The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

PHOTO CREDIT: RAYN BUTT

Canoe jousting is a popular event at New Denver's annual May Days celebrations. This was the 100th anniversary of New Denver May Days. More photos of Kaslo and New Denver May Days on pages 10 and 11.

Silverton voters question candidates Wiseman and Mistretta for June 2 byelection

by Jan McMurray

Tim Wiseman and Sue Mistretta, Silverton byelection candidates, were in the 'hot seats' at a well attended All Candidates meeting held May 14 at the gallery.

Sue Mistretta, in her opening remarks, told the audience about herself. She has lived in Silverton since 2000 and owns Soulgarden, an expressive arts, health and healing business. She holds a Masters in counselling psychology. She and her partner Larry Zaleski purchased the Hand and Soul building in Silverton after it was destroyed by fire, and have "brought it back to life."

Mistretta said she would like to be on council because Silverton is a "beautiful, quaint, clean, friendly, safe village and is close to my heart." She noted that Silverton was in a growth phase and a healing phase. "The community has undergone hard times with different groups in opposition to each other...We are a small community and cannot afford to be at odds with each other...We need to expand our vision and work together for the overall good of the Village...I have seen some of these people come together and work together and I want to support this healing trend."

She mentioned that the OCP process gives the community the opportunity to shape Silverton's growth. "We have a lot in common – we want to keep the village quaint, we want the traffic on Hwy 6 to slow down, and we want to accommodate young children and older people." She spoke of the "stable, efficient and fiscally responsible" Village council and staff, and ecotourism as a possible way to develop tourism in Silverton.

Mistretta said she was good at doing research on issues brought before her and coming up with creative solutions. "I am good at weighing things out and making decisions. I am a good listener. I am a person of integrity and I walk my talk."

Tim Wiseman began his opening remarks by thanking meeting moderator Bill Roberts, Mistretta, and the 40 or so people of Silverton that came out to the meeting. "I am very happy that the people are interested in our Village."

A resident for about 15 years, Wiseman said, "I am running on honesty, integrity and, most of all, experience in the Village of Silverton. Everybody knows what I have done when on council for five and a half years – half the time as councillor and half the time as mayor." He explained that he thought he would drop out of politics a year and a half ago, but decided to come back because is concerned about the "astounding" increases in garbage, water and taxes. "I would like to be on council so I know why. I don't believe the way council is heading is sustainable." He said he has a lot of experience with the budget, having worked with the CAO on the budget for two years. He said that the budget, water system, and fire protection were his three key issues and that he was running on his past history.

There were many budget related questions from the public. One was about the increase in water rates. Wiseman said council had made a decision in 2001 or 2002 to put $11,000 into a water fund each year, but he did not think that council was aware of that decision. "It's not their fault – it's just a fact. They are not experienced council members." He said the increase was 60% from 2006 to 2007. "Council needs to look into this and re-define the direction they are going." Mistretta's response was that she would bring any concerns she was aware of to the council table.

Addressing why taxes have increased, Wiseman said he believed this was because council had raised the stipends for mayor and councillors, as well as staff salaries, and had hired more staff. Mistretta said stipends for Silverton council members had been well below those of other councils. She noted they had attended training, as had administration staff. "I believe they deserve this, but I need to look at the details." Wiseman agreed that they deserved a raise, but argued that Silverton cannot afford it. He also said sitting on council was a volunteer position and indicated that people should not be in it for the money.

Someone asked if the candidates would raise the business tax rate so that residents are not subsidizing business. Both expressed a willingness to look into this. Wiseman explained that prior councils wanted to be business friendly so had kept the mill rate for businesses low. The residential rate is 3.2% and the business rate is 5.6%.

Someone else asked if the legal fees incurred during Wiseman's reign had created a deficit situation for the Village. Wiseman replied that the legal fees during his time did not incur debt. He said the salaries and smaller staff made up for the cost of the legal fees. He said the deficit is because of the water system, the breakwater, and the leases on the backhoe, truck and computers.

Another question was about relations with the RDCK and New Denver. Wiseman said Silverton had to come first. "Those relations are important as long as we have our own house in order." He said New Denver Mayor Wright had approached him during his time as mayor about joint garbage services and Wiseman had turned him down because "we don't have the resources." Mistretta agreed that Silverton had to be taken care of as a first priority, but that good working relationships with New Denver and the RDCK were important. "I would have to gather the necessary information and see what is to our benefit with trash removal."

Someone asked why Silverton would refuse a $5,200 garbage deal with New Denver when it cost $16,000 to provide the service alone. Wiseman answered that it had to do with what is best for Silverton, and that he does not know if the deal with New Denver was best or not. "I have no details. I have been out of politics for a year and a half."

Resident Bruce Gardiner asked what the candidates' positions were on the sale of Village lakefront property and on property owners that fence in public property for their personal use. Mistretta said she was not in favour of selling Village owned lakefront, and that property owners simply cannot fence in public property without going through an approval process. Wiseman said there was no reason to dispose of Village property, and refused to answer the question about fencing in public property "due to the circumstances I believe Mr. Gardiner is referring to." Recently, a member of Wiseman's family did some landscaping and fencing work on her property that extended out onto the boulevard. The Village office received some complaints. Mayor Everett reports that council is now working toward an amicable solution with the owner.

Campground contractor Bert Butchart asked if the candidates would be willing to develop the facility. Mistretta said she liked the simplicity of the campground and would like to find out what the users wanted. Wiseman said that income from the campground has been put towards general revenue in the past, but now that more money is coming in with the increased small community grant and gas tax funding, campground income should stay in the campground. However, he said it was more important that council have a vision. He said Silverton Memorial Hall had been council's priority for some years now, and the hall had more potential for income than the campground.

Another asked Wiseman if the way he interacted with council members and staff would be different than before. He answered that when he was mayor, council was very difficult. "The public does not understand this and cannot understand this. Issues carried over from the previous council. There were not proper procedures in place. When certain things comes up, you have to address them accordingly. The best thing is to have procedures in place. I would rather not have conflict but I will not back down from it." He said he was the same person, and he couldn't say he wouldn't address things in a similar way. "I learned a lot on council and I am a better person because I was on council." He added that there was a big difference between council and mayor. "The mayor leads and council has an advisory role."

One person objected to this, stating that council is not advisory, but rather a decision making body. He asked if either candidate would be seeking the mayor's seat in the future. Mistretta said she had no aspirations to be mayor at this time. Wiseman said, "I have been mayor once. It's not a position that someone with an ego would enjoy. It's not highly enumerated or high profile. There is a big difference between mayor and council. The mayor gives direction; he is the captain of the ship. Council makes decisions, but the mayor should be directing."

Stream of Consciousness

Add two to four inches of organic material, such as peat or compost, to garden soil. Greater soil depth will increase the ability of the soil to retain moisture. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation. Saves 750 to 1,500 gallons a month.

For more helpful tips, see:

- *Home Gardening Tips http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Gardening/default.htm*
- *Backyard Conservation http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/watercon.html*

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Uranium Free BC Coalition hosts forum at Brilliant Cultural Centre

by Art Joyce

MP Alex Atamanenko greeted a small but attentive crowd at a uranium mining awareness forum at the Brilliant Cultural Centre Saturday, May 12, by saying that the basic message is: keep uranium in the ground.

"We must ensure there's a moratorium in place, especially now, with pressure to mine due to rising uranium prices," he said.

Atamanenko cited the success of recent negotiations in Princeton to avert the installation of a coal-fired electricity plant there as a precedent for activists concerned with the health and environmental effects of uranium mining.

Peter Chataway, an architect and co-founder of the Uranium Free BC Coalition, said the BC government is "in complete denial" about the dangers of uranium mining. Most of the money made in mining is in stock market speculation, and with uranium at an all-time high of $120 per pound, he believes the pressure to mine is on. Canada is the largest supplier of uranium for world markets, at 25%, followed by Australia at 19% and Kazakhstan at 13%. Most of Canada's uranium mines are in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Chataway said the nuclear industry's claim that nuclear power plants are a safe means of addressing climate change is bogus. There are containment problems for radiation as the plants age and gradually break down. And the benefits of nuclear power are offset by the high costs to the environment in open pit and sulphuric acid leaching as well as the greenhouse gases emitted by trucking. Chataway said that to his knowledge the technology for nuclear plants has not been improved since the 1970s.

Dr. Robert Woollard represented the BC Medical Association on the Bates Royal Commission inquiry into uranium mining in the '70s and studied the effects of radiation on human health for 18 years. Woollard related his experience as a family physician in Clearwater, BC when Denison Mines was prospecting for uranium there some 30 years ago. Woollard said the process of making slurry to liquify uranium increases radon gas emissions and makes radiation more available to biological systems and food chains. He urged delegates to ask the question, "In the rush to profit, who pays the price for our prosperity – our children, our grandchildren?"

Rob Westie co-founded BC Land Owners Rights (bclor.ca) after he woke up one morning and found a prospector on his property in Vernon. Westie said the man insisted his Free Miner's card entitled him to stake a claim on private property. The miner was removed on April 30 this year by order of the Chief Gold Commissioner, but Westie believes that the BC Mineral Tenure Act (Bill 54) represents a threat to private property owners. In a worst case scenario, he said, the expropriation act could be invoked for a property seen as potentially rich in minerals. The BCLOR is charging Campbell with 'conspiracy to defraud' through Bill 54.

Joe Falkowski, a rancher and miner from Rock Creek, BC, spoke to the audience about his experience, calling mining "the most destructive, aggressive land activity there is." Falkowski said that while those with forest or water licenses are required to advertise, no such public notification is required for mining activity.

Alfred Webre, a lawyer and judge on the Kaula Lampur International War Crimes tribunal, said it has been discovered recently that US military bases in Hawaii have been testing depleted uranium (DU) since the '60s, and that the source is Canadian. Webre's tribunal has found that DU used in weapons in Iraq and Afghanistan has also been traced to Canada, a violation of its bilateral agreement with the US requiring uranium for peaceful use only. He called this "among the most serious war crimes imaginable." Health effects from DU radiation include chronic fatigue syndrome, mitochondrial damage, birth rate decrease, increased infant mortality, mental illness, learning disorders, diabetes, and cancer.

John Suttie, chair of the Okanagan chapter of the BC Sustainable Energy Association and a retired RCMP officer, concluded presentations with an overview of current worldwide renewable energy technologies. He said he's skeptical of the claim that biofuels are a solution to climate change. Already there have been riots in Mexico due to the rising cost of corn crops used in ethanol production. With peak oil looming, he added, the time for action on the part of our governments is now.

At the strategy session in the afternoon, it was decided to pursue an outright legislative ban on uranium mining. Uranium Free BC Coalition will advocate at the provincial level to ensure communities and regional districts have access to geiger counters. They will also be pushing for public notification of mining permits through regional districts – a proposal the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary has already signed onto.

"We're demanding that testing be done to ensure that proposed land disturbing activities do not pose a threat of radioactive exposure to the surrounding environment," says forum organizer Nadine Podmoroff.

The BC coalition is urging member groups to lobby local, regional and provincial governments to achieve these goals.

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Deputy Minister responds to Kootenay uranium mining concerns

by Art Joyce

The likelihood that the West Kootenay – or BC for that matter – will ever see a uranium mining industry is slim to none, according to Eric Partridge, Assistant Deputy Minister of Mines and Minerals.

"Our geologists tell us the Kootenays are definitely not sitting on one of the largest uranium deposits in the province."

Partridge says the Uranium Free BC Coalition is probably referring to the Blizzard property south of Kelowna, which is the largest deposit in BC. But it's significantly lower than the deposits in Saskatchewan and far below the levels needed to make mining profitable. Exploration was last done on the Blizzard property in the 1970s. International Ranger recently did some exploration in Clearwater, BC, but found it was not a viable claim.

The regional geochemistry maps produced by the BC government in the late '70s showing high levels of uranium presence in the Kootenays have been of concern to some. But Partridge says a high indication of presence in stream sediments doesn't necessarily mean a large ore body exists beneath.

"Just because it accumulates doesn't mean it's in large enough concentrations to be mined. Geologists are telling us that there's no place in BC that even approaches the kind of viability that Saskatchewan has for uranium mining."

Uranium mining falls under federal jurisdiction, while all other mining in BC is provincially administered. Partridge concedes that mining companies often engage in speculation by telling shareholders, "we're looking for copper, uranium, molybdenum or whatever," but that doesn't necessarily mean they'll be opening a mine anytime soon. Exploration can be anything from taking a hammer and banging on a rock to drilling core samples. In the case of uranium prospecting, if core samples have substantial showings, they must next go to the federal government and apply for development permits.

And having an exploration permit is no guarantee the company will be granted a permit for mechanical exploration. Permits are site specific and mineral specific. Mining near a watercourse, for example, involves a whole other set of operational requirements. The same is true for a more hazardous mineral like uranium. Issues of acid rock drainage areas are also taken into consideration. The permit is designed to protect the health and safety of the workers, the ecosystem and community, Partridge says. The onus is on the mining company to supply the Ministry of Mines with the proper test data at every point in the process.

"It's not like getting a driver's license, it's a back and forth process."

Partridge says Rob Westie's case is a clear example of a mining prospector who assumed rights the Free Miner's license does not grant. This was verified by the Gold Commissioner's ruling, which evicted the prospector from Westie's property. Bill 54, the Mineral Tenure Act, was updated by the BC government to add subsurface rights and notification to property holders. The only exemption is for cases when the owner of a mining property is located overseas, for example, and the miner has been unable to contact him. Private property owners are unlikely targets for mining development, Partridge says. In most cases mining companies are exploring properties of hundreds or thousands of acres.

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST INVITES THE PUBLIC TO OPEN HOUSES

Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is hosting open houses in the Columbia Basin and encourages the public to attend and provide input on CBT's draft three year strategic priorities.

These priorities will form part of the next edition of the Columbia Basin Management Plan. The 2007 edition of the Columbia Basin Management Plan will include all of the original guidance provided by Basin residents for CBT that is contained in the 1997 Columbia Basin Management Plan

Residents can provide their feedback on the draft priorities through the CBT website or staff. Copies of the draft documents are available at any CBT office, from a Community Liaison, or on the CBT website. The open houses are also an opportunity to learn more about CBT, including our programs and services, our investments and draft investment policy, and Water and Youth Initiatives.

The open house will start at 4:30 pm and continue until 9:00 pm, with a group question and answer session at 7:00 pm. Open houses will be held:

Wednesday, May 23 - Nelson; Prestige Lakeside Resort
Monday, May 28 - Castlegar; Castlegar and District Rec Plex
Tuesday, May 29 - Trail; Best Western Terra Nova
Tuesday, June 5 - Creston; Creston and District Rec Plex
Wednesday, June 6 - Cranbrook; Prestige Inn
Thursday, June 7 - Fernie; Best Western Fernie Mountain Lodge
Monday, June 11 - Nakusp; Nakusp Arena
Tuesday, June 12 - Revelstoke; The Regent
Wednesday, June 13 - Golden; Prestige Inn

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

West Kootenay featured in *British Columbia* magazine

by Art Joyce

What does it take to get a 51-year-old writer out into the icy waters and steep trails of the West Kootenay? As it turns out, a magazine assignment from *British Columbia* magazine that had writer Larry Pynn spend 48 hours touring Kokanee Glacier, the West Arm of Kootenay Lake, the Slocan River and the Galena Trail.

Pynn hired Nelson-based eco-tourism guide Brian McCutcheon to show him our natural wonders by foot, kayak, and mountain bike. According to the article, *48 Hours in the Kootenays*, McCutcheon has guided actor Tom Cruise, fashion designer Donna Karan, and fished with Jimmy Pattison. Pynn says McCutcheon's clientele falls within an average age of 55 and an average annual income of $255,000 US.

Pynn and McCutcheon hiked the trail to the Kokanee Glacier Cabin and Slocan Chief Cabin, noting in a respectful aside that Kokanee Lake is the resting place of Michel Trudeau. Pynn was struck by the close proximity of loons and ospreys fishing, and the explosion of fireweed in the alpine glades.

A gentle introduction to kayaking was given to Pynn on the West Arm at Balfour before heading for the rapids on Slocan River near Crescent Valley. From there the tour progressed to the Galena Trail, where McCutcheon and Pynn made their way to the cable car crossing over Carpenter Creek. "The ride back to the trailhead is pure joy," Pynn writes. "We fly along so fast that the trees bend and shapeshift into elastic cartoon figures."

Pynn stayed at the Willow Point Lodge near Nelson and notes a number of fine B&Bs in the area, including Blaylock Mansion, Wedgewood Manor near Crawford Bay, and Stanley House B&B, the CPR district superintendent's house built in 1908. The article also mentions Rob Farrell's Wilds of Canada Cycles, the *Valley Voice*-produced *Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook*, and the quintessential guide *Where Locals Hike in the West Kootenay* by Kathy and Craig Copeland.

You are invited to a meeting

Open Invitation for Consultative Committee Members

BC Hydro is looking for interested stakeholders to help determine the preferred development sequence for the remaining generating units at Revelstoke and Mica dams (Revelstoke 6, Mica 5 and 6). Extra capacity is needed to meet the forecasted domestic energy demand and the provincial government's target of energy self-sufficiency by 2016.

A Consultative Committee will be formed in June/July 2007 with representatives from government (federal, provincial and municipal), First Nations, business owners, non-profit groups, property owners, and residents affected by BC Hydro operations at Revelstoke and/or Mica dams.

If you would like to serve as a Committee member or be kept informed of the process, please contact:

Jennifer Walker-Larsen
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor
BC Hydro
250 814-6645
jennifer.walker-larsen@bchydro.com

www.bchydro.com

BC hydro
FOR GENERATIONS

Slocan Valley South APC hosts water information meeting

by Jan McMurray

The advisory planning commission (APC) for Slocan Valley South held a public meeting with water as its theme on May 12.

At the very beginning of the meeting, valley resident Peter Ferguson stood up and made it clear that he wanted a referendum on whether or not to have a planning process. He stated that he thought this was "all a sham" and being "shoved down our throats." Then he left, with one other person following behind him.

Later in the meeting, Dave Wahn from the planning department at the RDCK said his response to those who want a referendum is that it would be best to have a vote after the plan has been drafted – not before. "Before we say yes or no to a plan, let's see what the plan says. We need to know what we're voting on. Anyone who argues for a referendum at the beginning is not letting people get educated."

Commission members went away from the meeting knowing that education, public access to the waterfront and riparian protection were important points to take into consideration in the official community plan.

There were four invited speakers: Bruce MacDonald from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Dave Wahn from the RDCK, Winlaw resident Phil Larstone, and Jennifer Yeow from the Slocan Valley Streamkeepers.

The first two speakers revealed something that was a surprise to most of the approximately 18 people there – that land use planning and zoning can actually cut down on bureaucracy. DFO representative Bruce MacDonald gave the example of Windermere Lake, where right now everyone needs DFO approval in order to build. He says zoning could simplify things there, by giving some parts of the Windermere Lake area a zoning designation that does not require DFO approval.

He also advocated for planning as a way of preventing problems. "We believe in planning as a way to deal with fish issues that we normally deal with on a crisis basis." He said there is a lot of pressure on fisheries in this time of unprecedented development. These pressures include development on the floodplain and the foreshore, and in the forestry, mining and agriculture sectors.

When deciding if and how development should go ahead in certain cases, other government and community agencies also have a say. "So it comes down to a compromise," MacDonald said.

In light of the challenges, he stressed the importance of planning, public education and co-operation between government agencies.

Dave Wahn spoke about how the RDCK's floodplain management bylaw has cut down on cost and red tape for residents. Before the adoption of the bylaw in 1993, the building inspector required a geotechnical report before issuing any building permits on the floodplain. The bylaw exempts some landowners from this costly requirement.

Wahn also pointed out that planning provides the opportunity to deal with exceptions to the floodplain bylaw. Now, landowners seeking a variance to the bylaw must make out an application, which is sent to various agencies for comment. With the large volume of these applications at this time of growth, there is about a 60-day turnaround. This process could be eliminated for some people under a land use plan.

Phil Larstone stated that drinking water is of the utmost importance and expressed frustration that "recent development along the water seems to happen with no responsibility attached." He advocated for public education. "Zoning and setbacks are a good start, but we need education about livestock, pets, where you park your car, the need to retain vegetation, the importance of chemical free products and no petroleum devices. Dogs like to play in streams, but someone downstream is drinking it." He suggested that an educational package with this kind of information be distributed by realtors to their clients.

Area H Director Don Munro added, "Education is a major component – not only prior to planning but also after. What is important to us as a community and how do we protect it? Then people moving in know what to expect and we can work on a program that integrates them in with our values."

Jennifer Yeow informed that Streamkeepers has been monitoring Slocan River for 12 years, and has studied 14 creeks and rivers in the area. She said the biggest problem with the river is channel infilling and bank erosion. Other problems are groundwater seepage, trees and vegetation removed from river banks, misguided landowner activities and unfenced livestock. She also said that recreation on the river is a concern. MacDonald agreed: "The attitude that the river is there for recreation is very detrimental."

MacDonald said there was no "silver bullet" to address all these planning issues, and that many different strategies need to be used. "You need to have a lot of tools in the bag."

Spring freshet information for Emergency Preparedness Week

submitted

With an average to high snowpack this year in our region increasing the possibility of spring flooding, the Regional District of Central Kootenay is urging everyone to take time now to become better informed and prepared.

Public safety begins at home, and individual preparedness can greatly reduce the potential impact of an emergency. The following three points are critical: 1) Know the risks specific to your community; 2) Develop a family emergency plan and practice it; 3) Prepare an emergency kit for your home and vehicle. An emergency can happen anytime and everyone needs to be prepared to manage on their own for at least 72 hours.

Fire stations throughout the regional district have sandbags available for emergency use and the RDCK may be contacted for additional sandbags. If high water is threatening your property these materials can prove useful, but remember, your safety is more important than your belongings.

Voices from the Valleys

Open Letter regarding the Provincial Courthouse Building

I would like to make it very clear that I feel the Provincial Courthouse Building is a structure that is intrinsically a part of the heritage fabric of this community and that it should be a priority of the Village of Kaslo to preserve the heritage value of that building, for future generations, pretty much as it has been for the last 75 years or so.

Through the process of looking at the purchase of this building I have done a great deal of work to try and find a use for the building. I have spoken to the College and High School staff with the hopes and vision of seeing that beautiful building as a vibrant campus. That was not received well. I considered the possibility of creating an economic development center modeled after the Bonners County Business Incubator in Sandpoint, ID and even went for a day to visit that facility to investigate how to set a Business Incubator up. A report is filed with the Village on this – ultimately it was not a fit for our situation. During the Skatepark debates, I proposed that for the cost of building a skatepark, on the floodplain/beach, the Village could purchase the building on behalf of the Kaslo Area Youth Council and build a Skatepark in the back and KAYC would have a youth center and skatepark. That was rejected. Most recently I recommended that Council support and facilitate the Kaslo Housing Society to make a preliminary feasibility assessment on converting the building to housing. I have studied carefully the prospects of the Village maintaining the building as a commercial space, and all the studies, reports, and recommendations do not bode well for that use. And finally, I have appealed to Council and the public to provide a vision, plan, or well defined and substantiated case for ownership – and that has never come to fruition. I did my absolute best to find a purpose for the Village to purchase that building, and ultimately I have come to this realization. If our major concern is to preserve and protect that building, the worst thing that could happen is for the Village to purchase it! You need look no further than our own City Hall for the proof of that.

I would like to offer a positive solution to this dilemma that should be very acceptable to all who are concerned about the future of this building, if preservation is the key element of this issue.

I would propose that Village Council continue on its present path of registering properties on Municipal, Provincial and Federal Heritage Registries. That the City Hall, Provincial Building, and SS Moyie (there could be others) be given special designations for permanent preservation. I would suggest that we should explore the feasibility and implement immediately, zoning and by-laws that restrict the use of these properties as non-commercial; for official government business or Non-Profit Organizations or Registered Charity use only. These zoning and by-laws should lay out in particular detail the level of restoration and maintenance that will be applied, so that the buildings do not fall into a severe state of disrepair, as is now the situation with both the City Hall and the Provincial Building. I can appreciate that this endeavor will have its problems also, but I firmly believe that it is within the powers and capabilities of the Village residents and Council to protect and provide a sustainable future for these vital assets of our community.

I would also like to point out that when these conditions are set and bound on these properties that it could not necessarily preclude, at some point in the future, the possibility of Non-Profit or private partnerships. I would refer to how businesses operate in our National Parks. Of course we must be pragmatic; it would be very unlikely that a private owner would ever purchase a building with excessive restrictive covenants on the use of the building, and ultimately it would fall to the Provincial Government to maintain the Courthouse and in turn, the Municipal Government to maintain the City Hall.

Why should we gamble with the future of the Courthouse by owning it (we already have ballooning tax issues for the Village), when I believe we have all the powers needed to ensure the Province will maintain and operate the building to our needs and standards.

I offer this as the best solution I can come up with and I strongly encourage any and all to contribute any ideas and concepts that are workable, pragmatic, and sustainable and satisfy the strong desire to preserve our heritage properties for another 100 years.

Jim Holland
Mayor of Kaslo

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Move Village Hall to the Provincial Building

In a recent letter Mayor Holland (Kaslo) worried about the expense of the Village buying the provincial government building. He says $100,000 a year will have to be set aside for maintenance. If the Village had that kind of money, why didn't some of it go into maintenance & renovation of the city hall?

What's done is done, however, and with the finding of asbestos in the village office in city hall, what a great opportunity to move out, across the road to the provincial building (that the Village will soon own). The rooms of what used to be the public health offices could be fine for the village office, to start.

Then sell City Hall for $1 to the City Hall Preservation Society — there must be one out there — and let them get the heritage grant monies to do right by that lovely old building and turn it into the showcase the building wants to be & the Moyie is.

The Village could sell the lot that was the Kaslo Community garden, on the corner of A Avenue & the turn-off to New Denver, which only Hazel is doing her best to look after, to pay for a good amount towards the purchasing cost of the provincial government building.

And while you're at it, ask Fortis to lower the lights on the street light poles so we can get some night sky back. Or shield them.

Holley Rubinsky
Kaslo

Due diligence

It seems like a full time job following Mayor Jim Holland around to put right his misinformation and selective thinking about the referendum and purchase of the Kaslo provincial building.

Holland speaks of due diligence while exaggerating the repair and operation and maintenance costs of the building at the taxpayers' expense. Due diligence in my opinion would be the operation of the building as efficiently as possible during the restoration of the city hall.

Holland quotes from inspection and business analysis with his brand of selective thinking.

Did he tell you that the Village of Kaslo auditor Am Naqvi states in his April 2, letter to council that the village needs to relocate elsewhere during the restoration of the city hall? So why wouldn't the village move its offices to the provincial building?

Did Holland mention that the March 27, Lynch building inspection states that the provincial building is on a better than average site, the building was built to the highest quality standards of the day, and the repair list is shorter than average considering the age and type of building?

Incredibly, Holland now claims that the referendum process was flawed because the voters didn't get all the correct information. The Kaslo residents have participated in the democratic process and given the council a mandate regardless of the misinformation and conspiracy theories of Holland.

If he really thinks he has a case, the borrowing bylaw has a 30 day quashing period so he should put his money where his mouth is and challenge the bylaw in the Supreme Court of B.C.

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Open Letter to the Minister of Forests

It is my understanding that BC Timber may resume road building and logging on Perry Ridge in the near future.

It has been ten years since the Court lifted the injunction against the public and denied another injunction on appeal by the Ministry because of evidence that Perry Ridge is an inherently unstable landscape. Development will likely exacerbate this instability and hence poses severe additional risks to water supply, water boxes and lines, homes, appliances, and structures on Perry Ridge creeks and streams.

The risk factors that the court considered in 1997 remain present today. Moreover, the potential for significant fluctuations in weather due to climate change probably means increased risk of slides and slumps and changes in flow regimes in creeks that supply water users on Perry Ridge, as have already occurred, most recently in Vallican on March 12.

In the spring of 2006, a combination of rain and warm weather produced greatly accelerated run-off from Perry Ridge. In a one-week period, Hird Creek became a raging torrent moving large boulders and debris. The accelerated flow altered reaches and scoured the stream course in some places, nearly washed out the bridge on Slocan River Road and destroyed several domestic water boxes and feed lines that had to be replaced at high cost to homeowners. Predicted changes in climate means these kinds of events can most likely be expected to repeat themselves at increasing frequency.

If the upper reaches of Perry Ridge watersheds are logged, loss of forest cover will accelerate the spring freshet, resulting in a radical alteration of stream flow regimes and timing of flow. Damage to properties and water supply systems downstream will occur. Beyond what's naturally present, these risk factors remain unacceptable to other water users and I, along with the Perry Ridge Water Users Association (PRWUA) and other residents, are opposed to any road building or logging on Perry Ridge owing to these risks, which have been long established.

Please may you advise me as to BC Timber's plans for road building and/or logging on Perry Ridge, both in terms of scope and timing and indicate what's to become of the timber volumes to be logged.

Sean Rooney
Vallican

Toronto writer loves New Denver

This is the third year I've been invited by Terry Taylor and the Lucerne School and Writers Festival to do a creative writing residency with the high school students at Lucerne Elementary Secondary School. This year, for the first time, I also had the pleasure of working with a group of Katrina Sumrall's elementary school students, and also some of Leslie Leitch's students from Burton, for four days. What a bunch of great kids!

Although I am here to teach and inspire the students, and give them a peek into a writer's life, I also come away inspired myself. And I learn a lot, too, and not just how to build a fire in a woodstove and drive deer-proof at night (things I don't need to know about at home in Toronto). I learn a lot about community and generosity, and about nurturing the positive in a world that can be pretty challenging and discouraging at times.

Each time I visit New Denver I'm more amazed by your community. I'm welcomed warmly in every shop or restaurant I wander into, as well as by the awesome staff and students at Lucerne. This human warmth, in addition to the incredible physical beauty of the valley, make for a magical experience for me.

I think it's fantastic that this town is so arts-positive. The students have obviously learned that writing poetry and fiction is a talent and skill that is valued and appreciated here. It's such a pleasure watching them perform at the coffeehouse evenings and seeing the pride they display in their work and in expressing themselves. This kind of thing doesn't happen just anywhere. It takes special teachers and supportive parents to make an atmosphere where this kind of creativity and enthusiasm is possible.

And I very strongly believe that whether a student eventually becomes a writer or mechanic or lawyer or logger or homemaker or soccer player or engineer, exposure to the arts will enrich his or her life.

Anyway, a big thanks to you all for what you've given me. (And look out for more Kootenay poems in my future books!)

Stuart Ross
Toronto, ON

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Voices from the Valleys

Sinixt are not extinct

On May 7th, The Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Tribal Council held a required public meeting of Regional, Provincial, and National importance in Castlegar, but you very likely didn't hear about it. The meeting involved representatives from the Government of Canada and the BC Government. All three parties are engaged in the process of negotiating an Agreement in Principle which will form the basis of a Final Treaty Agreement in this region. Holding public meetings in affected land-use areas is a required part of the Treaty process. To call this meeting "public" is a stretch. The meeting was not advertised in regional newspapers. We saw no posters. We checked on the Ktunaxa Nation website, and, at this writing, the last public meeting related to treaty negotiation was January 2006 in Cranbrook.

Surely parties hosting a meeting about a matter of such regional and national importance should be required to advertise extensively in local media. We wonder what might motivate individuals and government entities to hold a public meeting of such importance, about this particular treaty process, at such a late stage of negotiation, in such a covert way. Could it have anything to do with the fact that these parties were hoping to avoid stepping into the controversy that sometimes erupts when truth collides with myth? The people who should actually be at the treaty table in the region are the Sinixt Nation (Arrow Lakes Indians), a tribe whose cultural affiliations and land use date back five thousand or more years, a tribe whose ancestral burial grounds lie flooded beneath the Arrow Reservoir.

It would be highly irregular process in a treaty negotiation to completely ignore the presence of one First Nation in an area and negotiate solely with another First Nation. Except when one of them, the Sinixt, has been falsely declared "extinct" by the Federal Government in 1956, even though several hundred Lakes tribal members lived just south of the border on the Colville Indian Reservation. With a reserve not established in Canada until 1903, most of the Lakes tribe had sought refuge where they could as settlers moved rapidly into the narrow valleys around the Columbia River. The 'extinction' of this tribe is a chapter of sad misunderstanding in the region's history. In 1995, after pressure from Lakes tribal members, Ron Irwin, then minister of Indian Affairs for Canada, admitted that though the government had declared the "Arrow Lake Indian Band" extinct for the purposes of the Indian Act, it did not mean that the Sinixt ceased to exist as a tribal group.

A treaty negotiation should not be just a bureaucratic contractual agreement between a First Nation and two levels of Government with certain economic and political implications. A treaty negotiation should be an open and forthright processes that stands on a firm foundation in the truth and integrity of history. A treaty negotiation should involve all of us in this community, acting in good faith.

We ask that the Federal Government will side-step its own limited view of history and exert leadership on this issue by reversing the extinction declaration and inviting the First People of this region, the Sinixt Nation (Arrow Lakes Indians) to the treaty table.

Eileen Delehanty Pearkes &
Catherine Fisher
Nelson, BC

Village Hall should move to provincial building

I would like to respond to Mayor Holland's May 4th letters that are appearing on Kaslo Cable Channel 10.

I have never seen any figures on future costs to upgrade the current Village Hall. Nor have I seen any deficiency reports on that building. From a simple visual comparison, the Provincial building appears to be the more sound structure.

Your inuendos seem to assume that the Old Village Hall can be renovated with the staff present. Personally, that seems highly unlikely. I am far from alone with this view. It is even more unlikely now, with the recent discovery of asbestos in this building.

At some point in the near future the Village Hall will have to be dealt with and staff will have to move to temporary premises for years perhaps. I know the costs for that work are not in place and will be substantial. The Mayor stated the Village cannot apply for grants for that project. Will those funds have to come through taxation?

The Village Hall suffers from issues common to all Victorian buildings. Foundation issues, inadequate power, poor heating and high heat loss. I have never seen any figures on the true costs to taxpayers of the yearly costs incurred at this location.

The Auditors Report gives a second scenario which you fail to mention. This puts its purchase in more favourable position if it is utilized as part of the imminent restoration of City Hall and the future relocation of the fire hall.

In the long term, if the Village moved permanently into the Provincial building and gave Village Hall to the Historical Society to restore, we would save both buildings and also a lot of money. It would ultimately be less expensive than your plan of doing nothing.

Perhaps you could apply your expertise in a positive way and negotiate the Provincial lease such that the Village occupies prime space and the 1 Provincial employee moves across the hall to a less prime but suitable location.

In my humble opinion, you have taken a negative stance on the Provincial Building purchase from day one and have only presented information in a manner that supports your position. This does not serve the electorate but only serves yourself.

Larry Braley.
Kaslo

To the residents of Burton

Being a founding member of ATV/BC (provincial association) and of the Revelstoke ATV Club, my club members and I were dismayed to read about the ATV hooligans that disrupted your village on the Easter long weekend.

Our club organizes numerous club outings throughout the summer months to many of the surrounding communities, Nakusp, Trout Lake, New Denver and last year a club weekend ride on July 29 & 30th to Burton. We camped at the local campground where we had reserved sites for our members. We trucked our quads from the campground each day to our unloading area just south of town. We headed out that day to try to get to the community of Hills over the Ruby Range but were turned back by a large landslide that blocked the road. Turning back we could see a large mine tailing on Grouse Mountain and decided to head up there. The scenery in this valley with the many meadows of purple fireweed is breathtaking. The miles of old forestry and mining roads offers some great quading.

Sunday we headed to Mountain Meadow where we enjoyed the view of Saddle Mountain and the town of Nakusp. Caught in a downpour on the mountain we decided it was not a good place to be during a thunder storm that was complete with lightning.

All in all we enjoyed your area, left no mess in the places we visited and felt very welcome at the campground where we were well behaved and also left a tidy campsite when we pulled out.

To read that your community was vandalized, yes vandalized, by a group of people on quads makes us mad and fearful that we might not be made as welcome as we were last year. We certainly hope this is not the case as we do want to come back. There is no reason for this type of behavior by anyone. To know where these people came from would be interesting and to know why they behaved in this manner.

I have forwarded the letter in the Valley Voice to ATV/BC in hopes that we can track down where the group originated from.

We do look forward to riding in your valley again and as always, will treat it with respect.

Ron LaRoy
Revelstoke ATV Club

Voting for Mistretta

I plan to vote for Sue Mistretta in the June 2 election for the vacant Silverton council position.

She has the personal traits and characteristics that make a good councilor. She doesn't have council experience but I have had the opportunity to observe Sue garner experience effectively and quickly.

I see the Hand and Soul building from my kitchen window. I was dismayed when the bustling business over there was shut down by fire; it had been fun to watch the busy comings and goings over there. We stared out at an ugly charred, burned-out hulk; it affected the appearance of the whole village.

Everyone was happy when Sue and her partner, Dr. Larry Zaleski, bought the building with the plan of rebuilding and running their businesses there. But we were dismayed when we heard that they planned to do their own contracting. This was a pretty big project. You have to be really good at coordinating the various trades people, make informed and technical decisions on the fly, deal with the many legalities, keep on top of the finances and so on. Unforeseen obstacles always come up. We thought the hand of experience was the only road to a successful completion of a project of this size. We were quite worried about the outcome.

I have to say I am impressed. Sue handled it. What she didn't know she looked into, learned really fast and kept it all moving forward. When the inevitable obstacles came up, she checked it out, met the challenge with resolve, and, what most impressed me, was that she did it calmly, reasonably and with good cheer. There wasn't a big fuss. And the project kept moving forward.

There was one particular obstacle that came up that I thought was going to shut it all down. Worse than a burned-out mess would be a half completed building sitting there reminding us all of a lost dream.

But Sue took it calmly and with courage. She was able to investigate the requirements, go to the officials, with their complicated manuals and sets of rules and regulations, and she persuaded them to get together, to look up from their manuals and to see the reasonableness of her inclusive and common sense solution.

I was impressed and I'm still inspired every time I look out of my window. That lovely, completed multi-facetted building over there is a testimony to Sue's ability to quickly garner experience and to address complicated technical problems with assurance and competence. And the whole thing was done with good will and cooperation; where she might have chosen to attack aggressively with confrontational tactics, she chose to find common ground and did it with good will...and she was successful.

Sue is a business woman. Her business depends on a village council that is efficient; I know that Sue, with her special abilities, will be able to get right in there and look at ways for the village to be efficient and will be able to encourage the fiscal responsibility that we all want, and she'll do it effectively.

Hillie Wells
Silverton

Kaslo provincial building purchase - delegation to council

We come to council today to document for the public record our concerns and objections to a number of irregularities and deficiencies that we believe to have occurred in the process towards acquiring the provincial building.

We are concerned that the referendum vote may have been skewered by the misrepresentations made by council to the ratepayers of Kaslo.

Our loan authorizing bylaw referendum was directly linked to the question of purchasing the provincial building by council's statements and distribution of information at the public meeting held April 10.

We voted on April 21 with the common understanding that to vote yes or no for a loan authorization was a yes or no vote for the purchase of the building.

Council represented to the people at the public meeting that the purchase price of this building was $120,000. This was specifically stated and affirmed numerous times throughout the meeting, which was taped by our local cable company.

There were people who voted on April 21 believing that the price of purchasing this building was for the amount of $120,000. There are people today who still believe this to be true.

For the public record, we would like council now to confirm the following and clarify our understanding: 1) The current offer to purchase is for $225,000. With the payment terms as follows: 1 lump sum cash payment of $120,000, leaving a balance due of $105,000. 2) This balance is to be paid in the form of a prepayment – guaranteed 10-year rent free lease valued at $105,000.

In plain words, in lieu of cash to complete the purchase, we will owe the provincial government 10 years of rent free space.

We would like council now to confirm: 3) that the 10-year lease agreement with the provincial government forms an integral part of the purchase offer.

4) We ask council now to clarify whether or not the lease agreement creates a liability for the ratepayers of Kaslo. We request that council address and answer the following question: If, within the next 10 years, by act of God or discovery of some condition or contaminate that would make it impossible to provide the lease space, how will we then pay for the balance of the purchase price that remains outstanding?

At the public meeting, council referred to a 10-year lease agreement but at no time did council directly link the lease in context of creating an additional liability to the ratepayers.

We ask that council now confirm that: 5) under the Community Charter, council is required to obtain the electors' approval before signing a 10-year lease agreement and that should the electorate disagree in response, then council may not sign a 10-year lease agreement or complete the purchase offer under these terms.

And finally, 6) please advise us as to the method council will employ to obtain the voters' approval to signing this lease agreement.

At the public meeting, council provided a Q&A sheet that they described over the course of the meeting as "non-binding, non-legal, misleading and containing errors."

Following the meeting, council could have directed staff to distribute accurate information in the form of the auditor's cover letter to the business case study, received April 2.

This cover letter neatly sums up the issues of relevance. Instead, the uncorrected, unaltered, previously described inaccurate Q&A sheet was sent by Canada Post to every mailbox in Kaslo just prior to the vote.

Should you, and before you, seek our approval to create an additional liability, we request that you provide by way of a mail-out to every ratepayer, in advance, a fact sheet listing in plain and simple language: The total offer to purchase price ($225,000) plus, the total known costs incurred to date for inspections, voting expenses, auditor and legal fees, due diligence, etc. plus the amount budgeted in the 2007 budget that must be spent immediately on necessary repairs.

These costs combined represent the actual total cost to acquire this property. We consider this to be full and complete disclosure.

Please also provide your plan for payment, which we know will include $120,0000 cash downpayment, 10 years' prepaid lease kickback value $105,000, plus, the (previously unspecified) amount of monies raised from taxes and other sources.

In essence, we insist that you take the necessary steps to insure that we are exercising an informed vote.

We believe you all to be people of good will. We ask you to become extra vigilant on our behalf.

We ask you now to become people of principle and provide the kind of leadership that reflects the good of the entire community, not just the special interests of a few.

The consequences of this purchase will be borne by the ratepayers – it is exactly these decisions that can make Kaslo unaffordable for the average resident and the average property owner.

Ray Bergeron and Linda Cole
plus 17 others
Kaslo

Voices from the Valleys

Here comes development

For all those persons for or against planning, the shape of the future in our area took on a far more ominous prospect with a half-page article in the Saturday Vancouver Sun (May 12). The piece entitled "Showdown Looms In Shuswap," details the battle that the residents there are mounting against a development by Waterway Houseboats to build 10-storey condo buildings plus 125 townhouses and a marina to accommodate 350 boats and 100 houseboats. Just a few kilometers away another developer, Sable Resorts (from Calgary) would add 100 houseboats to Mara Lake and 1000 boat slips. Villagers of Sicamous feel as if this uncontrolled condo development along the Shuswap Lake system is proposing to turn their area into Miami Beach.

Jim Cooperman of the Shuswap Environmental Society states, "It's going to be one condo after another, and every condo owner is going to have a boat slip which is going to add hundreds and hundreds of boats to an already crowded lake system. The problem for Sicamous and the lake residents is the pervasive power of money, as wealthy people in Calgary are expected to gobble up these condos. But what kind of life is left for the residents?"

The boom started at Shuswap three years ago, with 12 new resort properties under development. The problems of sewage, of lake access, also greatly concern the residents. The Sicamous City Council is receiving applications to close to the public all the beaches connected to the developments. Engineer Bob Eadie states that the developers don't want people on "their" beach when they buy a property.

All this development has driven prices sky-high: "up to $200,000 for an empty lot." Waterfront properties have soared to $723,000 in the last year as wealthy people buy out every available property and larger, more luxurious amenities are demanded. As a result, the cost of living in the area must also rise.

The developers insist they bring prosperity. They say, condos mean money and jobs, but it also means the end of a way of life for what the Mayor terms 'a sleepy little town.' This Mayor, Lorraine March, says there is no option but to accept the condo towers, because "We need tourism." But she is for establishing a comprehensive plan because the tower/townhouse/houseboat properties will make a large impact. Just the floating services building itself will be five times what Sicamous' present zoning will permit. But the Mayor talks as if it's a done deal saying, "Once a comprehensive plan is put into place, it's going to be an awesome addition to our community."

The communities that front Shuswap and Mara Lakes face the prospect of 1350 boats and 200 houseboats alone, besides the 120 townhouses and 10-story towers. What will our lake community face when Slocan Lake is "discovered?" As it is, we see five-story condos and marinas being fought about in Nelson with the development just about assured. Are we prepared for this?

Those against planning say they want to keep their property, their way of life free of interference, rules, zoning, restrictions, but how can anyone's life survive this kind of invasion? The developers at Enterprise Creek have helicopter pads so their wealthy condo purchasers can zoom in to spend their weekends. We know what even one helicopter does to our lives when the sound resonates off the steep mountain walls, shakes our windows and exacerbates our nerves. The problem can't be averted or denied - it is coming. There is an enormous wealth in the middle class now that wants condo-life with all its amenities, not only in the city but in rural areas as well.

With five-story condos in Nelson, 10-story condos at Shuswap Lake, the developer's intent is to cram as many units as they can into the parcel of land they've acquired. Their entry into this area is the acquisition of prime land sites. They offer property owners preposterous sums to buy them out or rely on the business and development prejudice of our present provincial government to get at Crown land. Or, land held by numbered corporations which was bought up on speculation, is slated for development which no one around here wants. The developers build for their own profit, very often at the expense of the land and the life into which they project their get-rich deals. In Nelson the entrepreneurs, saying they needed these 5-story condo buildings in order to get enough purchasers to pay for the project, added some lower-cost units to help relieve the lack of rental housing as a carrot for which the Nelson City Council jumped. At Shuswap, the Mayor says they need the 10-story condos because they need tourism.

The question should be, what kind of tourism? Unrestricted tourism has been ruinous; consider the impact on Banff. The wealthy get what they want because money buys it for them. Why does Sicamous, with a residency of some 3000 that has managed quite well for 50 years, need THIS kind of tourism? So that high-end grocery and other amenity stores can be built? So that there can be a short boom for construction workers to come in from Calgary or other parts of BC and then move away because they can't afford to now live in the area that's been despoiled?

We recognize that poverty can degrade an area, but so can affluence. The Vancouver Sun has repeatedly run articles stating that any property in BC that fronts a lake is worth a million dollars right off. The affluent will tear down whatever cabin may be there and build their palatial digs; the entrepreneur will arrive with his grandiose plans to maximize the sales on any piece of land acquired. We can't stop these transactions but we can say no building will be erected over two-stories tall; no houseboat flotillas will be allowed, no new marinas will be built. The entrepreneur can't make the millions he projects, so he goes elsewhere looking for unregulated areas.

Those who oppose planning say, "it can't happen here," but the Enterprise Creek, Nelson and Shuswap examples show it can. These are early warning signs. So let's get busy and endeavor to protect our way of life and this marvelously beautiful area. What we must resist is a wrong-minded and ruinous prosperity that seeks to import city-life into rural surroundings, benefiting the wealthy few at the expense of us all.

Richard Caniell
New Denver, BC

Concerning Kaslo's provincial building

As a supporter of the yes side and a long time resident of Kaslo, I would like to make these comments. I have served the best part of twenty years on village councils and with five different mayors. Mayors who were progressive and civic minded and although we at times had our differences, we had one common goal, our community. And to me it was a pleasure as an alderman to work with them, the progressive minded public, and be part of the growth of our beautiful community. Practically every facility you have in this village today, something for both young and old was developed over these times by the various interest groups, supported by our progressive minded community; supporting these projects with their hearts and civic pride.

Now, I do not know our mayor, Jim Holland and I mean no offence to him (as a politician, and our mayor however, he is subject to criticism). As I understand it, he is writing letters to the public of conjecture, and assumptions against the wishes of his council concerning the purchase of the government building. (Which is his right, I have no argument with that, but it must be really frustrating to his council members to do their jobs under these circumstances I would think.) To me his letters are misleading – letters of doom and gloom that must be upsetting to some of our citizens, mainly senior citizens, if we purchase the building. I browsed through the building inspector's report for example, and his report, as I understood it, that considering the age of the building it was in good condition. I also understand that an environmental study was done in 2002. Why should we have another? I also understand council has asked the goverment to repair areas of neglect as outlined in Bill Lynch's report before purchasing. Our mayor fails to mention these positive reactions to the report, in his letter. I also recall, that the mayor took a similiar stand against the children's skateboard park. It appears, and I stand to be corrected, he is supporting sides. If so, that is contrary to his oath of office. The same applies to any other employee of our village staff. The job of a mayor is to represent all citizens equally and to support his council's decisions. It was the decision of council to pursue purchasing the building, as was the public vote, which was affirmative. That is how our democracy works, majority wins. As the mayor, his job is then to cooperate with his council and ensure the best deal possible in order to safeguard the taxpayers' interests.

I also was quite upset at the letter after the referendum was passed written to the *Valley Voice* and made public. Another letter of conjecture that upset people needlessly. Me thinks that letter come from somewhere in the village hall. I firmly agree with freedom of the press, but lets get our facts straight. Please don't jump the gun, and make premature statements.

As I understand the terms of the purchase of the building, and my figures may not be precise, that the village made an offer of $120 thousand to purchase, the government countered with an offer of 240 thousand. In order to bring the cost down to the village's offer, they come to an agreement to make it affordable to our public. They would rent or lease their office space for ten years, and share in the cost of maintenance and operating costs, relieving the village of the $120,000 in additional costs. To my mind that agreement is two fold in the fact that Kaslo retains the services of the government agent in our village, unless there is a loophole, for ten years. (If this service was moved to Nelson it would soon eat up any contribution you may make to the purchase if having to travel to Nelson doing govt. business, at today's costs. I also feel this agreement is skin off nobody's nose. I, as a a taxpayer, am only interested in the $120,000 purchase price and related costs. I, as many others, am not stupid and realize the costs of operating the building once purchased, but I am firmly convinced with the proper management of this building these costs can be offset. To my mind, similiar to our hospital where all medical services are in one building. The government building should be set up as such and become our county seat so to speak. Our civic building with all municipal offices and services in the building.

Let's stop for a minute and look at the two buildings. One (the city hall) that is rapidly becoming delapidated. Should we throw good money after bad when we have the opportunity to buy the goverment building with its pleasing grounds? A building that with proper maintenance could last into the 25th century, a building that by all outward apearance must be worth in excess of one million dollars and considering the long-term use, where would you as taxpayers prefer to put your tax dollars?

I also would suggest, other than immediate repairs that a renewable five year plan be set up for future upgrading of the building if purchased.

I could tell you all many stories of the development of our village (I love it) but one comes to mind, the Langham. Many years ago council had to deal with many concerns and petitions concerning the fire hazard the Langham was becoming. It is hard to describe the delapidated shape it was in. Council, as I recall, spent a few years trying to track down the owner (I believe we found him in New York.) The upshot was council decided to have it destroyed and informed the public as such. You would not believe the response that we got. Hence the Langham Cultural Society was born, and the building was saved, to the credit of our country. It took a top prize. This is just one of many stories of our village. Save the Moyie was another similiar story.

In closing, I am an old man of eighty-six, don't speak well, don't hear well, shake so bad I have a problem keeping my pants up, can't write. But I love this village with a passion, it is a privilege to live here. I also have every confidence in our council and contrary to what I hear, they have made every effort to inform the public, (Why should they not?) but I would like to see more response and support to council from the positive side on this issue, shall we form a society??

Once this issue is settled, I hope we will get on with the job and the opposition will stop blowing smoke. The people have spoken, get on with the job!

Stan Leathwood
Kaslo, BC

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Silverton council passes budget, accepts fire department resignations

by Art Joyce

•At the May 8 council meeting, bylaw 447-2007, the Village of Silverton five-year financial plan, and bylaw 448-2007, Village of Silverton tax rates, received three readings in council and were passed at a special budget meeting held Thursday, May 10.

•In a split vote 2-2 in-camera, Silverton council turned down the shared garbage collection proposal from New Denver. The results of the vote were made public at the May 10 budget meeting. Mayor Everett said the Village is considering its options.

•Retirement notices were received from former Silverton Fire Department Chief and New Denver and Area Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ron Provan and New Denver and Area Fire department volunteer firefighter Alan Laktin. Mayor Everett thanked both gentlemen for their years of service, "especially Ron Provan, who stepped into a difficult situation."

•Mayor Everett reported that the Village's audited financial statement for 2006 has been completed and that there were no corrections required. During public and press time, candidate Tim Wiseman asked what the audit cost. The mayor said the bill was $6,800.

•Carol Bell reported on her attendance at the AKBLG conference in Golden, noting that over 40 resolutions were passed to be brought to the upcoming UBCM conference, including a resolution on the TILMA agreement. She reported that the RDCK's plastics recycling program is going well and that an example of recycled plastic can be seen in the park bench at the Silverton lookout. Bell also reported that the Slocan Lake Chamber of Commerce has proposed flexible sign frames that move with the wind to prevent damage to banners hung for special events.

•Colleen McCrory sent a letter asking that the birch tree slated for removal near her home be topped rather than cut down. She further requested public notification for tree cutting near residents' properties. CAO Ida said this would place too much burden on Village staff to notify residents of every tree to be cut down. Councillor Laktin agreed with McCrory that she wouldn't like to come home and find a large tree suddenly gone. After debate, council voted to proceed with the removal and send a letter notifying McCrory.

•CAO Ida reported that in a meeting with Destination Silverton the idea was presented of refurbishing the old service station pole at Hand and Soul for use as a 'Welcome to Silverton' sign. Councillor Provan suggested the sign could be part of the OCP process as part of a possible redesign of the main street boulevard.

•At the May 10 budget meeting, information was brought out of an in-camera meeting held May 8. Free space for one year will be leased to the Community Club in the front half of the former recycling building.

•Council will send letters of regret to Valhalla Wilderness Society and the Last Wishes Society that there are no funds to spare for their projects.

•Council voted to send a letter of support to Manitoba MP Inky Mark for a Canadian Soldiers and Peacekeepers Memorial Wall.

A primer on Silverton's new tax rate and financial plan

by Art Joyce

Taxes in Silverton will go up for some, stay the same or even go down for others. An overall taxation increase of 5% is reflected in the new tax rates passed by Village council in its five-year financial plan for 2007-11.

According to Mayor Everett, the increase is attributed to the rising cost of operating expenses and an effort to put money into reserves. The mill rate for taxation has actually gone down, from $3.92 per $1,000 of assessed value in 2006 to $3.26 per $1,000 in 2007. However, due to the recent spike in property assessments ranging from 20-45%, some Silverton residents will be paying more. Homeowners whose assessments are in the median range of 20% will probably see no increase in municipal taxes, and those below that line will probably see a decrease. The total taxation collected by the Village in 2007 will be $96,754, up slightly from the 2006 figure of $92,147. The business tax mill rate has also been decreased, from $6.40 per $1,000 of assessed value in 2006 to $5.62 per $1,000 in 2007.

Due to a change in policy during the past year, Silverton will now be required to pay a police tax, costing the Village $7,275 for 2007. The largest expense in the budget this year comes under 'fiscal services,' a figure of $468,297 which combines routine expenses such as school, police, and hospital taxes, RDCK fees, etc. with capital expenditures such as the Memorial Hall renovation ($176,000), new Village security system, computers, shop roof, and garbage bin, the OCP review cost ($20,000), and buyouts on the backhoe lease. However, many of these items will be covered by grants, as in the case of the Memorial Hall, which received $88,000 from the Olympics 2010 fund, two tourism grants for $15,000 each, and funds from the sale of Village property totalling about $15,000.

Total revenue for the Village, less taxes collected for other governments and including all grants and subsidies, is projected at $628,275. This is a substantial increase over the 2006 figure of $286,915.

Water rates were increased by 50% earlier this year to cover a water system operating deficit of about $11,000 per year. WSA Engineering was hired to perform a study of the Village's aging water system and has determined that an upgrade to standard will cost $485,000. The Village has applied for a Towns for Tommorrow grant to cover 80% of that amount. Mayor Everett says the Village will use gas tax rebates of between $25-30,000 annually toward this expense. The water study has been paid for by a $10,000 grant plus $5,000 from the gas tax rebates. The Village is still paying for a $200,000 loan from the RDCK taken out in 2002 for water upgrades, which will cost $25,978 to service the debt this year.

Poker Pedal event coming to Slocan Valley Rail Trail

submitted

What combines the pleasure of cycling in the great Slocan Valley and a passion for playing cards? How about a poker-based event using climate-friendly bicycles instead of snowmobiles, motorcycles or inner tubes? Slocan Valley Recreation and the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS) invites everyone to come out and be part of the first ever Slocan Valley Poker Pedal on Sunday, May 27, starting at 10 am at the Winlaw Trailhead. Admission is only $2 per person or $5 per family.

A brigade of voyageur canoes like these will travel the length of the Canadian Columbia River this summer, and will stop overnight in Nakusp on July 4. The brigade, organized by Norm Crerar (pictured here), commemorates David Thompson's exploration of the Columbia River in 1807. Events planned for July 4 in Nakusp include canoe races and the presentation of The David Thompson Heritage Stage Show. Nakusp councillor Ulli Mueller will ride in the brigade from Revelstoke to Nakusp.

This twist on the theme will have cyclists riding a scenic portion of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail, where that ace might be waiting around the next corner. Riders gather playing cards as they cycle north in the valley and then south, with the best poker hand winning the day! Cyclists can either do the smaller loop (Winlaw to Perry Siding and back), where they get a total of five cards, or the longer route as far as Lemon Creek, where they can draw an additional two cards and choose the best five.

When the cyclists return there will be a barbecue and draw prizes waiting (courtesy of area businesses) as well as the best poker hand presentation. Folks can play soccer and slopitch in the school playground while they wait for things to wrap up. Make sure you have a bike helmet as well as sun screen and water. The entire event should last two to three hours.

The event will also be an opportunity to find out about what's going on along the Rail Trail this year. The SVHTS will be hosting their AGM on Thursday, May 31 at the Slocan Park Hall and memberships will be available at the bike ride. It's an exciting time in the group, with lots going on.

For more information contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008.

Touchstone Healing Co-op Open House offers alternative health options

by Art Joyce

The Touchstone Healing Co-op is hosting a Healing Affair open house Sunday, June 3, 10 am to 4 pm at the Spicer Centre in Winlaw. It's an opportunity to experience any or all healing modalities you choose for only a donation.

"Within each person is an innate intelligence that can be capitalized upon for healing," explains chiropractor Larry Zaleski. "It animates, motivates, coordinates, heals and inspires. This intelligence creates a life force that flows throughout the body/mind. Because of stresses in daily life, this force can be blocked, impeded, or interfered with, causing dis-ease. It is the role of all practitioners in the Touchstone Healing Co-op to remove the interference to the expression of this intelligence, allowing health, healing and wellness to exist."

Members of the Touchstone Healing Co-op gather outside their Winlaw offices.

The healing modalities offered include reiki, acupuncture, chiropractic, reflexology, aromatherapy, massage, quantum biofeedback, flower essences, brain gym, Kirlian photography, craniosacral, and more.

The Touchstone Healing Co-op is based in Winlaw's Spicer Centre. To find out which practitioners are available during which hours call 226-7166.

Lucerne School invites all volunteers and community members to our annual Spring Tea, at the Lucerne Gymnasium, Wednesday, June 6.

12:45 - 2:00 pm
Contact
Paula Rogers
358-7222

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Silverton Mayor's Report

June 2007 will mark the halfway point in council's mandate and I am pleased we have accomplished many of the objectives we had set out for ourselves. Silverton's council has been very active in addressing the many needs of our residents.

One of our first tasks was to work with New Denver to integrate our fire departments. As with any combining of services there are bound to be some growing pains and differences in operational style. The former Silverton department was staffed by many of our senior citizens who gave many years of dedicated service. Some have decided it was time to retire. We are sad to see them retire and I and council give each one a vote of thanks. Chief Casely is a committed volunteer with many years of hands-on experience and is in the process of building a department that will be the pride of the Slocan Valley.

We have been experimenting with shared services with New Denver around use of the backhoe and garbage disposal. We will continue to pursue these opportunities as there are major cost savings to both Villages by combining some services.

The Memorial Hall renovations are proceeding along, although not as quickly as council had envisioned. A new septic field had to be installed to accommodate the expanded washrooms. New BC Building Code rules, engineering reports and architectural drawings are all adding to the delay. I am pleased to announce the Memorial Hall will be fully functional for the summer months. This time will give council a chance to review the renovations, reports and budget.

Council set about at the beginning of our term to build a strong Village administration, financial administration, and public works. It is the Village staff who provide the continuity between incoming and outgoing councils. It is also the Village administration that run the day-to-day business of the Village and make recommendations to council on matters before them. They need to be well trained and knowledgeable in the laws of municipal government. We are very fortunate to have a chartered accountant as our Chief Financial Officer who works two days a week.

Village finances are strong thanks to grants and increased small community funding. This has allowed us to reduce debt while adopting a pay as you go policy. 2006 saw a small surplus and we have budgeted to increase our reserves in 2007.

The Village staff members have seen their work load increase with the many grants, projects and the building boom we are currently experiencing. This past year alone we obtained the 2010 grant, water study grant, two tourism grants, emergency preparedness grant and have applied for a Towns for Tomorrow Grant of $500,000 and additional Memorial Hall funding for kitchen renovations from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.

Water has always been a priority for this council. Water safety and standards are always being raised and the last major work to the Silverton water system was in 2001/2002. WSA engineering recently presented a report to council. This was the basis of our Towns for Tomorrow Grant and included decommissioning the old water lines, many of which are still live, a new reservoir to augment the existing one, a second well, and a backup generator which has already been installed.

The Municipal Insurance Authority also did a study in 2006 making similar recommendations for improvement to the water supply and general security of Village properties. Monitored alarm systems have now been installed in key areas such as the water station and Memorial Hall. The Village has also improved building security through a new master key system. The cost of these items is small and we reap the benefits of lower insurance rates.

Emergency Preparedness was a project of former Councillor Masun (Griffths). This task has been taken on by the Village staff with the aid of a $5000 grant. The danger of spring flooding, forest fire or other disaster in the valley is very real. With an Emergency Plan everyone will know their role and the steps to take to provide for everyone's safety.

The Official Community Plan is in full swing with the third of our public meetings scheduled for May 29. Community input has been great so far but the more participation we can get the better the plan will be. This is your opportunity to directly impact the future growth of Silverton. The OCP is a bylaw that governs council decisions in the future.

Council is in the process of declaring the gallery and Village hall historical buildings. This designation will allow for more funding opportunities for these facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people of Silverton who contribute their time to volunteer around the village looking after parks and gardens, boulevards, displays, raising money and assisting the elderly. The gallery society, the historical society, the arena society, Destination Silverton, the Friends of Memorial Hall Society and the Silverton Community Club all contribute to making this the great community it is.

I encourage everyone to get out and vote in the byelection for your favourite candidate on June 2 and keep our Village moving forward.

Sono Nis seeks historic Slocan Valley photos for new book

submitted

Do you have historic photographs of the Slocan Valley? Following the success of the bestselling book *The Slocan: Portrait of a Valley* by Katherine Gordon, Sono Nis Press in Winlaw plans to publish another book about the history of the valley, this time using beautiful historic images of the area and its people.

The pictorial history will focus on the early years, from the 1880s through the 1930s (pre-war), and cover the area from Hills to Crescent Valley. In the future, Sono Nis also hopes to publish a photo history of the post-war years through to the 1970s. But for now, says publisher Diane Morriss, the work will concentrate on the earliest years. Local writer Rita Moir will search out the photos and write text and captions, working closely with Katherine Gordon as consulting editor. Gordon is also the author of the Slocan Valley-based book *The Garden That You Are*, due out this fall by Sono Nis.

"There were photos gathered for the first Slocan book that they couldn't squeeze in," says Moir. "And even in preliminary discussions in the Valley, we know there are great photos in people's collections that we haven't seen yet."

Moir is looking for photos of agriculture, mining, forestry, cultural events and experiences, family and community events (anyone have pictures of the community halls being built from 1880 to 1930s?), First Nations and Doukhobor life, women, business, arts, transportation, and other fascinating bits of local history.

If you have photographs, call Rita Moir at 226-7759 or email: ritamoir@netidea.com to set up an appointment to see your photos.

Winlaw workshop to teach artists the business of art

submitted

It's an old adage: art and business don't mix. Or do they? Find out at *The Art of the Business of Art* workshop, presented by Barbara Wilson's Art and Adventure series at the Winlaw Hall, May 25, 7 pm and May 26, 9 am to 4 pm. Learn to effectively present, exhibit, promote and sell your art.

Workshop presenter Ruth Payne is Director of Cultural Services for the City of West Vancouver and the curator of West Vancouver's popular waterfront Ferry Building Gallery.

This workshop is designed for artists with professional aspirations. It deals with portfolio presentation, media relations, gallery selection and finding out what galleries want and having a winning attitude. Biographies, artist statements, markets and alternative venues as well as the important matter of pricing work will be discussed. The workshop includes a complete manual, a workbook and a short private session with Ruth.

Complimentary Friday overnight accommodation is available. The cost is $100 plus $25 for materials and pre-registration is required. Please make cheques payable to Barbara Wilson, Box 201, Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0.

For information phone 250 226-0021 (leave a message) or email bewilson@telus.net.

Adham Shaikh and Pure Blend to play Vallican Whole

submitted

The parents and students of the Vallican Whole School are pleased to welcome Juno award nominee Adham Shaikh to the school for what promises to be the party of the year Saturday May 26. Doors open at 7:30 pm, tickets $10 at the door. This is an all-ages dance, children 12 and under free.

Playing the opening set will be the Slocan Valley's own Pure Blend – sure to get the crowd up on its feet with feel-good funky grooves and a dash of Kootenay soul.

Adham's DJ sets have rocked dance floors with an energized fusion of tribal world rhythms. Blending styles and tradition from funk, electro, breaks, global psy-trans, down-tempo and dub to bhangra, afro beat and Arabic, Latin and Brazilian grooves, he brings the new world into acoustic perspective.

Over the years the Vallican Whole School has supported its community with many excellent community FUN-raisers. So make sure to get out and support this wonderful alternative school.

Slocan Valley Recreation offers Edible Valley Hike and Rock Walk

submitted

Slocan Valley Recreation is offering two great programs where you can discover the outdoor magic of the Slocan Valley.

On Sunday, June 3 from noon to 3 pm Michael Keefer returns to offer the Edible Valley Hike. This well-known ethno-biologist leads a walking tour through the vegetation of the moment in the Slocan Valley. Sample edible spring greens and learn about the identification and human uses of a wide variety of plant species, both native and introduced. Invasive species will be identified.

The following Saturday, June 9, from 9 am to 4 pm join geologist Lesley Anderton as she leads a Rock Walk to various sites in the West Kootenays. Learn about the geological history of the area and visit a variety of sites to discover garnets, galena, sapphires and other gems found locally. Transportation is necessary for this event.

To learn more and to register contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008. These programs fill quickly so register today.

Students at Brent Kennedy school joined their voices with those of more than 600,000 of their peers from every province and territory for Music Monday on May 7. This was the third annual nation-wide simultaneous concert to celebrate music education in our schools. The country was united by the singing of Our Song at 10 am in our time zone.

Local gem miner Rod Luchansky and geologist Lesley Anderton recently donated their instructor fees from Gemfields of the Slocan Valley courses offered through the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission to the purchase of resource books for Slocan Valley elementary schools. Gemstones of the World and The Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals can now be found at WE Graham, Winlaw and Brent Kennedy Schools. Here Rod Luchansky is seen donating the books to Brent Kennedy School principal Al Auringer and school librarian Sue Hendry. Rod is well known in valley schools from many years of talks and rock walks with students on local geology, gemology and mining history.

Village of Silverton
Official Community Plan 2007

All residents are invited to attend this important meeting

Community Consultation Workshop & Open House

create a VISION
define PRIORITIES
share INFORMATION

Tuesday, May 29th
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Silverton Memorial Hall

Hosted by the Village of Silverton and Smart Growth BC
Refreshments will be served

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ADVISORY SERVICES

New Denver council, May 8: Animal Control Bylaw amendment to be drafted

by Leah Main

•Mayor Wright asked for a motion directing staff to prepare an amendment to the Animal Control Bylaw for council's consideration. The amendment would allow a certain number of goats by special permit within the Village of New Denver. The motion was made and passed after much discussion, with Councillors Bunka and Greensword opposed. When the bylaw amendment is brought to council, more detailed discussion can take place.

•Public Works has looked at the possibility of providing more power at Centennial Park for the Garlic Fest and other events, and reported that it can be done if the organizations provide a portable power box for distribution.

•A letter of resignation from the fire department from Ron Provan was received and accepted with thanks. Council also received a memo from Silverton CAO Junko Ida advising that Alan Laktin had also resigned from the department, due to his recent retirement.

•Bylaw No. 613, Council Remuneration and Expenses, was adopted as amended. Annual remuneration for the mayor is $5,000 and for councillors, $2,750, retroactive to January 1, 2007.

•Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives funding was approved for: Valhalla Summer School of Music, $400; May Days Committee, $1,000; PALS, $300.

•Council's 2006 and 2007 Statement of Objectives and Measures shows that the following 2006 projects were completed: Centennial Park Plan, Health Centre gym, expanded contract fire services, community sound system, and Mori Trail improvements; ongoing but on schedule are the sidewalk program and the OCP/zoning review. New goals for 2007 include a community works program, Centennial Park development, review of rates and fees structures, and the Towns for Tomorrow program.

•The Village will retain ownership of the small storage building in the Public Works yard. Neighbouring Sweet Dreams owners had asked to acquire the shed; they will be advised that they can use the building for storage.

•Councillor Bunka has met with both the museum society and the Nikkei society regarding grants for re-roofing their buildings, and said there is a lot of energy for this project. They will also undertake a five-year projection and review process for ongoing issues.

•Councillor Greensword reported that she found the opportunity to meet with other representatives from small communities, and the 'Branding' seminar at the AKBLG (Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Government) conference very beneficial. The conference will send a resolution regarding local resident homeowners' tax rebate to UBCM for further consideration.

•A request was received from Vallican Whole School to reserve a block of campsites at the Centennial Park Campground for June 1-2. They will be advised that the campground does not accept reservations.

New Denver taxes up four percent

by Jan McMurray

The Village of New Denver will collect $137,605 in taxes in 2007, up 4% from last year's $132,329. This amounts to $5,275 more tax revenue than last year.

How that translates to individual property owners depends on assessments. Residential assessments in the Village have jumped by $13,085,900. New Denver's total residential assessment is $52,378,350 this year. Business assessments increased by less than $1 million.

The residential mill rate is 2.41($241 per $100,000 assessed value) and 4.83 ($483 per $100,000 assessed value) for business. Last year, mill rates were 3.07 (residential) and 6.13 (business).

The 2007 budget shows a total revenue of $1,168,720. The small communities protection grant from the Province will be $243,553 this year, up from last year's $200,513.

The budget includes the $147,280 Towns for Tomorrow project to improve the stormwater drainage system; and more than $40,000 for improvements to Centennial Park, including a 24' extension to the boat ramp, a gazebo and a new playground. The grant funding for these projects is yet to be confirmed. The Village will use $98,918 of its reserve funds to contribute to these two projects, as well as to purchase half of Silverton's backhoe, if approved.

The Village of New Denver will pay $16,234 in police tax this year.

The budget and tax bylaws were adopted at a May 14 special meeting.

Mirror Theatre competes in zone finals

by Geordie Rice

The Mirror Theatre Group, based in Fauquier, competed in the zone finals in Revelstoke over the long weekend and won the 'Best Newcomer' award. They performed David French's one-act, two-actor play *Salt Water Moon*, a love story set in 1920s Newfoundland.

The two actors were Jenny Konkin and Finlay Charles-Lundaahl. The play was directed by Alyshia Gustafson, and Connor Gustafson is the lighting technician. All four of these talented young people are Nakusp Secondary School students, and have been able to gain credits for this production through the school's 'Navigator' class.

The group will perform *Salt Water Moon* locally at the beginning of June. They will perform in Fauquier on June 1, Burton on June 2, and the Nakusp Bonnington on June 3.

Salt Water Moon tells the story of Jacob Mercer and Mary Snow, two people who reunite after a long period apart. Both characters have something they must deal with from the past before they can be together once more.

The winner of the zone finals was the Salmo group with their play *Atlantis*. They will go on to the Main Stage Festival in Kamloops for the next level of the competition.

Last year, Mirror Theatre entered the zone finals with *The Good Doctor* and although they did not win the competition, were chosen to attend the Main Stage Festival for a workshop.

The zone finals in Revelstoke are the first step in the competitive circuit, with entry achieved by groups signing up to compete then selecting the play they wish to perform.

Barry Gray of the Procter Storytelling Festival shares a tale with students at Brent Kennedy Elementary. Gray helped Grade 3 and 4 students develop their own stories of family and community for the school's Fine Arts Week. The project was co-funded by the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and Brent Kennedy School.

Asbestos causes Kaslo Village office to close

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Village office has been closed because asbestos has been found in the main office, building inspector's office and the two bathrooms.

The Village website says the office will be closed for renovations throughout the May Days weekend. It is hoped to be reopened on May 23 for reduced hours only between 8 am and noon weekdays until further notice. Until the end of May, all scheduled council and committee meetings will be held at the Kaslo Seniors Hall at regular times.

At the May 8 council meeting, CAO Rae Sawyer reported that on May 6, Grayhawk Industries Ltd., an asbestos abatement firm from Kelowna, made the areas safe by taping and spraying. WorkSafe did air testing May 4; results were expected May 9.

Grayhawk provided a quote for $7,650 plus GST to remove the problem linoleum. Efforts were being made to schedule this work and to make plans for replacing the flooring.

The West Kootenay Boundary Spirit of BC Regional Committee held an official launch of this book, created to market our region to Olympic athletes worldwide, on May 9 at the Sandman Hotel in Castlegar. Pam Lewin, chair of the committee and Audrey Polovnikoff, vice-chair, reported that the book will be sent out to 40 different countries.

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Dandelion Energy Ltd. is pleased to announce that it will be holding a Public Open House Meeting in Passmore.

This meeting is part of the requirements of the application process for an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the development of the Koch Creek run-of-river green non-storage hydroelectric power project. The Open House Meeting is intended to inform all members of the public about the Project and to provide a forum under which the public learn first hand about the Project and to provide a forum for comment. Copies of the Application as well as other information will be available for viewing at the Public Open House Meeting.

This meeting will be conducted at the time and location as indicated below. All are welcome to attend:

Public Open House Meeting in Passmore, BC
Saturday, May 26, 2007
5:30 - 8:00 pm
Passmore Hall

Dear Jan and Dan,

I just wanted to drop a note thanking you for your help with the flyer I sent out in your paper for the Employer Wage Subsidy Program. I've tried many different ways of advertising my program, but this has by far been the most effective way. I have received many phone calls regarding the flyer and am pleased that so many employers have had an opportunity to learn about this program.

Thanks again, and I'll be sure to use this method of advertising again in the future.

Susan Gustafson
Community Coordinator
Employer Wage Subsidy Program
Outreach Employment Services
ASLCS

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KCDS Selkirk College PACIFIC INSIGHT

Human Resources Development Canada has contributed funding to this initiative

nelson

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KOHAN GARDEN USE

The Village of New Denver and the SLUGS remind all that pre-reservation is required for any group activity in the Kohan Garden. Inquiries to Barb Yeomans, yeomansb@netidea.com or Ray Nikkel, slugs@netidea.com

Thank you

Nakusp Community Park Landscape Architect/Call for Submission

The Nakusp Roots Music Society (NRMS) is now inviting Landscape Architects to submit their letter of interest to participate in this new community park creation project in downtown Nakusp. Any submission can be either faxed or mailed, hand delivered or emailed.

Closing date for submissions is Fri., June 1 at 4 pm PST.

Project includes the creation of a fully serviced new campground, the construction of a permanent stage and seating and a town square. Call us for a detailed project description and scope of work.

A pre-work meeting on site will be mandatory before any tenders will be accepted. Viewing date/site inspection will be between June 5 – 8, 2007. Exact date and time T.B.A.

Nakusp Roots Music Society (NRMS)
119 Broadway Street/P.O.Box 559 , Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0
Phone: (250) 265-2141 or 1-877-265-5565. Fax: (250) 265-2142.
Email: info@nakuspmusicfest.ca

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Friday, June 1st

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New Denver celebrates 100th May Days

Ann Mott wore her usual bright smile as she was named one of New Denver's Citizens of the Year.

Miss New Denver 2007 is Erika Turner (centre) and princesses are Amy Schpakowski (left) and Eva Shandro-Wictorin (right). Amy won the talent award for her photography and Eva won the title of Miss Congeniality.

New Denver's Centennial May Days parade consisted of one excellent float after another. This one is the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre's.

The three-legged race is one of the all-time favourites of all the kids' races at May Days.

Bev and Ken Casley were honoured with the Citizen of the Year award at New Denver's Centennial May Days celebrations. Ken was unfortunately not able to attend. This couple has contributed so much to this community over so many years that many of us wonder if New Denver would even be here today without them.

Constable Dale Sheets was doused more than once in the dunk tank, earning the nickname 'Dunk Tank Dale.'

PHOTO CREDIT: TAIRA MURPHY

Rayn Butt gave it all he's got at the beach volleyball tournament, a new event this year.

Quade Nicholson-Chodat speeds down the main street of New Denver in his soapbox car.

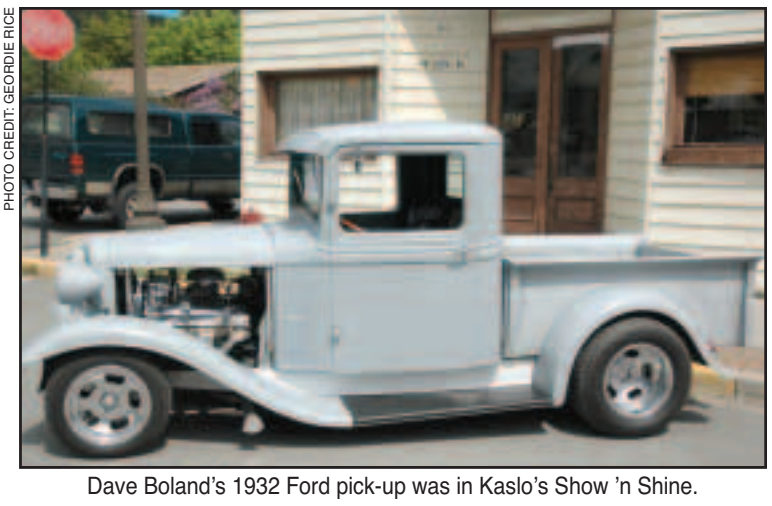
Angela Ryu and her chums from grades 2-4 did a great job of the Maypole dance.

Kaslo's 115th annual May Days celebrations, May 19-21, 2007

PHOTO CREDIT: KAYDA MCCUAIG

Kaslo royalty rides down Front Street in the May Days parade. In front: 2007 Kaslo May Queen Christina Dixon. In back, L to R: 2007 Kaslo Princesses Erin Sutherland, Miss Congeniality Grace Carpenter, Alysa Addison.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE



Dave Boland's 1932 Ford pick-up was in Kaslo's Show 'n Shine.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

Jordan Meeker demonstrates rock drilling with a 1905 2 3/4 inch 'James Cooper' rock drill at Kaslo's 115th May Days celebrations.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

And they're off! The canoe race was a new event at Kaslo's May Days this year.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

This motorcycle, custom-built by Ron Scroggins from Silverton, was at Kaslo's Show 'n Shine.

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Nakusp arena needs both a new floor and a new roof

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp's arena / parks manager Jason Chernoff brought council some bad news about the arena floor and roof. He stressed more than once that staff would do absolutely everything they could to get the facility ready to go in September for hockey, figure skating and the other winter arena programs.

Chernoff has discovered that the lines under the concrete slab floor that carry brine, a secondary coolant, are leaking. Chernoff's plan is to pressure test the system to locate the leaks. Then, the fix will be to either insert a smaller tube into the existing leaky line, or, if the exact points of leaking are found, to break up the concrete slab at those points and replace the leaking sections of the line.

However, these would just be "quick fixes." The real problem, Chernoff reminded council, is that the slab is at the end of its life. "Starting March 2008, we want everything in place to replace the slab," he said. He was wary of quoting a price for the slab replacement, but said it would cost over $500,000. When the need for a new slab came to council's attention last year, a reserve fund was started. There is $20,000 in that fund.

RH Strong and Associates and Royal Sun Alliance Insurance visited the arena on May 8. Lafleur said the Municipal Insurance Authority would let the Village know by the end of the month if the repair or replacement work could be covered by insurance. RH Strong was concerned that the "cheap fix" would result in water pooling on the ice surface. Jason echoed this concern, but reiterated that he wanted the facility up and running in September. "We don't want to shut it down," he said.

Also, the roof needs to be replaced, at a cost of about $288,000. A "highly referenced" contractor from the Okanagan did a thorough investigation with Chernoff and "we found considerably more water than we expected." The contractor recommends interlocking steel roofing, with no screws. Mahoney reported that there are no reserve funds for this. It was budgeted for in 2008 and 2009, but would have to be done through borrowing.

CAO Bob Lafleur, in a telephone interview, said the Village was looking at over $1 million to replace both the roof and floor.

Burton School outdoor program discontinued

by Geordie Rice

The outdoor education pilot program for grade 5/6 students at Burton Elementary has been discontinued.

A motion to continue the program for the 2007/2008 school year was defeated at a special meeting of the School District 10 board on May 16. Only Bill Hilton, trustee for the southern zone, voted to continue the program.

The primary factor in the decision was low enrollment, despite the success of the program last year.

"I consider this program to be a huge success for our district. I'm very proud of what it's done, and I don't think there is any failure in it at all. What we're looking at is low enrollment," said SD10 board chair Pattie Adam.

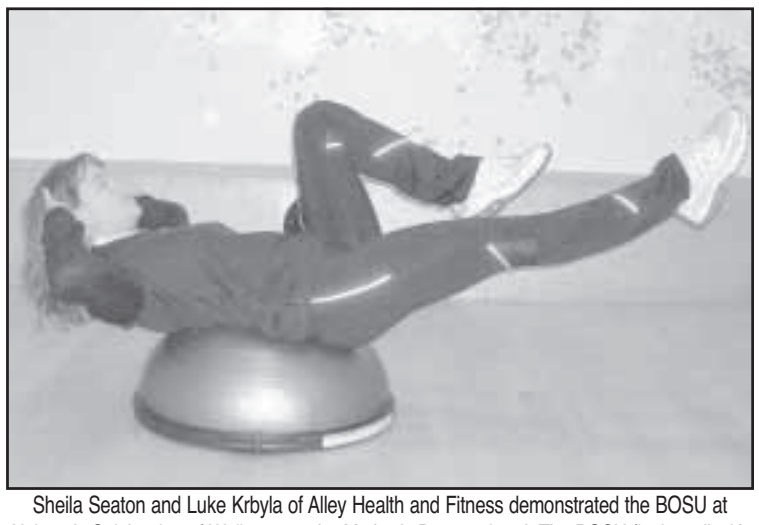
The program began last year with 24 students and had 19 as at April 30. Three of these students moved out of the area and two went back to Nakusp Elementary. This year, only 12-13 students have enrolled and the board does not feel these numbers justify the cost of continuing the program. The major cost is the teacher.

Some people who attended the meeting asked about moving the program to Nakusp Elementary. The board said that could be considered, but quite a bit of ground work would have to be done and time is running out, as staffing and budgeting decisions are now being made for next year. In fact, the board continued, the original deadline to register for the program was the week before the meeting, so leaving this decision to such a late date was "pushing it."

Supporters of the program also pointed out that closing the program after a single year did not give the program a chance to flourish. They suggested that Nakusp students spend a day in the Burton class, noting that it may be ignorance of the program that has prevented more students from enrolling.

The board expressed a willingness to consider running the program again in the future, and stressed that it is only the Burton outdoor ed program that is being cancelled. The grade 5/6 outdoor education program at Lucerne will continue, as will the regular K-4 program at Burton Elementary.

"You couldn't find more people that are more proud of the successful program that we've offered in our history," said chairperson Adam.



Sheila Seaton and Luke Krbyla of Alley Health and Fitness demonstrated the BOSU at Nakusp's Celebration of Wellness on the Mother's Day weekend. The BOSU fits in well with Seaton's philosophy that "the word 'fitness' should be permanently fused to the word 'fun.'" BOSU classes are offered at the gym, and are appropriate for people of all fitness levels.

Computer Problem?

Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn

250-265-2163

Members of the Nakusp Rotary Club gathered in Nakusp's Community Park on May 9 to plant an "Autumn Blaze" Maple Tree in conjunction with Nakusp Pride Week, May 6-13.

Nakusp and Area Community Foundation

Working Together to Build a Better Future

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Foundation is once again preparing to distribute our funds and Vancouver Foundation LEAD grants to qualified applicant organizations with projects that will benefit the communities of Nakusp and Area

A "letter of interest," briefly describing your project must be submitted by May 31st, 2007 to the Foundation, c/o randyiris@telus.net or to Box 15, Nakusp, BC

For further information about how to qualify as a grant recipient and in preparing a "letter of interest" call Barb 265-3053 or Randy 265-0088.

Spirit of Writing Festival

Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2
Selkirk College, 411 Broadway Street, Nakusp, BC

Fees:
Members of The Federation of BC Writers: $65 /both days, $40/one day
Non-members: $75/both days, $45/one day

Contact Person:
Anne Strachan
Box 867, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
sisinwriting@hotmail.com
www.spiritofwriting.blogspot.com

Workshops:

Poetry: Acts of Courage
Susan Andrews Grace, visual artist, creative writing teacher and poet (*Flesh, A Naked Dress*)

Writing on the Wild Side
Deanna Kawatski, author of *Clara and Me* and *Wilderness Mother*

Opening the Work and Say the Word
Two different workshops by Harold Rhenisch, author of 20 books including *The Wolves at Evelyn*, BC Book Prize finalist

The Writing Scene: BC Style
Alan Twigg, literary historian, publisher of *BC BookWorld*, Shadbolt Fellow (SFU)

Friday evening: Coffee House and readings by invited authors
Saturday evening: Dinner and Open Mic

Project assistance provided with the generous assistance of:
The Federation of BC Writers
Selkirk College Nakusp
Nakusp Public Library

Spirit of Writing Festival gearing up for June

submitted

The Federation of BC Writers and the Arrow Lakes Writers are presenting the Spirit of Writing Festival at Selkirk College in Nakusp June 1 and 2. Anyone with an interest in writing, whether beginning, emerging, or published, is welcome.

The festival includes two days of diverse writing workshops with Deanna Kawatski (*Writing on the Wild Side*), Harold Rhenisch (*Opening the Work; Say the Word*), Susan Andrews Grace (*Poetry: Acts of Courage*) and Alan Twigg, publisher of *BC BookWorld* (*The Writing Scene: BC Style*).

Friday evening the public is invited for dessert, coffee and readings presented by workshop leaders. Saturday evening there is a dinner for festival participants (included in festival fees) and an Open Mic Session and Coffeehouse, to which the public is invited. Evening readings take place at the Senior Citizen's Hall.

Project assistance is provided by the Federation of BC Writers, Selkirk College Nakusp, and the Nakusp Public Library.

For more information pick up a brochure at the Nakusp Public Library, go online at www.spiritofwriting.blogspot.com, or contact Anne Strachan at 265-3192.

Regional Rec. Commission No. 4

Help Wanted

Regional Recreation Commission #4 is hiring for Summer Day Camp for Kids

Program Supervisors

Applicants must have a current student status and must be attending school again in the fall.

Position will be approximately 8 weeks. Rate of pay will be based on experience.

Please send resumés to:

Recreation Commission #4
Box 613, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0
email: mushroom@columbiacable.net
Closing date for applications – June 8, 2007

For additional information, contact Anita Sinclair, 265-3584.

Nakusp council, May 8: Going for a grant for hot springs phase two renos

by Jan McMurray

•Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering has recommended that phase two of the hot springs renovations not be tendered right away, as he is looking into a federal Green Fund grant for the project. The Village would not be eligible for the grant if the work had already started. Phase two mainly involves converting the heating source from oil to in-floor heating with hot springs water. Lafleur mentioned that the cost of oil for a three-month period was $15,000. The Green Fund grant will cover 100% of the project cost. Shephard will attend the next meeting to provide details.

•Councillor Mueller reported on the hot springs committee. The committee recommended that council ask the Ministry of Forest to protect the hot springs water source area from further logging operations. She also reported that the committee is concerned about the facility's financial situation. Dropping visitor numbers and increasing energy costs led to a deficit for the first quarter of 2007. "It is hoped that phase two renovations will reduce the energy cost," she stated in her written report. The committee again discussed the governance model, and would like to have an in-depth discussion with council about this in the near future.

•On the agreement with BC Hydro for wharf access, Lafleur reported that the Village lawyer had received a revised draft back from Hydro. "They have removed the ability to terminate the contract. They want to maintain control," he said. He pointed out that water levels were rising and soon no work would be able to be done until next year. "I would recommend we do interim repairs and keep the bills."

Council decided to have a teleconference with the lawyer and meet with BC Hydro representative Harry Brownlow on May 16.

•Councillor Dahlen expressed concern about the Mixed Martial Arts tournament. She said she had heard about one of these events in Vernon, and there was fighting in the stands and outside the venue. "It was a disaster," she said. "I feel strongly that we shouldn't have this." Mayor Hamling said she was surprised to hear this, because the event organizers assured council that the event would not be violent. Council asked the CAO to consult with Vernon RCMP and bring the information to the next meeting.

•Lafleur provided a copy of Vancouver's bylaw on street vending to help council with its efforts to have food and drink available at the beach. Council asked Lafleur to bring Nelson's bylaw to the next meeting, as Vancouver's was too complex.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the funding for the position of Community Projects Co-ordinator (CPC), held by Beth McLeod, would be depleted by May 27. She said she would like to see the Nakusp and Area Development Board (NADB) fund the position to at least September if no other funding became available. NADB would like to see the position continue, and is in favour of using the Village's tourism grant funding for this again this year. Last year was the first year of this funding program, and the Village created the CPC position with the funds.

•School District 10's request for a letter of support for phase two of the Community Connections program was granted. This program provides school districts with funding to explore partnerships with municipalities and other community groups. Phase two will entail the creation of a Community Learning Council to develop, co-ordinate and deliver educational, health, family support and training options to the residents of the Arrow Lakes school district. Partners include the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Selkirk College and the Columbia Basin Trust.

•School board chair Pattie Adam and superintendent Walter Posnikoff attended as a delegation to give a general overview of the school district and the challenges of declining enrollment. They will also attend New Denver and Silverton council meetings with the same presentation.

•Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue asked to use an area beside the airport hangars to set up a training and assembly trailer. In exchange, they will clean up the site, where there is currently an old trailer and other items. Council was happy to grant the request, but expressed concern that the Village may want to develop that site in the future. Staff will draft a lease for $1 that will accommodate this concern.

•Delterra Engineering has applied for Gas Tax funding for the water treatment and sewage treatment projects. As the applications were amended March 28 and April 4, council passed two resolutions in support of the amendments.

For the water treatment project, the Village has applied for $1,320,910 to build a Brouse Creek water treatment plant. April 4 amendments include requesting an additional $293,202 to add a 49KW micro-hydro system using existing water system piping. Additional operating costs are estimated at $12,000 per year for the treatment equipment, which will be covered by the operating surplus in the Village water operating budget.

For the sewage treatment project, the Village has applied for $641,586 to upgrade the sewage treatment plant to a lake discharge. March 28 amendments include requesting an additional $238,500 to add water reclamation for green space irrigation using treated sewage effluent. Additional operating costs are estimated at $6,000 per year for the treatment equipment, which will be covered by the operating surplus in the Village sewer operating budget.

Downtown Nakusp has been on the new well water system since the beginning of May.

•Councillor Dahlen reported that the Cultural Community of Nakusp and Area was not successful in its application for $30,000 in 2010 Live Sites funding for the arena auditorium revitalization project.

•In his search for funding for a washroom for people with disabilities at the arena, CAO Bob Lafleur contacted representatives from the 'Measuring Up' funding program of 2010 Legacies Now. He was advised that Nakusp should join the '10 x 10 Challenge' to have a better chance of success with a funding application. Council decided to join, making a commitment to help meet the target of increasing employment for persons with disabilities by 10% by 2010. Councillor Switzer was named the community 'champion' or leader of this challenge.

•Lafleur brought forward information from the Dimestore Fishermen, a television production that travels to communities to film the fishing, accommodations and other amenities for a half-hour show. It would cost $8,900 to bring the crew in to Nakusp. Councillor Mueller said she would take this information to the Chamber, which had shown interest in this, but was under the impression that the Village would get funding for participating.

•Council decided to review the draft Development Cost Charge bylaw with the CAO in a separate meeting. Council aims to have the bylaw adopted by the time the OCP bylaw is adopted.

•Council agreed to work with the Regional District on an application for funding for a program to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus.

•Council agreed to pass a resolution in support of a memorial wall for Canada's fallen.

Nakusp Wellness Fest attracts over 200

by Art Joyce

Nakusp's first Celebration of Wellness festival was a success, reports co-organizer Beverly Darnell, with an attendance of 227 for the weekend of May 12-13. "We were happy because it didn't have an overwhelming feel or an underwhelming feel, so it was just right. People that came stayed a long time to try out different sessions from different practitioners."

The three goals of the organizing committee were awareness, sharing, and experience. Darnell said the compliments she received suggests the festival met these objectives, and was well organized, but that a low budget didn't allow for much advertising.

The educational talks by health practitioners were well received. Living Harvest Hemp Protein founder Charles Holmes of Vancouver spoke about the cause and removal of disease. Rose Basile of Courtney, author of *Raw Rose: the Uncooking Cookbook*, spoke on the importance of raw foods in a healthy diet. Larry Zaleski of Hand and Soul in Silverton explained 'the dawn of new healing.' Feedback surveys were well responded to, offering suggestions that next year's presentations include organic gardening and composting. The Nakusp Seniors Serenaders helped to pleasantly fill space between talks and the local youth orchestra provided soothing background music throughout.

Next year's festival is already on Darnell's mind. The committee has one guest speaker already confirmed and has invited several others. Many booth operators have asked to be invited back. More activities will be planned for kids – mini-events that teach children about health through play. There will also be more selections of healthy food to complement Kayte Rock's tasty Soup du Jar menu. "If the organizing committee had a good experience, and they really did, then that trickles down to the booth people and then to everyone else," says Darnell.

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Draft OCP presented to Trout Lake and Galena Bay residents

by Jan McMurray

About 60 Trout Lake, Galena Bay and Beaton residents gathered at the Trout Lake Community Hall on May 11 to find out what the first draft of their Official Community Plan was all about.

The power point presentation conveyed that for Trout Lake, the draft OCP recognizes the preferred community expansion areas above the existing elevation of the townsite. This area will be compact for cost effective construction of community water and sewer systems in the long term. It will be zoned Community Residential with minimum parcel sizes of 0.2 hectares.

The draft OCP also states the Regional District of Columbia-Shuswap (CSRD) will work with the local water system advisory group to find funding partners to upgrade the system. CSRD will also support the Trout Lake and Area Community Club.

For Galena Bay, the draft OCP recognizes the strong community interest in maintaining the rural character of Galena Bay. Rural holdings will have minimum lot sizes of 4 ha (10 acres). For new development, cluster developments will be favoured. The minimum lot size for single and two families in cluster developments is 2 ha, and 80% of the area must be protected as natural open space.

Probably the hottest topic at the meeting was the 10-acre minimum lot size for Galena Bay residents. One man said he had a 15-acre lot and wanted to subdivide it into three 5-acre lots for his sons. Consultant Jane Mastin explained that he could go to CSRD and apply to subdivide his land the way he wanted. "We are not saying you can't do it – we're just saying you have to go through the process."

During the discussion, Area B Director Loni Parker informed that the IHA will not approve a septic system on lots smaller than 2.5 acres (1 ha).

Parker and Mastin urged the people to send them their comments, to be worked into the next draft. Parker said, "If everybody in Galena Bay writes to us and says we don't agree with 4-ha. lots; we want development; we want condos, highways, etc., then we will put it into the plan. But that's not the feedback we received."

Someone else asked about public beach access. Mastin replied that this will be addressed in the parks plan, which will follow up the OCP.

The document is posted at www.csrd.bc.ca. Paper copies are also available at the Trout Lake General Store. Written comments are due by June 30. People can comment through the website, by writing to Jay Simons, Manager Development Services CSRD, 781 Marine Park Drive NE, PO Box 978 Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1 or by email to Jane Mastin at jmastin@true.bc.ca.

Honey Bear Bakery
Tues-Sat 9:00-5:00
311 7th Ave NW • Nakusp • 265-4633
Rear Alley Entrance

Summer Job Opportunity
Rest Area Enhancement Program

The Ministry of Transportation is inviting applications for a Youth Employment Program position from interested and qualified students. The successful applicant will work out of the ministry's Nakusp office.

If you are outgoing and have a positive attitude; enjoy working outdoors and interacting with the public; and are able to perform such duties as painting, weeding, mowing and serving as an "ambassador" to the travelling public, consider applying for our Youth Employment Program Rest Area Enhancement Project.

Applicants must be enrolled full-time at an accredited educational institute within the past six months, 19 years of age or older and have a Class 5 drivers license.

Take advantage of this opportunity to let us know what you have to offer.

Application acceptance closing date:
Monday, May 28, 2007, 4:30 p.m.

Send your resume (including three references) to:

Heather Sylchuck
Heather.Sylchuck@gov.bc.ca

Phone: (250) 354-6296
Fax: (250) 354-6547

For more information on this program please visit our web site at
http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/recruitment/youth_employment.htm

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Kaslo council, May 8: Provincial building repairs to be costed

by Jill Braley

•Council passed several motions with regards to the Provincial building: the anticipated use of the building was referred to the June 6 Planning & Development committee meeting; the public works foreman was directed to cost urgently needed repairs cited in the Lynch Building Inspection report; the municipality will advertise this list of urgently needed repairs before signing the Offer to Purchase; the municipality will advertise a list of repairs needed over time, pursuant to the Lynch report, with all costs to be incorporated into the Village of Kaslo five year financial plan.

It was also decided to reply to an email sent by Village lawyer Lori Staples on April 18 and ask her several questions about the legalities of the take-back lease.

•Marion Stewart, president of the Kaslo Housing Society, wrote to ask that Eric Clough, building designer, be permitted to review the plans of the provincial building. Clough did the original designs for the housing complex that was to be built on the land south of the Kaslo River, but because the costs of that project have increased substantially, the Society is looking at alternatives. Council will ask the Province for permission to allow a tour of the building by the Society.

•Linda Cole appeared as a delegation and presented a written package regarding the purchase of the Provincial building, which was received and forwarded to the Administration and Finance committee for a written response. (See p. 5 for Cole's presentation).

•Pat Mackle wrote to council regarding the purchase of the Provincial building. Mackle states that one could speculate the voters of Kaslo would like the Kootenay Lake Historical Society to continue as tenants in the building, that it should not fall into private hands and that the council chambers and offices should relocate there during the restoration of the City Hall.

•Anne Malik appeared as a delegation and presented a submission by the board of directors of the Kaslo & District Public Library Association regarding the library's future in the City Hall building. Her biggest concern is that when the City Hall is being renovated, the front door to the library remain in the plans. The door is not part of the original building. She urged council to enshrine the status of the City Hall building in the Official Community Plan. The Planning & Development committee will provide a written response to the board's concerns.

•Mark MacKenzie provided an update at the City Hall Conservation committee meeting. Quotes are still being sought for roofing contractors; an application is ready to be submitted for Heritage Conservation Planning funds; Trainor has updated a sprinkler system quote; artificial shakes for the building are being investigated, as are antitumescents for cedar shingles and low-impact exterior sprinkler system on the widow's walk. Louise de Pape was appointed to the committee.

•In his efforts to merge Kaslo and Area D's regional parks and recreation services, Area D Director Andy Shadrack wrote to council to confirm details of the merger before making a joint motion with Holland at the May 26 RDCK meeting to have staff draft a bylaw.

The proposed bylaw package would consider creating a single Parks and Recreation Commission to manage the proposed Ainsworth Wharf Park, Glacier Creek Regional Park and the new Kaslo Trail Regional Park.

•The Mayor and CAO were authorized to sign the Smart Growth Advisory Services Consulting agreement for $20,000 for planning services. The first Official Community Plan Review public meeting will be held May 28 at 6:30 pm at JV Humphries School's Lighthouse Theatre. Everyone is invited. Mapping, visioning, and discussing priorities and issues will take place.

•Council accepted the Kaslo & District Public Library's offer to disseminate information on the Official Community Plan review.

•The Village is looking into several issues at the beach, such as buoying an area around the swimming raft to keep boats and float planes away from swimmers, and limiting the length of berthing at the public wharf. In its efforts to research this, council received an email from Transport Canada regarding municipal jurisdiction on Kootenay Lake, and will ask the Union of British Columbia Muncipalities for information on enforcement and the use of public wharves. Deputy clerk Susan Van Zandt was asked to provide a report at the June 12 council meeting on designation of a non-motorized vessel zone at the public swimming beach.

•The Village will ask the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for information on dirt bike use on designated municipal trails.

•The Royal Canadian Legion advised council they can no longer do cemetery maintenance. A letter of thanks will be sent to Norman Garrett for his efforts to revive interest in a new volunteer cemetery committee, and Mr. Bill Seafoot will be thanked for his many years of commitment to the volunteer cemetery committee.

•The Village will provide a letter of support to the Langham Cultural Centre for its fundraising campaign to install a fire sprinkler system in the building.

•The Village will once again provide a $400 bursary for 2007 graduates.

•Council received an application from the Regional District of Central Kootenay for a new water service connection for residents of Victoria Avenue. The RDCK will be advised no new service connections will be considered until a formal agreement has been signed.

•The municipality will provide a letter of commitment to Gillian Sanders, Bear Smart Co-ordinator, for a grant application to the Columbia Basin Trust for $10,000. The CAO will approve the application before it is submitted.

•The Mayor and CAO were authorized to sign an agreement for $25,000 grant funding from the Ministry of Environment for 2007 flood works on the Kaslo River.

•The RDCK has informed the Minister of Finance of the concern that Kaslo is the only municipality on Kootenay Lake / Reservoir that does not receive BC Hydro grants in lieu of taxes.

•The following spring recreation grants were awarded: North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council $500; Langham Cultural Centre $500; Kaslo Golf Club $200; Kaslo Tennis Club $500; Kaslo Area Youth Council $800; Kaslo T-ball/Junior Baseball $250; Kootenay Lake Historical Society $250; Kaslo Chamber of Commerce $200; Kaslo Curling Club $200.

•Doug Stuckless applied for a business license for horse and buggy rides on weekends around Kaslo and the park. Administration will research this.

•A letter of support in principle will be provided to Bob Hennessy, Time-Line Sports Inc., to include Kaslo in an international cycling race in 2009.

•The Tax Rates Bylaw was read three times. The residential rate for municipal taxes is 3.52; the business rate is 9.51.

Hiway 6 Service closes – towing continues

by Jan McMurray

'Diamond Jim' is closing Hiway 6 gas and service station in Nakusp after 38 years, but continues his towing service at the same old phone number: 265-4644.

Known as an excellent mechanic who charges reasonable prices, he will be missed. "A very big thank you for all the support I've had over the years," said Jim. "It's been a pleasure to work with almost everybody. I've always said we need a bad customer every now and then so we can appreciate our good ones."

He told me his nickname came from one of his customers "because I reminded him of a Mississippi River boat gambler." When CBs were popular, that was his 'code name.' He remembered a time when someone couldn't find 'Diamond Jim' in the phone book and was not too happy to have to drive all the way to Nakusp to contact him.

The Hiway 6 property has sold to a private enterprise with a closing date of June 1. Jim said the new owners would not continue on with the gas and service business.

His longer term plans are to sell the towing business so he can retire and go fishing and concentrate on restoring his old cars. Jim grew up at Summit Lake and bought the business from Ted Savage 38 years ago.

YRB yellowhead road & bridge

YRB (Kootenay) Ltd. has an opening in our New Denver Shop for an auxiliary Heavy Duty Mechanic with an Authorized Inspector's Certificate. Applicants should have experience with trucks and heavy equipment, including hydraulics, welding, electrical and troubleshooting.

Send resumé along with a current driver's abstract to

Terry Wilton, Equipment Manager,
YRB (Kootenay) Ltd.
110 Cedar St.,
Nelson, BC V1L 5X7

or FAX to (250) 352-2172
Attention Terry Wilton

Application deadline: May 31, 2007

FORTISBC

Kootenay Lake Levels

For the benefit of Kootenay Lake area residents, the following lake levels are provided by FortisBC as a public service.

Date: May 16, 2007

Queen's Bay: Present level: 1747.00 ft.
7 day forecast: Up 12" to 18"
2006 Peak: 1751.21 ft / 2005 Peak: 1747.27 ft

Nelson: Present Level: 1745.21 ft.
7 day forecast: Up 12" to 18"

Levels can change unexpectedly due to weather or other conditions.

For more information, or to sign-up for unusual lake levels phone or email notifications, visit **www.fortisbc.com** or call **1-866-4FORTIS** (1-866-436-7847).

www.fortisbc.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA
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To: Duncan Reservoir Licensees and Riparian Owners

Re: Review of Duncan Dam Project Water Use Plan and Operating Order

Water licensees and riparian owners on Duncan Reservoir and Duncan River are hereby notified of pending decisions regarding the regulation of BC Hydro's storage on Duncan Reservoir. The decisions being considered are the acceptance of the Duncan Dam Project Water Use Plan (WUP) and the issuance of an order under Section 88 of the Water Act to implement the Water Use Plan.

Copies of the draft Duncan Dam Project Water Use Plan and order that would implement the plan are available for your review until June 29, 2007, at the Kaslo Library. The draft order is based on the operating parameters, studies and works proposed in the Water Use Plan.

The draft Duncan Dam Project Water Use Plan references a large number of feasibility studies and proposals for works in lieu of operational changes. Any management plans or works in lieu of operational changes which are dependent on the results of the above-mentioned feasibility studies are the subject of a future decision. While they are not part of this initial decision and therefore do not appear in the current order, they could still properly form part of the Water Use Plan accepted by the Comptroller of Water Rights and may be subsequently ordered.

This referral closes on June 29, 2007. Please submit any comments you wish the Comptroller of Water Rights to consider regarding the draft Water Use Plan or draft order to:

Anita Mathur
Water Use Planning
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9340, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1
e-mail: anita.mathur@gov.bc.ca

If a response is not received by June 29, 2007, it will be assumed that you have no comments regarding these documents.

Pieter Bekker
Project Director, Water Use Planning

Kootenay Co-op Radio wants you

submitted

Twice annually Kootenay Co-op Radio (KCR) runs a week-long membership drive – a time when all listeners are encouraged either to become members or to renew outdated memberships. This year's spring drive runs from May 28 to June 3. Members receive a number of perks, including the option to become trained programmers of their own shows on KCR.

Special drive events include a Grand Opening on June 2 of KCR's new home (since January 1, 2007) at 308 A Hall Street. Everyone is welcome to check out our new digs, enjoy coffee and goodies donated by local businesses, and catch some live radio, between 3 and 6 pm. Listen in to KCR (CJLY) at 93.5 FM throughout the week for member and sponsor appreciation days, and member discount hours.

KCR annual membership fees are $25 low income, $45 regular, $80 family, and $125 organization. The station also offers opportunities to make monthly donations. Pledges can be made by phoning 352- 9600, by visiting KCR at 308 A Hall Street, or by logging onto www.kootenaycoopradio.com.

Since first going on air six years ago, Kootenay Co-op Radio has come to fill a big place in the lives of many radio listeners, co-op radio volunteers, and the four part-time staff who hold the organization together. The member-owned station now produces award-winning programming and does not rely on government funding or corporate advertisers in order to do so. Instead, KCR depends on the revenue generated by its supporters, in the form of membership dues and sponsorships.

For more information call Bill Metcalfe or Terry Brennan at 352-9600.

GOLF COURSES

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,
New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$18.00**/9-holes, **$27.00**/18-holes,
Day Pass: **$40.00,** Weekly Rate: **$175.00**
RENTALS: Clubs and Pull carts available.
Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
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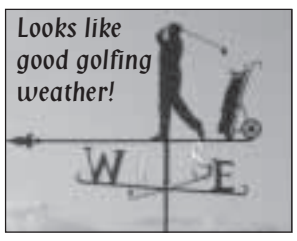
- VSA (Private), Sat. June 9: $15
- Johnny Tier, Sat. June 9: $15
- Club Open, Sun. Aug. 12: $40 members / $45 non-members*
- Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 8: $20/couple
- Club Closing, Sun. Sept. 23: $15

(* fee includes dinner)



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Stop in at *The Valley Voice* office in New Denver (across from the Credit Union on Main St.) to pick up a copy of *THE SILVERY SLOCAN HERITAGE TOUR GUIDEBOOK*, or a *SANDON PAYSTREAK* newspaper, and maybe even some helpful advice and handy tips about things to do in the area!

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• West Kootenay Park Management Inc. 1-866-937-5734 www.westkootenayparks.com
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GIFT SHOPS

Iona Cottage Guest House & Gift Shop is located in a charming heritage house at 407 'B' Avenue in the heart of downtown Kaslo. Unique, evolving and worthwhile, this shop features quality creations by local artisans and a line of Celtic giftware. The upper floor is a vacation rental guest suite. Call 353-2141 for details or visit www.ionacottage.ca

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• Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre (250) 358-7920 www.slocanlake.com/sandon
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• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288
The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the WWII internment story. Located in *The Orchard* in New Denver, open 7-days-a-week 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

• Arrow Lakes Historical Society Ph/Fax: (250) 265-0110 265-3323 alhs@netidea.com
e-mail: alhs@columbiacable.net Location: 92B - 7th Avenue NW (BC Hydro building). Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 3:00. Archives and publications. Best source for area history and family research.

• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201
The old Bank of Montreal building at the foot of Main Street, restored to circa 1900. Open Monday to Friday in June. 7 days/week in July and August. Special tours welcome. Please call 358-2201, 358-2478 or 358-2656 for further information. **A MUST SEE MUSEUM WITH DAILY TREASURE HUNTS FOR CHILDREN!** Hope we see you there.

Kaslo community forest AGM embraces new resolutions and board members

by Art Joyce

The competition wasn't exactly fierce to fill the blanks on the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society board at its AGM May 16, but the tone of the meeting was civil and democratic. Pat Mackle and Brodie Whitney were elected by acclamation to replace outgoing board members Steve Anderson and Kelly Abey. A third position is still vacant and the board will decide after meeting with its new members whether to fill the vacancy by appointment or by another call for candidates.

After the adoption of the minutes for the 2006 AGM, Robert Mitchell read out his director's report. Mitchell explained the "exhaustive, open, transparent process" of finding a woodlands manager. The board has hired the Monticola-Osprey team, selected from a shortlist of four applicants from a total of eight who applied. Mitchell reported that the society had been invited to apply for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) for area-based tenure and has so far received favourable response to the application from the Ministry of Forests (MoF). This tenure could eventually be replaced by a full-fledged Community Forest Agreement with a 25-99 year term, which is the board's ultimate goal. The PCFA application is awaiting input from First Nations before being resubmitted. Monticola-Osprey will be preparing the Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) now required by MoF to replace the outgoing Forest Development Plans. No logging or road-building has been done since the last AGM but that the board hopes to harvest cutblock 10 (Kemp Creek) by the end of the year and build the road into cutblock 13 (Kemball Creek) this fall. Outgoing treasurer Anderson was thanked for his five years of service to the board, "enduring some rough treatment over those years."

Mitchell then introduced the Monticola-Osprey team to the 30 or so attending members. The team consists of husband and wife team Rainer and Maureen Muenter, Dave Karassowitsch, and Richard Marchand, all Registered Professional Foresters except for Maureen, who is an accountant. Rainer Muenter worked in the national forest in Germany and met Maureen, a Calgary native, when he moved to Canada a few years ago. The couple have worked together on managing several forestry projects, including the Texada Island, Northern, and Erie Creek forest reserves, among others. Team members have an average of 20 years experience each in forestry management. Karassowitsch, Marchand and the Muenters came together as a team to do a salvage contract on Kootenay Lake during the past year and a half. Their goals for the Kaslo community forest, aside from regular operational planning, include a thorough safety program, a fire interface plan, recreational access, carbon footprint tracking, and foliage/soil sampling.

Steve Anderson presented the financial statement, explaining that the peak of $1.8 million in revenue in 2005 is unusual for a forest license of this size (10,000 cubic metres AAC). At an average of $70 in revenue per cubic metre, he says this represents an overcutting that is not sustainable from year to year. The 2006 revenue of $517,999 is considered more typical. As of January 2006 the society's net worth was $549,370 but by December 31 that amount had dropped to $280,772. Anderson attributes this loss to the $380,979 in community disbursements given out last year, which he called "reckless."

"We have an opportunity while we're making money to put something away in case something happened to our tenure like a forest fire or a massive beetle kill," said Anderson.

The meeting next moved into consideration of member resolutions. The first resolution, submitted by Erika Bird, calls for "revisions to the PCFA application to be presented to citizens of Kaslo and Area D for review and comment for 30 days, three weeks prior to submission to MoF..." The resolution was passed.

The second resolution, submitted by Andy Shadrack, also passed, but with an amendment and considerable debate. This resolution calls for a 5-member committee to review the society's constitution and bylaws, with committee members to be chosen at this AGM. Erika Bird and others objected to the inclusion of a constitutional review, so this was struck from the resolution. The members chosen for the bylaw review committee were Sean Kubara, Anne MacNab, Suzan Hewat, Bill Wells and Andy Shadrack.

A resolution was submitted by Pat Mackle to update the membership rules, proposing an elimination of dues. At present, members whose dues are outstanding are unable to vote at the AGM. Treasurer Anderson felt the proposed new rules could be an "accounting nightmare." After some debate the resolution did not pass.

The fourth resolution, also proposed by Erika Bird, dealt with special projects, proposing that projects worth more than $10,000 be put to the membership for approval. Current bylaws require only board approval. Bird argued that for projects of this size, accountability is a major consideration. Mitchell responded that the board is currently reviewing the society's disbursement policy. Board member Don Scarlett saw the resolution as "a cruise missile aimed at anything other than cutting down trees." It failed to pass.

The fifth and sixth resolutions proposed the building of a 'legacy fund' which protects the principal amount and disburses grants only from interest accrued. Anderson said he proposed the legacy fund in response to the former board's "reckless" disbursements policy. The sixth resolution supplies the mechanism for building the legacy fund from "a minimum of 50% of moneys budgeted for disbursements." He stressed that this did not necessarily mean 50% of profits earned in a given year. After some debate, Anderson changed the wording to read "from 50% of moneys allocated." Both resolutions passed with a clear majority.

Glacier Creek couple fights forestry order to remove horses

by Art Joyce

Gabriela and Mick Grabowsky are afraid the Ministry of Forests is threatening a wilderness lifestyle they have enjoyed for years, roaming with their horses in the Lardeau Valley. The Ministry of Forestry and Range recently sent a notice that reads: "Livestock observed on Crown land will be subject to seizure and sale under Section 68 of the Forest and Range Practices Act without further notification, and owners liable for further prosecution." The ministry has threatened to confiscate the horses unless the Grabowskys comply with the order.

Gabriela Grabowsky questions whether this is a wise use of taxpayers' money when the horses are not causing any damage. She says there was no direct contact with her from the Ministry of Forests until 2003, when there were complaints about horses "running at large." She went to the ministry office in Nelson with an advocate from the Nelson Advocacy Centre when she received the recent notice, asking for a grazing permit application. She was told the Kootenay Lake forest district doesn't issue these permits, that she would have to write to the district manager in Cranbrook for an application, but that she probably doesn't fit into the grazing category. To qualify for a grazing permit you need at least 40 animals, but Grabowskys only have 16, not counting foals, plus two milk cows and two calves.

"You can have a piece of paper to destroy the wilderness but not enjoy it. It's a part of Canadian heritage to wander the wilderness with horses," she says.

Grabowsky contends that the misunderstanding lies in the perception that the horses are being let loose to graze the rich bottomland below the Duncan dam reservoir when in fact the horses are always accompanied by herself or Mick on camping trips. This year the Glacier Creek road has been closed, so her only access to her home is by horse. Grabowsky is on a disability pension for osteo-arthritis and says she can ride better than she can walk. It's a three-hour ride from her land to the post boxes and telephone.

Besides, she explains, "My horses are my life. It's a dying art and horse-packing is a skill that's being lost."

Grabowsky worked as a social worker in New Zealand for five years and holds an BA in English from Queen's University. She decided she needed to head for the mountains and clean water of the Kootenays in the early '80s, when she met Mick Grabowsky in Kaslo. She used to have a business rehabilitating horses but is now raising her own heritage breeds, Suffield mustangs, as well as breeding her own 'evolutionary' stock from Shires and quarterhorses. Grabowsky says she's training them to survive in a mountain and forest environment.

Grabowsky moved to the Lardeau Valley after being forced out of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy in 1988 when the Grabowskys were told by government officials they couldn't use their horses to run their guide outfitting business in the park. They moved to Rock Creek to operate Happy Trails Packers and Outfitters but found the water quality poor for horses and the fencing on range land obtrusive and decided to move back to the Kootenays in the early '90s.

Grabowskys' property is the only private land on the route to the proposed Jumbo ski resort, and is near the Glacier Creek microhydro project, two facts she suspects factor into the situation. She has consulted with lawyer Donald Skogstad, who is looking into the legal issues. "I just want to be able to be on the land and explore the place I live. All I'm asking for is a little compassion and common sense."

Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake invites public to AGM

submitted

The Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake (CFNKLS) holds its third Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 1 at 7 pm in the Langham Theatre in Kaslo. There will be reports from 2006 grant recipients, cheques presented to 2007 recipients, and an update on board activities. A full slate of officers will be presented for 2007-08. Memberships will be for sale ($10 each), and refreshments will be served.

CFNKLS will be making grants of $8,633 in 2007. The group has received a $1,000 Lead Grant from the Vancouver Foundation via the Osprey Community Foundation. There will also be $4,346 disbursed from the McKinnon Family Fund to the Kaslo Library, the Kaslo Victorian Hospital, and a bursary to a graduating student to pursue vocational training. This totals $12,979 in benefits to North Kootenay Lake Communities for 2007.

All these grants come from interest that is generated from endowment funds. Total endowments at present are $265,025, broken down as follows: CFNKLS General Endowment Fund $161,175; McKinnon Family Fund $90,000; Child, Youth, & Family Fund $6,000; Senior's Fund $7,850.

The McKinnon Family was the catalyst that got the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake going. Many other donors have contributed to the endowment funds, including the Vancouver Foundation and the Columbia Basin Trust.

The Langham features Kaslo artist Rielle Oswald

submitted

The Langham Art Gallery will be presenting *Cohesion* – an art exhibition by Kaslo artist Rielle Oswald, with an opening reception on Friday, June 8 from 7-9 pm. Her work will show until July 15.

Cohesion, in physics, is the force that holds together molecules, and in botany, the process in some plants of parts growing together that are usually separate With this collection, the 33-year-old Oswald has woven together elements of old and new work, resulting in cohesive visual images from different points in time. She sees the process of creation as organic, flowing, a wave pattern like light, sound, and heartbeats.

"Throughout our lives, there are moments of opposites; positive/negative, male/female, conflict/resolution but to sustain ourselves as humans, we look for balance and understanding – cohesiveness. I have come to understand that we are all connected in our search for cohesion."

Green TaRa to perform at the Langham

submitted

Green TaRa will be playing the Langham Theatre on Sunday, June 3 at 7 pm. She is an engaging performer who combines vocal charm and tight musicianship with solid songwriting, powerful messages and a guaranteed good time.

NOW Magazine describes her as an artist "with the sass of both Jill Scott and Alanis Morrissette." A Canadian recording/touring artist, Green TaRA was recently named 'Best of the Fest' for the Austin Woman's Film, Music and Literary Festival. She has shared the stage with Spearhead's Michael Franti, K-os, Jully Black, K'naan, Kelis, Big Sugar and Medusa among others, and has opened for legendary artists such as De La Soul and Little Richard.

Tickets are $12 and available at Sunnyside Naturals.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Cycling the Three Forks to Alamo Loop

As the snow melts back and the trails firm up, some of the most popular and easy-to-reach trails are now getting regular use. What I'd like to do now is remind people about another fine intermediate level loop ride that has history, scenery, adventure and access.

The Galena Trail itself was greatly upgraded in 1994 with work bees, grant money, some Katimivik workers and great volunteer and corporate efforts. At Alamo Crossing the collapsed train trestle had been a great barrier but was remedied with the popular cable car feature. Combining this new structure with a small bridge at Three Forks allowed riders and hikers to make the trip from New Denver some eight kilometres to the east end at Three Forks.

Besides the old CPR grade up Carpenter Creek there is also the old Sandon Road that stays on the south side of Carpenter Creek from downtown New Denver and climbs up slope before finally descending to the Three Forks junction. Many locals know and ride this trail and although I've written about it before, it deserves annual recognition.

Starting this loop from the Three Forks end makes it easier for me to describe, plus the parking lot there is large and conspicuous as you have just pulled off Highway 31A and got onto the gravel. Down the trail and under the log archway with the pamphlet stash, you come to the small bridge over Carpenter Creek, which now has an improved deck but which might be threatened by this year's high water. Just a bit further up the trail you'll pass a trail signed 'Sandon – trail not maintained' though you will actually return via this connector. The mainstem Galena Trail is easy and obvious through to the Alamo mill and cable car.

But just before the mill site and signpost, there is a picnic table and this is where to bear left and get off the bike for the one kilometre climb to the Sandon Road via the Alamo Wagon Road, which actually goes way the heck up Howson Creek to the Queen Bess, Idaho and other claims. It's best to simply walk your bicycle up this stretch so you can see the great amount of construction and equipment that once was Alamo settlement, including the now collapsed mine owner's mansion, the Cunningham house.

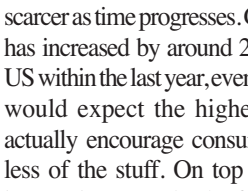
Through this clearing and then a bit of forest you'll arrive at the discreetly signed Old Sandon Road, where you bear left again to follow the route east on what was once the only road to get you to Sandon by car. Turning right takes you all the way back to New Denver but this trail description is confined to the areas east of the Alamo cable car. This trail high above the valley is not part of the Galena Trail and all improvements here have been done generously by the volunteer efforts of the Galena Trail contractor and avid local cyclists, though not myself.

This loop is tougher than the Galena Trail and you'll enjoy it more if you're in at least reasonable shape on a bike that is suited to more single track varied conditions. Although I ride lots, I'm pretty cautious and readily jump off to walk the bike in tricky spots rather than endure some spectacular crash, though I enjoy the climbing parts.

Riding east along this winding road takes you past some awful steep spots and offers looks across the valley to Goat Mountain and up Kane Creek and off east to London Ridge and peaks in the Goat Range. The locals have made some rickety bridges and boardwalks to challenge your balance and prowess, but again, there's no shame in pushing through these parts and instead enjoying the scenery and fauna and flora and enjoy remaining uninjured.

The final kilometres of this route is a delightful sweeping descent to Three Forks and you'll see many offshoot trails along this last section but generally speaking the best defined downhill route will get you back to the parking lot. Several big free-ride runs come down into here from the Idaho Lookout Road far above and Three Forks really is the centre of the adventure rides in this end of the Kootenays. For this moderate loop that I've suggested you may want to allow two to three hours with time for snacks and photo shoots.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital and has lived in the Kootenays for 30 years. 358-2133



with Jamie Barber

Demystifying gas prices

It is one of those inexplicable facts that gasoline seems to become dearer as the summer progresses – peaking at the Labour Day weekend and then sporadically decreasing in stops and spurts to indicate some type of market force at work – much in tune with the temperature. This could become known as Doc's postulate of gas gouging, but this declaration of the obvious would do little to explain the phenomenon. Perhaps a closer look at the problem would help dispel some myths.

The price of gasoline here in Canada is set somewhat differently than it is in the US. Our tax structure is different, our refining costs are different, and our reliance on foreign reserves are different. That being said, like the rest of the world, we are governed by international crude oil prices, so at least in this regard, we are in the same boat.

The price of crude oil is on the rise. It is a scarce commodity and getting scarcer as time progresses. Gasoline use has increased by around 2.14% in the US within the last year, even though you would expect the higher prices to actually encourage consumers to use less of the stuff. On top of that, the increasing standard of living has increased the number of vehicles on the road in much of the developing world. This has led to increased demand for petroleum products and according to the law of supply and demand, increased the price. In a normal market situation, an increase in profits such as has occurred in the last few years would encourage more efficiencies in production, or at least, more capitalists building refineries. This increase in production would be expected to bring the price down to a realistic profit margin, but this isn't happening. Why not?

Not everyone can get into the petroleum refining business. This is a big bucks game that doesn't encourage newcomers. Seen any new oil companies lately? As long as these companies can control the price between themselves, no real economic forces such as supply and demand come into play.

It also needs to be recognized that gas prices are a function of three overriding factors – crude oil prices, government taxes, and refining and distribution costs. Crude oil prices are not really fixed to economic forces either. They are fixed by cartels of oil exporting nations and have little relevance to the costs of extraction. Crude oil today costs little more to produce than in 2001, when the pump price was around 60 cents/liter. They've got the stuff – you want it, you pay the price.

Taxes, on the other hand are fixed by the government and could be lowered as well as heightened. In fact, they remain relatively flat, as they are predicated on a fixed tax/litre, (with the exception of GST). This means that taxes don't raise the cost of gasoline at the pump. The current rise we have been watching is not due to an increase in the taxes levied by the government – this has remained the same.

The price increase is due to the other two factors – crude oil prices and profit margins, combined with fixed costs from the refineries. It's here that we have to look for the answers we seek. Most analysts believe that the price of crude accounts for about 40%-50% of the pump price. What this means is that if the price of crude goes up 10%, the pump price should rise by 5% if all other factors are equal. Recent price spikes are much higher than the increase in crude prices, so this brings us to the answer – gas price increases are mainly due to the one remaining factor: profit margins and fixed costs associated with refineries and distribution infrastructure.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has calculated that by taking into account the rising distribution and crude oil prices, pump prices should be around $0.84-$0.99 Cdn, depending where you live in the country. This is far from the current price of $1.16-$1.20 we are seeing around here. The rest is obviously going into the pocket of the oil companies. Don't believe me – check out the profit bonanzas these fellows are reaping these days.

Put it all together and what have you got? Gas prices go up because oil-exporting cartels arbitrarily raise the price, and oil companies jump on the bandwagon raising it even higher to gather bigger and bigger profits. Are real market forces at work here to stabilize these prices? You bet they're not. Things will only change when we quit using the stuff or George Bush passes laws to rein in the exorbitant profits of his oil company buddies. I wonder which will happen first?

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Great Thai food in Nakusp!!!

Greetings fellow food fans. Looks like Summer's here, and that's a good thing, because a week and a half ago my fearless publisher sent me to *What's Brewing On Broadway* in Nakusp, but the company car was in use so this 'food editor' had to hitch-hike. Of course the first car picked me up and delivered me to the door-step of *What's Brewing On Broadway*- a coffee and tea house, restaurant and home-brew place in the centre of Nakusp.

I was met by Deb Guest, the manager. Deb, a very busy, energetic and friendly woman, was recruited to manage the restaurant in January '06 by Deb Schiavon (double Debs), and she brought with her ideas for healthy wholesome food and soups to create a more diverse menu. While chatting with her in the kitchen I asked her how long she'd been cooking. "I started when I was really young. I did a lot of the cooking at home. There were fifteen kids in the family." Yikes!

She was born in Revelstoke where she ran a little restaurant, moved to Courtney where she worked as a chef and became interested in catering. Then she returned to Nakusp where she's been working for 11 years. She's catered the Music Fest for the last four years, feeding all the headliners, bands, VIPs and staff. At the Fest she will feed over 1,000 folks in one weekend. Wow.

I asked Deb if I should take a look at a menu. "No, I've decided what you're going to eat." This made me smile, because it meant no menu stress!! I like it when it's easy! She handed me a platter upon which rested a bowl of soup and what looked like a huge sandwich cut in half. It was actually two huge half-sandwiches. She told me that one was half of their Super Vegie 'Natural High' sandwich made with (get this): Cream cheese, jalapeño peppers, cheddar cheese, toms, sprouts, onions, peppers, avo's and lettuce, all between two slices of bread. I was getting very happy. I asked about the other half. She must have seen me coming cuz she answered: "Well Andrew, that's half of our Signature Clubhouse Sandwich." I've never come so close to fainting with joy. As I regained my balance Deb said "And the soup is my home-made Coconut Thai Chicken soup with lime juice, lime leaves, lime zest, cilantro, chicken, curry, coconut milk, chicken stock, fish sauce, and ginger, and by the way, the sandwiches and soup are just your first course." I was dizzy. I managed to thank her profusely and make my way to a table where I swear I just sat for a minute staring at the food before me. I began with a bite of my beloved Clubhouse. Ahhh. I detected a 'secret ingredient.' There was a thin layer of cranberry sauce hiding in there somewhere making it all the better. Then I chomped into the Super Vegie Natural High sandwich. Yes. Yes indeed. It was also very good. I alternated bites from the two sandwiches for a while, and I must admit the Super Vegie was almost as good as the Clubhouse but then again, as you probably know, I'm prejudiced toward Clubs.

I finished the sandwiches and looked at the soup. In the past I've had Thai soup that was as hot as fire-so I began carefully. Surprise! It didn't burn my mouth off. It was spicy, but not too much so. Lots of chicken in there. Delicious; all those herbs and spices giving it a complex and pleasurable taste.

I finished the soup, and Deb brought out the second course: Paad Thai. Deb's has rice noodles with prawns and chicken. The sauce is fish sauce, garlic, water, garlic chili, vinegar, cilantro, peanuts, lime and green onion. Incredibly good. Boy, was I full and happy.

In September, Deb will begin doing weekly 'ethnic food nights.' She'll be whipping up Mexican, Italian, Greek, East Indian, Chinese, and Japanese food. On top of that her catering business can handle orders for from two, to four hundred people.

Go to Nakusp and visit Deb Guest at *What's Brewing On Broadway*. Her food is simply fantastic. Go Now.

By the way, guess who picked me up on my way back to New Denver – my fearless publisher. It was a good day.

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THE MT. SENTINEL FORESTRY CLASS would like to express their thanks to Smoky Wood Lot Management Ltd. (Petrick's) and to CPS Investments (Barabanoffs) for their generous donations of a load of firewood logs each. Our appreciation is also extended to DW Sicotte Trucking Ltd. for donating the use of their self-loading trucks for the hauling of the logs. The class uses this wood for practicing chainsaw maintenance and use, and sells the firewood as a fundraiser for the class.

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

SLOCAN VALLEY HERITAGE TRAIL SOCIETY AGM - Annual General Meeting for the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Thursday, May 31st, 7:00 p.m. at the Slocan Park Hall. Memberships available at the door. Info? 1-888-683-7878.

FRIDAY MARKET, downtown New Denver, happens every Friday 10 am to 2 pm. Local produce, flowers, herbs, artisans wares and Kootenay mountain culture. Ph 358-7733. fridaymarket@netidea.com.

ADAM SHAIKH with guests PURE BLEND are ready to shake down the Vallican Whole on May 26th. Doors open 7:30 tickets at the door $10.00. 12 and under free. All ages fundraiser for the school.

ALFA GUILD GALLERY - ARROW LAKES FINE ARTS Celebrating our 10th year, we are proud to present our first exhibition for the Summer of 2007, "PARADISE CONTINUED" ANDREA SABA (A Painter from Silverton). Fri, June 1st through Sun, June 17th, 2007. Opening Reception 6 - 8 PM Friday, June 1, 2007. Featured in our "Member Room" will be Local Children's Artwork, 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp BC. Gallery Hours 12-4 Wednesday through Sunday.

THE NELSON WAR RESISTER SUPPORT CAMPAIGN is having a fundraiser on June 7 from 7-9 pm at the United Church. Join us for the Canadian premiere of the documentary film 'Deserter,' the journey of Ryan and Jen Johnson – a deserting soldier and his young wife who fled the United States to seek refugee status in Canada. There will also be a silent auction and musical guest. Ryan Johnson will be present to answer questions. The proceeds will help fund the legal campaign to allow US war resisters to stay in Canada.

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SILVERY SLOCAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY is now accepting applications for a Curatorial Assistant for summer employment 2007. Eligible applicant must be a registered full time student during the preceding academic year and intending to return to full-time studies in the fall. Eligible applicant must be reliable, have good communication, public relation and organizational skills, have computer experience, and work independently with minimal supervision. Position subject to pending approval from HRDC.

Send resume to Silvery Slocan Historical Society, PO Box 301, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0. All applications must be received by Friday, May 25.

SANDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY has an opening for student employee for 10 weeks. 30 hours per week. Will be working at $9 per hour with and greeting public at Sandon Museum. Contact Gordon at 358-2479 or Lorna at 358-7965.

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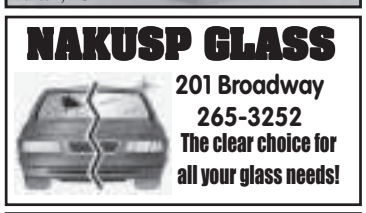

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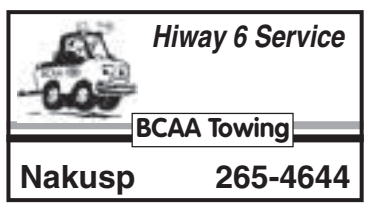

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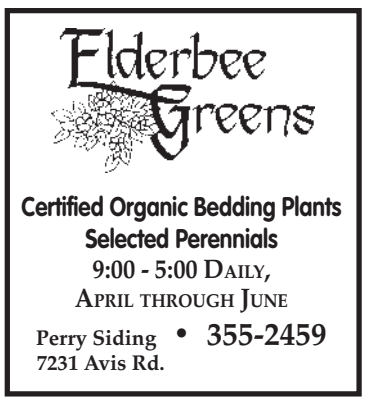

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BC Hydro presents boat ramp proposals to Arrow Lakes communities

by Jan McMurray

BC Hydro presented Burton, Fauquier and Edgewood with boat ramp proposals at public meetings in mid May. The people of Burton and Fauquier are generally happy with the proposals for their communities, but the people of Edgewood are not.

Hydro will soon submit the proposals for Burton and Fauquier to the Water Comptroller for approval and then have the designs done. The hope is that construction can happen during low water next year, before April. But Hydro representatives warned that lake elevations were difficult to predict, and that work may not be able to be completed next year. "We'll put in what we can and then we might have to wait until another low water year to finish," said Hydro rep Gordon Boyd.

For **Burton**, the plan is to build a new ramp about 4 kms south of the townsite. At the site, the ramp can extend to 1395 feet (425 m) with some dredging. The entire project will include a ramp and floating walkway, breakwater, a new access road and a new parking area.

Area K Director Paul Peterson was concerned that people would want to camp in the parking lot, and suggested that BC Hydro install signage and discuss this with the RCMP. Hydro representatives indicated that the camping problem could be addressed in the design of the parking lot. Harry Brownlow of Hydro pointed out that the community was trading off a 4-km distance to the new ramp and potential camping problems for a ramp that is 80 metres longer than the existing one. "Is this what you want?" he asked.

It was confirmed that the existing ramp in the park would remain, providing access during the summer months (to about 1410 feet). Brownlow pointed out that if the old ramp were used during the summer and the new one in the winter, it would be easier to eliminate camping issues by creating a smaller parking lot, for example.

People were given two weeks to contact BCH with comments, and were asked specifically to let Hydro know whether they would use the new ramp year-round or seasonally, and to comment on the parking lot.

For **Fauquier**, BCH proposed to extend the existing ramp at the golf course from its current elevation of 1393 feet to 1385 feet. "This would be the lowest access on Arrow Reservoir except for maybe Nakusp," said one of the Hydro reps. Work would involve demolishing the lower area of the ramp and dredging, as well as installing a new floating walkway and piles, and a new log breakwater. An archaeological impact assessment would have to be done before construction.

One concern raised at the meeting was the conflict between the boating and swimming public, and to some extent the golfers. Another was the day to day maintenance, as a lot of sand accumulates on the ramp. Hydro reps said that these concerns would be taken into consideration during the design stage. "What can you design into it so it's multi-use and safe for golfers, swimmers and boaters? Everybody should be able to use this space," said Boyd. Also, he said, because the ramp is in a park, BC Parks would be involved in the management, and the responsibility for day to day maintenance may fall to them. A BC Parks employee at the meeting asked people to write in to them with their concerns about the day to day maintenance, as "we're always struggling to get money to do these things and any extra input we get from the public really helps us. We can give your written comments to Victoria and this supports our recommendations."

For **Edgewood**, Hydro tried to propose extending the existing ramp, but it soon became clear that the people would accept nothing other than the plan they hired WSA Engineering to do in 2005. The WSA plan puts the boat ramp on the sandy peninsula that juts out into the bay beside the existing ramp. The people gave BC Hydro a long list of the benefits of the plan to take to the Water Comptroller: the WSA plan would provide 100% access to the reservoir; it would provide easier and safer access; it would restore spawning in the creek by channelling into Eagle Creek and joining the creek to the lake again (currently, the creek does not meet the lake at spawning time); it would stop the peninsula from erosion by shoring it up with rip-rap, which would in turn prevent the infilling of the bay; it would be a showpiece for the community and a "feather in BC Hydro's cap"; it would result in no negative impact on swimmers from oil and gas from boat motors; it would remedy the problem of the peninsula being a navigational hazard; 100% of the people at the meeting favoured the WSA plan and 0 favoured the BCH recommendation to extend the existing ramp.

BC Hydro's feasibility study had looked at the WSA option and had concluded that it would result in only one more metre of ramp than the extension on the existing ramp. The cost estimate for the WSA plan was $3,275,000, where extending the existing ramp was estimated to cost $470,000.

The people of Edgewood expressed frustration with Hydro's focus on being "cost effective." They asked the reps to find out how much profit BC Hydro had made from the Arrow Reservoir since 1967 and come back with that information.

Another sore point was the time it has taken to get this far, when a boat ramp was promised 40 years ago. "They promised us a low water ramp when I was 22. I'm 62 now and I'm still waiting," said one man. "We laugh about the bridge, but we also laugh about the boat ramp," added a woman.

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Eleven Lucerne School students created this fabric mural entitled Where We Live during the Spring into Learning week in May. There are about 600 pieces of material in the mural, which will be hung in a prominent place in the school. Teachers Patti Sebben and Brighid Bowman led this Spring into Learning session. Other sessions included a writing residency with Toronto poet Stuart Ross, a film animation workshop with award winning filmmakers Wendy Tilby and Amanda Forbis, and a canoe trip with Lucerne teachers Ric Bardati and Jonathan Foulger.

Kaslo council, May 1: Loan authorization bylaw to purchase provincial building adopted

by Jill Braley

At a special meeting May 1, council adopted the loan authorization bylaw to purchase the provincial building – but not without considerable debate and difficulty.

After a long discussion, Mayor Holland stated he was not prepared to sign the borrowing bylaw and then removed himself from the chair. Acting Mayor Susan Hewat stepped in to chair the rest of the meeting.

The motion to adopt the bylaw was defeated the first time around, with Holland, Jones, Leathwood and Vass all voting against the bylaw. Council then passed a motion that Accommodation Real Estate Services (ARES) be advised the scope of the Provincial building purchase has changed dramatically since the municipality's first approach to the Minister, and since it may be beyond the municipality's means, that the Village request an extension to further examine the purchase of the building.

At that point, Hewat and Leathwood suggested another vote be taken to adopt Bylaw 1039 to allow the Village more time to gather more information. Mayor Holland stated that because the bylaw had already been defeated, the matter could not be brought back to the table for six months, at which time another referendum would be required, and the next borrowing bylaw could not be for the same amount as the one just defeated. Hewat and Leathwood both stated they were unaware the motion could not be brought back to the table. Hewat called a recess and Hewat, Leathwood and Vass had a meeting with CAO Rae Sawyer.

After the recess, the following motions were passed, but opposed by Holland and Jones: the previous motion to defeat the adoption of Bylaw 1039 was rescinded; Bylaw 1039 was reconsidered and adopted; that Lori Staples (Village lawyer) be contacted to ask whether it is within the muncipality's rights to address urgent repairs cited in the Lynch building inspection report in the muncipality's Offer to Purchase to ARES. The last motion on the table was moved by Holland, seconded by Jones and carried - that the Village of Kaslo council endorse the purchase of the Provincial government building.

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