The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Government wants ALTIA to find private partner for causeway project

by Jan McMurray

The outcome of the March 27 ALTIA (Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association) meeting in Victoria was not quite what was expected, but the group is committed to moving forward with its idea to build a causeway at Galena/Shelter Bays and to finance it with the sale of crown land along the shores of the Arrow Lakes.

Government officials at the meeting made it clear that they'd like to see a private partner take the lead and invest in the project.

"We weren't expecting that," admitted ALTIA director Ken Marshall, "but we're optimistic we can do something with it – it will just take longer than expected."

The ALTIA board of directors has not had a chance to meet since their appointment in Victoria, but hope to sit down in the next couple of weeks to start "plotting a strategy."

Marshall said the government would like to see a private partner acquire the lakeshore land and develop it in accordance with the requirements of the various ministries. He said the government would favour a cluster type of development, where it is the developer's responsibility to put in a water system, sewage system, wharf, access, etc.

"I don't think you'll see individual lots along the lake. People want a sense of community," said Marshall, adding that a community sewage treatment plant and wharf would solve issues around septic and private moorage that come up in the scenario of individual lots.

ALTIA has been looking at creating lakeshore lots from Galena Bay to Nakusp on the east (highway) side of the lake, and from Shelter Bay to West Demars on the west side of the lake.

Marshall reported that government representatives had some reservations about the causeway. They would like to see an engineering study done, to determine whether the bottom of the lake is bedrock or silt in the Galena/Shelter area. Marshall also indicated they want environmental studies done. "They questioned whether the causeway would be do-able," he said, adding that they want a private company to get those studies done. "They're not about to put any money in themselves."

Among those present at the meeting were ALTIA chair Helmut Klughammer, ALTIA director Ken Marshall, Nakusp mayor Karen Hamling, Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell, Minister of Transportation Kevin Falcon, Parliamentary Secretary to the premier responsible for rural development Kevin Krueger, and representatives from InterVISTAS Consulting, the company that completed the economic impact study for ALTIA.

Rob Beynon of InterVISTAS did a power point presentation to summarize the findings of its study, a 'multiple accounts evaluation cost-benefit analysis,' which looked at the economic impacts of a fixed crossing at Galena/Shelter Bays and a financial analysis of Crown land sales. The study concludes that a fixed link could have significant positive economic impact for the region and the province, increasing employment in the region by 5% a year. Most of these jobs would be in the tourism, accommodation, retail, and food and beverage fields. The power point states that the causeway could spur the development of a new golf resort, and the expansion of existing tourism and resort properties and services. Other types of projected economic activity include light industrial, and services in the educational, health and business sectors.

The presentation begins by setting up the context, stating that southeastern BC has experienced strong recreational and residential growth in the last decade, driven by the Vancouver and Calgary economies. It notes that a BC Agriculture and Lands study identified the Upper Arrow Lakes as having potential for recreational development. However, the ferry makes the region an "island" to travellers from the north, especially with its limited hours of operation and waits during peak periods. The presentation uses the example of the PEI bridge, which has made a big economic impact, with tourism and housing starts outperforming the rest of Canada after construction.

Tess Gordon hunts for Easter eggs in Slocan, April 8. More Easter photos on page 8.

Nakusp Citizen of the Year Awards for 2006 announced

submitted

The selection committee has announced the winners of the Citizen of the Year Awards for 2006. The awards banquet to honour these citizens will be held at the Nakusp Auditorium Saturday, April 21. Tickets are available at Barton Insurance Brokers Ltd.

From an outstanding field of nominees, Rosemarie and Milton Parent, Dawn Devlin, and Alyshia Gustafson have been selected for their exceptional community service. They exemplify the Rotary motto, "Service above Self."

Rosemarie and Milton Parent are receiving recognition in the Lifetime Achievement Award category. The award is for their dedication to the research and recording of history that might otherwise have been lost forever. They established the Arrow Lakes Historical Society and Archives of Nakusp and Area, and were instrumental in reorganizing the Nakusp Museum in the mid '80s. The Parents work countless hours in the archives.

Dawn Devlin is receiving a Citizen of the Year award for her many years of community work. She has also been a director on both the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Committee, helping plan their many events. Dawn has been instrumental in the development and continued success of the Music Festival.

Alyshia Gustafson, a grade 11 student at the Nakusp Secondary School, will be receiving the Youth Citizen of the Year Award. Last year Alyshia volunteered to build homes for the homeless in Sri Lanka. She has devoted countless hours to the community through her work with Mirror Theatre directing plays for children, and filling various other positions. She has coached little league soccer and volunteered at the hospital. Alyshia is a member of the Rotary Interact Club, which provides young men and women aged 14 – 18 with the opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork and public service skills.

The Rotary Club of Nakusp has been sponsoring Citizen of the Year awards for over 30 years. A separate committee of non-Rotarians review the nominations and decide who will receive the awards. Last year some changes to the program were made to include a more diverse group of persons. Rotary believes it's important to give recognition to those who have given selflessly for the betterment of our community.

Carole Moroz, of the Nakusp Rotary Club, caught up with Dawn Devlin at her Re-Awakening Health Centre to tell her that she'd been chosen as a Nakusp Citizen of the Year.

Long time Nakusp residents Milt and Rosemarie Parent will be recognized for their dedication to recording of the history of the Arrow Lakes.

Alyshia Gustafson will be receiving the Youth Citizen of the Year Award in recognition of her volunteer work in the community and abroad.

Slocan River Property Owners—Are you interested in applying for a grant to rehabilitate the riverbank on your property?

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.

The Slocan River Riparian Restoration Program is offering funding to landowners on the Slocan River for riparian restoration projects during 2007.

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.

Funding for this Program is provided by Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation

COUNTRY FURNITURE & HOME DECOR

Looking for something out of the ordinary? Country Furniture & Home Decor, 115 Hall St. Nelson, Toll-Free 1-866-352-3665

Climate Change conference in Nelson gearing up

Global climate change has quickly become the major issue of our time. Join the West Kootenay EcoSociety for C*limate Change: Exploring Regional Solutions* and learn about the science and solutions to this critical issue. The two day conference runs April 23 from 7-9:30 pm at the Capitol Theatre, Nelson and April 24 from 8:30 am-5 pm at Mary Hall, Selkirk College, Nelson.

The event will open Monday evening at the Capitol Theatre with two dynamic keynote speakers. isotope geochemist Dr. Eric Steig, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, will present *The Scientific Consensus*. Guy Dauncey, President of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and author of *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change* will present *Solutions to Global Climate Change*.

Tuesday's program at Mary Hall will feature Dr. Lori Daniels of UBC and Dr. Jeremy Little of the Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington. The European Centre for Renewable Energy from Gussing, Austria, Nakusp Energy Corporation, Selkirk College, Al Dawson and Andy Shadrack of the RDCK will discuss current or future programs to address climate change, with an emphasis on regional solutions.

Tickets are $5-10 sliding scale for the Monday evening event and $50 for Tuesday, which includes lunch and refreshments. Registration is required.

For more information contact the Nelson EcoSociety at 354-1909 or check the website: www.eco.kics.bc.ca. Another contact is Lee-Ann Unger at 226-7829 or leeann@elementevents.ca.

Get Bear Smart Society calls for amazing bear tales

Calling all bear advocates. You can be part of an incredible project that aims to educate the public about bears and promotes 'bear smart' behaviour. Send us your most remarkable bits of bruin trivia, ursine jokes, cartoons and artwork, quizzes, puzzles, amazing bear tales and wonderful poems. The Get Bear Smart Society will be publishing an entertaining yet educational 'bathroom reader' about bears.

If you are not a writer but have a fantastic personal tale to share, you can relate it in your own words. We have a writer on board that can craft it into a fabulous story. If your submission is something you've seen or read somewhere else, please make sure to include copyright information. Bits of trivia don't need to be copyrighted, and if it's something you've created yourself, you own the copyright privileges and can grant us permission to use it. Please try to keep your creations under 400 words, maximum 800 words.

All contributors whose submissions appear in the book will be credited and receive 5 copies of the book.

Please send your submissions to eekbears@netidea.com or call: 250-359-6611.

www.getBEARsmart.com.

Kootenay political history brought to life in Kristiansen memoir

Decades of political history has been brought to life by a woman who helped to create it: Vera Kristiansen, wife of former NDP MP Lyle Kristiansen. Lyle and Vera will be doing a booksigning tour in the Kootenays of Vera's recently published book, *A Very Political Family*.

From environmental concerns, school board debates to provincial and federal issues, the Kristiansen family was in the middle of the action for almost 30 years. Veterans of those struggles will enjoy Vera's book, an engaging first-person account of the many frustrations and successes of her family's political involvement. Vera's memoir goes behind the headlines in a very personal way to show how political activism can blend with family life, romance, children and a social movement that gives purpose and accomplishment to those who dive in.

The Kristiansens were already third generation socio-political activists when they arrived in West Kootenay in the mid-1960s. Earlier generations of the family on Alberta and Saskatchewan homesteads supported the social movement that became the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), today's New Democratic Party. Lyle and Vera revived a then-moribund New Democratic Party by finding a schoolteacher candidate named Lorne Nicolson. After only their second attempt, Nicolson was elected as Nelson-Creston MLA in 1972, toppling the 20-year Social Credit dynasty.

While Nicolson went on to provincial cabinet and successive re-elections, Vera Kristiansen became a Nelson School Trustee. Lyle played a leadership role in the local labour movement, and ran federal and provincial election campaigns. As local readers know, he eventually served two terms as the MP for Kootenay West-Revelstoke (NDP).

Lyle and Vera are now retired on the Sunshine Coast, where Lyle continues his lifelong study of Napoleonic history. Vera struggles with the challenges of gardening under cedar trees and the fury of ocean storms, in the company of a flock of peacocks. Their children – Eric, Haida, and Colin – who feature prominently in Vera's book, are adults with families of their own living in Greater Vancouver and on Vancouver Island.

The Kristiansens will be in Nakusp, at What's Brewing on Broadway on Friday, April 13, 11 am – 1 pm; and in New Denver at the Appletree Restaurant that afternoon from 2 pm – 4 pm. They will appear in Nelson at Otter Books on Baker Street on Saturday, April 14, from 12 – 2 pm, and in Kaslo at the Treehouse Restaurant on Sunday, April 15, from noon – 2 pm.

Authors add their voices to the call to keep Jumbo wild

The Purcell Suite, a new anthology of 25 essays written by Canadian and US writers explores the ecological wonder and complex beauty of the Purcell Mountains in southeastern British Columbia and northwestern USA. With chapters that include an intimate contemplation of the land itself, historical journeys, and an understanding of the complex ecology of these mountains, *The Purcell Suite* captures a diverse selection of writings united by a common sense of place.

Authors include a number of familiar literary names including Stan Rowe, Luanne Armstrong, Rick Bass, Janisse Ray, Tom Wayman, Patrick Morrow and Fred Wah. In addition to modern favourites, treasured Purcell voices from the past include J. Monroe Thorington, Dorothy Graham Brown and Conrad Kain.

The Purcell Suite, edited by K.Linda Kivi, also introduces emerging voices such as Ellen Burt, Dave Quinn, Martine Bedard, Eileen Delehanty Pearkes and Steven Berger. Viewpoints range from the technical environmental prose of Martin Carver, Anne Edwards and Rick Careless, to the perceptive viewpoints of First Nations spokespersons, Marilyn James and Leo Williams.

Dr. Faisal Moola, PhD., Director of Science, David Suzuki Foundation says, "The message in this wonderful book is that the protection of the planet's remaining wilderness, like the Purcell Mountains, is not only a critical ecological imperative but central to our own identity as Canadians."

The Purcell Suite is co-published by Maa Press and Wildsight, with generous support from the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. All profits from book sales go to help continue the 20-year struggle to prevent a major real estate and ski resort development in the heart of the Purcell Range.

The Purcell Suite explores the ecological wonder of the Purcell Mountains.

School District No. 10 planning for 2007/2008 school year

by Jan McMurray

At School District No. 10's board meeting on April 3, Superintendent Walter Posnikoff provided some preliminary information on the 2007/08 budget, programs, and the recent legislative changes to the education system.

The amount of funding each school district will get per pupil went up $21 to $5,851. School District No. 10 (SD10) will receive $188,806 more than it did this year for 'unique geographic factors' and $30,153 more than this year for declining enrollment. So, although the Ministry is not providing 'funding protection' for next year, which ensured that no school district's budget was reduced by more than 1% from 2005-06 to 2006-07, SD10 will receive a total of $218,929 more than it did this year. Posnikoff said he will soon be preparing budget scenarios.

SD10 was successful in its application for one StrongStart centre, to open at Nakusp Elementary in September. StrongStart centres are a new government initiative to provide drop-in programs in schools for preschool aged children, accompanied by their parents or caregivers. Posnikoff reported that the Ministry has provided $50,000 to operate the centre for the school year, plus $20,000 in start-up funding to purchase supplies and equipment for the program. SD10 had applied for a StrongStart centre for Lucerne as well, but were granted just the one for Nakusp. Posnikoff indicated that the Nakusp centre was for the entire school district, and he would look at how to include families from the other communities.

Preliminary results of the survey done at Burton Elementary on the outdoor education program and the four-day week are in. "The overall parent and student response was positive," said Posnikoff. He said his recommendation to the board would be that the outdoor program continue as long as enrollment is adequate.

Posnikoff also reported that he and Alistair Skey, district technology manager, had been to the Vernon school district, where three secondary schools have partnered to develop live video online classes for courses with low enrollment. During the visit, they discussed SD10's secondary students joining the Vernon district's virtual video classroom. "Alistair and I think we can get this together," he said, adding that a common timetable is key, and that all courses would be semester courses except Phys. Ed. "I was very impressed with the realistic and positive approach," said Posnikoff. "Students do as well or better in this experience in Vernon."

Posnikoff also reported on recent legislative changes through Bills 20 and 21. He said the intent of Bill 20 is to improve student achievement by making all members of the educational community more accountable for student results. School boards will be required to set specific goals for student achievement, and to develop a district literacy plan, to include early learning and community literacy. To help boards reach these goals, the Minister will appoint four 'superintendents of achievement,' who will report and make recommendations on improving student achievement, early learning and literacy programs in school districts. Parents will also be able to appeal a board ruling, such as the suspension of a student, to the superintendents of achievement. Bill 20 also changes the name of boards of trustees to 'boards of education' to reflect their broader mandate.

Bill 20 also deals with the school fees issue. However, Posnikoff said, "We're not through with this discussion yet. There are still a few grey areas. We'll have to go through line by line." He reported that school fees may be charged for trades, music programs and academics with hardship policy provisions. He mentioned that it looked like SD10 could charge fees for the ski program next year, and perhaps for the outdoor programs. The legislation also requires that some school fees be approved by the board and the school planning council (SPC), in consultation with parents. Chair Pattie Adam pointed out that different SPCs making different decisions about school fees could set up an unbalanced system. However, she said SD10's policy on school fees was very good and that she envisioned the board working together well with the SPCs on this.

The Foundations Skills Assessment testing will be done earlier in the school year, will be marked locally by teachers, and results will be available earlier.

Bill 21 deals with improving the processes around reporting teacher misconduct.

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Cann wins big at Rod & Gun club awards night

by R. N. Riley

A smaller than expected crowd turned out for the annual Nakusp Rod & Gun Club banquet and awards night at the arena on March 31, but for those lucky enough to attend the event that simply meant more delicious game, fish and fowl, all prepared by Ann Volansky and her cheerful kitchen crew.

Awards were presented in the following categories: Len Surina (Sr. Black Bear); Doug Seaton (Sr. Mule Deer, Typ.); Rod Volansky (Sr. Mule Deer, Non-Typ.); Mel Matchett (Sr. Whitetail); Paul Seaton (Sr. Whitetail, Non-Typ.); Bill Regner (Sr. Moose); Ken Scown (Sr. Mountain Goat, Sr. Mountain Sheep); Hoss Cann (Out-Of-Province Whitetail, Sr. Bull Trout); Warren

Scown (Archery Award Elk); Brad Dupuis (Jr. Whitetail) and Dan Freeman (Sr. Rainbow Trout).

But by far the single largest winner of the evening was Jesse Cann, who won trophies for Jr. Elk, Jr. Black Bear, Jr. Bull Trout and the Fred Pigott Memorial Award. To top that off, Jesse also won the raffle for a 300 Winchester short mag rifle with sighting scope.

Jesse Cann won trophies for Jr. Elk, Jr. Black Bear, Jr. Bull Trout and the Fred Pigott Memorial Award. He also won the raffle for a 300 Winchester short mag rifle with sighting scope.

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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

Developing local economies

I've been watching the economic development industry in the Kootenays since I moved here, almost 14 years ago. It has been my experience that the projects that succeed invariably have a large element of local control, popular support, excellent local management and a certain amount of volunteer labour.

For many years now, economic development has been focused on tourism. A good deal of money, time and effort has been spent improving our attractions and promoting events with the intention of drawing visitors to our fair part of the world.

Many heritage assets have been preserved and restored through the initiative of volunteer boards of local historic societies, talented project managers, local tradesmen, broad community support and a certain level of government assistance. The *SS Moyie* National Historic Site, The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, and the Sandon Museum are all projects that worked. By any objective standard, they bring far more economic activity to their host villages than they ever cost their residents to create.

The same can be said of our parks and recreational facilities. Valhalla Wilderness Park, the Galena Trail, the Slocan Valley Heritage Rail Trail, skateparks and arenas in Nakusp and Kaslo - all of these projects were started by volunteers, enjoy broad support within their communities and have a large spin-off effect on their local economies.

On the other hand, projects that don't have strong local support tend to do less well. I think of the ill-fated replica buildings in Sandon or the Doukhobor Memorial that was planned for New Denver.

The same is true of the event calender. For every successful event like the Nakusp Music Festival, Kaslo Jazzfest, or the Hills Garlic Festival, there's a dozen failed ventures that, for one reason or another, couldn't garner enough committed volunteers and local support to ensure their continued survival.

In most cases, this applies to private investment as well. Anyone who's spent any amount of time in the Kootenays has seen the parade of starry-eyed entrepeneurs, seeking to make their fortune here through mining, or logging, or hotel-keeping or any of the myriad of businesses that people own and operate. Mostly they fail. The ones that succeed put a lot of unpaid labour into their enterprises, at least in the beginning, and tend to have the support of the communities in which they operate. Even the folks who see themselves catering exclusively to the tourist market do better when their communities are behind them.

Whether you're planning a ski resort on a remote mountain glacier, or a taco stand beside Highway 6, you'll have much better luck if you can rally local support to your cause. If the communities nearby don't have any say in the development, and don't see any benefit from the enterprise, odds are that it'll be a tough sell.

Economic development should benefit local economies, not just consultants, bureaucrats and developers. To succeed, it must engage the imagination of people of the towns, farms and villages in which we live. They need to buy into it, to feel a measure of control over its evolution, and to see real benefits from its continued operation.

Without this local engagement, all economic development is meaningless. Why throw money at a development that won't improve the lives of those that live in the area?

It bothers me when I hear someone complaining that one of our successful festivals isn't 'appropriate economic development,' or that a lovingly resored historic monument is a 'waste of money.' I've seen many improbable businesses succeed because of the hard work and imagination of their owners and the strong support of their communities. These are all local responses to local economic conditions, using the talents and energy of local individuals. These local initiatives work, not always perfectly, but they succeed in increasing economic activity enormously.

What doesn't work is economic development plans manufactured in places far away – Ottawa, Toronto, or Victoria, for example. The best decisions are always local decisions, when it comes to development of any kind.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Reality check

Hey kids! Haliburton shares up 300%. See where the smart money goes! The rest of us can put our $ in the bank and watch it shrink (do the math). Meanwhile, your defence minister is an arms industry lobbyist (military budget doubles), and the man who racked up $580 billion in debt – that cost you your health care system – is your ambassador in Washington, and the government in Kabul that you pay for are a bunch of thugs.

Vote Conservative.

g.turner
Edgewood

Enjoys the paper

This is just a brief note to tell you how much I enjoy your newspaper. It's good! It's so very worth reading. That is not to claim that I always read it and never miss an issue – it's not quite like that. But when I do read it I always find something to inform, amuse or utilize.

If perchance it does not come into my hands until I am starting the fire with it, it will invariably cause a big delay in getting the stove going. Always, always when I pick up the *Valley Voice*, I first of all turn to your food editor's column. Andrew Rhodes is just plain fun to read. And it's very useful to know where to go for good food when out in the local valleys.

Judith Stacey
Winlaw

Provincial building - it's a lover's question

In the '70s the Village of Kaslo borrowed money (in US$) with interest at about 18% for a new gravity water system. That was finally paid for a couple of years ago and the system is about worn out and recently had to be upgraded (cost $1M approx.) due to poor water quality. Wells would have been a better option.

We have an airport that is constantly 'in the red' and only serves a handful of people.

When the government offered to pay for 75% of a sewer system we said no.

The Village could have controlled the community's forest licence but council decided against that, too much trouble.

The community has a forest license but can't decide whether to hug 'em or cut 'em down and so it languishes.

And now council is at it again. A referendum to ask: Do you want to buy the Government Building, a.k.a. the Kaslo Court House, yes or no. How can you answer that question? You don't have any facts, no hard information.

Every time the question, 'what could we do with it?' is asked, there are no good answers and someone, inevitably says, 'well, how about a brothel?' Chuckles and chortles all around and the conversation drifts away into frivolity.

There are really two problems with a brothel: 1. They are illegal. 2. The location is a little too central. Or is it? In light of 1 through 5, above, it would seem paying to get screwed is perfectly central to what we do here in Kasloville.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo

BC is selling our water

What is it going to take to stop the BC government from selling our assets out from under us once again?!! They did it to us 50 years ago by creating the largest concentration of dams on one river system, and now with the creation last year of Bill C30, they are doing it again.

This bill strips local government and communities of veto power over hydro projects that will be built by private companies in our backyards on every creek with sufficient gradient to produce power. Since Bill C30 has been passed, hundreds of permits have been issued to permanently alter the delicate ecosystems of such remote drainages such as Wilson, Howser, Glacier and Powder Creeks. A proposal is underway in Christina Lake that, despite a majority of public opposition, is threatening to proceed.

These projects are being sold to us as being 'clean and green' solutions to fill the need for more power, but the reality is that the only thing '*clean*' is the get away that private investors are making with all the '*green*' that they will make. It's not so much about power, as it is about the *power* to control water and the right to sell water and since NAFTA, that right belongs to anyone with enough money to finance it.

Rudolf Steiner wrote about the hidden qualities of moving water in the 1900s discussing its eleuthero-magnetic creating capabilities and how these subtle fields of energy influence everything around the water in a revitalizing way. Hydro static energy is created between the molecules of water as the ions slide against each other tumbling down the river, creating a palpable energy field near the water. Anyone who has ever stood beside a waterfall cannot deny the power of flowing water. Bottom line is we as humans have consistently made the worst possible decisions when it comes to the environment. And now all the deciding is going to be left up to one centralized office in Victoria filled with the nepotism of big business.

It's time that we stood up for ourselves and kicked this money grubbing Liberal government out on their asses, and filled those seats with people who understand the public concerns of our future! Please write your MLA about these concerns.

R. Speers
Rosebery

Jumbo's latest threat: Bill 11

For more than 15 years the people of the Kootenays, both East and West, have participated in the democratic process to oppose and stop the Jumbo Glacier Resort development proposed for the magnificent Jumbo Pass area. Not until Jumbo has the majority of the people of the Kootenays said in one voice that there is a very special natural area in their region that must not be developed.

Now, with a new bill passed in the legislature this week by the governing Liberals, the undeniable wishes of the people of the Kootenays can be ignored and their worst fear realized. Bill 11 allows the provincial government to take away the decision making power of local government whenever it wishes to create a 'resort municipality.' Ironically, in 2004, the same provincial government declared that they would leave the fate of Jumbo Pass in the hands of the people who lived in the area.

What could possess the provincial government to be so democratic in one moment and so grossly undemocratic the next, especially when it pertains to the same issue? One can only imagine the seductive allure of a grand glacier resort with all of its real estate potential and opportunity for rich tourist dollars. Some people stand to make a lot of money, but at what costs?

We are hearing daily about the enormous imminent threat of climate change. The Jumbo Glacier Resort is being promoted as an international destination the size of Nelson and that can only mean one thing: Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of emissions added to an already rapidly warming atmosphere. And, what about the threat to the wilderness we British Columbians so deeply value? Jumbo Pass sits in the middle of the spectacular Purcell Mountains, a large wilderness area that is still mostly intact. Bear biologists who have studied the potential threat of the proposed resort to an abundant, healthy grizzly bear population in the Purcells have informed the government the grizzly will not survive the resort. Given that the grizzly bear is an indicator species for the welfare of the ecosystem as a whole and all the other species, we know what will happen to another big chunk of BC's wilderness.

The writing is on the wall. So

continued on page 5

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

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Contributing Writers - Art Joyce, Don Currie, Jill Braley
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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

many of us know it. We can't continue this unsustainable growth without disastrous repercussions in our lifetime. Let's support our government in sustainable, low impact development. And, let's once again assert our democratic right to determine what kind of development is acceptable in our region and en masse say NO TO JUMBO GLACIER RESORT!

Matt Lowe
West Kootenay EcoSociety
Nelson

Chip trucks do not belong on Hwy 6

The Valley Voice, reporting on the Highways meeting at the RDCK in Nelson, tells us that Carol Bell, Silverton councillor and RDCK representative, stated that the road conditions are not conducive to chip truck traffic. The article reported she stated: "and for safety reasons something should be done to accommodate them [the trucks]."

What isn't known is what Ms. Bell means by "accommodate." Frankly, I doubt she means that we should make a four-lane highway of Highway 6, though business interests, which would like to make our present road into a commercial corridor, would urge this under the disguise of safety concerns.

Certainly, climbing to Cape Horn and its descent requires some development of the road shoulders for brief lengths so chip trucks can allow vehicles stuck behind them to pass. In winter these trucks, with their 24 tires, throw up mud, gravel, slush and snow for 10 car lengths behind them, making it sheer hell for drivers and very dangerous to boot.

But such additions miss the point: the chip trucks do not belong on Highway 6. Over 100 million taxpayer dollars have been expended on Cape Horn, on taking out road curves, and on the Castlegar turnoff in order to accommodate chip trucks. Meanwhile, they continue to cost a huge amount to everyone in highway impact and danger to other drivers.

The mill in Castlegar chose to avoid paying for the barges and docks needed to use the Arrow Lakes, despite the recommendations from the committee struck by the government, consisting of valley interests, that the chip trucks use the lake route. The government left it up to the mill to 'choose' the route from Revelstoke and they took what we, not they, had to pay for: the highway.

Converting our road to a super road, so that chip trucks can more safely negotiate them, would have far greater impacts on our communities than what we are living with now. It certainly is against what everyone I know wants and needs. It should be protested and resisted in every legal way possible.

The answer is for us to no longer endure what we do in order to enlarge the mill's profits, but to demand that they utilize the alternate route via the Arrow Lakes, Revelstoke to Castlegar. We, as taxpayers, have to eat the huge cost of accommodating them for so many years, but to go any further is disastrous to the lake and river valley's population, to our scenery and ecology. It's time for the mill to accommodate us, but it won't happen until the present government gets out of the bed they share with industry.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Nelson and Castlegar have nothing to complain about on RDCK budget

I read with incredulity, on the front page of the *Nelson Daily News* (April 3), the Mayor of Castlegar's comments on the RDCK budget that he is looking for "fairness and equity." At the RDCK's Committee of the Whole meeting on January 17, I asked both the Mayors of Castlegar and Nelson if they were prepared to pool their municipalities' hydro grants-in-lieu of taxes with the RDCK as recommended by our treasurer. Each Mayor in turn said no.

In 2006 the RDCK received $392,867 and Castlegar $73,727 in hydro grants. In 2007 the RDCK will receive $574,231, Castlegar $291,596 and Nelson $247,562. A very real opportunity existed for a lowering of General Administration taxes if these two municipalities had agreed to step up to the plate and share some of their hydro grants for that purpose.

Having participated in budgetary discussions over several months, which looked at holding budgets to 2006 levels, I would be much more sympathetic to Mayor Dooley's claims if he had proposed items that could have been cut and if he had actually stayed for the vote on the General Administration budget in committee.

As it stands Nelson and Castlegar's portion of the General Administration tax requisition has actually declined from 38% in 2005 to 35.7% in 2007. Castlegar will actually pay $22,115 less in 2007 than 2005, and Nelson will pay only $21,284 more. Given the increase that both Castlegar and Nelson have obtained from hydro grant allocations, I fear that much of their protestations are nothing more than political posturing as a means to avoid discussing the hard realities of operating a regional government.

The residents of Area D pay, for example, exactly the same assessment rates for the shared services as the residents of Nelson and Castlegar, but I do not see a daily bus service operating between Nelson and Meadow Creek like it does between Nelson and Castlegar.

Likewise I doubt that the increased hydro grant allocation to Area D in 2007 will amount to even $1,000, and all of that will be absorbed in paying $1,400 in out-of-town field user fees charged by the City of Nelson to the children and youth of Kaslo and Area D.

If the Mayors of Nelson and Castlegar are really serious about looking at costs of operating services then I suggest they come to the table and offer some positive solutions instead of slamming, in the media, those of us who are diligently working to cut costs and provide the services that our residents ask for.

Andy Shadrack
Area D Director
Kaslo

Celebrating Beth James

The mother of the Nakusp farmers market has left us. Beth James just died.

Apart from her grieving family and friends Beth leaves behind the legacy of the market, some rather spoiled goats, and an incredibly fertile piece of Earth.

Summit Lake is not exactly prime agricultural land, but thanks to Beth's passionate care, backbreaking labour and plenty of goat manure her small stony acreage bloomed and produced like the finest Fraser Valley farmland.

Passionate is the first word that comes to mind when I think of Beth. Passion and compassion. Beth cared about all creatures great and small.

In body she never strayed far from the farm. Being the sole caretaker of milking animals will do that to you. But her intellectual scope was huge. In her mind Beth went everywhere under the sun and beyond it and had strong well-informed opinions on everything.

Beth was both a proud patriotic Canadian and a true citizen of the world. She was acutely aware of the terrible injustices that occur on this planet and they made her furious.

According to Western standards Beth may have been poor, but those were not the standards she set for herself. She did not compare herself to people with big houses and shiny cars, but to the wretched of the earth. So she lived mainly in gratitude, knowing that anyone living in Southern BC on her own piece of land is fortunate indeed.

The market will not be the same without Beth. She never charged enough for her quality homemade products. Last summer I tried to talk her into raising the price for her goat cottage cheese. She was selling it for about half the usual price. Said Beth: "Oh, I always think, as long as everyone gets dinner."

Ways to honour Beth's memory: Be good to your planet. Count your blessings and give thanks daily. Share your abundance.

Beth, we'll miss you. Thanks for sharing parts of this Earth round with us.

Ieneke van Houten
Nakusp

Seeking interview participants for historical study of Purcell Wilderness Conservancy

I am a PhD student in the History Department of the University of Victoria, studying the history of outdoor recreation in BC. One of my case studies is the establishment of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Between 1969 and 1974, Kootenay residents carried out several campaigns to protect watersheds from logging in this area.

Supported by federal and provincial funding, residents of Argenta and Johnson's Landing rebuilt the Earl Grey trail over the summer of 1971. Members of these communities also applied to have the Hamill Creek watershed protected as an ecological reserve, and published a guidebook and a book of poetry about the area.

After an NDP government was elected in BC, the Forest Service proposed a logging access road up Fry Creek Canyon. In response, local environmental and wildlife groups organized a letter writing campaign to request Minister of Lands and Resources Bob Williams to hold a public inquiry and preserve the creek. After a resource study by Alan Chambers, Williams established the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and the Fry Creek Recreational Area in 1974.

Having researched archival sources available in Victoria, I would like to talk to people in the Kootenay region about their involvement in the Conservancy. I would be interested in interviewing people who visited the Conservancy for work or play, or who were actively involved in the debate over conserving this area in the 1960s and 1970s. I am interested in finding out what the experience of outdoor recreation was like, and how things like equipment, access, and the landscape changed over time. If any of your readers worked in, visited, or were involved in the conservation of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy between 1965 and 1975 and would be interested in participating in an interview, please contact Jenny Clayton at 250-595-5020 or jennyclayton@telus.net.

Jenny Clayton
Victoria

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If attending please contact: Ione - 265-4970 or Barb - 265-4084 by April 13

Hosted by Halcyon Home Foundation and IHA

VOLUNTEERS – Apply now!
Volunteer Application "EARLY BIRD" contest

Nakusp Music Fest Volunteer Application Forms that are processed and approved by May 15th/07 will be entered to WIN:

1. 17 " LCD with built in DVD player (value ($400)
2. Pentax Digital Camera (value $300)
3. MP3 Player (value $100)

Draw on Sunday night (after completed shifts)

Winners announced at the festival on Sunday, July 15th at 9:30pm!

Check our website: www.nakuspmusicfest.ca for details about this contest and more prize draws for volunteers!!!

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING - OPEN HOUSE

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN AND ZONING BYLAW

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that an Open House and Public Meeting will be held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at Knox Hall, to present the first drafts of the 'Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 611, 2007' and 'Village of New Denver Zoning Bylaw No. 612, 2007', to the public. The Open House will begin at 6:00 p.m., with the Public Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. Please come and share your comments on Council's vision for New Denver.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY CEMETERY GROUNDSKEEPER

This position for Cemetery Groundskeeper shall be on an hourly basis commencing on Monday, May 14, 2007 through Friday, August 31, 2007. The first two weeks of employment shall be at 40 hours per week and the remainder shall be at 16 hours per week. The duties of the Cemetery Groundskeeper shall be to clean up and properly maintain the grounds of both the Municipal and Masonic Cemeteries, by mowing the grounds of both cemeteries at least once weekly, weekly grass trimming and removal of litter and debris. The rate of pay is $12.50 per hour.

For particulars contact the New Denver Village Office Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone: 250-358-2316. Applications must be received by Friday, May 4, 2007.

Please forward applications to:

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Village of New Denver
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Silverton council, March 27: Day park tenting approved by reservation

by Art Joyce

•A recommendation was brought forward from the Facilities and Recreation Committee that tenting be allowed in the day park only by reservation if both campgrounds (main and creekside) are full. Also that public works remove the numbering and signs for tenting at the day park and erect a sign indicating 'No camping – please go to main and creekside campgrounds.' The mayor felt this might be too restrictive, saying most of the problems last year were due to lack of shower and water facilities. "My personal feeling is that I would hope we can put those facilities in next year." CAO Ida said the music school brought in porta potties one year. Councillor Provan said the committee felt it was necessary to make the recommendation to deal with the summer traffic this year, since the OCP won't be completed until fall or later. Council voted to adopt the recommendation.

•Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison Linda LaFleur appeared as a delegation to explain the programs available to small communities. An invitation for her to present to all the village councils was made but so far only Silverton had accepted. LaFleur speculated that this was due to the perception that because the CBT's charter doesn't allow for funding to cover downloaded services from higher levels of government, many councils felt they don't qualify for CBT programs.

She wanted to correct this misperception by pointing out to Silverton council that the Community Development Program does allow for applications from municipalities in some cases. LaFleur cited the Silverton Memorial Hall renovation project as an example of one the CBT has funded even though it has direct municipal involvement. Also potentially available to communities is funding through the CBT Sponsorship Program, with grants not usually exceeding $2500. The Community Development Program has two categories for up to or over $10,000. LaFleur added that the CBT has hired an independent consultant to assess the effectiveness of its programs and is seeking feedback from communities. Feedback already received has resulted in shorter decision times on grant applications, she explained. The Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance (CKCA) budget is being reviewed this year and will have its annual budget increased by $110,000.

•Councillor Bell reported on a meeting of the West Kootenay/ Boundary Regional Hospital District, where it was announced that five pieces of medical equipment have been ordered for the area, each valued at over $100,000. Nakusp hospital will receive another four beds in addition to the six it was promised. Bell also attended the meeting with the Ministry of Highways and contractor YRB. "The upshot of the meeting was, YRB is in the red, and people aren't satisfied," she said.

Councillor Provan asked whether anything could be done about DCT Chambers chip trucks speeding through the village. Mayor Everett said the company has its own internal policing unit, complete with radar, that can be called to monitor the situation. Another idea to consider would be placing a median on the main street, he said.

•Mayor Everett commented on an email from Statistics Canada regarding the recently released 2006 data, showing the decline in rural populations. Everett said he has been quoted in the media as saying Silverton's decline is temporary, due to "people in transition." During public and press time Everett explained that he knew of several people who have bought homes intending to retire in Silverton but are still working or still have kids in school.

•Council received as correspondence information from the Province of BC regarding the TILMA (Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility) agreement.

•Council discussed the RDCK invitation for the Village to participate in Trash to Treasure (T2T) day. CAO Ida said no complaints locally had been received in past years about trash being left out. Council voted to participate in this year's T2T event on April 21.

New Denver council, March 27: Bear Smart update

by Leah Main

•Council received an update on the Bear Smart program from Wayne McCrory of Valhalla Wilderness Society (VWS). He expects the bear hazard study for upper Slocan Valley to be done by the end of May, and then plans to make a presentation to the communities. He informs that VWS did not get the Bear Award grant for a co-ordinator this summer, due to a shortfall of provincial funding, but that the society is applying for a grant to do a bear-people conflict prevention plan. This is the last step before applying for community Bear Smart status. He asks the Village to send a letter in support of the grant application to the Ministry of Environment. The letter recognizes contributions from Area H Director Don Munro ($1,000), the Hills Recreation Society ($300) and VWS ($500), and invites support from the Villages. Council will send the requested letter of support.

•Councillor Bunka will attend upcoming meetings with Village of Silverton administration and public works to hash out shared emergency plan details.

She has also been investigating costs to re-roof both the Museum and Nikkei Centre buildings. As the Nikkei Centre is a recognized heritage site, the roofs must remain cedar shake; council will work with the Nikkei Society on funding options.

•Administrator Carol Gordon will continue working with Dave Wahn (RDCK) to refine wording of the OCP.

•Council passed a resolution asking the Health Matters Committee to stand down, with thanks, as their major projects have been successfully completed with the opening of the community gym.

•Al and Terry Walker, located at Kildare St. and 10th Avenue, have asked permission to plant trees on the boulevard. Council will advise them to meet with public works to ensure the trees will not interfere with or jeopardize existing water lines; and will require they submit a site plan including identification of the planned trees before they make a final decision on this request.

•The New Denver recycling facility now accepts certain plastics (#s 1, 2, 4, 5 & 7), under the newly introduced Regional District Mixed Plastics program.

•Council approved sending the Municipal Emergency Planning Co-ordinator (Councillor Bunka) to a training course in Salmo April 21 & 22; and will send Catherine Allaway, the Village's confidential secretary, to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Workshop in Kelowna April 20.

•The West Kootenay Model Club's request to use Centennial Park May 12-13 and September 15-16 for their Float Fly events was approved.

Lucerne School's work experience program gives students an edge

During the week of February 12-15, Grades 11 and 12 students from Lucerne School participated in the school's Work Experience Program. Students chose a work placement that interested them as a possible career choice and worked or 'job shadowed' for the entire week.

This firsthand experience and knowledge about a particular work situation helps students to determine ahead of time whether this is a career they are seriously interested in pursuing. Students identified what training and education is required for this type of work and what skills they may need to develop. They were required to keep a journal of their activities, experiences, and reflections during the week away from school.

This year students went as far away as Vancouver, Canmore, Keremeos, Kelowna, Vernon and Nelson. Many chose Nakusp and New Denver, which offer a good variety of work experience placements close to home.

The work experiences included working with a museum curator, health clinic therapist, baker, mechanic, RCMP, lab technician, acupuncturist, aquarium assistant, esthetician, computer technician, electrician, plumber, tour guide, receptionist, carpenter, logger, farm manager, and fitness trainer.

Students had the option of visiting a postsecondary institution that they were interested in attending in lieu of a work placement. These students had an opportunity to meet with instructors and current students, as well as attend classes at the Academy of Oriental Medicine and Kootenay School of the Arts, both in Nelson, and UBC in Vancouver.

The students' comments were as varied as their 'career choices'. Sawako Yoshida, who worked as a baker at the Kootenay Bakery Café in Nelson, made 50 pies in 2 days, 12 dozen cinnamon buns, and was offered a summer job. Pnina Ironi, who worked as an assistant at the Vancouver Aquarium, said the highlight of her job was "feeding the octopus." Isaac Scheepens, who job shadowed at the Academy of Classical Oriental Sciences in Nelson, concluded that "this ancient art will most certainly become the future health care system."

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Holly and Jon play Carol's Garden Café and Silverton Lakeshore Inn

submitted

The Slocan Valley's own blues/roots recording artists Holly and Jon will be performing a show at Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood on Friday, April 20 (show starts at 7 pm) and at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn on Saturday, April 14.

Aside from the remarkable music they make together, one of the things that make this duo unique is that they are a daughter/father team and the story of how Jon discovered Holly's inherent musical abilities is one he loves to tell.

"When Holly was about three or four years old we were living in a cabin on a mountainside on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. One day I was sitting at the kitchen table strumming some chords on my guitar. Holly began to sing along to the chords that I was playing and it sounded real good. I changed key a few times to see if she would follow me and she did every time. That was the day I found out that my daughter had been bestowed with the gift of music and I knew it was something we should work to develop."

And develop it certainly did. Holly learned to play bass guitar, won a vocal scholarship, performed at the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival and opened for Maple Blues Award winner, Carlos Del Junco, while still in high school. After graduation she attended music college for two years, where she sang with jazz greats the Brubreck Brothers, all the while perfecting her skills by writing songs and performing at coffee houses, clubs, concerts and festivals. Holly's voice has been described as "soaring from deep inside the well of Aretha Franklin and Eva Cassidy; combining an innate sense of melody with blues feel and jazz phrasing."

Holly's dad, Jon, started performing in England where he spent much of his childhood. At an early age he was entertaining but it wasn't until his family moved to Canada that he started playing music professionally. After seeing blues legend Freddie King perform, he honed his craft in the western Canadian music scene of the mid '70s and '80s, later playing on shows with Spirit Of The West, Skydiggers and others. Jon's guitar prowess has been spoken of as "incorporating the fire and passion of Freddie King with the melody of Dickie Betts; easily having the ability of Clapton or Hendrix in their heyday."

Katrina Sumrall, Kyla Smutny and Kayla Driedger polish the editor's vehicle, at a Destination Imagination fundraiser carwash in New Denver, April 7.

Landscape designer ready to help transform your backyard

by Art Joyce

If you're like many of us valley dwellers, you've fantasized grand plans for that unruly patch of backyard, but lacked the expertise to pull it off. Not to worry – Sarah MacCrimmon is here to help. She is the owner-operator of Soulgardens Landscape Design, a new business in the Slocan Valley.

"I like creating spaces for people to relax in that reflect what they want in their lives – functional, peaceful – whatever they want," she says.

Sarah earned her diploma in horticulture at Olds College in Alberta, with a focus on landscape design. At the young age of 24, Sarah already has 6 years of landscaping experience, and has completed the Community Futures program for new entrepreneurs. She hails from a rural farming community near Ottawa, where her family has a 500-acre grain farm with 80 head of cattle. Her mother is a teacher, and her father a full-time milk truck driver, in addition to managing a farm.

"I don't know how they do it all. I think it's just a lot of passion."

It's a passion she picked up in earnest. Sarah first does a walk-through of the property with a client, listening to what the person's wants and needs are. She offers advice as to what the possibilities are for that landscape, then draws up a preliminary plan on computer. At a second meeting, she consults with the client for suggested changes. An autoCAD program is used to draft the final plan, incorporating existing and new features into the landscape. This includes construction details and a planting scheme, which is purchased by the client, either to do their own landscaping or hire the Soulgardens crew.

"You can stage the work over a three year period if you want, or do the work yourself."

Sarah will be sourcing plant material from Elderbee Greens and is growing some of her own stock. She uses no pesticides and doesn't do any lawn spraying unless it's Turf Maize, a byproduct of corn milling. When applied before weeds come up, it dries out unsprouted seeds.

"I work with nature, not against it."

Sarah moved here last summer, after working as a treeplanter in the valley two years ago. Her landscaping instincts were stimulated by the possibilities for growing a wide variety of plants within the climate zone, as well as the business potential. With a landscaping crew of three workers besides herself, she anticipates creating jobs here.

MacCrimmon has had interest expressed by newspapers in the Trail-Rossland and Castlegar area for a regular landscaping column. Visit her website at www.soulgardens.ca for a 'tips' page with advice on planting.

Sarah MacCrimmon is the owner of Soulgardens Landscape Design.

Giant Bike Swap returns to Slocan Valley

Got a bike you no longer need? Looking for a bike for those ever-growing kids? Want to hit the backcountry but still need just the right ride? Then may we suggest circling your calendar for Sunday, April 22, when the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission will be hosting its 6th Annual Bike Swap at the Slocan Park Hall from 10 am-12 noon.

The event has become a feature of spring and attracts buyers and sellers from around the region. Last year over 90% of the bikes in the swap were sold. Bikes have ranged from single speed road bikes to high-end mountain bikes to tricycles and all kinds of children's bikes. If you're planning on selling a bike, please ensure that it has been cleaned up and in good working order. Please note that 10% of the selling price (to a maximum of $20) goes to Slocan Valley Recreation. Bikes being sold must be brought to the hall by 9:45 am and unsold bikes or cash must be picked up before 12:30.

To help with your purchasing decision, the Sacred Ride will be on-site to answer any cycle maintainance questions which may arise. A Bike Skills Clinic will take place between 11 am and 12 noon if enough interest is shown. To get in on the clinic contact Slocan Valley Recreation BEFORE April 19.

For more information or to sign up for the clinic call 226-0008.

Pizza delivery from Munch More Foods launches second season

Spring is here and Munch More Foods is back! We are pleased to announce the startup of our second season. Our speciality is wood oven pizza,we have one for every taste from the vegetarian to the meat lovers.

We also offer chicken wings, lasagna, salads and homemade desserts. Our spring hours are Thursdays through Sundays from 3:30-8:30. Call for pickup or delivery 226-7779.

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VILLAGES OF NEW DENVER, 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**
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.

The Easter bunny showed up in Nakusp on Easter Sunday for a hunt for goodies in the park.

Jude and Jewel came prepared to Silverton's annual Easter egg hunt.

All the kids who participated in Slocan's Easter egg hunt gathered together for a group photo.

Iona Cottage craft shop and guest house opens in Kaslo

by Art Joyce

Looking for a gift with a Celtic, handmade or uniquely local flavour? Thinking of booking a cozy heritage house for friends and family visiting this summer? Then think of Iona Cottage, on Kaslo's 'heritage row,' B Avenue.

Owner Fiona Anderson has made a special effort to include crafts from artists living within a 50-mile radius of Kaslo, except for a few imported Scottish items. There's fine weaving by Riondel artisan Barbara Loeppky, hemp knitting by Celeste Culpepper of Nelson, yew wood chairs by Kaslo's Glen McRae, beautiful wooden jewel boxes by Sabrina Mutterer, and classic Canadian canoe paddles made by Jim Jameson. For those with a taste for sushi, Moss Glassworks of Nelson has a stunning line of handcrafted sushi plates in every colour of the rainbow. For fine art there's the exquisite detail of David Brewer's Celtic pen and ink prints. And this is just a quick sampling of Iona Cottage wares.

Anderson held a festive grand opening Saturday, April 7, complete with tea in fine silver, delectable locally made Scottish shortbread, Welsh cakes and scones. With bagpiper Anne Heard piping and Celtic music from Merryweather, David Stewart and Stephanie Judy, you could be forgiven for thinking you'd landed in a small village in Scotland.

The house is as much a treat to see as the fine crafts inside it. Located on Kaslo's heritage walk, it is a beautifully restored example of an Eaton's catalogue home of 1920s vintage that was shipped in pieces on the Moyie. Anderson's partner Peter Chomitz, a custom home builder, did the woodwork, laying down beautiful dark fir flooring in the gift shop and restoring the guest quarters upstairs. Not to be missed are Anderson's own fine art mosaics, from the Iona Cottage logo in the arch above the front stairway to the pieces hung in the veranda and gift shop. Hence the cottage's slogan, 'a pieceful place.'

Why name a small business in a small village after an isle in the Scottish Hebrides thousands of miles away? For owner Fiona Anderson, the question has deep echoes in family history. Her grandfather was a parish minister on the tiny island and named his own retirement cottage after Iona. It is also reputed to be where Irish cleric St. Columba settled after being exiled from Ireland.

For more information call Fiona at 250-353-2141, 1-888-353-2141, or visit www.ionacottage.ca.

Iona Cottage owner Fiona Anderson serves traditional Scottish shortbread, scones and tea at her grand opening in Kaslo Saturday, April 7.

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North Kootenay Midget Rep Falcons place fourth in provincials

by Lee-Anne Marshall

The North Kootenay Midget Rep Falcons left for Burns Lake on the morning of Friday March 16th to represent the West Kootenays at the Midget 'A' BC hockey championships.

Gerry, the owner/operator of Falcon Bus Charters (great name, eh?!), managed to wedge our hockey gear, luggage, 47 passengers and a kitchen sink or two into the bus. He got us safely through the mounting snow and slush on Highway 23 and past a few accident scenes on the #1 before we stopped in Quesnel for the night. Gord and Tracey Roberts, formerly of Nakusp, arranged a practice time in the morning before we boarded the bus again, to help the players loosen up a bit.

We arrived in Burns Lake on Saturday afternoon and the boys proceeded to the players' banquet. The provincial tournament saw the eight teams split into two divisions: Division A – Sooke, Nakusp, Burns Lake, Mackenzie; Division B – Vanderhoof, Whistler, Creston, Clearwater.

Nakusp's first game was against the host team on Sunday afternoon. Despite having twice as many penalties as Burns Lake and a player ejected early in the second period, the Falcons delivered with a 5-0 win. Two goals were scored in the first period by Joel James, unassisted and by Bantam affiliated player (AP), Brody Simpson, assisted by Nick Reitmeier. Kalum Stevens was set up by line mates Laine Weighill and Nathan Wiebe, our other Bantam AP in the second period. Darrin Hicks got the fourth goal, unassisted and the fifth goal was scored in the third period by Satoshi Yano (Hicks, Stevens).

On Monday, the Falcons played two games with only a two-hour break in between. They met Mackenzie in the morning in a fairly evenly matched game. The Falcons were up 3-2 at the end of the second period with goals by James (Simpson, Tyson Klein), Klein, unassisted and Simpson (N. Reitmeier, Klein). Back to back penalties plagued the Falcons midway in the third period and Mackenzie popped in two quick ones. Nakusp tied it up with another goal by Klein (Weighill) at the 8:49 mark, but Mackenzie scored at 2:10 and held on for the 5-4 victory. If only those two shots that rang off the crossbar had gone in.

Nakusp met Sooke in the afternoon for their final game of round robin play. Goal keeper, Taylor Reitmeier, recorded his third shut-out of the season with a 4-0 win. Two goals were scored by Ben deWit (Curtis Rogers; Brad Dupuis, Klein), Klein (Wiebe, deWit) and James, unassisted.

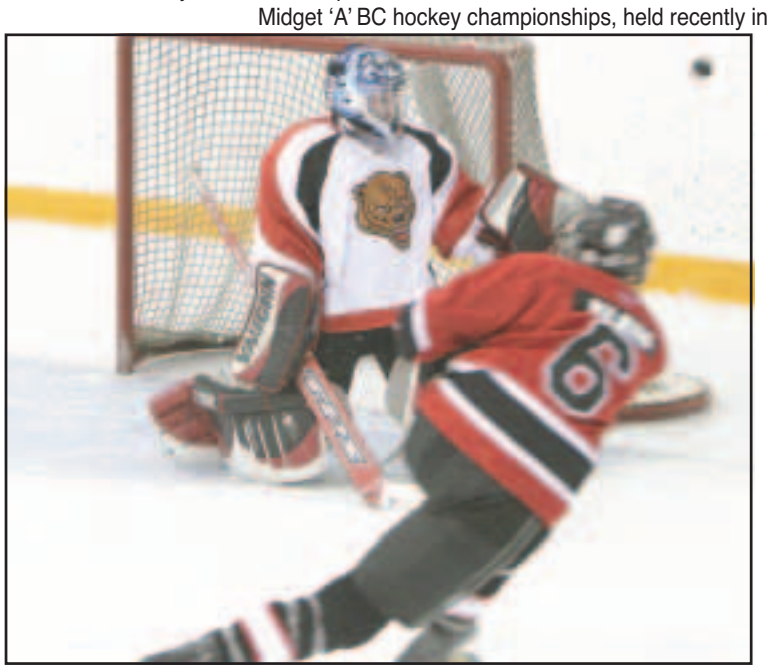
The Falcons placed second in their division and faced Vanderhoof, the first place team in the other division, in one of the semi-final games at 8 pm Tuesday. Nakusp was first on the score board near the end of the first period with a goal by James, assisted by Rane Marshall and Klein. While netminder Luke Krbyla made many nice saves, his teammates couldn't seem to get their own offensive wheels rolling. The Vanderhoof team was like a well-oiled machine – very fast with precision passing and a strong bench. In the last minute of play, Yano (Marshall) put one in and gave the fans and his team a little boost. Nakusp not only suffered a 6-2 loss, they had a player with tonsillitis, one with a 'charley horse,' one with a broken tooth/split lip, another with a concussion and yet another with a game misconduct! Not to mention winger Brett Zeleznik, who was soaking up the sun in Mexico. Our already short bench became even shorter!

Two goalies and 11 skaters suited up for the consolation game on Wednesday at 8 am. Unfortunately, the Falcons didn't have the strength they needed to do battle and the final score was 6-1 in Mackenzie's favour. Yano (Wiebe) scored the lone goal.

Vanderhoof went on to defeat Creston in the final game 4-0 to capture the Provincial banner. The Falcons placed a respectable fourth. Hats off to our coaching staff, Robert Coates and Travis Rebman; trainer, Rick Yano; and managers, Kim Dupuis and Debbie Hicks. Many thanks to Kim for organizing our travel, accommodations, meals and for the red NKF flags that she and Rod made for the fans to wave. Many thanks to Dora-Day Yano and her tireless kitchen crew. Our stay in Burns Lake was a pleasurable one thanks to all of the above and of course, our friendly hosts at the Burns Lake Motor Inn.

This experience would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of our community businesses and individuals. Thank you all very much for your contributions. The memories of this 2007 BC hockey championship tournament will last a lifetime.

Goalie Luke Krbyla dives for the puck, as defenseman Rane Marshall looks over his shoulder, during a game at the Midget 'A' BC hockey championships, held recently in Burns Lake.



Tyson Klein shoots wide of the net in this photo, but came up with three goals over the course of the weekend.

Darrin Hicks skates up the ice, while team mate Satoshi delivers an excellent hit to an opposing player.

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The Valley VOICE
salutes the hard work and determination of the 2006/2007 North Kootenay Falcons Midget Rep Team!

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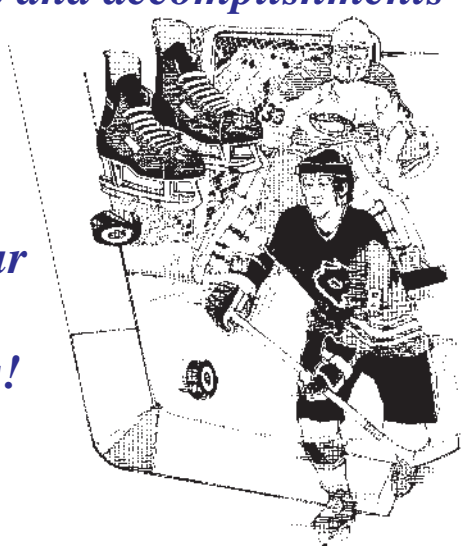
Congratulations North Kootenay Falcons! We are very proud of your effort and accomplishments as a Team this year!
Good luck with all your future endeavours!



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RDCK board, March 24: Road-race cycling event in the works for 2009

by Jan McMurray

•Bob Hennessy, general manager of Time-Line Sport Services, made a presentation about his proposed professional road-race cycling event, to be held over five days in 2009. The race would take place throughout the region, between Creston, Trail, New Denver, Kaslo, and Nakusp. As requested, the board voted to support the proposal in principle.

•A delegation addressed the board regarding the partnership agreement between the Justice Institute of BC and Selkirk College to provide a standardized firefighter training program at Selkirk's Nelson campus. Glen Maddess of the Justice Institute said that the program has been formally recognized as a college certificate program, results in better trained and safer volunteer firefighters, and is considered a model delivery system for the rest of the province. The purpose of the presentation was to recognize the support of Office of the Fire Commissioner and the RDCK. Each contributed $25,000, and the RDCK implemented mandatory firefighter training for RDCK firefighters.

•The criteria for applying for Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Funding will be amended to clarify that both registered and unregistered not-for-profit organizations may apply.

•The Kootenay Lake West transit service will be expanded on a short trial basis to include an additional late afternoon return trip between Nelson and Castlegar for workforce commute purposes.

The 2007 transit service budgets were endorsed as follows: Nelson Paratransit $122,951; Castlegar Transit $389,815; Creston Transit $271,563; Kaslo Transit $ 40,877; Nakusp Transit $126,625; North Shore Transit $241,442; Playmor Junction $348,908; Kootenay Lake West $242,226 (adjustment required to reflect expanded trial service).

•Director Zaitsoff, as board representative on the Kootenay Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (KRTAC), was asked to inform the KRTAC of concerns regarding the spread of noxious weeds along highways and byways.

•A point of entry water treatment system will be installed in a private residence within the Sanca Park subdivision for a one year test commencing March 15. Staff will also explore the possibility of installing a point of entry water treatment system at the RDCK office in Nelson.

•The three Waste Management committee chairs will meet to discuss combining the waste management committee meetings to be held in Nelson on the same day with one agenda.

•The following board priorities for 2007 were endorsed: Rural Affairs Committee – pursuit of 'Fair Compensation for Transmission and Distribution Lines' initiative for report to UBCM; resolve to the issue of the RDCK's water moratorium; development services worklist. General Affairs Committee – human resources/OHS personnel; implementation of recommendations respecting emergency management ie District EOC (resulting from 2006 flood event); development of a process to facilitate establishment of board priorities with such process to identify, prioritize and manage projects including, in part, review of directors' use of staff time.

•Accounts payable for February were $1,358,549.

•The Regional District of Central Kootenay Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1883, 2007 was adopted, with Director Chernoff (Castlegar) and Director Dooley (Nelson) opposed.

•A letter will be directed to the Honourable John Les, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, requesting that the per capita formula for calculating policing costs be based on 2006 census figures rather than on the 2005 estimates, since the census figures show a general decline in population.

•The RDCK will write to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Community Services requesting a meeting to discuss the distribution of grants in lieu from the Brilliant Expansion project. The Province has indicated it sees no incremental impact to the Regional District due to the construction of the Brilliant Expansion, but there is an upstream municipality and rural areas that disagree with this opinion.

Area H

•Grants were approved for the Crescent Valley Community Hall Society – $1,000; and Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society – $2,500 to put on an event on April 14 in recognition of Slocan Valley emergency volunteers.

•The Slocan Valley Broadband Connection project has applied for funding from the Canada-British Columbia Municipal-Rural Infrastructure Fund. In order for the application to move to the next review stage, the funder requires a commitment from the RDCK that its share of funding for the project is in place. Although RDCK funding depends on the outcome of a referendum, staff will prepare the necessary bylaws as required by the funder.

Area K

•A grant of $5,000 was approved for the Edgewood branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

•The amendment bylaw that would allow for the rezoning of the Coates' property just north of Nakusp off Hot Springs Rd. from agricultural to community residential was given third reading. The Coates would like to create 24 lots on their 45-acre piece. The first phase of their project would involve the creation of eight lots with a community water system. Adoption of the bylaw will be withheld until the RDCK has received confirmation of approval from the Agricultural Land Commission, Preliminary Layout Approval from the Ministry of Transportation with respect to Phase One, and until an agricultural buffer has been installed.

•The amendment bylaw that would allow for the rezoning of the McLean's property south of Fauquier was given third reading.

Area D

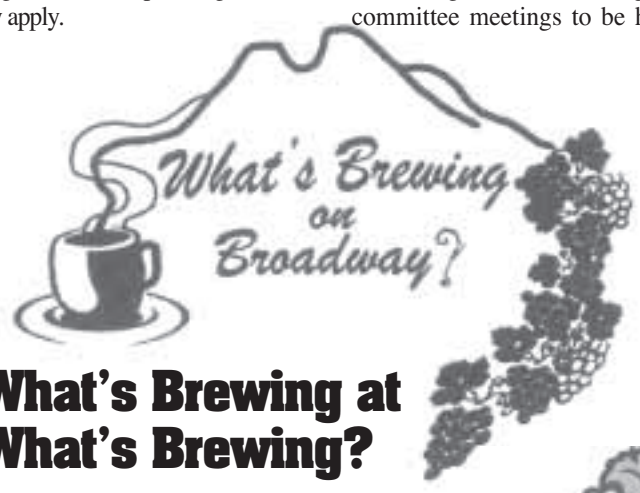
•Staff was directed to prepare a Terms of Reference for the preparation of an Official Community Plan for the entire Electoral Area D, for consideration by the Rural Affairs committee and the board by July, 2007.

•Staff was directed to investigate the implications of merging the services of Kaslo and District Arena, Regional Parks, and Recreation Commission No. 2, for report to the General Affairs Committee by the July meeting.

•Chair Wright will write a letter to Amy White, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, BC Hydro, thanking BC Hydro for its ongoing cooperation around the operation of the Lardeau Valley Mosquito Abatement Program, and requesting that in the event that the Duncan Dam discharges reach or exceed 350 cms in 2007, RDCK and BC Hydro representatives meet to discuss covering the additional costs of operating the program. The letter will include an additional request that BC Hydro enlist the support of the federal and provincial governments to ensure completion of a survey of private and business properties along the foreshore of Kootenay Lake that are built below the 1760 feet (536.5 metre) floodplain level, and to request placement of a temporary gauge at Lardeau.

•The chair will write the BC Parks Department of the Ministry of Environment asking the Ministry to address the issue of illegal dumping of septic into lakes and streams and also requesting that the Ministry construct sani-dumping facilities at the Lost Ledge and Davies Creek provincial parks.

•The board received an email from the Environmental Assessment Office regarding participation in the assessment process for the Glacier/ Howser hydro project and advising of establishment of a working group with a meeting proposed for April in Vancouver.



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Calling all flower gardeners

by Jan McMurray

Flower gardeners should not miss the workshops offered at Nakusp's Selkirk College on Sunday, April 22. Grazyna Manturzyk, a horticultural therapist, is coming from Grand Forks to give a morning session, 'Perennials with Pizzazz,' and an afternoon session, 'Artistic Arrangements.'

The morning session will look at growing the right combination of perennials so your garden will be in continuous bloom from spring till fall. Grazyna asks that all participants bring one perennial plant from their garden for an exchange.

The afternoon session will look at the basics of flower arranging. Grazyna will bring all kinds of spring flowers from her garden and everyone will make an arrangement to take home.

Grazyna moved to Grand Forks two years ago, where she has a half-acre garden of flowers and vegetables. She teaches horticulture at all the Selkirk College campuses in the area and organizes garden tours, flower exhibitions and other special events. She is president of Communities in Bloom in Grand Forks, has been on CBC radio, and has had many articles published about human wellbeing through nature. She is originally from Poland, where she obtained a Masters degree in Agriculture. In 1991, she came to Canada and worked for Agriculture Canada in Agassiz. She took a year in Germany to work on an organic farm with emotionally disabled youth, then returned to Canada and completed a horticultural therapy course on Providence Farm in Duncan.

Jesse McDonald goes to junior world snowboard championships

by Jan McMurray

After her stellar performance at the national snowboard championships in Banff at the end of March, Nakusp's 16-year-old Jesse McDonald was selected to compete in the junior world championships in Austria. She is competing in the snowboard cross events on April 10 and 11.

Allison Alder, Jesse's mother, explained that six young women and six young men were chosen to represent Canada at this event in Austria. "Jesse's results for the season cumulatively, but particularly her placings at the nationals, are what qualified her to go," she said. Jesse placed second in the junior snowboard cross event at the nationals, and third in the seniors.

"It's been a huge opportunity for Jesse to be able to participate in all of these events this season," said Alder. "Jesse is grateful to CMH and Alley Health and Fitness for helping her out."

Jesse was featured in the sports section of the March 31 *Vancouver Sun*. The article quotes her saying that the 2010 Olympics are "definitely something that's in the back of my head. I'd love to do it for Nakusp, for the people who've helped me out. I'd love to put Nakusp on the map. It's such a great place to grow up."

Kaslo May Days marks 115 years of community spirit

This year marks the 115th anniversary of the Kaslo May Days celebration. So if you want to be a part of a long history of community spirit, now is the time to start planning your parade float, apply to be a vendor, sign up to be a volunteer at many of the different events happening over the weekend and get ready for all the fun!

Vendor applications can be downloaded from www.kaslo.ca under Local/Government Forms, or picked up at the Clothes Hanger Monday through Saturday 9:30 am – 5 pm and the Landmark Bakery, Kaslo.

For more information, or to organize a new event or volunteer during the weekend, contact Jen Sibley at kaslomaydays@netidea.com or 353-7592.

Coco Love Alcorn returns to the Langham

Coco Love Alcorn returns to Kaslo and the Langham Theatre Friday, April 20 at 8 pm. Tickets are $12, available at Sunnyside Naturals.

Coco has been making music with her rich and intoxicating voice since the early days, when she toured with 54-40. She first performed in Kaslo when she played with Grrrrls with Guitars in 2005, appearing as a solo performer at the 2006 Jazz Festival. Her performance at the Langham last year left the audience wanting more.

She is touring in support of her new CD, *Sugar,* which has been described by *Vancouver Province* music critic John P. McLaughlin as "a nicely ambient showcase for her extraordinary voice... The more I listen, the more I hit repeat."

Edgewood residents sign petition to prevent BCTS logging

by Art Joyce

A battle royal is brewing on the 'Edgewood Face', an area in the Ferguson, Robinson and MacIntyre Creeks watershed slated by BC Timber Sales (BCTS) for logging of beetle-kill lodgepole pine. A recently formed group of 16 water-rights licensees has collected 215 signatures on a petition calling for the area to be designated a community forest. Petition organizer Frank Appleton sees this as a strong signal to BCTS of a group bound together by "common anger" over the plan, "which looks like a pretext for a larger logging operation."

Water licensees are concerned that the proposed road-building "crosses too many creeks," with potential damage to the watershed. They also argue that the proposed extension of McKillop Road will create a hazard for the dozen residents living near the route. A school bus uses Robinson Road twice daily and Appleton says the roads are in no condition for heavy industrial traffic.

However, it's a situation mired in the classic 'he said, she said' tangle. BCTS Forester Al Skakun has sent a point-by-point response to the residents' petition. Skakun said at least three letters have gone out to area water users but Appleton claims only one letter was received by the group. Although the water licensees say BCTS officials have been "unresponsive and uncommunicative," Skakun said they would have been happy to address them at their March 12 meeting if they'd been invited.

"Staff at BCTS have responded to every letter and every phone call they've received – many of those calls in the evenings, on their own time," he writes in the letter.

But Appleton isn't buying it. "We haven't seen any evidence yet whether their figures are correct or even what all the figures are for the beetle kill. That doesn't strike me as good communication."

Skakun counters that stream classification and fish inventory, wildlife habitat assessment, forest health surveys, and terrain stability mapping has been done and is available. A field trip was organized in response to a call from residents. He says the composition of the forest in the contentious area is 70% pine, with about a 20% pine beetle infestation last year. A detailed timber cruise will be done once the 'beetle flight' begins in early summer, with data on beetle kill available by fall.

"We intend to proceed with harvesting the stand regardless of the current level of attack, which we know grows exponentially. We have no doubt that the beetle kill will escalate this summer and create substantial loss of timber values."

Some terrain and hydrological asssessment work will start this spring, Skakun says, particularly around the road areas, "because we want to observe the effects of the spring freshet." The location of the proposed road is based on "extensive planning and field work, after considering several potential routes, and after balancing numerous factors," including minimizing the total amount of road required, least potential impacts related to terrain stability and hydrology, best stream crossing locations, Crown easements, and construction cost. Skakun said BCTS is happy to consult with the community regarding traffic and school bus use to set restrictions on operating hours for logging trucks. Dust control measures are also being considered.

"We are certainly open to more input on the final site plan."

The water licensees group may be a little premature in calling for the watershed to be set aside as a community forest, says Skakun. So far no application has been received for one in this area, and there is a finite amount of land available for this in the province. Community forest applications can take several years to see results. Appleton says the community is prepared to go the distance.

"A community forest agreement does require timber harvesting," writes Skakun in his letter, "so harvesting would still take place within this area even if it were within a community licence, especially given the current mountain pine beetle situation."

The tentative schedule for the timber sale is October, but road building will probably happen during summer – as soon as final detailed surveys are completed.

Nakusp wellness festival offers broad spectrum of health opportunities

by Art Joyce

No matter whether your healthcare preferences steer toward the traditional or alternative, there will be something for you at the Nakusp Celebration of Wellness. The festival will be held at the Nakusp Auditorium Saturday, May 12, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, May 13 from 10 am to 4 pm.

"When our community comes together, that in itself offers wellness," says co-organizer Beverly Darnell. "We're hoping people will discover something that could change their lives."

The $5 entry fee will grant access to instructional talks, information booths, mini healing sessions, and a copy of a wellness directory. The theme is 'Mind, Body and Spirit', with three guest speakers addressing each of these topics at the Bonnington Theatre in the evening.

"You need to nurture all three for healing to be complete," says Darnell.

Tickets for the evening talks will be $10 advance, $12 at the door. The featured speakers have yet to be confirmed. Fitness, gardening, herbs, essential oils, organic food, animal health and other topics will be presented by speakers in 15-minute sessions during the day. Yoga, tai chi, art therapy and meditation teachers will be available. Alley Fitness will offer fitness training tips. There will be ongoing workshops and 15-20 minute massage or Reiki mini-sessions for $10.

The seniors will sing, children will dance, and the Nakusp Youth Choir will perform. There will bus rides to the hot springs, with special day pass tickets available at the festival. A Sinixt story teepee will be on the grounds to educate festival-goers on the area's First Nations history. The teepee will also be used for childrens' storytelling, sponsored by the Nakusp Library. The event falls on Mother's Day, so watch for a tribute to moms.

Darnell, a nutritionalist, hopes to convince Nakusp restaurants to put on specials with information on the nutritional content of the meals. BC Ambulance, the hospital, the doctors, planned parenthood, naturopaths, "everyone who has a place in the wellness picture" is welcome, says Darnell.

Darnell has been advertising in Vernon and Lumby and has found a strong response from health practitioners there. She practices what she preaches: for her own family she uses a naturopath, a South African doctor, a herbalist, a Reiki master and a Shiatsu massage therapist. Darnell says the spiritual aspect of life through faith and meditation is just as important in healing.

"I really believe what you think you will become."

The idea for the festival was the collective brainchild of the Village marketing committee, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, to liven up the 'shoulder season'. The RDCK has helped with start-up funding, and the Nakusp development board, with the hot springs contributing to advertising. Other sponsors include Selkirk College and Nakusp businesses. The wellness directory will become the festival's ongoing fundraiser. The plan for next year will be to advertise the festival more widely, with the goal of attracting national attention for Nakusp as a 'wellness destination'. Darnell says the organizing committee is doing a fabulous job.

Contact Beverly Darnell at 265-9977 or celebrationofwellness@hotmail.com.

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Discovery of 13 new species in BC's inland rainforest

Researchers have recently discovered 13 tree-dwelling lichen species previously unknown to science in British Columbia's inland rainforest, including some in the Incomappleux Valley near Nakusp.

Lichens are leafy, shrub-like or encrusting organisms that grow on trees and rocks. Throughout the world, healthy lichen vegetation has come to stand for a healthy environment. Many endangered species, including the spotted owl and mountain caribou, rely on lichens. And some lichens are natural fertilizers, aiding the growth of trees by capturing nitrogen.

Working closely with international experts, Toby Spribille, currently based in Germany, along with Trevor Goward and Curtis Bjork, both from British Columbia, have been intensively studying inland rainforests from the US border to near Prince George. In several recent studies, they have found that these forests support one of the richest tree-dwelling lichen floras in the world. Lichen richness may well be the hallmark of BC's inland old-growth rainforests: the number of tree-dwelling lichen species equals or exceeds that of all other plants combined.

One of these studies focused on the Incomappleux Valley, an area that once harbored a large ancient forest. Here, Spribille found nearly 300 lichen species, including most of the species new to science.

"Such rates of discovery of new species are basically unparalleled in northern conifer forests," he explains. "We are definitely looking at a major centre of lichen diversity at a global level that we haven't even begun to fathom or explain."

He expects that further research will turn up many more species new to science. Together, the researchers are currently looking at over 40 candidates for new species, pending further studies.

Tragically, most of the Incomappleux Valley has been clearcut. What remains is a small tract of ancient cedar-hemlock forest with trees 500-1,800 years old where Spribille conducted his research. Logging company Pope & Talbot has plans to continue clearcutting these trees. Similarly, ancient forests throughout BC continue daily to fall to the chainsaw, and with them unknown numbers of species that may go extinct before even getting a name.

"British Columbia has the only Inland Temperate Rainforest in the world," says Craig Pettitt, of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. "The mountain caribou is in danger of going extinct because of excessive logging. But these new studies prove that many smaller species are also being wiped out with it. It is urgent to stop logging any old-growth over 140 years old."

For years environmentalists have proposed protecting the Incomappleux and all the remaining intact forest between Glacier National Park and Goat Range Provincial Park. The Valhalla Wilderness Society has now identified the key old-growth forest and mountain caribou habitat of the area in its new Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park Proposal.

Skills Link Program opens its doors to assist youth employment

submitted

Skills Link, a Youth Employment Strategy program, has again opened its doors to area youth who need help finding work. Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services provides the service for youth ages 15-30 living within the Arrow and Slocan Lakes region. The office is based in Nakusp.

The aim of Skills Link is to provide an effective combination of skills enhancement and employment experience for youth who are making the transition to the workforce. Education and skill certification goals are also part of the program. Time is allotted for both classroom and workplace based activities.

Employers are encouraged to consider providing valuable work experience placements for youth workers. Placements may include work exposure, job shadowing, or formal work experience. Base wages for work placements are provided by Skills Link and can be supplemented by employers, if they are able. Skills Link is a Service Canada sponsored program that will operate until early August.

For further information please contact Bob Herring or Margaret Driscoll at the Skills Link office, 265-0202.

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CLOSURE

The Nakusp Hot Springs will be closed from Monday April 16th to Sunday April 29th.

Thank you for your patience while we're closed and we look forward to seeing you again on April 30th.

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETINGS

The Village of Nakusp will be holding Public Budget Meetings in Council Chambers, 91 1st Street NW:

- Monday April 23, 2007 at 6:30 pm
- Wednesday April 25, 2007 at 6:30 pm. (if necessary)

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

2007 Yard and Garden Debris Pick-Up

The Village is pleased to assist you in tidying up your property by hauling your yard waste to the landfill between April 17-19. A few things to keep in mind:

- Pick-up will be on TUESDAY, APRIL 17 and THURSDAY, APRIL 19
- Leaves, dead plants, grass and other clippings should be bagged and ready for pick-up.
- Loose piles of yard waste will be picked up on boulevards only. Please ensure adequete access for equipment.
- Small branches/limbs should be cut and bundled where possible.
- Please have ready to pick-up by 7:00 am on the day arranged.

Please phone the **Village Office - 265-3689** to make arrangements for pick-up.

DEADLINES: April 16 for pick-up on Tuesday and April 18 for pick-up on Thursday.

There will be no charge for this service.

Kaslo council, March 27: Council considers City Hall conservation recommendations

by Jill Braley

•The following recommendations from the March 12 meeting of the City Hall Conservation committee were referred to the next Planning & Development committee meeting on April 4:

-that someone be engaged to draft a financial business plan for the Village Hall building using the $2,725 donated by the RDCK in May 2006;

-that the City Hall roof be replaced this spring with existing funding;

-that City Hall Conservation meetings be scheduled on the last Monday in each month, with all minutes referred directly to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council;

-that the Kaslo Municipal Hall Roof Report by Swan Engineering be referred to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council.

Swan Engineering did an inspection of the roof on February 19. Several areas of the roof were found to be substantially under-strength for current snow load requirements. The bell tower was found to be structurally sound, though some repairs are recommended to improve the support conditions of the tower. An inspection of the bell tower roof and any repairs required were recommended at the time of re-roofing, when access scaffolding is in place. The report states that re-roofing of the building in its present condition is feasible, as structural repairs can be carried out from the interior of the building. It recommends that engineered drawings detailing the repair methods be prepared.

•Council decided to ask Spectrum Thermal Resources Ltd. to prepare a proposal for a feasibility report for funding sources for City Hall geothermal heat. The report will be referred to 2007 budget deliberations.

•Council received various letters regarding the purchase of the provincial building. Strand and Godfrey Appraisals Ltd. of Castlegar provided the Village with a quote of $4,324 to appraise the building, and council decided not to proceed with an appraisal at this time. A public meeting regarding the provincial building referendum will be held on April 10 at 6:30 pm at JV Humphries Lighthouse Theatre, the United Church Hall or the Royal Canadian Legion, depending on availability of the venues. The referendum will be held April 21.

The next regular council meeting will be moved from April 10 to April 11.

•Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC, who has been hired to help co-ordinate Kaslo's OCP review, will be asked for a sample Terms of Reference for a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). Once these are established, recruitment for the CAC will begin. Lancaster has asked that a public meeting to kick off the review process be arranged.

•The Village will participate in Trash to Treasure Day on April 21. Residents can participate by placing unwanted items at their curbs on this day, so that other residents can pick them up. All items need to be removed from the curb at the end of the day, and returned to the appropriate residence.

•Bruce and Kathy Freeman wrote to council to ask for a contribution to 'Kaslo Kleen Sweep,' May 4-6. On May 4 and 5, volunteers will provide trucks, trailers, fuel, time and labour to collect discarded appliances, junk in yards and litter from streets, parks and pathways in the Kaslo area. On May 6, this refuse will be taken to the transfer station. No regular household garbage or recycle items will be accepted.

The group asked both the RDCK and the Village of Kaslo to contribute funds to pay for the user fees at the transfer station. Andy Shadrack, Director Area D, will contribute $1,000, and the Village also decided to commit a maximum of $1,000 to the event. The Freemans will be reimbursed to a maximum of $1,000 upon presentation of receipts, including in-kind contribution of equipment by the municipality.

•Councillor Jones emailed a memo to council regarding his concerns about the equity of the funding arrangement between the Village and the RDCK to provide Village water to McDonald Creek water users. Jones stated that he was surprised to hear Mayor Holland make a comment at the March 14 Administration & Finance meeting about a $398,000 payout from the RDCK. Jones wondered why staff had not informed him about this. In an email reply, Mayor Holland indicated that he was not clear about the $398,000 or the cost sharing arrangement with the RDCK. Council referred these concerns to the April 11 Administration & Finance committee meeting for recommendation to council. Village staff was also directed to request detailed accounting from the RDCK regarding the $398,000 in McDonald Creek expenses.

Council received, for information, RDCK Bylaw #1651 as adopted, and Bylaw #1708 as at third reading, to establish a local service taxation area to provide water services for the McDonald Creek Water Service Area.

•Councillor Jones wrote to council regarding conditions at the transfer station. Jones learned from speaking with the attendant that car batteries and propane tanks were picked up with a loader and dumped behind the new attendant's building. Now that the snow has gone, the batteries are visible, and battery acid is leaking on the ground. Jones stated this needs immediate cleanup. Council received the letter.

•Council agreed to a $50 sponsorship of men's night at the golf club. The money will come out of the advertising budget. The club will be hosting men's night every Thursday and will award a $1,000 prize to the first golfer to record a hole-in-one on hole #3. The club is looking for 20 sponsors.

•The Village will guarantee $7,500 in funding to the Kaslo Curling Club in its application for 2010 Olympic/Paralympic Live Site funding, in the event insufficient funding is raised by the club to complete the project in 2008.

•The Community Hall will be advertised for lease to the Kaslo Area Youth Council for a three-year term for $99 per annum.

•Council received correspondence from the Ministry of Forests indicating the Village of Kaslo has been added, as requested, to Section 3 of the Water Conservation Plumbing Regulation to require new installations of water closets to be a low water consumption type.

•Ernest Mason of Appleyard & Co. in Nelson wrote to the Village to ask if any taxpayers' money went into the building of the sewage system, specifically from people not living in the sewage area. Mason will be advised that no tax money from outside the specified sewer area was used. Previously, Mason requested that a property at 626 A Avenue, which he manages, be hooked onto the Village sewer system. Council informed him there are no plans to expand the sewer hookup area at this time.

•Municipal tickets will be issued to Barry Leathwood for lack of a dog licence, and for his dog 'Cleo' being at large on two reported occasions.

•Staff performance evaluation forms were approved.

•The waterfront pedestrian walkway construction will continue throughout the summer, pursuant to all conditions of the permit established by Ministry of Environment.

•Kaslo's campground will be evaluated to determine what work could be accomplished with Phase II of Community Tourism funding.

•Public works staff was directed to inspect all culverts and drainage areas to ensure all is clear before Spring break-up.

•The Village will advertise, to a maximum cost of $80, its support for a crime prevention workshop being held in Kaslo on May 4 and 5 at Selkirk College. Anyone interested can contact Rich Jones at 353-2583 or Corporal Jason Fiddler at 353-2225.

•The public works department was directed to install approved signage at the skatepark site.

•Mayor Holland was appointed to the RDCK service review of General Administration. The Local Government Act requires the board must arrange a preliminary meeting by June 27.

•At the budget meeting on March 20, council stipends were adjusted, effective January 1, 2007, to the following rates: Mayor $450/month, Councillor $250/month.

•Accounts payable of $30,763.39 were approved, with $1,249.35 to Staples McDannold to review the provincial building lease.

Kaslo Housing Society holds public meetings

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Housing Society recently held a series of public meetings in Kaslo and Area D to gauge public opinion about the society's interest in providing supportive housing in the community.

The society received a grant from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to hire Kate Mancer, consultant, to do a market survey and feasibility study. Mancer opened each meeting with a presentation, and then had everyone fill out questionnaires. A total of about 80 people attended the five meetings, and Mancer and the society board members were very pleased with the turnout. Mancer will be presenting the results of her study at the society's AGM on April 30 at 7 pm at the Seniors Hall.

Although the society's objective has always been to build supportive housing, Mancer said that her study will not focus exclusively on supportive housing. "The study will find out what the market wants and what they can afford," explained Mancer. "It will include an analysis of probable costs compared to probable revenues to see if the project will be economically viable." She added that potential lenders will require the study.

In the supportive housing model, 'hospitality services' such as meals, housekeeping, laundry and activities are provided, but there is no personal care provided by facility staff. With assisted living, there are hospitality services as well as personal care services provided. Society president Marion Stewart explained the society had decided on supportive housing because it would be more economical to operate.

During the presentation, Mancer said there was very little government funding for seniors housing at the moment, as the Province is focusing its housing budget on homelessness.

The Kaslo Housing Society has been working on this for nine years, reported Stewart. Back in 2001, the group prepared a proposal, complete with business plan and drawings, under a government program for seniors housing but the proposal was not successful. The group received a $75,000 grant from the Columbia Basin Trust in 2001, a $60,000 grant from the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, and the promise of a piece of land from the Village. However, if the society does not begin building by 2010, it will likely lose these, Stewart said.

She said the Speak Up conference held last fall in Kaslo showed that there was still a need for seniors housing. This was the impetus for doing the study.

Kaslo InfoNet Society gets CBT grant to extend internet services

The Kaslo InfoNet Society (KiN) has received a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust to build the infrastructure necessary to introduce wireless high-speed internet service to Woodbury, Fletcher Creek, Mirror Lake, Shutty Bench, Schroeder Creek and Johnson's Landing. The timeline will be announced later this spring.

"There is a large backlog of people and businesses who have been patiently waiting for high speed internet service in these communities," says Tyler Dobie, KiN chairman. "We believe that high speed internet will assist in the overall economic development of the North Kootenay Lake area."

The KiN high speed network is currently operational in Meadow Creek, where their E-10 backbone is installed and the main 68-foot tower rises above the Lardeau Valley Community Hall. There are 17 subscribers to the high speed wireless service to date, with more than 20 names on a waiting list for installations.

A repeater on the bluff above Cooper Creek will soon serve the communities of Howser, Cooper Creek, and the unserved areas of Meadow Creek. Another tower in Lardeau is planned to bounce the signal to Argenta.

For more information or to sign up for service call Operations Manager Rob McLennan at 353-1KiN.

Classical guitarist Alan Rinehart

Kaslo Concert Society presents classical guitarist Alan Rinehart in the 2007 Jack G. McDowall Memorial Concert on Friday, April 27 at 7:30 pm, at St. Andrew's United Church in Kaslo.

Alan Rinehart has made many contributions to the guitar world as a performer, teacher, and music editor.

Before moving to Nelson in 2004, Rinehart was on the faculty of the music schools at UBC and Vancouver Community College.

Wildcats win Provincial banner

submitted

On March 22, the Wildcats regional female Midget AAA hockey team won the BC Provincial Championship banner.

Among the 17 young women on the team is Casey Jones of Kaslo.

The team was undefeated in the provincial championships with five wins and two ties. The team was also undefeated in the Okanagan Female Midget AAA hockey league this season.

"By any standard, the young women on this team have attained great successes this year. It is important to recognize that this success could only be achieved through an individual and teamwork commitment level from these young women that would be the envy of any organization. The lessons of commitment and teamwork will benefit these young women for a lifetime," said coach Brent Petrick.

The Wildcats move on to the Canadian Western Shield Tournament in Swift Current, Saskatchewan April 12-15. They will represent BC in a Western Canada championship involving the best teams from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The Wildcats - Front row: Kerry Antignani (Castlegar), Amanda Edwards (Trail), Casey Jones (Kaslo), Michelle Beaudry (Nelson), Jen Gallo (Castlegar), Christy Mason (Nelson), Carmen Petrick (Nelson), Rosanne Wallace (Fruitvale).
Back row: Brent Petrick - Coach (Nelson), Kayla Martin (Rossland), Kaitlyn Burke (Castlegar), Sernia Swanson (Castlegar), Erin Dermody (Castlegar), Rhiannon Wallace (Fruitvale), Jess Trusz (Trail), Amelia Andrews (Castlegar) , Tim Swanson (Castlegar), Marnie Audia (Trail), Darcy Torrens (Nelson), Justine Thielker (Nelson), Gary McQuaid (Nelson).

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

When snow goes down, water goes up

Easter weekend has passed by, and we're now enjoying the warmer and longer days of springtime and daylight savings. My regular weekend openings of my Bicycle Hospital have gotten real busy, and riders are looking for places to ride their new bikes! All forms of road riding are great now and the shoulders are nicely swept clean of debris and grit by the vigilant and valiant highway maintenance crews.

At this early date trail riding is pretty good on the Galena Trail from New Denver north to Rosebery and beyond that the unreclaimed rail bed is good riding with wet areas and brush creeping into some spots as the years pass. Beyond Hills snow is the reality and that northern stretch will be unrideable for some time yet. The trails right along Carpenter Creek and Wilson Creeks also offer small off-road samplings.

The Galena Trail from the Three Forks end is still totally snowbound and will be 'til mid-month, I'm sure. I did a ride up Highway 31A east from New Denver last week to a place about five kilometres out where a locally made free-ride kinda trail plunges down to the Galena Trail. You can see a small wooden ramp in the trees just off the side of the highway on the creek side and initially the route is easy and pleasant through the forest, but soon becomes a wild and steep near-death experience the rest of the way.

This little trail is a handy connector to the Galena Trail however, so I ride, then walk, then crawl and finally slide my way down to where you emerge on the Galena not too far short of the Alamo cable car crossing. Maybe don't bring the family down this one... Unfortunately there are two sizable mud flows that bury the trail for about 20 meters in length and another spot where the trail bed is cracked an slumped downhill and will likely get worse. This damage came from that whack of heavy rainy weather that caused all those widespread problems a few weeks back. These problems go beyond the scope of duties of the paid trail contractor, so some work bees may need to be pulled together.

Most of the ride back to town was great though, and for sure lots of people will enjoy riding out the good ol' Galena Trail as the season progresses. Early season rides always seem to come down to how much snow and slush you're willing to plow through and whether or not you like being muddy. Keep in mind though, that early rides on soft wet trails can leave ruts for other riders and hikers to endure or may start erosion channels.

One guaranteed good early season tour is to get down the valley past Slocan city to try sections of the rail trail that wind along between highway and river for some 50 kilometres. There are numerous access points to this well restored rail grade and every time I ride it there seems to be more signs and plaques, new parking areas, bridges, toilets and most importantly ongoing improvements to the quality of the former railroad bed. Many areas have received layers of fine crush and gravel to help smooth out the coarse layer of ballast rock that was exposed when the rails were lifted some 20 years ago.

Late last week I motored down to Winlaw and parked by the Slocan River in the newish parking lot on the trail just opposite the public school. The weather was hazy sun and quite warm with no wind and of course not much traffic. I rode across the bridge to the west side of the Slocan River and enjoyed the lovely rural ride on pavement and some gravel road for about 12 kilometres down to Passmore. Here I came back over to the east side of the river, then got onto the rail trail for the return segment back to Winlaw.

I've written about this route before, and as I say it seems to get more detailed and fine-tuned each year. I didn't encounter anyone during the ride, but it does get good local use and in fact is tended to by local volunteers from time to time. There are sections that could get boring if on foot, but by bicycling it you can zip past more scenery and also include some road or highway to make for an enjoyable loop. There are map posts and signs to identify road crossings and general features.

Peter Roulston owns the busy little Bicycle Hospital at his home in New Denver. 358-2133

Financial Forum

with Debbie Pereversoff

Leveraging – a Risky Strategy!

As Canadians have just scrambled to beat the 2006 RRSP deadline of March 1, some investors may have taken out an RRSP loan to make those contributions. This strategy is not that unusual as most investors are then able to take their tax refund to pay down a good chunk of that loan and then make monthly payments over the next year or so to pay it off.

In the previous article written by my business partner, Tim Affolter, he alluded to the potential risk involved in 'leveraged investing' – or, borrowing money to invest. Although RRSP loans are a type of leveraging, we're more concerned about people using this strategy by taking equity loans out against their homes and then investing inappropriately.

Investors will consider 'leveraged investing' as a means of building a larger investment portfolio with the expectation that their investment returns will be greater than the cost of borrowing. One of the benefits of leveraged investing is that you can get your money working for you right away instead of waiting and accumulating savings little by little.

Another reason leveraged investing gives you the potential for good value is because the interest on money borrowed for non-registered investment purposes can be tax-deductible, which means the actual cost of borrowing may be lower than your loan interest rate.

But Canada's securities regulators warn that leveraging can be a risky strategy not suited for all investors. The idea of borrowing money to purchase a car or a home is not unusual. However, the idea of borrowing money to invest is quite foreign to the average person.

Leveraging your investments involves paying a portion of your own money and borrowing the rest. Borrowing money allows you to make a larger investment. The more you invest, the greater the potential returns. However, leveraging can also result in increased losses.

For example, if you purchase 1000 shares of a company at $25 per share, the initial investment would come to $25,000. If the shares go up by 10 percent, you make $2500.

If you invest your own $25,000 then borrow a further $25,000 you can buy 2000 shares. With a 10 percent return, you make $5000. While the share value has increased by 10 percent, you actually made a 20 percent return on your original $25,000 (less the cost of borrowing). But if the investment decreases, your losses are magnified. If the shares fall by 10 percent, you lose $5000 of your original $25,000 and still have to pay the cost of borrowing the additional $25,000.

If your financial advisor suggests leveraging, make sure they explain all of the risks involved. Don't be persuaded into leveraging if you don't fully understand the idea or you're not comfortable with it.

As long as an investment increases at a rate higher than the cost of borrowing, leveraging can be an effective way to magnify returns. Interest and inflation rates must be carefully monitored because increased interest rates will increase the cost of borrowing, diminishing any gains.

Because of the very real possibility that investments could decrease and losses magnified, it is important to determine whether or not borrowing to invest is appropriate for you.

The Affolter Financial Group advisors have been concerned about the state of our markets and we have been warning investors that we are nearing the peak. For those investors who have embarked on a leveraged investment strategy, be aware of the dangers involved if we go through a market decline. There is nothing more frightening than having an aggressive investment plummet in value while still being stuck making the loan payments on that investment.

Consider the following points: Understand the risk of borrowing to invest (in particular the risks of using collateral as security for the loan). Ensure that leveraged investments are at your risk tolerance level. The fact that leveraging can magnify your losses makes investing even riskier. Borrow only an amount that you can comfortably pay back. You should be able to make the loan payments out of your regular cash flow.

Understand exactly how the interest and repayment terms of your loan work. Understand exactly how much money you will lose in a worst-case scenario. Ensure that the interest on the borrowed money is tax-deductible. As always, keep in mind that investing has to be a long term strategy. A 'get rich quick' mentality poses a real danger to those who are not well advised.

Debbie Pereversoff CFP CSA is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in retirement and investment planning.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

The Silverton Lakeshore Inn

Many of us are very happy that after being closed for over two months, the Silverton Hotel, now the Silverton Lakeshore Inn, is OPEN. Hurray for Maurice Palmer, who is the new proprietor of the only inn in the world with its own 'flight deck.' Maurice is really making the place his own with renovations and other changes to every room in the building. The pub now has lots of classic posters of Elvis, Marilyn, The Blues Brothers etc. There is a huge mirror on the South wall, a big, brand new flat-screen tv, and two stand-up bars. I'm told new tables are on the way. All the hotel rooms have been painted and carpeted. The beds are all new.

The restaurant, now called The Paradise Restaurant and Pizzeria, has been painted (our friend Luce did all the painting in the building), and has some pleasant art hanging on the walls. You can eat in there, in the pub, on the high and low flight decks, on the patio, and on the 'runway' along the front of the building – your choice. The view of the lake and Valhallas is fantastic.

Food? A dude named Phil Sacco manages the restaurant, and I'll tell you something. Phil makes a MEAN pizza. He's been in the pizza business for thirty years, and we tried to estimate how many pizzas he's made. We figure upwards of 60,000, and he actually throws the home made dough up in the air with a spin to make it the right size. I've helped devour two of his 'Meat Lovers Pizzas.' They disappear fast. Phil loves being in his kitchen, and likes to listen to Rock and Roll while he works. He'll make the crust thick or thin-whatever you like. Choose from the Paradise Pizza, Moe's All Meat Pizza, The Hawaiian, The Veggie, and the Silverton Lake Shore Special. They'll be delivering pizza in Silverton and New Denver in the near future, but there's more than pizza.

The appys include, among other things, BBQ or garlic chicken wings, quesadillas, and bruschetta. There's a FULL kids' menu including breakfasts, pasta, hot dogs, pizza and more. The 'adult' breakfasts feature omelets, French toast, and a very reasonably priced 'special' with any style eggs, hash browns, bacon sausage or ham.

The lunch lineup features the Silverton Burger. I've seen a couple of these walk by, and they look big and beautiful. You can get a Denver sandwich, a BLT or a (sigh) clubhouse. French onion soup comes with meals, or you can get soup de jour. How 'bout a steak? Chicken or Veal Parmesan with choice of soup or salad, pasta or fries? The pasta menu includes rigatoni, penne, rotini, spaghetti, fettuccini – all topped with choice of sauces, meatballs, and various veggies.

Every single night there is a dinner special not found on the menu, and guess what? They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week. I love it!!!

In the pub, the manager is 'Bud.' I find him to be a bartender's bartender. He's from Beausejour Manitoba, and says he feels like he never left home. Also helping out in the pub and restaurant are local gals Emma, Sylvie, Maureen, Nina, and Shannon. There's a guy named Dylan, named after Bob, who helps out everywhere. He told me he was also a 'satellite technician' and I pictured him in outer space with his tool belt, but he stays on earth (mostly) fixing the satellite tv system.

I love the Silverton Lakeshore Inn. I had the lasagna special with salad and chicken parmesan. The food is great, the pub is great, the folks are friendly. Thank goodness it is open again!!!

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Silverton Lakeshore Inn

Phil Sacco manages the restaurant, and I'll tell you something. Phil makes a MEAN pizza. He's been in the pizza business for thirty years, and we tried to estimate how many pizzas he's made. We figure upwards of 60,000, and he actually throws the home made dough up in the air with a spin to make it the right size.
- Andrew Rhodes, Food Editor

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

GET BEAR SMART Society call for BEAR TALES, poems, jokes, etc. for book. eekbears@netidea.com 250-359-6611.

CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU!!! The Lucerne Destination Imagination team is off to Vancouver April 15, 2007 to compete in the Provincial competition. We thank everyone who bought raffle tickets, had cars washed and yards cleaned, and supported us with donations. Raffle ticket winners were Rick Reitmeier, Kay Costley-White and Lee Hammond.

COMING EVENTS

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

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP offered in New Denver. Wednesdays 6-8 pm. Those interested phone New Denver Nursery School 358-7768 or Andrea Wright 358-7995.

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

INFANT SIGNING CLASS FOR PARENTS, SIBLINGS AND CARE-GIVERS. 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.

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.

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.

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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 insure 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.

The HASHIMOTO FAMILY invite you to a Tea in Memory of Fusaye Hashimoto, who passed away February 9, 2007 in Vernon, BC. Please join us Sunday, April 28, 2007, 2:00-4:00 pm at the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, 306 Josephine St., New Denver.

MEGA YARD SALE Sat. April 21, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. 1105 Columbia St., New Denver. Karen Dubreuil 358-2828.

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THE KASLO SATURDAY MARKETS start June 16 and we are looking for performers and vendors! This year our market is open to all vendors. So no matter what you sell; local crafts, produce, imports or pre-loved items, we would love to have you at the markets! Spaces are limited so book ahead. Jen: kaslomarkets@shaw.ca 353-7592.

VALLICAN WHOLE SCHOOL – the ULTIMATE SCHOOL! OPEN HOUSE. Come and visit us for information on Kindergarten through grade 7 on May 4th 1:30 to 4:30 pm at 3762 Slocan River Road. Warm, creative learning environment, small classes, dedicated staff and 34 years of child-centered alternative education offered to our community. Any questions, call Rachel at 226-7737.

TRASH TO TREASURE DAY is Saturday, April 21 in the RDCK and RDKB. See advert on p. 8 for more details.

CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS – Come and join the students of the community and meet artists at work at the Silverton Gallery on Friday 27th April from 7 pm. On display will be work that the students will have created between Monday 23 April and Wednesday 25th when they will have taken part in a variety of artistic workshops ranging from fiber arts, clay work, painting, printing, photography, mosaics and fly tying. The workshops will be held at the Silverton Gallery and we all encourage you to drop in and see work in progress. Refreshments will be available Friday evening. Do join us then!

THE VALLICAN WHOLE SCHOOL will be hosting a workshop for preschoolers and their parents with Gayle Buchner. This will be an active and informative afternoon that is dedicated to 'reading readiness.' All children welcome. At the Vallican Whole, 3762 Little Slocan River Road, Tuesday, April 17, 1:30-3:30. Sponsored by Ready, Set, Learn. Phone 226-7737 for more information.

W.E. GRAHAM Community School and Valhalla Children's Centre in the Village of Slocan are inviting pre-school children and their families to the Ready Set Learn Open House. This is an opportunity for preschoolers to visit their future school, learn about programs and activities and enjoy a special event featuring Little Spirit Drummers from Creston. 10 am Tuesday April 17th, snacks to follow the program.

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WINLAW PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – Tenders are requested for summer maintenance in Winlaw Regional Park. Duties include lawn mowing, grounds maintenance, washroom cleaning, garbage collection, etc. Approximately 100 hours of work over 5 months starting May 15, 2007. The successful applicant will provide their own equipment. A riding lawnmower is required for job. Additional information can be obtained from http://www.woodfor.com/park Deadline for submission of bids is May 1, 2007.

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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Kaslo Skatepark opens and sees lots of activity over the Easter weekend

by Jill Braley

It's been a long time coming, but the Kaslo Sk8park is finally open.

The park was packed over the Easter Weekend with kids and teens on skateboards and BMX bicycles, all enjoying the fantastic weather. They came from all over the region – Nelson, Castlegar, Crawford Bay, Grand Forks and the Slocan Valley.

Many people dropped by the skatepark over the weekend, commenting on the engineering marvel of the site, and watching the kids enjoy themselves. The skatepark offers areas for both beginners and advanced skaters, with the beautiful backdrop of Kootenay Lake. All the youth were very respectful, and took the younger kids under their wing to ensure everyone was safe and having fun.

The Grand Opening for the skatepark is slated for July 7, and teams from all over the province will be gathering at the park. The design engineers from Spectrum, the company that designed the park, will also be on hand.

The kids I spoke to all agreed – it's been a long time coming but definitely worth the wait. Graham Page would have been proud! He worked hard for several years, starting in about 1991, to make his dream of a skatepark in Kaslo a reality.

The next step will be fundraising to landscape the park. For information, contact David Wiebe at 353-2658 or Don Page at 353-2907.

PHOTO CREDIT: LARRY BRALEY

Robin Terry, from Castlegar, was among the youth checking out Kaslo's new sk8park on the weekend.

Notes from the RCMP

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

•A break and enter occurred at the Slocan Valley Co-op on March 25. Central Kootenay RCMP (Nelson) responded to an alarm at about 12:30 am to discover the front window broken. Video surveillance showed three individuals wearing dark clothing, gloves and masks enter the store and steal alcohol and tobacco products. Anyone with information is asked to call RCMP at 352-2156 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

• Kaslo RCMP are requesting the assistance from the public is solving a recent theft of a John Deere 310 backhoe steel yellow and rust color digging bucket left at the Yellowhead Road and Bridge gravel pit on Highway 31 near Ainsworth Hot Springs. The value of the bucket is estimated between $1,000-1,500.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Constable Lorne Anderson of the Kaslo RCMP at 353-2225.

Kaslo receives flood funding to protect water system

submitted

The Village of Kaslo is receiving $25,000 from the Ministry of Pubic Safety and Solicitor General to add erosion protection and build a berm at the municipal water intake pump house.

This is one of 64 projects that have been announced so far under the $33 million flood protection funding program announced by Premier Campbell on March 31.

"With snowpacks at near record levels, we can't wait to find out what Mother Nature is going to do at spring runoff," said Minister John Les. "That's why we're approving community applications for flood funding as quickly as we can so they can get their mitigation work underway."

Applications from local governments are still being accepted. All projects must be focused on areas where there is a real threat of flood risk and where the overall protection of public safety and infrastructure depends on these works being completed.

The winners of this year's Easter Dolly Derby at Woodbury Resort were (L to R): Len Veerbeck of Fruitvale (2nd place, 13 lbs., 12 ozs.); Helen Erikson from Elkford (3rd place, 13 lbs. 8 ozs.) and Bob Brown (1st place, 14 lbs. 12 ozs.) Brown has been coming to this derby since 1991 and has won first place several times.

Kaslo's Amanda Turner (left), member of the elite BC Outback female hockey team, won the Sportsmanship Award this year at the Esso Women's Nationals in Salmon Arm. On the right is Kenzie Waterstreet, who won the Most Valuable Player award. Amanda is graduating from JVH this year, and has had "the experience of a lifetime" with the Outbacks. She thanks her sponsors, Kaslo Minor Hockey and the community for all their support.

CORRECTION

In an article entitled *Census data shows urban population increases and rural decreases* in our March 28 issue, we incorrectly reported a 1.7% drop in population in Area D between 2001 and 2006. In fact, the population increased by 1.7%.

Although the overall population of the RDCK declined by 2%, the Village of Kaslo, Areas D, E and G, and the town of Creston all experienced increases.

OBITUARY

RUGGLES, STERLING ROY
1917-2007

Sterling passed away peacefully at home with family by his side on Friday April 6, 2007 at age 90, after a lengthy illness with Myelodysplasia. He is survived by his wife Beatrice, sons Doug (Joanne), Harvey (Beatrice), step-children, Gary (Sharon), Joanne (Jeff), 4 grandchildren, 6 step grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, sister Maxine and brother Don (Yvonne). He was predeceased by his first wife Iyla in 1980, parents Roy and Mary, brothers Warren and Clay, sister Phyllis.

The Tender Loving Care that Sterling received from ALL the healthcare providers at Arrow Lakes Hospital and Edgewood Red Cross was greatly appreciated by Sterling and family. Thank you ALL so much! A special thanks to Dr. Kelland for all her support and words of wisdom.

The family wishes to thank the community of Fauquier for all their support over the past couple years.

Cremation has taken place and a 'Celebration of Life' will be held at a later date in Fauquier. Donations may be made to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation in memory of Sterling.

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WANTED

FOOD AND CRAFT VENDORS WANTED for Kaslo's 115th annual May Day Celebrations May 19, 20, and 21. Download the application from www.kaslo.ca or for more info please email Jen @ kaslomaydays@netidea.com or 250-353-7592.

Advertise in the Valley Voice - It Pays!
Email us —valleyvoice@netidea.com for details

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

6TH ANNUAL BIKE SWAP - Sunday, April 22nd. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Slocan Park Hall. Find a bike, sell a bike. They'll all be at the swap.

A LITTLE MINOR "SERGERY"? - Basics of using your serger. Instr. Elle Boer. Sat. April 14th. or May 12th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Threads Guild Building. Fee:$40/1 session. Sign up today!

TALKING BONSAI - With Gail Powell. Sun. April 15th. Noon to 2:00 p.m. Vallican Whole Community Centre. Sign up today.

CREATING A HANGING BASKET - Four Seasons Greenhouse, Winlaw. Sat. April 21st. Noon to 2 p.m. Fee: $17.

CORE HUNTER TRAINING - April 28th & 29th (Sat./Sun.) Winlaw School. Fee: $135/2 sessions. Reg. by April 19th.

JOINT WORKS - Exercises for those with osteoporosis and arthritis. Tuesdays and Thursday beginning May 8th 10 a.m. at the Passmore Lodge. Instr: Hellen Kissinger.

COMMON BIRDS OF THE SLOCAN VALLEY - Slocan Park Hall. Thursday, May 10th Slocan Park Hall. 7 p.m. Your Host: Joan Snyder.

RAISING A RACKET - Spring Tennis Lessons with Bruce Jackson (Nelson Tennis Club) begin May 8th at Mt. Sentinel Tennis Courts.

226-0008

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presents
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