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

Nakusp Rotary sponsors Citizen of the Year dinner, April 21

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp arena auditorium was packed for the Rotary Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet on April 21, when the community came together to pay tribute to Alysia Gustafson (youth award), Dawn Devlin (citizen of the year award), and Milton and Rosemarie Parent (lifetime achievement award).

Susan Gustafson, Alysia's aunt, was Alysia's nominating speaker. She listed Alysia's many community involvements, including dance classes, jazz band, Rotary Youth Interact Club, Mirror Theatre, soccer player and coach, hockey player, hospital volunteer, Sparkes volunteer. Her trip to Sri Lanka to build homes sparked her love of travel, and she will be going to South Africa next year as a Rotary exchange student. Susan said that Alysia also keeps up good marks at school, always has that warm, loving smile on her face, and is compassionate and true to herself.

Tammy Dachwitz was Dawn's nominating speaker. "It amazes me every day the years she has put into this community," she said. Dawn served on the Chamber of Commerce board for ten years, and has organized many a July 1st and Christmas parade event in Nakusp. She was involved in building the new visitor infocentre and setting up the retail store there. She also spent many hours on a project to install signage at pullouts just outside the village. She organized the Downtown Merchants Association, spearheaded Moonlight Madness and moving the farmers' market to its present location. Dawn is vice president of the Nakusp Roots Music Society, which organizes the Music Fest. Tammy concluded with, "There is an old saying, 'If you want something done, ask the busiest person you know' – that's Dawn."

Sharon Montgomery and Ken and Marilyn Marshall spoke about Milton and Rosemarie Parent. Sharon described them as the "keepers of the past for this community," giving an extensive summary of their involvement with the historical community. It was an interview Milton did in 1972 with a woman who experienced the fire at Comaplix that sparked his interest in local history, and he interviewed many pioneers after that. The couple, who were high school sweethearts, revitalized the museum and then focused on the archives. Milton has written seven local history books, winning the Lieutenant Governor's Award for one of them, *Circle of Silver*, in 2001. Ken Marshall remembered that Milt was always involved with music groups, and that he played in Jack Bailey's Bugle Band. He was also involved in raising money to build the new infocentre. Marilyn read a heartwarming poem she wrote for the couple.

Long-time Rotary members, Glen and Grace Weatherhead, lit a candle and rang the bell for each of the twelve citizens of previous years who are no longer with us.

Nakusp Mayor Hamling had many kind words for the award recipients in her address, and Rotary President Don DeSandoli brought greetings from MP Jim Abbott, as well as words of welcome and congratulations to the citizens of the year. Larry Parkes, president elect of the Rotary Club, did an excellent job emceeing the event. He explained that the Rotary Club sponsors the event, but does not select the citizens of the year. People nominate community members for the honour, and a committee made up of non-Rotary members makes the selection.

Kudos to cooks Carole Moroz, Agnes Parkes, Anita Sinclair and John Moroz, and to the servers from the Rotary Youth Interact Club, headed up by Alice Watson. The roast beef dinner was simply delightful.

The evening concluded with a very enjoyable sing-along with the Senior Serenaders.

Nakusp's Citizens of the Year Alysia Gustafson (youth award), Dawn Devlin (citizen of the year award), and Milton and Rosemarie Parent (lifetime achievement award)

Two grizzlies just out of hibernation shot and killed in Lardeau Valley

by Art Joyce

Two grizzlies have been shot and killed by Conservation Officer Len Butler while trying to break into a pig pen on a farm in the Lardeau Valley. One of the grizzlies was a prime specimen weighing in at 670 pounds. Grizzlies are currently a blue-listed species in BC (provincially vulnerable).

The farm, owned by Norbert Conrad, is located in the vicinity of the mouth of Hamill Creek. He says he's lost 14 pigs and one cow to grizzlies in the past year. Kate Thompson, media liaison with the Ministry of Environment, said Conrad did try scaring off the bears with electric fencing and gunshots earlier this spring but to no avail. Peter Stent, senior Conservation Officer for the West Kootenay, says these two bears were a problem at the farm last fall. Conservation Officers tried to capture them using live culvert traps but failed.

But Craig Pettitt, a director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, says some fundamental pieces of the bear management puzzle are missing.

"One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that if you put pigs right smack in the middle of prime grizzly bear spring habitat, the bears will be attracted to the smell and want to feed on the pigs," stated Pettitt. "Killing should not be the first option for managing a blue-listed species. The Conservation Office has had all winter to come up with a non-lethal strategy."

The decision to destroy these bears was made by the conservation office in consultation with senior wildlife biologist Garth Mowat and grizzly biologist Dr. Michael Procter of Kaslo, Stent says. The ministry has abandoned relocation as a strategy for black bears or adult male grizzlies.

"There's science that says they will get into more trouble where they're relocated," says Stent. "It is the opinion of Mr. Mowat that there is a good population of grizzlies in the Lardeau Valley."

Stent said there have been recent meetings at the ministry office in Cranbrook to discuss ways of preventing bears from becoming habituated so they don't have to be destroyed. Biologists Mowat and Procter, as well as Chris Servheen and Tim Manley, experts from the northwestern US who specialize in grizzlies and black bears, were present at the meeting to offer advice. Stent admits that part of the problem is how thinly conservation officers are stretched these days. Cutbacks to the regional Conservation Officer budget do not allow officers to spend sufficient time solving and preventing problems. One Conservation Officer now has to cover hundreds of miles and many communities. According to Stent, CO Butler's territory is huge: his southern boundary is Ymir, east to height of land on Kootenay Lake north of Riondel, north to Glacier National Park, and takes in halfway between Kaslo and New Denver.

Stent says the conservation service is kept busy "chasing bear complaint after bear complaint," often due to human carelessness with fruit, garbage and compost, and is then blamed as the government's "hired guns."

Colleen McCrory, Executive Director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, says VWS is also pushing for a ban on grizzly hunting in BC. Despite being a blue-listed species, the provincial government has increased its hunting quotas. Spring 2007 grizzly quotas for the West and East Kootenays total 297 bears.

Stream of Consciousness

Turn off your computer when not in use. When away for extended periods of time, unplug your computer and monitor, as they often use energy even when switched off. Be sure to at least shut off the computer screen, as 60% of the power used by a computer is used by the monitor. (The other 40% is used to keep your hard drive spinning and to power the electronics.) Make sure you enable your computer's energy-saving features.

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Training course in Nakusp means area could gain seven ambulance workers

by Jan McMurray

Just seven months after a stakeholders meeting identified several contributing factors to the shortage of ambulance workers in our area, we are seeing some action on one of them. An Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course is being offered locally, in Nakusp, with the tuition and books for ten participants paid for.

"This is a direct result of the stakeholders meeting in Nakusp last September," said BC Ambulance Service area superintendent Chris Mason. "It shows what we can accomplish when we work together."

At the stakeholders meeting, committees formed to look at training issues, communication strategies and creative partnerships. Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling is on the training committee, and took the lead on bringing this course to Nakusp.

"I'm really pleased that community members have stepped up to the plate to take the training offered," Hamling said. "A lot of work has gone into the process and I'd like to thank Chris Mason and Bob Gallaher from BC Ambulance Service for their support and guidance, and for moving mountains to make this happen. Also to Chris Faint at Selkirk College. I am also grateful for the involvement of the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation and the Columbia Basin Trust – we couldn't have put this together without their support."

Of the ten fully subsidized participants, two are from Nakusp, three from Kaslo, two from New Denver, two from Winlaw, and one from Slocan. Three are currently BC Ambulance Service employees, and seven are potential new hires. Of the seven, the Nakusp station could pick up one new worker, New Denver three, Winlaw two and Kaslo one. Each of these seven have passed the interview portion of the hiring process, and now need to pass the course and the licencing exams, as well as have a criminal record check and physical fitness exam done, and get their Class 4 drivers licence.

There is also an eleventh participant, from Kaslo, who is taking the course at his own expense.

The course began on April 13 and will finish June 17, running over five three-day weekends. The instructor is David Martin, unit chief for Nelson's ambulance station.

The course fees are covered by grants from the Columbia Basin Trust ($10,000) and the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation ($5,000). The fee for each student, including books, is $1,500.

In order for applicants to have the course paid for, Hamling explained that a loan was made to them in the form of a promissory note, which will forgive half of the course fee after one year of work with their local station and will forgive the second half of the fee after completion of two years of work with their local station. If applicants resign after one year, move to another area or take a full-time position with BC Ambulance Service, they must pay back half the course cost. Any recovered funds will go back to the Village of Nakusp and will be kept in a separate account to be used for further training.

Mike George of the ALHF says the foundation decided to contribute "somewhat reluctantly. We feel that the Province is responsible for providing ambulance service, and they have clearly failed in that regard, but the need exists and rather than being without, we've done what we can to help."

Lynda Lafleur, local CBT community liaison, explained that the grant for the ambulance training came under the Community Development program. "This grant was easy to defend because the training will be a huge benefit to Basin residents. It has been identified as a serious issue and it is not being funded by anybody else. If BC Ambulance Service had a training pot, we couldn't have contributed, but because they don't, we could. Every resident needs to feel safe," she said.

Lafleur added that there is a lot of interest from other communities in the province in what our regional community is doing to address the shortage of ambulance workers. "I'm getting a lot of phone calls. Everybody is watching this one," she said.

This is a Justice Institute of BC course, which people usually have to travel to take, and usually have to pick up all costs of taking the course themselves. During meetings last fall around the concern over the lack of ambulance workers, it was found that the costs, travel and time involved in taking the training course were prohibitive, and too big an investment for the return. In areas such as ours, people working for the ambulance service are paid $2 per hour for carrying the pager, and when out on a call, are paid according to the collective agreement.

Hamling says she pushed to have the course in Nakusp, to avoid travel and food costs for trainees, and to have the course take place on weekends so that trainees did not have to lose three weeks of work in order to take it.

At the stakeholders meeting, there was also a commitment by IHA and BCAS to seriously look at "integration opportunities," meaning piecing together a job by having ambulance workers performing duties at an IHA facility as well.

Nakusp Music Fest tickets going fast

by Jan McMurray

With the line-up for the fourth annual Nakusp Music Fest set, July 13-15 promises to be a rocking weekend in Nakusp this summer. Headliners are Tom Cochrane with Red Rider, Collective Soul, Nazareth, Glass Tiger and the Stampeders.

Scheduled for the kick-off on Friday night are Redfish, Dr. Fun & The Nightcrawlers, Harlequin, and Nazareth. On Saturday, it's Novillero, The Wheatmonkeys, Ridley Bent, Brittany Kalesnikoff, Chucky Danger Band, Lillix, King Karma, The Blues Brothers Revival, Doc Walker, and Collective Soul. Sunday's line-up is Ten 2 Nine, Damsel Fly, The Meligrove Band, Suzi Rawn, Skavenjah, Gary Comeau and the Vodoo Allstars, The Stampeders, Glass Tiger, and Tom Cochrane with Red Rider.

Ticket sales are way ahead of last year, with about 1900 sold. "That's about three times the number of tickets sold at this time last year," said festival producer Willi Jahnke. "We're already at 44% of what we sold last year in total. We may sell out before we get to the gate this year." The goal is sales of 5500 tickets per day.

The ticket sales are not the only indicator that the festival is rising in popularity. It is ranked as one of the top ten outdoor festivals to go to in 2007 in North America on a CBC Radio 3 online listing.

The programming budget has doubled this year, to $235,000 from last year's $177,000. Where is the extra money going? "The biggest boost, percentage-wise, goes to the kids," says Jahnke. "We've doubled the budget for family and children entertainment." He says there will be two or three things happening at the same time from noon to 7 pm on Saturday and Sunday, including sand sculptures on the beach with David Ducharme of the Slocan Valley. "There will be things happening all over and it will be way better than last year," said Jahnke.

The festival's total budget for 2007 is $830,000, which is an increase of $150,000 over last year's.

There will be more campsites available for festival goers this year. "Everything went smoothly last year, so the school district gave us extra fields and more private people have come forward as well," reported Jahnke. He said organizers were working on expanding the shuttle bus service to make sure each campsite is connected.

So far, the festival has 58 sponsors totalling over $126,000 in contributions. "We are already in record territory!" exclaims Jahnke. With a few other contributions still pending, Jahnke estimates that "we will make it to $130,000. Absolutely incredible!!"

The festival is still in need of volunteers. Any volunteer applications approved by May 15 will be entered into a draw to win a 17" LCD with built-in DVD player, Pentax digital camera and MP3 player. The winning application will be drawn on the Sunday night of the festival. Applications are available online at www.nakuspmusicfest.ca/volunteers.php, or by calling the office at 265-2141.

Call 1-877-265-5565 for tickets. Early Bird discounts will expire either on June 30 or with the sale of the 4000th ticket, whichever comes first.

Burton residents fed up with ATV hooligans

by Dan Nicholson

Over 60 local residents attended a meeting at Burton Hall on April 12 to discuss problems with an unscheduled ATV rally held over the Easter weekend.

The informal event has been held annually in the community for a number of years. Many of the residents expressed the opinion that it had become much worse over time.

Constable Tim MacDonald of the Nakusp RCMP indicated that the police had no knowledge that the event would be happening.

Residents of the community complained about the noise, the dust, and the garbage left behind. Some reported violations of private property, theft of wood, drinking and driving, driving unlicensed vehicles driving on public roads (often at high speeds), and loud, obnoxious attempts at intimi-dation.

Responding to complaints from Burton residents, RCMP laid eight charges over the weekend, including two criminal charges for impaired driving.

Area K director, Paul Peterson, noted the the regional district was unable to make noise by-laws to restrict activities on Crown Land.

There is no law to protect environmentally sensitive areas from recreational ATV use, according to Constable MacDonald. While there is proposed legislation, he refused to speculate about whether it would apply to the Burton flats.

He said that there was little he could do about people riding ATVs on the flats. Private property needs to be fenced and signs must be posted.

He did say that the police can do quite a bit about people who drink and drive, or drive their ATVs on public roads, starting with impoundment of their vehicle for 30 days and a $575 fine for failing to have insurance.

He stressed, and many in the community agreed with him, that only a minority of riders are causing the problems. "Most people are responsible riders. It's a very small percentage that are causing the problems here."

Others were concerned about the safety of their children, or their animals around ATVs being driven at high speeds on their favorite hiking or horseback riding trails.

In responding to the community's concerns, Constable MacDonald, indicated that he would arrange for an increased police presence in Burton on Easter weekend in the future.

Kaslo votes to purchase provincial building

by Jill Braley

By a 21-vote margin, residents of the Village of Kaslo have voted in favour of purchasing the provincial building. There were 147 votes for and 126 against borrowing the $122,200 required to make the purchase in the recent referendum. Total ballots cast numbered 273.

On April 10, the Village hosted a public information meeting on the referendum. In attendance were all council members, Chief Administrative Officer Rae Sawyer and approximately 30 members of the public. At the end of the meeting, it was clear that citizens wanted more information before the April 21 referendum date.

A questions/answer sheet was available at the meeting, and a slightly updated version was distributed to residents via mailboxes on April 13. Information provided on these sheets included the following.

To purchase the building, currently assessed at $423,800, the Village will borrow $122,200 at a cost of $16,000 per year for 10 years – a total debt repayment of $160,000. Also, the government agent will receive ten years' free rent, valued at $123,000. This brings the purchase price to $245,200.

A business case prepared by accountant Am Naqvi estimates the need to raise an additional $43,662 per year by way of taxation to cover operating and purchasing the building. This would increase residential rates by approximately 42 cents per thousand ($42 on a $100,000 assessment) and commercial rates by approximately $1.14 per thousand ($114 per year on a $100,000 assessment). These figures do not include repairs or capital additions.

At the moment, there are three businesses renting space in the building on a month to month basis: Back on Track Productions, Kootenay Lake Historical Society and Kaslo & District Community Forest Society. Their combined rent totals $680 per month, which Naqvi's business case describes as "extremely low."

There are currently vacant offices on all floors of the building. The idea has been put forward to move the Village office into the provincial building while restoration work is being done on the City Hall building. However, the Village has yet to discuss which offices in the provincial building it would use. Costs associated with relocating the Village office are listed as: telephone, internet, security system, signage.

The property is zoned C-2 (Central Business District) and is also within the Heritage Development Permit Area.

Costs incurred by the Village on the purchase up to now is about $10,800. The business case will cost $1,500 - $2,500; the building inspection cost $2,968; the lease review for the government agent cost $1,735.53; the referendum cost approximately $3,500.

It is unknown if the property is a contaminated site. The recent Lynch building inspection states that the heating system was converted to propane in 1991, but the vent pipe of an oil storage tank was found on the site. "It is possible that the old oil fuel tank remains buried on the site. If so, this is an environmental hazard," states the report, which recommends resolving this prior to purchase. However, there was not enough time to do this before the referendum.

The Lynch report concludes that "the building appears to have been built to the highest quality construction standards of the day using high quality materials." Subsequent upgrades were also done to a high standard. The report also concludes: "It appears that a neglect of maintenance has led to severe damage to important building envelope elements especially window woodwork. Repairs or replacement will be very expensive." Village staff has prepared a two-page summary of repairs needed, as per the Lynch report, which also states in its conclusion: "There is an extensive list of other required repairs throughout ... this report but in my opinion this list is shorter than average considering the age and type of building."

At the April 10 meeting, one resident felt the $41,000 operating cost was low. Another suggested that Area D residents share the taxation load. Some expressed they had an "emotional attachment" to the building and thought the building would be an asset for the Village. One resident said the building was a very good deal at $122,200, pointing out that you can't buy a house in Kaslo for that, and that the building could be sold down the road for a profit. This person put forward the idea of selling some Village land now and putting the proceeds towards the purchase, reducing the tax load.

Nakusp and area CBT funding

submitted

The public meeting for Nakusp and area CBT community initiatives and affected area funding will be held Sunday, May 6 from noon to 4 pm at the arena auditorium. Applicants will present their projects, and the community will be asked to vote on them. Booths will be open at noon and speeches will begin at 1 pm. Voting will take place after the speeches around 1:30 pm. The total amount of funding available is $89,881, and eight groups have applied for a total of $110,240. The most a project can receive each year is $20,000.

Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders requested $10,740 for a rescue snowmobile; Arrow Lakes Search & Rescue would like $5,000 to go towards a command vehicle; the Bayview Residents Association asked for $20,000 to build a storage building for its fire caddy; the Celebration of Wellness requested $4,500 to help with festival expenses; the Cultural Community of Nakusp and Area requested $20,000 for arena auditorium revitalization; Nakusp Roots Music Society asked for $20,000 to go towards the community park project; the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade requested $20,000 towards the cost of a road rescue truck; and Protecting Animal Life Society (PALS) asked for $10,000 for an animal rescue program.

The committee encourages the residents of Nakusp and area (from Bayview to Summit Lake Hill and Halcyon Hot Springs) to make an effort to attend the meeting and cast their votes.

Majority support for park proposal

by Jan McMurray

The vast majority of survey respondents support the Nakusp Music Fest's community park expansion proposal.

There was a 20% response rate to the survey, with 254 completed surveys returned out of 1218 surveys distributed to mailboxes. 77% of respondents supported the concept in general. 73% supported expanding the campsite by 41 spaces; 74% supported the construction of a band shell with seating; 78% supported the washroom, park and parking design.

More to memoir than truth

submitted

Explore the forms and possibilities of memoir with acclaimed writer Stuart Ross. In this fast-moving, hands-on workshop for writers both beginning and advanced, we'll look at memoir through fiction, poetry, the postcard essay, and other forms. Bring along your sense of adventure for this session.

Stuart Ross Writing Workshop for interested adults.
THERE'S MORE TO MEMOIR THAN TRUTH!
Wed. May 2nd at 6 pm - 8 pm
at Lucerne School.
Admission by donation.

FSA testing can be harmful to students!

BC students in Grades 4 and 7 are scheduled to take the Foundation Skills Assessment tests between May 7 and 18, 2007.

Large-scale tests have many negative effects on teaching and learning. These include:

- Class time lost to practising tests
- Taking time away from quality teaching and learning
- Spending money that could go toward textbooks and other resources
- Increased stress and anxiety among students

Teachers are so concerned that we are advising parents to withdraw their children from the tests. All it takes is a written request to the school principal.

For more information, visit *bctf.ca/fsa.aspx*

A message from the concerned teachers of Arrow Lakes.

Dear Principal,

Please excuse my child, _____, from all three Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) tests.

I am concerned that this test will have negative effects on my child's learning, motivation, and self-esteem.

I understand that the ministry provides instructions to principals on how to exempt students from the FSA tests if they receive a letter from parents requesting that their child be exempted.

Thank you for your co-operation.
Sincerely,

Parent/guardian signature

Voices from the Valleys

Shame, shame, shame

Yesterday, Jim Abbott, Conservative MP for Kootenay-Columbia, attended a Sikh parade in Surrey in which the Air India bombers were honoured, and children were wearing the assault rifle crest of the militant Sikh youth. Three years ago on India independance day, the Conservative party sent messages of congratulations to every tribal chief in Canada. Press the flesh, kiss the baby, business as usual...or perhaps as Aretha Franklin said "SHAME, SHAME, SHAME."

g. turner
Edgewood

To the owners of the pettily vandalized property

I would simply like to apologize for the arrogant rude graffiti which I put all over town for my own personal pleasure. Only afterwards, however, did I realize the consequences, and of course now I strongly regret my actions. I hope this apology will be taken sincerely, not only by the owners of the property but also any member of the community who has taken offense.

Lew Tickner
Hills

Thanks for the stairs

I must thank the Village for taking to heart my suggestion for stairs on the south side of Carpetner Creek in the Orchard. It has helped to make the rise to the bridge a lot easier, and the railings – being metal – are also very sturdy. Thank you again!

And now for the bridge over the creek at the campground to Josephine Street on the other side – I know I'm being picky but it can work! We can name it 'The Bridge Over Troubled Spring Water.' The town is so super at collecting for things they want. SO FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Jeanne Edge
New Denver

Wild Easter weekend in Burton

I was disappointed at the reaction of some community members at the recent meeting at the Burton Hall regarding activities over the Easter weekend.

The wild, out of control people on Lake View Park Road and on the Burton flats was beyond belief: the stealing of firewood, the abuse of private land and driveways, the insults to elderly residents. The speeding on Lake View Park Road was dangerous and raised clouds of dust. They used the road as a raceway, despite the posted limit of 30 km.

I'm sorry that some of the residents are angry that we complained. Not one word of understanding our position, or apologies for being robbed, swore at or our property used as a raceway and garbage dump. The few police that were down did their best but could not be everywhere at once. We've had some pretty wild nights in Burton in my lifetime but nothing like this one.

My husband has lung troubles and we had to stay inside on the first weekend of beautiful sunny days this year. We were hostages in our home by strangers in our community.

Helen Buerge
Burton

Dear neighbours to the north

I am writing this letter to you, dear neighbours in the northern Slocan Valley. It would seem with the OCP planning that's taking place, we have been cut into two different segments. I understand that we may have different issues; however, we have one very big issue that is the same whether we live in the north or the south and that is the quality of our most precious resource – THE WATER.

We in the south have really been given no say on anything to do with the lake, yet many of us in the south and along the river in particular take our water directly from the Slocan River. This means what ever you decide to do up there will have a direct impact on us way down south.

I would really like it if you would consider putting a limit on the size of motors for boats and perhaps even the types of boats on the lake (electric motors could be a possibility). I would hate our pristine lake to end up like any in the Okanagan smelling and tasting like gasoline and oil from all the high powered boats that ply the waters.

It is possible to promote a type of tourism that is much more eco-friendly than the typical way we view tourism. Many people would love the experience of a non-motorized tourist destination. Isn't that what everyone is trying to get away from when they come here for some peace and quiet?

As a mother I feel very protective of our water here in this valley. As most of us know, we need to do everything in our power to keep our water as pure as is possible. Even if the government seems to be ignoring this, we can't afford to ignore it.

Thanks for listening to my concern. I do hope you take what I say into consideration when you are making your decisions up there, as those decisions will have huge impacts for us.

Chris Berger
Passmore

Let's get back to peacekeeping

I am writing today as the proud daughter of a WW 2 veteran. My father William Ferguson served overseas for two years with the Edmonton Fusiliers. He himself never saw action. He carried with him for the rest of his days a heavy weight of regret and sadness for the young men that were sent to slaughter during those war years. He was not an active anti-war person but he instilled in me a sense of the awful loss of life that occurred world wide as a result of the two world wars. I am deeply concerned with the propaganda that is perpetuating the glorification of war. Our presence in Afghanistan is an example of this skewing of reality.

Thanks to Harper and Rick Hillier, our military role as peacekeepers has been transformed almost overnight to war-fighters. And our culture is now being redefined to include a fighting military which can also be seen as another step towards the integration with neighbour to the south. All this was done with no public debate.

When the first troops were sent to Afghanistan they were not war-fighters and we heard little of them. Now that the role has the changed the media has jumped on the band wagon and the reports come from embedded reporters who are most likely spoon-fed by military leaders. We knew nothing of the treatment of Afghan prisoners until the information was leaked by Amir Attaran, a University of Ottawa law professor.

It has been a subtle but drastic mind shift. Murray Dobbin, in a letter to the *Hill Times*, says, "We are corrupting Canada's own institutions, including our military, our foreign service, our foreign aide program, and our public broadcaster. Worst of all, as long as we stay in Afghanistan, we are corrupting our political culture."

I agree wholeheartedly with these concerns and want to add my voice in hope that we can restore our culture to one that rejected war as a means of conflict resolution and supported peacekeeping as its highest calling.

Linda Portman
Kaslo

Goats in New Denver

It has been brought to our attention that there has been a petition signed by residents of the Village of New Denver opposing livestock (goats, sheep, pigs, cows, etc.) within the Village boundaries.

We believe that this petition was initiated in response to our situation, but it unfortunately misinterprets our situation. We asked for a special permit to keep goats on the edge of the Village. We have never suggested that goats or any other livestock should be given general approval in the Village. We understand that there are very few appropriate sites within the Village that would meet the needs of small livestock and neighbouring residents. We are asking for an exemption from the bylaw because of our unique situation.

We have been supported by our neighbours, by teachers from the school and by many New Denver residents to keep these goats.

We have had the goats in our neighbourhood for two years now. At the request of the Village, we moved our goats to a location outside Village boundaries, where they remain until the Village makes its decision. Our request to the Village is to relocate the goats by a distance of less than 50 metres to our property inside the Village for a portion of the year. Most of the grazing will always occur outside the Village boundaries.

There is an educational benefit to keeping the goats within the Village. Class excursions from the school and individual visits provide children with some familiarity with animals and the knowledge that milk comes from animals and not from processing plants. As our pre-school teacher Charlene Alexander pointed out, if the animals are too far from the school to be readily accessed on foot, these educational visits are far less likely to happen.

If you have any thoughts about this goat issue, we would advise you to communicate them to the Village council to help them conclude this matter. But when addressing our application for a special permit, please express concerns that speak to our situation specifically and not concerns over a village with an ever-escalating livestock population. This is not being proposed.

Julia Greenlaw/Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

Losing hearts and minds in Afghanistan

Judging by the front page story in the *Nelson Daily News* of April 17, the Canadian military is doing a far better job of winning the 'hearts and minds' campaign at home than it is in Afghanistan. The plea of a mother for support of her beloved son and his comrades is pure public relations gold. But her son is deluded if he thinks handing out a few packets of food and medicine is fundamentally altering the structure of the ravaged country NATO forces are occupying.

In fact, we are losing the battle for Afghani hearts and minds, especially in the southern provinces where the puppet government of Karzai is in place. The food aid system is said to be so dysfunctional there that it essentially does not exist. The only two agencies providing any effective food aid, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, are currently not supported by the international community and cannot meet the demand. One soldier stationed in southern Afghanistan expressed dismay at the displacement and hunger created by bombing and noted that he has never "seen or heard anything from development agency workers."

According to the latest report by the Senlis Council Security and Develop-ment Policy Group, "field research has shown that in the neediest areas, such as the remote villages and refugee camps in Kandahar province, inhabi-tants have neither seen a foreigner nor heard of CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), let alone received any aid from Canadians."

A recent tour of Afghanistan by Ms. Josee Verner, head of CIDA's international development program, did not include visits to any of the supposed CIDA projects for security reasons. Nor were any Afghani media allowed to the media conferences, strengthening the impression that the visit was more designed to win the 'hearts and minds' back home than those of Afghanis.

With this legacy of broken promises, it's no mystery why Westerners are failing to 'win hearts and minds' in Afghanistan. If we really want to help Afghanis, our military should be withdrawn and the promised aid delivered to those who need it most.

Art Joyce
New Denver

In support of planning

I would like to voice my support for an official community plan for the Slocan Valley. It is time to discuss such a plan in a rational manner and stop the personal attacks. We can all see the changes taking place in communities throughout BC and the Kootenay region. Like it or not, there are major changes happening in our part of the world and they are only going to accelerate.

Promoting an ethic of unfettered personal liberty in the face of this change is ridiculous. Is it realistic to believe that we can all live without consideration for our neighbours and the common good without increasing levels of conflict? There is more traffic, more noise, more air pollution, more water demand, more development of our lake and stream shorelines, more waste, more power use and less natural habitat for fish and wildlife than just a few years ago. Those that promote the concept that we can just sit here in the Slocan Valley and do whatever we want on our own land forever without increasing conflicts with our neighbours, interest and advocacy groups and regulators, while continuing to degrade our common environment are misguided. The longer a community delays creating a plan for

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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.

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Voices from the Valleys

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the future the fewer options will be available once a plan is required and eventually a plan will be required.

As much as it may be an affront to some loud voices in the valley, the only way forward is to plan for the future. A community plan provides security for existing developments and direction for future development. It helps provide direction on water use, it helps ensure our streams and lakes are not developed to the banks, it ensures we have public spaces and access to the river and lake for those who aren't lucky enough to have waterfront property, it helps prevent or reduce water pollution, noise pollution, light pollution, provides traffic control and so on. Don't we all want these things?

Is it the answer to all our problems? No, but it is a good start. If the vocal people who are promoting opposition to planning are allowed to stop this important initiative it may take many years before the opportunity returns. In the meantime more people will move here and more unplanned development and degradation of our natural and social values will occur. We will all regret that; even those who feel that they should be allowed to do whatever it is they want on their land without regard for the common good. I encourage those who have been silent on this issue to voice support for an official community plan for the Slocan Valley.

Bruce MacDonald
Appledale

Ruin of the river power – greed not green

So, it seems that the environmental study up Glacier Creek is done for the present. When the technicians weren't leaving us in the noise and fumes of their skidoo, it was quads. Honestly, these machines should be monitored for noxious emissions before they are released from the factory. Their noise and pollution is deplorable.

These fellows were measuring the velocity of the creek, leaving day glow orange markers spray painted on the spot, to include the surrounding snows. Did they in fact see any Dippers or Water Shrews? There are so many creatures other than fish that depend on this creek. I gathered these people were hired by the proponents to find what they wanted them to find. They hadn't read Gary Diers' letter stating that the Murphys were just street theatre for the numbered corporation from Quebec, yet they expressed no surprise when I mentioned this. They were in a hurry and not eager to converse or answer my questions, it seemed.

I have been turning a slash pile into a ranch on Glacier Creek for 14 years and I can tell you this: these waters are sacred and ever changing! The satellite photo shows Jumbo Glacier as a gem on top of Glacier Creek. That's why the corporates want in. And now we have no choice but to stand up and say NO! Glacier Creek is unique.

Their proposed dam, 3 kilometers above my land, flanked by precipitous denuded slopes, may prove to be exceedingly dangerous. Glacier Creek has become prone to amazing avalanches that carry debris and gravel for kilometers. In 1985, it washed away and buried a skidder and 40 loads of logs. The skidder was not found until months later when spotted by a helicopter and was never the same again.

This year Glacier Creek was benign. It was a warm winter with lots of flow compared to other years. Even so I can walk across it in my gumboots it's so shallow. Any water taken out in the winter will most certainly be devastating to fish and wildlife down stream. This dam will have a serious impact should they take out 80% of the water. The distance from the proposed dam to the spawning channel on the Duncan Lake Reservoir is 12 kilometers, according to Gary Diers' computer program. On cold years when there is far less water the Glacier Creek freezes almost solid across from bottom to top and top to bottom. The water level fluctuates with the rain, the sun, the temperature, and the avalanches. It is invariably higher in the afternoon than in the morning and the valley beyond my property is inherently unstable.

I believe people of BC/Canada should rethink this whole power proposal scam and cherish our amazing living waters. Howser Creek and East Creek are sensitive wilderness areas. Power projects do not belong in roadless old growth forests. It is these power projects that will bring the end of wilderness to the Duncan (as it is known locally). This year there was more water than usual but Glacier Creek is unpredictable. A one-year study for a project of this magnitude is not nearly enough for the nature of all these creeks.

A 'Friends of Glacier Creek' peace camp is in the works. Please get involved. We need you! Duncan Dam has been wasting its energy producing potential for 40 years. To dam Glacier Creek and divert water through a six-kilometre tunnel, 3 X 3 1/2 metres in diameter, is Greed Power not Green Power.

We should honour this water and give thanks for it (read Doctor Masaru Emoto *The Hidden Messages in Water*). Don't let the corporate greed destroy this water's spirit – let's just say NO all together now!

Gabriela Grabowsky
Glacier Creek

Concerned about the Slocan Valley Concerned Citizens Forum

I'm sitting here reading this piece of I-don't-know-what-to-call-it from the 'Concerned Citizens Forum' and gawd am I embarrassed to live in the Slocan Valley. I cringe at what the usual suspects are trying to pawn off as this decade's poor excuse for facts, alerting us to the terrible danger that only their crystal-clear vision sees is being rammed down our throats. In one succinct section they're alerting me not to even contemplate listening to anyone else, 'cause I'll only be getting fed lies.

Remember the last time we went through this back in the mid-90s? The paranoia, the intimidation, the cameras recording any public meetings, every dialogue had to be a confrontation. Ah, the good 'Concerned Citizens' were in their frenzied glory and the rest of us just rolled our eyes. The only thing that mollified them was getting their man elected to Regional government. And then, as we all remember, the real headaches began.

Difference is that back then the Regional Director of the day actually did try to ram an Unsightly Premises Bylaw through without any public input. This time, we haven't even begun what will be a very public process about having an Official Community Plan and the 'Concerned Citizens' want to re-write this fact, manufacture their own distortions and create a new confrontational situation. The facts have to get blurred so folks won't recognize the truth when it shows up.

And you know, having an OCP has never even been high on my list of what we need. I could take it or leave it. But when I see the craziness starting up again and see people trying to manipulate us as a community, well it gives me reason to look at it more deeply.

So I do that and I come to a few conclusions. I don't care if you have a bunch of old wrecks in your yard. I don't care what's growing in your back field or how long since you've painted your house. I'm more concerned about protecting our rural lifestyle, not seeing it exploited while we're forever bickering over the small stuff.

You know, if someone was trying to force a bylaw down my throat saying you can only have 20 chickens or 6 pigs or some silly number, I'd join the queue to let folks know how stupid that is. I'm more concerned when someone shows up with 6,000 pigs looking to start up a Slocan Valley Feedlot. What if they put this Disneyworld of pigs next to a school, or up Winlaw Creek above everyone's water box? It certainly would spark some sprightly discussion. Sure, the poor suckers choking on the fumes or having pig feces coming out their taps could spend the next two years running through the hoops of some government agency trying to get them to enforce some clause in their legislation, but by that time their life, lifestyle and resources have long been devastated. Or, we could be pro-active not re-active in our approach. We've had enough confrontation thanks.

To me an OCP is us as a community having the foresight to say, "Hey, what are the really dumb things we DON'T want to see happen in our valley," and agreeing either not to let them develop, or determine if they can be done without messing us up. I mean, it's one thing to embrace and encourage growth – it's another to do nothing and get a kick in the head when it shows up.

It's time to stop instilling panic over imagined possibilities. It's time to stop being opportunistic and using fear as a calling card. It's getting close to the time to start getting involved and saying what works or doesn't work in an OCP, arguing for what we want and what we don't want in order to protect our rural lifestyle. I think we're close to the point where doing nothing is actually the greatest disrespect we can bring upon our neighbours. And an even greater insult is putting this unsigned I-don't-know-what-to-call-it bit of paper in my mailbox. So it goes.

Craig Lawrence
Winlaw

Open and honest debate, not fear mongering, needed in planning process

It amazes me that issues like land-use planning become so intense and heated in this valley. Oh I can appreciate the fact that the idea of such planning poses important questions that deserve good answers and should be thoroughly debated in the public arena before anything is adopted. What I have trouble appreciating is fear mongering and campaigns that distribute misleading information, such as the mailer I got yesterday from a group calling itself 'The Slocan Valley Concerned Citizens Forum,' which provides no names, no address, phone, or email by which the originators might be contacted. For the sake of brevity, I'll refer to this group hereafter as the SVCCF.

Their pamphlet began with one word: "WARNING!" And while some of its observations are true, some are less so and tend toward the disingenuous. It is true for example that developers will tend to stay away from communities or areas where there's no planning in place, no zoning. The risk for them is too great. They might build an apartment complex or some condos or a resort or a bed and breakfast only to wake up a year later to find an auto wrecking yard has opened for business right next door, bringing ruin to their business and casting their investment asunder. I wouldn't do it; nor would you; nor will a developer.

Mind you, it wouldn't bother me in the least if developers were kept out of this valley forever. I've spent a pretty pleasant 35 years here without developers on the scene.

But times change, too and I'd just as soon not wake up one day to find some fellow has built a pig farm across the road from me, or an auto repair shop, or a welding shop or some other noise-making or stench-laden enterprise. And without planning, this can happen – make no mistake.

The SVCCF seems to preach property rights and the right of individual property owners to "live on their land as they choose," a traditional view that's been around since day one. The problem with it is it assumes property owners will conduct their affairs in a manner that's consistent with good neighbourliness. They won't do things that lower the market value of adjacent properties. If you don't like planning this is the risk you take. This is the bet you make. Experience shows it isn't a very good bet, especially in traditionally rural communities where growth can be expected to occur. And this suggests the idea of land-use planning and the notion of an OCP, which can help prevent ad hoc development from happening and the negative impacts on a community that commonly attend.

The SVCCF would have us believe that the RDCK can run planning down on us with which the majority of residents do not agree. Can they really do this? Would they do it even if they could? Will they throw the democratic process out the window and behave in a dictatorial manner? I'd like to hear what Mr. Munro has to say on this. I'd like to hear him explain how he intends to make the adoption of planning and an OCP a democratic event, with every resident having an opportunity to fully express their views and desires in a way that counts in the real world.

Planning should serve the social, cultural and economic interests of the community-at-large and should be adopted only when a majority of citizens agree to it. I'd like to see campaigns for or against refrain from scare tactics, misleading commentary and hidden agendas. I'd prefer to hear and read about wide-open honest debate that goes to merit and avoids platitudes and scurrilous commentary alike. I hope the SVCCF is listening, whoever they are.

Sean Rooney
Vallican

Clearing up misconceptions around OCP

There might not be much to see in a small town but what you hear more than makes up for it.

What is a Community Plan? There is a lot of misinformation about what a community plan is. A community plan is a document that explains the wishes of the community on how we would like to see our home in the future. It says things like, "To maintain the rural character, environmental integrity, the social and cultural diversity of the Plan Area." It doesn't say "You can only have six chickens."

A Community Plan describes how we would like to see the valley in the future. Having no plan says we don't care what happens in our valley. It says, "Go right ahead and put that pig farm next to Sleep is for Sissies and that gravel pit next to the Slocan Valley Co-op – we don't care." An Official Community Plan will be developed for the Slocan Valley; it is going to happen even if the result of the process is a single page with large block letters written in scribbly printing that says, "GO AWAY, WE WANT NO PLANNING." No planning is still a plan but we think we can come up with a better idea than that.

Since this is going to happen what can you do about it? You can complain. You can make up and spread rumours. You can mail an anonymous letter to everybody in the valley and try to scare them. Or, you can have your voice heard and recorded as part of that plan. You could come to a public meeting and find out for yourself what all this fuss is about. The first public meeting is being held on Saturday May 12, 2007 at 10 am in the Appledale hall. There will be more meetings in the spring, summer and fall at different locations in the valley if you can't make this one. You could also come to the monthly meetings that the planning commission has. They can be pretty dull but it's a good place to raise a specific issue and make sure it's understood. The meetings are normally on the third Thursday at 7 pm in the Slocan Park Hall and last two hours. Anybody interested is always invited to all planning meetings. You might also look at the RDCK web site where you'll find lots of committee like documents that the RDCK makes us write. A plan will be created. Your best action is to make sure your wishes are known and become a part of it.

Public events are being held to gather information about what is important to the community. This means we get to scribble on large maps and flip charts with felt pens. There will be lots of talking. They will be held in small halls so you won't need to yell to make your point. We'll have lunch together (BYO lunch. Beverages, fruit and cookies will be provided) and it will be a social, community building event. The APC (Advisory Planning Commission) will document the information gathered, using the most appropriate method: databases, maps and report documents that describe, locate, and quantify what has been said at these meetings. Exactly what this will look like we have no idea but it will be interesting and it will depend on your input. This will take at least until the end of 2007.

Once the draft of the plan is created it will be available for everybody to read and scribble on again. There will be more public meetings but hopefully it won't require complete rewriting. If it does, that is fine, there is no time limit on the process. If we had to guess, this second phase will take another year. By the end of 2008 we hope to have a plan that the community feels comfortable with that can be presented to the RDCK board for adoption.

Here are the key points to remember: a community plan describes the wishes of the community; "no plan" says come on in and do whatever you want, we don't care; all planning meetings are open to the public; public information meetings are happening this spring, summer and fall; planning is going to happen, even if the plan is to have no plan, and participation is the most useful thing you can do about it.

Gerry Shaw, Secretary for the APC
Passmore

Slocan council, April 11: Parking at boat launch to be expanded

by Don Currie

•Council passed a motion to meet with BC Tourism and the Slocan Valley Rails to Trails Society to sort out jurisdictional matters over the use of land adjacent the new gazebo. Councillors also approved plans to expand parking for trucks and trailers at the new boat launch facility and directed staff to begin clearing and leveling several Village-owned lots on Main St. Mayor Van Bynen reported that a private landowner near the gazebo had volunteered the use of his property for additional parking.

•Councillors acted on a request by resident Sabine Wolters to provide access to lots she owns on Ward Ave. Councillors were asked to investigate the type of fill being used to extend the street. Mayor Van Bynen said he was aware that steel, concrete and other debris were being used and that this would be removed and replaced with good fill. Council passed a motion to assign the mayor and works foreman Jerry Simmons to meet with Wolters, survey the situation and take appropriate action.

•Pat Ashton, owner-operator of Mountain Valley Service Station, enquired about the availability of maps showing surveying details and road allowances. Mayor Van Bynen said the Village had just received new digitally produced maps that can be viewed at the Village office and are for sale through the RDCK.

•Tamara Matthews, owner of the Slocan Motel, posed follow-up questions from her March 7 appearance at council requesting improvements in signage for local businesses. The motel operator said a local business association had been formed and wanted input to the type of signage that would be created out of a $2,000 fund set aside by council. Councillor Perriere recommended that council meet with the association to determine what the association wanted. She explained that staff was in the process of contracting a signage company to do the work. Council agreed to meet with the association on April 26.

•Mayor Van Bynen drew council's attention to a number of hazardous trees in the Village. Councillor Septav recommended that the Village contact a local logger and tree expert, who has a tree certification license, to survey all trees on Village property and report back to council.

•Councillor Perriere reminded council of a decision to have minutes posted to the public minute board within three weeks of the minutes being approved by council. She recommended the backlog be caught up by June.

•Council approved the Slocan Fire Department's request to use the gazebo for a barbecue and beer garden in conjunction with its May 6 fish derby.

•Councillor John Gates provided his usual thorough written report on RDCK business. The Slocan Valley area has been chosen for an international cycling road race in the summer of 2009. Selkirk College and the Justice Institute have entered into a partnership agreement to jointly deliver a standardized firefighter training program at Selkirk's Silver King campus in Nelson. The RDCK has allocated $50,000 to move ahead with a Zero Waste Program. He reminded council and the community that the recycling depot now accepted plastics.

Silverton council, April 10: Silverton Gallery declared a heritage site

by Art Joyce

Councillor Provan brought forward the recommendation from the Facilities and Recreation Committee that the Silverton Gallery be designated a municipal heritage site. The motion passed and CAO Ida was directed to draft a bylaw to that effect. A motion proposed by Provan that $1500 be awarded the Slocan Lake Gallery Society for the heritage conservation and feasibility study was also passed.

Council voted to award its share of the CBT Community Initiatives grants to PALS ($250), New Denver May Days ($250), and the Valhalla Summer School of the Fine Arts (VSSFA) Scholarship Fund ($250), with the balance to be held over. Heather Heuther of the VSSFA attended to answer any questions about their application for CBT funding.

Mayor Everett reported that he had meetings scheduled with Don Munro and Gary Wright regarding the fire department budget for the year. The Village of Silverton is also in negotiation with the Village of New Denver for equipment sharing of the backhoe, street sweeper and garbage truck. The two villages are discussing a cost-sharing arrangement for the backhoe, splitting the $60,000 expense between them. Everett will also be meeting with Don Munro and Derek Murphy regarding the CMON initiative for high-speed internet expansion to Rosebery.

Under unfinished business, Mayor Everett noted that council needs to draft a letter to the UBCM supporting its efforts to investigate the TILMA agreement. He said the lack of public consultation seems to be the greatest concern for many affected parties, and that the pertinent issues need addressing before the two-year 'grace period' is up.

CAO Ida announced the Village's 'Operation Clean Sweep', an Arbor Day spread over April 18 and 19 for pickup of unwanted materials in the morning and yard waste in the afternoon.

A letter of regret will be sent to the Kaslo May Days committee stating that Village council will be unable to attend due to the 100th anniversary celebrations of New Denver May Days.

In a written report, public works foreman Leonard Casley informed council that the footbridge crossing Silverton Creek needs bottom rails replaced.

The RDCK service review information was tabled until Councillor Bell's return.

A request from the Valhalla Wilderness Society for BearSmart funding was tabled again until next meeting.

New Denver council, April 10: Petition against livestock received

by Leah Main

•Council received a petition signed by 74 residents stating, "We the undersigned residents are opposed to any livestock (goats, sheep, pigs, cows, etc.) within the Village boundaries of New Denver." The existing Animal Control Bylaw limits allowable pets and livestock to dogs, cats and chickens. Norbert Duerichen and Julia Greenlaw have asked for a special permit to keep goats on their property for a portion of the year. This would require an amendment to the bylaw. Livestock has emerged as one of the biggest OCP issues, and will continue to be discussed at that forum.

•In response to a request from Lorne Oldham, council will examine the volleyball court to determine whether more sand is needed this year, and will ask Rec Commission #6 for its participation in offsetting the potential cost.

•Council entertained a request from RDCK to provide feedback on a proposed RDCK-RDKB (Kootenay Boundary) Centralized Composting Facility program. Under this program, materials would be hauled to a site at the Ootischenia landfill and bulk composted; the finished material would not be considered appropriate for use on food producing land. Council members declined to support the proposal, but will inform RDCK they might be interested in examining alternate programs with a more appropriate local component, such as providing individual backyard composters.

•Councillor Greensword, alternate Village representative to the Regional District, will attend the meetings of the statutory service review of RDCK's general administration function on behalf of the Village. New Denver's recommendations will include suggesting a 50/50 split between the legislative and administrative budget components of the general administration service. The legislative component is work done on behalf of the whole district, while the administrative budget is work done on individual services. Currently, the budget split is more like 65% legislative and 35% administrative.

A second recommendation will be to either pool all hydro grants-in-lieu plus the 1% of hydro sales received by municipalities, and apply this pool of funds to general administration or development services (the two services that all 20 members share in), or to leave the distribution of hydro grants-in-lieu as is.

A third objective of New Denver is to encourage regional districts and municipal administrations to seek ways to integrate parallel services such as planning, information technology and waste management, in order to provide better service at lower cost to all users.

PHOTO CREDIT: SALLY LAMARE

Vera and Lyle Kristiansen at the booksigning for Vera's new book, A Very Political Family, at the Appletree restaurant in New Denver, Friday, April 13.

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Interpretation plaque ceremony opens Kohan Gardens 2007 season

All Kohan Memorial Garden enthusiasts and community residents are cordially invited to the unveiling ceremony of a beautiful granite interpretation plaque created by Brenda Lucas of Monumental Stoneworks.

The ceremony will take place Sunday, April 29, 2-4 pm, at the end of First Avenue in the Orchard. Refreshments will be served.

The Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLGS) has long wished for a permanent display of the historic and cultural story behind the Kohan Garden. The concept of an Interpretation Plaque was initiated by the members in 2005 and facilitated by Ruby Truly. A Society committee created the text.

Stoneworks artist Brenda Lucas consulted with the society on the selection of materials, style, and graphics. She created the plaque in late summer 2006. SLGS member John Herrmann designed the placement in the Gatehouse.

Ray Nikkel, president of the Slocan Lake Garden Society will introduce the proceedings and later offer a guided tour of the garden. Others on the program will include Village of Silverton Mayor Gary Wright, Penelope Stuart of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, and Brenda Lucas.

The Interpretation Plaque has been realized by funding from the Village of New Denver, the Slocan Lake Garden Society and the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance of the Columbia Basin Trust. We are most grateful to all for support of this project.

SLUGS holds Mother's Day draw

It's back! The Mother's Day Draw is the spring fundraiser for the Slocan Lake Garden Society. The donated prizes this year are: *Shared Memories* sculpture by Diana DeGroot, *Kohan Dragonfly* watercolour by Donna Hicks, Ceramic Garlic Pot by Kaitlan Murphy, and a 'fern' light string made by U&U Lighting. You can see the prizes on display in the window of the Horsefeathers store in Silverton.

They will also be at the New Denver branch of the Kootenay Savings and Credit Union on May 3,4, 10 and 11 (10 am-2 pm) where you can purchase tickets for $5 each from a SLUGS member! Tickets are also on sale at the Appletree, Fat Kats, Slocan Lake Hardware, Silverton Building Supplies, and Horsefeathers. There are only 200 tickets printed and the proceeds go directly to maintenance and projects of the SLUGS volunteers for the Kohan Reflection Garden.

The draw will be held in the Kohan Reflection Garden teahouse at 12 pm on Sunday May 13, Mother's Day. Come and pick out your prize!

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Congratulations to Lucerne School's Destination Imagination team for placing second out of eight teams in their category at the provincial competition held April 14 in Richmond. Team members (L to R) are: Kayla Dreidger, Yuki Miwa, Ben Reitmeier, Tisha Becker, Hazen Donnet, Kyla Smutny, and Darnell Stephens.

VWS proposes Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park to save caribou

The Valhalla Wilderness Society has put together a park proposal to save the last herd of 100 endangered mountain caribou in the Central Selkirk Mountains. Their remaining habitat is open for continued logging in the coming year, despite provincial and federal government 'recovery' plans.

VWS has dubbed the 251,016-hectare area the Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park. The proposed new park would connect Goat Range Provincial Park and Glacier National Park. It would also protect endangered ancient rainforest ecosystems, including the upper Incomappleux Valley and intact watersheds such as East Creek and Giegrich Creek. An extensive part of the area, north of Nakusp and west and north of the Goat Range Provincial Park, is already designated for 100% forest retention under the Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan. But the area set aside is very high elevation forest that is largely worthless to the timber industry. "What's killing the caribou is that they're logging the low and mid-elevation forest to shreds," says Craig Pettitt, a director of the Society. "This forest is essential to the survival of the mountain caribou."

Colleen McCrory, Executive Director of the Society, says BC's Species at Risk Coordination Office (SaRCO) and its Mountain Caribou Science Team are proposing a substantial increase in habitat protection in the northern part of the mountain caribou range, but very little change in the Central Selkirks. She says logging slated this year for the Westfall, Halfway River and other key mountain caribou habitats will only hasten the caribou's demise.

"Their solution is predominantly to shoot bears, wolverines, cougars, wolves, moose, and deer. We are asking for an immediate logging moratorium on this proposed park and habitat recovery area so its fate can be decided in a rational way rather than logging it under the false excuse that killing predators will save the caribou."

The Society is also proposing 152,207 hectares as Recovery Areas for the rehabilitation of mountain caribou habitat that has already been logged. It could help to create new sustainable forest jobs by such methods as obliteration of roads, and thinning and brushing of young forest. Pettitt says rehabilitation of clearcuts and logging roads is "essential as a non-lethal way to reduce predation on caribou."

McCrory adds that the new park proposal is the last opportunity in this area to preserve intact old-growth forest for wildlife and future generations. Despite heavy clearcutting, we still have 1,800-year-old trees, mountain caribou, and grizzlies.

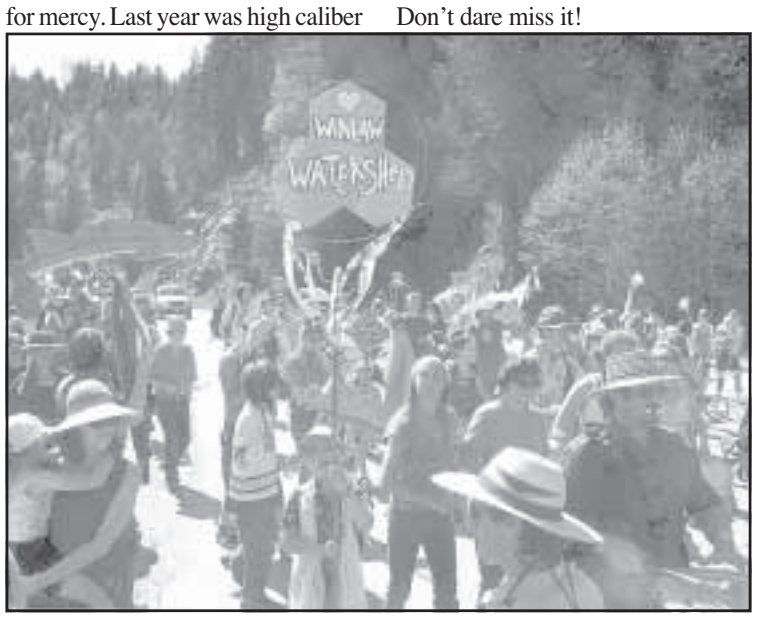
"At a time when global warming is destabilizing our environment and beetles are killing all our pine forests, we need what little remains of our humid forests and rainforests, of our surviving species, to maintain what ecosystem stability we can."

Winlaw May Day Festival all about water, water, water

Water! Do you drink it? Swim in it? Wash your car, grow your garden in it? Do you ride boats, skis, boards, tubes in it? Then come celebrate water in Winlaw for the fourth annual May Day Water Festival, Parade and Extravaganza on Saturday, May 5, 11am to 11pm at the Cedar Creek Café. Bring your favourite float, water vessel, costume, sprinkler, hose end, balloon, or arrive soaking wet and hug hot people, but please do join us.

Face-painting, mask-making and costume preparation for you or your kids begins at 11 am at the Cedar Creek Café. Bidding in the silent auction, supported by the generosity of over 50 local businesses and many talented artists and artisans, begins at noon and runs all day.

Stay after the 1 pm parade for fun with water games, and dance into the night to the wet sounds wailing from the outdoor stage until the coyotes cry for mercy. Last year was high caliber memory material, and this year is going to rage like a river in flood. Don't dare miss it!



The Fourth Annual Winlaw May Day Water Festival & Parade will be held May 5.

Passmore Firehall needs your unwanted buildings

Do you have a building you are planning to demolish or would love to see burned – perhaps an old house, shed or barn? Passmore Fire Department is looking for practice buildings. Practicing on actual structures helps us gain valuable experience in fire and smoke environments, using various ventilation techniques and equipment.

It would be ideal if we could use a building for several weeks as it allows us to work with many scenarios. Perhaps you have a building that you think would do, but it's too close to neighbours or trees. That's useful too, as we can still practice in it using non-heated smoke techniques. Ultimately the building can either be burned or you can demolish it, depending on the situation.

If you are interested, please contact Fire Chief Gord Ihlen or Deputy Fire Chief Tracey Skead, at 226-7545.

Report from Area H North TV Society

submitted by Peter Roulston

There is now a seventh channel choice available in the upper Slocan Valley – and that seventh channel is channel 7 itself. Channel 7 carries Canadian CTV programming. The society found this to be the most desirable choice after conducting surveys and considering costs.

Each household locally contributes tax dollars to have the seven channels plus five radio stations. While many people also have satellite dish subscriptions, the society offers varied programming at a far lesser cost.

Co-op Radio out of Nelson may soon extend its signal into the Slocan Valley and would serve the lake area from the same antenna array as the society and CBC towers. Also, there is a push locally, though not by the TV society, to offer cell phone service, which would initially help with RCMP and emergency services. Those repeaters would also piggyback on existing infrastructure.

SLOCAN DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Employment Opportunities

Visitor Centre Counsellor
Summer student position. Applicant must be returning to full-time school next year. Four days per week, July and August. Must be able to attend a training session. Experience in Customer Service, excellent communication skills and some proficiency in WORD and EXCEL.

Volunteer VC Counsellor
A chance to meet visitors to our valley in June and September. Training course (2-3 days) is provided.

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Apply to: chamber @ slocanlake.com

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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.

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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.

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Nakusp Minor Hockey holds annual awards night, April 18

Nakusp Minor Hockey Association held their annual awards night on Wednesday, April 18 at the Nakusp Arena. Esso Medals and Participation Certificates were sponsored by Benny and Wendy Bruneau. Coach of the Year was Barry Streliev.

Atoms

Esso Medals

Most Sportsmanlike, Kira Streliev; Most Improved, Austin MacDonald; Most Dedicated, Zac Friedenberger.

Trophies

Playmaker, Colten Dachwitz & Greyson Reitmeier; Best Defense, Quentin Volansky & AJ Hughes; Goalie, Josh Rivers.

Pee Wee House

Esso Medals

Most Sportsmanlike, Kylie Gardner; Most Improved, Cole Adams; Most Dedicated, Connor Reimer.

Trophies

Playmaker, Tyson Cann; Best All Around, Jesse Jensen; Best Defense, Avery Palmer; Goalie, Carter Stenseth.

Hockey Bursary

Tyson Cann; Alternate, Cole Adams

On Ice Officials

Trophies

Junior, Rane Marshall; Senior, Paul Roberts.

Pee Wee Rep

Esso Medals

Most Sportsmanlike, Mitch Hascarl; Most Improved, Jacob Balske; Most Dedicated, Mateus Dachwitz.

Trophies

Playmaker, Ryan Bateman; Best All Around, Shea Weighill; Best Defense, Jade Streliev; Goalie, Cameron MacPherson.

Bantam

Esso Medals

Most Sportsmanlike, Kayla Yoshida; Most Improved, Ross Zeleznik; Mowst Dedicated, Chris James.

Trophies

Playmaker, Nathan Wiebe; Best All Around, Bryce Cann; Best Defense, Brody Simpson; Goalie, Terryn Stenseth.

Midget Rep

Esso Medals

Most Sportsmanlike, Brett Zeleznik; Most Improved, Curtis Rogers; Most Dedicated, Joel James.

Trophies

Russel Jones Playmaker, Tyson Klein & Lane Weighill; Randi Obayashi Most Sportsmanlike, Brett Zeleznik; RCMP Goalie, Luke Krybla; MVP, North Kootenay Falcons; Defenseman of the Year, Raine Marshall.

Nakusp Minor Hockey Association's Coach of the Year, Barry Streliev shows off his hardware.

Atoms Trophy Winners: Colten Dachwitz, Greyson Reitmeier, Quentin Volansky, AJ Hughes and Josh Rivers.

Kaslo Minor Hockey makes annual awards on April 11, 2007

Senior Novice

Tudor Rutherglen Award, Ayden Bolton.

Atoms

MVP, Katheryn Haegadorn & Shawn Ellard; Sportsmanship, Breanna Tate; Best defensive player, Hiedi Haegadorn; Most improved, Kristanna Fiddler; Tudor Rutherglen Award, Ava Collier.

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Peewee

Tudor Rutherglen Award, Sam Webber; MVP, Ryan Tate; Most sportsmanlike; Ross Jacobs; Best defensive player, Shawn Sicotte & Brealyn Patton; Most improved, Andrew Pelletier.

The Atom team's Most Sportmanlike player, Breanna Tate.

Bantam

Tudor Rutherglen, Alan Grant & Shawn Sicotte; MVP, Cam Settle; Most sportsmanlike, Lindsey McKinnon; Best defensive player, Liam Mitchell; Most improved, Leah Aasen & Angus Collier.

Midget

Tudor Rutherglen Award, Kirk Settle; MVP/ Shane McKinnon; Most Sportsmanlike, Cari Walker; Best defensive player, Jared Berry; Most Improved, Brad Reimer; Presidents award, Kirk Settle; Dallas Benwell Memorial, Jared Barry.

Other Awards

Most dedicated senior official was Bill Plant. Most dedicated junior official was Liam Mitchell.

Rob Zilkie received an award in recognition and appreciation for his dedicated service.

Atom players Heidi Haegedorn, Ava Collier, Mikayla Fiddler and Kathryn Haegedorn.

Graduating Midgets Kirk Settle, Joe Wood, David Zilkie, Francois Gagnon-Blackburn and Jared Berry. Amanda Turner (missing) is also a graduating Midget. Jared Berry won the Dallas Benwell Memorial and Kirk Settle won the President's Choice Award.

Valley Voice Editor Jan McMurray is swept off her feet by the musical stylings of Vito Nevoral at the Fire Fighters & First Responders Recognition Ball, held March 14 at the Vallican Whole.

Holly Burdon, of Holly and Jon, played at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn, March 14

Local Rec Guy, Craig Lawrence mans the Crown & Anchor wheel at the Emergency Volunteers' Ball at the Vallican Whole.

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The Nakusp Roots Music Society (NRMS) would like to thank all citizens of Nakusp for their overwhelmingly positive response to the questionnaire which was mailed out by the Village to gauge the residents' opinion on our Park Creation Project. Depending on the question, between 73 and 78 percent of the returned questionnaires endorsed our proposal.

We are absolutely excited to have received such strong endorsement and the trust you have expressed in us.

We know, that all of us together will now be able to create a much desired community park for all area citizens and society groups to enjoy, all year round. You guys rock!

Greg Craine, President NRMS
Willi Jahnke, Administrator NRMS

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Uranium free coalition to hold public information forum

by Art Joyce

What many of us who live in the idyllic West Kootenay don't know about our paradise is that it happens to sit on some of the largest uranium ore deposits in the country. A group known as Uranium Free Kootenay/Boundary is concerned that if uranium mining is allowed to occur, we could be facing a huge public health risk. The group will be holding a public awareness forum, hosted by the Uranium Free BC Coalition, on May 12, from 9:30 am to 4 pm, at the Brilliant Cultural Center, in Castlegar, BC.

There will be talks by keynote speakers, visual presentations, entertainment, a vegetarian potluck lunch and public involvement in strategy discussions with local public officials. The leading keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert F. Woollard, head of the UBC Department of Family Practice and co-chair of the UBC Task Force on Healthy and Sustainable Communities. Dr. Woollard testified for the BC Medical Association on the health effects of uranium during a public inquiry into uranium mining in BC during the 1970s. Other speakers will include MP Alex Atamanenko, Scott Leyland, Peter Chataway, John Suttie, Joe Falkoski, Rob Westie, and Laura Savinkoff.

The Uranium Free BC Coalition is hoping to get the uranium mining moratorium reinstated in BC. The ban expired in 1987. According to Nadia Podmoroff, a spokesperson for Uranium Free Kootenay/Boundary, 23 international companies have staked out some 200 uranium claims between the Kootenay and Okanagan regions. A recent *Vancouver Sun* report noted homeowners in New Denver who discovered high levels of radon gas in their home. Radon is a radioactive gas that is also released when rocks are crushed during exploration and mining. The US Academy of Sciences has identified radon gas as the second leading cause of lung cancer.

"If exploration begins, and it could begin any time because uranium prices have gone up recently," says Podmoroff, "it will create high levels of radiation and cancer rates in the area will go up."

Podmoroff would like to see the public inquiry that led to the moratorium reactivated. She says areas like China Creek and Genelle are at risk, since they are located on one of the largest uranium ore bodies in Canada. Mine sites from the '70s are still contaminated from the in situ leaching method, which injects sulphuric acid to help with ore extraction.

Uranium Free Kootenay/Boundary has made a request to both the RDCK and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary to arrange with the Ministry of Mines to have all exploration and mining permits posted in a public forum. The RDKB board has sent a letter to the ministry in support of this initiative. The RDCK board declined the group's request to appear as a delegation.

Guest speakers at the forum will share information on how Canadian uranium product is being processed and used along with the resulting health and environmental impacts. They will be updating the public to the potential hazards of exploration and mining of uranium in our regions, and will offer alternative more sustainable energy options.

Local author and poet Arthur Joyce reads at the Nelson Library

Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and History is pleased to present an evening with author and poet Arthur Joyce on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 pm downstairs in the Nelson Municipal Library. Art will be reading selections from all three of his books, which are available at the Touchstones Shop.

Arthur Joyce has been a freelance journalist since 1990 and has been publishing and performing his poetry since the 1980s. Joyce's popular *Heritage Beat* column ran in the *Nelson Daily News* for 5 years from 1996-2000, profiling the rich history of this Western Canadian city and surrounding region.

During this time Joyce wrote two books on the city's history, *A Perfect Childhood* on Nelson's heritage homes, and *Hanging Fire & Heavy Horses* on the city's historic streetcars. Knowledge Network TV quotes from Joyce in its *BC Moments* segment on the heritage homes of Nelson, BC, and he was interviewed in a *National Geographic* TV special on the history of BC lakes.

His first full-length poetry collection, *The Charlatans of Paradise*, was published in November 2005 by Nelson-based New Orphic Publishers. In a review of the book by Saskatchewan poet Stephen Michael Berzensky (a.k.a. Mick Burrs), he called Joyce "a 21st century successor to Blake, Shelley and Wordsworth" in the Romantic poetry tradition.

In 2006 he appeared in an international anthology, *The Book of Hopes and Dreams*, a fundraiser for Scottish charity Spirit Aid, which provides much-needed medical services in the Baglan province of Afghanistan.

For more information on this exciting evening, please call 352-8262.

Family friendly concert series celebrates Suzuki Music education

Want to get your kids excited about playing an instrument? Let them see other kids play at the sixth annual Suzuki Celebration Concert in Nelson's Capitol Theatre on Sunday, April 29 at 2 pm. Admission by donation.

This family friendly concert is by kids, for kids, and features violin, viola, guitar, and recorder students from New Denver, Kaslo, Argenta, Nelson, Castlegar, and the Slocan Valley.

"When kids see other kids playing instruments, they get excited about doing it themselves," says Stephanie Judy, president of the West Kootenay Suzuki Association. "My favourite description of the Suzuki approach is 'high standards in a loving environment.' We're fortunate to have so many Suzuki programs available here in the West Kootenays."

The more than 60 performers, ranging in age from 3 to 17, will play children's folk songs and, familiar classics including the Pachelbel Canon. Advanced students will perform works by Handel, Fiocco, and Telemann. This concert emphasizes ensemble playing from duets and trios to a full string orchestra. The concert ends with all the participants playing variations on *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,* also known as the Suzuki national anthem.

Teachers who helped to prepare this concert are Daphne Hughes, Miranda Hughes, Stephanie Judy, David Stewart, Cynthia Musa, Sarah Mulvey and Ron Mulvey.

For more information contact Stephanie Judy sjdks@direct.ca 366-4623 or Miranda Hughes mirhughe@netidea.com or 358-2282.

New Denver students rehearse for Suzuki Celebration Concert April 29 at Nelson's Capitol Theatre.

The Vallican Whole School a beehive of spring activity for all

Spring is a busy time for us at the Vallican Whole School. An open house on Friday, May 4 from 1:30-4:30 pm kicks off our season of events. This is a chance to come to the school, meet the principal and Kindergarten teacher, find out what makes our school unique, and register if you decide that we are right for your child.

Our 8th annual spring market will be on May 12 from 10 am-3 pm. As always this will be a fun day for children and adults alike. We will be having a huge plant sale, craft vendors, penny raffle tables, a Mother's Day raffle, and superb concession. There will be a puppet show for the kids at 11:30 am, horse rides, kids' games, balloon animals, face-painting and more.

On March 26 we are having an all-ages fundraising dance with Adam Shaikh. Watch for posters with details. Tickets at the door.

One of our exciting projects is a mural project with Ron Mulvey, thanks to a grant from Art Starts. This mural will beautify the backboard of the Pavillion that was built by the school years ago. All children from kindergarten to grade 7 will be involved in this from start to finish.

The Vallican Whole Community Centre is located at 3762 Little Slocan River Road in Vallican. For more information, contact Rachel at 226-7737.

Coalition calls for referendum on Jumbo resort decision

A coalition of Kootenay residents have banded together in a unanimous call for a referendum on a proposed real estate development in the Jumbo Valley, near Invermere, BC.

The Jumbo Wild coalition includes the 1400-member Jumbo Creek Conservation Society, Wildsight, the Valhalla Wilderness Society, West Kootenay Coalition for Jumbo Wild, Nelson Ecosociety, Kootenay Mountaineering Club, Argenta Proterra and representatives of area hunting and trapping interests.

The group praised the provincial government for promising that decisions about the Jumbo Valley's future would be left in local hands and are now asking for a referendum on the issue.

"Every poll ever done regarding Jumbo, including the province's own environmental assessment process, has shown consistent 90% opposition to this real estate development proposal," said Jumbo Creek Conservation Society director Bob Campsall.

The threat to the Jumbo Valley has resulted in the most controversial land use issue in the Kootenays. Regional District board meetings in both the East and Central Kootenays have garnered record-breaking turnouts when dealing with issues relating to Jumbo. As a result, a resounding 13-2 decision was made by the Regional District of East Kootenay to retain local decision making on the issue.

Wildsight's executive director John Bergenske said he concurs with East Kootenay Liberal MLA Bill Bennett, who stated that the proposal has gone through more public processes than necessary. "We couldn't agree more when Bennett says 'enough is enough'. It's time to follow through with the government's commitment and have a referendum of all Kootenay residents."

Wildsight's Dave Quinn says a referendum could be coordinated either through the regional districts of east and central Kootenays, or as an extra question on municipal election ballots.

"Either way we do it, we need to factor in perspectives from both sides of the Purcells," he says.

Columbia Basin Trust offers cash awards for mature students

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is offering 20 $2,000 awards for mature students attending Selkirk College or the College of the Rockies. The CBT College Community Service Award rewards students who have been volunteers in their community. The deadline to apply for this award is May 31.

"Partnering with two local colleges enables us to offer this program for the next three years," says Neil Muth, the CBT's CEO. "In total, CBT's commitment to this program is $120,000."

These Community Service Awards are based on active and significant volunteer service and not based on academic achievement. Volunteer service refers to a significant contribution of time, energy and/or talent that fosters social, environmental or economic well-being without resulting in a financial benefit to the applicant.

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible to apply for the College Community Service Award: Students must be 20 years of age or older and not a graduate from high school in the preceding year of application. Applicants must have a minimum of three years continuous residency in the CBT mandate area immediately prior to their application. Students who might have resided temporarily outside the CBT mandate area for education but retained their permanent address in the Basin will be deemed as having lived in the Basin. Applicants must be planning to enroll full-time (80 percent of a full course load) in a recognized undergraduate program leading to a degree, diploma or certificate at Selkirk College or College of the Rockies.

Applications are available at any Columbia Basin Trust office or at www.cbt.org. Applicants may also download an application and guidelines from each college's website. For applicants planning to attend to Selkirk College, visit www.selkirk.ca, while those planning to attend College of the Rockies should visit www.cotr.bc.ca.

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Author and poet Diana Hartog to tour West Kootenay

by Art Joyce

New Denver-based author and poet Diana Hartog is on tour to promote her newest book, *Ink Monkey*, her first book of poetry in more than 13 years. Hartog will be reading at the public library in Nelson Saturday, May 5, 7:30 pm, the Kaslo library Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 pm, and the Nakusp library Friday, June 29 at 7:30 pm.

New Denver poet Diana Hartog.

Hartog has written three previous books of poetry: *Polite to Bees* (1992) was nominated for the BC Book Prize, *Candy from Strangers* (1986), won the BC Book Prize, and *Matinee Light* (1983), was winner of the Gerald Lampert Award. She is also noted for her her 1996 novel *The Photographer's Sweethearts,* and her short fiction, which was shortlisted for the prestigious Journey Prize. Her brief 1994 memoir *No Hippies Allowed* is a worthy addition to the growing canon of literature about life in the Slocan Valley during the '70s.

Joseph Stroud, author of *Below Cold Mountain* and *Country of Light*, writes of her new book: "...like Emily Dickinson, Hartog melds the ordinary with the visionary." Her publisher, Brick Books, calls the poems of *Ink Monkey* "spare and elegant" turning "a perceptive eye toward the stories of seemingly ordinary things," whether she is writing about jellyfish, the desert, awkward silences that end a relationship, struggles of creativity, or Japanese prints.

In *Mirage*, Hartog writes of a pool "where the real / and the reflected / drink from the same source." Toronto poet Barbara Carey calls Hartog's phrase "a lovely metaphor for how the world and the imagination intersect. There's something mirage-like about Hartog's poems, too. They encourage the reader to look, and then look again."

Nakusp council, April 10: Discussion continues on park concession leases

by Jan McMurray

•After the Village received a proposal from someone wanting to lease the concession in the park this summer, Arena/Parks Manager Jason Chernoff and CAO Bob Lafleur reviewed the proposal and brought their recommendation forward to this meeting – to not entertain proposals for leasing the concession. In a written memo from the CAO, the reasons given for this recommendation are that previous leases have had poor results, that it is difficult for a tenant to temporarily vacate the premises for events that take precedent, that creating competition for existing businesses should be considered, that it is difficult to "police."

Councillor Switzer felt that the availability of food and drink would favourably contribute to the "overall concept of an appealing waterfront."

The CAO will present different options to council at its next meeting.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the Arrow Lakes Transportation Infrastructure Association (ALTIA) is "back to square one" after its meeting with government officials in Victoria. "It was a bit of a disappointment. What they had been led to believe was the way to go wasn't at all, so they're back to the drawing board." She said the government has asked them to bring a private partner on board, "which they were working on anyways." She said she got the impression that officials were "skittish" about public support, and that one Minister made a comment to the effect of, "there was supposed to be public support for Jumbo, too." She added that ALTIA has been working on this for four or five years.

•Hamling reported that Arrow Lakes Hospital will get ten extended care beds, to be ready by 2008. She also reported that all ten subsidized beds at Halcyon are occupied and operational. Councillor Switzer added that no decision had yet been made on the other six beds at Halcyon, but the intent was to rent them as assisted living beds.

•Councillor Switzer reported that the community forest website was set up, and that the business plan, management plan and frequently asked questions would soon be posted to it, at www.nakuspcommunityforest.com. He said the public meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 5, would have to be postponed because the Ministry is taking longer than expected to finalize the cutblocks.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the Marketing Committee received funding for three 'Coming Events' signs at the three entranceways to the village. She said one of the objectives in getting these new signs was to get the clutter off the gateway signs. Hamling assured that existing signs such as the Mud Bogs and Nakusp Fall Faire signs will be accommodated on the new 'Coming Events' sign. However, when these existing signs are in need of being replaced, the groups will be asked to make the new ones to fit on the new 'Coming Events' signs. Hamling reported that the committee also received funding for a new bulletin board at the arena, the public washrooms at the boat launch, and to replace one downtown.

•BC Hydro submitted a draft of the terms of reference for a study that will investigate long-term options for public access to the Arrow Lakes reservoir at Nakusp. CAO Lafleur reported that Harry Brownlow of BCH had contacted him, wanting to set up a meeting to discuss the terms of reference. Council generally agreed that it would be better if the access agreement were in place before the meeting. However, Lafleur was directed to set up the meeting in any case.

•The new Village website should be able to go live by the end of April.

•The Athletic Commission bylaw, allowing council to set up a commission to regulate and supervise regulated sports, was given third reading. This commission is a requirement for the upcoming mixed martial arts tournament. Council decided to have its lawyers review the bylaw, to make sure it covers everything necessary.

•Council approved the expenditure of $33,469.96 for a chiller for the arena ice plant.

•Rental fees for the auditorium and kitchen were waived for the Citizen of the Year Awards banquet.

•Mayor Hamling will represent Nakusp at the RDCK general administration service review.

•Council agreed to support a resolution to bring funding back to child care services, and a resolution on restoring home support funding.

•Accounts payable of $251,705.79 were approved for March.

Sinixt Interpretive Centre proposed for Nakusp village campground

by Jan McMurray

Another exciting proposal that would enhance the Nakusp campground area came before council at its April 11 meeting.

A Sinixt Interpretive Centre was proposed by Sharon Montgomery of the Nakusp Museum Society. The centre is envisioned for the sparsely treed area beside the campground entrance on 8th Avenue. The area, 190 feet long by 80 feet deep, would house an interpretive centre, an A-frame fish drying shed, a pithouse, a tipi, a sweat lodge and a medicine wheel.

In behind this area is the site of what is believed to be the remains of two old pithouses. Montgomery explained that pithouses were the winter homes of the Sinixt people. Taking advantage of geothermal energy, they would dig a circular hole about four to six feet down into the ground, where the temperature is a constant 54°F. They would erect a wooden roof frame, cover it with bark and sod, leaving a smoke hole at the top of the dome. Two large depressions in the ground are found in the old campsite area of the campground, and a pathway to this site would be created at the back of the proposed Sinixt Interpretive Centre area.

Montgomery pointed out that this centre would create a theme for the campground, attract visitors and provide education for our children. There is funding available to build, preserve or create aboriginal centres, she said, and there are local residents who have the knowledge and enthusiasm for a project such as this one. She spoke in favour of student involvement, noting that this is a key preventative to vandalism.

She said she would like this to be part of the OCP process, and that her role would be to try to find funding for the project.

Montgomery said that a survey conducted two years ago by the Nelson Museum showed aboriginal history to be the #1 attraction for tourists. She added that most visitors to the Nakusp Museum also are primarily interested in the museum's native exhibit.

Montgomery asserted that the interpretive centre would feature the history of the area before the fur traders arrived and "erase the myth that natives only visited here." She claimed this was the original homeland of the entire Salish population and that the Sinixt (or Arrow Lakes Indians) wintered in a huge village in the Nakusp campground. Montgomery provided a handout with a brief history of the Sinixt, which states that they made permanent winter villages close to their ancestral graves. The history says there were burial grounds just below Leland Hotel, and notes that the Vallican site in the Slocan Valley has been declared a BC Heritage Site.

Montgomery explained that when the community park expansion proposal was presented to the public by the Nakusp Roots Music Society, she was concerned about excavation in an original native village. "Those concerns have since been put to rest after a meeting with the Sinixt Nation on March 16th," she said. At that meeting, Montgomery was advised that an expert from Kaslo would come to view the proposed community park expansion site and determine whether a heritage assessment is even necessary. While he is here, he will also evaluate the site of the two depressions in the old campsite area to determine if they are in fact the remains of pithouses.

CAO Bob Lafleur asked about the status of the Sinixt Nation. Montgomery replied that the federal government was currently in negotiations to have the extinct status removed. "The Supreme Court has said that once your communities begin to recognize your heritage, then we will, so that's why they are on a campaign to educate," she said. Montgomery said that no other bands would be involved in the project.

Valhalla Fine Arts Society brings a taste of Great Britain to Nakusp

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society is taking their show on the road, this time to Nakusp. The Society proudly presents *The British Isles in Photos, Words and Music*, coming to the Bonnington on Saturday, May 5 at 7 pm.

The VFAS brings The British Isles in Photos, Words and Music to Nakusp, including this image of Stonehenge.

Come let us transport you through the springtime countryside of Great Britain via this multi-media presentation of pictures accompanied by the works of British poets and music by British composers. This presentation met with much acclaim after its two successful concerts in Silverton over the past year.

The photos are by local Nakusp photographers Dave and Karen McMillan. The music is performed by the Garland Trio and Friends, a wonderful string ensemble from Silverton/New Denver.

Traditional British refreshments will be served after the presentation. This is a fundraiser and admission is by donation, with all proceeds going to the Valhalla Fine Arts Society.

Beetle-kill trees removed from campground

by Jan McMurray

The mountain pine beetle has created quite a bit more spring maintenance work for the Village of Nakusp than usual.

The campground and park areas have been ribboned off so that about 160 trees can be removed. Arena/Parks Manager Jason Chernoff reported that most of these are beetle-kill trees.

Some people have assumed that the work is connected to the community park expansion proposal put forward by the Nakusp Music Fest. Willi Jahnke, festival producer, said, "Residents can be assured that there will be a detailed design process and community consultation before any work on the project begins." He added that no physical works are scheduled to take place before the end of May.

Central Kootenay Regional District

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
a legacy for the people

NAKUSP AND DEFINED AREA K

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives Funding Program

Nakusp and Defined Area K (*Includes Bayview, Rural Nakusp, Idler Road north to Nakusp, top of Summit Hill and Halcyon Hot Springs*) are holding a combined public meeting to review proposals submitted for funding consideration from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program. The meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2007
Time: 12:00 – 4:00 pm
(voting from 1:30 – 4:00 pm)
Place: Nakusp Arena Auditorium

For more information please contact Karen Hamling at 265-3689 or the RDCK 1-800-268-7325.

DIABETIC CLINIC

NAKUSP

1. THURSDAY, May 3, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
DIABETICS on INSULIN

2. FRIDAY, May 4, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

You may register for one or both sessions.
Family members welcome!

Please Register by April 26
Call Arrow Lakes Hospital for Registration & further information
265-3622

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Kaslo council, March 11: Trailblazers get go-ahead for bridge construction

by Jill Braley

•The Kaslo Trailblazer Society was granted permission to begin construction of a wooden-covered steel span bridge, which will connect the north and south sides of the Kaslo River Trail. The bridge will be built with volunteer labour and is expected to be officially open by the end of October.

The society's application for a $55,000 CBT grant was successful, bringing the total cash on hand for the bridge project to about $110,000. As this should cover the total project cost, the LocalMotion funding application made to the Province will be withdrawn.

The Trailblazers also advised council that installation of interpretive and directional signage, and completion of the kiosks at the trailheads would be done by the end of April. The society's Kaslo River Trail brochure is now available at several storefronts in town.

•Lynn Van Deursen, Chair of North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS), appeared as a delegation to clarify the society's position on the community garden lease. NKLCSS is interested in leasing the garden space from the Village in order to enable current community garden users to continue using the space; to help support the group's transition to a registered society; to encourage open membership and expanded community use; to improve the appearance and utility of the space by fencing it and maintaining it; to work with the school on a gardening experience for students; to contribute the food to the food bank and other community food initiates. Overseeing the garden will be part of the NKLCSS food security project.

Later in the meeting, council received a petition for a greenspace/playground at the community garden site. Council voted to thank the petitioners for their interest, and advise them that the lease to NKLCSS is part of an already approved project under the provincial Community Health program.

•Mike Leclair and Darren McElhinney, FortisBC project managers, attended to speak to council about the company's $850,000 project to improve the substation on Arena Avenue. The old equipment will be removed and replaced with new state-of-the-art technology. The project managers noted that there is an encroachment on Village right-of-way, and that a further encroachment would be necessary to build a lock block retaining wall. Council's priority is to maintain a 60' right-of-way at this location to access land north of Arena Avenue; it appears the right-of-way in question is 72' wide now. FortisBC will return to council as soon as possible, after considering alternatives which meet both party's needs.

•Dirk Pidcock of Arena Avenue wrote to council about the close call with spring run-off flooding across the avenue on March 11, when warm rain fell for many hours on a drenched snow pack. He stated that Public Works Foreman Glen Walker checked the flow in the early afternoon, but by 5:30 pm, a large amount of gravel and mud debris was washing down the stream right onto the road. Pidcock called Walker at home, and he came quickly with a front-end loader to clear the debris, which allowed the flow to continue down the roadway. Pidcock said it was a tense night for the residents of Arena Avenue, as the stream had become a raging torrent. The Village is having a ground stability report done on that area, and will let Pidcock know the results when they come in.

•The composition of the Official Community Plan (OCP) Citizens Advisory Group was referred to the Planning & Development committee meeting scheduled for April 18. Tom Lancaster of SmartGrowth BC will be requested to meet with council prior to May 5 to discuss the OCP review.

•Council received an email from Arthur Chambers, surveyor of taxes, regarding the new police tax. Chambers notes that the estimated cost of $29,671 for Kaslo policing would change as a result of updated 2007 assessment amounts and 2006 provincial census data. He says he is planning on putting a special Police Tax insert in his 2007 tax noticing mailing, letting residents know that the new police tax, charged to residents of municipalities with a population under 5,000 and the surrounding rural area, funds 50% of the area's policing costs. Municipalities with populations over 5,000 are paying 70% to 100% of policing costs.

•In response to an inquiry from the Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce, the Village will inform the group that there has been no settlement of the insurance claim on the announcer's booth at the loggers' sports site, which burned to the ground last year.

•Melanie Bryce of 504 Centre Street has applied for a development variance permit to reduce the rear lot line setback from 24.61 feet to 5 feet, the exterior side lot line setback from 24.61 feet to 11 feet and the front lot line setback from 24.61 to 21 feet to allow construction of a residential duplex. A notice will be sent to all affected property owners and tenants in occupation. Council members agreed to meet at the site on April 16.

•$1,600 was granted to the Chamber of Commerce for portable toilets for May Days.

•Council accepted the resignation of Gillian Froese from the City Hall Conservation Committee. She will be sent a letter of thanks for her service.

•The Regional District of Central Kootenay will be advised that the Village of Kaslo acceptance of an Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park is contingent upon the creation of a Kaslo Waterfront Trail Regional Park extending from Kaslo Bay Park to 5th Street on the south side of the Kaslo River. Also, the Village would want additional taxation to be divided equally between the two new regional parks.

•Two members of the Kaslo Fire Department will attend a fireground training course in Pass Creek on April 28-29, with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy.

•The Village of New Denver declined an invitation to attend Kaslo's 115th May Day celebrations, as New Denver will be celebrating its centennial May Day event that weekend.

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Kaslo Skate Park begins fundraising for Phase Two: landscaping

submitted by Larry Braley

We finished pouring the last of the concrete for our skatepark on December 12, 2006 and celebrated the completion of a long and challenging task. The result of our work is a soundly constructed state-of-the-art facility, made possible by community support and generous donations from both public and private sectors.

With Kaslo Skate Park having a location that may well be the finest in the country, we hope to beautify accordingly. We need to raise $39,200 for Phase Two of our project – landscaping. With the help of your donations, we hope to meet the following costs: bobcat rental: $2700; gravel and topsoil: $4500; 12,000 square feet of sod: $4000; asphalt walkways: $2000; three picnic tables: $6000; stone and timber works for donors' wall: $6000; marble with engraved names: $5000; labour: $9000. Our appreciation will be shown by building a Donors' Wall, with the names of those who made a contribution to the park etched in marble. Please make cheques payable to Kaslo Area Youth Council, PO Box 1197, Kaslo BC VoG 1M0 (Non-Profit Society #S-35283).

Thanks very much from the Kaslo Area Youth Council, and the kids who will be using lt! For more information contact David Wiebe at 250-353-2658 or skSpck@hotmail.com.

Kaslo Concert Society winds up season with acapella group Shenango

The final concert in Kaslo Concert Society's 2006-07 season presents Shenango, an a cappella women's ensemble dedicated to singing and laughter. The concert takes place at St. Andrew's United Church on Friday, May 11, at 7:30 pm.

Shenango's eclectic repertoire and obvious love of singing together have become their hallmark. Led by Allison Girvan, the group's personnel live in a wide variety of local communities. Shenango has performed in Trail, Creston, Salmo, Ymir, Castlegar and Nelson as well as impromptu performances at any party or bar where people will listen. Shenango was honored to be the first ever non-Doukhobor choir to perform at the Brilliant Cultural Centre for the annual May gathering. At the group's annual cabaret, the singers indulge in two of their greatest loves – music and food. Shenango's debut CD, released in September 2004, sold out within 6 months!

Admission to this concert is by season subscription or single tickets at the door. Adult $20, Seniors $18, Students $10. School age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. Further information: Karen Pidcock 353-7539 or David Stewart 354-5368.

Kaslo Concert Society presents classical guitarist Alan Rinehart

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

Alan Rinehart has made many contributions to the guitar world as a performer, teacher, and music editor. His 1980 London debut was described as "consistently clean and musical." Before moving to Nelson in 2004, Rinehart was on the faculty of the music schools at UBC and Vancouver Community College. He is a co-founder of the Vancouver Guitar Quartet. Rinehart is host of *The Art and Times of the Guitar* on Kootenay Coop Radio.

Clan Sinclair alive and well in Kaslo and Western Canada

submitted by Mary Sinclair Stickel

On April 1, the annual gathering of the Clan Sinclair Western Canada branch was held in Richmond with 38 members attending. The Canadian President, Rory Sinclair was in attendance, bringing his bagpipes with him, and the CD of Gathering 2005, a compilation of pipes, guitar, and singing.

The Western Canada Branch was formed in 2002, with the first president being Mary Sinclair Stickel of Kaslo. The focus of the group is researching our genealogy, finding lost or unknown Sinclair kin, and enjoying each other's company. This branch covers both BC and Alberta, and there are Southern Ontario, Central Ontario, and Maritime branches as well. Anyone who has a Sinclair in their family tree is welcome to join this organization. There is a quarterly newsletter, *Roslin O Roslin*.

In July this year the National Clan Gathering will be held in PEI, with the Clan Chief, the Earl of Caithness, Malcom Sinclair, attending. In 2000, there was the first International Clan Sinclair Gathering in Scotland. For those who would like to find out more about Clan Sinclair in Canada the website is www.clansinclaircanada.ca.

Safer Communities Workshop

The Kaslo RCMP & the Kaslo Community Consultative Group are pleased to invite members of the public and business owners to participate in a two day Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD) 'Safer Communities Workshop' offered by Community Policing Services, RCMP 'E' Division. The Village of Kaslo supports this initiative.

CCG

Date:	May 4-5, 2007
Time:	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (lunch provided both days)
Place:	Selkirk College, 421 Front Street
RSVP:	Rich Jones 353-2583
	Corporal Jason Fiddler 353-2225
	Selkirk College 353-2618 by April 30th

The two day Safer Communities Workshop will provide both training and facilitated structured working meetings. The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Establish a solid understanding of the principles of Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD)
- Promote CPSD as the preferred approach for sustainable, community-based crime prevention in general, and youth crime in particular.
- Refine the skills required to implement a CPSD approach
- Identify community problems likely to be amendable to the CPSD approach
- Start the process of building the community partnerships needed to implement a CPSD approach.

Please join us for the Safer Communities Workshop. Space is limited – so please call one of the numbers above to reserve your seat! Thank you!

The Kaslo Trailblazers received a cheque for $49,500 from Columbia Basin Trust on April 19. The money will be used to build a bridge across the river at the location on the trail pictured here. CBT will come through with another $5,500 upon completion of the project, scheduled for October. The bridge will be built with volunteer labour. Trailblazers Society director Tom Duchastel and president Silvio Lettrari accept the cheque from CBT's community liaison, Lynda Lafleur.

Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Just hangin' round the valley

As the days lengthen and very slowly get warmer, folks are out more and more walking, gardening, cycling and talking for even longer on sunny street corners. There are a few local paths and trails that are now firm and dry for riding and hiking but they are all very local in nature and well known with frequent use.

Last week I'd ridden my hybrid bicycle up to Three Forks from New Denver as I often do because it is a short and steady ascent with fine views, little traffic, and a fun, fast return ride. But at Three forks I still felt empowered so I pedalled the final 5 kilometres up to Sandon to see if the K&S rail trail might be melted off and rideable. The main road to Sandon seemed pretty dry and there was no logging traffic, though I did encounter a couple early camper units poking slowly along.

Sandon was still mired in deep snow with everything all plowed out real nice but solid snow anywhere else you may want to go. The mine site was quiet and the place in general is in that late-snow-but-not-yet-spring stage. so I had a last look around and mounted up for the furious but frigid ride back down to the buds and blossoms of the valley bottom. Streaking through three forks I noticed that the footbridge to the Galena Trail is bare and dry though the snow is deep in the woods across the way.

Later that day I hauled an empty trailer down to Winlaw with my van to stock up on some of the excellent sale-priced steel roofing at the Slocan Valley Planer Mills and met the owner, Bartel Skeet. Bartel is one of those old, slow-talking deadpan kinda guys who is also quite funny, lovable and dead honest. He runs a big operation just off Highway 6 at Winlaw and has piles of lumber, steel, fencing, posts and such rural needs.

Driving back up the valley after coffee at Sleep is For Sissies I was hoping to stop at Slocan City for a little kayak puttering and had the kayak lashed on top of the steel roofing, going about 80 kph with a car behind me wanting to get past. Suddenly it was KABANG! as I hit a deer full on as it leaped up out from a shady gully on a corner. It shocked the hell outta me and I pulled over and the guy behind stopped too and we hauled the carcass into the ditch.

Then I just drove on a little and stopped at Lemon Creek rest area to check the van more closely. Not so bad – busted headlight, grill, etc. plus one roadkill for the ravens... On a newer car you do the whole ICBC body shop routine, but on a 15-year-old van you save the deductible and patch things up, after doing the math and considering the age of the thing and all.

Seems nearly everyone 'gets their deer' sooner or later and with them so numerous and dumber than posts, it really seems to be a gamble. I suppose with a highway speed limit of say 50 kph we'd still hit them but at a lesser speed. Anyhow it leaves you feeling stupid, angry and without any solutions, and I'll just keep drivin' places, I guess.

I stopped at Slocan City anyhow but the strong north wind continued and although the breakwater worked well and the dock area was sheltered, the log booms were heaving and the cold lake was rough-looking. The dock was nice to sit on for awhile, good for doing some stretches, then I checked the trailer load and set off once again for New Denver. And yes, I drove about 80 kph again, and figuring that stuff happens every single day, good or bad, when you get outta town.

Peter Roulston operates the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver each Friday and Saturday. 358-2133.

with Jamie Barber

It's been cold early in the morning, and most days have not tempted the old Harley Electroglide out of the garage, but last Monday didn't seem too bad, so Sjoekie fired up her old BSA Thunderbolt and I hopped on the Harley for the 75 kilometre trip down to school. If I was on just about any other bike, I could revel in the warmth of my electric vest, but the old Electroglide has to get by with its 38-year-old generator that just doesn't have the oomph to supply the proper amount of juice.

We were pretty cold by the time we hit Lebhado flats and I was surprised to have the car in front of me pull to the side of the road and flag me to a stop. She was one of those drivers you get sometimes. Around Winlaw she had suddenly pulled onto the highway right in front of us and then proceeded to poke along 20 kilometres under the speed limit. I was giving her lots of room and noted that her turn signal was inoperative as she signaled to the side of the road.

It was hard to understand what she was trying to communicate as I had my ear plugs in, the Harley was thumping away and her side window was fully closed, but eventually I realized that she was trying to tell me that my headlight was off. This wasn't a revelation to me as I seldom turn it on during the day. It's not that I don't realize the safety factor involved in using daytime running lights. After all, I probably care more about my life than she does. The problem is that the electric system on this and many other classic vehicles won't keep up to the modern headlight bulb that I have fitted to just be able to have adequate illumination at night. I have the same problem with my classic Triumph sports car. The old style headlights use less electricity, but aren't safe to use at night.

The incident brought to mind the biggest hazard motorists face – lack of courtesy from fellow motorists. I don't feel she was trying to suggest a helpful hint. She was ticked off that I had the audacity to drive down the road without daytime running lights and wanted to express her displeasure. I am sure you have all had some experience of this nature – perhaps taking a leisurely Sunday drive along a scenic section and all of a sudden some big truck is tailgating you from behind, anxious that someone should slow them down. Perhaps you are one of these anxious drivers that see all others as some type of impediment to yourself.

It's necessary for all of us to reflect that all drivers out there are different. Some are getting on in years and feel safer driving at a slow speed. Some have vehicles that come with limitations and the driver is doing the best they can under the circumstances. Some people just want to poke along and enjoy the view. It's not always obvious to other drivers what these limitations are, so it pays to be courteous and give others the benefit of the doubt. This is even more important if you drive a large transport truck and feel that any hindrance to yourself means less money in your pocket.

As a biker, you are in a very vulnerable position, as there is seldom a second chance to be in a serious accident. Most learn to be defensive drivers and give those in a big hurry, lots of room to get into accidents as far away as possible. Not only is courteous driving safer, it's also better for all others. After all, we all live here in the beautiful Kootenays for good reasons, and at least one of those reasons is to escape the commuting pressure of the big smog, so be courteous to other drivers and perhaps they will do the same for you.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

A Bear and a Russian feast

Hi there all you fabulous food fans. Last week my fearless publisher informed me that on Sunday I was to attend a Russian feast being put on by the Winlaw Hall Association in conjunction with the Russian Community around Winlaw. I was delighted because I had this feeling that there would probably be borscht there. Good thinking Andy. Like many of you, I love borscht, and the Slocan Valley is a good place to be if you are a lover of borscht. So, on Sunday, I saddled up the company car and headed south towards Winlaw. It was a beautiful afternoon for a drive. The lake sparkled, and I kept thinking about borscht. On the Cape, I whizzed past something black and round in the deep ditch. In the rear view I saw the round black thing lope across the road and head down towards the lake. My first bear sighting of the year always brings good luck.

I arrived at the Winlaw hall and went in. The building is like many community halls in this area. One very large room with a kitchen off to the side. Twelve big banquet tables with table cloths were set up, and each one had a vase of fresh flowers. The kitchen was humming with activity as more and more guests arrived. I found Lorna P. Burns who is an energetic, good-natured woman. She is also the president of the Winlaw Hall Association and has been president on and off for five years. I asked her if there was going to be borscht. Several people within ear-shot looked at me very quizzically. Lorna said that of course there was going to be borscht. The borscht was made by a woman who doesn't want her name in the paper, but I can tell you that at all the Russian weddings, birthdays, wakes, and other community gatherings, she's the one who makes the borscht, and Lorna assured me that it would be 'the best.' Ah, yes.

The dinner was served buffet style, and by this time there was a crowd around the food with folks rushing to and from the kitchen. Start off with green salad – all you can eat. Next was a platter of carrots, celery, broccoli, cauliflower next to which was a huge bowl of sour cream meant, I noticed, to be liberally scooped onto the veggies. Then there was a big big tub of warm 'tarts' called 'Pyrahi' These are baked tarts with fillings of beet, bean, cottage cheese or peas. I chose one with a bean filling and another with cottage cheese. As I put them on my plate someone asked "Aren't you putting butter on them?" Then I noticed the big bowl of melted butter with a ladle. I watched someone just pour quite a lot of butter on their tarts so I followed suit. Next on the tables were platters of cheese and pickles. Finally, mercy me, was the cauldron of borscht and a basket of bread (from Fomi's)

My plate was full to over-flowing. The food was delicious. All of it. I had to go back for a second bowl of borscht and two more tarts. All the food except the borscht was made or arranged for by Carrey Gahimer and her team of Nina Verigin, Tina Koozen, Donna Gole and many others too numerous to name. Carrey is the VP of the Winlaw Hall Association, and there were four generations of her family in attendance. Music was provided by Mike Dooznetsoff's CD of accordion music.

The Winlaw Hall Association also throws a Father's Day pancake breakfast on June 16. In August they sponsor an outdoor country and western 'jam' mixed with a 'show and shine' old car exhibition. In the fall, the association puts on a feast of turkey, ham, and all the trimmings including 'lapsha noodles.'

Lorna, the president, is very open to ideas for events, and tells me that the association will cater big parties that use the hall for the party.

I had a grand time at that dinner. All the food, especially the two helpings of borscht, made my day. By the way, dessert was home made strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream.

I'm going again next year.

Lorna P. Burns and Valley Voice Food Editor, Andrew Rhodes at the Winlaw Hall.

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Forests for Tomorrow – 2007 Program

Forests for Tomorrow is a provincial program designed to re-establish forests in areas damaged by catastrophic wildfires and the mountain pine beetle epidemic, on land that is outside of forest industry obligations.

We wish to advise that the following activities are planned between May 21 and September 30:

Skinner/Madden Fire (north of Meadow Creek):
- Tree planting
- Herbaceous brushing

Lake Creek Fire (north of Meadow Creek):
- Danger tree assessment and falling

Cooper Creek Timber Agreement Lands (south of Meadow Creek):
- Herbaceous brushing
- Silviculture surveys

Burton Fire (east of Burton):
- Tree planting

Tree planting will be preceded by assessment and removal of danger trees to ensure worker safety during all subsequent activities.

For more information, contact
Joanne Leesing, RPF at:
joanneleesing@netidea.com
or at: True Blue Ventures Ltd.
P.O. Box 1346,
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0

Forests for Tomorrow

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

COMING EVENTS

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.

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.

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 all we encourage you to drop in and see work in progress. Refreshments will be available Friday evening. Do join us then!

SOCIAL/BALLROOM DANCE – Weekly evening classes start soon! Nakusp, New Denver & Slocan City. Call 358-2448 or email: allus@uniserve.com for schedule information.

ONGOING GARAGE SALE, 719 8th Ave., New Denver. Watch for the sign. When the sign is out, you're welcome to come and have a look.

DES KENNEDY opens the **6TH ANNUAL NELSON GARDEN FESTIVAL**. Friday, MAY 11, Best Western Motel-Baker Street, 7:30 pm. FESTIVAL BEGINS SATURDAY, MAY 12, 10 AM-3 PM, 40 vendors. Everything for your garden! Info: 825-9372.

8TH ANNUAL VALLICAN WHOLE SCHOOL SPRING MARKET AND BAZAAR. Sat. May 12th, 10-3. Fun for the Whole family. Giant Plant Sale, Craft Vendors, Penny Raffle. Puppet Show at 12, Clown, balloons and face-painting, horse rides, kids games and fun sports. At the Vallican Whole, 3762 Little Slocan River Rd. More info/table booking/donations. Rachel 226-7737

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School District 10 parents weigh in on school fees

by Jan McMurray

Results from the survey on school fees from School District No. 10 have been tallied, and show that parents in the district strongly believe that education should be publicly funded.

SD10 DPAC president Lee-Anne Marshall said, "While the comments we received had parents feeling strongly about the government fully funding public education, they also don't want to see courses cut and are willing to pay fees. It's a relief that fees are still allowed to be charged for band programs and apprenticeship programs. However, in our small district, we are concerned about how many courses will be offered to our children since the court ruling. We don't want to lose our foods, shop and art programs due to lack of funding."

There were 93 surveys returned from the district, representing 160 out of 590 students, or 27% of the district's student population.

87% of respondents felt it is appropriate for the government to fully fund core public education. 74% felt the Ministry of Education should provide funds to cover the fees that can no longer be charged due to the Supreme Court ruling. 48% agreed that it is appropriate for the government to fully fund programs of choice – 23% disagreed and 29% had no firm opinion. 48% agreed that the prohibition of school fees will lead to a more equitable education system; 25% disagreed and 27% had no firm opinion.

39% said they expected to pay for enhancements to their child(ren)'s education – 37% disagreed, and 24% had no firm opinion. 53% said it was appropriate to charge school fees to provide educational opportunities beyond core education. 74% were in favour of parents having input into setting school fee amounts. 75% would like to see school fees be consistent across the district.

On parent fundraising as an acceptable alternative to paying school fees, 37% agreed, 38% disagreed and 25% had no firm opinion. 26% agreed and 56% disagreed with the idea of soliciting local business for donations to raise funds for a school – 14% had no firm opinion. 30% agreed and 17% disagreed that increased fundraising shifts advisory capacity away from Parent Advisory councils – 43% had no firm opinion.

84% felt that elective courses are critical to keep some students in school. 81% agreed that no student should be denied access to a course due to unpaid fees, and 66% agreed that the existing practice of waiving fees for those who can't afford them ensures equity for all students.

Parents indicated how they thought 28 different things, such as textbooks, courses, etc., should be funded – by the Ministry, through school fees charged to parents, or by the Parent Advisory Council. The Ministry was by far the most popular answer here, with the exception of five of the things on the list. The majority of parents felt school fees should be charged for band trips, musical instrument rentals, locker rentals, deposits (lockers, textbooks) and multicultural exchanges.

Silverton Lakeshore Inn

Presents – Friday, May 4

Shane Phillip - One Man Band

Shane Phillip instinctually blends the Weissenborn style of guitar playing with the earth-shaking vibrations of didgeridoo, and the dance-inducing beat of a kick drum, creating, all on his own, the sound and energy of a full band.

Saturday, May 5

CINCO de MAYO

Listen to the varied musical stylings of ***In Denial***. Michael Dorsey, Leah Main, Howard Bearham, Richard Burton, Norbert Maucher, Nick (Niko) Forsberg and Robin Sittig will entertain with a classic blend of blues, rock and jazz tunes.

Sunday, May 6

Open Stage/Jam Session

Notes from the RCMP

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

Nelson

•A body was recovered from Kootenay Lake in the 18 mile area of Hwy 3A on the north shore on April 20. A passerby discovered the body of the 45-year-old Caucasian male and called Nelson RCMP. RCMP, highway patrol, forensic identification and the coroner's office all attended. RCMP and the coroner's office are still investigating. No names are being released pending notification of next of kin.

Kaslo

•RCMP is investigating an internal theft at Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort. The investigation at this point has found that a long-term employee may have been stealing sums of money. The investigation continues.

•On April 11, the RCMP was contacted about a break and enter on one of the Kaslo Shipyard's houseboats, which was moored at the public dock. It appears that the suspects had a party on the boat, judging by the amount of bottles and garbage left behind. The investigation continues.

•A local business has been the victim of a credit card fraud. Through the internet, the business was contacted and arrangements made to ship some products to Asia. The business owner took the necessary steps to check the credit card; however, upon further enquires, it was found that the credit card was fake. The investigation continues.

•On April 17, the RCMP received a call about a second credit card fraud. A vacationing couple had used their credit card in a Kaslo area business in March of this year. From April 11-14, the credit card number was used to purchase items in Edmonton by a unknown person. The investigation continues.

•On April 18, the RCMP was notified that unknown person(s) broke 12 windows in the United Church. There are small holes in the windows, made by small unknown objects. The investigation continues.

•Also on April 18th, a 1979 Citation motor home was broken into while parked at the 200 block of E Avenue. The investigation found that the break-in occurred on Friday, April 13. Several young people were seen in the area and inside the motor home. The inside of the motor home was not damaged. A small party involving alcohol appears to have taken place. A black, light green and dark green camo bandana was seized from inside the motor home. The investigation continues.

•With the warmer weather comes more complaints of people riding ATVs and unlicenced motorcycles on public roads. Owners are reminded that only licenced vehicles can operate on a public road. If warranted, the driver could face stiff fines under the Motor Vehicle Act.

New film school and festival in Silverton

submitted

The first ever Valhalla Film School and Festival will be launched in Silverton this May, by the brilliant film animators, Wendy Tilby and Amanda Forbis. The festival will run at the Silverton Gallery from Tuesday, May 8 to Friday, May 11, starting at 7 pm.

These Cannes Film Festival/Academy Award nominated film-makers will work with high school students from Lucerne School for four days in an intense animation film workshop. Students will learn the principles of animated motion using a variety of techniques including flip-books, cut-outs, clay and pixelation. They'll create their own animation films, and present their work to family, friends, and community on the evening of Thursday, May 10.

Lucerne teacher Terry Taylor, key organizer of the workshops and festival, states, "World class filmmakers in our midst. It's perfect! This first annual Valhalla Film School provides a vital opportunity for our high school students, our community, and residents throughout the region and the Slocan Valley to celebrate the fine art of Canadian film."

While the film school runs during the daytime, Amanda and Wendy will entertain and delight the community with four evenings of film festival at the Silverton Gallery. Featuring the best of the NFB's animation and documentary film work, each evening of the festival focuses on a different theme. For more information, contact Gary Parkstrom at Lucerne School.

Alfa Guild announces season shows

In this tenth season for the Alfa Guild Gallery, the group will present six shows at 619 Broadway (the old government agent location). Hours will be Wednesday through Sunday from noon until 4 pm. Each show will run for three weeks.

The first, 'Paradise Continued' is by Andrea Saba, a painter from Silverton. This will run from June 1-17.

Phoebe Bradbury, an abstract painter, will show 'Layers of Light' from June 20 through July 8.

A wonderful display of local talent, 'Local Focus/Silent Auction,' will be hosted July 11 through July 29.

August starts with Susan Robertson's pottery and ceramic art, and finishes with 'Days at the Kohan Garden,' featuring the paintings of Boukje Elzinga and Tsuneko Kokubo.

The final show, 'Imprisonment for Removal' will display Betty Fahlman's work from September 12-30.

In the courts

•Derek Zeisman, Conservative candidate for the Southern Interior in the 2006 federal election, pled guilty in Surrey court on April 16 to trying to smuggle 112 bottles of liquor into Canada. He was fined $5,000, given 12 months probation and ordered to perform 35 hours of community service. Five other charges against him under the Customs Act were dropped. The 1989 Mercedes Benz that Zeisman was driving in the 2004 incident was seized by Canadian border guards.

•Adam George, who has pled guilty to one count of causing damage in the March 12, 2006 fire at the Green Door building in Nakusp, appeared in Nakusp court on March 28. The judge adjourned the hearing, asking for an updated pre-sentence report; this is a confidential report from the probation officer. George's next appearance will be July 19.

Kaslo Jazz Fest features truly international lineup this year

The music at this year's Kaslo Jazz Etc Festival August 3-5 will have a truly international flavour. Headliners include Canada's Bruce Cockburn, The Blind Boys of Alabama, David Friesen Trio of Portland, Djabe of Hungary, Swing en 4 from Costa Rica, the awesome VEJI band of Vancouver, los Rastrillos of Mexico and BC's Ingrid Jensen. Kaslo Bay Park again provides the gorgeous mountain backdrop to this popular festival, set in a natural lakeside amphitheatre with a floating stage.

The Rastrillos are a favourite from the 2006 festival and the Vancouver Ensemble of Jazz Improvisation (VEJI) are into their 27th year of cutting edge big band renewal. Swing en 4 are some of Costa Rica's most talented jazz artists, playing lyrical, passionate music, while Djabe is Hungary's number one jazz world/fusion band, known for mesmerizing virtuoso performances. The David Friesen Trio is led by one of only two or three double bass artists that can enthrall an audience with a solo performance, while Ingrid Jensen is a force majeure in the world of North American jazz.

Not only is Bruce Cockburn legendary as a Canadian singer-songwriter par excellence, he is widely regarded as one of the best finger-picking guitar players anywhere. He performs Saturday, August 4. The world famous Blind Boys of Alabama, known for re-popularizing gospel sounds, perform on Sunday, August 5.

The festival site and Bavarian Gardens are open Friday August 4 from 6-10 pm. Three live acts perform for free to open the festival. Eight bands perform each day on two stages. Craft and food vendors add to the atmosphere. Children's entertainment, this year provided by Mythmaker, is always part of the event.

Only 500 Early Bird tickets are printed for each festival day. Once they are sold, gate prices will apply, so buy tickets early through the Kaslo Jazz office Ticket Hotline 250 353 7548. Visit the festival website for info and photos at www.kaslojazzfest.com.

More Classified Ads

COMING EVENTS

NAKUSP FARMERS' MARKET opening Saturday May 19, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. All vendors welcome. For information, phone Lynn at 265-4432, Joanne at 355-2531 or Phoebe at 265-4325.

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 at kaslomaydays@netidea.com or 250-353-7592.

RENTAL WANTED

SEEKING TWO+ BEDROOM RENTAL in West Kootenays. Must have shelter (or potential) for two calm goats. 226-6885 or 226-7500.