the staff at the Overwaitea for all the help and moral support. The ladies of CIBC for collecting and counting all the money tin donations. And a big cheer to the community.

-Georgia Calder, Volunteer Co-ordinator

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Volunteer Co-ordinator needed for Restorative Justice Program

Kootenay Restorative Justice (KRJ) was initiated 3 years ago by members of WE Graham Community Service Society and the Slocan Valley community. KRJ is a volunteer organization that seeks to address harms, needs and obligations through an integral process of justice.

KRJ has a mandate to deal with first time young offenders by holding forums. A forum is a facilitated meeting between those that have been harmed and those that have caused harm, their supporters and sometimes the police. What makes Restorative Justice different than court ordered sentences is that those who have been harmed are an essential part of the process. The principles of Restorative Justice suggest that their needs should be addressed. During the forum they are able to ask important questions about the event and express how it affected them. "Involvement in their own cases as they go through the justice process can be an important way to return a sense of empowerment to them." (Little Book of Restorative Justice, p.15).

Those who have caused harm are encouraged to take responsibility through this process. They are given a chance to understand the impact of their actions. At the conclusion of each forum, restitution agreements must be accepted by all members of the forum. Completion of agreements closes the file. Evaluation forms and feedback that KRJ receives are very positive.

KRJ is currently without a coordinator, and we are looking for a member of our community who has a great interest in this type of process, who could commit 4 hours a week to staff the office of KRJ, as well as attend a monthly meeting. Duties would include setting the agenda for meetings, taking and emailing meeting minutes, responding to correspondence and forwarding to steering committee members as appropriate and reporting activities to the steering committee.

Full details will be made available to those expressing further interest. Training will be provided, and expenses reimbursed. Criminal Records check will be at no charge. This person would have highly developed social skills, have a non-judgmental attitude and show a commitment to this project. If you are that person please call 355-2484 and talk to Corrie Traenenberg or call 226-7902 and talk to Chris Berger.

Christmas Hamper program a success in Nakusp

submitted by Georgia Calder

What an amazing community we live in. This year generous donations of food, toys and cash enabled the filling of 97 bountiful hampers. These were distributed throughout Nakusp, Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood and Trout Lake.

It was an awe inspiring sight to see. There was a bevy of eager and energetic volunteers who worked many hours to bring this project to fruition. The true spirit of Christmas giving was evident throughout the building.

Alice Watson's grade 11 class arrived to help and had 650 pounds of produce bagged and distributed in the hampers along with 95 bears from the liquor store all in a 50-minute period. Wow! Their high energy have us a great boost and helped us to finish up.

This was my first year of involvement in the hamper project and I feel truly humbled by the outstanding outpouring of love that made this community project such a great success.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Kaslo detachment

•Kaslo RCMP responded to a structure fire in Cooper Creek, on Highway 31 and Argent Road on January 26 at 4:30 am. No one was injured. An initial investigation by Kaslo RCMP and the Nelson Forensic Identification Section has found that the fire is suspicious in nature. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Kaslo RCMP or CrimeStoppers.

•A young male received an eye injury during an assault inside JV Humphries School on January 29. The investigation continues and charges are being considered against a young male.

Traffic Services

•Road checks conducted in Nakusp on two weekends (January 26-28 and February 2-4) resulted in 11 speeding tickets, 19 seatbelt tickets, three no insurance tickets, five no driver's licence tickets, one drive while suspended, two vehicles impounded for defects, one drug seizure, four tickets for other moving violations, five 24-hour roadside suspensions and one charge of impaired driving for a 69-year-old male.

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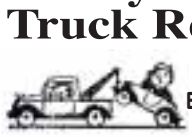
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Silverton Inn to re-open under new ownership, March 1, 2007

by Jan McMurray

The Slocan Valley may be known as the Slow-as-you-can Valley, but the fastest business sale in the west has recently gone down in Silverton.

Maurice Palmer of Kamloops was out for a drive with his cousin in early January when he saw the Silverton Inn. "I was totally taken with the hotel's location and view of the lake," he says.

The inn was all locked up, so he left a note on the door for the owners, asking them to give him a call if they ever wanted to sell.

No sooner had he got back to Kamloops, that same evening, than former owners Ken and Jean Wilde gave him a call. Palmer travelled back to Silverton the next day and they struck a deal.

Palmer plans to open March 1 and has changed the name to Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Although his cousin was originally going to be involved, Palmer says they decided against that. Palmer has been renovating the interior of the building since the end of January. All the hotel rooms are being freshly painted, newly carpeted and newly furnished. The bar is also getting a makeover, as are the lobby and restaurant. Old metal signs and other memorabilia from the 1920s to 1950s that Palmer has been collecting over the years will be displayed on the walls in the bar. The restaurant, Palmer says, will have an Italian theme. He brings Phil Sacco, better known as 'Pizza Phil' from Winnipeg to manage it. Pizza is Palmer's specialty, and he plans to offer a delivery service in the New Denver/ Silverton area. He says the restaurant will be open until 11 pm during the week and until 1 am on weekends.

Palmer's eight-year-old son, Pacific, will finish the school year in Kamloops, but will come to Silverton soon for a visit. Palmer says, "My son is the real boss. If he doesn't like the colours, we'll have to re-do it all." Palmer says he and his son will move here if they can find a suitable house with acreage.

Palmer has had a pizzeria in Winnipeg and a restaurant in Kamloops. He has owned a wrecking yard, an auto sales business and a body and mechanic shop in Winnipeg, as well as 25 rental properties. He has been in BC for one year, and has picked up five rental properties in Kelowna, Shuswap, Barriere and Kamloops. "I'm a jack of all trades and a master of none. I know a little about everything and a lot about nothing," he says.

"Pizza" Phil Saaco and Maurice Palmer will offer Italian food out of the Silverton Lakeshore Inn, starting March 1.

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