The Valley VOICE

Free!

Volume 16, Number 6 March 28, 2007 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**
"Your independently-owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

Wet March weather causes mudslides, road closures and flooding

by Jan McMurray

Heavy rainfall this month has caused mudslides and flooding around the province, and our area has seen its fair share of it. There have been mudslides in the Vallican and Coffee Creek areas, damage to a street in the Ainsworth area, and minor flooding incidents throughout the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK).

"It could be a busy spring," said RDCK Emergency Co-ordinator Terry Warren. "We haven't even got to freshet runoff yet – that's usually in May-June. There is still a lot of snow up there."

A slide came down off Perry Ridge in Vallican around 10 pm on March 12, travelled across Little Slocan River Road, and spilled into the parking lot at the Vallican Whole.

"Once again residents of the Slocan Valley have been awoken by the roar of a slide coming down the mountainside," said Marilyn Burgoon of Perry Ridge Water Users Association. She says this is the fourth significant slide off Perry Ridge in the past 10 years, and "this one was particularly frightening, as it was at night."

The mud and debris on the road blocked access to about 20 homes. Three families voluntarily vacated their homes within the immediate vicinity that evening, and were able to return the next day. The Vallican Whole School was fortunately closed for the March break. There were no reports of injuries or of structural damage.

Passmore volunteer firefighers, RDCK Emergency Co-ordinator Terry Warren, and representatives from YRB (highways maintenance), the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Transportation all responded. Passmore volunteer firefighter Craig Sapriken said the fire department was called out at about 10:30 pm, responding to a 911 call from a resident. He said representatives from the other agencies were on site in very good time. Many stayed until about 2:30 am, and some were back again at 7 am.

Mud and debris on the road was removed by a loader the next day to establish single lane alternating traffic. MoT reported it took five days to restore two-lane traffic because the material needed to dry out before crews were able to move it.

"It was the consistency of jello pudding, and over half a metre deep," recalled one of the Ministry of Environment officials. Warren reported that it was two-and-a-half feet deep in some places.

Sapriken says a helicopter came in the next day to determine where the slide began. "It started a lot higher than anyone had anticipated, so the slide picked up a lot of speed as it made its way down. It left a mud wall four metres high on each side of the slide."

Warren said that according to the geotechnical engineer, the slide started at around the 3400 foot level, and created its own creek. "It blocked up a ravine, backed up into another ravine, saturated that and then finally let go," he related. "Now that it's come down and created a creek, it would be prudent for residents in that area to do ditching and berm with rip-rap. It's the responsibility of private landowners, unfortunately."

Warren says as the slide was winding its way down the mountain, "it compromised many trees up there, so there could be more coming down."

Burgoon said this most recent landslide "is the very reason Perry Ridge Water Users Association has called for protection of Perry Ridge. More than ever the government needs to take preventative action and disallow development on an already unusually unstable terrain." She says the slide is another indication that Slocan Valley hazard mapping is essential to any planning, especially on Perry Ridge.

Sandbags are available at all fire departments within the RDCK. Warren says to check out www.rdck.bc.ca for more information, including how to sandbag. He also directs people to www.pep.bc.ca for more information. "Everyone should be ready to fend for themselves for 72 hours," he says. "The Vallican slide is an example of 19 homes being cut off overnight."

Another slide just north of Coffee Creek early on March 12 caused a portion of Hwy 31 to be closed until the afternoon of March 13. Crews were working on cleaning up the slide on the evening of March 12 when another slide came down and delayed the clean-up. The highway initially opened to single lane alternating traffic and was restored to two-lane traffic on the afternoon of March 15. These incidents did not affect work on the Coffee Creek bridge project, according to Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Jeff Knight.

Heavy rainfalls also caused the closure of Ainsworth's South Street between Terrace and Hanson Streets. The road will be closed until further notice. The shoulder sloughed away and may require extensive work. Homeowners are accessing their homes via the back road.

Warren also reported flooding at a property in Burton on March 20, and said that ditching and culvert work are being done there. Also, two days before the Vallican incident, the creek bank in the Brandon area of Slocan washed away and put a home at risk. "With the help of the Village of Slocan, we were able to get in there and take care of it," he said.

Around the time of the Vallican event, a large flow of water crossed Hwy 31A as well at the 3-mile gravel pit west of Kaslo. The road did not need to be closed. Water was diverted quickly from the road surface.

PHOTO CREDIT: JEREMY ADDINGTON

Workers attempt to clear Little Slocan River Road the day after the mudslide off Perry Ridge in Vallican.

Nakusp snowboarders have exceptionally exciting season

by Jan McMurray

The past month has been super busy and super exciting for Nakusp's three top snowboarders. Jesse McDonald, Carly Thorp and Alex Thorp have competed at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, the provincial championships at Big White, the high school championships at Whistler, the nationals in Banff and will go to the NorAm event at Cypress March 31 and April 1.

Alex, in grade 10, is the youngest anyone can be to compete and be ranked according to international standards. At this point in the season, he ranks 49th in Canada. Jesse, in grade 11, ranks 12th in Canada and 59th in the world and Carly, who graduated from NSS last year, ranks 13th in Canada and 77th in the world.

"The kids are doing awesome," said Merrilla Thorp, mother of Carly and Alex. "It's a hugely competitive field, and just the fact that all three of them have qualified for every event they've competed in this year is really good, let alone how well they've been placing."

In Whitehorse at the Canada Winter Games, in the bitter cold, Carly finished sixth and Jesse finished ninth out of 10 women, while Alex finished ninth out of 18 men.

Merrilla travelled to Whitehorse as manager for the Canada Winter Games snowboard team, and she said when people told her it was unseasonably cold during the games, she "kind of believed them." She reported temperatures of -40°C every day. "The hill usually stops operating at -25°C, but they carried on because of the games," she said. The chair lift does not operate in those temperatures, so snowboarders had to take the rope tow and T-bar and then catch a snowmobile ride to the top of the giant slalom course.

Next up were the provincials at Big White, where the weather again played havoc with the event. Competitors could only finish their timed trials and could not do the actual races. Carly finished third and Jesse finished ninth out of 20 women, and Alex finished 36th out of 43 men.

This provincial event at Big White marked the end of the season for the provincial team, and overall provincial results were tallied. Overall, Jesse finished third and Carly finished seventh out of 34 women in the snowboard cross series. Alex finished 32nd out of 69 men.

They then went to the high school provincials at Whistler, where Jesse and Alex each placed second overall in the giant slalom events. There were 82 men and 66 women competing at this event. Official results are not yet available and are expected to be released in early April.

At the nationals at Sunshine in Banff, "they competed with some of the top snowboarders in the world," said Merrilla. The results are more than impressive. In the junior snowboard cross event, Jesse finished second and Carly fifth out of 18 women. Alex finished 23rd out of 34 men. In the senior snowboard cross event, Jesse placed third and Carly placed 12th out of 27 women. Alex placed 33rd out of 52 men. Carly and Alex also competed in the slalom events, but the results were not available by press time.

What's next for these snowboarding prodigies? After the Nor-Am Cup races this weekend, all three will try out for next year's provincial team on April 6. Jesse may be selected for the junior world championships, to be held April 10-14 in Austria. The decision will be made this week.

Jesse McDonald placed 3rd for the overall - BC Snowboard SBX Series winners.

Carly Thorp placed 3rd at the BC Snowboardcross Series Final - March 5th.

Stream of Consciousness

Use curtains and shades on your windows, to keep the heat in during the winter. Install double pane windows with a low emissivity "Low E" coating. Seal cracks and gaps around windows and doors with insulation kits and weather stripping, and get the caulking gun out to seal any cracks and gaps in your walls. Home heating is the single largest energy draw in your home, and those drafts around the house are among the worst culprits.

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Former Nakusp business *The Time Warp* launches website

by Art Joyce

Friends and customers of The Time Warp who long for the days when they could shop locally for classic LPs and rock merchandise, mourn no longer! As of March 21, your favourite music store is online at www.thetimewarp.ca.

"We hope everybody who loved our store in Nakusp will visit our site and get in touch again," says Time Warp co-owner Terry Charter.

Owners Terry Charter and Sylvia Sommer had first moved the business to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, but soon decided the market wasn't right. Next stop on The Time Warp express was Brandon, Manitoba, which proved to have the magic combination all businesses long for: location, location, location. Charter and Sommer found an affordable retail space in a downtown mall and discovered the city of 45,000 is home to two record swaps per year. Brandon is also home to classic rock station KX 96.1, providing another ideal outlet for promoting The Time Warp.

Represented on the website will be some 2000 classic rock albums on vinyl, or about 10% of the store's collection of 20,000. More will be added as LP covers are scanned. Charters uses a careful system of grading to assess the condition of every LP from vinyl to cover. Prices vary based on condition, year of release, rarity of edition, etc. The Time Warp discounts prices by 25% below 'book value.' Not satisfied with the digital remasterings of your copies of *Dark Side of the Moon* or *Back in Black*? Vinyl lovers can now order their favourite albums in brand-new pressings, which vary in price from $25 to $125. Turntable or cartridge wearing out? The Time Warp has those too.

The Time Warp is planning an expansion of their retail space from 2000 to 4000 square feet (the Nakusp store was 1000). There will be an entire wall of A-Z rock t-shirts and 'hoodies,' representing nearly 400 rock bands, which can be ordered from the website. There's also glassware, wall art, flags, caps and kids' wear – almost anything from your favourite bands.

"One thing I'd really like to say is how much we miss everybody in the valley and all our loyal customers," says Charters. "Our long term plan is to come back one day."

CONTRACT

SILVERTON MUNICIPAL CAMPGROUND ATTENDANTS

The Village of Silverton has need of the services of a team of two campground attendants for the period May 01 to September 30, 2007.

The Village agrees to:
- pay the team of two contractors a remuneration to be 50% of all revenue collected from camping fees;
- provide cleaning supplies, washroom supplies, garbage bags, light bulbs, receipt books;
- provide garbage pick-up at least twice weekly.

The Contractors agree to:
- maintain campground in a clean and safe condition using own equipment;
- collect camping fees and receipt at least twice daily;
- provide and deliver firewood at a cost to campers;
- collect garbage from campsites daily and prepare for twice weekly garbage pick-up;
- check and clean washrooms twice daily and replenish supplies;
- provide basic tourist information.

Miscellaneous:
- the contractors agree to operate independently as their own business;
- the contractors agree to apply for and obtain a Village Business Licence;
- the contractors will be on site between 8 – 10 am, 4 – 6 pm and 9 – 9:30 pm daily.
- the contractors will receive all of the income generated from the sale of firewood .

For a complete description of the roles and responsibilities of the Campground Attendants, please visit the Village Office or our website at: www.silverton.ca

Those wishing to submit an application should submit a resume with cover letter to:

THE VILLAGE OF SILVERTON
421 LAKE AVENUE,
PO BOX 14
SILVERTON, BC V0G 2B0
Or by E-mail to: cao@silverton.ca

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:00 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007.

The Village of Silverton appreciates all applications; however, only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Trash to Treasure Day launched in RDCK and RDKB

submitted

In celebration of Earth Day, the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary are pleased to organize Trash to Treasure (T2T) Day on Saturday, April 21, 2007. As part of this event, all residents are encouraged to participate by 'reusing.'

T2T Day is a zero-waste focused event, which provides residents with an opportunity to give away unwanted but useful household items to those who may find some value in them.

On Saturday, April 21 residents are encouraged to place any unwanted household items (e.g. books, bicycles, clothing, toys, furniture, etc.) together at the front of their properties. Residents should clearly display a T2T sign so that treasure hunters will know which items are available for the taking (a pre-designed sign is available for download off the RDCK website). At the end of the day all remaining items must be returned to their respective residences.

Participating in T2T Day is easy and encourages waste reduction by diverting unnecessary waste from the region's landfills. Best of all, it's free!

For more information please visit the RDCK or RDKB websites at www.rdck.bc.ca or www.rdkb.com.

First Roots, First Fruits: an evening celebrating the Sinixt in Nelson

submitted

Come celebrate the return of spring with an evening of music, performance and fine art to benefit the Sinixt First Nation on Saturday March 31 at the Legion Hall in Nelson.

Traditionally, Sinixt people sang and danced in early spring to express their gratitude to plant foods such as the glacier lily, spring beauty, tiger lily and huckleberry, all dug or gathered annually in these mountains by Sinixt women and families. The First Roots, First Fruits ceremony expressed a Sinixt belief that without gratitude there can be no abundance.

Bessie Wapp, Pauline Lamb, The CBC Trio (Carol Street, Bo Conlan and Cheryl Janzen) and The Sleight of Hand Choir are just some of the Kootenay performers who will mark this traditional time with a contemporary and artistic flair. This event will also provide an opportunity to enjoy a Sinixt story told by Taress Alexis, and to learn more about Sinixt culture and this region's local history.

Painting, ceramics, printmaking and photography will also be a part of the celebration, and a silent art auction featuring the works of more than 30 artists from all over the Kootenays will round out the evening. Auction bidding opens at 6 pm, and closes at 11 pm, and the concert begins at 7 pm sharp.

Please join us at this no alcohol, family-friendly event. Tickets are available at the door or in Nelson at Otter Books, on a sliding scale of $0 to $25.

West Kootenay EcoSociety to host climate change conference

submitted

The West Kootenay EcoSociety will host a two-day conference in Nelson – Climate Change: Exploring Regional Solutions. The conference opens the evening of April 23 with a public talk by Guy Dauncey at the Capitol Theatre from 7 - 9:30 pm. The second day runs from 9 am to 5 pm at Mary Hall, on the Nelson Selkirk College campus. The program will bring together experts working on climate change with key community members, municipal and government workers.

Futurist Guy Dauncey is a popular BC author and speaker who brings with him a host of solutions. He will be joined by Dr Eric Steig, a University of Washington professor who will speak on scientific consensus.

Day two is an all day workshop with featured speakers from the University of British Columbia and University of Washington. Representatives from various communities will present and discuss solutions in the morning. In the afternoon the conference will break into facilitated groups covering food, transportation, energy efficiency, waste, regional government initiatives and ways of engaging the public on this critical issue.

"We'll also be exploring a national program for municipalities, 'Partners for Climate Protection Program' (PCPP) and hear success stories from several communities, from Whistler to Nakusp and even as far as Austria by video link," said Dr. Mel Reasoner, one of the EcoSociety organizers. "There are 135 municipalities across Canada who have signed on to the PCPP program."

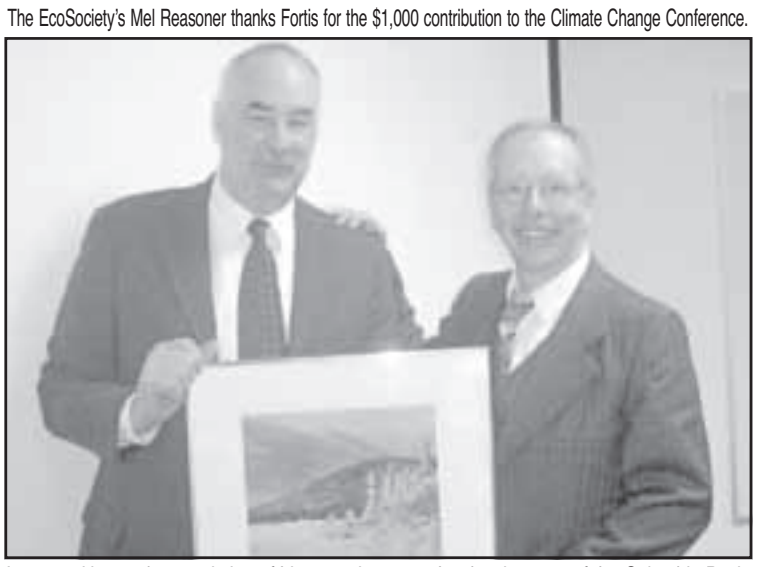
Dr. Reasoner is a paleo-climatologist now living in Nelson. His recent work has been in the Alberta and US Rockies on glaciers and past environ-mental changes. Reasoner says the goal of the conference is give the public a perspective on climate change and hear from communities who are already pro-active.

"We've got a lot to learn, and in my opinion, we shouldn't waste any time."

Registration is limited to 150. Lunch is provided and the registration fee is $50 for the day. "We are amazed and gratified at the support we have received so far," said Reasoner.

Major funders to date are Fortis, BC Hydro, The Tides Foundation, Nelson Toyota and Terasen Gas.

The EcoSociety's Mel Reasoner thanks Fortis for the $1,000 contribution to the Climate Change Conference.



In recognition and appreciation of his commitment to the development of the Columbia Basin Trust, Josh Smienk was presented with an original watercolour, painted by local artist Bruce Martin, at the RDCK meeting on March 24. Smienk has been both the chair of the CBT board and the RDCK's nominee since the Trust's inception in 1995. His term expires March 31 and he will not seek re-appointment. RDCK Chair Gary Wright thanked Smienk for his vision in helping to found the Trust and for his longstanding commitment to the organization.

Correction

Our coverage of the Kaslo & District Community Forest public meeting held March 8 contained three inaccuracies. It was noted that the new board of KDCFS has created a 21 page summary of objectives for the PCFA. In fact this is a reference to the management plan which was submitted as part of the PCFA application on August 31, 2006, one month prior to the most recent AGM. It was also reported erroneously that the value of a silviculture contract was $53,200. This figure, in fact, refers to the total amount budgeted for silviculture in 2007. The statement "A planned cut of 6,000 cubic metres is projected to bring in log sales of $1,590,650" was also reported in error. The planned cut for 2007 more nearly approaches 23,000 cubic metres.

New government bill seen as end-run around Jumbo opposition

by Art Joyce

Opponents of the Jumbo Glacier Resort in the East Kootenay say the government is planning to pass a bill with a clause that could remove authority for local decision-making on the controversial resort. More than 1400 members of the Jumbo Creek Conservation Society (JCCS), along with Wildsight, the West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, and the Nelson EcoSociety have formed a coalition to write BC Premier Gordon Campbell with concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

Bill 11, the Community Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2007, is an otherwise inoffensive legislation, says Norm Macdonald, MLA for Columbia River-Revelstoke. However, the devil is in the details: clause 14 allows for the creation of a 'resort region,' and clause 15 says this can be created directly from an order-in-council of the provincial cabinet. This could provide the resort promoters with a huge loophole, says Dave Quinn of Wildsight, an East Kootenay environmental group.

"It seems custom designed for the real estate development of Jumbo."

In March 2006, the Regional District of East Kootenay voted 13-2 against a motion to ask the Province to take over final decision on the proposed Jumbo resort. Macdonald says Bill 11's clause 15 seems like an end-run around the RDEK vote.

"I'm opposed to it for two reasons," explains Macdonald. "One, a majority of citizens are clearly opposed, and this has been a contentious issue for a long, long time. And two, it takes a process that's local, public and predictable and moves it to a cabinet decision. The BC government in 2004 made a promise to allow the RDEK decision-making power for zoning, a promise it appears to be breaking."

"We want to flood the Premier's office with letters letting him know that residents of the area plan to hold him and his government to their promise," says Quinn.

The 'resort region' clause says it can be created only if an area includes a municipality, but is otherwise unclear in its definition. Macdonald says the government seems to be aligning the proposed 'resort region' with the municipality of Radium Hot Springs, which has expressed support for Jumbo Glacier Resort. This despite the fact that the resort area is geographically closer to Invermere, whose mayor and citizens have made it clear they oppose the resort. Some 374 residents, or nearly 15% of the community, have written expressing opposition to the resort.

The Pheidias corporation's own environmental assessment report for the proposed resort acknowledges that 91% of submissions received from the public "were expressions of opposition to the project." Macdonald says since news of Bill 11's contentious clause broke, he has been inundated with 100 e-mails, and only four or five are in favour. He says that Liberal government minister George Abbott in 2004 said the communities most impacted should be the ones to have a say in the matter.

"Better decisions will be made at the local level than from Victoria," Macdonald says.

Further muddling the picture is clause 18, which discusses another zoning category, a 'mountain resort improvement district.' This zone can only be established if "approved by the board of the regional district in which the area of the proposed improvement district is located." What is unclear is whether 'resort region' and 'mountain resort improvement district' are synonymous.

Macdonald says Bill 11 is slated for discussion in the upcoming session of the BC Legislature and the NDP intend to call for clarification regarding clause 15.

SO...COME UP TO THE LAB AND SEE WHAT'S ON THE SLAB!

Alice Cooper
Led Zeppelin
Pink Floyd
Beatles
AC/DC
Metallica
Slipknot
Misfits
Guns 'n' Roses
Marilyn Manson
Iron Maiden

Check Out "The House of Rock!"

www.thetimewarp.ca

Nelson rallies for Peace under clouds of war and rain

submitted

Over 150 people attended a peace rally in the pouring rain on Saturday, March 17. It was sponsored by the Nelson Peace Coalition and marked the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Local singers Holly and Jon, The Raging Grannies, and Poets Against War bard Art Joyce performed for the rain-soaked crowds. Peace & Conflict instructor Duncan Grady, West Kootenay Women's Association Coordinator Kathleen Luchtan, local war resister Ryan Johnson and MP Alex Atamanenko spoke out for peace in our lives and the world's, a return to a role of peacekeeping under UN control for Canada's armed forces, and an end to Canada's role in armed conflict in Afghanistan, by beginning negotiations between all parties, including the Taliban, for a settlement.

The gathering also passed a resolution calling on the Canadian government to demand the US end its illegal occupation of Iraq and cease any plans to go to war with Iran.

PHOTO CREDIT: ART WEEKS

Sally and Barry LaMare of New Denver and Dick Vission of Nelson were among the crowds at the rally for peace in Nelson, March 17.

Calling all

Tea Lovers

FAT KAT'S SWEETS invites you to join us on Saturday, April 7, from 2 to 3 pm to help us plan our afternoon teas. Please come in, enjoy one of our many delicious teas, and give us your considered opinion.
White gloves optional.
Corner of Main Street & Hwy 6, New Denver • 358-2272
(Thanks to models Sarah-Mae and Tera)

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION

FORTISBC INC.

Application for a Rate Design on the Big White Supply Project

NOTICE OF APPLICTION AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

THE APPLICATION

On March 6, 2007 FortisBC Inc. ("FortisBC") applied to the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("Commission") for a Rate Design on the Big White Supply Project as requested by the Commission in its Decision dated September 14, 2006 to grant to FortisBC a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct and operate a 138 kV transmission Line from the Joe Rich Substation in Kelowna to a new Substation at the Big White Village at an estimated cost of $20.3 million. In granting the CPCN, the Commission found that the Big White Supply Project was in the public interest; however, it did not resolve the issue raised during the oral hearing process related to how the costs of the Project will be recovered. In its Rate Design Application, FortisBC suggests that a decision on funding arrangements for the Big White Supply Project may impact other FortisBC ratepayers and potentially other customers in the Province and that consultation and an opportunity to comment on these issues should be provided.

THE REGULATORY PROCESS

The Commission has established a deadline for interested persons to either seek intervenor or interested party status and has determined that a Procedural Conference is required before further process is established to review FortisBC's Rate Design Application. The Procedural Conference will be held at the Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna, B.C. on **Monday April 16, 2007 commencing at 1:00 p.m.** The purpose of the Procedural Conference is to seek comments and identify such matters as:

- the appropriate regulatory process to review the Application, e.g. workshops, written, oral or some combination of these or other options;
- the issues to be addressed during the regulatory review process;
- the steps and timetable associated with the regulatory review process; and
- other matters that will assist the Commission to efficiently review the Application.

Following the Procedural Conference a regulatory review process and Regulatory Timetable will be established and distributed to those persons who have registered with the Commission.

REGISTERING TO PARTICIPATE

Persons who expect to actively participate in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Intervenors with the Commission, in writing, by **Wednesday, April 11, 2007**. Intervenors are requested to identify their interest in the Application, the issues they intend to address and to indicate whether they will be attending and participating at the Procedural Conference. Intervenors will receive copies of the Application, all correspondence and filed documentation.

Persons not expecting to actively participate, but who have an interest in the FortisBC proceeding should register as Interested Parties with the Commission, in writing, by the same date. Interested Parties will receive a copy of the Application's Executive Summary and all Orders issued.

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

PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE DOCUMENTS

The FortisBC Rate Design Application and supporting material will be made available for inspection at the following locations:

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

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

Websites www.fortisbc.com www.bcuc.com

Public Library Kelowna

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Mr. Robert J. Pellatt, Commission Secretary or Mr. Tim Fraser, Director Strategic Services, as follows:

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

Voices from the Valleys

Open letter to Don Munro

Mr. Munro it is obvious you are determined to force a community plan down the throats of the residents of the Slocan Valley. A question for you, which special interest group is behind this push?

If you are sure the residents of the valley want a plan, why not hold a referendum, or have another election for the area, and you can run with the community plan as your platform.

I have been a resident of the Slocan Valley for 30 years and still remember the attempt by Corky Evans, when he was director of Area H, to bring a plan to the valley. Question again, who is behind this push for a plan?

This is a large rural area, not a city. We do not need any more government interference. I suggest that if you and your group want more rules, laws and restrictions, move to a city. I am sure you would feel right at home, your neighbours could dictate the colour of your house, the type of roof, whether your yard is to be fenced, etc. etc.

Peter Ferguson
Perry Siding

Planning is a tool to stop development

As the former director for Area D and lifetime resident I offer the following observations and comments on the proposed planning and zoning.

A few years ago I had the planning department prepare and send out a questionnaire on planning. I discovered after the fact the questionnaire was clearly designed to guide the participants in the direction of endorsing planning. Even with this biased questionnaire the participants from the Lardeau Valley overwhelmingly rejected planning.

I was a member of the RDCK Land Use Committee for 11 years. The majority of our meeting time was devoted to issues from planned and zoned areas. On most planning issues and problems I found myself at odds with the rest of the committee members. I often felt it was like being a member of a tribunal in a Communist country. At times it was emotionally draining to have property owners pleading their case before the committee and being rejected on technical grounds imposed by the zoning regulations. The committee members took comfort for their action on the premise they were avoiding liability issues.

In sparsely populated areas such as Area D the proponents of planning and zoning want to use it as a tool to stop development. They are not concerned about tax revenue for services such as fire departments or hospitals or jobs to keep our young people here. I often feel their only concern is the pot industry.

Personally, I would like to see all Area D have better highways, rural fire protection, jobs for young and old, housing for seniors, recreation facilities, children for our schools, and more retail services. This all requires industry, businesses, housing, and other development. Planning and zoning is a tool to hinder, slow down or stop progress until the big money guys take over.

If we want our community and the Lardeau Valley to grow and prosper, make them put planning and zoning on hold. Remember, it's like dealing with a used car salesperson. The proponents will do their best to make you think it's a deal you cannot pass up.

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

The naked truth

Since the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*, politicians and corporations have become the 'Green' leaders. In other words, those who led us down the road to extinction are now being paid to become our saviours. Columbia Basin Trust flies in a glaciologist and organizes an expensive meeting to inform people living at the foot of the glaciers that the glaciers are melting.

This government's answer to global warming is to build the Olympics and higher ski hills – playgrounds for the rich while Mother Earth is dying. We haven't stopped clearcutting old growth trees. The rights to every stream have been sold for hydropower. The answer to the extinction of our caribou is to kill grizzlies and wolverines that are also going extinct. Starving bears in our villages are shot and our fruit trees and compost are to blame rather then our responsibility for the destruction of their habitat. It's more important to preserve the Japanese internment camp look of the orchard in New Denver than care about our impact on the environment, no wonder.

50,000 Indian children died in Reform Schools – the heart ripped from our many nations. Land was taken and desecrated by a dominant colonial governing force that assumes ownership of the earth; its right arm is the rule of the law and its left is the penal system. It even jails grandparents who stand for the next seven generations. If we are ever to save any life on this poor planet, we must step out of the box and the illusion of having dominion or power over anything or anybody. We have to take our place in the circle, the web of life and listen to our First Nations who were and still are the original caretakers of this land for thousands of years without owning or destroying it. Like most traditional cultures they see the earth as a sacred living entity.

How many meetings have we attended trying to assert ourselves as people who truly care? All in vain, as we watched business rule over life and hypocrisy rule over the truth. The depravity of the environment is equal to the depravity of the human condition. We owe it to the next generations to stand up as real people, to change our beliefs, our behaviour, our governance and demand a more honest sustainable world for all life forms. We must act as parents and grandparents, act now for the sake of any future of life on earth.

Eloise Charet-Calles, Bear Clan
Turtle-Island
(New Denver)

North American Union - get informed

Since February 5th of this year I have written to Steven Harper, Peter McKay, Stephane Dion, Elizabeth May, the BC Green Party, Steven Taylor, Jack Layton, and Alex Atamanenko regarding the Security and Prosperity Act of the North American Partnership, or commonly known as the North American Union. Some of them I have written twice, but the second letter contained more information and concerns. I wrote twice, to all levels (local, provincial, and federal) of the Green Party, assuming they would be the most, of all parties, concerned and against this Act. Still no response from them, as of the date of me writing this letter. I asked all Parties, and individuals for a response, to which I simply asked "what is your policy, and, do you support this Act?"

Atamanenko responded within a few days, stating why he was very concerned and against it. He also offered internet links to where the NDP stood up in Parliament stating their concerns over this deal and asked for it to be reversed, and statements of NDP International Trade and Globalization critic Peter Julian, who is active on this issue. Mr. Julian demanded a full debate in Parliament, so Canadians have a right to know what has been negotiated in secret.

Jack Layton later responded, saying much the same as Atamanenko, but offering more detail, links, and stating Mr. Julian is also working with others in the US, Mexico, and here in Canada who share this concern.

I didn't write the Canadian Action Party, but went to their website, where they stated they are very against this deal. They have much information on SSP, which is easily accessible, and informative, on their site, as well. A very progressive party on many issues.

It is not the purpose of this letter to promote any party, but to inform our community where the parties stand, and what they are (or not) doing about this huge issue. I purposely did not get into details on the SSP, because 1) it has been discussed several times in the opinion part of the *Valley Voice*, and 2) I encourage you to look into this deal, get informed. If you decide that it is dangerous to our sovereignty, energy, immigration, health care, food safety, environmental policies, and will lead to complete military integration with the US, then please get active, support those who share your concern, and/or pressure those that are part of this final sell-out of Canada.

David Fisher
Appledale

Open Letter to Premier Gordon Campbell

Please consider this letter an expression of firm opposition regarding section 15 of Bill 11, currently up for second reading in the legislature, and clearly designed by and/or for the proponents controversial real estate developments such as Jumbo.

These amendments to an otherwise positive Bill 11 are an unacceptable end-run around a local democratic process.

After 20 years of strong local opposition, it is inconceivable that any provincial government would attempt to circumvent the wishes of its constituents and of local regional governments. The following quotes, taken from the JUMBO GLACIER RESORT PROJECT ASSESSMENT REPORT (With Respect to: an Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2002, c. 43 Prepared by: Environmental Assessment Office, August 3, 2004)

- 432 people (15.1 %) of the approximately 2,858 population of the District of Invermere, the area closest to the Project area, made written submissions (374 opposed and 58 in favour);

- 13.1% of the population of the District of Invermere submitted written comments expressing opposition to the Project;

- 91% of submissions were expressions of opposition to the Project.

This same report (found on the promoters' website) also details the Province's commitment to follow local decisions: "Since creating a Mountain Resort Municipality from the outset is not possible under existing legislation, the Project will have to go through RDEK rezoning and the RDEK will be responsible for the development approval process if rezoning is approved."

To ignore the clear wishes of locals, and simply change the legislation to go against promises by your government regarding a 20-year proposal that is clearly incompatible with local values, is a slap in the face of Kootenay residents, indeed to all of your constituents who put their faith in local governance, and in your government's ability to stick to promises. Simply put, it is dishonourable and unethical and the people of this province will not tolerate such underhanded tactics.

I entreat you to pull amendment 15 out of Bill 11, and stick to your government's commitments to allow local decisions on matters such as these. I also urge you to help BC adhere to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's vision for a Canada where: "Canadians deserve large tracts of unspoiled wilderness, sanctuaries that not only preserve our precious flora and fauna, but also provide opportunities for increasingly urbanized human beings to connect with the natural world." Let the people of the Kootenays decide what their backcountry should look like. Most of us live here for the same reasons that motivate the continuous massive influx of new residents and homeowners – because it is NOT Europe or Whistler. Wild backcountry, free of permanent human development, is a precious, irreplaceable commodity in the modern age, as is local democracy. I urge you to not to leave the destruction of both as your legacy.

Dave Quinn
Kimberley

Glacier/Howser hydro project will have huge impacts

In my last letter I described the tremendous ecological and recreational impacts of the proposed Glacier/Howser hydro project due to its transmission line and associated roads crossing the Purcell Mountains to Invermere. But there are numerous other impacts as well.

Bull Trout figure high on the list. They are a blue listed species which means they are vulnerable to extirpation or extinction. As stated by a BC Ministry of Environment publication: "Bull Trout are extremely sensitive to habitat degradation and are considered to be an indicator species of ecosystem health." Healthy populations of this endangered fish are found in both Glacier and Howser Creeks. The proponents have said in meetings that 80% diversion of creek water is the likely scenario. How can Bull Trout and the entire aquatic ecosystem possibly survive with this size of diversion?

The proponent proposes to tunnel through the mountains for this water diversion project. The 16 kilometers of tunnels will produce 243,165 m3 of waste rock muck – the equivalent of 31,800 tandem axle dump truck loads. According to their maps this huge pile

continued on page 5

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

of waste is proposed to be dumped alongside the creeks and lake and always at least within several hundred meters of waterside. Is this waste rock acid leaching? Does it contain toxic metals? I doubt we will really know until the tunnels are built. I do know it will be ugly.

Behrman and Suck Creeks, the last unlogged named side creeks of Howser, along with Birnam Creek flowing by the Macbeth Icefield Trail in Glacier Creek, are now proposed to provide additional intakes. This all takes new roads. In fact, not including the transmission line, the project proposes a total of 28 new roads, accesses, and bridges.

In BC Hydro's bid process last year, the Glacier/Howser project was labeled 'large.' Rather than being a small, local, green project, as it has been portrayed, this hydroelectric project turns out to be a huge impact project. The sole proponent now holding all the water licenses is 3986314 Canada Inc., a Montreal company, with all of its directors residing in Quebec. The project price tag is $240 million.

While East Creek, crown jewel of the inland rainforest, has officially been dropped from the project, the license for East Creek power generation is held by the development company. It does not take a lot of imagination to figure out what will happen after the transmission line gets built.

This project is only the tip of the melting iceberg. Licenses for dozens of new hydroelectric projects have been granted in our region, including well known creeks such as Wilson, Enterprise, Woodbury, Powder, Bernard. This will create a maze of transmission lines, huge diversions of water and all the attendant environmental problems.

Already we supply 50% of BC's electricity from the dams that flooded our largest rivers and now we are told to destroy our creeks as well. Enough is enough. This project needs to be stopped.

Gary Diers
Argenta

On gas consumption

In your last issue I read Bob Harrington's thoughtful letter about reducing use of energy forms that may produce carbon dioxide or other harmful byproducts. Many of his suggestions are reasonable and I practice some of them but I must add some unwanted 'fuel' to the pros and cons of gasoline consumption.

Many of us, like Bob, enjoy life in rural areas and settle there knowing that we will be bound to the use of gas simply to meet most of our needs like commuting, work itself and also recreation. Everything goes up in price as a rule from labour costs to produce to products. Petroleum plays a role in the creation of many, many goods.

But gas is still cheap, and despite the grumblings and all, I really see no change in our habits from way back when it cost the same per gallon as now per litre. If someone told you to push your car down the road 10 kilometres and then paid you $1.10, you'd tell them they're crazy and yet one little litre of gas can accomplish that and more. One litre of gas powering some machine, tool or vehicle will be vastly more cost effective than any average paid labourer attempting the same task.

The gloomy statistics about how much carbon we leave in our wakes is hard to grasp and I think puts people into a paralyzed quandary. Flying will puke out 3.8 tons of CO_2, cars gush out 7.3 tons, laundry makes 656 kgs., etc. etc. The lawn mower matter totally baffles me as you suggested that a power mower produces in one hour what a car does in several hundred kilometres of travel. How can that be? My mower uses less than half a litre per hour yet that car trip would burn up at least 40. That one seems impossible.

Don't get me wrong. I have a collection of lovely old steel garden tools that I cherish and I do the bicycle business each week and I compost, and am quite miserly. The fact remains though that gasoline has lots of bang for the buck when employed for useful and peaceful purposes. To acquire, insure, maintain and then not use vehicles and equipment is a pretty bitter pill to try shoving down society's throat.

These thoughts are not too politically correct or proper but all I'm saying is that to lecture and lay guilt and lead by example won't always bring a band of followers. Even if crude oil goes over a hundred bucks and pump prices go into orbit, I rather doubt we'll throw away any car keys. Rationing gas could work but would crucify politicians and blow out the petroleum powered world economy.

So I'll pull the cord and go mow the lawn when it gets too thick. I'll drive when I need to and continue to use gas same as everyone else. I'll be quieter on Sundays and as always I'll appreciate what gas can give and keep things in some perspective.

Peter Roulston
New Denver

Village of Kaslo: penny wise and pound foolish

The issue of the Village of Kaslo purchasing the provincial building is a no-brainer. One needs only factor the rising cost of real estate, population growth, the sweetheart deal the provincial government has offered, the prime location, and the historical significance, to realize it would be penny wise and pound foolish not to make the purchase!

Quite frankly, I am baffled by our mayor's reluctance to support the plan.

No, not really, our mayor seems to be out to lunch on a lot of issues, so it really comes as no surprise that he would go on fishing missions, like the search for asbestos, to find excuses not to proceed.

Bottom line, at very worse, ten years down the road they'll turn it over for a profit. On the upside, the Village will have a prime location for things like a community centre, an expanded library, the provincial office, perhaps a temporary Village office in case council ever decides to renovate the current Village Hall.

I've been reluctant to write this letter because I'm more concerned about some of the other activities the Village council has undertaken, which to me, make much less sense than the purchase of the provincial building.

For one, the beach at Vimy Park. For the life of me I cannot understand what is going on down there. Has anyone at the Village office considered what is going to happen if the water levels are high this spring?

With the trees removed, the snow pack, and the near certainty this will be a high water level year, what little sand is currently on the beach is going to wind up in Mirror Lake! At very least, if we're going to saw down trees, we should be laying them on the beach to hold the sand in.

I'm also hearing the Village plan is to clear the land so visitors can park their RVs on the beach. Now that's a knuckle-headed idea if I ever heard one! Not only will the presence of RVs on the beach ruin the place for us locals, but it could be a potential health hazard. I know from my own experience that RVers don't always abide by the rules when it comes to draining their holding tanks. Sooner or later, one or two, maybe 20 or 30, RVers are going to take the easy way out and just dump their tanks on the beach!

There's also the issue of garbage. Any camp attendant in the province will tell you people leave garbage behind, no matter how well a campground is set up. If we let people camp on the beach, then sooner or later, there's going to be garbage on the beach! Its a fact of life.

Another matter that concerns me is the way Village crews managed to avalanche all the walking trails in town this past winter. It is going to cost the people of Kaslo a lot of extra money to clear the debris off the walking paths as a result.

This is where I find my best example of the penny wise – pound foolishness of our current council. This winter, crews took the easy way out and just pushed the snow over the embankments on the waterfront, at the top of the valley, and along the river trail in lower Kaslo. Now, at some point, the Village is going to have pay staff to go clean up the mess they made. It would have been cheaper to load the snow onto trucks and haul it away, or to at least not have plowed onto the trails in the first place.

I could go on and on but I won't. Guess I'll just hope the people of Kaslo have enough sense to make their council do the right thing. If they don't, then I guess down the road I'll get to parade around saying: "I told you so, I told you so!"

Will Webster
Kaslo

Perry Ridge revisited

As climate change is rapidly progressing globally, you'll experience more of the negative fallout locally. The results of deplorable logging practices are coming home to roost. You'll see more landslides coming off those hills and mountains that have been devastated with clearcuts by industry and Ministry of Forests.

Against this insanity, the Perry Ridge Water Users Association (PRWUA) achieved a success in the summer of 1997 vs. the MoF in court.

MoF had obtained an injunction against protesters and started to build a major road on Perry Ridge to get at the trees in the watersheds.

With testimony and affidavits from geotechs and hydrologists about the instability of Perry Ridge, the injunction was lifted and MoF had to stop building the road.

In his reasons for judgment, Justice Parrott recognized the history of landslides on Perry Ridge presented by PRWUA to the court and upheld his decision against MoF a second time.

This was unprecedented in BC logging history. MoF was used to getting injunctions rubber-stamped and here they were slapped down twice. To make small concessions to the Water Users, they came up with a charade called Local Resource Use Plan (LRUP) pretending that the residents had some say in how to scalp Perry Ridge.

The roundtable was stacked with logging interest and the process was a sham.

Now, ten years later, MoF through BC Timber Sales is planning to continue building the main haul road and many branch lines to "get the cut out."

What's at stake here is not only the water quality, but also the possibility of more landslides.

There is something you can do in your own backyard to safeguard water and quality of life on Perry Ridge: Support PRWUA.

It is very likely that we have to be back in court this year to prevent MoF from continuing with the road. We'll need updated reports from geotechs to show in court that Perry Ridge is as unstable as ever and road building or logging should not occur.

Because of its uniqueness, the goal is to make Perry Ridge into an ecological reserve.

A lot of people are working on this, donating time and money; give your heart a push and come on board.

Please, recognize the importance of this issue and give what you can to safeguard Perry Ridge and your water. PRWUA, Gr 16 C-9, Winlaw, BC, V0G 2J0.

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST (CBT) WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS AS OF APRIL 1, 2007.

THE NEW MEMBERS ARE:

PAUL PETERSON, nominated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay, is appointed as a Director for a two-year term. Mr. Peterson has a long history of involvement in local government in the area and is currently in his second term as an area director for the RDCK. He also served as a councillor for five years in the Village of New Denver and as a school trustee for twelve years in the Arrow Lakes School District.

BILL TREWHELLA, nominated by the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, is appointed as a Director for a two-year term. Mr. Trewhella served on the Village Council of Warfield for 15 years, the last 11 years as Mayor and served on the Fire Department of Warfield for seven years. He has served on a number of Boards across the Province and locally as President of the Union of BC Municipalities where he received a life membership in 1995. He also served on the RDKB Board, Selkirk College Board, BC Heritage Trust, Fire Chief's Association of BC and many others.

CBT Board and staff would like to thank retiring Board members Josh Smienk and Dieter Bogs for all of their contributions to the Trust and the Columbia Basin, and we wish them the best in their retirement from the CBT Board.

For more information on CBT visit www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998.

1.800.505.8998 *info@cbt.org* *www.cbt.org*

Silverton council, March 13: Byelection plans in the works

by Art Joyce

•Now that the updated byelection bylaw is in place, a motion was passed to make CAO Junko Ida Chief Elections Officer. Anna Marie Hogg was appointed Deputy Elections Officer.

•Werner Mengler attended as a delegation regarding the property he's developing adjacent to the Village. Wrengler was concerned about spending money to put services into his subdivision without knowing council's intentions regarding boundary expansion. Mayor Everett said the Village has still not received Mengler's promised engineering study, and explained that the issue would be put before villagers during the upcoming OCP review process. Wrengler said he didn't want to wait for the OCP and left the council chamber.

•Ty Capelle attended as a delegation to announce the formation of the Silverton Community Club, whose first proposed project is the painting of the Village Hall. The club is prepared to supply labour, raise funds and solicit donations of materials, but will leave the choice of colours to council. CAO Junko Ida said the colours must meet heritage bylaw requirements. The goal is to have the hall painted in time for the July 1st weekend. Mayor Everett thanked Capelle and the club, but said he will have to check with the public works department, which "has a list two pages long of work they need to do this year." A meeting was scheduled with public works for April 2, 1:30 pm to coordinate the project.

•Ty and Cynthia Capelle also brought forward concerns regarding municipal tax increases. They are recommending Silverton be the first to implement a new tax rate based on a formula proposed by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. The formula sets tax rates not on property assessments but on the consumer price index, plus or minus one or two percentage points. Ty Capelle wondered why Village expenditures in the budget, including the CAO's salary, were up. "More than any other community we've lived in, Silverton has a lot of people on mid to low or fixed incomes," he said.

Mayor Everett said he appreciated the Capelles' concerns, but explained that salary increases, new Village computers and the OCP review have been paid for by a $30,000 annual increase in Small Communities grant, not by raising taxes. Property assessment increases last year ranged from 10-60%, with a mean average of 30%, he explained. The mill rate is then set at this average, but naturally those with higher assessments will still pay more. The mayor agreed to review the Canadian Taxpayers Federation proposal.

•An item brought forward from in-camera were council decisions regarding changes to the campground operators' contract. The major change is a clause that two persons or a couple are required to perform the duties. Other changes will be that signs will be erected specifying no overnight camping in the daypark, and that overnight tenting be allowed by reservation only if both main and creekside campsites are filled.

•Councillor Bell reported that Kaslo is proposing to the UBCM a local homeowner's grant, otherwise known as a permanent resident rebate program as a solution to the problem of absentee homeowners.

•Councillor Provan reported on the facilities and recreation committee, which is recommending that the Village designate the Silverton Gallery a Municipal Heritage Site. Provan will contact the Slocan Lake Gallery Society about setting a meeting with the BC Heritage branch. Also recommended was that the Village provide a letter of support for the society's heritage conservation and feasibility study, waive the $1000 lease fee for 2007, and offer a grant-in-aid of $500 to fund the study. This would help offset the $2000 needed by the society for the study. The total cost of the study would be $10,000, of which 80% is covered by the Heritage Places Initiative. The recommendations will be included in the agenda for the next council meeting.

•Notification was received from UBCM's Local Government Program Services that Silverton will receive the $5000 for staff wages it applied for to update the Village's emergency services plan.

•The Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall informed council that they are now a registered charity.

New Denver council, March 13: Water reservoir study grant application ready to go

by Michael Dorsey

•Council received WSA Engineering Ltd.'s proposal to do the water reservoir replacement study. The Village will apply for a Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant for $14,300 so that WSA can be contracted to do the study. The study will look at different options for the Village to replace its timber stave water reservoir.

•Ray Nikkel attended as a delegation to update council on various landscaping projects around the Village. A berm is planned for the east end of the Kohan Garden, and Nikkel asked if the Village crew and loader would be available to help with this project. He said a possible future project would be an irrigation system for the garden. He mentioned the weddings and memorial services that had occurred at the site and spoke of the fundraising activities of the Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS), which manages the garden.

Following up on council's request to have trees and shrubs planted around the new washrooms at Centennial Park, Nikkel made some suggestions about the types of plants and where they could be placed.

He said the 'Welcome to New Denver' garden at the north end of town would need fertilization and pruning, and thanked Peter Roulston for his work at this garden.

•Acting Mayor Bunka reported on the meeting she and Mayor Wright attended with the May Days Committee. The Village is expecting to purchase a portable audio system that can be used at this year's centennial event, and the Village crew will put up the soccer goal posts for the tournament that is planned as part of the festivities. The Village will sponsor the Citizen of the Year award this year; in the past, the Village has sponsored the Miss New Denver talent contest. The Hills Recreation Society will lend the May Days committee its stage.

•Bunka reported that the Village was aiming for mid-May to apply for funding for the roof projects at the Nikkei Centre and the Silvery Slocan Museum from the Heritage Legacy Fund. The Legacy Fund will provide 50% of the total project cost, up to $25,000. The other half of the project cost will come from the Village's heritage reserve fund.

•The final results of the land use planning survey were presented and discussed. The final copy includes a breakdown of resident and non-resident responses, as well as all the comments from the surveys.

•Administrator Gordon reported that she, Mayor Wright and Councillor Campbell would attend an inter-agency meeting to discuss official community planning. A meeting to discuss the lakeshore was also to be held soon with the Ministry of Transportation, Fisheries and Oceans, and RDCK.

•Bunka reported that campground attendant Isobel Reitmeier had requested a septic tank at the attendant's site, at her cost. Bunka and Administrator Gordon will research this.

•Arbor Day was set for April 16.

•Council approved sending Administrator Gordon to the Local Government Management Association's (LGMA) West Kootenay-Boundary Chapter spring meeting in Nelson April 12- 13; Gordon is the Chapter Vice-President. She will also attend the 2007 LGMA Provincial Conference in Vancouver May 15-17.

•Council moved to apply for a Service Canada grant to hire a summer student for 2007.

•Council approved expenditures of: General Administration, $42,839.04; Water $1561.21.

The Valley VOICE

Please consider a Voluntary Subscription to the *Valley Voice*.

$10 -$30 per year (Sliding Scale)

The Valley Voice
Box 70
New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

The Village of Silverton 2007 Local By-Election

NOTICE OF NOMINATION

Public Notice is given to the electors of the Village of Silverton that nomination for the office of:

COUNCILLOR — ONE (1)

For the balance of the 2006 to 2008 term commencing June, 2007 to December, 2008 will be received by the Chief Election Officer or a designated person, as follows:

The Village of Silverton
421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, BC

Nomination Period:
9:00 am, April 17, 2007
to 4:00 pm April 27, 2007

Excluding Statutory holidays and weekends

Nomination documents are available at the Village of Silverton office during regular office hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

A person is qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government if they meet the following criteria:

- Canadian Citizen;
- 18 years of age or older;
- resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed; and
- not disqualified by the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to, or holding office.

FURTHER INFORMATION on the foregoing may be obtained by contacting the Village of Silverton, 421 Lake Avenue, Silverton, BC at 358-2472.

Ms. Junko Ida
Chief Election Officer
Village of Silverton

Raven's Nest
Spring Sale
Until April 8th
Hand Made Sweaters
Hemp Clothing, Glass Balls
15 to 40 % Off
Closed for Renovation April 9—11
New Denver
Phone 358-2178 Hours 10:00—4:30
Closed Mondays

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER ARBOR DAYS

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take note that Spring Arbor Days are scheduled in the Village of New Denver for Monday, April 16, 2007. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc) are bagged. No household garbage will be picked up. We understand that biodegradable garbage bags can be purchased locally.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

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Trance Dance presenter to offer workshops at Winlaw Hall

submitted

Internationally known presenter Wilbert Alix will be in Winlaw Thursday, April 12 for a lecture of interest to persons in the health care field, followed by a screening of the DVD *Dances of Ecstasy*. Alix will also present a Dynamic Mythology workshop which will run from April 13 to 15. Both events will be held in the Winlaw Hall.

Thursday's event begins with a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm, with the talk and film set for 7:30. This is an opportunity to meet Alix even if you are unable to do the weekend workshop. Winlaw local residents and businesses have teamed up to offer a social program ensuring that out of town guests will receive generous hospitality.

Accommodations have been arranged for all budgets, including sleeping bag space, as part of the retreat. Some participants will be coming from as far as Tenneesee, Washington, Calgary and Quesnel as well as from Nelson and Kaslo. No dance experience is necessary, and the program is suitable for adults of all ages.

Alix has earned international recognition as a contemporary healer and teacher of progressive psychology and neo-shamanic studies. A prominent figure in the emerging science of body-centered psychology, his presentations are accentuated with intellectual depth and a unique insight into the relationships between traditional shamanic healing, western science and eastern mysticism.

Throughout his 36 year career, Wilbert Alix has created numerous medical, social, mental health and alternative approaches to cultivating physical and emotional well-being. He is a 7th generation native of New Orleans born into a culture rich in shamanic tradition, ritual trance, sacred music and ecstatic dance.

He is the creator and director of the Common Ground Project; a conflict management program that successfully brings together opposing groups through innovative use of transformational therapy. His popular TV show Aw*akening The Mind* has aired on public television since 1988. Alix is one of the co founders of Trance Dance, pioneering its professional application as a legitimate healing and therapeutic tool.

For more information, call Barb at 226-0021, anytime after 7 am, and be sure to leave a message, or visit www.TranceDance.com.

Wilbert Alix will be presenting a lecture and workshop, April 12-15 at the Winlaw Hall.

Do you own waterfront property?

Do you have large cottonwood trees you want to protect?

Do you have livestock that graze beside the river?

Are you concerned about bank erosion?

Would you like to plant trees on your riverbank to conserve aquatic habitat?

The Streamkeepers invite you to apply for funding through Columbia Power Corporationís 2007 Riparian Restoration program.

Eligibility criteria includes a minimum riparian band width of 10-50 m for activities that include tree and shrub planting, existing vegetation protection or livestock exclusion, and streambank protection.

The Project areas include Slocan Lake down to the confluence with Brilliant Headpond and all habitat types within the floodplain.

For information Contact:
Tom Bradley 226-7792 or
Jennifer Yeow 226-7339

Women's Institutes help the littlest patients

submitted

For 110 years in Canada, Women's Institutes have answered the call of their country and their communities. They have been a strong voice for children in need of medical help. Their pioneering work established the foundation for children's medical facilities in the lower mainland. In the Interior, the Slocan Valley Women's Institute continues this fine tradition of watching over the smallest of patients.

During the 2006 Christmas season, the Slocan Valley WI donated a generous supply of crayons and colouring books to the children in the pediatrics department of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital. At a March 13 meeting of the WI, Mabel Bones, President of the Slocan Valley Women's Institute expressed gratitude for the KBRH Health Foundation's partnership.

"Women's Institutes have a strong tradition of taking care of children. We look for ways to provide comfort, and we will continue to look for ways to help children at the Regional Hospital."

Jane Power of the KBRH Health Foundation explained that ailing children often need quiet activities during their recovery.

"When a child is given a colouring book, that book and the small package of crayons goes home with the child. By making it a gift, the child is comforted, and we minimize the chances of children exchanging symptoms."

CBT announces awards for civic-minded graduating students

submitted

The Columbia Basin Trust annually provides 20 graduating students from the Columbia Basin with $2,000 towards pursuing post-secondary education or training.

"These awards are unique because they are not based on academic achievement," said Lynda Lafleur, CBT Community Liaison. "They are designed to reward and encourage the involvement of youth in their communities."

To be selected for this award, candidates must demonstrate extensive community service and/or volunteer activities for more than one year in a community, including schools. They must also attain all course requirements and minimum grades in school required for entrance into a post-secondary or technical school program. And they must provide three references from individuals who can verify the student's involvement in community service or volunteer activities.

Recipients are selected based on their written application and letters of support. The selection is made by a scholarship committee organized by the secondary schools within the Basin.

Application forms are available at public secondary schools in the Basin and on the CBT website at www.cbt.org. All applications must be submitted to the local public secondary school and postmarked no later than April 13, 2007.

Retrospective to pay tribute to local artist Pam Baker-Stassi

submitted

Selkirk College, in partnership with Slocan Valley Painters and the Slocan Valley Arts Council, will host a retrospective show of paintings and drawings by Pam Baker-Stassi in the Castlegar campus Faculty Lounge. The show will open with a wine and cheese party on Friday, March 30, from 5 pm to 8 pm. Public viewing will continue on Saturday, March 31, from 10 am to 2 pm. Some items may be offered for sale.

Baker-Stassi, who moved to the Slocan Valley in 1981, has been an active and influential part of the local art community for more than 25 years. One of her most ambitious and popular projects is the documenting of the old Doukhobor buildings in the region. In 1984 she travelled around the Castlegar/Grand Forks area with her partner, Ray Stassi, to photograph and document the houses that were still standing. From these images she began a series of drawings and paintings to recreate "the beautiful simplicity and dignity" of these heritage buildings.

"I was greatly moved by the existing Doukhobor houses," said Baker-Stassi in her artist's statement. "There was sadness in seeing these buildings continue to fall into disrepair."

Baker-Stassi has an extensive educational background in art. She has studied at several prominent schools in both Canada and England, and has had her work exhibited in numerous shows and galleries, including Expo Montreal 1968, the Agghazy Gallery in Calgary, Alberta, and the BC Pavilion of Expo 86. Her work has also been featured in Harrison Galleries, a fine-art dealer located in Vancouver, BC.

Her work is known both for capturing the rugged beauty of nature and preserving history's fleeting moments. Her subject matter, whether domestic or wild subjects, are painted with an eye for their spirit as much as for their physical forms.

For more information contact Barbara Wilson at (250) 226-0021.

Pam Baker-Stassi will be presenting a retrospective show of her paintings in the Castlegar campus Faculty Lounge at Selkirk College, March 30 & 31.

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VILLAGES OF NEW DENVER, SILVERTON, SLOCAN & ELECTORAL AREA H
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives Funding Program

Villages of New Denver, Silverton, Slocan & Electoral Area H are holding separate public meetings to review proposals submitted for funding consideration from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program. The meetings will be held as follows:

New Denver:	**Tuesday May 8, 7:00 pm** **New Denver Council Chambers** **115 Slocan Ave., New Denver, BC**
Silverton:	**Tuesday April 10, 7:00 pm** **Village of Silverton Council Chambers** **421 Lake Ave, Silverton, BC**
Slocan:	**Wednesday May 2, 7:00 pm** **Silvery Slocan Social Centre / Legion #276** **502 Harold St., Slocan, BC**
Area H:	**Thursday April 19, 7:00 pm** **Winlaw Community Hall** **#5897 Hwy 6, Winlaw, BC**

For more information please contact Jo Brown at 226-7792 or the RDCK at 1-800-268-7325.

Foundation's photo exhibition a fundraiser for Nicaraguan street kids

submitted

The Pura Vida Foundation, whose mission statement pledges to enrich the lives of impoverished Latin American children, will be hosting an exhibition of photographs Friday, March 30, at the Prestige Inn ballroom at 701 Lakeside Drive from 6:30 pm onward. Proceeds from ticket sales go toward helping former Nicaraguan street kids get much-needed education.

The Pura Vida Foundation was established in Nelson by young photographer Nathan Beninger. The foundation's first large-scale project sent 150 Nicaraguan children to school and brought basic essentials to the small island of Ometepe. Through local support, photography sales, and canvassing, Pura Vida sponsored another project on the same impoverished island, the boy's home of Si a la Vida (translated 'Yes to life' in English).

Beninger teaches photography classes to the 20 boys, whose lives have been scarred through unfathomable hardship and poverty. All under 15 years old, and as young as 9, these boys were abandoned and living as street children until recently. Photography has been able to bring them a level of confidence, giving them a renewed sense of self, and the motivation to improve their lives. The exhibit will feature one photograph from each of the 20 boys, accompanied by thier biographies. This is sure to be an eye-opening insight into their lives.

There has also been a silent auction to fundraise for the foundation's future projects, which include rebuilding an orphanage in Cusco, Peru. The silent auction has been hosted by Faery Isle Trading Company and will conclude March 30.

Tickets for the March 30 exhibition are available at Faery Isle Trading Company at 550 Baker Street or by contacting Alanna Tynan at 505 3766. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a contribution to the Foundation, mail can be addressed to the Pura Vida Foundation, 619 Front Street, Nelson BC, V1L 4B6.

RCMP target seatbelt compliance throughout West Kootenay

submitted

West Kootenay Traffic Services and Integrated Road Safety unit conducted a seatbelt enforcement checkpoint in Nelson on March 21. During the five hour campaign, police served 61 violation tickets for 'failing to wear seatbelt.' In an effort to reduce injuries and death on our highways, police will continue the campaign targeting seatbelt compliance throughout the West Kootenay.

When you wear your seatbelt you are twice as likely to survive a crash. An unbuckled 150-pound (68 kg.) adult involved in a 50 km/h crash will strike other occupants, the interior of the vehicle, or be ejected with the equivalent force of a 3.5 ton truck. The higher insurance and health care costs that result from unrestrained drivers and passengers involved in crashes are passed on to all motorists.

New funding for snowmobiler awareness in caribou habitat announced

submitted

The Province of BC has provided $50,000 to the BC Snowmobile Federation (BCSF) to develop best management practices, education and outreach materials. There will also be new highway signage and a new snowmobiling guide issued.

As a result of the funding, the BCSF will implement a public awareness campaign for snowmobilers while operating in mountain caribou habitat. The campaign will include the purchase and installation of signage, development of training materials, and the monitoring of snowmobile use and compliance with closures. Snowmobilers will also be provided with information on mountain caribou movement and locations.

Check for local snowmobiling closures and download regional maps at www.snowmobile.gov.bc.ca.

Science World comes to Castlegar

submitted

In partnership with Selkirk College and Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST), Vancouver's Science World is bringing its famously funky approach to science education to Castlegar on March 31. The event will be at the Selkirk College gymnasium from 11 am to 4 pm.

The Kaslo Winter Hawks Midget House team members are: back row – Francois Gagnon, Rob Zilkie (coach), Morgan Mattes; 2nd row – Terry Wood (trainer), Nick Jones, Shane McKinnon, Joe Wood; 3rd row – Chad Jones, Jayson Foley, Cody Bens, Cari Walker; bottom row – David Zilkie, Luke Weber, Cheryl Rempel, Kirk Settle, Nicolas Gagnon, Brad Reimer, Jared Berry, Tim Tyers. Missing: Amanda Turner.

Kaslo Midgets finish season as West Kootenay champs

submitted

Kaslo Winter Hawks Midget House team brought home the West Kootenay banner.

The team went into playoffs in second place, after only losing two league games. In the playoffs March 3 and 4, the team won all three round robin games. In the semi-finals they beat Coeur d'Alene in a very exciting shoot out finish. They defeated Castlegar 2 in the final to bring home the title of West Kootenay Champions of 2006/2007.

The players would like to thank Rob Zilke and Terry Wood for a great year.

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Nakusp secondary ski/board team goes to provincials

submitted

Official results are yet to come in for the ski/board high school provincial championship event, held at Whistler and Blackcomb March 7-9.

As of March 7th, the Nakusp female ski team placed 5th out of 13 schools and the male ski team 8th out of 13 schools. At the end of March 8th, Nakusp's female snowboard team was in 4th place out of 13 teams and the male snowboard team 9th out of 13 teams.

Nakusp's female ski team was very solid in the slalom (two runs of combined times) event on the 7th. Kristen Likness took a 1st postion for Nakusp at 25th overall, Nadine Douglas at 27th and closely followed by Elizabeth Waterfield, Kristen Sokoloski and Tayari Skey all in the top 30. These positions were great, considering most of the fastest times belong to girls that attend schools where skiing is a regular, weekly, part of their curriculum.

The Nakusp's male ski team had their work cut out for them as the course was very rutted, at least two feet deep, after the 66 female skiers had ripped through. The guys charged these ruts, with Dane Olsen, who was really starting to enjoy slalom and had an excellent race, placing 24th out of a field of 75 racers. Olsen was followed by Brendan Davie, Bryar McQuair and Cameron Carruthers. Robyn Crosby-Bone 'dns-ed,' which means he did not start his 2nd run, while Kody Marks wearing bib #127 was working hard to stay in the giant ruts. Finally Marks flew off the course about halfway through.

"There was a loud roar from the coaches and athletes at the top of the course once we saw that Kody was all right. Kody may not have thought so but for the rest of us it was very entertaining watching him give his all in a battle against those giant ruts," laughed ski coach, Doug McQuair.

The snowboarders raced March 8th while the skiers had their training day. The weather was a few degrees colder so the course held up a bit better. The fog rolled in and out all day so it was luck of the draw for visibility. The girl's snowboard team had an excellent showing with Jesse McDonald placing 1st overall in a two run combined time event. Lara Eigelshoven placed 13th and 2 hundredths of a second behind was Chelsey Groffen at 14th. These girls were followed by Shannon Fulmore bringing in a much needed 5 points for the team, placing them in 4th place, a spot to be totally reckoned with.

The guy's snowboard team was sitting in 9th place after Thursday. Alex Thorp led the team with a 4th place finish overall. Coach Matt McKee noted that, "Alex tried to run a smooth carve through a very rough course only to find this cost him some time. He attacked the course on his second run and managed to knock about 5 seconds off but not quite enough to put him on the podium." Sam Switzer led the rest of the Nakusp squad closely followed by Evan Robson, Connor McKee, Justin Detta and Colby Tingstad.

Friday, March 9th had all teams racing a giant slalom for one run only. The female ski team had a bit of trouble on Friday. Nadine Douglas had a super race finishing 21st, followed by Elizabeth Waterfield at 32nd. The rest of the team ran into trouble staying on course. There was about 5 inches of fresh heavy snow making getting back on course very difficult once the skiers got off track. Most of the male skiers managed to stay on course with Dane Olsen placing 22nd, then came Bryar McQuair, Brendan Davie, Kody Marks, Robyn Crosby-Bone with Cameron Carruthers unable to finish.

On the snowboarders run, Jesse McDonald had a bit of trouble on one gate which cost her some time. This delay caused her to end in 2nd place overall. Chelsey Groffen had an exceptional run, good enough for an 11th place finish. Lara Eigelshoven finished in 18th with Shannon Fulmore putting in a solid performance to support her team.

The guy snowboard teams didn't fare as well on Friday. Thorp had a little trouble, but still managed a 3rd place finish. Switzer had a good run with McKee, Detta and Robson following.

The coach for the BC snowboard team was at the event at Whistler hoping to possibly recruit some more athletes to his teams. The BC Snowboard Association was inviting the top three finishers for a training camp. Thorp, already on the BC developmental team, ended with a combined overall placing of 2nd. McDonald also on the developmental BC team ended with a 2nd place as well and both were ensured a place at this camp.

Local coaches, Matt McKee and Doug McQuair, were very proud of all of their athletes' achievements as well as their great behaviour.

"Whistler-Blackcomb was a huge resort for our kids and they proved to be great ambassadors for Nakusp Secondary School," reported a tired Allistair Skey, the team's school supervisor, after the long bus ride home.

The coaches and athletes would like to thank all the parents and community sponsors for their support. A special thanks goes out to teacher sponsor, Allistair Skey, chaperones and chefs, Karen Likness and Merrilla Thorp, with a thanks to the always 'rock steady' bus driver, Andy Cruden. To Susie Madden the team says thanks for all those practice tips and mostly all the encouragement. The teams would like to send a much appreciated thank you to behind-the-scenes organizers, especially Allison Alder as well as a thanks to May-Anne Waterfield and Brenda McQuair. Liz Waterfield thanked the coaches and organizers at a Summit Lake Racers wind-up stating, "Thank-you for helping us get to Whistler. It will be an experience we'll remember for a lifetime."

PHOTO CREDIT: TAMMY DACHWITZ

Back Row: Asst. Coach Ralph Dachwitz, Coach Barry Streliev AC Malcolm McInnes; 2nd Row: AJ Hughes, Quentin Volanski, Tony Kohler; 3rd Row: Nathyn Hawe, Colton Dachwitz, Zach Friedenberger, Greyson Reitmeier, Kiera Streliev, Austin MacDonald Front: Dugan McInnes, Greg Markholm and Goalie Josh Rivers.

Nakusp Atom House team wins the banner

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Atom House team came out first in the league of 17 West Kootenay teams and brought home the 2006/07 banner.

The team played six tournaments this season, placing first in four of them and second in the other two. The team placed second at tournaments in Kaslo and Nakusp, and came in first at tourneys in Castlegar, Sicamous, Vernon and of course at the final one in Nakusp at the end of February, when they won the banner.

During the final tournament, the semi-final game was played against Beaver Valley, and went into overtime. The final score was 5-4. The final game was against Nelson, and was another overtime win with a score of 5-4.

Congratulations to the Nakusp Atom House Bandits!

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The **Slocan River Riparian Restoration Program** is offering funding to landowners on the Slocan River for riparian restoration projects during 2007.
If you own property on the Slocan River between the outlet of Slocan Lake and the Brilliant Headpond and are interested in rehabilitating the streambank on your property, you may be eligible for funding.
Please contact Jennifer Yeow of the Slocan River Streamkeepers at 250.226.7339 for information on how to apply. All applications should be received by April 27th, 2007.
Application forms along with the Terms of Reference for the Program can be found at: www.columbiapower.org, or call Columbia Power Corporation at 250.365.8585.
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Census data shows urban population increases and rural decreases

by Art Joyce

Census data released by Statistics Canada from the 2006 census shows what many long suspected: this country's rural areas are in trouble. Although Canada's population has grown by 5.4% since the 2001 census, from 30 to 31.6 million people, nearly 90% of the growth was concentrated in urban areas. Five of the 10 Canadian communities showing the highest population losses were in northern BC. A downward trend in population is consistent across rural districts and small municipalities, and the West Kootenay is no exception.

The only community showing a population increase was Kaslo, which grew from 1032 to 1072 residents, a 3.9% increase. Silverton dropped from 222 to 185 residents, a decline of 16.7%. Nakusp took the next biggest hit, with a 10.2% decrease, from 1698 to 1524 residents. The Village of Slocan had a more modest drop of 6.5%, from 336 to 314 residents. New Denver declined from 538 to 512, or 4.8%. These figures are of serious concern to families who fear that declining population will mean more school closures and more bussing for their children. And with school closures often come further reduction of services to a community.

However, besides the 'total private dwellings' listed in the 2001 census, StatsCan has added a new category to its 2006 census: 'private dwellings occupied by usual (i.e. permanent) residents.' This is of particular relevance to areas like the Slocan Valley, which are seeing an influx of secondary home buyers as 'baby boomers' reach retirement age. This is part of a growing problem in small communities, often referred to as 'dark window syndrome.'

For example, in Kaslo the 'total private dwellings' listed is 523, with 'private dwellings occupied by usual residents' at 480. The implication is that 43 homes are owned by those for whom Kaslo is not their primary residence. The number is even higher for New Denver, with 292 total dwellings, of which 243 are permanently occupied, leaving 49 homes suffering from 'dark window syndrome.' Nakusp has the highest number of these, with 60 homes not occupied year-round (739 total/679 permanent). In Silverton there are 132 total dwellings, with 103 occupied by permanent residents. In the Village of Slocan the figures are 165 total and 146 permanently occupied homes.

The Regional District reflects a lower overall population decline of 2%, from 57,019 in 2001 to 55,883 in 2006. However, the variation increases when broken down by area. Area H, the Slocan Valley, shows a 3.4% decrease; Area K, north of Summit Lake to Halcyon and west to Edgewood, a whopping 9% decline; with Area D, North Kootenay Lake to Ainsworth, registering only a 1.7% drop.

Here too there is a substantial variation between the total number of dwellings and those occupied year-round. The RDCK in total has 2671 dwellings that are not the primary residence of their owners. There are 258 secondary homes in Area H, 117 in Area K, and 241 in Area D.

Peripheral municipalities, or 'exurbs,' surrounding Canada's metropolitan centres showed overall population gains of 11.1%. Analysts say this reflects hyper-inflated real estate markets, which have made homeowning in urban cores beyond reach for young working families. There is concern that the increase in commuting will negatively impact greenhouse gas emissions and will be economically unsustainable as oil prices continue to soar.

The increase in Canada's population was the first time since 1991 that the census to census growth rate has accelerated. This growth was due to higher levels of immigration, compared to the US, where the growth was due to a higher birth-to-death ratio. Canada had a faster rate of population growth than any of the other G8 countries during this period. The US was second with a population growth of 5%. Alberta and Ontario were responsible for two-thirds of Canada's population growth. Alberta led the growth with a rate of 10.6%, with Calgary having the second highest growth rate, next to Barrie, Ontario. Of the 1.6 million new Canadians, only 400,000 were native-born.

Nakusp Mayor's Report

I'd like to thank the *Valley Voice* for giving me the opportunity to provide a Mayor's Report to you. It has been a very busy time for the Nakusp Village council.

Nakusp, like many communities in the area, is working on our official community plan. I am pleased to say that we are about three quarters of the way through the process. We formed four committees with about 30 community members last August. The boundary expansion committee has been reviewing the feasibility of extending the Village's boundaries, zoning and airport. The hot springs committee has been looking at various options for the hot springs; the bylaw committee will be making bylaw recommendations and has looked at social issues in the community; the downtown revitalization committee has looked at the downtown area, waterfront and parks and zoning.

Corinne Tessier of Affirming Workplace Solutions Ltd., has been facilitating the process and Ramona Mattix, senior planner at the RDCK planning department has been working with us throughout the project. Area K Director Paul Peterson has also made himself available to attend some of our meetings. Council has been reviewing the committee reports at their monthly Committee of the Whole meetings.

A draft of the OCP is expected in early April. Meetings have been scheduled with various ministries during April for review and advice. The plan will then be prepared for presentation to the public. The process has been very time consuming and a huge learning curve for us. Council appreciates all the time and effort that the committee members have put into this plan and look forward to input from the public at our open house which hopefully will be in May/June.

High on council's priority list is receiving the information from the sewer and water studies to see where we are at as far as capacity. Several developers are interested in putting in new lots and subdivisions in the community and once we have this information, we will be able to meet with them. It is important that we ensure that we can offer the services needed.

We have been working on the budget over the past few months and the next budget meetings are April 11, 23, (25th if needed) with readings and presentation May 8 and final adoption May 10. All meetings are at the Village office at 6:30 pm.

The latest project brought to council is the Roots Music Society (Music Festival) proposal for development of the community park. They would like to expand the campsite by 41 spaces, construct a band shell with seating, as well as build washrooms. The project would take place over three years and would cost an estimated $685,000. The project would be funded through various grants. The Village would not be putting any direct funding into the project but may put in some equipment and personnel time. In exchange, the Music Fest would want use of the campsite/park one weekend a year.

When the proposal first came to council, I promised that there would be public input before council made a decision. We had a public meeting on March 8 and over 100 people attended. A model of the project was available for viewing. In order to ensure public input, a questionnaire is being sent to all mailboxes in the V0G 1R0 area. The whole postal code area is included in the survey as the whole area pays taxes towards the arena and park. The downtown revitalization committee will be submitting recommendations to the OCP process on the proposal. Once council has determined whether there is support for the project, they will take the information from the public, review the financial implications, etc. and make a decision.

I can assure the community that council has not and will not make a decision on this project until the public information has been reviewed. If the project is something the community would like to see move forward, we will do due diligence, as we always try to do, and ensure that there is appropriate community input on the development. Council will have representation on the design team and any issues that may arise will be worked through by all parties.

Small communities such as ours are fortunate to have several groups of dedicated volunteers that build and provide so much for our communities. Regardless of whether the project moves forward or not, the Roots Music Society has put a lot of work into this project and should be thanked for their efforts. While I'm at it, thank you to all the volunteers in our community who shape us, make things happen and contribute to the benefit of our living experience.

Mayor Karen Hamling

Celebrate EASTER at WANETA Plaza

On Saturday, April 7 with our 29th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am Sharp

- **CHILDREN AGES TO 3 YEARS** meet inside the Mall by Bootlegger
- **CHILDREN AGES 4 TO 6 YEARS** meet outside the Mall behind Extra Foods
- **CHILDREN AGES 7 TO 8 YEARS** meet at lower level, rear Mall entrance

Sat. April 7

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	Extra Foods: 9:00 am-9:00 pm
Saturday, April 7	Mall: 9:30 am-5:30 pm
	Zellers: 9:00 am-6:00 pm
	Extra Foods: 9:00 am-7:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 8	Mall: CLOSED
	Zellers: 9:00 am-5:00 pm
	Extra Foods: 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Monday, April 9	Regular Shopping Hours

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Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Rosebery Transfer Station:

Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	CLOSED

Slocan Transfer Station:

Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	CLOSED

Nakusp Landfill:

Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Burton Transfer Station:

Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	CLOSED

Edgewood Transfer Station:

Friday, April 6, 2007	CLOSED
Saturday, April 7, 2007	CLOSED
Sunday, April 8, 2007	CLOSED
Monday, April 9, 2007	CLOSED

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

Nakusp council, March 13: Music Fest questionnaire re-visited and revised

by Jan McMurray

•The questionnaire regarding the community park proposal put forward by Music Fest proponents was re-visited. Council decided to revise the questionnaire so that it focused only on the park proposal and not on any other aspect of the Music Festival. Councillor Dahlen was opposed. Councillors Switzer and Mueller declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion or vote.

The questions that were deleted from the draft questionnaire asked: 'Do you support the music festival generally?'; 'Would you support a controlled increase in attendance?'; and 'What is your preference for the location of the Music Fest?'

Mayor Hamling said she asked to have the questionnaire come back to council because she wanted to see it deal with the community park proposal only. She said she felt asking about people's opinions about the Music Fest as well confused the issue. She also felt it was unfair to poll people about the music festival without polling them about other events, such as the Mud Bog and Slo-Pitch events. Councillor Heppner agreed that the survey should only deal with the park proposal. Councillor Dahlen was in favour of asking all the questions on the questionnaire "because at one time, they [Music Fest] wanted a guarantee to hold the festival in the park for many years." CAO Lafleur said his interpretation was that if council wanted to poll the public, council should know what the public feels about Music Fest. He said he was opposed to the letter supplied by the Nakusp Roots Music Society to attach to the questionnaire, which "is an ad for the Music Fest, making the questionnaire not impartial."

The questionnaire went out with three questions about the park proposal only, and with a fact sheet prepared by Village staff attached. Anyone with questions about the proposal can call the Music Fest office at 265-2141 or view the model, currently on display at the court house. Citizens are asked to return the completed questionnaires to the Village office or post office by April 3.

•Council approved the formation of the Nakusp Community Forest Corporation, as well as the submission of an application to CBT in the amount of $249,000. A motion was also passed "that council commits to providing the start up funds for the Nakusp Community Forest Corporation."

•Council accepted the contract with Columbia Basin Trust for grant funding of $10,000 to go towards the cost of training ambulance attendants in the Arrow Lakes/Slocan Valley.

Council also accepted the $5,000 grant from the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation (ALHF) for the training. ALHF set out the following conditions for applicants for the training. Preference will be given first to applicants from the Nakusp area, second to the Edgewood and New Denver/Silverton areas, and last to applicants from other communities. Successful applicants will be required to make a two-year commitment to the ambulance service in our area. Money recovered because this commitment was not met will be placed in a trust account for future training.

The ambulance training course will begin April 13 and will run through until June.

•Councillor Mueller reported on the hot springs committee meeting of February 26, where there was a "lively discussion regarding the governance model for the hot springs." The committee feels that the current model, with issues being referred back and forth between the committee and council, results in too much delay. It would like council to discuss other models, i.e. creating a corporation where the Village is the only shareholder and have a board of directors, or strengthening the committee. This will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

She also reported on a meeting she had between the chamber executive and farmers' market representatives. All agreed that the market is valuable, but the chamber has concerns around parking, bathroom facilities and competition with existing businesses. She put forward that council might want to consider getting involved. Mayor Hamling said the group should form a committee to regulate the market, like New Denver does. This will also be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

•Mayor Hamling reported that Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association (ALTIA) representatives, including herself, would be meeting with the premier on March 27. The business case and economic impact study done on the ALTIA project to build a bridge/causeway at Galena/Shelter Bays and to raise funds for the project by selling lakeshore lots will be presented to the premier and discussed.

Hamling also reported that the community will have a new corporal by June, and that the Community Consultative Group will have a table at the Wellness Festival to provide information about crystal meth.

•Councillor Dahlen reported on the 2010 committee. She and Karl Bender (president) are the only two on the committee, so Dahlen said she felt the committee was defunct. She indicated she felt Bender needed clarification around the fund council set up for the 2010 committee. Treasurer Richard Mahoney confirmed that council had approved $5,000 per year in tax money to go into a fund for the purpose of sending 2010 committee members to meetings and for the Village to take advantage of 2010 opportunities. Councillor Dahlen added that council had decided not to tax for this fund for the last two years. Council decided to send a letter to Bender to clarify the purpose of the fund, and to inform him that the 2010 committee in Vancouver would be advised to send any information to the Village until a local committee is formed.

•Councillor Switzer reported that the access agreement between BC Hydro and the Village for access to the wharf was almost finalized. He said it looked like BC Hydro would have either a statutory right of way or a licence of occupation, on a temporary basis.

•In an effort to secure grant funding from BC Hydro to fix up the interpretive sign on the waterfront walkway near the Leland, the Village will contact the Arrow Lakes Historical Society. As the grant application must be submitted by a non-profit, Village staff will ask if they can make the application on behalf of the society.

•Council received correspondence from the City of Castlegar, advising that the City had passed a resolution to question the policy utilized by the RDCK to allocate Hydro grants in lieu by asking for a service review of the RDCK's general administration function. Council decided to send a letter saying the Village would like to be part of the service review in any way that would be helpful. Councillor Dahlen said the review would "clarify things" and Switzer said this has "direct financial implications for us."

•Council approved the purchase of a curling rink dehumidifier for $17,539.43. The funds will be obtained by taxation.

•Council will send a letter of support to the youth group for its fourth trail project proposal. The group has been invited to submit its proposal to Service Canada. The proposal adds Wilson Falls, Vikies View and Upper Halfway Hot Springs trails to the list of seven trails it has already maintained. The group intends to employ six people for 20 weeks.

•To purchase a new dump truck, council approved another $5,000, on top of the $100,000 approved at the last meeting.

•Staff reported that the new website should go live by the end of March.

•Council decided that Pride Week would be May 7-13 this year.

•Accounts payable of $153,573.30 were approved.

•The March 27 council meeting was cancelled, as three of the council members will be away.

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Preliminary hot springs survey results tallied

by Jan McMurray

Results of the survey sent out by the hot springs OCP committee were presented to council on March 13 by Councillor Ulli Mueller, who said the results "fail to give a clear picture." Tallied thus far are the responses to the questions on the survey, while the comments have not yet been reviewed in detail. Council agreed that the results will probably be clarified once the comments have been reviewed.

Out of the 1218 surveys distributed, 445 were returned. This is a 37% response rate, which is considered to be very good.

The grand majority - 75% - of respondents said they agreed that the Village should maintain ownership so long as the facility is sustainable. Most (55%) said the Village should not seek a financial partner to assist with the operation and management of the hot spring facility. 62% said they would not support a tax increase to complete required repairs, and 81% said they would not support a tax increase to develop other amenities at the hot springs, such as recreational lots or expanded and improved accommodations. 86% said they thought there should be further development, and 55% said the Village should not be involved in further development. 54% said the Village should retain ownership of the pool and allow private enterprise to develop other amenities at the site. 57% said they would not support a decision to sell the hot springs.

"People don't support a tax increase, but don't want private development, but they want other development – so we will have to be creative," said Mueller.

Council discussed the potential for misinterpretation of the questions. For example, Councillor Dahlen said she thought the question: 'Do you think there should be any further development?' meant further development around the hot springs, not further development of the hot springs itself. Mayor Hamling observed, "What you think you are asking and what the respondents think can be two different things."

Mueller explained that the hot springs OCP committee had not yet seen the results. She said the committee, at its next meeting, would look at the binder full of comments, "hash it out" and come up with recommendations.

ALAC presents Community Artists' Concert

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting a Community Artists' Concert at the Bonnington Arts Centre on Sunday, April 15 at 2 pm. This concert will include pianists, folk singers, fiddlers, choirs, orchestras; and dancers from the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Lake regions. Theatre performers will also be present with various readings and skits.

It is hoped that an afternoon event will encourage those who do not like to drive in the dark to come and enjoy LIVE entertainment from our talented local artists. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council endeavours to showcase local talent in performing arts along with professional performers from across Canada and sometimes the USA.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door the afternoon of the concert. The doors open at 1:30 pm and the concert starts at 2 pm. The cost of the concert is $7 for Adults and $5 for Seniors (60 and over) and Children (12 and under).

Arrow Lakes Arts Council

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the
BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

COMMUNITY ARTISTS' CONCERT

SUNDAY, April 15th at 2:00pm

Tickets are $7.00 Adults and $5.00 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under)

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door

Door opens at 1:30 pm.

Spring Grants

Non-profit groups in the Village of Nakusp and Defined Area K

may apply for a grant to

REC COMMISSION #4, BOX 613
NAKUSP, BC, V0G 1R0
Pick up applications at:
Village of Nakusp office or get applications and more information from:
reccom4@columbiacable.net

Applications close April 6, 2007
Grant co-ordinator
S. Watt, 265-3438

THE VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

REQUIRES
A CONTRACTOR FOR THE NAKUSP HOTSPRINGS CAMPGROUND FOR THE 2007 CAMPING SEASON

The Village is seeking a qualified contractor to operate the Hot Springs Campground for the 2007 camping season (approximately early May to mid-October).

In return for a percentage of camping fees, the Contractor will be required to:
- Maintain the campground area, including showers and washrooms, to an acceptable level.
- Collect all camping fees and remit to the Village on a daily basis.
- Act as Campground Host, to ensure campers have a favourable experience at the Hot Springs.

It is expected the Operator will maintain a daily presence at the Campground. Details of the Contract can be inspected at the Village office during regular office hours.

Interested candidates should submit a written application to the Village office (91-1st Street NW) before 4:30 pm, April 13, 2007. The Village reserves the right to refuse any or all applications.

Kaslo council, March 13: Kaslo connects with Canmore on tax rebate program for primary residents

by Jill Braley

•Mayor Holland continues to investigate the possibility of a Primary Residency Rebate Program (PRRP), previously referred to as a Local Government Homeowners' Grant, with the help of Dawn Attorp, RDCK and Lorena Staples, Village lawyer. Canmore is currently creating a bylaw on this, and Staples is following the outcome on behalf of Kaslo.

Holland provided council with a document from the Town of Canmore entitled 'Official responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the PRRP.' The response to "Why are you doing this only to non-residents?" is that the town gets no provincial funding for non-permanent residents, but depends on provincial monies to maintain infrastructure. "Our ability to stay financially healthy decreases with the increase in non-permanent residents...Since the root source of our growing problem is our non-permanent residents, it makes the most sense that we turn to them."

Holland said he is seriously looking at the PRRP because Kaslo is in a situation like Canmore's. It is estimated that 30% of all Kaslo homeowners are non-permanent. He said the PRRP program, if adopted, would give a tax rebate to those citizens who make Kaslo their primary residence and that proof of residence would be required.

•Gillian Froese of the Village Hall Conservation Committee asked council to consider contributing to the restoration effort, and suggested the Village budget $8,000 - $10,000 to pay for the cedar shingles for the roof replacement project. Froese stated the integrity of the building is now at risk and the roof project could be completed by May Days. The request was referred to the Planning and Development committee for recommendation to council.

•As recommended by the Planning & Development committee:

-Mark McKenzie was authorized to make an application for funding to compile a municipal heritage registry.

-The top floor of the City Hall building was designated as a multi-purpose community centre.

-A draft encroachment agreement will be reviewed by lawyer Tom Humphries prior to presentation to the Kaslo Hotel Development Corporation.

-The owners of Marina Ridge Developments will be requested to conduct a public meeting on its proposed zoning amendment from Waterfront Commercial to Single and Two Family Residential, pursuant to municipal policy.

-The terms of reference for the Official Community Plan review as presented jointly by the RDCK and SmartGrowthBC were accepted, with direct project costs to the municipality not to exceed a total of $20,000.

•Council received a request from Ward Engineering regarding Marina Ridge Developments' proposed bare land strata plan on the point. The request was referred to the Planning & Development Committee for recommendation to council. Ward provided a drawing which showed the proposed dimensions of the lots. Because six of the lots have less than 10% of their perimeter that fronts on the common property access road, Ward asks council to grant waivers for the lot frontages for those lots.

•Kohle Ocello attended as a delegation to ask about the community garden lease and for permission to start using the garden. Mayor Holland indicated that no permission could be given without the lease in place. He told Ocello that North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS) would be a strong sponsor and recommended she establish a working relationship with the society. Later in the meeting, council received a request from NKLCSS for the community garden lease. The request was granted for a 3-year term at an annual rate of $1.

•Mayor Holland and CAO Sawyer were authorized to sign a Contribution Agreement with the Columbia Basin Trust to receive a grant of $1,500 for the purchase of a defibrillator. This piece of medical equipment, which aids in cases of heart attack, will be installed at the arena during the winter months and at the golf club during the summer months.

•Councillor Jones wrote a memo to council regarding the recycle bins in the public works yard. He wanted the public to be clear that there are three bins for all the types of accepted plastics, and that flattening all plastic containers before dropping them in the bins is helpful. He also asks the public to ensure that all cardboard boxes are broken down flat to avoid overflow in this bin. Jones requested a bin for paint and paint products. The memo was referred to the RDCK for reply or action.

•Councillor Jones wrote to council proposing that the Village charge a $10 landing fee for all fixed wing aircraft and helicopters landing at the Kaslo airport. The matter was referred to the public works committee, which met on March 19. It was decided to refer this for discussion during the Official Community Plan review.

•CAO Sawyer and Public Works Foreman Glen Walker were authorized to attend a Ministry of Environment Freshet & Diking Authority Workshop in Nelson on April 17. The Province is presenting a series of flood preparedness workshops this spring.

•The Village will extend an invitation to politicians to attend Kaslo May Days and will hold a reception at the Village Hall prior to the parade.

•The Village will make an application to the Home Hardware Maple Leaf program for grant funding of $1,300 for tree planting.

•Council received an email from Mayor Holland, informing that the City of Castlegar is not happy with the BC Hydro grants in lieu funding formulas and has initiated a request for a review of the general administration function of the RDCK. He sees this as an opportunity for Kaslo, which currently receives no hydro grant in lieu funding. The email was referred to the Administration & Finance Committee for recommendation to council.

•Accounts Payable of $37,592 were approved.

Referendum question set for purchase of provincial building

by Jill Braley

Although Kaslo council has not yet authorized the signing of the Offer to Purchase the provincial building, the referendum question has been set, and the Ministry of Community Services has approved the bylaw authorizing the Village to borrow $122,200 for the purchase.

At its March 13 meeting, council approved the wording for the April 21 referendum question, as received in a memo from Chief Election Officer Carol Hughes. The question on the ballot will read: Are you in favour of the Village of Kaslo enacting Bylaw #1039 to provide for the following: Authorizing the borrowing of $122,200 to purchase the Provincial Government Building; and Authorizing the repayment term for the debt created as 10 years.

The motion to sign the Offer to Purchase was put forward by Councillors Leathwood and Vass, but was defeated. Instead, the Offer to Purchase will be forwarded to the Village lawyers for an opinion.

Council agreed that the municipality have a building inspection, building appraisal and business case study done for purchase of the building, with all other reports contingent on the results of the referendum. Mayor Holland was opposed.

In the several pieces of correspondence council received from Charles Chan, Accommodation & Real Estate Services (ARES), Chan stated that the sale and purchase of the building could be completed by June 29.

Chan also addressed council's concern about asbestos, stating that according to the 1990 report, the only material confirmed to contain asbestos was paper used as fireproof lining within the original electrical box on the second floor. He said the $130 figure quoted to remove the asbestos was estimated in the 1990s and needs to be re-investigated and confirmed by the Village's building inspector.

Chan also responded to a March 9 email from the Village, indicating that the Village would sign the Offer to Purchase, subject to the Province of BC bearing the costs of the building inspection, environmental review and Certificate of Compliance. Chan replied that the building inspection and associated costs were the purchaser's responsibility. On the environmental review, he said that ARES had contracted Dillon Consulting to do the review, and had the site remediated in 2003. He said the 'Area of Environmental Concern' associated with soil impacts below a fuel storage shed had been remediated and ARES was satisfied with the environmental condition of the site. He said if the Village wanted further independent assurances, it would have to pay its own consultant. Chan also said that given the costs and delay in obtaining a Certificate of Compliance, ARES would not be pursuing this.

Prompted by a call from a citizen, Andy Shadrack, Director of Area D, wrote to council asking that anyone representing the City Hall Restoration Committee or the Village not make any statements as to the opinions of Area D residents on the purchase of the provincial building, "especially if such statements are likely to mislead Village of Kaslo voters into believing that financial support may be forthcoming from Area D for this purchase." He says that Area D has not been asked to participate in the decision in any way, and encloses an opinion poll done in Area D in 2005 where 53.4% of eligible voter respondents were opposed to or undecided about a "Kaslo Restoration Project."

All written material relating to the purchase of the provincial building is in the front counter binder in the Village office for public reference.

Kaslo Trailblazers receive $55,000 in grant funding to 'build the bridge'

by Jill Braley

The Columbia Basin Trust has come through and awarded the Kaslo Trailblazers Society with matching grant funding in the amount of $55,000. This makes it possible for the bridge to be completed this year.

Society members have been very busy writing grant applications in hopes of being able to order the steel to build a pedestrian bridge that will connect the north and south sides of the trail along the Kaslo River. The bridge will span 106 feet across the Kaslo River at its narrowest gorge.

The total cost for the bridge is approx. $112,000. At the society's recent AGM it was mentioned the group had raised $57,000 since 2005, after expenses. The group were hoping one of the grant applications they had submitted would be successful.

The Society wishes to express a big thank you to Columbia Basin Trust, all the Trailblazers volunteers, and everyone who has taken out memberships, purchased benches, picnic tables, bridge treads, given in kind donations and more. Volunteers are always needed for trail work/maintenance. For further information please call Val Koenig 353-2168 or Silvio Lettrari 353-2968.

Kaslo council, March 6 budget meeting

by Jill Braley

•It was agreed the total municipal grant budget for 2007 would be $8,000, including the Kaslo Golf Club funds. The following municipal grants were approved: Kaslo Car Show Committee $300; Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce $300; Kaslo & Area Residents Association $200; Kaslo Curling Club $500; North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council $400; Kaslo Jazz Etc Society $300; Langham Cultural Society $800; Kaslo & District Arena Assoc. $1250; Kaslo Trailblazers Society $500; Kaslo & Area Hospice $250; Kaslo Youth Council $300; Kaslo Concert Society $250; Nelson Police Camp $150 for a total granted of $5,500.

•Council approved a request from Periwinkle School for $4,000 to put skirting on the building.

•Council accepted a quotation by Suncorp Valuations Ltd. to appraise municipal buildings and contents (the latter on a lump sum basis) for a maximum cost of $15,000 plus GST.

•The cost of $10,000 for a generator for the Emergency Operations Centre will be included in the 2007 budget.

•Council will consider a tax rate increase in 2007 of 2-5%.

Classical guitarist Scott Arnold to perform at the Langham

submitted

Scott Arnold is returning to the Langham to promote his new CD on Saturday April 7 at 8 pm. Tickets are available for $10 from Sunnyside Naturals. Arnold is a classically trained guitarist whose repertoire includes contemporary, South American, Spanish and Renaissance music. His performances are influenced by traditional European and American compositions performed on the guitar and 5-string banjo.

Arnold studied guitar and piano as a child in Toronto and continued at the Royal Conservatory of Music where he studied theory and composition as well as performance with notable musicians including Norbert Kraft, international recording artist and performer, and Pierre Gallant, recognized pianist and composer.

He began his performing career in Toronto before moving west in 2000 to Vancouver Island. Here, he continued his busy performing and teaching schedule and has toured BC, Alberta, The Yukon, and The Northwest Territories. Arnold moved to Slocan City in 2004.

Slocan City guitarist Scott Arnold plays the Langham Cultural Centre on April 7 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are available at Sunnyside Naturals.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Bobbing about on Slocan Lake

Okay now, I've gotten completely sick of the lingering winter with the cold and damp days that seem so reluctant to end. The calendar says it's spring, the birds chirp that it is and most people are feeling it should be. Seems that the few promising days of sun and breezes are followed by more dull and damp. The real concern of course is that the thaw must begin in the mid to high elevations to reduce later flood potential.

I spent less time on Slocan Lake this past winter and am eager to get out there lots now, what with the marina now free of snow and the lakeshore more inviting for landings. After some needed tinkering and tuning up, I hauled my 16-foot motorboat down to the docks last week and dumped it in the lake to get a start on the tardy 2007 season. Slocan Lake is up a foot now from the winter ebb and may rise eight or nine more feet by the end of June. Current temperature is 4°C a metre down...

A friend from Silverton joined me for the inaugural short tour and we made a point of cruising down past Silverton's waterfront so she could see her new hometown from the water. Just past Silverton Creek by the small public beach we saw something up ahead causing ripples and surges of bubbles and assumed it was an otter or beaver approaching, but in fact we chugged past a FROGMAN who was also exploring the shoreline, though somewhat deeper than ourselves. I assumed that it was either Rick Tegeler or perhaps James Bond.

After spying upon the entire Silverton skyline, we sped across the lake for a snack and thermos of tea at Sandy Point in Valhalla Park. The sun was just strong enough and the wind calm enough to allow a short picnic. Then a stop in to check a friends' cabin up the shore a ways, then a stop at the Indian pictograph site opposite Silverton. There was no wildlife or leaping fish to mention and few birds in flight over the rippled waters.

The light wasn't strong enough to really look over the sunken rail barge along this stretch. When I phoned Rick to explain that it was us who'd slid past pretty close to him scuba diving, he actually said he hadn't been out that day and it may have been a fellow from Kelowna. Rick went on to say that there also is the barge to see at Wee Sandy Creek and also a third one at Rosebery, all easily visible in the shallow water...

Slocan Lake is so special. Really quite deep – nearly 300 metres in places – I suppose because it lies in a deep fault line trench and has no great rivers passing through it to cause siltation over the millennia. Motorboating along I know that the engine sound can carry far along the lake, contained by the steep slopes all around and the simple fact that any sound conducts easily over water. All the Valhalla Park side of the lake hears highway traffic, lawn mowers, loud dogs and even loud people on calm, still air days.

I do a lot of kayaking and canoeing out there as well, and all those sailboats in the marina each summer can be tantalizing as well, so I try to see both sides of the powered watercraft discussion. Some folks would like to see a restriction in the horsepower size of boats out there, but some of the biggest boats are out there trolling along fishing, as mellow as can be. There are also the morons in small motorboats who can speed too close to shore and present a danger even with quite small outboard engines.

Slocan Lake is fairly big, some 40 km in length, roughly the same length as the beautiful river of the same name. The lake has about 100 km of shoreline and the valley itself is about 100 km in length from Summit Lake south through to Shoreacres on Kootenay River. The climate zone at the north end of hemlock/cedar forest changes noticeably to the drier douglas fir/ponderosa pine region at the south end. Slocan Lake remains one of very few lakes in the south of the province to not be controlled by generating or flow controlling dams.

And this natural drainage pattern will likely get to be a big worry later this season as these cold rains and higher up snows saturate the water table in general and raise the creeks and lake itself. Last year's flooding was not so much from a large snowpack as it was from the seven days of record hot weather we had preceding the May long weekend. Anyhow, I guess we'll muddle along, hopeful, humble and preferably on high ground.

Peter Roulston owes the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver, safely situated on high ground beside Hwy 6. 358-2133

with Jamie Barber

The technology debate

The TV advert certainly gets attention – the driver pulls up next to another parked vehicle, hits a button labelled 'park assist' and then sits back and lets the electronic gizmos in the vehicle's computer execute the perfect parallel parking job. It's a neat trick, but it begs the question – Do we need it?

When automobiles first gained popularity, they required some modicum of skill and dedication to operate. To simply fire up that Model T Ford took some doing – set the proper amount of throttle, spark advance fully retarded, ignition switch to 'off' position, parking brake set. Get out of the car and lift up the hood to turn gas tap on. Now approach the front of the car. Pull out the choke to enrich the mixture. Crank the motor through a few times with the hand crank. Go back into the car and turn the ignition switch to the battery position. Now vacate the seat and move back to the front of the car. Clasp the hand crank – with the proper handgrip so your thumb doesn't get ripped off – and crank for all you're worth.

Maybe it would start, or maybe you'd have to go through the same drill again. If it didn't start, you'd have to possess rudimentary mechanical skills to determine if you should increase the amount of fixed throttle, change the spark advance or use more choke. In some older vehicles, you even had to watch the lubricant flow through a series of drip glasses and determine if you should change the amount of lubrication going to various critical parts of the engine, depending on driving conditions.

All these shenanigans were to just make the vehicle go down the road. Drivers had to constantly pay attention to the sound of the engine and change spark advance manually as the situation warranted. Later, vehicles came equipped with automatic choke mechanisms, centrifugal spark advancers and automatic transmissions. The days of constantly tweaking your vehicle to just drive it became a thing of the past.

Today, many drivers have lost the skill of listening to the engine to determine optimum shifting points as was necessary with standard transmissions, and certainly have little concept of twist-grip spark advance as found on my old Indian motorcycle. "So what?" you might ask. Certainly, cruise control, auto darkening rear view mirrors, auto transmissions and computers that control everything from headlight switches to traction control, have made driving a vehicle more effortless and comfortable. What it hasn't done is made driving more interesting.

Driving used to require a 'presence.' By being forced to participate in the event, a person became immersed in the action and a certain relationship was developed between the driver and their machine. This is where the pleasure of driving originated. How many other activities that used to be ubiquitous have now been transformed by technology?

I find pleasure in hand grinding coffee, but electric machines are much more convenient. There is great contentment to be found in kneading bread, but a bread machine, where you simply add ingredients, is much less time consuming. The same can be said about writing letters as opposed to using e-mail, or missing the satisfaction of stiffening whipped cream with a hand blender rather than an electric mixer.

I'm sure we could all cite many instances where this rubric of convenience has detached us from the tasks and surroundings of our daily lives. This method of using technology has freed us from much drudgery, but on the other hand, it has disconnected us from the presence of task orientation, a situation that philosophers such as GI Gurdjieff see as disconnecting us from the centre of our being.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Kaslo's Newest Business

Hello out there all you fabulous food fans. It's spring, I'm told, and every once in a while when the sun peeks through the clouds I believe it. Yesterday, highway 31 'eh' (my favorite corridor) was rainy, misty and foggy all the way to Kaslo, but I was driving the cool car of my fearless publisher, and I enjoyed the drive. I've also always enjoyed the town of Kaslo. I have a couple of friends there, and I visit often. I arrived in Kaslo, parked the car, put on my rain hat and walked to the corner of Fourth and Front-the location of Kaslo's newest business: the BlueBelle Bistro. Before I even walked in I knew I'd like the place, because there on the sidewalk was their sign for 'today's specials.'

The specials were Greek Lasagna with feta cheese, black olives, spinach, artichoke hearts, red onions and béchamel sauce, and the special soup of the day was fennel-leek with blue cheese. Welcome to the BlueBelle Bistro!

Suddenly I was out of the wind and cold rain and inside a friendly, spacious, warm, bright, uncluttered room. One wall is almost entirely windows with an old old stained glass top section and a view of Kootenay lake. There's a wood heater. Fresh flowers adorn the tables and the main counter. There is another room, sort of an annex, which is smaller, but bright and cozy. All in all there is room for fifty people at the tables and counters. I was met by smiling Nicole, who reminded me of the specials and gave me a menu and a cup of tea. I cruised the menu and became very interested in the Hearty Buffalo Chili, the Caesar Salad, the 'Seedy' Salad, the Greek Lasagna special (with spicy corn bread). I was experiencing 'menu stress,' and when I told Nicole she said, "Maybe I can bring you some of each." Yes yes yes!

Then in came Christa Sheldrick, the owner-operator of the BlueBelle Bistro. Christa has worked in the restaurant biz for twenty years in all kinds of establishments. A while back she bought the building, and four months ago she achieved a long-time goal: to open her very own restaurant. Christa wants all the food at the BlueBelle to be as fresh as possible. There are no pre-packaged items except for things like olives, which, I'm told, are difficult to grow in the Kootenays. Christa also owns a food vending business, and at concerts and festivals she's the one with ice-cream, burritos, baked goods, and garlic-frozen-yoghurt. As we chat some youngsters come in, and Christa takes the time to buy some Girl Guide Cookies from them. Everyone's smiling, including Christa's sister Katy who has just walked in. She also works at the BlueBelle.

Food? Ah yes indeed. The BlueBelle is known for its pizza. They are made with an old family pizza dough recipe, freshly made tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese then baked on cornmeal in their traditional slate oven. There are thirty-five toppings which means about a zillion combinations available including all kinds of meats, vegies, and cheeses, pesto, mango, and lots more. There's something called Stromboli: pizza dough brushed with garlic olive oil, rolled with your choice of fillings and baked 'till golden brown.

Beyond pizza, the BlueBelle serves great salads, bruschetta, and spinach and walnut strudel. Christa tells me that the dish that started it all is the Fatty Fresh Burrito: slow-cooked beef, home-cooked black beans, cheese, carrots, cucumber, green onions, black olives, lettuce, sour cream, house-made salsa, guacamole, fresh jalapenos and hot sauce all wrapped in a steamed tortilla.

Wow! Nachos? No problem. Or how 'bout quesadillas: flour tortilla filled with chicken, cheese, green onion, peppers, and tomato served with salsa and sour cream with choice of soup or salad? Like curry? Try the potato curry bundle: freshly made pastry filled with curried potato, carrots and peas served with home-made mango chutney and choice of soup or salad.

I had a great time chatting and talking to Christa, Nicole, and Kate, and I thoroughly enjoyed the company and the food. Next time you're in Kaslo, check out The BlueBelle Bistro. Open Tues.-Sat. 11:00 am-after dinner.

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Nicole, Christa and Andrew pose for a photo, after Andrew's fabulous lunch.

Bluebelle Bistro

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Open Tuesday - Saturday
11:00 am 'til after dinner.

Phone: 353-7361

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

On behalf of the NSS ski and snowboard team we would like to send out an enormous thank you to all those who supported our high school provincials at Whistler in March: Cresent Bay Construction, What's Brewing On Broadway, Pope And Talbot, Davie and Associates, Box Lake Lumber, Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic, Nick's Place, Selkirk Realty, Overwaitea, Nakusp Music Fest, Nakusp General Store.

COMING EVENTS

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

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

SOCIAL/BALLROOM DANCE – Saturday, April 7, 2007, Playmor Hall, South Slocan. Foxtrot, Cha Cha Workshops during the day. Beginners workshops start at 11 am; Intermediate workshops start at 1:30 pm. Michael Wiebe, instructor, University of Calgary. Dancing 8:00pm-11:00pm. For more info contact Lui at 365-2896 or LMarinelli@selkirk.ca. www.dancingbeat.org.

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 PARENTS, SIBLINGS AND CAREGIVERS. Explore the gift of communication and the joy of signing. Studies show that infants and parents alike experience less stress about daily routines, while empowering language skills and promoting self esteem through the infant having a direct effect on her environment even before she can speak Wednesdays 9;30-10:30 am, March 7-April 25. Drop-ins welcome. Hand & Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. 358-2562. Suggested donation $10 per class.

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KASLO HOUSING SOCIETY** will take place on April 30, 2007 at the Senior's Hall in Kaslo. (look for posters and notices closer to the date). Our society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the building of supportive housing for seniors in the North Kootenay Lake region. We will be looking for a minimum of three new board members to replace those whose terms have expired and will be stepping down. If you feel this project is important to the North Kootenay Lake region as a whole, and would be prepared to contribute some time and effort into achieving this goal, perhaps you would let your name stand for nomination and election to the Board at the upcoming AGM. If you are interested in learning more, or require additional information, please phone Wendy at 353-7145.

DANCE WEDNESDAYS AT WINLAW HALL (Hwy 6), starting March 7: Creative dance for kids ages 2 to 6 at 4:45 pm, African Dance for adults 5:30 pm followed by Open Dance Improvisation 7pm. In cooperation with Slocan Valley Recreation and Selkirk College. 226 0008 (Slocan Valley Rec).

WEDNESDAY ART AT WINLAW HALL (Hwy 6): Painting with instruction mornings 9:30 -1pm, Life drawing for beginners 1:30 – 4 pm. Experienced artists also welcome to have studio space for the day. In cooperation with Selkirk College and Slocan Valley Recreation. Barb Wilson, 226 0021 and Evelyn Kirkaldy, 359 6611.

COME ALL YE GRUBS, SLUGS, and fellow gardeners to a Community Seed Swap from 10-2pm at the Hidden Garden Gallery on March 31. Come with seeds or without and help bring on the gardening season! Contact: Julia 358-2745.

INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL HEALTH CARE, Q&A, some AV, dialogue / discussion on the principle of natural health delivery and practical application in our lives. Presented by Analisa Azzopardi, Natural Health Consultant, and guest lecturers TBA. 1st Tuesday evening and Thursday morning of every month 7:30-9:30 and 10 to noon, commencing March 6 & 8. Drop-ins welcome. Hand & Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. Suggested donation $10 per class.

BLOOD TYPE & DIET. What's all the hype? Come and find out why and what you might gain by putting your genetic information to bat for you. Genes determine many factors about your uniqueness and affinities. Find out how the food choices you make can influence your health & wellness. A series of five lectures to accommodate each blood group and the related research and theories will be offered every Tuesday and Thursday from March 13 & 15 to April 10 & 12. Drop-ins welcome. These are all offered through Hand & Soul Healing Centre, Silverton. Suggested donation $10 per class. 358-2562.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY Screening of film *Dances of Ecstasy*. Discussion of 'Trance Dance' and upcoming Wilbert Alix workshop with Barbara Wilson and Analisa Azzopardi. April 2, 7:30 pm.

THE HEALTHY HOUSING SOCIETY would like to thank you for answering our housing needs survey! Please come to a public meeting to discuss the housing survey results and other issues around community sustainability that you think the Healthy Housing Society should focus on in the next year. Friday, March 30, 7 pm, Knox Hall, New Denver.

KASLO & DISTRICT ARENA AGM. Continued arena operation requires 8 directors. Currently, only 1 is returning from the past year. We need your help to keep this facility in operation. Anyone interested in joining this board please attend the AGM on Wed., April 4 at 7 pm upstairs in the arena.

WINLAW HALL presents an **Old Fashioned Authenic Russian Supper**. April 22/07. Come tantalize your tastebuds with a fantastic selection of home cooked food prepared by our local Russian ladies. We will have borscht, bread, assorted vegetable tarts, cheese, salad coffee, tea and dessert. Advance tickets ensure you a seat and lots to eat. Call Lorna 226-6779 (or see her at Co-op) or Carey 226-7702 (see her at the Hair Hut) 1st seating 4:30pm -5:30; 2nd seating 6:00- 7:00pm. Adults $12.00 12 + under $10.00.

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HELP WANTED

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

YOUTH WORKERS REQUIRED. Crescent Valley Youth Centre is currently hiring youth workers evening/weekend shifts $12-$15/hr. Experience is preferred. Mail resumes to Box 13 Crescent Valley, BC V0G 1H0 or email cvyc@netidea.com. Deadline Friday March 30.

COOKS, WAITRESSES, BARTENDERS and Pizza Delivery Drivers at Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Apply in person.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR: average 4 or 5 hours per week for heavier routine and emergency maintenance along Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Own truck, chainsaw, brushsaw & other tools required. Minimum 6 month commitment. $20/hr. Apply in writing by 6 PM April 3 to Box 22, Winlaw, BC, V0G2J0, to info@svrt.ca or fax to (250)355-2399 with full particulars.

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Please send resumes to fax 250-265-0081 or email health@terrabotanica.com.

WANTED: DISHWASHER, Thursday-Sunday evenings. Must have restaurant experience and FoodSafe certificate. Please call Lilliana at the Wild Rose Restaurant, 358-7744.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory
Barbara Jean Cowley
Loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Sister, Best Friend, who left us April 1, 2006.

NOTICES

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

ANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submit the proper applications to Box 293, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0. Application forms are available at: Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Lucerne School and My Aunt's Place, New Denver. Please note that the appropriate application form must be used or the application will not be considered. The deadline for the applications is April 15th, 2007.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

A LITTLE MINOR "SERGERY"? - Basics of using your serger. Instr. Elle Boer. Sat. April 14th. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Threads Guild Building. Fee:$40/1 session. Sign up today!
SLOCAN VALLEY MIXED SOCCER LEAGUE - Registration now underway for soccer for pre-school up to Grade 6. Fee: $50 ($40 with jersey return). Deadline for sign up is March 31st.
KID ZONE BUY & SELL - Nothing but kids stuff! Sat. March 31st. Slocan Park Hall 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All ages welcome. Admission is a donation to the Slocan Food Bank.
EASTER BUNNY HOP - Sunday, April 1st, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Passmore Lodge. $3 per child. Must pre-register by March 27th
TALKING BONSAI - With Gail Powell. Sun. April 15th. Noon to 2:00 p.m. Vallican Whole Community Centre.
CREATING A HANGING BASKET - Four Seasons Greenhouse, Winlaw. Sat. April 21st. Noon to 2 p.m. Fee: $17.
P.A.L. (Possession & Acquistion License) - April 14th & 15th (Sat.Sun.) Winlaw School. Fee: $85. Reg. by April 5th.
BIKE SWAP - Sun. April 22nd. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Slocan Park Hall.
CORE HUNTER TRAINING - April 28th & 29th (Sat./Sun.) Winlaw School. Fee: $135/2 sessions. Reg. by April 13th.

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Kaslo Housing Society

Wondering about Seniors Housing Options in Kaslo and Area?

We Want your Opinion!

The Kaslo Housing Society is interested in the feasibility of providing supportive housing for seniors in Kaslo and would like to hear your views about their ideas.

Please come to one of five public meetings:

- Wednesday March 28 at 10:00 AM, Kaslo Seniors Hall
- Wednesday March 28, 2:00 PM, Kaslo Seniors Hall
- Thursday March 29, 7:00 PM, Kaslo Seniors Hall
- Friday March 30, 10:00 AM, Lardeau Community Club, Meadow Creek
- Friday March 30, 2:30 PM, The Friends Meeting House, Argenta

We'll be serving coffee and cookies.

DOOR PRIZES!

Plastic Recycling

The RDCK and Waste Management of Canada are pleased to announce rigid mixed plastic recycling at the following recycling depots starting April 1, 2007

♦ **Burton** (248 Caribou Creek Road) ♦ **Castlegar** (Community Complex & Ootischenia landfill) ♦ **Crescent Valley** (beside Selkirk College) ♦ **Edgewood** (8855 Highway 6) ♦ **Nakusp** (beside Nakusp Recreation Centre) ♦ **New Denver** (602 Slocan Avenue) ♦ **Silverton** (421 Lake Avenue - Village office yard) ♦ **Slocan** (#8875 Harold Street) ♦ **Winlaw** (on main Highway)

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www.rdck.bc.ca or www.rcbc.bc.ca

Highways meeting well received by participants

by Jan McMurray

A meeting about highways maintenance was held at the RDCK office in Nelson on March 19. In attendance were MLA Corky Evans and representatives from YRB (the road maintenance contractor), Ministry of Transportation, ICBC, RCMP, Springer Creek Forest Products, and the RDCK.

Evans said that it was the first meeting of its kind, and the group felt it was worthwhile. They agreed they should meet twice a year, before and after the winter season. Evans said he called the meeting at the suggestion of Winlaw resident John Braun, who was a Ministry of Transportation employee before road maintenance was privatized. Braun felt there needed to be some communication between the various interest groups.

"Largely, the meeting was informational," said Evans. "I wanted to get everyone together to clarify each organization's role. How do citizens convey their thoughts to the contractor? How do people report road conditions? How do local government officials best make sure their constituents' voices are heard? So we were sorting out who should talk to who."

Kevin Higgins, YRB general manager, informed us in an interview after the meeting that 1-888-352-0356 is the year-round phone number citizens should call to report urgent issues. Otherwise, people are encouraged to check out the website at www.yrb.ca, where there is an interactive form people can fill in, as well as links to sites with information on road conditions.

Higgins explained that people were getting frustrated this past winter when they called their local YRB office and got an answering machine because the foremen and crew were all out working on the roads. In response, the company hired a person to answer the calls coming into the toll-free line this past winter.

Munro said he was pleased to hear quite a bit of praise for the Winlaw YRB crew at the meeting. He said differences in the level of road maintenance in the different crews' areas was noted, and Higgins had said the company was looking at ways to improve on this.

Both Munro and Evans reported that safety issues caused by roadside weeds were discussed at length. Higgins assured that looking after weeds would be high on the priority list this spring.

Evans said John Braun was the only one to point out that black ice is worse when there is shade on the road, and that he'd like to see a better job of clearing trees from the roadsides. As a result, representatives from the phone and electrical companies will also be invited to the next meeting.

The need for a local road report was also mentioned. Silverton RDCK representative Carol Bell brought up the issue of chip trucks, which was discussed at the recent MP forum in Silverton. She pointed out that road conditions are not conducive to this type of traffic, and for safety reasons, something should be done to accommodate them. Gord Zaitsoff, RDCK director for the Lower Arrow/Columbia and member of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, agreed, saying that road conditions were a major problem for trucking companies and businesses that relied on them.

Some concern was expressed over the length of the highways maintenance contract, which is 10 years. The reasoning behind the long contract is that the weather-dependent nature of the business means that the contractor has some profitable and some unprofitable years over the duration, and hopefully comes out on top at the end of it.

Evans noted that the standards for highway maintenance have not been changed since 1988 when it became privatized. He said the Ministry's role was one of regulation and audit, and the Ministry evaluates the contractor's performance not on the number of calls received but on the contractor's reaction to those calls. Some felt there should be more supervision by third parties to make sure the contractor is living up to the terms of the contract.

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Summit Lake Racers place well at Phoenix course

submitted

20 Summit Lake Racers made the long trip to Grand Forks on March 11 for the Alcan Nancy Greene Ski League Zone Finals. Far from dampening their enthusiasm, the light rain actually whetted their skills.

The skiers appeared through the mist as they carved turns through the smoothly set gates. It was a dual slalom, which allowed each racer to run both the red and blue courses. The second run on the soft snow was understandably rougher than the first, causing a few DQs. Tara Horning commented that she preferred the blue course, while Mikala Lewis-Morrison felt that "Red is best."

Once again, Tyler Hascarl, our hot local skier, took first place in the individual times. Tyler has had an amazing year, bringing home awards from events throughout the zone. The Summit Lake Racers' E1/E2 teams earned gold and silver medals at this last competition of the 2006/2007 season. Thanks again to the coaches and parents who have made this opportunity possible. The 'big bucks' may not be there, but those involved send warm feelings of thanks and respect to all our volunteers, who have given the Summit Lake Racers a place of honour in the West Kootenay Zone.

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