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

Another step towards creating a regional park in Sandon

by Jan McMurray

The Regional District's efforts to secure the crown land in Sandon and create a regional park have been met with optimism by the Province.

MLA Corky Evans, Area H Director Don Munro and New Denver Mayor/RDCK Chair Gary Wright met with Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell and his executive assistant on February 20 in Victoria to discuss the possibility of a free crown grant.

Munro reported that "the Minister indicated he would give us 100% support."

Although local politicians expected to have to describe Sandon's location and its historical significance, Bell had visited the area four years ago and remembered Sandon very well.

"I felt that they were really well prepared. They knew exactly why we were there and what we were asking for," said Munro.

Bell and his assistant explained that part of the application process for a free crown grant is to find a government sponsor. The obvious choice in this case would be the Minister of Community Services Ida Chong, who looks after local governments. Although Chong was not available to join the meeting, her executive assistant came and took the information back to her.

"No commitments were made, but it felt very positive," said Munro.

Past efforts to secure the crown land in Sandon led the Regional District to request a licence of occupancy from the Province. Andrew Whale from the Integrated Land Management Bureau had recommended that the RDCK go this route, as no sponsor is needed. However, the concessional value of the land is limited to $200,000 under a licence of occupancy, and Bell informed the local politicians that the Ministry had arrived at a value of more than $400,000 for the crown land in Sandon. He said the RDCK's request for a free crown grant should be for about $500,000 in land and improvements.

There is a limit on the value of the projects each ministry can sponsor. Chong's assistant did not know what was left in the budget this year. This does not concern Munro much, as a new fiscal year is just a month away.

Munro says that as soon as he gets confirmation of a licence of occupancy or a free crown grant, he will set up a community meeting in Sandon. He says most Sandon residents wonder what a regional park would mean to the value of their property.

"I think all it can do is improve not only the value of their land but in terms of developing the area, all of the residents will be directly involved through the regional park commission," said Munro.

Concerns about infrastructure and natural hazards are what prompted Munro to investigate the possibility of a regional park in Sandon. "We've run into a lot of problems in the past where the Province says it's the Regional District's responsibility and the Regional District says it's the Province's responsibility," said Munro, citing septic issues as an example.

Munro says it is the ideal time to move on this, when local politicians are working together and the Province is pushing tourism. He says Bell was impressed with the idea of regional parks at Sandon and Rosebery, connected by the Galena Trail linear park.

Munro says the regional park plan will fit into the OCP but figures that the actual planning for the park will be a separate process. "I think the plan will be developed by residents for a park that will be part of OCP in the end."

Anji Jones and Colin Kowal in a scene from Peril on the High Seas.

Local entertainment at its best

by Jan McMurray

The Rotary Club of Nakusp's annual dinner theatre and play was another smashing success.

Mirror Theatre's *Peril on the High Seas* or *Let's Get Together and Do Launch* got lots of laughs from a very appreciative audience.

Many dressed in their 1950s garb and participated in the dance contests during the intermission. On Friday night, the best dressed prizes went to Denise Allaway from Vernon and Earl Frerichs of Nakusp. On Saturday night, prizes went to Kim Coates of Nakusp and Bill Hilton of Fauquier.

The rock n roll dance contest was won by Chris Neftin on Friday night. On Saturday night, two couples tied for the title: Ken and Marilyn Marshall and Bill Hilton and Carol Smart. Winners received Rotary's board game, Blind Crib.

During the intermission, the district music teacher, Lisa Lise, performed with members of the Nakusp high school choir. The choir members were volunteering their time to serve the scrumptious roast beef dinner. They collected over $600 towards the jazz band's trip to Moscow, Idaho for a jazz competition.

North Kootenay Falcons Midget Rep earn way to provincials

submitted

The North Kootenay Falcons Midget Rep team is heading to the provincials after winning the deciding game against Grand Forks on February 25.

The team has had an excellent season, earning the West Kootenay banner at the conclusion of the league games on February 4. Of the ten league games they played, they won six, tied two and lost two.

Nakusp and Grand Forks battled it out for the berth at the provincials, to be held in Burns Lake in March, in four games over three weekends. The first game ended in a tie. Nakusp came out the winner of the second game, 8-4. Grand Forks beat out Nakusp 3-2 in the third game. So the fourth game played this past Sunday was a 'do or die' – and they did it!

Coming back from a 2 - 0 deficit from the first period, Tyson Klein and Ben de Wit assisted Joel James in scoring North Kootenay's first goal at 12:12 in the second period.

At 1:41, James, from Brad Dupuis, tied it up with a sweet short-handed goal. A productive power play saw Laine Weighill set up Klein for the go-ahead goal at 19:40 in the third and the crowd went wild!

Both teams had penalty trouble in the third period, but persistent forechecking paid off for the Falcons when James, assisted by de Wit, scored a short-handed goal to get himself a hat trick, with 5:10 remaining. Fans screamed, applauded, whistled, bugled and blasted air horns in response.

Grand Forks pulled their goalie in an attempt to regain some ground, but rookie goaltender Taylor Reitmeier staved them off.

Klein made up for missing the empty net when Weighill set him up for an insurance goal with just under three minutes remaining in the game. The final score was 5-2.

Congratulations to the Falcons for winning the West Kootenay banner and best of luck in your pursuit of the banner at the Single 'A' provincials. Remember team work, dedication and determination has gotten you this far. Hats off to all of the fans – you're simply the best!

The North Kootenay Falcon Midget Rep team are happy campers after Sunday's game against Grand Forks gave them a ticket to the provincials, to be held in Burns Lake in March.

People from the New Denver Nursery School and other childcare centres in our area were among the 300 or so people who joined the protest against cuts to childcare funding, held in Nelson on February 13. With Campbell's recent budget silent on the issue, we can expect to hear more from the childcare sector.

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Keep the refrigerator between 2C and 5C (36-42° F,) and the freezer at -18C (0° F). This ensures food safety, and lower temperatures only waste power. Don't overcrowd fridge or freezer: freezers should not be more than 2/3's full. Ensure fridge door closes tightly and forms tight seal. If you can put a piece of paper between door and gasket and can easily pull the paper out when the door is closed, the gasket is probably worn out and should be replaced.

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Nakusp Music Fest calls for input on community park proposal

by Jan McMurray

An opportunity to hear more about the Nakusp Music Fest's proposal to create a community park, to see the model of the design concept, and to offer your input is happening on March 8 at 7 pm at the arena auditorium.

Willi Jahnke from the festival attended Nakusp council's February 13 meeting to outline developments since his last presentation to council three months ago. One big change is the name of the project – from 'Nakusp Music Fest expansion project' to 'proposed community park.'

Jahnke's written submission to council explains that the festival group realized the idea to expand was compatible with the long standing desire to create a Village square in Nakusp. "We believe that this may be the opportunity to combine two ideas and make it one successful concept which will ultimately result in the creation of a true community park, a public meeting ground which will suit and satisfy the many purposes and needs."

Jahnke stressed that the proposed park is for the community, with the Music Fest using the space only during the festival weekend in July. He also stressed that the estimated $600,000 project will be done at no cost to the Village and will be handed over to Village upon completion. "Funding is available by doing it under our non-profit society, so take advantage of us and enjoy the benefit," he told councillors. "I think we can achieve something that is long lasting and of benefit to all."

The proposed park area, commonly known as the Village overflow campground, would add about 4.6 acres to the festival site. The current festival site on the ball fields is about 5 acres. Jahnke said expanding the size of the grounds did not mean that the festival intended to grow by attendance. His written submission says the point is "to avoid congestion and to add new family oriented show elements as well as many exciting visual elements which we cannot achieve on the bare fields of the existing site."

The plan at this point includes a campground on the northern half of the new site. With the help of an architect, the group has determined that about 41 campsites can be created, and can easily be incorporated into the Village's existing campground with access from 4th Street NW. All campsites would be serviced with water and power. The written plan suggests the undeveloped trail system that exists in this area now could be the starting point for creating a road system. It also suggests that a sani-dump should be considered at a central location. Jahnke stated that the campground will be treed and landscaped, keeping as much of the existing vegetation as possible. He also said it had been estimated that the new campground could generate about $60,000 income for the Village each year, and mentioned that the existing Village campground brought in $57,000 in 2006. For the Music Fest, this new campground would house Vendor Village.

The southern half of the site has been left largely up to the public to plan. The festival group has drawn in a permanent stage with amphitheatre style seating here, but Jahnke said that the design of the stage and seating will be determined after the public meeting. For the Music Fest, the stage is for children's and family entertainment.

The project is planned over three years. In 2007, work would begin at the new campground on the campsites and road, and the waterlines would be put in.

In 2008, the campsites would be completed, the permanent stage would be built, the power would be installed, fencing and gates would be installed, and landscaping would be done in the southern community park area.

In 2009, the road in the new campground would be paved, permanent washrooms and showers would be constructed, and landscaping and clean-up would be completed. Two separate buildings for washrooms and showers are on the concept drawings in the campground area.

Jahnke mentioned that the timeline was dependent on financing, and added that there are usually delays.

The group has applied for a Job Creation Partnership grant from Service Canada. Jahnke said it was very likely this will go ahead, based on conversations he has had with their office staff. The grant pays wages, and is worth $70,000. Jahnke said it may be possible to access this grant in each of the three years of the project.

The written plan proposes that two teams be formed to organize the project. The design team will come up with a final site plan, and the management team will ensure that plan is realized. The design team will be made up of representatives from the Village, the music festival, Nakusp and Area Development Board or the Chamber, and Jahnke's company, Octopus Music, as project manager. The management team will be made up of the project supervisor, Village staff and other professionals and contractors. They will report back to design team.

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YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is offering $2,000 for up to 20 grade 12 graduates as a reward for their involvement in community service.

This award is based on community volunteer service, not on academic achievement. The award is designed to help those who are going on to post-secondary education or training.

Applications can be picked up at your local high school or downloaded from theCBT website at www.cbt.org. If you have questions about selection and eligibility or to find detailed information about the award contact your local high school, visit the CBT website, or call 1-800-505-8998.

Completed applications must be dropped off or mailed to your local secondary school. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 13, 2007** to be considered.

Stop the Violence Outreach Worker

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services is seeking an outreach worker to provide support to victims of abuse (emotional or physical) in the region. The position is 9.5 hours a week until Mar 31st 2007 with possible extension. The ideal applicant will be familiar with the Arrow & Slocan Lakes region, comfortable with the public, well organized with demonstrated experience working with women who have been exposed to violent situations. The position is based in Nakusp and will require some regional travel.

Preferred Qualifications: Experience working in women's programs, family support programs and with clients who have experienced family abuse.

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

Closing date is 7th March 2007 @ 11:00 a.m.

Email resume and 3 references to Farhana Alam, Manager of Operations, at falam@aslcs.com

Lucerne students work with famous Canadian songwriter

submitted

Famous Canadian musician Lowry Olafson came to Lucerne School on February 22 to work with 17 grades 4 - 6 students who chose to learn about songwriting.

Lowry had the kids brainstorm ideas for songs, then titles for songs. As a group, they eliminated ideas until they were all prepared to work on one topic. They began with the chorus and then created the song. The group started with *Shoes*, but as they worked together the song became titled *Don't Give Up*. It was about a young girl who wants to be a writer, she doesn't win a contest. It is her big brother who comforts her and encourages her not to give up.

The kids worked on writing the song in the morning and performed it for the whole school after lunch. The Lucerne guitar players now have a goal to learn how to play *Don't Give Up*. Before he left, Lowry entertained the elementary students with a variety of his own music.

Canadian musician Lowry Olafson led a songwriting workshop at Lucerne School on February 22.

OCP information meetings held in Area D – North Kootenay Lake

by Jan McMurray

Tom Lancaster from SmartGrowth BC, a non-profit out of Vancouver working towards creating 'more livable communities,' led information sessions on the official community planning process in Kaslo, Meadow Creek and Argenta this past weekend for Area D residents. He made it clear that he was here to provide information so that people could make an informed decision on whether to plan or not to plan.

Area D Director Andy Shadrack reported that although there was a different flavour at each of the three meetings, he felt that "a common thread" was emerging. "People have seen the real estate prices go up and people from outside moving in. It's clear to me that some people came to live in Area D to remove themselves from restrictions they didn't want in their lives and now the world is coming back to them. So there might be some people who want to control the way the world comes back to them."

At the Kaslo session, people wanted to know if the second homeowner issue could be dealt with in an OCP process. An area resident spoke about the "dark window syndrome" caused by the spike in vacation home sales in the area, saying, "This dilutes the community and drives up housing prices so that people who want to live here and work here can't afford to." Lancaster acknowledged that this was a common concern, and said that a tool that he knows of to address this is 'minimum occupancy guidelines,' which set a minimum amount of time that a house must be occupied in a year. This results in more rental housing, he said.

Some at the Kaslo session questioned if the people of Area D even wanted to go through the planning process. Area D Director Andy Shadrack addressed this. "I have made a pledge that no community in Area D will be forced to go into planning without some kind of mechanism, like a referendum, but I think development has come and either you have a say or change will come. Do you want to have a process? This presentation should help you make that decision."

Shadrack informed the meeting goers that regardless of whether or not there is an OCP in place, land use decisions are being made regularly. "As your director, I have no tools. People call me all the time saying they don't want this going in here, but there is no zoning. You may think you live in a residential zone, but you don't."

Lancaster added, "It's about managing change or letting change manage you."

When asked about how people at the Meadow Creek and Argenta meetings felt about the planning process, Shadrack reported that "people in Meadow Creek are wanting to make sure they can control the process because they are still weighing whether or not they want planning" while "some people in Argenta are wondering whether the tools that planning provides will give them the level of control that they want over development in their community."

Another big concern was that Area D is made up of 16 distinct communities. Dave Wahn from the RDCK planning department was in attendance in Kaslo and offered some useful information. He assured people that portions of Area D could have planning while others did not have planning. He also said, "Let's create an OCP that identifies the 16 communities and makes regulations to address the differences." Another item of interest he shared was that no zoning was possible in an OCP.

He said that the rise in packaged treatment plants going in had recently caught his attention. "These are really well designed systems, and the effluent is being put into the lake. With money, you can develop anything anywhere. Money is talking in our regional district right now." Wahn said that something could be done about effluent going into the lake in an OCP.

At the Kaslo session, Lancaster defined 'planning' in several ways throughout his presentation – "planning is planning to manage change"; "planning is not reactive"; "planning is not planning for development"; "planning is the community coming together and saying these are our priorities."

Lancaster said the Official Community Plan (OCP) process would involve first developing a set of guiding principles. Then, the public consultation would begin, with open houses and community visioning exercises. He said an advisory committee would be struck to give advice to the person writing the OCP – and it was made known that Area D already has an advisory committee. The process also involves reviewing current bylaws so that potential new planning tools can be identified. Then the plan is drafted and goes through the process of becoming a bylaw.

Correction

In his last review, Food Editor Andrew Rhodes incorrectly referred to the owner of the Outer Clove Restaurant as Katrie Skogstar. It is of course Katri Skogster.

Silverton initiates OCP review with information meeting

by Art Joyce

Silverton's Memorial Hall Friday evening, February 23, was crowded with citizens eager to participate in the visioning of their community's future. They were there to hear Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC explain how the process of revising the Village's Official Community Plan (OCP) works.

Mayor Everett explained that this first meeting was an information session designed to acquaint residents with the process. The OCP revision will likely take a year to fully complete. Silverton's last review of its OCP was in 1996. Residents will be provided with various means of offering input, from the Village website, to forms available at the Village office, and three more public meetings.

"The most important thing to keep in mind is that this is your village – you get to decide what you want, so you need to take an active part," Everett said.

Lancaster explained that the OCP is a legal document based on the Local Government Act, defensible up to the Supreme Court. The OCP provides a set of 'guiding principles' that create the community 'vision' from which zoning bylaws are drawn up – a separate process. Lancaster will spend the next few weeks analyzing the current OCP and launching the website. An advisory planning committee will be struck to gather and process public input over the next 2-3 months. The committee will be legally bound to be open and transparent.

"I'm not here to tell you how you should change or even if you should change," said Lancaster. "My job is to ask the right questions and see that what you want is written into your OCP."

The Village website will ask specific questions that will also change as more input is received. Based on comments received, Lancaster will draw up a list of 30-35 guiding principles, to be narrowed down to a set of 8-10 core community values. A draft OCP will then be written for presentation to the community. Citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the draft and help fine tune the document. Lancaster's final role will be to draw up an implementation plan in consultation with SmartGrowth's legal team, which outlines how current zoning bylaws must be adjusted to make the new OCP workable.

Clear definitions are critical to an effective OCP. For example, one town's idea of having a 'livable community' might mean being able to drive everywhere, while another's might be to be able to walk to all amenities. Where conflicting values arise, a community must make a collective decision as to which trade-offs it can live with.

A Red Mountain resident expressed concerns that those living outside Village boundaries might not have a say. Lancaster said that too is up to respondents to decide as part of its guiding principles: how much or how little non-residents' concerns factor in.

A visitor from Wisconsin who lives in a similar 'gateway community' to a national park warned that having a visionary OCP is no guarantee the document will be adhered to. Lancaster agreed, stating that "a plan is only as strong as the political will implementing it." Mayor Everett urged villagers to "hold future councils' feet to the fire," and promised full compliance by the current council.

Water rates soar for RDCK-owned systems

by Jan McMurray

The water rates for all RDCK owned water systems are going up significantly this year.

However, users of the two RDCK owned water systems in our area – South Slocan and Denver Siding – will not feel the full effects just yet.

The Denver Siding system has a large surplus that will cover the increase. For South Slocan water users, Area H Director Don Munro has committed $5,000 of his BC Hydro grant-in-lieu funding to cover 2/3 of the increase this year. Next year, he will cover 1/3 of the increase. In 2009, the water users will be on their own.

The increase in rates follows on the heels of new provincial water regulations, which set quite stringent standards that will require system upgrades, infrastructure improvements, certified operators and improved monitoring and sampling. All this pushes up the costs of managing the water systems.

In December, when the RDCK board voted to achieve 100% cost recovery for its water systems in 2007, Munro lobbied for phasing in the increases over three years. "We're doubling their fees, but the residents won't see any action at the site right away," he said.

For South Slocan, cost recovery translates to $238 annually for a single family residence. In 2006, the fee for a single family residence was $132. With Munro's grant, the fee for a single family residence in 2007 will be $155.

Both South Slocan and Denver Siding are among the five RDCK systems on boil water notice. The RDCK's goal is to get them off boil notice in two years. There is quite a bit of work to be done on both systems to achieve this.

The South Slocan group has received a grant of $361,000 for improvements to the water system, but no work has begun because the group is unclear on acceptable options for water treatment. In 2007, the group has decided to get work underway on protecting the water source while treatment options are being sorted out.

The RDCK has recently formulated its policy regarding treatment, based on the new provincial water regulations. The policy states that systems with less than 500 users per day can be treated at the tap with, for example, an ultraviolet system, and systems with over 500 users per day will be treated by disinfecting the water at the source. However, local health officers ultimately approve the water systems, and it is unclear whether or not treatment at the tap will be acceptable to them. This is what has put the South Slocan project on hold.

Some work will also be done at Denver Siding this year. Goals for this year include a monitoring program for source quality and capacity, an operation and maintenance program, an emergency response plan and upgrades to the infiltration gallery.

Agencies agree to collaborate on water issues in Columbia Basin

submitted

A memorandum of understanding was signed on February 16 by 16 federal, provincial, regional and First Nations agencies to collaborate on water management issues in the Canadian Columbia River Basin. This initiative is known as the Canadian Columbia River Forum (CCRF).

The CCRF brings together the necessary governments and decision-making agencies to collaborate on water management issues. Some of these issues need collective attention now, and there is also a growing list of new and emerging issues.

Some of the issues the CCRF will work on include climate change impacts on the region, transboundary water management agreements, current and future transboundary water issues, increasing dialogue and information sharing with US agencies, and creating mechanisms for open and equitable access to information on the Columbia River Basin for agencies and citizens.

The CCRF has made education and public participation in water management issues a priority. The forum will hold an educational workshop on May 30 in Cranbrook. Keep posted for details.

Local government homeowner grants idea advanced

by Jan McMurray

With second home ownership as a huge issue in our area these days, Mayor of Kaslo Jim Holland has come up with an idea to do something about it.

His idea is to establish local government homeowner grants, much the same as the Province's homeowner grant. "The Province's grant recognizes that residents should have a favourable tax positon over non-residents and encourages people to live in the province. My idea is to take this one step further and allow local governments to do the same," he explained.

Holland, as Kaslo's director on the RDCK board, took his idea to that table. At the February board meeting, RDCK staff was directed to work with Holland to prepare a proposal for local government homeowner grants to be forwarded to the Association of Kootenay/Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) for consideration.

Holland is pleased to get the idea out there and "to get bigger and better brains behind it." He says if there are no "show stoppers" at AKBLG, the idea will move on to the Union of BC Municipalities.

Holland believes that development in recent years is different from what we have seen in the past, when things always stabilized to a reasonable level. "In the last two or three years, we have development pressures and a real estate market that is so far above what is sustainable that I think we have a problem," he said.

Holland says he fears we are going down the same road that Invermere and other East Kootenay communities have, where there ends up being no accommodation for people in service industry jobs. He says the average house price in Invermere is $350,000, which is unaffordable for the people who chose to live there for the lifestyle.

"Lifestyle is what we've got going for us in this area," he said. "Many of us passed up opportunities to make good money in larger centres and chose to live here under economic hardships because of the lifestyle. When you juxtapose that onto people who want the same lifestyle but who have money, you've got a problem."

Holland says that even though the housing prices make the economic picture look quite strong, "what you're experiencing underneath is long-term residents are getting squeezed out for the very lifestyle reasons they are there. The people who have accumulated wealth are displacing the people who made the area attractive to them. The new people often want the same level of services they had in the place they came from, but there is nowhere for the people in the service industry to live."

In Kaslo, Holland says council is dealing with huge developments such as condominiums and subdivisions, and this takes staff time that the Village simply does not have. "We have to contract the work out, so residents subsidize this growth. Some people say we need to get our Development Cost Charges in order, but it takes staff time to even do that, so no matter which way you shake it down, locals are subsidizing outside growth and it is not fair."

Holland points out that the second homeowners are not here to buy from the local stores or to volunteer in the community, so it is still a good deal for them if they pay a little more tax to support the people who are here year round and who attracted them here in the first place. "I think we should make them pay the full cost plus a little bit more to cover the impact they have on the local area because if they don't, they are going to lose it."

Holland made it clear that he was not against development. "This is in no way meant to create a penalty for development – we need that."

Holland recognizes that the timing is right for this issue, with quite a bit of political impetus behind it. The recent provincial budget contained a lot about housing issues, and local OCP processes have put the spotlight on second home ownership in our area.

The North Valley Mountain Film Festival

A big thankyou to the community volunteers, businesses, artists and guests who helped make this a fun and successful festival.

We hope this event has inspired you.

To share your adventure next year.
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A Community Forum
Saturday, March 10th
7:00 PM
Silverton Gallery

New Denver, Silverton & Area Residents
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Panelists:
Alex Atamanenko, **MP**, BC Southern Interior
Corky Evans, **MLA**, Nelson-Creston
Gary Wright, **Mayor**, New Denver & **Chair**, RDCK
Don Munro, **Area H Director**, RDCK
Silverton **Council Representative**

For more information:

Alex Atamanenko, MP	1-800-667-2393
Corky Evans, MLA	1-250-354-5944
Village of New Denver	358-2316
Village of Silverton	358-2472
Don Munro, Area H Dir.	226-7090

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THE GREAT JAM SESSION!
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Voices from the Valleys

In support of a regional park in Sandon

I think that its great that the RDCK is getting involved in creating a regional park in Sandon. The district went through a lengthy planning process in the early 1990s, which came up with a draft OCP that never received third reading. There were many problems with that draft OCP. In many ways it restricted development unnecessarily. In other areas it was totally silent. It was a thick and weighty document, and represented a lot of work by a large number of earnest people. It was a bold vision that sees recreating the old townsite as a working heritage village, with replica buildings housing a diversified range of businesses. At one point in my tenure on the board of the Sandon Historical Society I had the opportunity to serve on a committee to examine the draft OCP and make recommendations for changes. Mostly, we agreed with the vision part. The devil, as always, was in the details. We bickered back and forth over whether some development clauses were too restrictive and recommended quite a few changes, including getting rid of the underground parking lots and leaving the creek where it is.

Development in Sandon is a sensitive topic, but I think that all the stakeholders would agree that more interpretation in the form of signage on the site itself would encourage visitors to spend more time there.

I would love to see a walking trail that takes the visitor around to the sites of a variety of famous Sandon photographs. The visitor could stand where the photographer stood 100 years before. There would be a lovely reproduction of a Trueman shot of Rec Avenue in its heyday and several paragraphs describing the people and the buildings in the photograph. Maybe a line or two about the photographer as well. Ideally you could walk to all the locations over the course of an afternoon.

It's not my idea. I got it from Ken Butler, and he says that he got it from Steve Klapecki. Whoever came up with it, it's a cool idea and someone should make it happen. It would be nice to see the replica Burns Building and Atherton Block finished, as well. I'd like to see the buses moved to a more appropriate location. I'd love to have the Tin Cup Cafe open for pie and coffee. I hope that the regional district can make all of this come to pass. That would be enough.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Mountain Caribou, to be or not?

British Columbians have for the most part ignored the realities of extincting Mtn. Caribou.

No municipal government of south central BC has made meaningful attempt to oppose or contradict the provincial/federal government concerted effort to disappear this animal.

The recently released provincial recovery plan is immoral. This plan amounts to bounty hunting of endangered predator species, such as Grizzly and Wolverines. There appears to be no depth of quasi-science, that money can buy. No elected actor challenges a recovery plan that is obviously calculated to destory this beast.

The recovery plan will not mitigate any industrial clear-cut logging or industrial heli-skiing in the healthy ancient inland rainforests, such as the Westfall River, north of Kaslo in the West Kootenay: key Mtn. Caribou recovery habitat, very important Grizzly denning and essential east/west corridor for all wide ranging species south of the trans-canada highway.

This remote, mostly intact healthy eco-system is a small but important part of the 15 million hecters of inland rainforest. Only 8% remains,unmolested.

Recent studies from similar temperate forest in South China suggest that BC inland forests and soils could be sequestering 10% of the planets carbon dioxide. (Science Magazine Dec. 2006).

Compensating logging companies,contractors and industrial ski operators is a small price to pay for eco-systems that may slow down our climate crisis.

This summer concerned citizens will hold research workshops in the Westfall River in hopes of convincing the BC government to defer slated logging plans. To liquidate this and other similar eco-systems is a crime against humanity.

Tom Prior,
Nelson

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*.

Chrysler pulls out of Canada

Chrysler pulls out of Canada. 11,000 jobs lost .If our government was anything other than IMF apologist/ eunuchs, here's what would happen :

1) We would slap a 400% tarriff on their Sino-spewmobiles (that's what the Chinese do to us)

2) We could revoke their CEO's citizenship.

What are the chances? What kind of noise does a sheep make? Why is it that business tells government how to operate on our own turf? Shouldn't it be the other way around?

Humbug!

g. turner
Edgewood

Public safety campaign?

After reading the RCMP report about the traffic enforcement campaign targeting Nakusp and area, I was puzzled why there was no mention of the Integtrated Road Safety units targeting highway plow trucks, village snow removal equipment, or any other vehicle removing snow on the days of January 22 and 23, which where the heaviest snowfall days of the year.

These invasive tactics, a form of entrapment, target mostly honest working people and owners of vehicles, resulting in tickets and excessive fines. Supposedly dedicated to public safety on our highways, West Kootenay Traffic Services need to review their policies and techniques and change their priorities to educate the public on road safety, relating to a more friendly, cost-effective informative public relations campaign.

So I say to the public, beware of who you believe is keeping our roadways safe, becuase you may very well become a victim of the next 'public safety campaign' along our highways.

Mike Simpson
New Denver

Hydro should pay taxes, not give grants

It's a bit humorous to see the new RDCK board lining up at the BC Hydro grant-in-lieu-of-taxes trough.

Just for the record, the Socreds, NDP, and the Liberal governments all promised to change the system and tax BC Hydro facilities like other industries. The proper method of taxation would see the money go to the areas impacted by the storage dams and generation plants.

The present grants-in-lieu are little more than a slush fund for the local politicians to fight over. As usual, the larger population centres have the skill and strength to garner the majority of the money at the expense of the impacted areas.

In reality, if BC Hydro paid fair taxation, Howser and Meadow Creek at Duncan Dam would be one of the richest rural municipalities in the province. We could afford a fire department, ice rink, swimming pool, etc.

I do not blame the directors for trying to justify getting all they can for the areas they represent. After all, this is what is expected from the people that vote for them. It would be nice to hear a thank-you to the impacted areas supplying the funds, or better still, let them rightfully be returned to us.

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

Forming a support group

This letter is an open invitation to any folks who would be interested in meeting informally to talk about experiences of living well with challenges both inside and outside the current mental health system. My name is Bryhre Cormack, and I've lived here for three years.

I'm a small town girl from the other end of Highway 6 (Lumby) who has spent time living on the coast and am really happy to be back on a dirt road with a garden to dig in. I'm looking forward to meeting folks who live well, or want to live well, and would come to a meeting to toss around ideas about how a support network might work in the valley. My initial thoughts are of a loose network that meets once or twice a month to share experiences, challenges, and ways of building a good life in community, as well as just to hang out, drink tea or coffee, and have a bite to eat.

WE Graham school has kindly offered a space for us to meet at WE Graham Community Services in Slocan City. I hope that as many people as want to can come, since it makes sense to set up two, and possibly more, meetings on different days. I'm setting those days up for Monday, March 5 from 10 am to 1 pm, and Tuesday, March 13 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Come by for a coffee or cup of tea and let us know what living well means to you! Anyone who would like to come but cannot get there is invited to call 355-2484 and leave a message with your name and number. Maybe we can help with car-pooling.

Bryhre Cormack
Winlaw

Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan inadequate

BC government's recovery plan from fall 2006 is not focused primarily on habitat protection but recommends killing of predators like wolves, cougars and bears as well as their prey the moose, elk and deer population in favor of the mountain caribou.

Kill off one endangered species (the grizzly in this case) in an attempt to preserve another? Is this for real? We point fingers at third world countries for allowing the slaughter of their forests with the resulting loss of endemic species. Are we willing to give our government the permission to do just the same in our backyard?

Only habitat protection from human impact – here mainly logging and backcountry activities – leads to a naturally balanced food chain with healthy populations of predator and prey species and is the only chance for the endangered mountain caribou to recover. BC's government plan will lose habitat, predators and mountain caribou.

Kids for Caribou, a local initiative to help protect the Inland Temperate Rainforest and its unique eco system, has launched the Adopt a Tree – Campaign. By becoming an adopter-it's a symbolic act at no cost – you show that you want to preserve BC's inland old-growth forests from being logged. So far, we have 141 adopters from a few months of age to people in their eighties in Canada and Europe. To become an adopter visit www.kidsforcaribou.org.

Elisabeth von Ah
Slocan

Conservative green - like a US dollar

Conservative nomination contestant Rob Zandee's letter slams the Liberal party, apparently forgetting, as British politician George Galloway recently pointed out, that the Conservative and Liberal parties in Canada are like two cheeks of the same backside.

The US is currently showing us exactly what is so very wrong with developing military might and abusing it to bully the world, so no thanks are required to our Conservative government for emulating the Bush regime's conscience-free psychopathology.

All the facts and figures quoted by Mr. Zandee concerning Conservative environmental action are as yet only ink on paper. As David Suzuki remarked, the devil is in the details. Will the plans actually be financed and enforced, without evasions, extensions and exceptions? Will they come close to meeting the challenge of climate change? I don't think so - because leopards really don't change their spots. Political leopards pretend to, they would even have us believe that they have turned green, but pretence is all it is.

No, Mr. Zandee, I don't want a majority Conservative government intent on merging us with a US that is closer to fascism than democracy these days. I don't want billions spent on a big army to kill for oil and Bush in the Middle East while social programs are slashed in Canada. I don't want a government of the poor by the rich for the rich. The sooner Canada's "new government" (all its followers have been ordered to call it that) is Canada's previous government, the happier I'll be.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

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Voices from the Valleys

Mayor doesn't support skatepark

His worship, our mayor Jim Holland, is once again undermining the skateboard park in his latest suggestion of where the Kaslo trail should be re-routed so it does not go around the skate park on the lakeside, but to connect with the Vimy Park road in front of the park. He suggests that it would save money by short-cutting the path to the street. If that is the rationale we should eliminate the whole trail idea and save all the money. People can simply walk the streets!

This trail would allow many people and tourists to travel along the beach on a firm, wide, wheelchair access path to view the splendor of the mountains and lake.

This original proposed trail would have also acted as berm/rip-rap to protect the skate park against wave action if we were to have another flood year even worse than last summer. Does Jim Holland's active oppsition to the park have anything to do with his urging to council to re-route the path to exclude the park? Maybe nature would take the skate park away for him?!

The KDCFS board awarded $10,000 to Village for this project a year and a half ago to promote the big loop trail concept that incorparates TrailBlazer's Kaslo River trail and suspension bridge project so the whole community and its visitors would have a enjoyable pathway with minimal traffic exposure.

Is the only vision for Kaslo held by the Mayor? I have heard him misrepresent the facts and make erroneous statements in regards to the skate park plans before and during construction. Then when there was a photo-op with Corky Evans, Andy Shadrack and Alex Atamenenko standing on the skate park grounds, guess who had to have his mug in the picture as if he had anything at all to do with supporting this facility for kids! YEP!! You guessed it.

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

Community Scam

Many of us who have lived here in the valley a long time are not pleased with city people moving here and bringing their city values. The reason you left the city was to experience country values. You now want to poison the country with the values that poisoned your city.

The Slocan Valley until recently was an unorganized rural area and we liked it that way. Then along came the provincial government with the Regional District system.

Here in the Slocan Valley many of us don't want Big Government and the quasi-democratic Regional Districts that Victoria keeps tethered and muzzled like a master's baying hounds. There is no local democracy because it is governed by provincial politics. All that Area H of our regional government gave us was a stepping stone for a blow-hard politician looking for a leg-up into provincial politics.

What we need here in the Slocan Valley is to get a sense of our own identity and realize that we don't have to follow the prescribed formulas that make every community in this country look like every other community. Have we no imagination? Have we no common sense?

We now have fire halls and fire trucks and ambulances. What good are they? Most dwellings will burn down before the fire truck gets there. This winter on our road the fire truck would not have been able to climb the hill 50% of the time because of inadequate road maintenance. My neighbor died of a heart attack because the ambulance didn't get there for over an hour. What good is an ambulance service? These services are not worth the taxes required to implement and maintain them.

We don't need a community plan and we don't need by-laws. Garbage collection is the only useful service that the Regional District provides. I invite the newcomers to convert. Neighbours need to learn to get along with neighbours without expensive bureaucracy administering their self-serving rules and regulations.

Ed Nixon
Winlaw

Reconciliation begins at home

On February 20, I attended the special meeting of council in which various matters were discussed. One item being: CAO request for assistance in reconciliation of bank accounts, where she states, "Village staff absolutely has no time to devote to this project, with keeping on top of council meetings with this present council."

I see that this matter has been discussed before. Requests made for the current statements have been made to no avail. Why haven't these records been available? Yes, a new accounting system has been installed at the Village Hall. If staff does not fully understand it, how hard is it to pick up a phone and ask for assistance? This responsiblitiy lies with the CAO.

Now council is trying to establish the budget for the year. How can council take care of that when the Village financial statements have not been done? Also stated at the February 20 meeting was that council set a ceiling figure of $2250 – approximately 30 hours for Mr. AM Naqvi, the Village accountants office, to reconcile the Village financial statements. When were the last financial statements reconciled? A month ago, three months ago, or is it six months to a year or more ago?

Here the Village taxpayers are again asked to swallow another bill because the Village staff can't or refuses to do the job. For some reason it has become very apparent that every year more and more of these projects are being farmed out to other rate-charging firms to accomplish when in all due diligence they should be done right here in-house.

It sounds to me that there is a serious matter brewing within the walls of the Village Hall that needs to be dealt with. Perhaps employee evaluations are necessary to see who is actually capable of doing the job. In the meantime, the taxpayers of the Village are made to swallow the increased costs.

Helen Woolgar
Kaslo

Still hoping for a better world

As 2006 ended I thought maybe, after our born-again Presidents Bush and Harper's blatant lies about Afghanistan, Iraq, the Middle East, Kyoto, childcare, national security, torture, national healthcare ... just maybe 2007 would be our Renaissance of ethical human behaviour, compassionate diplomacy and peace instead of meaningless numerical analyses, financial chicanery and war without end.

Truth is difficult to come by when lies are the order of the day. We're overwhelmed by unscrupulously persuasive manipulation, public relations ordered by powerful uber-rich multinationals to cover their nefarious machinations and degradation of Earth to possible extinction. What has been set in motion may not be reversible.

Ultraconservative Generalissimo Harper is the newest collaborator, scurrying to please his American puppet-masters using a formula too old to be new again: bait and switch. To ensure their success the bungling neoconservatives enlist mercenaries like little Gordon Campbell and his Provincial cabal of avaricious money-grubbers to do the dirty work, keeping the masses distracted with prescription drugs and Olympic circuses and promises of better days ahead, while they lie about their real agenda and steal our grandchildren's futures.

Neoconservatives only embrace programs that enhance their power and wealth. They have no intention of reaching their stated altruistic goals for global warming or improving our families' care or ending the wars. The status quo is just too profitable for them: record profits, unprecedented control of government, a complicit media and exorbitant payoffs to ham-fisted corporate hacks who tow the line.

Don't be fooled by these fools. Only drastic solutions will help us bestow a living planet for those who are to follow; we must vote more wisely, fire these liars, hire people who inspire, stop the wars and adapt our own lifestyles before the inevitable, sudden collapse of modern society propels generations into trials and tribulations unprecedented since the fall of Rome.

Joel Harris
Winlaw

Conservative candidate makes unjustified claim

I am writing in response to the Conservative nominee's letter to the editor and his unjustified claim that the opposition parties are banding together to kill Bill C-10, the Conservative's gun crimes Bill. This Bill is very complex, covering many statutes and if it is to hold up in court it cannot be crafted in haste. For instance the originally proposed 10 year mandatory minimum had to be dropped as it would never have survived Charter of Human Rights challenges. I can assure the readers that the opposition parties have been working extremely hard to ensure the legislation is well thought out and does not end up causing more problems than it solves.

The truth is that Canada is, and always has been, far tougher on crime than most industrialized democracies, and the rhetoric we hear today is another form of political grandstanding aimed at garnering votes. Instead of being 'tough on crime' we should be getting 'smart on crime'.

Even the U.S. is recognizing that the 'tough on crime' policies they initiated have resulted in little more than a burgeoning prison population. Many states are now placing an emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration through initiatives such as the Second Chance Act. Yet here in Canada we see the Conservatives moving us towards making the same policy mistakes the U.S. has already made and are now attempting to correct.

When we talk about punishment our motivation must be to remove these threats from our community and not just create a forum for vengeance. As a society we must ask ourselves, do we want fewer police on the street, more victims and more people in jail or more police patrolling our neighborhoods with fewer victims and fewer people in jail. Let's not forget that it costs $82,000 per year just to incarcerate one person.

The NDP will continue to advocate for the three pillar (3 - P's) approach to crime; Prevention, Policing and Punishment. We must strive for success in all three of these areas, and take to the national stage those ideas and programs that work at the local level to reduce crime and help victims. The social and economic fabric of our society is interconnected with crime and justice issues and an oversimplified, one-dimensional and punitive approach has never worked in the past, nor will it ever work in the future.

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

Another Jumbo Mistake

Jumbo Glacier Resort is far from a dead issue as the proponents push for rezoning in the East Kootenays. During its environmental review all parties acknowledged the substantial impact the resort would have on the Grizzly bears of the Purcells. What appeared to be the most biologically effective method, however politically odious, was the lock out of the public – hikers, hunters, rock hounds, skiers, everyone – from nearby drainages such as Glacier Creek, Howser Creek and Horsethief Creek. This could still happen, especially with the latest industrial scheme in these very drainages up for review.

The Glacier/Howser hydroelectric project description was submitted to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) in mid-January. In addition to heavily impacting the MacBeth Icefield Trail, they also plan to build a transmission line across the Purcell Mountains to Invermere via Edouard Pass.

The transmission line punches a right of way through 23 kilometres of presently unroaded pristine habitat in upper Howser and Stockdale and Edouard Creeks. The entire upper Howser is designated by MOE and MOF as an old growth area and is off limits to logging. The importance of Stockdale and Edouard Creeks is highlighted by the fact that Canfor has very recently decided to set this entire area aside as a reserve in their logging plans. But the proponent here is not a logging company; they are a 'green' energy company that plans to make a 25-30+ metre right of way destroying thousands of old growth trees as a result.

Worse, this is the first industrial crossing of the Purcell Mountains north of the Gray Creek Road. Presently, it is possible for large mammals to travel from the far south end of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy hundreds of kilometers north to the trans-Canada highway without setting paw on road or development of any kind. This transmission line with its attendant roads would bisect this wild mountain range for the first time.

The EAO is required to assess the cumulative impacts of projects in an area. So it looks to me like we need serious mitigation measures more than ever, unless we insist that no more of this destructive industrial development occurs. We can go a long way with stronger conservation measures before we need to pay high prices for electricity from private projects that degrade our wilderness. Let's not let the government make yet another Jumbo mistake.

Gary Diers,
Argenta

Wants political posturing off the letters page

I would like to take issue with the recent 'letter to the editor' by local federal Conservative Party hopeful Rob Zandee. My first problem with this letter is that it is an advertisement for the Conservative Party of Canada, and not a genuine letter to the editor! It should have been treated as an ad, and not published in the letters column. Secondly, I have some issues with the content of the so-called letter. First of all, Zandee says the mainstream media calling Stephane Dion an outstanding leader is "laughable." I would suggest that many agree that calling Steven Harper a good leader is equally laughable!

Zandee begins his comments with a diatribe against the former government. Nothing new here, almost every Conservative comment begins with a lengthy rail against the former government.

Then Zandee goes off at length about the environment. This from a member of a party that initially introduced a Clean Air Act that did nothing to address environmental concerns for 50 years! It wasn't until the polls showed the Conservatives they were in the dunk tank on the issue, that they actually started producing some legislation that had immediate impact. And where did they find this legislation? They found it in the tons of legislation produced by the former government. In fact, they basically lifted it word for word. I have to wonder if the policies of the former government, and their NDP helpers, was so bad, then why have the Conservatives resurrected it, albeit under new names?

Finally, Canadians are righfully sick of the way their government does business and with partisan party politics. For many of us, all the parties are equally guilty of being more concerned with their own fortunes than the well being of everyday Canadians. We are looking for representation that we can trust, people who will serve the entire country.

We want people who are of good character. That said, many of us remember, from the candidate the local conservatives provided us with in the last federal election, what good character judgement the local Conservative Party riding association possesses.

Will Webster
Kaslo

Privacy concerns for gun owners

The Ottawa Citizen has used two federal laws – the Access to Information Act and the Firearms Act – to target millions gun owners across the country. *The Citizen* created an online search engine to allow anyone to see the records of more than seven million firearms registered in Canada. The reaction, naturally, has been one of outrage.

This is not only a clear a breach of privacy but, more importantly, it makes gun owners appear as extremists, instead of gun criminals who, oddly enough, don't take the time to register their weapons.

Though the data released does not include names or addresses, it does include the first 2 letters of the postal code. *The Ottawa Citizen*, in a most irresponsible act, has just provided a shopping list to criminals.

Robert Zandee,
Conservative Nominee

Ambulance training for part-timers gets a boost from Columbia Basin Trust funding

by Art Joyce

The Columbia Basin Trust has approved $10,000 in funding for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training in the region, to complement the $5000 put up by the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation. The funding will cover training expenses for EMR applicants from Edgewood, Nakusp, New Denver, Kaslo, and Winlaw. This represents a substantial benefit to those applying for EMR positions, as course costs total $1356 per person.

"One of the barriers to people has been the cost of training, so we're hoping this will stimulate interest," says BC Ambulance Area Superintendent Chris Mason.

According to the Justice Institute of BC's Paramedic Academy, "the EMR certification course is designed to provide participants with the basic knowledge and skills to be able to manage any medical and trauma related emergency."

EMRs are paid a nominal sum to wear a pager, but receive full pay based on the union's collective agreement when they attend a scene. Working as an EMR can be a stepping stone to a career in ambulance services as a Primary Care Paramedic or Advanced Care Paramedic. However, many who wish to stay in their area are content to work part-time as EMRs. Applicants must be 16 years of age , pass a physical, and have completed grade 10.

New Denver is in especially dire straits, says Mason, with only two currently on staff. Although course plans and dates are still being decided, Mason says interested applicants can begin contacting unit chiefs now.

"This is a wonderful outcome from the stakeholder's meeting that was held in the fall," says Mayor Karen Hamling. "Many people have been working hard to make this happen and it shows what can be done when we put our energies together."

If you are interested in serving as a paramedic contact your local Unit Chief: Edgewood, Donna Murray, 250-269-7323; Nakusp, Barb Miller, 250-265-3721; Kaslo, Larry Badry, 250-353-7373; New Denver, Karen Forsyth, 250-358-7777; Winlaw, Cathy Poznikoff, 250-226-7557.

Please come to the

SLOCAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

49th Annual General Meeting

Passmore Hall

Sunday, March 11, 2007

Celebrating our fiftieth year of community ownership

Registration: 12:30

Meeting: 1pm

Reports

Election of Directors

New Business

SLOCAN VALLEY CO-OP
Celebrating 50 years

Flowing Threads quilt raffled by Slocan Valley Threads Guild

submitted

Members of the Slocan Valley Threads Guild recently created a work of art that has disproved the old adage, "You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear." The handmade quilt *Flowing Threads*, developed from a traditional pinwheel design, is the stunning result.

Joanna Boer, the mother of a guild member visiting from California, was the lucky winner when the quilt was raffled in October, 2006. Monies raised by the raffle will go toward insurance, hydro and general maintenance of the Guild's home, a one-room school at Perry Siding built in the mid-1940s. Since its incorporation in 1981, the Guild has maintained this heritage building. Members meet informally to share new skills, work on projects, or peruse the Guild's impressive library.

Using largely donated materials, hundreds of hours of volunteer labour were needed to prepare the cloth, cut and sew the blocks, then hand-stitch the quilt. Nearly a year elapsed from concept to completion. The finished product debuted at a Threads Guild show in the Silverton Gallery, followed by exhibits at Four Seasons Fall Fair and Art-in-the-Park, both Winlaw events.

The Guild's next fundraiser will be their annual Yard and Yardage Sale on April 22, 2007, from 10 am–2 pm. Everyone is invited to check out the bargains and goodies in the tea room. Donations are welcome. For more information, or donations you'd like picked up, please call Sharon at 226-7703, Lynnda at 352-1987, or Brenda at 355-2459.

New members are always welcome. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month (in March it's the 14th) at 7:00 pm.

Alberta songwriters perform at Hidden Garden

submitted

The Hidden Garden Gallery presents touring Alberta singer/songwriters, Lara Yule Singh and Alexia Melnychuk on Thursday, March 1, 7:30-9:30 pm. Taking turns on the stage with an assortment of instruments, guitars, banjo, shakers, melodica, and xylophone, these songbirds will delight you with their fresh folk-pop, folk-country sounds, beautiful voices, and entertaining banter.

Lara, a Grant MacEwan graduate and vocalist with composition and recording diplomas, released her debut CD *Something In the Still* in May 2006. It spent ten weeks in the top 30 on Edmonton's CKUA Radio charts, peaking at #3, just under Paul Simon and T-Bone Burnett. Her meaningful lyrics and quirky style are a delicate and refreshing avante-folk poetry.

Alexia released her debut recording, *Flying Machine*, in November 2005. Her collection of songs melds folk and country sounds with inspired harmonies, fiddle and mandolin. Since its release, she has earned Honourable Mentions for her songwriting from the Calgary Folk Music Festival and The West Coast Songwriters Association.

Quebec culture comes to the Kootenays

submitted

Many people in the Slocan Valley have never had the chance to personally experience the beauty of French Canadian culture. This year 30 students in grades 10,11, and 12 from Mount Sentinel Secondary School will get their chance to do just that. They will travel to Coaticook, Quebec during the week of March 17-24 on a visit sponsored by the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC).

SEVEC Youth Exchanges of Canada has been offering educational exchanges for 70 years. They make sure each student is paired with a 'twin' that matches their specifications. Prices for participation are very reasonable because the travel costs for the two groups is covered by the Government of Canada through SEVEC.

The 'twins' Mount Sentinel will be receiving will also get to experience a different culture – the diverse culture of the Kootenays. They will soak in Ainsworth Hotsprings, race down Whitewater, tour Celgar and spend time learning in Mount Sentinel. They will arrive on February 24 and return home on March 2.

For further information contact Melissa Halliday at 1-250-359-7005, Mt. Sentinel student communications committee member, or Heather Robertson, Mt. Sentinel teacher co-ordinator, 1-250-359-5960.

Reptile biologist to make presentation in Kaslo and Slocan Valley

submitted

Many of us will go to any length to avoid meeting a snake or lizard. Then there's Jakob Dulisse, photographer and wildlife biologist, who spends endless hours seeking them out. Dulisse is presenting *Reptiles of the Southern Interior* on Monday, March 5 at Brent Kennedy Elementary School; and Tuesday, March 6 in Kaslo at the United Church Hall. Both sessions start at 7 pm.

Dulisse has studied numerous species throughout the southern interior and his research has led to important findings on western skinks, western yellow-bellied racers, rubber boas and northern alligator lizards, to name a few.

"Reptiles are amazing creatures. There are several at-risk reptiles right on our doorstep, but they are often overlooked," says Dulisse.

The presentations are hosted by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) in association with the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission and *Pennywise*. Although the sessions are free, please let the FWCP know if you plan to attend by calling (250) 352-6874 or 226-0008. For a sneak preview of some of the photos to be shown, visit www.fwcp.ca.

Seniors, Low Income Individuals & Families

Are invited to the WE Graham Community Service Society Computer Lab

Monday March 5th
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

To learn how to file your taxes at Ufile.ca with Ruth Peirson of Rudy's Accounting

DIABETES, DIET AND NUTRITION

WHAT IS DIABETES?

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007 10 AM TO 2:30 PM
SLOCAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE, EDUCATION

DIABETES AND NUTRITION
WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

MANAGING YOUR DIABETES
TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF

DIET AND NUTRITION:
MARLENE CHERNENKOFF, REG'D DIETICIAN

DIABETES:
PATRICE RYAN-DORN, PHC NURSE

**LIGHT LUNCH INCLUDED*

Call to register: (250) 358-7911

THANK YOU DICK AND BARB AND Dr. FUN!

The preschool wants to say thanks! The Dr. Fun Dance was excellent! We want to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone. Dick and Barb for bringing Dr. Fun to our community, all the community volunteers, Village of Silverton, the places where tickets are sold, and all the people who supported the evening by coming to the dance and purchasing tickets. The preschool relies on community donations and this fund raiser is very helpful in allowing us to meet the cost involved in running a preschool program.

New Denver council, February 13: Petition shows support for goats inside Village

by Michael Dorsey

•A delegation of local residents including Julia Greenlaw, Norbert Duerichen, Charlene Alexander, Kevin and Jane Murphy and a small group of associated children attended to speak to the Village policy concerning goats inside the Village boundaries. A petition in favour of keeping goats inside the Village, signed by 74 citizens, was presented. Of the 74, 19 are non-residents of the Village, 55 live in town, and Kevin Murphy signed twice, indicating his strong stand on the issue. The group was informed, after lively discussion, that council would address this during the Official Community Plan review process, when changes in the Animal Control Bylaw would be considered.

•During Mayor Wright's RDCK report, he mentioned that he, as RDCK Chair, and Area H Director Don Munro had attended a meeting of the Rosebery Parklands Development Society on February 12 to discuss the possible transfer of the 7.5-acre parklands to an agency such as RDCK, which could manage the area as a Regional Park. Wright commented that he and Director Munro thought it was a "good meeting."

Wright also spoke of the RDCK budget process for 2007, stating that District is attempting to lower General Administration costs; user groups will see a rise in their share of these costs. The West Waste Management budget shows a decrease in taxation, attributed to "good management." On a more local note, Wright reported that the New Denver Reading Centre has the second highest circulation of reading centres in British Columbia, topped only by Robert's Creek, and it was moved by council to congratulate the hard-working centre volunteers, and the public for reading.

•Public Works reported that sidewalk repairs are a priority for the 2007 budget. Staff will be applying for a grant under the provincial Towns for Tomorrow program for the stormwater drainage project. The cost of the project is $184,000, and the Village will pay 20% of it.

Council, in responding to a resident's letter, complimented Public Works staff on their fine snow removal during the severe weather of late.

It was moved that staff research and apply for 2007 Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant program funds to assist with engineering costs related to the new water reservoir proposal.

•Concerning the Centennial Park gazebo project, Administrator Gordon reported on progress to date and council moved to have Gordon apply for Phase 1 (planning) of the Spirit Square funding program, and advance to apply for Phase 2 (construction) as soon as possible. This project involves a cost near $70,000. The grant should cover 50% of the cost, the May Days committee has contributed $5,000, and the Village will pick up the remaining $30,000.

•The May Days committee requested financial support from the Village for the centennial celebration this year. Council committed to co-sponsoring the Citizen of the Year award again, and Councillor Bunka and Mayor Wright will arrange a meeting with the committee and report back.

•Council received a letter and information regarding the recent cuts to BC childcare programs from Charlene Alexander of the New Denver Nursery School, as well as from the City of Trail. Council passed a motion to write a letter asking for the restoration of the funding and programs, to be sent to Premier Gordon Campbell, Minister of State for Childcare Linda Reid, the City of Trail, the MLA, and UBCM.

•The Healthy Housing Society survey results were discussed, and referred to the OCP process.

South Valley OCP update

submitted

The Advisory Planning Commission for the southern Slocan Valley now has a set of guiding principles that will govern the planning process and subsequent preparation of a draft Official Community Plan. These guiding principles were prepared after three meetings of the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) in the southern Slocan Valley. The APC consists of Greg Bachelder (chair), April Anderson, Bonnie Baker, Derek Murphy, Frank Nixon, Gerry Shaw, and Walter Swetlishoff.

Area H Director Don Munro stated that the APC members worked incredibly hard to prepare the principles. "The APC feels that the guiding principles are a critical first step to let the public know how the OCP process will be developed," Munro stated.

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has created a website for the Official Community Plan project so that residents and property owners can keep themselves informed. The guiding principles can be found on the website: http://rdck.bc.ca/development/planning/about.html or can be picked up at various businesses in the Slocan Valley.

Take the TRASH ART Challenge!

Create a work of art using RECYCLED MATERIALS.

Entry deadline: Apr. 18
$550 in cash prizes

Get entry form at slocanvalley.com/events.php, at local Valley businesses, or call 226-7479

A Slocan Valley Arts Council event, thanks to BC Arts Council and the RDCK.

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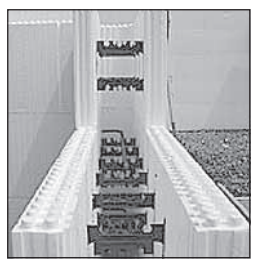

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Sinixt Nation holds public information meeting in New Denver

by Art Joyce

If what you're doing isn't sustainable to the seventh generation, then it shouldn't be done. That's the natural 'law of the land,' according to Sinixt spokesperson Marilyn James, that protects the land, air and water (LAW). James spoke at Lucerne school Thursday, February 22 to a small but attentive group, bringing them up to date on her nation's progress.

The Sinixt were invited to sit on a roundtable discussion hosted by SARCO (Species at Risk Coordination Office) regarding the endangered mountain caribou. James said SARCO is "managing for extinction," and is prepared to sacrifice some of the caribou herds. The Sinixt are therefore seeking legal counsel for a blanket injunction over the entire mountain caribou habitat area, by asserting aboriginal rights. The problem with this solution is that the Sinixt's 'extinct' status has yet to be legally revoked. Such an injunction would also bring serious liability issues with it.

The Sinixt have formed a society so that they may apply for funding to pursue their various projects and cover legal costs. Only Sinixt may hold positions on the society board but all are welcome to become associate members at no cost, as an expression of support for their goals. This strategy addresses the issue put to them by one judge who told them that until they are recognized by their community, they cannot exert aboriginal rights. However, recent material unearthed from the Washington State University archives shows Sinixt geneaology in US census records.

James said the current treaty negotiations are being used by the federal government to pit First Nations against one another. The Ktunaxa, Shuswap and Okanagan (Westbank) First Nations are all contending that traditional Sinixt territory belongs to them. This is in part a competition for financial compensation from the government, to which the Sinixt have no access as long as they remain in 'extinct' status. James was encouraged by the rebuttal of the Westbank Nation's claim to Sinixt territory by members of the community last year.

The Sinixt have plans for a number of biological and environmental studies: terrain, hydrology, fisheries, lichens, wildlife mapping, and more. And they continue to work with watershed citizens' groups such as the Perry Ridge Water Users Association. James said they have named four 'keystone' species critical to the local ecosystem: grizzly, wolverine, caribou, and fisheries. She said industries and tourism must be evaluated in the context of the seventh generation law. By this criteria, activities such as the molybdenum mine at Trout Lake, heli-skiing, and the proposed Jumbo resort are unsustainable. Mountain goats fleeing helicopters burn up much-needed body fat for the winter and some have died as a result.

Billie Jo Bray, a Sanpol indian of Sinixt descent living in the Colville Nation territory in Washington, spoke passionately about her resistance to mining. Bray explained how exposing minerals to air can create acid drainage that seeps into groundwater, rivers and lakes, killing fish and microbial life. She helped rally a vote by members of the Colville Nation to defeat a molybdenum mine that would have exposed radioactive uranium. Bray said mines such as the one being developed at Trout Lake cannot be done safely or sustainably given current mining practices such as earth berms. The Sinixt are planning a prayer ceremony on the Lardeau River for the Gerrard rainbow trout this spring. They are concerned that the new mine will create runoff that will poison spawning grounds.

Among the plans for the Sinixt are a publicly accessible archive, an interpretive centre, a Sinixt language program, and a tribal centre. There are plans to build a winter dance house by inviting volunteer labour from the community. Last year's Froggy Fest will be held again this year, but the barter faire will be held separately from the Thanksgiving Day dinner. James will be working with Barbara Wilson to continue with the artist calendar, which will feature a different tribal legend connected to the local landscape each year. The Sinixt are cooperating with the Mir Centre for Peace in Castlegar toward reconciliation for the Alex Christian family, who were driven off traditional lands at Brilliant. Repatriation and reburial of ancestral remains continues, with the 60th and 61st ancestors re-interred at Vallican last year.

Sierra Club environmental ed program comes to Slocan Valley schools

Armed with costumes, charts and calculators, the Sierra Club of BC will be touring Slocan Valley schools with its Climate Change Education Program. The program's goal is to reduce BC greenhouse gas emissions with help from students across the province. Participating schools locally will include WE Graham, Brent Kennedy, and Vallican Whole.

Program instructors bring with them a wealth of knowledge on the wonders of BC's different ecosystems. Students will be encouraged to take action on environmental challenges, such as helping endangered species and climate change. Kids will be shown how to calculate their reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. A combination of interactive games and theatrical skits make learning fun and youth-friendly. Programs focus on tangible, real-life situations and solutions that inspire youth.

"When students see the tangible results of their efforts, such as a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions," says Education Program Director Jenn Hoffman, "they experience feelings of accomplishment and empowerment."

Instructors spend the day visiting 2-3 classes, and return within two weeks to monitor and support students on their action challenges.

Nearly half of the more than 125 classes that participated in the Sierra Club's school program in 2005-06 decided to continue the project for the entire school year. Altogether these classes slashed their greenhouse gas emissions by four tonnes (and still counting)! One hundred percent of the 400 classes participating in other programs requested the Club's return this year.

Five different school programs are available for kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms. Since inception, over 45,000 BC students have participated. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.ca, BC programs, or contact Kerri Lanaway, School Program Coordinator at 250-386-5255 ext 252, schoolprograms@sierraclub.bc.ca.

Crystal the Explorer and Rocky the Rockfish from the Sierra Club recently showed up at Mrs. Lawrence's Grade 4 class at Brent Kennedy School.

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Request for Proposals

The Nakusp Roots Music Society is requesting proposals from people/organizations interested in providing the 'Green Team' service for the upcoming 2007 Nakusp Music Festival. Please submit your proposal to: Nadine Guthrie, Box 559, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. Proposals must include the number of people provided per shift and the contract price for four days of Green Team service. For more information and a complete job description, please contact Nadine at 265-2141.

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info on-line: www.basinculture.com

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Managed by Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

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Old photos help scientists determine historical water conditions

submitted

Old photographs tend to collect dust but in the right hands they can be extremely valuable. This was the case when members of the Arrow Lakes Historical Society (ALHS) teamed up with a consulting firm working for the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP).

PHOTO CREDIT: ALHS ARCHIVES

The SS Revelstoke on the Columbia River above Revelstoke in the early 1900s.

AIM ecological consultants were hired to estimate the level of primary productivity in the Arrow Lakes plant food chain before and after dam construction. Milton Parent – one of the founding members of the ALHS – provided more than 150 photographs of the Arrow Lakes dating back to the early 1900s. The old photographs showed how turbid (sediment-filled) the waters were during the spring freshet period prior to dam construction. The researchers were then able to assess how much light was penetrating the water and estimate the level of plant life productivity.

"Topographical maps and aerial photographs played their part, but to get detailed images of what the environment – and most importantly, the rivers and lakes – looked like back in the '50s and '60s was critical to the project," said FWCP Fisheries Biologist Steve Arndt.

The full results of the work, which are expected this summer, will help guide the FWCP in its future work. The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, Ministry of Environment, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations affected by the construction of BC Hydro dams in the Columbia Basin.

Parent expressed gratitude for the donation that the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program made to the Society for using the photographs.

"The Society is very pleased to help and it is very rewarding to know that our archives are actually increasing today's knowledge base," said Milton. "It certainly helps bring a purpose to the many hours of volunteer time our members put in."

To learn more, visit http://www.fwcp.ca. If you are interested in becoming a member of the ALHS, or want to learn more about their work, email alhs@netidea.com or call 265-0110.

School fees survey results released: Kootenay Lake SD # 8

by Art Joyce

Schools are getting a failing grade when it comes to school fees, according to a recent Kootenay Lake School District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) survey. The survey is part of a province-wide initiative, with 19 DPACs and over 9800 respondents participating. The following is a summary of results from the 227 responses with 92 written comments received by parents in Kootenay Lake School District #8.

Not surprisingly, 99% of respondents said they believe the government should fund core public education. Fully 98% said they expect the public education system to provide every child with full access to opportunities for development, regardless of family income or capacity. Again, not unexpected. But the devil is in the details, as the saying goes.

Defining 'core public education' was a critical issue on the survey. When parents were asked what they thought should be covered by public education funding, the following items scored 90% or higher: fine arts (art, drama, music, etc), industrial arts (shop, mechanics, woodwork, etc), technology, physical education, textbooks, course workbooks, computers, library books, audio/visual equipment, safety items (earthquake kiosks, fire extinguishers, call-back phone lines, walkie-talkies, etc.).

Scoring 80% or higher as areas that should be covered by public education funding: home economics, playground equipment, drama and band equipment, small capital expenditures (curtains, lighting, fountains, etc.)

Parents overwhelmingly felt excluded from the decision-making process on school fees. District-wide consistency on fees was seen as necessary by 82% of respondents, and over 80% believe parents should have more input, including setting fee amounts. Most agreed that fees should only be charged to recover actual costs. However, survey results do not imply parents are any more willing to pay these fees.

Based on this input, the Kootenay Lake DPAC has forwarded three recommendations to School District No. 8. The first is to strike an ad hoc committee to clearly define what core public education should consist of, in consultation with students and parents. The second is for the school district to revise policy #205, Fees and Deposits, to reflect the recent BC Supreme Court ruling after discussions on core public education have concluded. The third is for the school district to review all individual schools' fees and deposits on an annual basis, and to approve these schedules only after the PAC and/or School Planning Council has signed off on them.

The participating DPACs will be making recommendations, based on survey results, to the BC Confederation of PACs and the Ministry of Education.

Summit Lake ski hill sees plenty of team spirit for races

submitted

Seven ski teams from Salmo, Whitewater, Red Mountain, and Summit Lake, comprised of 86 racers aged 5 to 12, along with coaches and parents, converged at Summit Lake February 10. The racers were given Nakusp Hot Springs passes as they registered. Coaches were impressed by the event's scope, which included the Alcan Nancy Greene West Kootenay Zone Racing League. This was the first E1/E2 race of the season, yet there were few DQs, which means that it was a well set-up course, thanks to Bryar, Liz, and Brenden from the NSS ski team.

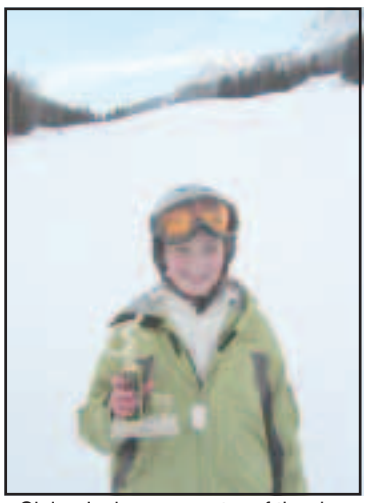
Chief of Race Doug McQuair and his starting crew Frances and Brenda were all smiles as young Yashuah Martin, from the Salmo B team, snowplowed up to the starting gate and whispered from under his helmet, "This is sooo much fun. I really like this race!"

The placements in E1/E2 races are determined by combining the top 6 times on each team to come up with rankings, as these are team races. Bronze medals went to the Salmo A team, the Salmo B team, and the SLR B team. Silver medals went to the SLR A team and the Whitewater 'Water' team. Gold medals were won by the Whitewater 'White' team and the Red Mountain team.

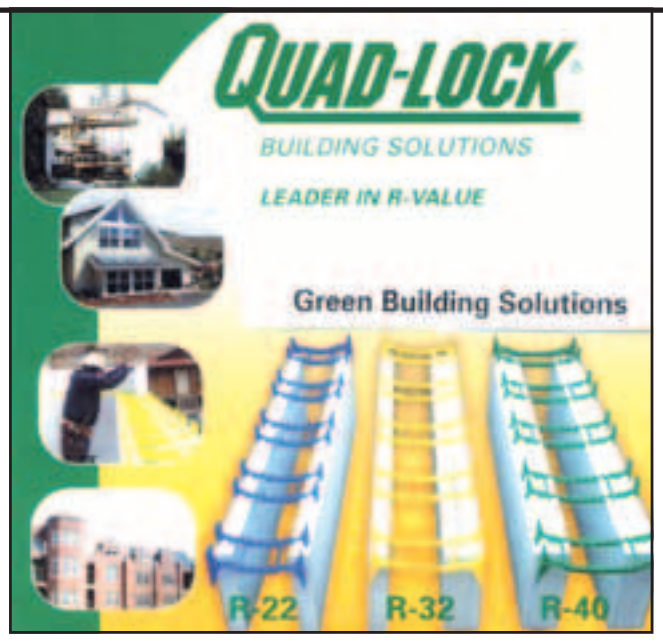
Individual times were kept, however, and three female skiers, Taylor Aichele, Katelyn Horning, and Erin McLeod placed in the top 20. Tyler Hascarl went from first position after the first run to twelfth overall, after an amazing second run finish on a single ski, allowing Tiivo Ruutapold from the Red Mountain. team to finish first. Brier McLean, from the SLR A team, was the only boarder and did a fine job in his first E1/E2 race. Claire Jackson was star of the day as the fastest female and the fourth fastest racer overall.

Kids mingled after the race to play in the snow and eat the hamburgers and hotdogs sold by Karen Likness and the 22 member NSS ski and snowboard team. These students are working to raise funds for their trip to the High School Provincial Ski and Snowboard Championships at Whistler March 7-9. They also helped with gatekeeping, setting up, and taking down the course.

Organizers are grateful to the Columbia Power Corporation for sponsorship funding, which made it possible to purchase dog tag medals for every racer from On-the-Marks Printing. Red Mountain racer Quinn Pozzo was overheard commenting that "the thing about Summit Lake is they have the coolest medals!" Thanks as well to Susan Madden, the coaches, and the parents who volunteered and made this such a successful event.



Claire Jackson was star of the day as the fastest female and the fourth fastest racer overall.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Silverton British Columbia

DATE:	**THURSDAY, MARCH 15**
TIME:	7:00 PM
PLACE:	COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AGENDA:	2007 Five Year Financial Plan

The Council of the Village of Silverton invites public consultation in the preparation of the 2007 Five Year Financial Plan. Council welcomes public input from residents of the Village with regards to items of interest and concerns they may want to see addressed in preparation of the 2007 budget.

Please submit your comments in writing to:
Mayor and Council
The Village of Silverton
PO Box 14
Silverton, BC V0G 2B0
Deadline for submission is Noon, Thursday, March 8, 2007

If you wish to make a presentation to Council at the meeting of Council to be held on Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 pm, please contact the Village office before Noon, Thursday, March 8, 2007.

Ms. Junko Ida
Administrator

Silverton council, February 13 marks departure of Councillor Masun

by Art Joyce

•Councillor Stephanie Masun submitted her resignation February 9, as she and husband Alex have received a job offer in Williams Lake starting in March. This was her final council meeting. Council expressed regret at her departure and thanked her for her service on council and on the emergency services committee. A byelection must be held within 80 days to fill the vacant seat on council. Junko Ida was appointed chief election officer.

•Vern Hartman has resigned from the fire department. Mayor Everett noted his many years of service, and Councillor Bell inquired about a process to offer formal acknowledgement of thanks, such as a commemorative plaque. Council will investigate this.

•Mayor Everett reported that in recent conversations with the RCMP they are supportive of cell phone service in the valley, as their mobile computers are unable to link to the police database without it.

•Councillor Laktin attended a recreation committee meeting where it was reported that the gym at the New Denver health centre is thriving, with 17 new members signed up.

•Councillor Provan was absent but left word that the CBT has informed the Friends of Memorial Hall that its grant application has been successful, provided the matching funds are obtained from an MRIF (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund) grant. The mechanical engineer's inspection has revealed that in order for the hall to have air conditioning installed, the electrical panel needs to be doubled in capacity from 200 to 400 amps. This will create some additional unforeseen expenses.

•CAO Junko Ida reported on a meeting of municipal administrators held in Castlegar, where it was decided that councillors should receive the full minutes of RDCK meetings. To avoid wasting paper, councillors will be referred to the RDCK website, where regular minutes are posted.

•Councillor Bell reported on the regular board meeting of the RDCK held January 27, and the RDCK budget meeting held in Slocan February 6. At the West Waste meeting held February 6, the recommendation was made to the board that mixed plastics recycling be included in the contract currently held by the Waste Management company. A compactor will be installed at Slocan, and there are "ongoing plans" for installing phones at transfer stations, and closing the Rosebery landfill site. At the RDCK general affairs meeting held February 8, Kaslo requested support from the RDCK to be placed on the BC Hydro list of communities affected by the Columbia River dam system.

•The Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts (VSSFA) request for 50% rent relief for the Memorial Hall was brought forward from the previous council meeting. Mayor Everett suggested the group may not have been aware that hall rental rates for community groups have been reduced to $100. The policy was adopted by council to cope with the frequent requests for grants and rent reductions. A motion was passed that VSSFA pay the new regular rental rate and that council will grant the request for a $200 grant for the theatre program.

•Council voted to write a letter to Minister of State for Child Care Linda Reid, expressing serious concern about the recent cutbacks to childcare programs in BC.

•Council has applied for a $500,000 Towns for Tomorrow grant for the water system. The mayor explained that during the last upgrade, several lines weren't replaced due to cost. Many villagers are therefore still on the old system. The Village will be required to pay 20% of the grant amount, which it will do with funds it has set aside from the federal gas tax rebate. Mayor Everett said it costs the Village as much to run its water system as New Denver, with a substantially smaller tax base.

•Letters were received from the Villages of Nakusp, Kaslo, and RDCK Area K Director Paul Peterson expressing support for Silverton council's petitioning of Telus for cell phone service in the Slocan Valley.

•Healthy Housing Society Director Catherine Allaway attended as a delegation to discuss the recently released housing survey results.

•Council agreed to sign the liability waiver for the July 1st committee's Canada Day celebrations.

Studio Connexion, across from the Kuskanax in Nakusp, is the only place west of Quebec that carries antique reproduction furniture made by a company called Idantique. The store is also currently featuring textiles and jewelry by Nakusp artist Linda Dixon and photographs by Patrizia Menton of Hills.

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FUSAYE HASHIMOTO
(nee KITAGAWA)

Fusaye Hashimoto was born on July 1st, 1923 at Steveston, B.C. and passed away on February 9th, 2007 in Vernon, B.C. at the age of 83 years, after a courageous battle with lung cancer. She will be lovingly remembered by her two sons; Sakaye (Bronwen) Hashimoto of New Denver, B.C. and Yasuo Hashimoto of Vernon, B.C., five daughters; Judi (Herbert) Heise of Kelowna, B.C., Bev (Earl) Hoppe of Vernon, B.C., Linda Hashimoto (David Dean) of Vernon, B.C., Kay (Carl) Lindstein of Silverton, B.C. and Wendy (Chuck) Hellevang of Vernon, B.C., 13 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, four sisters; Nobuko Kurata of Kochi, Japan, Shizuye Higa of Honolulu, Hawaii, Harumi (Art) Westman of Maple Ridge, B.C. and Kimiye Kitagawa of Kobe, Japan, numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members. She was predeceased by her son, Hideo (Howard) on October 5th, 1950 and her husband, Takaichi Hashimoto on October 5th, 1998. Fusaye will be sadly missed by her family and friends. A private family Funeral Service was held at Bethel Funeral Chapel on Friday, February 16th, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. with cremation following. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in New Denver, B.C. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish to do so may send donations in memory of Fusaye to the Canadian Cancer Society, #104-3402 27th Avenue, Vernon, B.C. V1T 1S1. Funeral arrangements have been made with BETHEL FUNERAL CHAPEL LTD., 5605 27th Street, Vernon, B.C. V1T 8Z5 (250) 542-1187

Nakusp council, February 13: Assisted living a reality

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Hamling reported that the new Halcyon assisted living facility was set to open March 1 and that Rosemary Hughes had been hired as site manager. The grand opening is being planned for towards the end of April.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the Nakusp and Area Development Board (NADB) had written a letter to the Minister of Transportation asking for a larger ferry and more sailings at Galena/Shelter Bay. The letter mentions long ferry waits, the lack of food service at the landings and the unavailability of the washrooms during winter months. Hamling said that the Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association estimates that its bridge/causeway project for this crossing will take 5-10 years, so relief is needed in the meantime. Council decided to send a letter in support of the NADB's request.

•Councillor Switzer reported that the Comptroller of Water Rights had approved the Columbia River Projects Water Use Plan (WUP). Mayor Hamling expressed disappointment that the Nakusp boat ramp was not included in the plan. Councillor Switzer said that inclusion in the WUP would probably not make any difference to the Nakusp ramp project, and would possibly even hold the project up. He said that the Comptroller had ordered BC Hydro to deal with the Nakusp ramp under clause m of BC Hydro's water licence.

Mayor Hamling asked for confirmation that the Province will pay for improvements ordered under the WUP, but that BC Hydro has to pay for improvements under clause m. Switzer confirmed this.

Switzer also spoke about the access agreement currently being negotiated between the Village and BC Hydro. Because the Village owns the boat ramp, BC Hydro wants an agreement to access the ramp in order to work on it. A draft agreement was being reviewed by Village lawyers at the time of the council meeting. Switzer said BC Hydro was trying to put covenants on the property to get unlimited access, "so we will see what our lawyers come back with." He said the two parties seemed to be in disagreement about emergency repairs vs. a long-term solution for the ramp.

•Mayor Hamling reported on an update Beth McLeod gave at a recent Nakusp and Area Development Board meeting. McLeod has websites up and running for the NADB, community forest and community foundation. She will be applying for funding for events signage from Columbia Power Corporation and NADB will contribute $500 towards signage.

•Council granted a 50% rent reduction of the arena auditorium to the Celebration of Wellness Festival, scheduled for May 12 and 13.

•A church group was scheduled to attend as a delegation to speak against the proposed mixed martial arts event, but did not show. A group of four people on the organizing team for the event attended in anticipation of the delegation. It was agreed that since council has already given approval for the event, the Village will forward any concerns coming from the public to the organizing team.

•Accounts payable of $224,1623.30 were approved.

Slocan Lake Boating Association

will hold the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 pm at the home of Amy and Dave Soltis in New Denver.
Info: 358-2133 or 7285

Nakusp Public Library Expands its Hours

Now open Friday evenings

New Open Hours
Monday 12 - 4:30 7 - 9
Wednesday 12 - 4:30, 7 - 9
Friday 12 - 4:30, 7 - 9
Saturday 12 - 4:30

nakusplibrary.bc.ca

265-3363

Nakusp library to open Friday evenings

submitted

The Nakusp Public Library is responding to requests to be open Friday evenings, and beginning in March will be open Fridays from 7 - 9. The atmosphere will be relaxed, and coffee and tea will be served.

"The library aims to please," says Librarian Evelyn Goodell and welcomes suggestions and ideas from the community. "Library patrons have excellent ideas and help make our library a lovely place to be," Goodell added. In response to recent patron requests the library will increase the large print, classics, travel and building collections, will install a water cooler, and has added new tables in the children's area.

In January the Nakusp Public Library Association held its annual general meeting and celebrated the expansion and remodelling of the library. There is now comfortable seating, space for children to study, more computers for patrons, areas for local artists to display their work, more room for the collection, new flooring and lighting and furnishings and more.

The Nakusp library is extremely well used. Last year 1,985 people were registered and borrowed 30,798 books, magazines, videos and DVDs, and audio books. The library received 14 grants which helped to cover the cost of the expansion and also helped to increase and improve the collection.

The library is at the 'finishing touches' stage of the expansion and remodelling. Most of the furnishings are made by local carpenters.

Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Hungry Hill

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting bluegrass performers Hungry Hill for the final concert of the series at the Bonnington Arts Centre on Friday, March 2 at 8 pm. Doors open at 7:30.

Based in northwestern Canada and the US, Hungry Hill plays contemporary bluegrass, with a focus on original material. Jenny Lester on vocals, fiddle and guitar, Bob Hamilton on vocals and mandolin, Mark Thibeault on resophonic guitar and vocals, Ross Nickerson on banjo, and Nadine Landry on bass create a fresh sound while staying true to the roots of bluegrass. Lush vocal harmonies resonate from three singers around one microphone in the traditional acoustic setting of old time music.

The band came together in 2003 at the Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival in the Yukon mountains. Summer 2005 saw the release of their self-titled debut album.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council would like to thank The Old Grey Barn for hosting this concert.

Emergency Social Services Training

Setting up a Reception Centre
Saturday, March 10, 10 - 4
Knox Hall, New Denver

Documentation
Sunday, March 11, 9:30-12:30
Fire Hall, 90-5th Ave NW, Nakusp

Please register with Valerie Piercy
358-7112 • email"piewil@netidea.com

Presentation about the Columbia River Treaty at Nakusp's Selkirk College

by Jan McMurray

Kindy Gosal, Manager of Water Initiatives at Columbia Basin Trust, gave a presentation about the Columbia River Treaty on February 21 at Nakusp's Selkirk College. His presentation left no doubt about the important role our region plays in this big issue.

He explained that the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) was negotiated in the context of post World War II in the Pacific Northwest. During that economic boom time, there was a growing need for power. There was also a need for flood control, as communities were springing up along the floodplains of the Columbia River system in the US.

Under the treaty, Canada built three dams: Mica, Duncan and Keenleyside. These dams provide water storage in Canada that generates additional power at the 11 downstream dams in the US. The Canadian dams also provide the US with flood control. Gosal mentioned that because the 11 dams on the American side are navigable, the river is a transportation system for the US, and agriculture and salmon fisheries are thriving there.

Gosal explained that when the American government approached the Canadian government with this issue, the Canadians were "lukewarm." However, the BC premier at the time, WAC Bennett, was "hot on it" and ended up doing the negotiating. Both federal governments ratified the treaty in 1964, and then the Canadian government transferred all rights and obligations under the treaty to the Province.

In return for the water storage, BC is entitled to half of the extra power generated at the downstream power plants in the US. The Province sold the first 30 years of this entitlement to the US for a lump sum of $254 million, and used the money to build the dams. In 1994, this expired and the US began paying BC $250-$275 million each year.

The Columbia is the most hydroelectrically developed river system in the world, with 14 dams on its main stem and 450 dams on the whole system, including tributaries. Gosal pointed out that the only free flowing section of the river remaining is the Columbia Wetlands, a 200-km span from the headwaters at Columbia Lake to the Kinbasket Reservoir. "We might want to protect this," he said.

Although the Canadian side has fewer dams, a shorter length of the river (800 kms vs. 1200 kms in the US), and makes up only 15% of the total area of the Basin, it has the water. Canada provides 40% of the run-off, and research on climate change shows that this percentage will increase. There are 3.2 million Americans living on the US side of the Basin (compared to 500,000 on the Canadian side) and "if they start going dry, there could be huge implications."

Gosal also pointed out that the Canadian Columbia River system provides 50% of the total hydro power produced in BC.

He spoke about the benefits and impacts of the treaty for Canada. The benefits, he said, include the development of hydropower generation that resulted from the water storage, and the fact that BC has the lowest electricity rates in the world.

"We got a lot for the Columbia River Treaty," he said. "However, there were lots of impacts and they were concentrated in this region. Very few people felt them and we were forgotten about." He explained that at the time, the concerns were flood control and the optimization of power generation, so "other water related values were not explicitly dealt with in the treaty. They really did not know what the impacts would be. They had no information. It was done out of ignorance, not malice."

He proceeded to list the treaty's negative impacts: 2,300 people lost their homes and lands; 500 square km of fertile valley bottom was flooded; First Nations lost much of their archaeological heritage as well as traditional use areas for fishing, hunting; loss of fish and wildlife habitat and species; communities along the reservoirs suffer ongoing negative impacts due to the large fluctuation in reservoir levels.

Gosal indicated that probably the biggest negative impact of the treaty was "the way we were not included in decisions that drastically affected the lives of people then and future generations. This is why we're angry with BC Hydro." He said that Nakusp's boat ramp was a prime example of the disrespect. "One billion dollars per year are taken out of the area in terms of power – is it too much to ask for recreation, fisheries? I don't think so," he said. He added that CBT has advocated for the Nakusp ramp, and says he thinks there is a win-win resolution to the issue.

CBT was created with a mandate to leave a legacy of social, economic and environmental well being and achieve greater self-sufficiency for present and future generations in the region most affected by the Columbia River Treaty. Gosal said that water has been identified as one of CBT's most important objectives, and one of the most significant water issues is the opportunity to renew, terminate or re-negotiate the CRT. As long as notice is given by 2014 by either side, the power provisions of the treaty can be re-negotiated in 2024. Although re-negotiation resides with the federal government, the Province must be consulted. Gosal said the CBT is working on ensuring that the people will be consulted.

On the subject of stable reservoir levels for the Arrow Lakes, Gosal said that after the treaty obligations were met, "the flexibility for operators in this region is very limited." He also pointed out that "if you ask for something here, there will be a negative impact for someone else in the region." He showed a slide of the Kinbasket Reservoir at low water. It becomes a little river flanked by huge mud flats. He said that where the difference between high and low water on the Arrow Lakes is 70', it is 175' on the Kinbasket.

Someone asked if we could try to push for stable lake levels to protect fisheries, as has been done in the US. Gosal replied that what is good for the fish is not necessarily good for recreation, so he didn't think this was the way to address the issue of fluctuating water levels.

Another person asked if it would be feasible to create power at Duncan. Gosal said it is not feasible now, as power couldn't be created all the time, but if prices continue to spike, it will be feasible.

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Village of Nakusp Official Community Plan update

submitted

There are 25 volunteers researching ideas to help shape an Official Community Plan (OCP) to be presented to the public for their input in May.

Boundary Expansion, By-law/ Health & Social, Downtown Revitalization and Hot Springs Committees, which have been meeting since last September, are now finalizing their recommendations for inclusion in the OCP document. Once responses are compiled for a ten-question hot springs survey sent to residents, Ramona Mattix, Senior Planner at the RDCK, will begin drafting the OCP.

To date, committees have consulted with Trevor Sheppard of Delterra Engineering, RDCK Area K Director Paul Peterson, Chris Mason of BC Ambulance Service, Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren, Ministry of Forests Surveyor Rod Powers, Arrow Lakes Airport Users Group, Ken France of Canadian Mountain Holidays, Bob Toews of Helimed Canada Inc.

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

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP PUBLIC MEETING

(MUSIC FEST PROPOSED EXPANSION PROJECT)
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007 AT 7 PM
NAKUSP AUDITORIUM

The Nakusp Roots Music Society has proposed an Expansion Project involving the Village's parklands and sportsfields. This project would require significant changes to the park and surrounding area.

The public is invited to a presentation, to be given by the Music Fest Society, on Thursday, March 8th, at 7 P.M. in the Village Auditorium. Representatives of the Society will outline their proposal. They will have a scale model of the expansion for review, and will be available to answer your questions.

We encourage all residents to attend. Council is seeking your input to this proposal before any decisions are made. A questionnaire will be available at the meeting.

Village of Nakusp

Nakusp Warriors challenged by fast Castlegar players

submitted by Kris James

The Castlegar Rebels minor hockey team brought a fast game to Nakusp on Saturday, February 18. Castlegar got an early one about 10 seconds in but Jesse Cann took passes from Nathan Weibe and Kayla Yoshida and dangled out the defense to put one on the board for the Warriors. Castlegar took the lead once again only to be tied up by a point shot from Brody Simpson when he took a pass from Andrew Likness.

Cann picked up an assist with Ross Zelzenik, putting it five-hole on the goal keeper. Castlegar tied it up and took the lead but with goalie Terryn Stenseth pulled Cann passed to Kris James. James put it behind the net for Bryce Cann, who banked it off the other team and into the net. The final score ended in a tie on a very closely fought game.

Once again on Sunday a different Castlegar team came into town to face the Warriors. Jesse Cann took a pass from Nathan Weibe and scored but not before Castlegar put in the first two goals. Castlegar soon took a 3 goal lead but Cann put in another one with Andrew Likeness' help. Brody Simpson and Nic Watson made it possible for Kris James to put one in the mesh to make it 4-3. but with Terryn Stenseth pulled Castlegar put one in the empty net.

Nakusp Warriors win against US team

submitted by Kris James

On February 11, Nakusp Bantam Warriors headed to Kaslo to play the American Coeur d'Alene team.

Bryce Cann picked up Kris James' rebound to take the lead early. Later that shift James got a breakaway goal on a pass from Brody Simpson. For the next 30 minutes nothing happened until Andrew Likness picked up a rebound from Brody Simpson's shot and after a couple whacks put it in the back of the net. Terryn Stenseth only let in 2 before Nakusp took the victory 3-2.

Congratulations to the Nakusp Atom House team, which won the West Kootenay Banner this past weekend at the playoff tournament held in Nakusp.

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Tues-Fri 9:00-5:00
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The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the
BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

HUNGRY HILL

The sounds of Bluegrass

FRIDAY, March 2nd at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $20 Adults and $15 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under)

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Hospitality Host: The Old Grey Barn

Regional District of Central Kootenay
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NAKUSP LANDFILL ENGINEERING – DESIGN & OPERATIONS PLAN and LANDFILL CLOSURE PLAN

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) West Waste Management Sub-region covering the City of Castlegar, Electoral Areas I and J and a portion of Electoral Area H is requesting proposals from qualified agencies for a Landfill Closure Plan, Post-Closure Plan, and a long-term Development and Operations Plan for the Nakusp landfill situated within the vicinity of the Village of Nakusp.

A Proponent's site visit will be conducted at 11:00 am (local time), Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at the Nakusp Landfill site located at 1420 Hot Springs Road, Nakusp, BC.

Terms of Reference can be obtained from:

Engineering & Environmental Services Department
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
Phone: (250) 352-8161 / Toll Free: 1-800-268-7325
Fax: (250) 352-9300
Website: www.rdck.bc.ca

Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Instructions to Proponents **no later than 2:00 pm (local time), Thursday, April 12, 2007**. Faxed submissions or emailed (electronic) submissions will NOT be accepted.

Kaslo council, February 13: Marina Ridge presents plans for subdivision

by Jill Braley

•Vern Klapper of the Marina Ridge development and Peter Ward of Ward Engineering attended as a delegation.

The developer's current priority is to rezone a 3.92-acre piece at the foot of Larch Drive, on the point near Kaslo Bay Resort, from C1 Waterfront Commercial to R1 Residential. The plan is to subdivide the property into 12 lots and build 12 single family dwellings. The homes would be 1,200-2,000 square feet, two levels, with waterfront views. Klapper said the homes would be in the $350,000-$600,000 price range. Councillor Hewat pointed out that these expensive homes would not attract young families to Kaslo, and could in fact drive young families elsewhere. Hewat asked if there were plans to offer any lower income housing, as the rental market in Kaslo is not very strong. Klapper responded that he had approached the previous mayor a few years ago with an idea to offer lower income housing, and the mayor would not write a letter of support at that time. Mayor Holland mentioned that basement suites were one way to attain affordable housing.

Klapper said he is interested in working with the Village to provide green spaces and a public walkway to connect the Larch Drive development around the point to Kaslo Bay Park.

Ward said all the Marina Ridge lands are presently zoned C1 Waterfront Commercial, which allowed for the 30-unit condominium project that has just gone in. The project is in its first phase, with several phases to be completed over the next few years.

For one of the future phases, the Village asked the developer to provide an in-depth geotechnical report on the property, as the proposed building sites are surrounded by steep slopes. Council received the report at this meeting, and referred it to Golder Associates Ltd. for review.

•Councillor Jones' concerns about the costs associated with installing the third cell at the water treatment plant to provide water to the residences in the RDCK's Allen subdivision were referred to the Administration and Finance Committee for detailed review.

Jones feels the RDCK owes the Village of Kaslo about $70,000 for expenses related to the water upgrade. His concerns were forwarded to the RDCK. Council received a response to his concerns from Dawn Attorp of the RDCK, along with a memo from Rob Lang, now the Senior Utilities Technician for the RDCK and formerly the Public Works Foreman for the Village of Kaslo. Lang states that "none of the amounts claimed [by Jones] can be validated." Current Village Public Works Foreman Glen Walker agrees with Councillor Jones' assessment of monies owed to the village.

For the past two years, the Village and the RDCK have been negotiating a contract to supply water to the McDonald Creek water users in the Allen subdivision. The contract remains under negotiation.

•RDCK staff has prepared a report which looks at possibilities for providing fire protection to the currently unprotected communities in Area D between Schroeder Creek and Coffee Creek. This was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee to meet with all parties concerned.

•The Kaslo Hotel Development Corporation has applied for a Development Permit and Development Variance Permit (DVP) to renovate the former Mariner Inn. The corporation plans to create upscale hotel accommodations, a pub, restaurant and micro-brewery, and three condominium units for owner occupancy. The variance is to allow construction of a balcony over the sidewalk on Front Street and an increase in the height of the building's peak from 39.37 feet to 46 feet. Prior to construction taking place over the Village sidewalk, an encroachment agreement will be negotiated and registered on title. The facade design for the hotel was approved. A notice will be sent to all affected property owners and tenants.

•All agenda items relating to the Official Community Plan review were referred to the Planning & Development Committee and budget deliberations for recommendation to council.

•Council voted to support an application for LocalMotion grant funding by the Kootenay Lake Independent School Society for wheelchair accessibility to a maximum project cost of $4,000, subject to the receipt of a completed application form.

•The Village will submit an application for $5,000 for the planning stage of a Spirit Square, subject to the application reflecting a non-specific site.

•At a special meeting on February 6, council decided to make an application to the Provincial LocalMotion program, in partnership with the Kaslo Trailblazers Society, for $55,900 for construction of the Kaslo River pedestrian bridge. Council also decided to apply to the Towns for Tomorrow funding program for $128,000 for Kemp Creek Reservoir rehabilitation.

•Council received approval and conditions from the Ministry of Environment for the completion of the waterfront pedestrian walkway. The public works committee will receive a copy for action.

•The Village is looking into the feasibility of underground power, telephone and cable lines in the 400 block of Water Street and received some information from Telus regarding their requirements and costs. The Village would be responsible for 50% of the costs and for providing conduits and civil works. Telus would contribute 8% increase in each year from 2009 through 2011.

At a special meeting on February 20, council endorsed the library's request for the operating grant increases from the RDCK.

•Ernest Mason, from a real estate and property management company out of Nelson, wrote to express concern regarding the septic tank capacity for a service boxes and vaults required on public roads. The Village cost would change to 33 1/3% if it got funding under the Beautification Act for the project. Council voted to refer the information to administration and to the Planning & Development Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council approved three-year airport hangar leases for Mr. Scarlett and Mr. Agnew, ie: 2006 -$103.53; 2007 - $104.57; and 2008 - $105.62 and Mr. de Boer, ie: 2006 - $636.30; 2007 - $642.66 and 2008 -$649.09. Councillor Jones voiced strong objections to these rates, and said "the Village is not a charitable organization and the Village could have done a lot better."

•Council received and authorized a $2,500 funding request from Gillian Sanders for the current year to continue the Bear Smart program for 2007.

•Council received a request from the Kaslo & District Public Library to endorse the library's 2006-2011 budget. The library, the lowest funded library in the district, has asked the RDCK for a 5% funding increase (amounting to $1,350) in 2007 and 2008 and for an large family living at 626A Avenue and requested hook-up to the village sewer system. Mason stated the family will have to move if the problem cannot be addressed in the immediate future. Mason will be advised the Village is undertaking a complete OCP review in 2007 and expansion of the specified sewer system cannot be addressed in the immediate future.

•In response to two complaints regarding dogs, council will inform the complainants that the Village will continue to address animal control issues with the Animal Control Officer. Councillor Jones was opposed, stating it was the Village's responsibility to act on complaint letters. Council decided to send a letter to the Animal Control Officer, asking what action has been taken with regard to the complaints and whether a ticket has been issued.

•A letter will be sent to the organizers of the Kaslo Logger Sports suggesting they arrange for temporary accommodation for the event in 2007.

•Council received notice the provincial government will be introducing a new police tax for small communities and electoral areas as of January 1. The new police tax will operate similarly to the current school tax and will be identified as a separate line item on residents' property tax notices. The amount of the police tax for Kaslo was estimated to be about $38,000.

•Accounts Payable of $102,228 was approved.

Kaslo Community Forest to hold public meeting March 8

by Jan McMurray

A meeting took place February 15 between the two appointees of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society and the people who appointed them – Kaslo council and Area D Director Andy Shadrack. At the meeting, Village appointee Robert Mitchell and RDCK appointee Dave Russell provided an update on the society's initiatives.

Director Shadrack indicated that he was happy with the meeting. "They didn't tell me anything that I hadn't already gotten confirmed," he said, reporting that he had spoken with someone from the Ministry of Forests who said that the application for the Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) was proceeding very well. "Other than that, they are in the process of hiring a new manager and will have a public meeting on March 8. I know there are some concerns being expressed by past board members and I would encourage them to come out to the public meeting and get answers to their concerns."

Mitchell summarized the society's four main priorities in a telephone interview.

He said the position of operations manager was expected to be filled by the beginning of March. The society's PCFA application has "strong support from the Ministry," he said. Some revisions to the application are required, but the Ministry has suggested that the society hold off on those until results come in from the First Nations consultation, which is currently underway.

Another priority for the society is to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan, which is required for all future development work. Mitchell says this will be a job for the operations manager.

The fourth item is to move ahead with the two cutting permits the society holds under its current licence for logging operations in Kemp Creek and Shutty Bench. The Kemp Creek permit expires in June and the Shutty Bench permit expires in September, "so we want to move on those as quickly as possible." He said there is an option to extend the permits for a year.

However, Mitchell reported that it is unclear whether this work must be completed before the new PCFA licence can be issued. He says he is in discussion with the Ministry about this now.

Dynamic cello/piano duo to play in Kaslo

submitted

The Kaslo Concert Society presents cellist Denise Djokic and pianist David Jalbert in recital at St. Andrew's United Church on Sunday, March 25, at 2 pm. This dynamic young duo has been dazzling audiences across Canada.

"Djokic's meticulously perfect intonation, the unshaken evenness of her sound, the energy and exactness of her rhythm pour out of her cello as though she has awakened a goddess," raves The *Halifax Herald*.

Admission to this concert is by season subscription or single tickets at the door. Adult $20, Seniors $18, Students $10. School age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. For further information: Karen Pidcock, 353-7539, or David Stewart, 366-4623.

Kaslo council, February 20: Provincial building discussed

by Jill Braley

•A referendum on the purchase of the provincial building has been set for April 21.

In the meantime, the Village is working on getting information about the building that the public should have to make an informed decision. This information includes an environmental report of the building and grounds, a current inspection of the building and a business case for the purchase. Information already gathered, mostly quotes to get these reports done, is available at the Village office.

•Council received a memo from CAO Rae Sawyer, requesting approval for accountants Berg and Naqvi to reconcile the bank accounts for 2006 so they can begin the 2006 audit. Council approved the request to a maximum expenditure of $2,250. Sawyer's memo was referred to the Administration and Finance committee.

The Spirit of 2010 Kaslo Senior Novice Hockey Tournament took place on the weekend. The Kaslo Winter Hawks would like to thank the players and parents of the Castlegar Canucks, Castlegar Silver Bullets, Rossland/Trail Hurricanes, Nakusp Ice Demons, and the Nelson Flyers for their good sportsmanship, team play, and general good nature. A tournament is only as good as the teams involved. Congratulations to the Castlegar Canucks for winning the tournament.

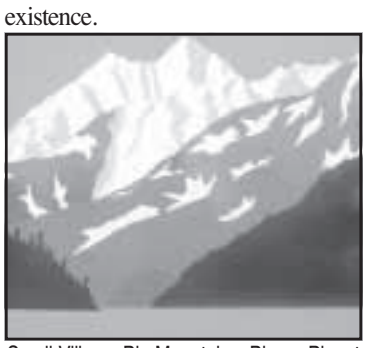
The Langham Art Gallery hosts artists Morse and Simington

submitted

The Langham is hosting art exhibitions by Randy Morse and Jonathon Simington, with an opening reception Friday, March 9, 7-9 pm.

Small Village. Big Mountains. Bigger Planet reflects Morse's fascination with the beauty of Kaslo's surroundings and the people who have chosen to live there. This ongoing series of acrylic paintings attempts to link residents with landscape in ways that will resonate with locals and outsiders alike. The exhibition is a rare opportunity to see Morse's work locally, as it is usually shipped off for exhibition to Edmonton, Vancouver, New York, etc.

Simington's show *By All Means*, has a range of images, from simple watercolour strokes, exploring the enjoyment of colour and form, to decorative pastel portraits of his dogs, smiling faces and flowers, and abstract multilayered collage and product package hijackings. Simington works with whatever materials he can find – markers, crayon and pencil, product packaging, lint, WCB manuals, faded shopping lists – the clutter of daily existence.



Small Village. Big Mountains. Bigger Planet reflects Randy Morse's fascination with the beauty of Kaslo's surroundings.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Bowing to the winds of spring

Growing up in Toronto, my mother used to like to refer to March as the windy month, even though I seem to recall wind happening pretty well any time of year. Maybe because the wind in March tends to get a little warmer and won't cause frostbite, people are able to spend more time in it and therefore figure there's more of it, right?

February 21st was one of those windy kind of days. Still a month of winter left on the calendar, but the sky was mostly blue and the air warmish and even the clouds had that puffy summer day look to them. I dug out my trusty hybrid bicycle and geared up for the first actual ride of the season along the narrow but fairly dry highway down to Silverton. I was dressed about the same as I do for ski tours except for boots and helmet and enjoyed riding to several little local errands.

En-route to Silverton from New Denver I realized how strong the wind was, coming from the south, requiring a little effort in those lower gears. Just a few cars passed and they could see me pretty easily in my red jacket and helmet. In Silverton I paid off a couple bills, grabbed a coffee and rode down to the boat launch to see if it was plowed to allow some early season boat launching. That all looked fine although the water sure is low and will be for some weeks yet. For now the lake temperature is just 3.3 degrees and to capsize any craft even near shore could well be fatal. Riding back north along the lake I decided that it was too windy and rough out on the lake but that things would be perfect for my kites.

To some folks flying a kite may seem non-productive and frivolous, both of which qualify it as a good way to spend a couple hours. Neither of my kites require any wild running or theatrics if the wind is brisk and I actually have them in the trunk of the car, handy for those times when the need and wind arises. Kites are fairly cheap, clean, low maintenance and cause few real injuries.

So I whipped down to Centennial Park in New Denver and after finding the onshore wind too cold on the beach at the point, elected to set up on the ball field where the famous Garlic Festival now takes place. My small parafoil kite needs just one line and once up high it swoops around and cavorts happily on its own. It packs into a tiny bag and is easy to take along on hikes or bicycle rides. The other kite is a two-lined affair and demands lots of attention, but will readily do all kinds of daring dives, loops and figure 8s.

I spent a pleasant hour there until the wind finally chilled me down too much. It's great to just stand there steering the kite and gazing past it to the rolling clouds and lofty snowy peaks flanking the valley. The steady south wind coming all the way up Slocan Lake made for some serious breakers slamming the shoreline – a continuous low but threatening roar. Most birds of prey – ravens in particular – seem to celebrate a good blow and once I had a playful pair of ravens try to catch my kite in flight.

Kites are a great idea. They're cheap and widely available and will clear airport security, too. Even if you don't cycle or sail or paddle you can enjoy the wind with your own colourful kite. You can fly them from a lawn chair. Unless you plan to get an airplane or come back in your next life as a raven, you may want to look into getting a kite and enjoying some unproductive time.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and prefers to ride with the wind rather than against it. 358-2133.

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on your refrigerator door for easy reference each time you get snacks during those TV commercials. Soon I'll be open again, offering fine service, helpful advice and a common sense approach to your needed repairs, tuneups and upgrades. Tons of parts and accessories - new and used - with NORCO brand bicycles available.

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Doc Spanner's Mototalk

with Jamie Barber

Increase in backcountry snowmobiling cause for concern

I've been reading the letters to the editor section of this newspaper with interest lately – particularly the issue with the increase in snowmobile traffic in the backcountry. It's hard not to notice this increased traffic and I have to say that I am in agreement with those that are concerned with this increase.

As many of you are aware, I am certainly not anti-snowmobile. In fact, I have owned one since about 1970 and have driven and fixed them for decades. I currently ride a fairly new Skandic and wouldn't like to be without it, as it is my ticket to the great backcountry skiing that this area has to offer. Just a few years ago, it was possible to have most of this country to ourselves. The skiing was great, and the few out-of-town riders one met were most welcome to share the area. It seems things have changed, and much as I would like to think that the backcountry areas for motorized recreation are unlimited in the Kootenays, this is far from the truth.

The traffic volumes have increased exponentially in the Enterprise Creek area, where we do most of our skiing. It is now uncomfortable to poke along the rutted and pockmarked trail, made difficult due to the many, many machines that now use this area. The local users have been careful to take their machines to the base of the good skiing area, leave the machine, and then skin up for the slog to the top of the mountains. The idea of powering up the mountain, creating a big racket and tracking up the beautiful snow pack was anathema. Snow machines were primarily used in this area to access the skiing, not as a recreational machine per se. There are areas set aside for trail riding such as the Lemon Creek area, and for the last 25 or so years that I have been using the backcountry in the Kootenays, the skiers and snowmobilers have by and large gotten along. I wonder if this rapport is now in danger of fading as more and more people put pressure on this sensitive resource.

I was dismayed to hear from Craig Pettitt, who reports that snow machines are now crossing over the passes above Timber Creek into Kokanee Provincial Park, where they are tearing up the area, disturbing the wildlife and trespassing on a very sensitive ecological system. We have been using much of this area for years for backcountry skiing, but are being pushed to the fringes due to the increase in motorized traffic. If all these people were skiers, there would be more than enough room for everyone, but the amount of powder a snow machine can cut up in a few hours would take days of concerted effort for a backcountry skier to track up.

I also like to believe that skiers make much less of an impact on the wildlife that inhabits this area in the winter. We are quiet, sensitive to the environment and tread lightly on this wonderful powdery landscape, quite different from the packs of loud machines that tear through the area in search of the speed thrill.

Will it take regulation to inhibit overuse of this precious natural resource, or will those interested in motorized backcountry travel come to the realization that they are treading on a sensitive carpet best kept intact through careful, light use?

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Don't forget the Leland

Here we are in the middle of our favourite month: Farch. Only two weeks away from the Ides of March. Strange goings on! Driving north from New Denver towards Nakusp, I was about to enter Hills when I saw, quite far ahead, a large animal on the highway. I thought it might be a small moose, but it turned out to be a large reddish-brown cow trotting merrily along in a southerly direction. It was in the correct lane with several vehicles behind it. I slowed to a crawl, and the cow trotted past me giving me a quizzical glance. Some people say everything happens for a reason. Why did this happen?

I arrived in Nakusp safe and sound and entered the Leland On The Lake Restaurant inside the Leland Hotel. The hotel, built in 1892, was once the focal point for landing boats on the Arrow Lake. There are some great old photos and artifacts in the lobby.

The restaurant has been renovated and is now one large room with huge windows affording a million dollar view of lake and mountains. Opposite the windows are big mirrors, so the place is light and airy with slow-moving fans and old fashioned lighting fixtures. It is a comfortable room. There is seating for 60 inside and 80 on the patio during the summer.

I was met by Bruno Dietrih, a very casual and relaxed Swiss fellow who, with his wife Mirium, run the place. They are starting their second year after having run the Halcyon Hot Springs restaurant for two years.

Let's get on with the food. Appys include samosas, various chicken plates, jalapeno poppers, brushetta, nachos, soup and three salads. Bring on the burgers and sandwiches. There's (my beloved) clubhouse, a loaded Leland Burger, mushroom-swiss burger, pesto chicken burger (yum), a salmon burger, veggie, and a schnitzel burger. Hearty meals start with chnopfli – a Swiss pasta with veggies and topped with Swiss raclette cheese. There's lasagna al forno, cannellone, salmon linguini, fish and chips, sockeye salmon, chicken with mushrooms, pork-loin schnitzel, bratwurst and the Leland NY steak. It is an impressive menu. I finally ordered the chicken clubhouse, but as I sat gazing out the window, I suddenly remembered THE COW! Ah ha! I raced into the kitchen and said "Hold the clubhouse, I think I'd like some beef – how 'bout the steak?"

And so it came to pass that I enjoyed a tender, juicy, melt in your mouth NY steak (medium rare of course) accompanied by herb roasted potatoes and veggies along with stuffed yellow tomatoes. The steak was covered in mushrooms and onions and had, I was told, Montreal Steak Spice Mix on it along with a secret ingredient to add 'just a bit more zing.' It was an excellent meal.

Meanwhile, I had a chat with the folks at the next table. They are visiting from Silver Star, a ski place near Vernon. They had the Assorted Salad Plate – which I could see was huge and tasty looking. They also had the Schnitzel Burger with fries, and they asked me to please mention that they very much enjoyed their meal. So.

Bruno tells me that the restaurant has had so many changeovers in management in recent years that the clientele has dwindled, and he wants the old customers back. He will accomplish this with a good menu and friendly service, and I can vouch for both of these. He and Mirium do 'in house catering' for weddings, birthdays, company retreats, etc. They also make special order cakes and other treats. Wednesday nights are WING NIGHTS and Saturdays feature a big buffet that changes its main courses every week. Always two choices of meat. In addition they are working on some new menu selections. A new menu will come out in the spring.

Winter hours are Tuesday thru Saturday 11-2 and 5-8:30. In the summer it's seven days a week from 8 am to 10:30 pm including a very good breakfast menu. The Leland On The Lake restaurant is fully licensed. Next time you're in Nakusp, don't forget The Leland!

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-Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: "To Serve & Protect –Wild, Zany + Industrial Strength Aprons from the Columbia Basin and Beyond" will be a travelling installation, a fashion event and perhaps a storytelling or two. Deadline December 31, 2007. Preliminary Show & Tell with Tea, September 23, 2007 at Hidden Garden Gallery, New Denver at 2 pm. Bring a dream to share. Contact 250-358-2180 or gretchenperk@yahoo.ca for info.

CARD OF THANKS

HELLO FROM JEAN BECK of Camrose, Alberta. My sincere thanks for all the sympathy and love cards – also phone calls – on the passing of my dear Alfred. To every one of you – THANKS – so thoughtful of you all and a big hug to all of you at Nakusp, Hills, Rosebery, New Denver, Slocan Valley, also Castlegar. Thank You! See you on my next trip to the Slocan Valley.

– Love Jean

A WARM AND WONDERFUL THANK YOU to the people of New Denver who gave me help when I needed it. Opened their hearts and their homes in welcome. Friendship, support, kindness offered. I'll miss you all, at the coffee shop, the bank, the post office, the hardware, the church, the grocery store, Brouse Lodge, golf course.

– Joan McLeod

COMING EVENTS

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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).

WATER by DIRECTOR DEEPA MEHTA showing at the Hidden Garden Gallery, Friday, March 2, 7:30 pm. By donation. Everyone welcome.

THURSDAY MARCH 1ST, The Hidden Garden Gallery presents touring Alberta Singer/Songwriters, Lara Yule Singh & Alexia Melnychuk. Taking turns on the stage with an assortment of instruments, guitars, banjo, shakers, melodica, and xylophone, these songbirds will delight you with their fresh folk-pop, folk-country sounds, beautiful voices, and very entertaining banter. (larayulesingh.com / alexiamelnychuk.com / 7:30PM-9:30PM / $5.00 Cover).

SOCIAL/BALLROOM DANCE. Second Saturday of the month. Playmor Hall, 7:30pm - mini lesson; dancing - 8pm-11pm. Singles Welcome! Teens Free!! www.dancingbeat.org

GARY FJELLGAARD AT THE LANGHAM in Kaslo Friday March 16th, 7:30 PM. Western Roots Music www.fjellgaard.bc.ca.

PASSMORE HALL is having their annual **PIE/GIFT BINGO** March 17 at 6:30. Come out, have fun and support your community. Donations of Pies/Gifts welcome.

THE STREAMKEEPERS 2007 AGM will be held on Monday, March 12 at 7:00 pm at the Vallican Heritage Hall in beautiful downtown Vallican BC. Everyone is Welcome

Take the TRASH ART Challenge! Create a work of art using RECYCLED MATERIALS. Enter by April 18. CASH PRIZES. Entry forms: slocanvalley.com/events.php, Valley businesses, or 226-7479. A Slocan Valley Arts Council event

INFANT SIGNING CLASS for all ages and caregivers. Modified ASL and Global Gesture. Each Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am. March 7: Intro Class - April 18. Hand & Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. 358-2562.

SUZUKI VIOLIN AND VIOLA STUDENTS of Miranda and Daphne Hughes will be presenting a solo recital on Sunday, March 4 at 2 pm at the Silverton Gallery. They are looking forward to sharing their music with the community. Free admission, but donations welcomed.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES ALTAR SOCIETY St. Patrick's Annual Bazaar, Tea & Bake Sale. Saturday, March 17, 2-3:30 pm, Legion Hall, Nakusp. Admission $2.

THE NELSON PEACE COALITION is holding a peace rally on Saturday, March 17, 11 am, at the Government Building on Ward Street to mark the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Please support this pan-Canadian Day of Action for Peace and our call for an end to the wars of occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq. For more information contact Grant Clubine at 505-9656, Sandra Nelken at 352-5274 or Don Currie at 355-2669.

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FOR RENT: LARGE 3 BEDROOM 1 bath 1500 sq ft apartment, 222 Lake Ave. Silverton, BC Available Dec. 15th. $500.00 plus utilities. Call 250-358-2293.

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HIRING NOW! Experienced planters for May and June. Local work Nelson/Slocan Valley and Nakusp. Evergreen Forest Services. 226-7611.

Community Counsellor Required – Counsellor required to work as part of a community-based counselling team until August 30th, 2007 in Kaslo and Area & East Shore of Kootenay Lake. The position is for 5 days per week. Recent experience in Family Support & Children's Mental Health Counselling & Victims' Services is required. MSW or BSW required with 3-5 years relevant clinical practice or equivalent. Resumes including references to: Administrator, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society, Box 546, Kaslo, BC, V0G1M0 or email office@nklcss.org or fax 250-353-7694. Position open until suitable candidate found. Only those short listed will be contacted. www.nklcss.org.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MODELS willing to pose nude for a group of artists in the Slocan Valley. All shapes, sizes and genders greatly appreciated. Pregnant women welcome too. Our Figure Studies dropins are held on Wednesdays 6:30-9:30 pm. This is occassional work, and we pay $60 a session. References available. Call Yvonne 359-8069.

NOTICES

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

LAKE SLOCAN PLAN COMMITTEE CALL FOR MEMBERS - A committee of community residents is being formed to research and recommend, to the North Slocan Valley Advisory Planning Committee, a plan for preservation and development of Lake Slocan foreshore and navigable waters. The committee is seeking diverse representation

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and will develop its recommendations during the coming 8 months.

Interested residents are asked to submit their name, phone and email contacts to Barb Yeomans, 358-7765, yeomansb@netidea.com or Dave Wahn, 352-8159, dwahn@rdck.bc.ca BY MARCH 10 2007.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

KIDS SOCCER REGISTRATION - Now underway for teams from Slocan to Crescent Valley. Call for details

SEED EXCHANGE DAY - Sunday, March 4th Vallican Whole Community Centre. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission by donation

REPTILES OF THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR - Monday, March 5th Brent Kennedy School. 7 p.m.

WINLAW HALL ART & DANCE PROGRAMS: Beginning Feb.22nd (Thurs.)-Painting,Drawing,Composition - 9:00 a.m; Improv dance- 7:00 p.m. Phone 226-0021. Beginning March 7th(Wed.): Life Drawing Introduction - 9:00 a.m.; Calligraphy & Inkbrush - 1:30 p.m.; African Dance - 5:30 p.m. All classes on-going until May 30th.

BASICS OF SLAUGHTERING - With Dave Anderson. Wed. March 14th. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Vallican Whole Community Centre. Free.

226-0008

Coffee Creek/Enterprise Creek bridge projects update

by Jan McMurray

In our last issue, we incorrectly reported that the Coffee Creek bridge replacement project had been postponed. The project shut down for a longer period than expected over Christmas because of avalanche concerns in January. However, Surespan Construction is back on the job, which is still scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Bob Corey, Project Manager, Ministry of Transportation in Nelson called to let us know that it is in fact the Enterprise Creek bridge replacement project that has been postponed due to the unusually high snowpack this year, which could create dangerously high levels in Enterprise Creek during spring runoff. This project is scheduled to begin on or around July 3 and to be completed by October 31.

Help offered at income tax time

The Canada Revenue Agency Community Volunteer Tax program is designed to help those with lower incomes to complete and file their income tax returns. The volunteer co-ordinator in the Nakusp district is Marilyn Boxwell. Contact her at 265-0075 for tax package pickup/drop-off locations, tax clinic information or referral to a toll-free Canada Revenue Agency service representative, or to arrange personal assistance, offered by one of the local tax team members on a free and confidential basis. Canada Revenue Agency has set income ceilings for this program at $25,000 for singles, $30,000 for couples, $30,000 plus $2,000 per child for families.

Notes from the RCMP

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

Nakusp

•The Nakusp RCMP detachment was advised by a resident of Nakusp that someone had tried to steal his utility trailer. The thief backed up a pickup truck, and attempted to hook it up to the trailer. The theft was interrupted by the homeowner making himself visible. The pickup left the area too quickly to obtain license plate numbers. This is a reminder to owners of quads, snowmobiles, trailers, etc. to make sure your property is secure.

Kaslo

•The Kaslo RCMP is investigating the theft of several CDs. On the evening of Saturday February 17 at the ambulance station, unknown person(s) entered an unlocked vehicle and stole 20 to 30 CDs. Anyone with information is asked to call the Kaslo RCMP or Crimestoppers.

•On February 19, the Kaslo RCMP received a complaint of a dog chasing deer in the area of Wardner and 9th Streets. As a result of the investigation, the dog owner was charged under the Wildlife Act for allowing the dog to unlawfully pursue game.

•Kaslo RCMP would like to remind drivers to continue to use caution while driving, as road surfaces can still be unpredictable.

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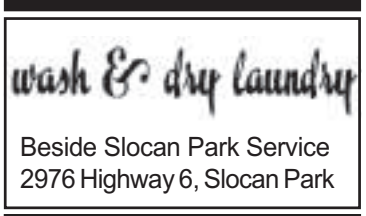

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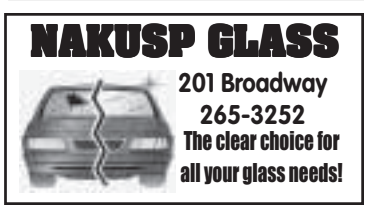

RDCK board, February 24: Mixed plastics recycling coming soon

by Jan McMurray

•The board moved towards providing mixed plastics recycling at all the recycling depots in the West Waste Management area, which includes the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys. The board is willing to spend $100,000 per year to deliver the expanded recycling program. The service depends on negotiations with Waste Management of Canada, the company that the RDCK has contracted to provide recycling services in our area.

•Director Holland's idea of establishing Local Government Homeowner Grants will be investigated further. RDCK staff was directed to work with Director Holland to prepare a proposal for Local Government Homeowner Grants to be forwarded to the Association of Kootenay/Boundary Local Governments for consideration.

•The RDCK will do a feasibility study to look at a flood protection service for residents in the Indian Point Road area of the Slocan Valley. This was the area most impacted by last spring's flood. The study will assess the potential for ongoing flooding and provide options and costs for flood protection. With this information, residents will be able to decide whether or not they would be willing to be taxed for flood protection. The decision to undertake this study comes from a request from Indian Point resident Marcia Braundy, who made a case that ongoing flooding in this area is very possible in a presentation to the RDCK Rural Affairs Committee.

•RDCK staff has drafted a document outlining the process for the District to acquire water systems. The draft was forwarded to the Ministry of Community Services for review.

•The board received notice from the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) that the Glacier/Howser independent power project is in the early stages of the environmental assessment process. The EAO invited the RDCK to participate in the review of the project. The board agreed.

•The board decided to send a letter to Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell regarding the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan. The letter will advise that the RDCK board is committed to the recovery of mountain caribou and other species at risk and supports a realistic and feasible plan that will balance environmental, social and economic expectations and which will include consultation with local industry and the community. The letter will also request that the government consult local communities and industry in the preparation of the needed analyses so that informed decisions can be made on a caribou recovery plan.

•BC Hydro grants-in-lieu will now be lumped in with Grants in Aid. They will all be simply called "grants" from now on. Directors are encouraged to give grants of a minimum of $250.

•Rural directors will be paid an office allowance of $400 per month to offset the costs of running home offices.

•Marc Septav, the alternate director for Slocan, was appointed to the Southern Interior Communities Mountain Pine Beetle Steering Committee.

Area D

•Staff was asked to provide a brief preliminary report on developing a plan to give Kootenay Lake residents advance notice of possible flooding due to operations at Duncan or Libby dams during extreme weather events.

Area H

•An application from the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society for $14,619 from the Community Tourism Program was approved.

Area K

•The bylaw amendment that would allow for the re-zoning of property owned by Walter and Shirley Coates about one km north of the Village of Nakusp off Hot Springs Road was given two readings and referred to a public hearing. The owners would like to re-zone an approximately 45-acre piece of their property from agricultural to community residential for the purposes of creating 24 lots. The first phase would see eight lots created, with a community water system. Phases II and III would see 16 more lots and a community sewer system. Before the re-zoning is finalized, the Coates will need approval from the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Transportation. The RDCK has also decided to withhold final adoption of the bylaw until a buffer is installed between the proposed development area and the adjacent farm property. A further complication for the Coates is that the Agricultural Land Reserve boundary is under dispute and could impact phases II and III of their proposed development.

•The bylaw amendment that would allow for the re-zoning of property owned by Jodi and Dean McLean on Lower Arrow Lake south of Fauquier was given two readings and referred to a public hearing. The McLeans' 48-acre property is currently zoned agricultural. They would like to re-zone a 7.5-acre portion in the northwest corner of the property to small scale tourism commercial. They plan to build three cabins for tourism accommodation, and a single family dwelling. They would like to re-zone the rest of the property to country residential. The property does not have direct access to the public road system.

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The Vallican Whole Community Centre
Thanks everyone who supported & came out to the 2nd annual B.A.R.T.S. CANTINA fundraiser
Your donations, hard work, auction bids, & community spirit raised $2.5K to improve THE VALLICAN WHOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE.
Silent Auction Donations:
Ann Swanson, Bob Inwood, Cindy Collins, Capitol Theatre, Charles Coughlan, Dale Norman, Dan Armstrong, Don & Shirley Munro, Elderbee Greens, FLIKS, Four Seasons Greenhouse, Frog Peak Café, Gaia Foods, George Perriere, Jennie's Book Garden, Joanne & Kaila Ellis, Jules Delaney, Kenyon McGee Law Corp., Kuris Raits, Laura Tiberti, Little House Collectibles, Lydia Kania, Marcia Braundy, Mavis Jemielita, Max the Jeweller, Moe Lyons, Olin McKay, Polestar Press, Prestige Inn Nelson, Rustic Creations, Stillpoint Pottery, Sono Nis Press, Teri Jarrett, Touchstones Museum, Valley View Golf Club, Westside Small Engines.
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Don't forget our famous
ST PAT's BREAKFAST - Sunday March 18
at the Passmore Lodge. 9am-noon. 226-0097.

Paul Gibbons to hold release party for new CD

submitted

A new CD called *Dream On*, featuring the meditative sounds of the bansuri, has just been released by Paul Gibbons, also known locally as 'Garbanzo' from his stage name in theatre and clowning. The bansuri is a bamboo flute from India with a very warm, fluid and serene sound.

"It is an ancient instrument of great simplicity – just a hollow piece of reed with six or seven finger holes – but with practice it can be used to play the complexities of Indian, Western, and other world music," he explains.

'Garbanzo' has always preferred the sound of a bamboo flute to that of a metal one, and has been playing the bansuri for 25 years. His flutes are made in Mysore, India by Ravishankar Mishra.

The songs on *Dream On* are based on Eastern scales combined with gentle percussion and the ambience of atmospheric electronics. Reports are in that it can help you chill, calm your kids before bedtime, soothe your cats, put you in the yoga mood and let you, well – dream on.

For more information or to purchase, call 358-2332. Available in New Denver at Raven's Nest, in Silverton at Gaze 'n Chat and Horsefeathers, and soon at other Slocan Valley locations.

Nelson's Capitol Theatre hosts Canadian FLIKS Festival

The Canadian FLIKS Festival rolls out the best in Canadian film March 8-10 at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson. The festival's themes and locations truly span the globe this year – from the depths of the oceans, to the top of the world, to the Arctic Circle, to the far reaches of the Orient.

Festival guest and gifted underwater photographer Rob Stewart opens the festival Thursday, March 8 with the Kootenay premiere of his beautiful and hard-hitting documentary, *Sharkwater*. Not your average underwater film, *Sharkwater* is a plea for international cooperation to save that most feared of marine creatures, the shark, from catastrophic over-fishing. Filmed and screened in Hi Definition, *Sharkwater* was voted one of the top 10 films by the Toronto Film Fest group.

Just re-released after being unavailable for 30 years, *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*, Canada's first feature film to win an Oscar, screens Friday, March 9. The film follows world champion skier Yuichiro Miura and his team as they overcome frostbite, icefalls, illness, and even death to ascend and then descend Mount Everest.

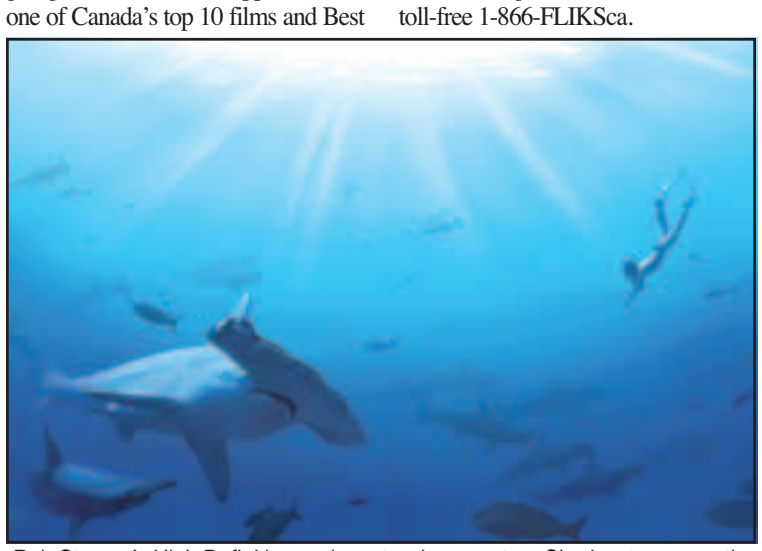
Vic Sarin's juicy period drama *Partition* headlines Saturday night. It's a beautiful, tragic story of forbidden love, set in the time of India's separation from Pakistan. It stars Kristen Kreuk, who may be attending the festival with director Sarin.

On the Trail of Igor Rizzi also screens Friday night and is part of the *Spotlight on Quebec* program. If you're a fan of Jim Jarmush or Aki Kaurismäki, this dry, humorous film about a guy going nowhere won't disappoint. Voted one of Canada's top 10 films and Best First Canadian Feature at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The Saturday matinee is *The White Planet*, a documentary for the whole family about the fantastically unfamiliar world of all four Arctic seasons. Also screening on Saturday afternoon is *The Journals of Knud Rasmussen*, the much awaited second feature by the director of *Atanarjuat the Fast Runner*.

Dramatic features *A Stones' Throw* and *The Secret Life of Happy People* round out this year's festival.

Film tickets and festival passes are on sale February 25 at Otter Books in Nelson, Sunnyside Naturals in Kaslo, and Pete's TV in Castlegar. For more information go to www.fliks.ca or call toll-free 1-866-FLIKSca.


Rob Stewart's High Definition underwater documentary Sharkwater opens the Canadian FLIKS Fest March 8-10 at Nelson's Capitol Theatre.