The Valley VOICE
Free!
Volume 16, Number 11 June 6, 2007 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**
"Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

Run-of-river hydro projects proposed for Slocan and Arrow Lakes Valleys

by Jan McMurray

Run-of-river hydro systems on two creeks in the region – Fosthall Creek near Nakusp and Koch Creek near Passmore – are being proposed by a company called Dandelion Energy Ltd.

The company held open houses in Nakusp on May 25 and Passmore on May 26. Dandelion Energy owners Darcy Fear of Crescent Valley and Harold Kalke of Vancouver were there, as were Sam Mottram and Josh Vines from the engineering firm (Knight Piesold) they've hired to design the hydro systems.

Dandelion plans to submit the two proposals in December, during BC Hydro's next Open Call for Power. Successful projects, expected to be announced in August 2008, are awarded 30-35 year contracts whereby all the power generated from the projects is sold to BC Hydro.

Fear said that the construction phase of the projects, which would begin in fall 2008 in the best case scenario, would provide many local jobs.

Dandelion's investment in the construction of each project is estimated at $30 - $35 million. Fear and Kalke explained that they and other investors would put up 20% and get the other 80% from the bank. "Margins are quite thin on these projects – you don't get filthy rich. You need a 30-year contract from BC Hydro or you can't get financing. It takes that long to pay off," said Kalke.

Dandelion's draft proposals and all reports completed so far were available for viewing at the open houses. The reports include fisheries and instream flow studies (Masse and Miller, Nelson), archaeological studies (Golder Associates, Kamloops), wildlife studies (Dr. Robert G. D'Eon, RP Bio, RPF, and Eric Miller, Nelson), and whitewater kayaking impact assessments (Dr. Robert G. D'Eon and Jeff Krueger of South Slocan). The hydrology studies (Knight Piesold) are not yet complete, but expect to be in by the end of June. Consultation with First Nations and the public is also required.

About 20 people from the public showed up to each open house. In Nakusp, people were generally very supportive of the Fosthall Creek project, but in Passmore, there were several concerns about the Koch Creek project.

"People here are suspicious of development," was the first comment in Passmore. "We want you to prove this project will help preserve rivers and be for the greater good."

Project proponents stressed that electricity from run-of-river hydro projects is much cleaner than electricity from other sources. "We're now importing 30% of our power from unclean sources," said Kalke. "Let's not kid ourselves – we're buying power from a coal-fired plant in Utah. Run-of-river replaces coal-fired systems." He added that these run-of-river projects would contribute to BC's self-reliance for power.

People at the meeting pointed out that as long as there is electricity available, people will use it. Kalke suggested that a dramatic price hike would be the only way to discourage power consumption.

There were also concerns about the decrease in the flow of the water in the creek as a result of diverting water from the creek into the penstock. Mottram explained that there is a minimum flow that must be left in the creek, stipulated in the water licence. Fear said that the plant will only operate when there is enough water to both generate power and protect the environment – estimated at 40% of the year. It will operate much more in high water than in low water. A control system in the powerhouse will monitor water flows and shut the system on and off accordingly. Someone will be employed part-time to check on the equipment.

Mottram told the people at the meeting that the industry standard for the minimum flow requirement is 10% of the mean annual discharge. To calculate this, flows must be measured year round and then averaged out. It is 10% of this average that must be left, so there will likely be months of the year when no water will be taken and the system will not operate. Dandelion cannot calculate the mean annual discharge for Koch Creek until the hydrology report comes in. Also, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans can authorize a stricter minimum flow requirement.

Water quality was another concern, as people downstream of the project will be drinking the water. Jennifer Yeow of Passmore Laboratory and Slocan River Streamkeepers said the lower flow could result in a higher bacteria count in the water. Mottram assured that there would be ongoing sampling for water quality, and the baseline data was now being compiled as part of the hydrology report.

Yeow also asked what assurances Dandelion could give the community that concerns about water flow and quality, and not just the bottom line, were being considered. Mottram replied that they would not get their water licence unless the Ministry of Environment's requirements were met. Yeow replied, "We can't depend on the government to be the watchdog," and asked if the community could get the results of the studies. "We want to feel like we're working together on this. We want to be able to get back to you." Kalke and Fear agreed to come back for another meeting with a summary of the results of the studies.

Area H Director Don Munro raised the concern about natural resources being taken out of rural areas "and someone else profits." He said this was generally the case with logging and mining, and now water was next.

Kalke said the provincial and federal governments would tax the development, and Fear added that the RDCK would get "a fair chunk." Munro replied that provincial tax money goes mainly to municipalities, and not to rural areas. However, he acknowledged that the RDCK would collect taxes at the utility rate from the project and that money would stay in Area H.

"I'm not interested in doing BC Hydro any favours," Munro told the project proponents at the meeting. "If they paid their property taxes like everybody else, we would have more money than we knew what to do with in this area." He said there had been interest in at least 20 independent power projects in the Slocan Valley, "so we're not just looking at this one – we're looking at the possibility of 19 others."

Mottram explained that only a small percentage of the projects prove to be viable. "Province wide, there are 300 applications, but only 10% of those go ahead," he said.

Many complained that lots of people did not know about the meeting or the project. Project proponents agreed to come back and Kalke assured, "We are open. We are not the kind of people that are trying to blow one by you."

The Fosthall Creek project, about 10 km north of Nakusp and across the lake, would have the capacity to produce 17.4 MW of power.

The intake weir across Fosthall Creek would be an inflatable rubber structure, controlled by a compressor, and located about 1.5 km upstream of the creek mouth. During low flows, the weir is deflated to allow the water to go its natural course. During high flows, the weir is inflated to divert water into the 1450-metre-long penstock, which carries water to the powerhouse.

The penstock, buried in a trench, would follow an old log flume used by early loggers to transport logs into the Arrow Lakes. The powerhouse, containing two 8.7 Francis turbines, would sit near the creek mouth. Water from the powerhouse would be redirected into Fosthall Creek.

The project involves building a transmission line from the Fosthall Creek powerhouse to Pingston Creek substation, about 21 km north on the west shore of Arrow Lake. For about half its length, the transmission line would follow existing logging roads. Road construction required at Fosthall includes upgrading a 1-km road to the powerhouse and a 1/2-km road to the intake weir.

The Koch Creek project, 7.5 km northwest of Passmore, has been estimated to have a capacity to produce 8.3 MW. The project will be sized accordingly once the hydrology report is completed by the end of the month.

The weir across Koch Creek would be located about 5.3 km upstream of where the creek empties into Little Slocan River. The weir would consist of a concrete channel underwater with a 'Coanda' screen overtop of it. This screen allows debris, fish and sediment to flow over the weir and continue downstream, while the weir collects just enough water to fill the penstock pipe.

The buried penstock would be 3.2 km long. At minor creeks, it would be buried under the creek bed and encased in concrete so that the creek could flow over it. The powerhouse would be on a site where there was once an abutment for a bridge, about 1.8 km upstream of the mouth of the creek. It would house two 4.2 MW Francis turbines. Water from the powerhouse would be returned to Koch Creek by a tailrace designed to aerate the water.

An existing transmission line is located about 150 metres from the powerhouse. The plan is to install a few hundred metres of new transmission line to connect to the existing 500 kV line, which now carries a 63 kV Fortis line. A 200-m road to the intake weir would need to be built.

The Lucerne graduating class of 2007 - Brian Magnuson, River Bardati, Darrin Hicks, Sanjar Skrenes and Randy Duncan. Details of the graduation ceremonies appear on pages 9-10.

Stream of Consciousness

Use low-angle or pulsating sprinklers that produce large fat droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray the water high into the air or produce a mist or fine spray lose much of the water through evaporation. As a general rule, most lawns and gardens require little more than 2 to 3 centimeters (1 inch) of water per week. Water only in the morning and early evening. This, too, reduces evaporation.

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School District No. 10, May 29: Trustee stipends raised, first budget circular presented

by Jan McMurray

•Five students from Nakusp Secondary made a presentation to the board about a PowerSmart program they participated in at school, in partnership with BC Hydro. The students looked at the energy use in Nakusp Elementary, Nakusp Secondary, Burton Elementary and the board office. The students found that $7,800 could be saved annually. Lighting was the biggest use of electricity in the two Nakusp schools, along with fans and pumps. The biggest behavioural change that could be made, they said, was to turn off computers and lights. The presentation will be posted to the website at www.sd10.bc.ca.

•The 2007-08 calendar was finalized, and is much the same as last year's – spring break will be two weeks long, and Burton Elementary will be on a four day week.

•Seven teachers retire as of June 30: Marianne Vanish (LESS), Sheila McGinnis (EES), Phil McMechan (BES), Theresa Radley (NSS), Wil Brellisford (NES), Bill Johnston (NES), Alice Watson (NES). A staff appreciation evening will be held June 27 at the Bonnington from 6-8 pm.

•Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) will play a key role in operating the StrongStart early learning centre at Nakusp Elementary next school year. Requests for Proposals to partner with the school district in the operation of the centre were sent to CBAL and Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services.

•The school district has been looking at offering courses to high school students through Vernon's virtual program. Very few NSS students signed up for the virtual courses – History 12 (two students), Literature 12 (one student) and Calculus 12 (six students). School principals are now looking at how these students can take these virtual courses within their regular timetable.

•Trustees voted unanimously to increase their stipends to $10,000 for the chair and $8,000 for trustees, starting in the new budget year July 1. Currently, the chair receives $8,200 and trustees receive $6,720.

Trustee Bill Hilton put forward the motion, saying "we're the low man on the totem pole" right now with the average stipend in the province at about $8,500. Chair Pattie Adam said she was uncomfortable with such a large increase, but understood that "you have to make it more attractive" to people. She also acknowledged that trustees do important work. Trustee Judy Struck said she wished an independent body could make this decision. Trustee Quinn DeCourcy said he figured any independent committee would be in favour of the raise. He also pointed out that the issue would not need to be addressed again for a while. Hilton agreed. "It's been a while since it was raised and I don't expect it will be done again for a while."

•The district is currently developing the 2007-08 preliminary budget and expects to finalize it at the board meeting at the end of June. The operating grant from the Province is estimated to be $6,864,041 for the next school year.

As projected enrollment is 571 full-time equivalent students district-wide next year, down from 604.25 this year, Superintendent Walter Posnikoff reported that teaching and support staff will be reduced. Proposed teacher staffing levels at LESS is 9.5, down from 10; at NES, 11.835, down from 12.89; at BES, 1.19, down from 2.26; at EES, 2.31 (unchanged); and at NSS, 12.57 (unchanged). There is a proposed reduction of 48.3 hours for special education assistants throughout the district, and a reduction of 6.3 hours per week at BES due to the discontinuation of the outdoor education program.

Posnikoff said the district was considering putting $34,200 into the budget to offset school fees. "This will cover the majority of school fees," he said. "We will still charge for band and trades, but this should reduce a good portion of the fees charged." He added that students will be able to upgrade supplies offered in classes such as Foods and Textiles.

Other budget considerations include: $100,000 to improve school grounds over the next two to four years; $5,000 for programs to deal with health issues, such as drugs and alcohol and healthy choices; $30,000 for developing virtual and electronic courses; $20,000 for an international student program.

The Literacy Innovation grant may be used to increase the Literacy Co-ordinator's role from .28 FTE teacher to .40 FTE teacher.

CBT announces new board chair and vice chair

submitted

CBT has announced the appointments of Garry Merckel as chair and Ron Oszust as vice chair to the board of directors. Both are one-year terms.

Merckel, from Kimberley, is past vice-chair and a founding board member. "We have been working hard on building strong relationships within the Basin for quite some time," says Merckel. "I have a good understanding of the issues facing the people of the Basin, and I will bring these attributes to CBT over the next year."

Oszust is from Golden and is also a long-time CBT director. "The legacy of social, economic, and environmental well-being will occur through engaging and empowering the people of the Basin, through the board being accountable and transparent, and through all of us being respectful of each other," he says.

Merckel replaces Josh Smienk, who held the chair from the CBT's inception until March of this year.

For more information about the Columbia Basin Trust visit www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998.

Wiseman rejoins Silverton council

by Jan McMurray

Tim Wiseman will sit on Silverton council again, after garnering 66 votes in the byelection held June 2. Sue Mistretta, who also ran for the councillor position, got 56 votes.

This councillor seat has been vacant since February, when former councillor Stephanie Masun moved out of the area for work.

There were a total of 122 votes cast in the byelection – another excellent showing at the polls in Silverton.

Acknowledgment

In our article about the Nakusp Celebration of Wellness in our May 23 issue, we reported on the educational talks by health practitioners at the event. Unfortunately, we left out Dr. Bryan Skrenes of New Denver, who delivered a very inspirational talk about healing and spirituality.

Perry Ridge logging unlikely

by Jan McMurray

Logging on Perry Ridge is unlikely to occur this summer, according to the Ministry of Forests and Range.

Although a timber sale licence is planned for Perry Ridge for this fiscal year (before March 31, 2008), detailed field work, including terrain stability, hydrology and archaeological assessments, still has to be completed. Some road construction must also be done before harvesting can take place. The Ministry also says the licence could be deferred because of BC Timber Sales' focus on mountain pine beetle stands elsewhere in its business area.

Community forests get CBT funding

by Jan McMurray

The CBT has approved grant funding for both of our area's community forests.

The Nakusp and Area Community Forest Committee will receive $200,000 and the Slocan Integral Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo) will receive $125,000 to help the groups develop their community forests.

SIFCo previously received $47,000 from the CBT to assist in securing its probationary community forest agreement.

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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
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Conversation on Health session held in Castlegar, May 26, 2007

by Jan McMurray

Our region was well represented at the Conversation on Health session held in Castlegar May 26, with people from Kaslo, Johnson's Landing, New Denver, Silverton, Winlaw, Nakusp, Arrow Park, Balfour, Nelson, Castlegar, Salmo, Rossland, Trail, Fruitvale and Grand Forks participating. Of 160 people who signed up, all were offered a seat, 100 confirmed their attendance, and 75 showed.

At the end of the session, people expressed how they felt about their day-long experience discussing the health care system. "We are skeptical, but hope to be heard – the government is responsible to follow through" was representative of the overwhelming majority of comments.

The message we heard loud and clear was that health care must be publicly funded and available when and where it is needed. "That message has been clearly heard at all 15 sessions so far," said Caitlyn Sassaman from the Ministry of Health in Victoria, and formerly from Argenta. "There is a lot of cynicism, and that's understandable. But there is also optimism. People have enjoyed the process and that's where the optimism comes from."

She acknowledged that many people in the province are suspicious that the Conversation on Health is a push for private health care, but assured, "The whole point [of the Conversation on Health] is to find out how better to deliver the publicly funded health care system."

Mary Polak, parliamentary secretary for the Conversation on Health, in her welcoming address, said the government was going to take the public comments and come up with solutions that "hopefully will be unique and creative to sustain a public health care system in BC." She listed problems facing the system: cost, an aging population and a shortage of health professionals.

The Conversation on Health consists of 16 regional public forums – one for each of the health service areas in the province. Up to 100 people participate in each. The names of everyone who signs up for each forum are put into a computer program which randomizes the list. Then, starting at the top of the list, people are phoned until 100 confirm that they can attend. The session in Castlegar was the second last one; the last will be in Vancouver July 6.

Participants engage in several exercises throughout the day using formats that encourage "diverse groups of people to develop ideas and solutions for complex, important issues" according to a government press release. All ideas and solutions are recorded in the participants' own words and posted on the wall. They are also posted to the website at www.BCConversationonHealth.ca.

During the morning in Castlegar, participants brainstormed about 100 agenda items and discussed three of them in small groups. At the end of the morning, there were 94 comment sheets posted on the wall. Sixteen of these were on the topic of publicly vs. privately funded health care; four were on centralization of services away from rural areas; and three were about home support and home care. One entertained the idea of a regional hospital in Castlegar.

In the afternoon, there were small group discussions on 11 topics that were pre-selected based on the main challenges facing the health system and on input already received in the Conversation on Health. These were: pressures on the health care system; health care delivery; the Canada Health Act; primary health care; seniors and aging; chronic disease prevention and management; health human resources; end-of-life care; emergency departments; mental health and addictions; problematic substance abuse.

All notes from all 16 sessions, as well as the 10,000 other submissions received from people outside of the forums, will be posted to the website. Notes from three separate *in camera* meetings the day before the sessions – one with local reps of organizations such as the Health Employees Union, BC Nurses Union, BC Health and Living Alliance, BC Medical Association, another with patients, and a third meeting with health professionals – will also be posted to the website.

Submissions from the public will be accepted until the end of September.

Then, all the material will form the basis of a report on "what we heard from British Columbians" that will be presented to the Province sometime in the fall. The report will be posted to www.BCConversationonHealth.ca and will also be available by phoning 1-866-884-2055.

Representatives of the Council of Senior Citizens of BC protested outside every 'Conversation on Health' session in the province. Jim Albo of Rossland joined them at the session held for the Kootenay-Boundary Health Service Area in Castlegar May 26. People from Castlegar and District Health Watch were also outside with a banner.

Logging in Hills moving into final phase for Springer Creek

by Art Joyce

Hills residents are concerned that logging by Springer Creek will damage their viewscapes and watersheds and depress property values. They also feel that lack of consultation with locals has been a problem. Springer Creek Woodlands Manager Dwane Sorenson says he had discussions with Hills residents Wayne McCrory and Eric Faulks when the winter operations were wrapping up.

The timber license is for three cutblocks – two on the Hills face above Bonanza Creek and one near Wragge Beach. Sorenson says harvesting is roughly two-thirds completed., with a total harvest of 60,000 cubic metres The cutblock openings range from 1-12 hectares, explains Sorenson, with reserves inside the larger openings. The final phase will be cable logging on the steeper terrain of the Hills face, and could take up to two years to complete due to a grade of up to 30%. There are old growth areas nearby, but not within the cutblocks. There are still 2200 metres of road to be constructed in 2007 or 2008.

"That will be the last entry in the Hills face for a while now, possibly 10 years before we'll go back in there. We are exploring future possibilities near the Wragge Beach cutblock," says Sorenson.

All the harvesting is being done at the 800-1100 metre elevation, and the closest cutblock to the Bonanza marshes is just two kilometres. Sorenson is confident there will be no significant impact to the Bonanza Creek marshlands. He says streams near the cutblock fell within normal classifications which require no special mitigation measures. No machines are allowed within five metres of the streams except at designated crossings as per standard riparian setback requirements of the Ministry of Forests. About 75% of the newly harvested area on the Hills face has been replanted as of May 18. Some site preparation needs to be done on the Wragge face in order to replant in the spring of 2008.

Hills resident Eric Faulks says many locals are disillusioned by the political process that governs input from landowners affected by logging. An ad hoc watershed group has formed and will be seeking a continuation of stream monitoring that was discontinued four years ago after collecting about five years' data on Bonanza Creek.

Correction

In our report on the Kaslo and District Community Forest AGM in our May 23 issue, it was reported that "Erika Bird and others objected to the inclusion of a constitutional review, so this was struck from the resolution."

In fact, Erika Bird proposed an amendment to the resolution that would have removed the Constitution from the review. Andy Shadrack, the original mover of the resolution, agreed to have the amendment put to a vote. The amendment was defeated, then the resolution was passed unchanged. The Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee will consider changes to both the Constitution and the Bylaws.

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Voices from the Valleys

What's a voluntary subscription?

Many times over the years that Jan & I have owned the Voice, people have asked us why we don't charge for the paper.

Well, there's a few reasons. We don't like the idea of means tests. If you want to read our paper, you should be free to do so, you shouldn't have to have money in your pocket. We like the idea of having a paper that everyone can enjoy.

When it comes to advertising sales, it's always nice to be able to say that the newspaper goes to every postal address in the Slocan, Arrow Lakes and North Kootenay Lake Valleys. We can charge a small premium on advertising because of this.

Advertising sales is what has to pay the bills, though, and when your *Voice* arrives in the mail and it's thin, that means we can only afford to print a few pages, based on the amount of advertising that we received that issue. We always have more news than we can afford to print. Inevitably, some stuff gets cut out. Still, we do our best to give you a tasty read every couple of weeks. We do our best to provide fair and balanced coverage of events that occur in our part of the West Kootenay.

Over the past several months, Jan and I have been running a voluntary subscription ad in the *Valley Voice*. We've been quite gratified at the number of community members that have shown their appreciation for the work that we do down here at the *Voice* by throwing a few shekels our way. Every now and again it allows us to print a paper with more pages than we can really afford.

When I first got into this business, twenty years ago, there were postal subsidies that gave large incentives for paid circulation. Community newspapers could deliver within 65 km of their hometown for free and anywhere in Canada for 7¢. The only catch was that you had to sell a subscription to the person on the other end.

Those postal subsidies have long since gone the way of the baby bonus. Nowadays, it costs less to mail the paper to everyone in our distribution area than it does to maintain a subscription list one quarter that size.

When you subscribe to a paid circulation community newspaper, half of your $40+ subscription fee goes to Canada Post to cover postage. With a voluntary subscription to the *Valley Voice*, less than $2.25 gets eaten up by postage. That means more money for the publisher to squander on printing, wages, equipment, groceries, tobacco and single-malt whiskey.

Which isn't a bad thing.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Atamanenko takes on The Terminator

Having come from a farming background, I was very pleased to hear that the NDP Ag. Critic, Alex Atamanenko, was coming out strongly in support of the Canadian Wheat Board, the single-desk marketing system, and the retention of producer control over the CWB.

For those who think this issue doesn't affect us directly, as we don't live in a grain-producing area, think again — it is through the hard work of the CWB and its allies that genetically-altered "Franken-food" wheat (and other cereal crops) have so far been blocked from becoming commonplace on our farms. And that does have an impact on us here, at least as long as you ever eat any cereal grain products.

Thus, I was further pleased to hear of Atamanenko's recent Private Members' Bill to ban "terminator technology", or seeds that will be sterile after the first crop. This is an important fight if we are not to lose control of our food production to conglomerates like Monsanto. Good on you, Alex!

R.N. Riley
Rosebery, BC

Correction

In my letter (May 23, 2007) about the Shuswap Lake development, I erroneously stated that the Kokanee Falls developers at Enterprise Creek "have helicopter pads" when the text should have said "plan a helicopter pad." Apologies for my error.

Richard Caniell
New Denver, BC

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*.

Harper's stand on the Kyoto Accord

Canada as a developed country carries one of the largest shares in making sure that the Kyoto Accord is a strong and effective solution to the global warming crisis. We must support the UN's role in leading the process. The guidelines set out by the accord cannot be watered down by bridging the gap between EU and US standards or by following the Conservative greenhouse plan which was made for and by the oil companies. They plan to triple oil sands production by 2015 making it impossible to reach any goals for reducing greenhouse gases. The latest figures from Environment Canada show that Canada's emissions are 33% above the standards set by the Kyoto Accord. We must reduce our emissions to 6% below 1990 levels by 2008-2012.

Starting on June 8 the G8 will be holding 3 days of meetings. It is most critical that Harper and the Conservative government take a strong stand in support of the Kyoto Accord even though it may not be in agreement with the US. This is not a political issue nor should it be looked on as another opportunity for Harper to make brownie points with Bush. Our leaders need to put aside their political agendas and work together to create a strong plan to meet the goals set out by the Accord.

Linda Portman
Kaslo, BC

Gross developments

Richard Caniell's letter about gross development on Shuswap Lake was published in *The Valley Voice* on the same date (May 22) that another article on this subject appeared in the *Vancouver Sun*. The headline was: "Get Your Feet Up and Relax in Shuswap: How to Have Fun on a Houseboat in BC's Summer Playground."

There are numerous houseboat companies operating on Shuswap Lake. One of them offers ten different kinds of houseboats on Shuswap Lake. The larger houseboats offer an eight-person hot tub and a large TV screen with DVD player. The houseboats, which motor all over the lake during the day, must beach nightly. This occupies the beaches with numerous houseboat parties.

The fee for the larger houseboats (which sleep 24) is $3,600 for a three-day stay; for the small boats (which sleep 10) it is $1,360 per boat rental. Jet skis, which the article states are now powerful enough to pull skiers, can be rented at floating stores. So imagine what it must be like if ten or 20 people rent jet skis for the days. According to the article, the houseboat rentals are already so popular that you need to book a year in advance.

At the present time, there is very little to keep this from happening on Slocan Lake. With this kind of development, we're talking about the end of life as we know it. Big tourism money expects natural surroundings to be converted into playgrounds to which they can lure tourists with the promise of luxury, speed, and booze. There are increasingly few places left for people who have the backwoods desire for simplicity and small town pleasures; with this kind of development, that possibility will be snuffed out forever on Slocan Lake.

I was really horrified by the portrait of Shuswap's collapse to the developer's aim to cream as much money as possible out of an area before they go on to discover and despoil another "pristine" area. The Shuswap resident's concerns about lake pollution and an invasion of entertainment freaks has been outrun and trampled by big money. There are increasingly few areas of natural beauty in BC that haven't been creamed or exploited; ours is one. Let's keep it that way.

Anne Sherrod
New Denver, BC

Open letter to Nakusp Council

This is the second letter I've written to the Village in the past two years that I have been a resident of 1st Avenue NW regarding vehicles traveling on this Avenue.

A vehicle can travel from 6th Street to 1st Street on 1st Ave NW without having to stop for a stop sign. 6th Street is at the top of a hill and cars are usually traveling at a speed much higher than the in town speed limit of 50km/hr by the time they are passing our house.

Many people use this avenue to get to the schools and to get downtown to avoid the stop signs on the other avenues. Even where there are stop signs on the street side most people barely yield at them before they continue onto 1st Ave, particularly at the stop signs located at the 2nd Street intersection.

Just this morning there was an accident in front of our next door neighbours' home at the corner of 2nd Street & 1st Avenue. One of the vehicles involved was a pickup truck with an unsecured load in the box of his truck. Our neighbours ended up with their rear car window shattered from tools flying from the vehicle. The rear wheel of the truck ended up a half a block away. There were tools and debris all over the street. Had this accident occurred an hour or so later there probably would have been children walking to school on the street.

As a parent of two small children I am fearful every time we are in our front yard because of the traffic that flies past our house. An accident may occur in the street, but as we saw this morning the debris that can be sent flying could end up anywhere nearby.

I realize that accidents do happen and I'm surprised a lot more don't happen on this street, but the majority of the traffic on 1st Ave NW travels too fast and unsafely.

I would implore the Village to consider at the very least placing a 4-way stop at the corner of 2nd Street & 1st Avenue. I would be even happier if you changed the 3-way stop at 4th Street and 1st Avenue to a 4-way stop as well.

Brandy Needoba
Nakusp, BC

Fire Protection

The public meeting held on May 24th in Kaslo to discuss Fire Protection was disappointing to say the least.

Neither Mayor Holland nor Director Andy Shadrack came prepared to the meeting to listen. Both simply defended a position they had pre-determined.

No one was able to explain why Kaslo ratepayers pay more than two times the rate paid by Area D specified area ratepayers. This inequity should be addressed by Council and the service agreement should be re-negotiated now.

To present options that suggest there may be a reduced insurance cost to Area D ratepayers without strongly cautioning the Area D ratepayer to thoroughly investigate this with their insurance agent was irresponsible. Before Council considers the expansion of the Fire Protection Area to Fletcher Creek, this issue needs to be fully explored and understood by these Area D ratepayers.

Business tax rates were not published. From the multiplier provided by Mayor Holland it is our understanding that the business tax rates would be:

Present Taxation: $0.680/$1000 x 2.70 = $1.84/$1000

With new Fire Hall in Kaslo: $0.912/$1000 x 2.70 = $2.46/$1000

Proposed expanded service: $1.062/$1000 x 2.70 = $2.87/$1000

Why would Kaslo ratepayers contribute to the capital costs of establishing a new fire department in Woodbury when it is our understanding that these assets would be owned by the Regional District. The benefit of 'mutual aid' does not justify the cost and could be negotiated independently.

Everyone on the panel alluded to a critical weakness in the plan. The availability of committed, year-round volunteers is an unknown factor. For Mayor Holland to suggest that we need to attract young families to fill the gap in our volunteer pool is simplistic. To attract young families, both jobs and affordable housing would be necessary. Neither are in any supply.

If Kaslo needs a new fire hall, it is time to incorporate this need into a long-range Business Plan including financial projections for the acquisition and maintenance of all village capital assets.

Regardless of the issue, the citizens and ratepayers of Kaslo expect and deserve full disclosure of the facts.

Vladimir and Anne Malik
Kaslo, BC

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Voices from the Valleys

An Ode to the Horse – inspired by an old poem and today's issues

I was sitting in a hotel one Saturday afternoon. My father and I were talking about the beverage room and the pony wall that separated the large, musky smelling old room and how back when he was young women had to sit on the other side of the wall. Before that they weren't allowed in at all.

Well two tables over sat a young fella of about 82 years old. He said back when he was a boy his father used to come to town on a Friday night on the horse. Pointing over to the wall, he said, "And over there was a stable, where for three cents you could house your horse and for two more cents a boy would brush the horse down and for three more cents they would feed and water the horse. Well a glass – or should I say mug – of beer was only five cents. So for eight cents you could take care of your horse and still see the horse from where you were sitting."

He summed it up by saying when he woke up in the morning his dad would be sleeping in the yard on the horse, passed-out drunk. Which got me to thinkin', the horse knew his way home. The horse never got drunk and killed anyone, the horse never caused greenhouse gas emissions. The horse – a loyal, proud beast. They served us well throughout the history of mankind. You never got a speeding ticket on a horse, or a burnt-out tail light.

Talking with another old-timer he said back in my day wheat was 18 cents a bushel, gas was 50 cents a gallon, a new tractor was $4000, a new truck was $800, smokes were 10 cents for 20 (but no filters in those days). He says now wheat is 28 cents a bushel, gas is $5 a gallon, a new tractor is $200,000, a new truck is $60,000 and smokes are $10 a pack – don't even talk about beer!

So the way I see it, the cost of fuel to run a horse might just be worth it. How much does a good horse go for nowadays? Do you have to buy insurance? I wonder, do they still hang people for stealing your horse? I wonder if you could download from the internet 'how to jack a horse' instructions? I'll probably save money on those diagnostics and minor repairs, and I probably won't have to worry about rust or paint. To Henry Ford, the Dodge brothers, and General Motors – watch out for the horse, it may come back.

J. Martin
New Denver

The OCP and the two faces of Galena Bay

I attended both the CSRD's Revelstoke and Trout Lake presentations of the draft Official Community Plan for area B. As a very recent (indirect) property owner in Galena Bay I wish to express my views on those meetings and the draft OCP.

At both meetings frustration was expressed by residents who claimed they had not received the information or opinion questionnaires from the CSRD that the officials insisted were mailed out. In my view the root of those frustrations was the perception that the opinions of only a very few residents were considered in formulating the OCP. There were no statistical summaries of the opinions that were received. We are also left wondering if all of the opinions that were received were fairly weighed in preparing the draft OCP.

There was a considerable voicing of opinions at both meetings asking for smaller lots to be allowed specifically in the Bigbie Bench and Trout Lake-Galena Bay areas. At both meetings Loni Parker implored attendees to let their opinions be known to the CSRD, hopefully changes will be made.

Regarding the Galena Bay area, I have a very specific issue with its description in the OCP. I spent May 12-18 camping in the area in order to attend those meetings and to do some local exploring. I now realize that the area referred to as Galena Bay has two different faces.

The first derives from traditional settlement which was based on logging, mining and farming. Today only farming is a going concern. Due to the small-scale farm operations there only people of a very determined and independent mind-set would choose that life style. It is also apparent that only some of the original pre-empted lots are now permanently occupied and several appear to have reverted to the Crown.

The other face is characterized by the more recently created, approximately acre-sized lots which exist at the head of Galena Bay. There are now 38 lakefront lots plus a few more immediately behind. Once subdivided, the Galena Shores development will add approximately 28 more lakefront lots. The existing lots, some with permanent residents, make up the majority of lots in the general Galena Bay area. The draft OCP has completely missed that fact. I ask the CSRD to recognize that the 'lakefront' face of Galena Bay is a community. As it exists today it is not very different from Trout Lake. This part of Galena Bay should be identified in the OCP as 'Community Residential.' The necessary community infrastructure – road access, hydro and telephone – is already there. Provincial regulations set standards for community water and sewer services as well as the protection of creek beds and Arrow Lake and its foreshore. The continued development of Galena Bay lakefront will have no substantive impact on the local environment or on the residents of the rest of Galena Bay.

Dennis Dorval
Calgary, Alberta

NDP gives up

Methinks the provincial NDP have given up ever holding power in BC politics again. Why else would they opt into the latest salary raise for MLAs?

If they'd been serious about their opposition to the raise, and its accompanying abundant benefits package, they could have simply opted out of the whole deal, then changed the deal when they finally got back into power!

But maybe they're smarter than me. Maybe they can see writing on the wall that is illegible to mine eyes!

Wait, I can see it now: Using the sorry excuse they are going to donate the extra dough to charity, as if they won't be requesting the customary charity donation receipt. Giving BC taxpayers money to the United Way and other organizations that help the hungry and sick in other parts of the world, while we apparently can't, here at home, afford to keep all our residents housed and fed!

We've come a long way from the NDP that once seriously curtailed MLA pension availability, an NDP that would have argued politicians should have to work 20 plus years like the rest of us, before being entitled to collect a pension.

Don't know about anyone else, but I don't think we should just let this one go by the wayside, even though that's what we're supposed to do, and is precisely why the Liberals brought in this package in the middle of their term, and not just before they want our vote again.

The provincial NDP are guilty of abandoning their roots, and of giving up hope of ever forming a government again. Meanwhile, the Liberals are taking us all to the cleaners, in a very blatantly cynical fashion.

Personally, I think it's time we throw all of them out. All the lawyers, all the realtors, all the bureaucrats, all the used car dealers, all the union organizers, and all the media.

No, when the next election comes around, I'm going to vote for the person who is off the register, the person who the media totally ignores, the person who is the craziest, wildest and weirdest. Send loonies to the looney bin I say. Fill the place with the nutbars of the province (well, at least nut bars who aren't clever enough to line their own pockets and every twist and shake). Let's make the provincial legislature what it already is, a joke!

At very least it will make for some interesting viewing on the politics channel when there's no hockey game on the tube.

At best, maybe some of the party wigs on both sides will wake up, take notice and learn how to listen again.

Then maybe we'll finally get some real action, instead of all this Schwarzneggering (schwarzneggering: pretending to be a real action hero) on issues that really matter, like education, health, housing and the environment.

Will Webster
Kaslo, BC

Open letter to Premier Campbell

During many a debate and speech, when unveiling your platform or affirming your commitment to putting on "the world's healthiest" Olympics in 2010, you have repeatedly announced your intention of reducing health care costs by promoting holistic health in order to prevent health issues from developing into chronic crises.

Home support is an essential component of health care that allows seniors, disabled people or people with chronic health conditions to live independently and with dignity. Good home support includes food preparation, shopping, cleaning, socialization, basic medical care, and other needs of people who would otherwise be unable to live in their homes. It also promotes healthier lifestyles, by focusing on housing and nutrition.

But between 2000-01 and 2004-05 the number of clients receiving home support in BC dropped by 24 percent, while the number of total home support hours dropped by 12 percent – decreases that alarmingly counter BC's growing population of seniors. In addition, substantial cuts to the numbers of hospital and residential care beds since 2001 have led to a dramatic shift in home support as medical tasks take precedence over other tasks in order to fill this gap. Daily tasks related to the maintenance of health are neglected, as home support is geared to meet the more urgent needs of fewer clients.

Overwhelmingly, cuts to home support affect the most vulnerable British Columbians. In 2003, 82 percent of home support clients had pre-tax incomes of less than $15,000 per year; 80 percent were 75 or older; 10 percent were under 65 with disabilities; 70 percent were women, most of whom lived alone.

Failing to provide quality home support only leads to the exacerbation of health problems and the increased usage of emergency rooms and hospitals as a final recourse to care. Cutting back on home support is not only unethical, it is poor economics. Home support is significantly less expensive than acute and long-term care, and functions as a preventative health care service to relieve pressure on hospitals and medical practitioners.

I strongly urge your government to follow your own rhetoric about finding sustainable options for our health care system, and to increase funding and investment to our most cost-effective health program. Home support is part of the solution, and we cannot afford its further deterioration.

The Edgewood Home Support service provided has been inadequate since the cutbacks. For example, a 92-year-old citizen is returned home following back surgery with only one hour personal care home support service per week. Thankfully she had a friend with the time and ability to help her by cooking her meals, etc. We have had two mentally challenged people go into nursing homes, since one hour of personal care is not enough for them.

For Home and Country,

Edgewood-Inonoaklin
Women's Institute

Invitation withdrawn

Amazing! We asked to be included in the Field Assessments (Field Terrain, Hydrological, Visual Impact, Archaeological Impact, Riparian, Ungulate Winter Range and Detailed Road Survey) that were to take place, and a week later, we're told 'sorry, it's all done'! Imagine! All of that completed within a few days after us asking to be included. Is this super efficiency on the part of BCTS, or just another sharp practice to keep locals in the dark about their methods and how results are obtained?

Of course the Wildlife Review was not done. Doug MacPherson prefers to quote a 1999 Review that was discredited as inaccurate at the time. So, NO relevant Wildlife Assessment has been done. He says, 'the area is not considered Caribou winter range.' By whom? I collected six different samples of large ungulate scat in the area, which I offered to send to MacPherson and Skakun for analysis as possibly caribou, but they are maintaining a polite silence on this. They don't want to know. Finding caribou sign in there would interfere with their logging plan.

After it was pointed out to him, MacPherson acknowledges the 'new' maps are inaccurate in showing the wrong paths for our water supply creeks. This has important implications for Robinson Creek, the smaller of the two, which actually rises in Block 1 of the disputed area, and would definitely dry up in the summer if the surrounding forest was logged off. MacPherson's response to this serious error was to thank us for pointing it out. And that is all we get.

When challenged about the extraordinary high levels of pine beetle kill in the area quoted by MacPherson and Skakun, but not found by our people on the ground, we are told that their quoted figures were just 'estimates.' Why are BCTS proceeding on the basis of inaccurate 'estimates'?

So now, Mr. MacPherson is to prepare a report based on this pseudo-science from the 'experts' in the pay of BCTS. I wonder what his conclusion will be? No prizes for guessing 'clearcut' as his answer to the non-problem of a few bug-killed trees. A man with a horse could remove those trees with a little widening of the trail, and zero damage to the watershed, but hey! there's no money in that! We need to make the forest pay, in order to pay the wages of RPFs, loggers, and the whole Forestry Juggernaut. Not to mention our illustrious Premier, who just gave himself a 50% increase in salary.

This is 'professional'? It's about as professional as a doctor recommending major surgery instead of a course of remedial medicine, because he knows he will make more money on the surgery. And you take the risk.

The scientific method depends for credibility on results being verified by independent investigators. The BCTS method consists of keeping its cards hidden, denying outsiders access to check the findings of its 'professionals,' and using inaccurate maps and dusty old 'studies' when suited to its purpose.

Oh, did everyone take note that, in February of this year, for the first time, a Registered Professional Forester on the Sechelt Peninsula was successfully prosecuted for allowing logging in an area later shown to be the nesting area of the endangered Marbled Murrelet? A glimmer of hope for those of us trying to resist the Forestry autocracy?

Frank Appleton,
Edgewood, BC

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Slocan council, May 23: Abbatoir, properties, Valhalla Unit Crew discussed

by Don Currie

•Council reviewed problems surrounding the proposed abattoir. CAO Ludlow reported that Council had received $50,000 from its first application for the project and had applied for another $150,000. The latter amount would only be received after the project was completed. Ludlow reported that many of the new regulations concerning the disposal of waste are problematic. She said there were many plans available for abattoirs. Councillor Perriere wanted to know when the abattoir became a reality who would own it. Ludlow said the project would be a P3 (public, private project). Mayor Van Bynen was concerned that the Village not wind up with a "white elephant." Councillor Septav expressed frustration at the mounting red tape.

•CAO Ludlow reported that applications had been forwarded concerning crown land next to the water plant the Village wants to acquire. This would secure control over the old Village of Slocan hydro plant below the existing water plant on Gwillim Creek and resolve property conflicts at the beach. Ludlow said an application has also gone forward for a much larger water license on Springer Creek. She said there was more funding available if the proposed hydro development was all on crown land and it was preferable to get a license rather than a lease to develop.

•Public Works foreman Jerry Simmons recommended the installation of water meters to help curb pumping and chlorine costs. The bill for the months of January, February and March had doubled to $1,462 from last year because some residents were running water to keep their pipes from freezing. Councillor Ellis said it was the only way to control abuse, but Councillor Perriere requested a report on current costs of installing meters.

Simmons reported that all dead trees at the ball park had been removed and some were being salvaged to replace the perimeter around the park. A proposal to replace the soccer nets at the park concluded with a proposal to contact Mark Kohl, president of the Soccer Club, to discuss needed repairs.

Work continues on boulevard expansion, ditching and bricking of sidewalks and extending water use from Springer Creek for watering the logger sports grounds. Work is proceeding on clearing the parking lot at the boat launch. A discussion followed about the use of the Village-owned lots with CAO Ludlow explaining they had prime real estate value for the Village and their potential for residential and commercial development should be considered before they were developed for parking. Council supported a motion by Councillor Perriere that a report be given to the next meeting on the best use of the lots.

•Representatives of the Valhalla Unit Crew (forest firefighters housed at a facility in Slocan) reported to council that they were prepared to undertake projects on behalf of the Village. Councillor Septav recommended fire-proofing the campground as the most urgent task. Foreman Simmons was requested to make up a priority list. The crew representatives reported that under new work arrangements, the crew may become unionized and work under the direction of the Ministry. Proposals to centralize facilities could result in them being relocated to either Castlegar or Shoreacres, but the crew indicated a strong preference to remain in the Village of Slocan. Council decided to write a letter to Gene DeNoyer, the government representative in charge of relocating resources, to request a meeting indicating council's strong interest in resolving all issues required to retain the crew in the Village.

•Councillor Septav said there was little to report on the community forest project. The project was stalled as the provincial government attempted to resolve stumpage issues arising out of the Softwood Lumber Treaty. Councillor Perriere said grants had been applied for and stakeholders including the Village will be asked for funds. Councilor Septav said that Perry Ridge is not part of a community forest and that logging will proceed there this summer.

•Don Currie spoke on behalf of a delegation of residents who attended a public meeting on heritage issues. Council approved a request of the delegation for council to create a heritage committee with Joyce Johnson as convener. Councillor Ellis volunteered to represent council on the committee.

•Councillor Gates reported on the May RDCK meeting that called upon UBCM and the provincial government to review new regulations governing the installation of sewerage systems that are proving to be costly for rural residents.

•On the recommendation of Councillor Gates, council approved grants from its Columbia Basin Fund of $500 to the Mother Goose child literacy program and $550 to the West Kootenay Branch of Options for Sexual Health. Both groups will conduct their programs at the WE Graham School.

•Council was surprised to learn that the New Denver detachment of the RCMP cannot issue speeding tickets to motorists going through the stop sign on Harold Street in front of the WE Graham School. Only the Nelson highway detachment can issue such tickets. Council agreed to send a letter from the Mayor to the New Denver detachment for increased surveillance at the three-way stop.

•On a motion by Councillor Ellis, council will receive regular quarterly financial reports beginning in June. Ludlow also reported that audit of the financial statements was done and that Berg Naqvi, Village accountants, would be present at the June meeting to answer questions.

Silverton Lakeshore Inn

is looking for Slo-Pitch Baseball Players. Must be 19+ years old. Contact Moe at the Silverton Inn for more information.

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Ministry of Forests & Range

TIMBER SALE LICENCE A70237

Take notice that, pursuant to section 20 of the Forest Act, a Timber Sale licence is being offered for sale by the BC Timber Sales, Kootenay Business Area.

Closing Date/Location: June 27, 2007 at 11:00 AM. Applications will be accepted by the Timber Sale Manager, Kootenay Business Area, 1907 Ridgewood Road, Nelson, BC V1L 6K1

Geographic Location: Snow Creek, located approximately 23 km southeast of the community of Burton, within the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

Estimated Volume: 38,716 cubic metres, more or less

Species / Volume: Hemlock 18,119 m^3 (47%), Douglas-fir 7,270 m^3 (19%), Cedar 6,477 m^3 (17%), Larch 2,476 m^3 (6%), White-pine 1,812 m^3 (5%), Balsam 1,305 m^3 (3%) and Spruce 1,257 m^3 (3%), more or less

The preceding volumes are estimates based on statistical samples. Bidders are strongly advised to conduct a thorough field review to verify estimates.

License Term: two (2) years

Upset Stumpage Rate: $24.16 / cubic metre

The upset stumpage rate was determined in accordance with the Interior Appraisal Manual and is applicable to all sawlog grades.

Tenders will only be accepted from individuals or corporations registered as a BC Timber Sales Enterprise, Category 1, 2 or 3.

The successful applicant will be required to implement and conform to the Kootenay Business Area Environmental Management System.

Comments: There will be approximately 1 km of new road to be constructed by the licensee and the harvesting method for both blocks will be cable clear-cut.

This licence is subject to, among other things, new 'Take or Pay' Procedures for Waste Billings, new maximum term limits and extension fee and surrender provisions. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the impact of these changes when formulating their bids. Further information on these changes may be found in Advisory Bulletin 11/21/06.

Per the January 19th, 2007 letter from Dave Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Timber Sales, all companies or persons who work or operate on timber sale license areas, will need to register for SAFE Companies certification, or work for companies that are registered. This came into effect April 1, 2007. Please refer to the following website for more information: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/safety

Please ensure that you check the expiry date of your BCTS Enterprise registration before submitting a tender. You may check the status of your registration at the BC Timber Sales Website at: **http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/bcts/**

In respect to this proposed timber sale licence, there is additional material which the applicant must consider in their application. This material and application forms may be obtained from the above BC Timber Sales Office, telephone (250) 825-1100 or the ministry web site at: http://www5.for.gov.bc.ca/notices/init.do Specify Timber Sale Licence A70237.

All tender information provided for this timber sale is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on the above "../notices/init.do" site before the closing date of the timber sale. It is the applicant's responsibility to revisit this site to stay abreast of any changes that may affect their bid. If you would like to automatically receive a copy of any changes, please send your completed *"Notification of Package Receipt"* form to Forests.KootenayTimberSalesOffice@gov.bc.ca

Valley View's 40th anniversary Golf Scramble took place May 27. A total of $1474.54 was raised and $737.27 will be donated to the WE Graham Youth Centre. The winning team, with a score of 61, is pictured here: Willie Hicks, Mark Solecki, Linda Hicks and Raymond Gregoire.

Slocan Village council adopts five-year financial plan

by Don Currie

At its May 9 meeting, Slocan Village council adopted Bylaw #562, a bylaw to adopt a financial plan for 2007 to 2011; and Bylaw #563, a bylaw to levy property taxes for the year 2007 at special meetings of council on May 9 and 10.

The five-year financial plan projects an increase in revenues from $779,548 in 2007 to $914,753 by 2011. Revenues during the period will cover estimated increased expenditures of $39,000 for total general government, $2450 for protective services, $33,562 for transportation services, $2680 for environmental and health services, $7265 for recreation and cultural services, a rise of $40,760 for total fiscal services (includes taxes collected for other governments), $9,416 for capital projects. The bylaw projected an increase in water revenues from water user fees over five years from $56,700 in 2007 to $68,920 by 2011 to cover anticipated water fund expenditures.

Councillor Madeleine Perriere asked that her vote be recorded as opposed to Bylaw #562 because the financial plan did not include a capital allotment for the Wellness Centre. CAO Ludlow said that grants had been applied for but could not be included in the budget.

Ludlow said appraisals were done on all properties owned by the Village and that with current prices the Village has many assets it can sell that can go into reserves. Councillor Perriere said that council had not discussed that and the Village's financial situation cannot be solved by selling off assets. Ludlow said that Council must discuss the issue given the current demand for properties.

Bylaw #563, a bylaw to levy property taxes for the year 2007, was adopted unanimously. Schedule A of the bylaw established a mill rate of 3.3000 for Class 1 residential properties, 40.000 for Class 2 utilities, 46.6008 for Class 4 major industry, 9.5410 for Class 5 light industry and 6.5800 Class 6 for business and other. Draft #3 of the proposed Village Budget projects revenues for 2007 of $57,520 from Class 1 residential, $3,608 from Class 2 utilities, $147,114 from Class 4 major industry, $1435 from Class 5 light industry and $6127 from Class 6 business.

The Valhalla School of Theatre Arts

is hosting the second annual summer drama program for youth, ages 7-18. Join us and our outstanding professional instructors at the Silverton Gallery July 16th - 28th! Visit www.valhallafinearts.org/vista to download a registration form or call Bree Lillies @ 358-7225

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Silverton moves into second round of OCP review meetings

by Art Joyce

For those who believe Silverton is "in the middle of nowhere and the centre of everything," the second public OCP review meeting the evening of May 29 was a chance to refine that vision of their community. SmartGrowth BC planners Tom Lancaster and Jason Emmert were present to help Silverton residents review draft vision statements produced at the first public meeting and further refine these into guiding principles for the village. Videographer Jon Frantz was there to collect more footage of residents speaking out about their versions of the community vision. Even the kids got into the act – two young boys who said biking, fishing, and hunting were what made their town a great place to live, but want closer access to hockey practice.

Lancaster said a citizens' advisory committee has been formed to advise council, consisting of Bobbie Nesbitt, Leah Main, Bert and Cheryl Butchart, Heather Huether, Councillors Laktin and Bell, with non-voting members Mayor Everett and Junko Ida. Cynthia Capelle has asked to join the committee. A handwritten letter from Frances Matthews was read out, stating that Silverton is a community where "neighbours are always there for one another but never intrusive," and urging that no condos or marinas be allowed.

Jason Emmert helped break down the issues confronting Silverton into categories – economic, transportation, municipal, social, recreation, culture, environmental, and lifestyle. Residents were asked to separate into two discussion groups to come up with a single statement on each category that best summarized their community values. They were also asked to draft a statement of what Silverton is today and what they want it to be in 25-50 years. Lancaster said it was important to think far beyond a mere five-year plan.

Although the idea of boundary expansion was raised, it was generally agreed that growth needs to be carefully managed to encourage full-time residents and families rather than rampant development. Lancaster said the RDCK has agreed to provide mapping services and that his team will research village options for expansion. He added that for new housing there are options for district sewage systems or shared septic systems for 8-10 people.

Residents see a role for tourism but only as part of a diversified economy that includes home-based businesses. Ecotourism is seen as an option but one whose impact must be assessed. One group's summary statement read: "Silverton welcomes tourism that respects and enhances our cultural, environmental, and heritage assets."

In the cultural category, another suggested vision statement was that "Silverton promotes and enhances its visual and performing arts." Under heritage, there was broad agreement that the village's mining history be "honoured and protected."

As to the village today and in the future, one statement summed it up this way: "Silverton is a unique, vibrant village in transition from a resource-based economy to a cultural, ecotourism and educational-friendly community able to support citizens of all ages."

Slocan Valley North APC discusses steps to foreshore management plan

by Art Joyce

Bruce McDonald of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans attended the Slocan Valley North Advisory Planning Commission (APC) meeting May 16 to advise the members on the steps involved in creating a lake management plan for Slocan Lake and Summit Lake. As an example McDonald brought a copy of the draft Shoreline Habitat Inventory Map (SHIM) of Lake Windemere and will pass on a copy when it is finalized. The process there has taken two years so far.

McDonald explained that the first in a three-stage process is to cruise the lake in a boat and make a GPS video to record foreshore data and thereby provide a basis for GIS mapping. The second phase is classifying habitat underwater and on the shore. The third phase is to establish management guidance with regard to issuing permits – for example, what developments, if any, are allowed to happen and how. Tola Cooper will be the DFO contact person.

The APC will need funding for the project, which is available from a variety of sources. McDonald has applied for funding to video Slocan Lake and Summit Lake and may be able to complete it by September this year, if funding is approved. DFO would provide the APC with a boat and driver, and can also train a volunteer to use the equipment. Area H Director Don Munro said the RDCK could come up with some funding to help the project.

Luce Paquin of the Slocan Lake Management Committee told the APC she is applying for funding from the CBT, from Fish & Wildlife, and Eco Action (Environment Canada). Liza Ireland told Paquin the APC would be willing to write a letter of support for her application.

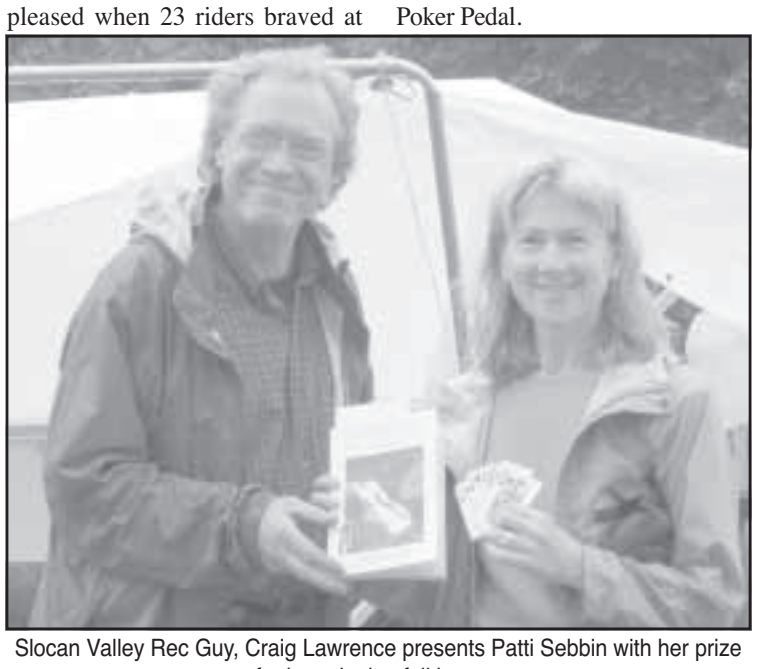
Also at the May 16 meeting, the APC finalized a questionnaire that should be in all mailboxes in the northern Slocan Valley by early to mid June, with a deadline to respond of four weeks. This is an opportunity for public input into the Official Community Plan for northern Area H.

Full house rides away with the glory at first annual Poker Pedal

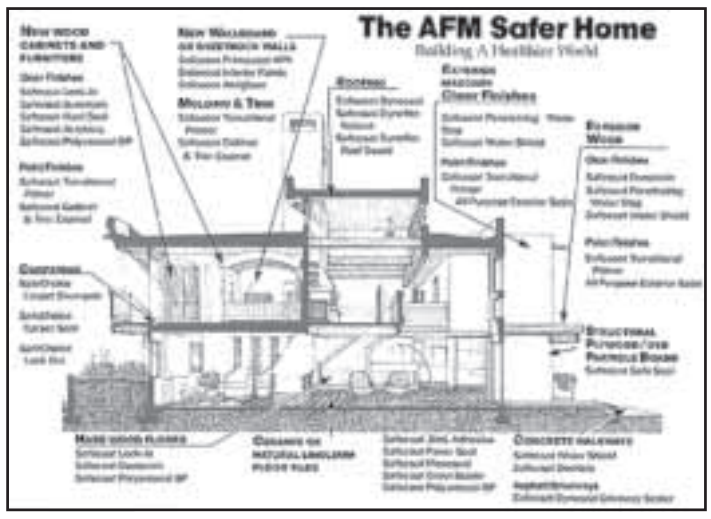
submitted

Patti Sebben of Silverton managed to ride in with the winning hand at the rain-soaked first annual Slocan Valley Poker Pedal held Sunday, May 27. Slocan Valley Recreation and the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society, which co-organized the event, were quite pleased when 23 riders braved at times heavy rain, to take part in the 24-kilometre bike ride which began and ended at the Winlaw trailhead of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail.

Many thanks go to the tenacious spirit of the riders who participated and to the various businesses who donated prizes to the day. Look for sunny skies next year at the next Poker Pedal.



Slocan Valley Rec Guy, Craig Lawrence presents Patti Sebbin with her prize for her winning full house.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER – 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Residents of the Village of New Denver are requested to take notice that pursuant to Sections 98 and 99 of the Community Charter, the Village of New Denver's 2006 Annual Report will be available for public inspection as of June 20, 2007, at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C. between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 99 of the Community Charter, Council will consider the 2006 Annual Report at its Tuesday, June 26, 2007 Regular Meeting, at 7:00 p.m., in the Village of New Denver Council Chambers, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C. Council will accept submissions and respond to questions from the public at this time.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Silverton Lakeshore Inn

would like to make a quick note to the people of Silverton, New Denver and surrounding area. We would like to thank you for all of your support in our new business venture. Just to let you know - we will bring back 2 for 1 Steak Night in September, 2007, by popular demand. We just need a little time to iron out the kinks in our new business and get through the tourist season.

Thanks to all of you for all of your support.

Moe & the team at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn

358-7929 • 12 Lake Avenue • Silverton, BC

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

CAMPSITE ATTENDANT
July 4, 2007 – September 30, 2007

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver requires a Resident Park Manager for the municipal campground. The Village of New Denver will supply campsite and radio telephone with the Resident Manager supplying firewood. Remuneration to be a 41% Manager and 59% Village split. For particulars please contact the Village of New Denver Municipal Office at 358-2316, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Duties:
- Ensure campers use designated campsites
- Collect camping fees (cash or traveler's cheques only) twice daily
- Cut, split and stack wood in firewood shed, and clean up woodshed area
- Keep campsites clean and tidy (including cutting grass and weeds in campsites)
- Collect money from showers
- Collect garbage from campsite and park twice daily
- Clean washrooms and showers twice daily
- Maintain supplies in washrooms
- Provide basic tourist information
- Remit all funds collected to the Village Office every Monday morning

Supplied by Attendant
- Chain saw
- Axe
- Lawn mower
- Fuel and oil for chain saw and mower
- Clippers (weed trimmer)
- Firewood

Supplied by Village
- Garbage bags
- Receipt books
- Cleaning supplies
- Washroom supplies

Closing Date: 4 pm, June 21st

New Denver council, May 22: Goats will not be allowed

by R. N. Riley

• Council reconsidered the motion that amended the Animal Control Bylaw to allow New Denver residents to keep goats within the Village. Mayor Wright said that after further discussion with affected parties, he became "convinced that even the most basic contemplated requirement of such an amendment, i.e. the non-objection of contiguous residents and property owners, will not be met in the case of the applicants for this bylaw change." He added that, whether warranted or not, the issue "has become very contentious within the community and council."

Councillor Brookfield was of the opinion that "my wife's male cat would probably be more problem than any goat could ever be," but Mayor Wright pointed out that "passage of such an amendment, when in practice it will yield no benefit to either proponents or opponents, is not in the community interest." By unanimous vote, council agreed to first bring the matter back for reconsideration, and then defeated the amendment.

• Council will provide School District 10 with a letter of support for the continuation of the 'Community Connections' program. Phase II of the program would see the creation of a 'Learning Council,' which would be made up of members from "all the communities affected, and would talk about ways of helping each other to make more efficient use of facilities and programs in the Arrow Lakes School District," according to school board chair Pattie Adam. Adam gave council a 30-minute presentation on the challenges facing the district in the near future, and recapped the work done so far with Phase I of the program. Mayor Wright questioned if it was possible to skip Phase II and proceed directly into taking some action regarding the problems identified in Phase I, but Adam said the provincial government has offered $40,000 for Phase II, which would involve the creation of a central council to administer the program. Wright asked how much Phase III of the program was estimated to be worth, but Adam did not have those figures available for him.

• Reporting on RDCK business, Mayor Wright said he had attended a recent "Rails to Trails" meeting, and work was proceeding on a new bridge over Carpenter Creek at Three Forks. He added that there will also need to be repair work done on the trestles where the trail crosses Ken Butler's property. In other RDCK business, Wright said he will be recommending the elimination of the 10% administration fee for building inspections.

• The slow pace of spring clean-up along Highways 31A and 6, and on the bridge across Carpenter Creek, has earned a letter of rebuke from council to Yellowhead Road and Bridge. The letter noted that "for a second year in a row" Village crews had swept the intersection of the highways, as well as a block north and south, in addition to removing the winter's sand build-up. Councillor Greensword noted that since the letter was drafted, the bridge had been swept and cleaned. Wright asked that to be acknowledged before the letter was sent, but commented that the bridge clean-up was still "horribly late."

• Involving the same area of town, Councillor Campbell noted that Hank Hastings has been providing regular upkeep of the "Wet Rock" at the corner of Highways 6 and 31A on a purely volunteer basis. She asked for a letter of acknowledgment and thanks, which was happily agreed to.

• Permission to create storage space for the wooden tables and chairs at Bosun Hall was requested by the Lucerne Association for Community Education. These tables and chairs are being replaced with lighter plastic models, but will still be stored for rental to the public. Councillor Bunka will meet with LACE to discuss the options of storage within the hall or the purchase of a couple of outdoor sheds. They will also discuss options for protecting the hall's new doors from water damage caused by rainfall back-splash, and Bunka will report back with recommendations.

• Council will provide a letter of support for the Valhalla School of Theatre Arts (ViSTA), which is seeking funding from Columbia Basin Trust, and Community Futures, which is preparing proposals for continued funding.

• Two letters of concern were received about the impending arrival of cell phone service in New Denver. Councillor Campbell pointed out that the Village has no control over the use of the towers, which are owned by the Television Society and CBC. Councillor Greensword moved that the writers be told to contact Telus, which was carried.

Silverton council, May 22: Fire hydrants being tested

by Geordie Rice

• It was revealed that Silverton's fire hydrants did not undergo flow tests after the upgrades to Silverton's water system several years ago. Public Works foreman Leonard Casely is in the process of testing the hydrants with WSA Engineering as part of the water study program. The results will be passed on to CGI Insurance. It was noted that CGI may wish to perform their own tests, at a cost of approximately $3,000, in order for Silverton to receive accreditation as being ready to deal with a fire.

• Joe Matthews presented a letter on behalf of his mother, who offered to plant a small shrub, of containable size, in a hole left on the boulevard after BC Hydro removed a power pole. The hole, which BC Hydro had failed to fill in, is seen as both unsightly and a hazard, as it could cause tripping or falling. Council decided on an alternative solution of filling the hole and seeding it.

• Councillor Bell reported on a Galena Trail meeting. The meeting addressed the replacement of rotting bridges along the trail, as well as the Nakusp to Kaslo Rails to Trails initiative, which is proposing to allow limited motorized access to some parts of the trail.

Slocan Outdoor Market

The Slocan Outdoor Market is starting up again on June 24 at the old Elementary School on Harold St.

• Fruit & Veggies
• Food Vendors
• Arts & Crafts
• Home Baking
• Snacks Available

Featuring a "Live Stage" with performers from throughout the Kootenays.

Sundays from 10 to 3 pm

Vendors Wanted
Contact Joanne @ 355-2531 or
Leslie @ 355-2698 or
market@slocancity.com
Musicians call Brian Waller @ 355-2730

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

THE VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER is now accepting applications for a labourer for summer employment for 2007, to work with the Public Works Department. Eligible applicants must be registered full-time students during the preceding academic year and intending to return to full-time studies in the fall. Eligible candidates must be reliable, have good communication and public relations skills and should possess a valid BC Drivers Licence. The position is for 40 hrs per week for 8 weeks, at $9.00 per hour and commences on July 3, 2007. Applicants are invited to send a cover letter and resume to Mayor and Council, Village of New Denver, PO Box 40, New Denver, B.C., V0G 1S0. All applications must be received by June 21, 2007 at 4:00 pm.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

PUBLIC NOTICE

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION

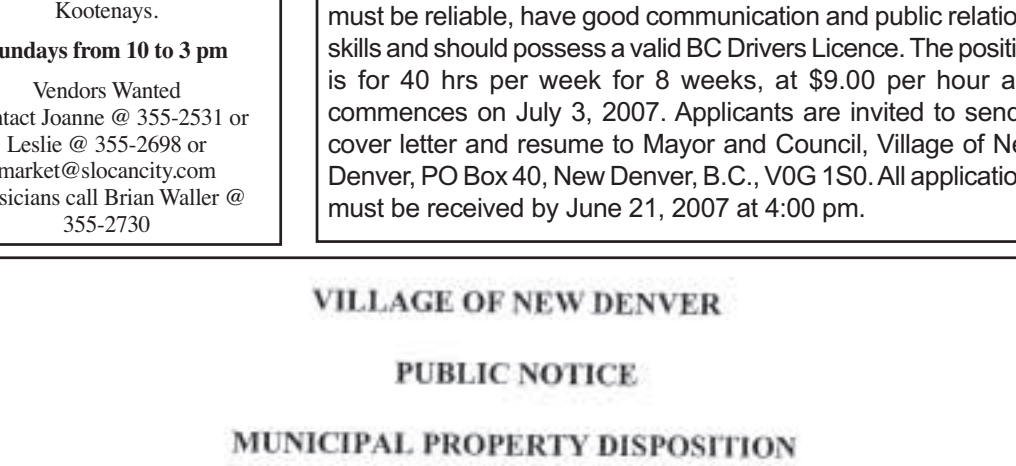
BLOCK 39 ROAD EXCHANGE AND DEDICATION BYLAW NO. 606, 2007

TAKE NOTICE that the Village of New Denver intends to permanently close and remove highway dedication from the road right-of-way in Block 39, District Lot 549, Plan 557, Kootenay Land District as outlined in black on the drawing below.

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Community Charter, the Village Council intends to dispose of the lands described above and labeled as "CLOSED LANE" on the drawing below

IN EXCHANGE FOR

the lands in Lot 21, Block 39, District Lot 549, Plan 557, Kootenay Land District, as outlined in black and labeled as "LANE" on the drawing below.



The Village Council will consider adopting Bylaw No. 606, 2007 at its June 12, 2007 Regular Meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 115 Slocan Avenue. All persons who believe they are affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the bylaw.

A copy of the bylaw may be inspected at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office, 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, B.C. during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Written submissions may be forwarded to the attention of the undersigned by 4:00 p.m. June 7, 2007.

This is not a tender or a request for offers.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

(Second of Two Notices)

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VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

SPRINKLING AND OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS

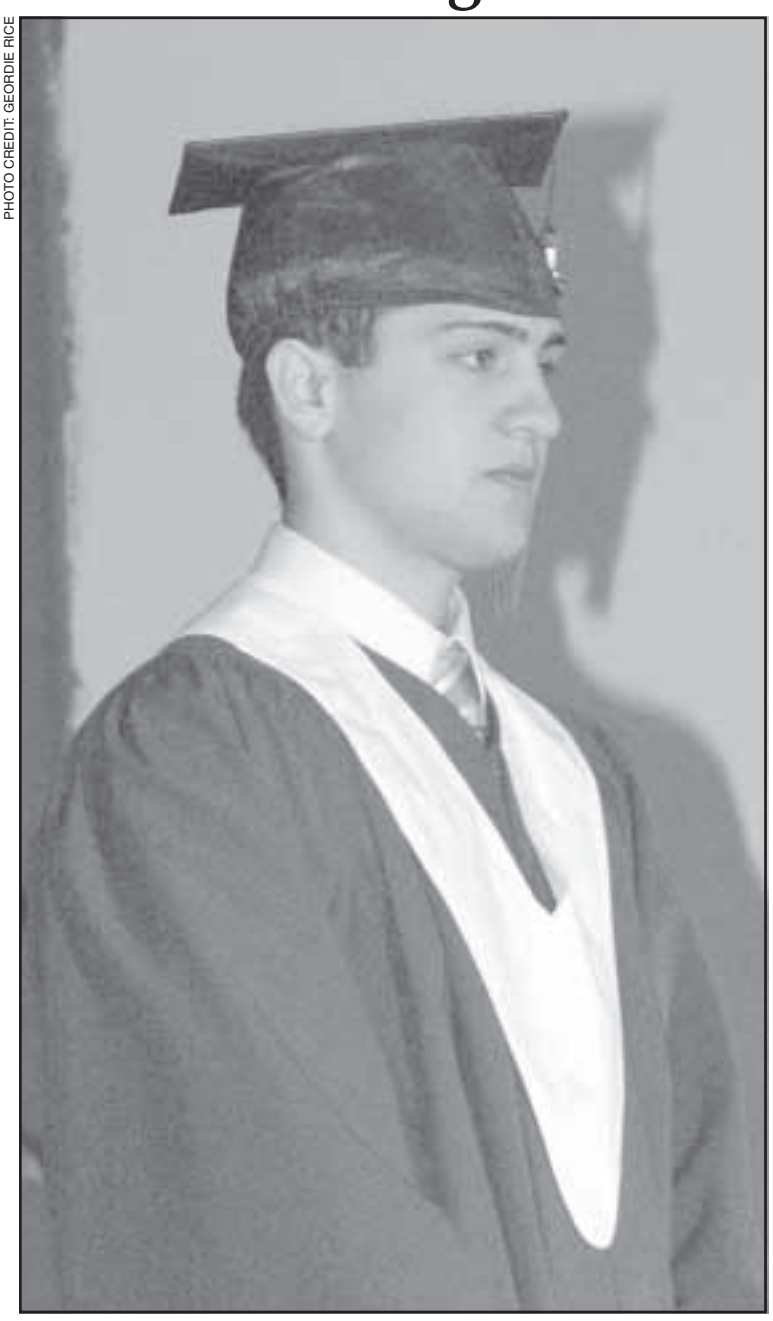
Residents are reminded that sprinkling restrictions in the Village of New Denver shall be implemented annually effective June 1st through September 15th of each year, in order to regulate sprinkling, conserve water and lower the high cost of pumping during the summer months. Effective June 1, 2007 there shall be no sprinkling between the hours of 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Residents are reminded that open burning is prohibited within the Village of New Denver from May 15th to September 15th, except for cooking fires contained within a barbeque pit or fire pit having a surface area not greater than four (4) square feet; or within a manufactured gas, coal or electric barbeque. Council thanks all residents for their cooperation.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Lucerne School graduation – Valedictorian's Address to the class of 2007

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE



Sanjar Skrenes was the Lucerne Class Valedictorian for 2007. His speech appears at the right.

Sanjar Skrenes

First of all, I would like to thank you all for being here on this momentous occasion. I am deeply honoured to be standing before you as the Valedictorian of the Graduating Class of 2007.

My fellow students, we have all had the fortune of being raised in this small and friendly community. Indeed, Lucerne is as small as high schools get. However, it is here, in the cradle of this serene valley, where we have learned many unique skills that we will apply throughout the course of our lives. These include participation and teamwork skills. In a school where the survival of sports teams is dependent upon every able-bodied person joining in, participation and teamwork is imperative. In an area where resources and activities are limited, we must do things ourselves if we desire for them to be done. This has not only developed our imaginations, but has impelled us to become leaders and volunteers in our school and in our community.

In a town where everyone knows each other and no one is a stranger, children grow up with a strong sense of security, stability and confidence. In a town where doors needn't be locked, we develop the ability to trust each other. We are a tight-knit community, which means that the thoughts, actions, and feelings of one individual can be felt by all others. Our constant exposure to this culture of connection has caused us to think less about our own well-being, and more about the well-being of the community as a whole.

It is our duty and responsibility both to ourselves and to others to take the unique abilities and qualities that we have learned in this community and apply them in the next stage of our lives. In the future, we will be doctors, welders, computer technicians, friends, community members, husbands, and fathers. In these aspects of our lives, we will have ample opportunity to show our leadership and participation, to use our imaginations, and to be trustworthy and selfless. A man by the name of Baha'u'llah once said, "Man is even as steel, the essence of which is hidden: through admonition and explanation, good counsel and education, the essence will be brought to light. If, however, he be allowed to remain in his original condition, the corrosion of lusts and appetites will effectively destroy him." Put more simply, "use it, or lose it."

We all know that one of the greatest joys in life comes from helping those around us, and in seeing that we have made a positive difference in the life of another. Thus, let us not deprive others of our unique abilities, nor deny ourselves of the joys of selfless service.

I encourage you, my fellow students, to take all of the wonderful and positive experiences that you have had living in this small community; to take all the good skills and qualities that you have acquired thus far in your life, to bring them forward with you, and to apply them on the road that lies ahead. Share with others the flavour that small town life has brought to you, and let them know of the joy and peace that you have known.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you, and may God be with you always!

Congratulations to the Class of 2007, and best wishes for your future, from
Home hardware
214 6th Ave • New Denver • 358-2422

nuru design
"Nature's Hand-Painted Clothing Company"
Coffee Bar & Baked Goodies
Best wishes to the 2007 Lucerne Graduating Class!
513-6th Avenue, New Denver, BC
www.nurudesign.com

You made it!
Best wishes from
CTJ & Associates

Congratulations from the staff and management at
Valhalla Inn
New Denver, B.C. Ph. 250-358-2201
New Denver

Congratulations to the Class of 2007
Ann's Natural Foods
Kildare Street
New Denver

Congratulations!
We Serve You First
Your Insurance Broker Understands
Anderson Insurance
New Denver

Best wishes to the 2007 Lucerne Graduating Class. May your dreams come true!
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Congratulations to the Class of 2007 from
horsefeathers
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206 Lake • Silverton • hrsftrs@telus.net

Coles Equipment Rentals
Congratulations and best wishes to the Lucerne Graduating Class of 2007

KS Kootenay Savings
Where You Belong
Main Street
New Denver

Village of New Denver
Congratulations to the Graduates of 2007 from the Council and Staff of the Village of New Denver

Well done, Class of 2007!
FAT KAT'S SWEETS
801 Union St. 358-2272

The Wild Rose Restaurant
The future is bright - keep shining!

Congratulations from Steve and all the staff
Silverton Building Supplies
True Value Hardware

Congratulations to the Class of 2007, and best wishes for your future, from
Mark Adams
Certified General Accountant
Main Street
New Denver 358-2411

Congratulations to the Lucerne graduating Class of 2007 from
School District 10 Arrow Lakes
New Denver

Congratulations to the Lucerne graduating Class of 2007 from
VALHALLA PURE
New Denver

Congratulations and best wishes from
Sappho's Bakery
Nice Buns!
309 Kildare, New Denver 358-2119

Congratulations to the Lucerne Graduates of 2007
SWEET DREAMS GUESTHOUSE & LICENSED DINING
702 Eldorado
New Denver 358-2415

Congratulations to the Grads of 2006
from Lana & the staff at
The 19th Hole Restaurant
on Slocan Lake, North of New Denver

We are proud of you!
Bonanza Creek Gallery
SILVERTON, BC

BIGWAY FOODS
Your Local Grocer
Congratulations You did it!
Best wishes to the 2007 Lucerne graduating class!

Congratulations and best wishes to the Lucerne graduating class of 2007 from
Raven's Nest GALLERY

Lucerne Secondary graduates a class of five young men

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

The Lucerne graduating class of 2007, in their caps and gowns. From the left, Randy Duncan, Darrin Hicks, Sanjar Skrenes, River Bardati and Brian Magnuson.

Lucerne Graduation Ceremonies 2007 – Presentations and Awards

by Geordie Rice

Lucerne's 2007 graduating class held their ceremonies last weekend, and are on their way into the world. The class, which consists of River Bardati, Randy Duncan, Darrin Hicks, Brian Magnuson, and Sanjar Skrenes, is Lucerne's first all-male graduating class in 37 years.

School District 10 Superintendent Walter Posnikoff gave a speech wishing the grads best of luck in the future, while SD10 board chair Pattie Adam proceeded with a humorous speech that was more akin to a list of every motherly nag ever spoken. "Always wear clean underwear, you never know when it could save your life," she concluded.

The grad video, one of the highlights of the grad ceremonies each year, was presented by Darrin Hicks and Randy Duncan, while Brian Magnuson gave a nostalgic class history rife with jokes that hold special meaning for anyone who's ever attended Lucerne. After the scholarships were awarded, Valedictorian Sanjar Skrenes presented his valedictory address, followed by another grad staple – the class prophecies – presented by Darrin Hicks and Randy Duncan. Guest speaker Trish Hawkins told of her first few weeks as principal at Lucerne, and how her inquiries to various teachers about this grad class had revealed universal praise. Acknowledgements and thanks were given by River Bardati, followed by Superintendent Posnikoff presenting the grads with their diplomas. The ceremonies concluded with some closing words from Trish Hawkins.

Awards and scholarships

Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

Columbia Basin Trust Youth Community Service Award: Brian Magnuson

Columbia Power Corporation Bursary: Darrin Hicks

Goat Mountain School Scholarship: River Bardati

John Greenan Memorial Bursary: River Bardati

Eugene Huss Memorial Bursary: Randy Duncan

New Denver Women's Institute Scholarship: Randy Duncan

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 20 New Denver/Silverton: Randy Duncan, Brian Magnuson, Sanjar Skrenes

Cinta Batik Arts Scholarship: River Bardati

(CUPE Local 2450) Joe Lee Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

Grad Bursary: Darrin Hicks, Brian Magnuson

Kootenay Savings Credit Union Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

Lucerne Teachers' & Principal's Attitude and Achievement Award: Sanjar Skrenes

Lucerne Scholarship Society General Scholarship: Darrin Hicks

Edith J. Greer Scholarship: Sanjar Skrenes

Chie Kamegaya Memorial: Sanjar Skrenes

Fujiko Matsushita: Sanjar Skrenes

Andrea Mengler Memorial Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

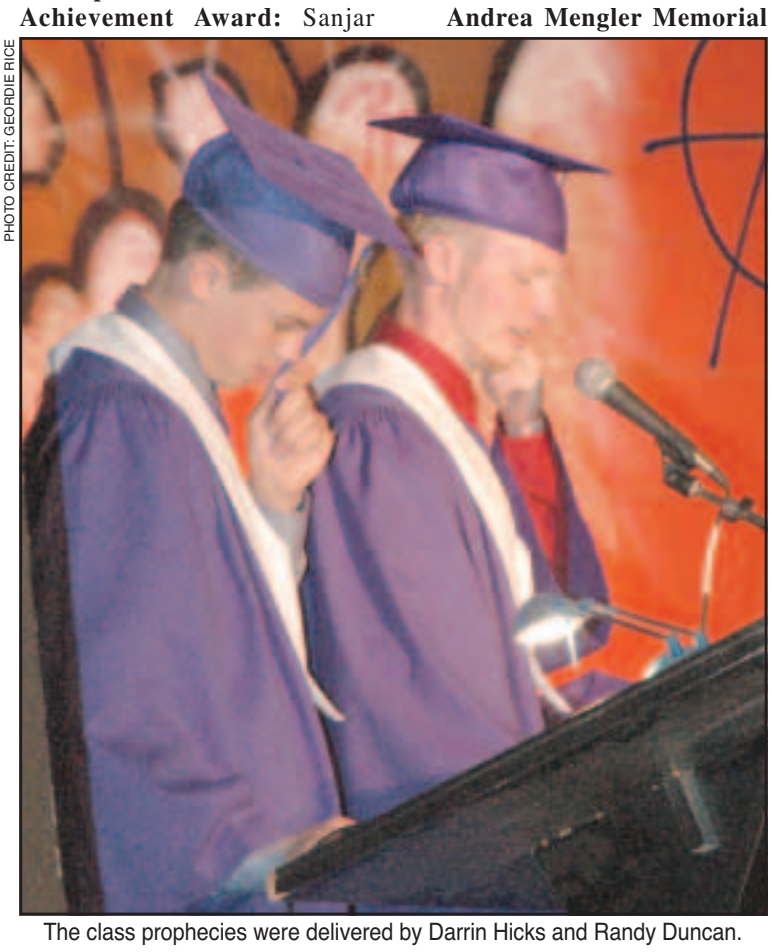
School District #10 Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

School District #10 Mission Statement Scholarship: Sanjar Skrenes

Yearbook Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

Yellowhead Road & Bridge Scholarship: Brian Magnuson

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE



The class prophecies were delivered by Darrin Hicks and Randy Duncan.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

Randy Duncan receives his diploma from Superintendent Walter Posnikoff.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

Lucerne teacher, Terry Taylor gives Brian Magnuson the Yearbook Scholarship.

Congratulations to all the 2007 Graduates!
The Valley Voice

Congratulations from
PETRO-CANADA
Glacier View Service
Hwy 6, New Denver

Congratulations to the Lucerne Grads!
The Apple Tree
New Denver

Congratulations to the 2007 Graduates from
Silverton Lakeshore Inn
12 Lake Ave. Silverton

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of Lucerne School.
Best of luck in all of your future endeavours!
303 Lake Avenue
Silverton, BC
(250) 358-2844

Congratulations to the Class of 2007
LOMA LUMBER
88 - 3rd Ave NW
NAKUSP
True Value Hardware
IRLY Building Centre

Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association
Best wishes to the Lucerne Graduating Class of 2007

Congratulations from
Panini Bistro

Village of Silverton
Congratulations to the Lucerne Grads!

Congratulations on a job well done!
from
Carol's Corner
Main Street, New Denver

Congratulations
from all of us at
MOUNTAINBERRY
Hwy 6, New Denver

Regional fire protection proposed for Kaslo and Area D

by Jan McMurray

On May 24, residents of Kaslo and Area D were presented with a proposal for a single fire protection service covering the area from Coffee Creek to Schroeder Creek. Kaslo Mayor Jim Holland, Area D Director Andy Shadrack, Kaslo Fire Chief Bryan MacMillan and representatives from the RDCK were on hand to answer questions from the approximately 100 people in attendance.

The new service would consist of the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department and a new fire department in Woodbury or Ainsworth. It would involve building two new fire halls – one in Kaslo and one in Woodbury or Ainsworth – and purchasing a pumper, a tanker and ancillary and communication equipment for the Woodbury/Ainsworth department. The halls and equipment would be jointly owned by the Village of Kaslo and the RDCK. All residents in the fire protection service area would be taxed equally for the service. The tax rate has been estimated at $1.062 per $1,000 of assessment. The estimate of the total annual cost of the service over 10 or 15 years is $302,209.

Shadrack explained that this estimate was the worst case scenario and the cost could be pared down with grant money and volunteer labour to build the halls. He also explained that as more residents move in to the area, they would share the cost and the rate would go down for everyone.

The benefits of the proposal include the abilities to draw on more people to serve as volunteer firefighters, to equalize the cost of fire protection over a larger population, and to have more firefighting equipment and manpower in the region. People living outside the currently protected area (Coffee Creek to Amunsden Rd. and Shutty Bench to Shroeder Creek) will benefit with a much lower insurance bill. It was reported that most insurance companies will cover people who live within 8 km of a fire hall, and some (RHC in Nelson) will cover people living 13 km from a fire hall.

Currently, Kaslo owns and operates its own fire department and contracts its services south to Mirror Lake and north to Shutty Bench. Kaslo residents pay .68/$1,000 and the Area D residents who receive the service pay only .298/$1,000. This is the lowest fire service contract price in the RDCK. The reason for the low rate in Area D could not be fully explained, as no one at the meeting was part of those negotiations, but Mayor Holland pointed out that Kaslo residents are better protected because they are closer to the fire hall. "In Area D, your house probably won't be saved, but your neighbour's house will."

Holland also said that the Kaslo fire hall needs upgrades or replacement, "so I don't think you can rely on those rates for very much longer."

To add the cost of constructing a new fire hall in Kaslo to the existing fire service (Mirror Lake to Shutty Bench), using the existing taxation formula, it has been estimated that Kaslo residents would pay .912/$1,000 and Area D residents would pay .396/$1,000.

Shadrack gave examples of rates other communities pay for their fire service to show that $1.06/$1,000 for the proposed service was reasonable – Riondel pays $1.17; Ymir $1.76; and Wynndel $1.18.

Someone asked why people who are already protected would be asked to pay significantly higher taxes for essentially the same service. MacMillan pointed out that the second fire department would provide backup in the way of manpower and equipment. Holland and Shadrack both spoke in favour of equalizing and sharing the cost of fire protection regionally. "This is about neighbours working with neighbours," said Shadrack.

This proposal will have to go to referendum, as it involves more than .50 per $1,000 taxation. RDCK Acting CAO Dawn Attorp indicated that the process would take a few months and the service would not be in place this year.

A woman from Fletcher Creek asked if Kaslo's fire protection service could be extended down to Fletcher Creek while waiting for this process to unfold. She expressed some impatience, as she circulated a petition in September 2005 showing that Fletcher Creek residents were willing to pay taxes to enter into a contract for fire services with Kaslo. Attorp explained that the first step towards coverage for Fletcher Creek would be for the RDCK to draw up a petition that the legally required number of Fletcher Creek residents would have to sign. The woman said she was willing to get those signatures.

MacMillan confirmed that the location for a new fire hall in Kaslo was being considered on Village property. He said options included land adjacent to the arena, land below the arena, and land downtown at the provincial building. The preferred piece is the one adjacent to the arena. Shadrack reported that land had been set aside in Woodbury some years ago for a fire hall, but he was still waiting on the details.

When a fire department in Shutty Bench was suggested, MacMillan said it would be difficult to find volunteer manpower in that area.

Some felt that phasing in the new service by taking "smaller steps" would be preferable, while others praised the plan's regional approach. One woman, in favour of the phased approach, suggested that a new fire hall be built in Kaslo and the service extended to Fletcher Creek first. Then, in five years when demographics are better known, the community could consider moving further on the plan. Another woman called the proposal "an admirable plan," noting that "all major steps forward have been done on economies of scale."

"The area is going to grow and there will be benefits," she said.

Historic *Lancet* 'floats' again

submitted

After a five month extensive restoration, the historic motor launch *Lancet* has been returned to its customary location in the Silvery Slocan Museum Society yard adjacent to the Apple Tree in New Denver.

The *Lancet* now resembles very closely the boat that Dr. Brouse built in the upper floor of the hospital 100 years ago. Anyone who saw the *Lancet* in its unrestored state will be amazed at the transformation.

The restoration project has been a very rewarding undertaking that could not have proceeded without the help and generosity of a great number of people who donated money, materials and time. The society would like to recognize the generosity of Mr. Laralle Smith (aka Smitty) who owns the land just north of Nemo Creek on the west shore of the lake. The *Lancet* spent the later years of its life as a derelict on the beach until it was donated to the society by Smitty.

Major funding partners in this venture were the BC Gaming Commission and the Columbia Basin Trust. The society wishes to express its gratitude to Tracy and Francie Oldham who donated their new garage as a work space, and full access to their impressive workshop and power tools.

Mark MacKenzie of Kaslo took on the project, demonstrating continuously not only his expertise in restoring wooden boats but his passion for historical boats of all kinds. Mark was able to piece together a picture of the various phases of the *Lancet's* life and was an honour to work with. The society would also like to recognize the contribution of Mr. Doran Pearson of Cresent Valley for the donation of a single cylinder marine engine, made in 1904 by the St. Laurant Engine Company Limited in Brockville, Ontario. While it's not the original engine that powered the *Lancet*, its first engine was probably very similar to this artifact.

The restored *Lancet* won 'best float' in the centennial May Days parade. Thanks to the ladies of the Hospital Auxiliary for their participation.

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New Denver 358-2344

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POSITION: PARK CREATION WORKERS
(6 POSITIONS)

DUTIES/REQUIREMENTS:

- outdoor work includes landscaping & construction
- layout & construction of fully serviced campground
- laying of water main, distribution lines & stand-pipes
- assist with Music Fest production July 13-15, 2007
- build roads and trail system, landscaping
- assist architects, engineers & contractors

WAGE: $ 413 / week

Employer: Nakusp Music Festival, Nakusp B.C.

TERM OF POSITION: June 18/07 - Nov.30/07

TO APPLY: Provide resume to :

Attn: Michele Williams, Nakusp Music Fest
Box 559, Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0
Or by fax: 265-2142
Or drop off resume at the
Nakusp Music Fest Office – 119 Broadway, Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0

Qualifications: Because this is a JCP, only candidates with EI attachment will be considered.(Must have received regular EI benefits in the past 3 years or parental/maternity benefits in the past 5 years).

Closing date: Wed., June 13, 2007
Positions available subject to program approval.

Nakusp council, May 22: Water conservation a top priority this summer

by Jan McMurray

•Council reviewed a notice about water usage that will be sent out to all residents with the tax bills. The notice asks residents to use water "wisely and efficiently" as infrastructure and treatment is costly. The year round lawn watering restrictions are explained in the notice – watering can take place between 7 and 9 am and 7 and 9 pm on odd days for odd numbered houses and even days for even numbered houses. There is a $100 fine for anyone who does not follow these restrictions. "We will definitely be fining this year – we never have in the past," said Mayor Hamling.

•CAO Lafleur will prepare amendments to the water bylaw that would impose substantial fines for the inappropriate use of water. He will also prepare a policy to regulate sprinklering, addressing gardens, daytime sprinklering, new lawns and underground sprinkler systems.

•George Bonacci, member of the committee working on the Nakusp to Kaslo Rail Trail, attended as a delegation to ask council for a letter of support. He said the committee was planning to do an assessment on the trail, hold a public meeting, and write a report to submit to Tourism BC. He also wanted to know what section of the trail was Village owned; staff was directed to look into this. Mayor Hamling asked about the ongoing motorized/non-motorized debate, saying that many residents on the trail do not wish it to be motorized. Bonacci indicated that the committee had not made a decision, and said that sections of the trail between Kaslo and New Denver are non-motorized simply because it is not feasible to make them motorized. Council agreed to provide a letter of support.

•Mayor Hamling reported on the BC Hydro wharf access agreement, after a meeting May 16 with BCH representative Harry Brownlow. Council is expecting Hydro to come back with an interim agreement so that emergency repairs can proceed this season. "We're still not too happy with BC Hydro at this point. They want the whole cake. They still don't want to give us any crumbs and we want a slice of it," she said. Councillor Switzer said Hydro wanted access in perpetuity and the final say.

•Four people had volunteered to sit on the athletic commission, a requirement for the upcoming Mixed Martial Arts tournament.

Following up on a concern about disruption during one of these events in Vernon, CAO Bob Lafleur contacted Vernon RCMP and found out that the incident was not serious.

•Council authorized staff to submit a grant application for the washroom for disabled persons at the arena.

•Public Works has installed the lid on the source of the hotsprings water. Further recommended source protection measures were referred to the hotsprings committee.

•Mayor Hamling stepped down from the hotsprings committee and appointed Councillor Heppner to take her place.

•The Village will provide a letter of support to the X-country ski club in its efforts to promote skiing at the old hotsprings road. The club has approached Columbia Basin Trust to help with the cost of a tracking device.

Computer Problem?
Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

Nakusp celebrates grand opening of Halcyon House

by Jan McMurray

Pride and victory were in the air at the official grand opening of Halcyon House assisted living facility in Nakusp on May 24.

"This is a very, very special day for all of us," said Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling in her speech. One of the original people involved in the project to transform Halcyon Home intermediate care into Halcyon House assisted living, Hamling remembered the day they decided to close Halcyon Home. "All hell broke loose," she said. "I'm sure the powers that be were not prepared for this community – we all fought, screamed and yelled: 'Aging in place!' and we eventually turned lemons into lemonade."

Barb Chwachka, in her opening remarks, thanked the many people who were involved in the success of the project "through tenacity and a vision of what the community needed." She said that Rosemary Hughes, who is now the site manager of Halcyon House, "was there from the beginning saying we won't accept that we won't have care for our seniors."

When the decision was made to close Halcyon Home five years ago, Chwachka explained, there was nothing in place that the community felt comfortable with to ensure that elderly and disabled citizens could stay in Nakusp. "We're an isolated community so we're used to going other places for things, but we really don't want to send our family members away for care." She went on to say that "if it weren't for community members, our other partners may have forgotten us."

Those other partners are Interior Health (IHA), BC Housing and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Speakers at the opening included representatives from these organizations, a rep from MP Jim Abbott's office, MLA Corky Evans and Halcyon Assisted Living Society board chair Laurie Page.

Carol Markowsky from the IHA pointed out that Halcyon House is a first – it is the first subsidized assisted living unit in the Kootenay-Boundary, and it is the only case she knows of where residents stayed in the facility during the renovations.

After the speeches, while touring the rooms, people remembered the July 1st parade of 2001 – the year it was announced that Halycon Home would close. Residents of the facility rode in a float donning a banner that said: "Hell no, we won't go" and an effigy of the BC premier. The effigy was reportedly assaulted throughout the parade by Flo Hurry, currently 104 years old and one of the people who stayed in the building during the renovations.

Dignitaries from near and afar attended the grand opening of Halcyon House assisted living facility in Nakusp.

Salt Water Moon shows off young local talent

by Geordie Rice

Having returned from an acting competition with a 'Best Newcomer' award to their credit, Fauquier's Mirror Theatre group performed *Salt Water Moon* at the Bonnington Theatre in Nakusp Sunday Night.

The play, a one-act piece by playwright David French, is set somewhere in Newfoundland in the 1920s, and depicts the reunion of small-town residents Jacob Mercer and Mary Snow, old flames who have been apart for almost a year.

However, the reunion is not a happy one, as Mary and Jacob are divided by unresolved issues from their past that are revealed throughout the play.

What's particularly notable about this rendition of the play is that it was put on by a cast and crew composed entirely of teenagers.

Actors Finlay Charles-Lundaahl and Jenny Konkin, director Alyshia Gustafson, and lighting technician Connor Gustafson are all Nakusp Secondary School students.

As for the performance itself, it was amazing. Both Charles-Lundaahl, who played Jacob, and Konkin, who played Mary, displayed an acting ability many big-name celebrities could learn from.

The actors went beyond merely reciting lines – they added mannerisms and incredible emotional depth to their characters that made the performance feel less like a play and more like a brief glimpse into the lives of two actual people.

This character-building was even taken to the point that both actors spoke in a strong, and entirely believable, Newfoundland accent for the entire play.

Charles-Lundaahl and Konkin also showed what many in the acting profession refer to as 'chemistry,' giving their characters an emotional connection that truly drew the audience into feeling that these were, in fact, old lovers reuniting after almost a year of painful separation. This stunning acting ability from a relatively young crew also made the play a perfect choice, as the minimal props and set pieces involved rendered the actors as the main focus of the entire play.

Beyond a tattered suitcase, a telescope, and a rocking chair, there is only the facade of a humble home, lit by a single blue spotlight that transforms the scene into the moon-lit maritime night that gives the play its name.

While this was the last of a three-performance trip through Fauquier, Burton, and Nakusp, let's hope that this inspiring and talented group returns with further on-stage endeavours in the future.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORDIE RICE

Director Alyshia Gustafson, actors Finlay Charles-Lundaahl and Jenny Konkin, and lighting technician Connor Gustafson

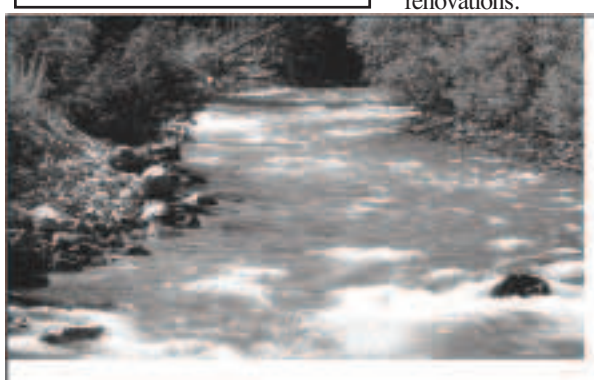
Arrow Lakes Historical Society to reprint *Port of Nakusp*

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Historical Society has been busy preparing a reprint of one of its Centennial Series books, *Port of Nakusp*, which has been sold out for about five years. Because of many requests for this book, the society decided to go ahead with reprinting an edition of 500 copies.

Due to the substantial increase in the cost of publishing, the price per book will be over $50. The society offers a pre-sale price of $50, but after printing the book will sell for $60. The book is expected to be ready for Christmas.

An additional $10 will be charged for mailing one book, $15 for two. Send to Arrow Lakes Historical Society, Box 819, Nakusp BC V0G 1R0. For more information, call 250-265-3323 or email alhs@netidea.com.



You are invited to a meeting

Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Columbia River 2006 Operations Review and Projected Operations for 2007

June 19, 2007 in Nakusp

BC Hydro invites the public to an information and discussion meeting regarding:

- 2006 Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Columbia River operations
- Columbia Basin reservoir levels and fish operations
- Projected Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Columbia River operations for 2007
- Columbia River Treaty overview

Time: doors open at 6 p.m., presentation from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Nakusp Senior's Centre, 210 8th Avenue NW, Nakusp

For more information, please contact Amy White at 250 365-4565.

www.bchydro.com

BC hydro
FOR GENERATIONS

Residential development in Nakusp gets cautious go-ahead

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp's water and sewer systems can probably handle the development of 200 new single family residential lots over the next two to five years, according to a report that Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering presented to Nakusp council on May 22.

This, along with the fact that Nakusp's water supply has doubled since the new well became operational at the beginning of May, is good news for developers such as Crossley Coates of Arrow Lakes Welding. Coates attended the same meeting to ask council to move on his re-zoning application. He applied a year ago to re-zone 27 acres of land on the Kuskanax fan from Heavy Industrial to Residential, with the intention of subdividing the land into 70 or 80 lots. Last year, council gave approval in principle to the re-zoning, but final approval is pending the completion of the OCP review and the availability of water and sewer.

Shephard's report indicates that if the Village approves new lots now, there will be time to upgrade the water and sewer systems while the lots are being developed. However, Shephard cautions that the developers and the Village must accept certain risks.

For one thing, funding for the upgrades has not been confirmed. Grant applications have been submitted, but decisions will not be made until sometime this summer. Shephard is optimistic, though. After submitting two Canada/BC Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) applications, he received a call letting him know the projects have a better chance of being funded if they have environmentally sustainable elements. So Shephard added some sustainable features to the applications. He told council he had met the people who were reviewing the applications and "it sounded positive."

Another risk that developers and the Village should be aware of is that the Brouse/Halfway Creek surface water system, now serving everyone in the upper area above downtown, could go on boil water advisory. The system does not meet current Interior Health water treatment objectives; the surface water is chlorinated, but not filtered. "...the Village should not be liable to any new developers for this risk," Shephard's written report says.

The Village has applied for a $1.6 million MRIF grant for a water treatment plant for the Brouse system. The sustainable feature Shephard added to this application is a microhydro system, using existing water system piping, which would power the water treatment plant.

Although the new well, serving the downtown area, has doubled the water supply, Shephard stressed the need for a backup system in the case of a pump failure or a prolonged power failure. A $520,000 grant application under the provincial Towns for Tomorrow program has been submitted for a second well, a generator and bigger pipes. If the grant application is unsuccessful, Delterra recommends that a backup generator and a spare pump/motor be purchased for the first well at a cost of about $60,000-$90,000.

Another risk is that the well has only been running for a short period, and "it would be premature to base large developments on so short an operating period." Delterra plans to monitor the well over the summer. "If approving rezoning and development now, the Village should pass on this risk to developers and not shoulder all the risk of a new water source with a short history," states the report.

Shephard reported that the sewage plant is "limiting out and we need to do something in the next two to three years, but we're comfortable for now."

The sewage treatment plant lagoon system currently handles about half the flow it has been rated to treat. However, the basins which soak away the treated water into the ground have never functioned properly.

An MRIF grant application is in to improve the treatment and disposal of the sewage. The sustainable feature added to this grant is a system where treated sewer water would be used to irrigate the parks and school grounds in Nakusp, by laying a pipeline from the sewage plant down to the sports complex area.

If the grant does not come through, Shephard suggests that the Village could improve the system by constructing additional basins at a cost of about $50,000.

Shephard also suggests in his report that new development should have sustainable guidelines such as low flush toilets, water meters, and a dedicated reclaimed water pipeline in new subdivison roadways, so that irrigation can be done with reclaimed and treated water.

Shephard has been working with the Village as a consultant on water and sewer for the past year.

Nakusp quilters collect quilts as part of Rotary initiative

submitted

The Quilters of Nakusp once again rallied in support of the Wrap-A-Smile Quilt Initiative that supplies quilts for Rotaplast (Rotary Plastic Surgeons), an offshoot of the Rotary Club. The program collects quilts for children in poor countries. In short order, the goal of 100 quilts was reached.

Evelyn Hurry, a quilter in Nakusp, was the first to respond to Sheila Hart's call for quilts. Sheila and husband Bill Hart of Nelson transported 113 quilts, donated by quilters from throughout the Kootenays, to Colville, Washington for shipment to Rotaplast headquarters in San Francisco. The quilts replenished the dwindling supply at Rotaplast and will be used on missions in San Salvador, El Salvador and Cumana, Venezuela in June.

Due to the great generosity of quilt guilds and individuals in the district, Sheila has decided to continue to do this work and will stockpile quilts until 125 have been received before sending the next shipment. The quilts should be 36-40 inches wide and 40-60 inches long or any size in between, 100% cotton top and backing; thin cotton batting and machine quilted 3-4 inches apart, with bright colors that will appeal to the children who receive them.

Rotaplast sponsors 12-15 missions per year to developing countries and provides 1200-1500 cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries for underprivileged children. Funding a team costs upwards of US $60,000.00. Medical volunteers include plastic surgeons, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, dentists, orthodontists, operating and recovery room nurses and speech pathologists. There is also a range of non-medical volunteers that make the mission run smoothly.

Evelyn Hurry of Nakusp spearheaded the collection of 100 donated quilts for the Rotary Plastic Surgeons (Rotaplast) program.

Whatshan Lake Music Festival the perfect retreat from daily stress

submitted

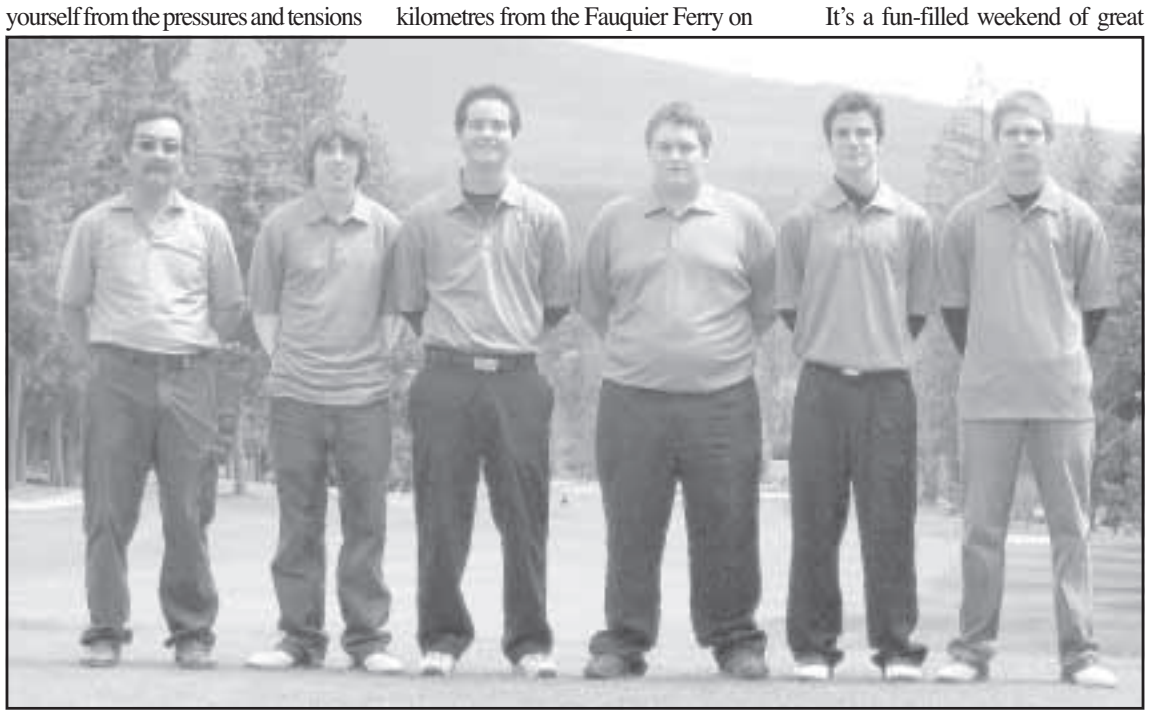
Looking for a way to de-stress yourself from the pressures and tensions of daily life? Try the Whatshan Lake Music Festival July 20-22, just a few kilometres from the Fauquier Ferry on Highway 6 between Nakusp and Vernon.

It's a fun-filled weekend of great family entertainment in a quiet, safe and picturesque environment. Saskatchewan-born Connie Kaldor will showcase an excellent selection of folk, jazz and country songs from her nine albums. The Kimberlites, back by popular demand, provide high energy Celtic-Cajun style music that will get everyone rocking.

Award-winning Rachel Matkin and Steelewater will perform modern country music. For excellent rhythm and blues, The Salmon Armenians will be on hand. The Kettle Valley Brakemen, a popular South Okanagan group, will perform original railroad heritage music.

Restless Lestor, Tracey Saxby, Leo Dumont, Earl Staten, Uncorked, the House Band and other performers will round out the weekend's entertainment.

Camping on-site is available but should be booked early to guarantee a spot. Early Bird ticket prices are available until June 15, $50 for the weekend. After June 15, $60, with day passes at $35. For ticket and camping information, contact Debbie at 604-594-1030 or email debbie@whatshan.com. For more information see www.whatshanmusic.com.



Congratulations to the Nakusp Secondary School golf team for placing third at the provincial championships held May 28 and 29 in Sechelt. L to R: Rick Yano, Laine Weighill, Havill Leitch, Brendan Davie, Kalum Stevens, Satoshi Yano.

Start getting ready now for Nakusp Fall Fair

submitted

Arrow Lakes Arts Council, sponsor of Nakusp Fall Fair, has announced that this year's fair will take place Saturday, September 8 at the Nakusp arena auditorium. A proud tradition designed to showcase the best that we can be, first began almost a century ago. This year's theme is "Returning to Our Roots: How does your Garden Grow"?

With spring planting now underway, be sure to mark your calendar and make plans now to enter any of the wide-ranging competition all-age categories, including floral, fruit and vegetable entries, baking, arts, crafts, hobby collections and more.

The Nakusp Fall Fair competition prize booklet will be distributed in August courtesy of area merchants. For more information call 265-0075.

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Rear Alley Entrance

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Celebrate With The Graduates
The 2007 Graduating Class of Nakusp Secondary School cordially invites you to attend their Graduation Ceremonies Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 1:00 PM Nakusp Arena Complex

History comes to Life in the Kootenay Rockies

Famed as the heart of BC's wilderness, the Kootenay Rockies also boast a rich heritage. Here, amid the towering mountain peaks and verdant valleys one can find remnants of the past from intriguing fossils to First Nations artifacts, from turn-of-the-century townsites to traces of its early-day industries.

Just how far back can travellers go? At the Burgess Shale fossils, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Yoho National Park, some species of fossils date back more than 500 million years.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOURISM BC/DAVID GLUNS

S.S. Moyie, Kaslo

Visitors can hear the story of the Ktunaxa Nation that inhabited southeastern BC and beyond for thousands of years. They can also see artifacts, including a sturgeon-nosed canoe, view scale models of teepees, and admire traditional and contemporary works of art at the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Interpretive Centre.

Those who enjoy hands-on attractions will yearn to visit the Interpretive Centre at the Teck Cominco smelter in Trail to learn about the lead/zinc industry that has thrived here for more than a century. At Silverton, many check out the vintage mining equipment and at the Creston & District Museum, sheltered in a stone house, is a trapper's cabin. Visitors also shouldn't miss Sandon. At the end of the 19th century, this community thrived, thanks to the discovery of silver. Years later, when the silver mines depleted, it was bust. Today, the Sandon Museum relives this history, while relics from its early days can be viewed throughout the town.

At Fort Steele, a restored pioneer town, travellers can experience its boom days in the late 1800s. Some chat with tradespeople and pan for gold, while others take a wagon or train ride, or experience live theatre — this living museum is a favourite with families.

Engineering buffs will enjoy learning about the region's intriguing transportation history. At Craigellachie, the 'Last Spike' of the transcontinental railway was driven in 1885. Visitors can board the S.S. Moyie in Kaslo. Now a National Historic Site, this vessel was the last operating passenger sternwheeler in Canada. For those who remember streetcars, Nelson showcases the re-furbished Streetcar 23 – a true blast from the past.

To learn more about historic sites in the Kootenay Rockies Region and to get everything you need to plan your vacation – where to go, what to see and do, where to stay, plus printable maps to show you how to get there – visit HelloBC.com/kr/historicsites.

Kootenay Rockies Courses Showcase the Scenery

This southeastern corner of British Columbia, studded by five mountain ranges, where rivers thread tumbling courses and crystalline lakes punctuate the valleys, is famed for its scenery. And among the savvy golf set, it is also renowned for its courses. Over 20 of them are tucked into the folds of this region's lush mountain valleys.

There are many perks to playing in the Kootenay Rockies. Sculpted greens are set onto mountain ledges, fairways meander beside lake shorelines or are carved through pine-rich hillsides. One course has a river running through it, and many – blissfully – are close to a hot spring. The perfect follow-up to a vigorous golf game just may be a soak in mineral-rich soothing waters.

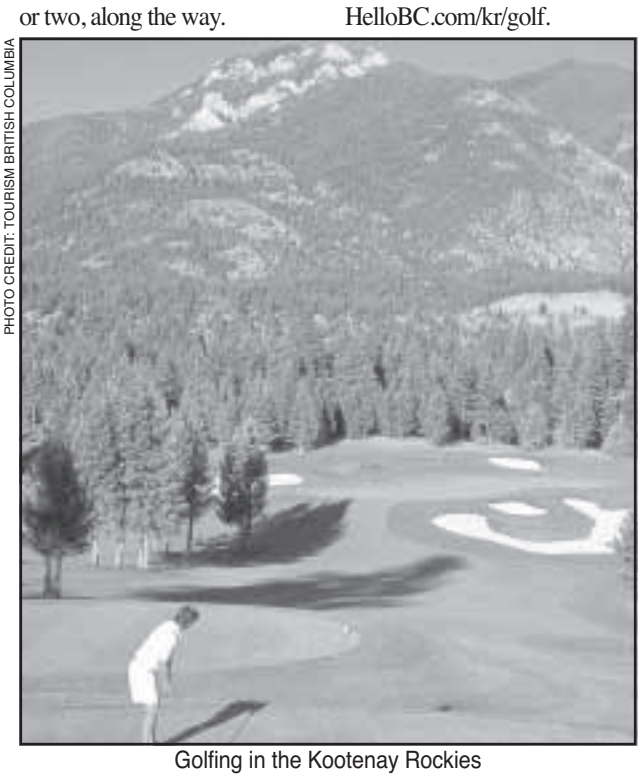
Such architectural marvels are no surprise when one learns that courses were crafted by renowned designers the likes of Les Furber, Bill Newis, Doug Carrick, Bill Robinson and Norman Woods. Indeed, Kootenay Rockies courses have banked on their natural bounty, garnering praise, and an award or two, along the way.

Many of the phenomenal courses are close to charming towns. Once places like Castlegar, Trail, Rossland and Fernie welcomed explorers and fur traders, some eventually hummed with industry, and today their historic facades house museums, shops, small inns, restaurants and pubs. Each provides perfect places to hang out between golf games. Hospitality here has a laid-back folksiness that harkens back to earlier days, it's refreshing and welcoming.

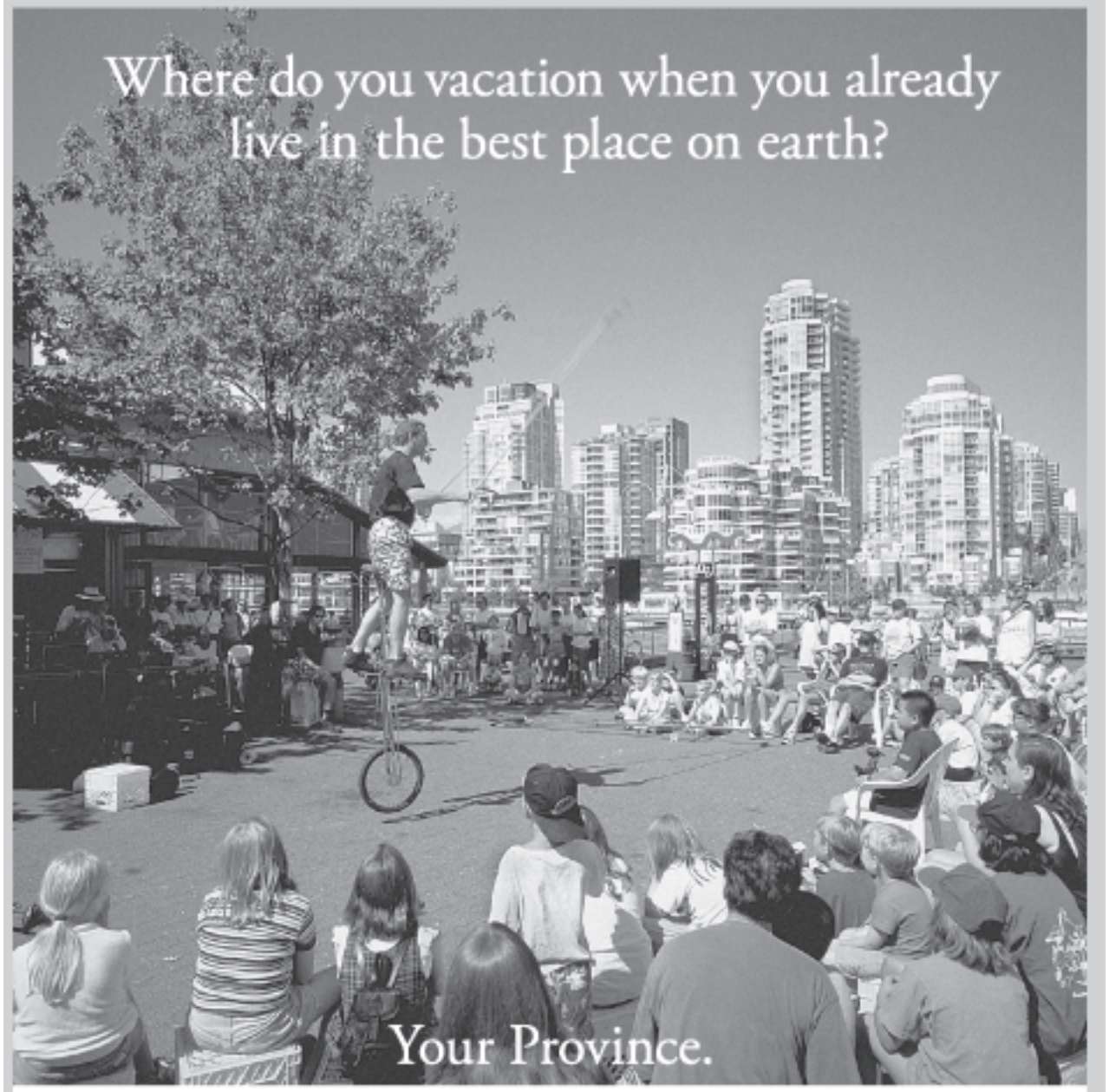
And just because these golf courses may be part-way up a mountain or hidden in a lush valley, does not mean they lack amenities. Many are at elegant resorts complete with fine dining, fitness centres and spas, and one can even find a course with a full-colour GPS system on the golf cart. It's time to tee up.

To learn more about golf in the Kootenay Rockies Region and to get everything you need to plan your vacation – where to go, what to see and do, where to stay, plus printable maps to show you how to get there – visit HelloBC.com/kr/golf.

PHOTO CREDIT: TOURISM BRITISH COLUMBIA



Golfing in the Kootenay Rockies



There's no better place for a summer vacation than right here in British Columbia. In summer, our cities sizzle with a dizzying array of art galleries, museums, 5-star restaurants, one-of-a-kind shops, festivals and entertainment of every kind. And next year when B.C. celebrates our 150th birthday, there will be more to discover, and even more reasons to celebrate, during BC 2008.

BC 2008

This summer, there really is no better place to explore than your home – British Columbia.

For more information on special travel opportunities within B.C. and to order your free **BC Escapes®** Guides, call 1-800 **HELLO BC** or visit **HelloBC**.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Slocan Lake Dance Camp sizzles

submitted

Are you ready for Dancing with the Stars? Learn some new ballroom moves or how to really groove to Latino music at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp in New Denver this summer, July 27-30 and get a few steps closer to that dream.

Highlighting this year's event will be Nelson Salsa specialists, Rita and Ian Deane, and Ricardo Pacheco from Calgary teaching the Argentine Tango.

Each of the four days, two two-hour workshops will appeal to beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers. New this year are workshops for teens all four days. Each evening is an chance to practice your new moves at a social dance.

Some bursaries are available for teen classes and some volunteer work-trades for workshops are available too. Last year over 70 single people attended and the energy sizzled. So gather up your dance outfits and camping gear and plan to join the fun!

Visit www.frandancing.com for the full schedule details or watch for the brochures locally

Rita and Ian Deane, Salsa specialists from Nelson, will highlight Saturday at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp in New Denver, offering two workshops in this popular, fast-paced Latin dance style.

Province and Red Cross sponsor toll-free flood information line

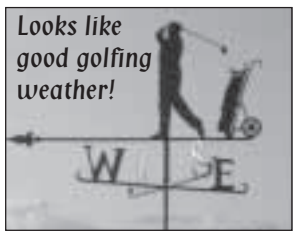
submitted

The Province of BC is partnering with the Canadian Red Cross to operate a toll-free flood information line at 1-888-350-6070, providing the public with up to date information on the flood situation throughout BC.

The Provincial Emergency Program works year-round with local governments to prepare for emergencies. For more information on how you and your family can be prepared, visit www.pep.bc.ca.

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*
RESTAURANT: 8 AM TO 8 PM (LICENSED)
2006 TOURNAMENTS:
• May Day Open, Sat. May 19: $15 members / $25 non-members
• 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)



• Valley View Golf Club
***Winlaw* phone: 226-7241;**
toll-free: 1-877-324-GOLF
Discover golfing at its finest at Valley View. Licensed lounge & restaurant open 7 days a week. Catering and dinner meetings available on request. Everyone welcome.
GREEN FEES: $20 / 9 holes (including GST), $25 / 18 holes
RENTALS: Power and pull-cars available
Juniors' Night Mondays at 4:00 • Seniors' Morning Mondays • Mens' Night Thursdays • Two-for-one golf Fridays after 2:00 pm plus WING NIGHT!

NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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!

THE THIRD EDITION OF THE POPULAR

Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook

IS NOW AVAILABLE AT:

Nakusp: Meritxell Books
Visitor Info. Centre
Lardeau: Meadow Creek Store
Lardeau Valley Service
Kaslo: The S.S. Moyie
Kaslo Drugs
Fern's Flowers &...
Kootenay Lake:
Woodbury Resort
Kutenai Showcase
Ainsworth Hot Springs
Sandon: Sandon Museum
The Prospector's Pick
Slocan Valley:
Arica Gardens B&B
Mountain Valley Station
Winlaw Mini-Mart
Lemon Creek Lodge
Slocan Valley Co-op
Floyd's Custom Furniture
Nelson: Otter Books
Coles Books
Visitor Information Centre

Silverton: Silverton Bigway
Gaze 'n Chat
New Denver:
The Valley Voice
Eldorado Market
Silvery Slocan Museum
Mountainberry Foods
Nikkei Internment
Memorial Centre

Makes a great gift!
Only $4.95

CAMPGROUNDS

• Kaslo Municipal Campground (250) 353-2662 kaslocampground@yahoo.ca
May 1-Sept 30. Serviced ($20) Unserviced sites ($15) Water and power hook-ups, fire pits, picnic tables, restrooms and hot showers. Downtown location, close to park, beach, playgrground, SS Moyie infocentre and great shopping! Pets on leash welcome.

• Centennial Campground
On the lake in New Denver, 44 sites, 8 with electricity & water hook-up, sani-dump, showers & toilets, boat launch, firewood, pets must be leashed.

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023
65 sites, full/semi hook-ups, tenting, boat launch, paddle boats & canoes, pets welcome, children's playground, firewood, fishing, hiking trail, confectionery, sani-station, showers, laundry facilities, large gazebo with BBQ pits.

• Springer Creek RV Park & Campground (250) 355-2266 springr@telus.net
Open May 18 to Sept. 30. Located at 1020 Giffin Rd., Slocan. Turn right immediately off of Highway 6 entrance to Village of Slocan. Full hook-ups, partial hook-ups, tenting sites, sani-dump, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472
Situated on Slocan Lake at Leadville & Turner Streets. Lakeshore and Creekside Tent and Trailer Sites. Fire pits and firewood.

• West Kootenay Park Management Inc. 1-866-937-5734 www.westkootenayparks.com
$14/night $7 extra vehicle. Cash only. May 01 - October 15th.
Fire ring, tables, pit toilets.

McDonald Creek Provincial Park
Shores of Upper Arrow Lake 16 km south of Naksup on Hwy #6. 46 spacious campsites. Half with direct access to an extensive sandy beach waterfront, boat launch. Reservations 1-800-689-9025 www.discovercamping.ca.

Rosebery Provincial Park
Enjoy a quiet forest setting on the bank of Wilson Creek, a short walk to Slocan Lake and the historic Galena Trail. 33 campsites. 3 km north of New Denver Hwy #6. First come, first served.

• Woodbury Resort and Marina (250) 353-7717
Serviced Sites – Tent Sites – Motorcycle Friendly – Marina – Heated Pool – Boomed Swimming Beach – JB's Pub and Restaurant – Motel and Chalets – Charter Fishing – Boat Rentals for guests only – Quad/Bike Trails – Scuba Dive the Anscombe wreck. 4 km North of Ainsworth Hot Springs on Highway 31.

HOT SPRINGS

• Halcyon Hot Springs •(250) 265-3554 •1-888-689-4699 •Fax (250) 265-3887
www.halcyon-hotsprings.com e-mail: info@halcyon-hotsprings.com Halcyon Spa opens June 2005. Always fresh, natural, mineral hot springs with its own lakeshore comfortable chalets, cabins, full RV hook-ups, camping, Bistro-Restaurant, historical chapel, bodywork, horseback riding, tours and much more... Have some happy Halcyon days!!! Big swimming pool now open!

• Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort •(250) 229-4212 •1-800-668-1171 www.hotnaturally.com
Experience our main Hot Springs pool in the crisp, clean air, explore the tranquil steam bath in the Hot Springs cave, take a plunge in our stream fed cold plunge. Savour the fabulous food in our Dining Room and then enjoy the comfort of one of our 43 air-conditioned rooms.

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

• William Hunter Cabins (250) 358-2844 www.williamhuntercabins.com
Three hand-crafted log cabins in the heart of Silverton. Each cabin contains two self-contained suites with pine furniture. Views of the Valhallas, close to lake, beautiful gardens and wonderful berry picking. 303 Lake Ave.

• Silverton Lakeshore Inn (250) 358-7929
Visit the Silverton Lakeshore Inn, located on Slocan Lake since 1897. Offering 7 lakeview rooms. Third floor penthouse suite sleeps 6-8 and has a big screen TV. Full service restaurant and pizzaria, fully licenced pub with patio and offsales. Rooms starting at $89. Penthouse suite $2,000/week. Restaurant and pub open 7 days a week.

• Selkirk Inn Ph: 1-800-661-8007 / (250) 265-3666 Fax: (250) 265-4799
CAA & AAA approved 210-6th Ave. West, Nakusp, BC www.selkirkinn-nakusp.com email: selkinn@columbiacable.net Located in the heart of Nakusp, we are close to the Nakusp Hot Springs, Halcyon Hot Springs, the Nakusp Golf Course, and only a short walk from the shores of Upper Arrow Lake. All 39 deluxe rooms have a TV, phone and fridge. 30 units with air conditioning, some units with kitchenettes, wheelchair accessible unit available, pets allowed in select units.

• O'Brien's on the Lake, 1710 Hwy 6 Nakusp, Ph: (250) 265-4575 www.obriens.kootenays.com
Beautifully hand-crafted log cabins with a million-dollar view. Full kitchen and bath. Satellite TV. Private phone and barbecue on lake-view deck. All units non-smoking. No pets please. World class fishing, golfing, hiking and much, much more just minutes away. **It's so much more than a place to sleep.**

• Oldham's Lakefront Cottages ph. 358-2415 oldhamslakefrontcottages.com
Family or Friends Coming to Visit? Oldham's Lakefront Cottages will help you maintain family bliss and lasting friendships. We have four fully furnished vacation rentals available April 1st through Christmas. Check out oldhamslakefrontcottages.com or call Jeff and Lorie at 358-2415 for full details.

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

BED & BREAKFASTS

• Sweet Dreams Guesthouse & Licenced Dining Phone (250) 358-2415 Fax 358-2556 www.newdenverbc.com / sweetdreams@newdenverbc.com
B&B in historic building by the lake. Licenced dining & patio by reservation. Ethnic style meals.

MUSEUMS

• Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre (250) 358-7920 www.slocanlake.com/sandon
Open 10:00 to 5:00. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy. 31A in historic silver mining ghost town. Collections of stunning photographs and fascinating artifacts including the famous "two story mousetrap." Admission: 18 & over, $4.00 •12-17 yrs. $3.00 • Under 12, free.

• 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 starts OCP review with SmartGrowth BC visioning session

by Art Joyce

A small but vocal crowd of Kaslo residents showed up at the Lighthouse Theatre the evening of May 28 to share their vision of the village's future. SmartGrowth BC planners Tom Lancaster and Jason Emmert guided the discussion. Mayor Holland opened the session by reminding participants that Kaslo's entire Official Community Plan (OCP) review is driven by residents.

"Sometimes home-grown solutions are definitely what you want, but it helps to have an outside perspective," Holland added. Lancaster explained that a visioning session is one way to find out what "the burning issues" of the village are. Residents were encouraged to write down the principles, issues and priorities they felt Kaslo must address in the vision that guides its OCP. A community vision is driven by the principles or values its members hold dear, which helps outline goals and objectives, and in turn informs the creation of village policy, land use plan, and design guidelines.

A questionnaire will go out to all residents asking them such questions as: What are your five main concerns about Kaslo, either now or in the future? What needs to change? What needs to stay the same? How much growth would you like to see in the next 15 years?

Common responses on the 'principles' sheet at the meeting included having "a safe, clean, welcoming community for all ages," "controlling the rate of growth," and "protecting the environment." Several topics loomed large in residents' minds under the 'issues' category, most notably affordable housing, jobs for families, creating or maintaining parklands and green spaces, and concern over absentee property owners.

Business owners in the audience urged that the downtown core be strongly supported in village policy, worrying that any move to develop a business district along the highway could kill the village centre. The idea of an economic development office and the need for an "active, involved Chamber of Commerce" was discussed as a means of creating more jobs for Kaslo residents. Younger members of the audience warned of the pitfalls of relying solely on tourism, which creates annual boom/bust cycles and low wages. Another resident mentioned problems such as transient, seasonal population and real estate values that create problems for the local housing market, citing Revelstoke's new mega ski resort as a worrisome trend for small villages. Mayor Holland said he wants to see more development of 'shoulder season' tourism but agreed it had to be carefully managed. Lancaster reminded everyone that any form of economic development brings trade-offs – environmental, social or otherwise. It's up to residents to decide which ones they can live with.

Young residents also wanted to see the issue of food security addressed through more support for local food growers and markets. They were also concerned about the housing situation, which has priced young workers out of the market. One resident said many smaller houses that had been rental units for years were sold during the real estate boom. These are now either summer cabins for out-of-towners or used as expensive vacation rentals, contributing to the shortfall in housing for locals. Lancaster said he felt the housing market is due for a correction within the next five years.

"Part of the intent of an OCP is to ensure that if you're born here and you want to live out your life here you have that option," Lancaster said.

Residents unable to attend the first meeting can still fill out the questionnaire, which can be dropped off at City Hall or mailed to Village of Kaslo, Box 576, Kaslo, V0G 1M0. Comments can also be directed to Tom or Jason at tom@smartgrowth.bc.ca or jason@smartgrowth.bc.ca.

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Valley Voice
The only newspaper that tells us what is going on in the Kaslo area. The only newspaper that gives us a chance to say what we think about it, free of charge, in Voices from the Valleys.
Paid advertisement by Jane Lynch in support of the Valley Voice

Kaslo council, May 22: Lease complicates provincial building purchase

by Jill Braley

•Anne Malik wrote with concerns about the provincial building purchase. She will be advised that Am Naqvi, Village auditor, will be attending the next regular Admin & Finance meeting on June 13 at 4 pm and there will be a question and answer session.

•Council received several pages of emails from Lori Staples, lawyer, regarding the provincial building purchase. These emails were referred to the Admin & Finance committee for recommendation to council.

Following up on Linda Cole's delegation to council on May 8, Staples states in her email of May 16 that she and Am Naqvi "are agreed that the lease commits the Village to possible expensive upgrades of this building that is almost a century old (built in 1911). That is a contingent capital liability that extends over the 10-year term of the lease. As such, it not only requires electoral approval, but it could be uneconomic for the Village to undertake."

•Council received an inspection report dated May 15 from WorkSafe BC regarding air quality testing for asbestos in the City Hall. The laboratory analysis revealed that asbestos was in the air, but at very low concentrations that would not adversely affect human health. The level of asbestos in the air would be higher if the linoleum flooring had exposed asbestos backing. Provided the duct tape remains in place until the flooring can be removed, the workplace does not expose workers to an undue asbestos hazard.

•Mark MacKenzie, Kaslo City Hall Conservation Committee, provided a draft grant request to the Province regarding a City Hall Conservation Plan. This was referred to the Planning & Development committee for information. An agreement for remuneration for Mark McKenzie will be drafted.

•Silvio Lettrari, President Kaslo Trailblazer Society requested and received approval to remove some trees on Village property in order to install the steel girder bridge, scheduled for September of this year. Council approved the request and congratulated the society on its success. The wood will be sold as firewood and the proceeds will go towards the bridge project. Council agreed to leave the 'No Motorbikes' signage on the Kaslo River Trail until staff is able to review any previous council motions relating to trail use. Mayor Holland stated he is working with Area D Director Andy Shadrack to make the area part of a Regional Park, which would not be appropriate for motorcycle use.

•Council received notice that a resolution regarding a Local Homeowner Grant and Resident Rebate Program was adopted by the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments and will be submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities.

•Dawn Attorp, RDCK wrote to council regarding the Melinas connection to the McDonald Creek water system. Attorp will be advised the municipality will not enter into any additional service connections until such time as an agreement is signed between the Village and the RDCK.

•Director Andy Shadrack will be provided with a letter of support for a Green City Award for the Meadow Creek Community Hall geothermal project.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

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

The Best in Canadian Crafts
• Lots of summer stock arriving daily!
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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Exploring the bayous and shallows of Box Lake

Last week I was up in Nakusp running a few errands and decided to take along the kayak for a tour of Box Lake on the trip back home. The first real summer heat wave had locked in and Nakusp was baking hot by lunchtime. Not a trace of wind and blazing sunshine made the retreat to Box Lake just perfect. Even though I tend to be a motorhead, the rule at Box Lake is paddles, oars or electric motors only, and in this instance it makes perfect sense, as Box Lake is small, shallow, and rather closed in by mountain slopes.

There's a well-signed turnoff some six kilometres south of Nakusp or I'd guess three kilometres north of Summit Lake. This is a pretty fast section of highway, so stay alert and when you see the signed access be real careful slowing to make the tentative turnoff. The gravel road is fine for cars and leads neatly to the south end of the lake after swinging widely around the swampy boggy areas south of the lake itself.

And it's this swampyness and boggish nature that really makes Box Lake unique. The lay of the land from here through to Glenbank and Carson's Corner is flat and mellow. The swamps south of Box Lake give way to the lowlands and hayfields of Brouse and Glenbank to the north and offer a sweeping panorama as you drive the last few kilometres north into Nakusp. The rich peat soils of Brouse also form the bottom of shallow Box Lake, and make an abundant ecosystem that harbours all manner of birds and pond life.

So I drove into the cool shade of the quiet campsite and put the kayak into the water off the end of the old nearly waterlogged dock. One tent occupied the south end of the campsite and I spied a canoe way up by the old Hamling farm. Box Lake warms up in the summer very nicely for swimming and the squishy, muddy bottom is fun to wade around in.

The slower you go, the more you see, with many varieties of lilypads, reeds, and milfoil-type streamers. Even 50 metres from shore the water is shallow here and shoving a paddle into the murky bottom sends up vast bubbles of methane and sediment. The nutrient content of this lake is incredible and every log and rock has all kinds of stuff growing on it. As I paddled along I kept seeing clouds of thousands of tiny black tadpoles who soon mature into the trillions of teeny frogs that hop across Highway 6 not far upslope from here.

Ospreys, geese, loons, hummingbirds – you name it, it's likely here somewhere. Several shallow channels lead into the forest along this southern fringe of the lake and you can squeeze the kayak or canoe way in to see all the mossy fallen trees and bird nests in them. Floating logs are laden with moss and there are even tiny sundew plants that catch bugs.

Paddling to the north end of the lake gives nice views of small houses and hayfields and again some shallow water. There's a great rope swing on the east bank halfway up the lake and Nakusp Creek drains from the northwest corner where an old weir remains. The shady west shore offers welcome refuge on hot days. People also fish here and get small rainbow trout.

Box Lake is a sweet little spot, shallow and sluggish like the southern Ontario lakes of my youth, and a pleasing way to spend a couple of hours or a couple of days.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and enjoys peddling and paddling. 358-2133.

Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

Using testamentary trusts

Estate planning usually seeks a number of goals: simplicity of administration; a fair and equitable distribution of assets to your loved ones; preservation of your estate from the ravages of taxes and fees; and protection of your estate against possible future events like business failures or marital breakdown. Unfortunately, there is usually a compromise that must be made between these goals. For instance, the simplest administration may not be the most tax-efficient.

Our recommendations usually focus first on protecting assets for future generations and achieving tax-efficiencies both at the time of distribution and for the duration of the beneficiaries' lives. The cost and complexity of achieving these goals are generally of secondary importance.

Simple wills and avoiding probate

Many people will do anything to simplify their estate settlement and avoid probate fees. This includes putting all assets in joint name and simply willing everything remaining directly to your children or a surviving spouse. This may not be the best course of action because: you can lose control over your assets while you are alive; you lose the opportunity to preserve and direct your estate assets; and income from inherited capital will increase the survivor's taxable income.

Testamentary trusts

By keeping your assets in your name only, including splitting joint accounts and property, you can leave them to your spouse and children in your will by way of a testamentary trust. (Insurance proceeds can be directed to the same trust by an insurance declaration in your will or to a separate insurance trust with a special document.)

Briefly, a testamentary trust:

-can only be created by a person's will. Therefore, you have only one chance to create it. If you miss the opportunity, it is lost permanently.

-enjoys the same staged tax rates as an individual (as opposed to a living trust that is always taxed at the top tax rate).

-is allowed to pay tax on income and then later pay it out tax-free to a beneficiary who may be in a higher tax rate than the trust. Alternatively, it can distribute income to a beneficiary in a low or even zero tax rate to be taxed as that person's income. For example a minor grandchild can receive roughly $8,000 from a testamentary trust (the 'kiddy tax' does not apply) without paying any tax or negatively impacting the child's parents' tax.

If there are multiple beneficiaries which the trustee may pay on a discretionary basis, no one person's share can be determined until it is actually paid out. This means the money cannot be demanded by creditors or an estranged spouse, and will not be open to a court application by a beneficiary to get at their money.

There are two types of testamentary trusts that could be created by your will: a Family Trust, which would benefit your spouse, your children and grandchildren, and a Spousal Trust, which is only allowed to benefit your spouse during his or her lifetime. The remainder is left to the children and grandchildren after your spouse's death. This trust is designed to allow capital assets (like property or stocks) to be 'rolled over' to the trust without tax payable on the transfer, just as if they rolled to your spouse directly.

You may want to set up both trusts in the will but leave it up to the executor's discretion as to which assets, if any, to place into the Family or the Spousal Trust.

Even if you have no spouse, you may want to consider leaving each child's share in a testamentary trust for that child with their children (your grandchildren) named as either remainder or discretionary beneficiaries.

The trust would allow the child to income split with the trust or, if the grandchildren are set up as discretionary beneficiaries, distribute the investment income to his or her children with little or no tax to pay.

The trust would provide asset protection against a marital breakdown or personal bankruptcy, safeguarding the assets for your direct descendants.

Each child could decide to leave their capital in the trust or pay it out to themselves as they have need.

Speak to us, or your lawyer or accountant, about the details of your particular situation; you may find testamentary trusts are perfect for you.

Tim Affolter CFP CLU ChFC is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in financial and estate planning and tax minimization strategies.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Munch More and Munch Again

Hello out there all you food fans. Here's some very good news for those of you who live anywhere from the Crescent Valley junction up to Appledale including Krestova and Pass Creek. You are within range of the delivery service of Munch More Foods, and if you haven't experienced a meal from Munch More, it really is time you did. If you live outside that area you are in luck too, because you can order by phone and pick up your food at Munch More in Passmore.

Munch More is a family business run by Sita Koster and Doug Wearing. Their son Elmir and Doug's mother Lynn also work there. Three generations! It's a friendly place.

Food? Ah yes. Let's start with salads. There are three: Garden Salad with raspberry-vinaigrette dressing. Caesar Salad comes with garlic toast and you can add chicken or shrimp. You can go Greek too. Maybe you are one of those Chicken Wing fans. The wings are hot and come with honey-garlic, BBQ, or teriyaki sauce. I must point out that the salads and the wings and everything else on Munch More's marvelous menu come in BIG portions and are also big on taste.

Try out the Meat Lasagna or choose the Veggie Lasagna with spinach noodles, cottage cheese tom-sauce and mozza. The menu has changed in the past year. Lots of new stuff like Crab and Artichoke dip with flat bread cooked in the wood-burning oven. Quesadillas come with onion, olives, green peps, cheddar and mozza served with sour cream and salsa. You can throw on chicken or ground beef. Burritos are also new. Flour tortilla with refried beans, lettuce, cheddar, salsa, green peps, onions all served with sour cream, rice or side salad. Again, you can add chicken or ground beef. Remember, the portions are grand.

Here come the burgers. Five (not four) oz homemade beef patties or five oz of chicken. If you're a veg-head try the Garden Burger.

Now we move on to more new items. Do you like Beef Stroganoff? It comes with spaetzle - a German egg noodle-type dumpling. Baby Back Ribs are another new item. Deserts include home-made Chocolate Cheesecake, New York-style Cheesecake, and Baclava.

Anything that needs roasting or braising is done in the wood-burning oven, but what would a wood-burning oven be without pizza?

Ok. Make way for the pizzas. Mushrooms, green peps, pineapple, onions, black olives, garlic, and diced fresh tomatoes top the Garden Veggie. Also meatless is the Veggie Valhalla with spinach, feta, artichokes, sun-dried toms, green olives, shrooms and mozza.

For the meat fans there's the Pepperoni, or, if you're brave you can try the Hells Half Acre with Spicy capicollo, sun-dried toms, garlic puree, hot banana peppers and mozza. Why not a Chicken Pizza with caramelized onion, green peps, parm, and mozza. The Mexican Fiesta is hot and spicy, The House Special is special, and the Meatlovers has five kinds of meat. You can create your own pizza from 32 toppings.

What did I have? I started with Crab and Arti dip with flat bread. Then several slices each of Hell's Half Acre and Veggie Valhalla. Then Sita brought me a cheese burger – loaded! Then she brought me a Beef Stroganoff dinner. After all that I had to try some of Doug's birthday cake: Butter cream torte with roasted almonds and chocolate mousse.

I ate all that, and Sita insisted that I take home the rest of the two pizzas.

Munch More Foods also caters to the Winlaw school and to Windstar Ranch who often order 15 pizzas. They'll cater to you too if you want.

Simply delicious food and lots of it. Call Munch More foods at 226-7779. I love those people and their food!

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CALL FOR ENTRY

ALFA GUILD GALLERY is currently seeking submissions for our 10th ANNUAL "LOCAL FOCUS" - July 11th -29th, 2007. Maximum of three "new" works per artist, Registration deadline is Monday, July 9th, 10am-12noon, 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp, BC. Registration forms available at the Gallery 12-4 Wed-Sun or email alfaguild@telus.net.

ALFA GUILD GALLERY is currently seeking submissions for our 4th Annual fundraising project "silent auction 2007" featuring miniature artworks - July 11th -29th, 2007. Please deliver works (maximum size 6"x6" excluding framing) Monday, July 9th, 10am-12noon, 619 Broadway Street, Nakusp, BC. Registration forms available at the Gallery 12-4 Wed-Sun or email alfaguild@telus.net.

THE LANGHAM CULTURAL CENTRE ART GALLERY is seeking exhibition proposals for the 2008 season. Submissions from artists must be post-marked by July 1, 2007. Proposals should include a Curriculum Vitae, project description, image list, 10 - 20 numbered slides/prints/digital photos on CD, and a S.A.S.E. www.thelangham.ca

CARD OF THANKS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK the Legion, the Women's Institute, Mike Mills, Willy Hicks and family, Roger and Theresa Thickett and everybody else who helped me through the memorial service for my mother, Gladys Nixon.

Bill Nixon

COMING EVENTS

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

KOOTENAY DANCEBEAT SOCIETY is proud to present Nite Club 2 Step & West Coast Swing Workshops & Dance, Saturday, June 9, 2007. Instructors: Tom & Deb Selzler from Kelowna. Playmor Hall, South Slocan. Itinerary: 10:45 - 11:45am - Advanced Beginner Nite Club 2; 1:45 - 12:15pm - Lunch Break; 12:15 - 1:15pm - Advanced Beginner West Coast Swing; 1:30 - 2:30pm - Intermediate Nite Club 2; 2:45 - 3:45pm - Intermediate West Coast Swing. Contact Lui Marinelli for costs and more information at lmarinelli@selkirk.ca. This will be the Kootenay DanceBeat Club's year-end dance, at 8pm, so come join in the fun!

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

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.

OPEN HOUSE SOCIAL, Slocan Legion Hall, Saturday June 23rd, beginning with Happy Hour at 5:00 p.m. Beef Dip & Potato Salad $4.00. Card Games, Darts, Shuffleboard. EVERYONE WELCOME. Help support your Legion!

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.

10TH ANNUAL SLOCAN VALLEY "ART & GARDEN TOUR" Sunday, June 24, 10am-4pm. Six gardens and one pottery studio. Ponds, greenhouses, bonsai and more. Brochures with map available at local businesses on Hwy 6 and garden centres. Bring the family on this popular summer outing. Sponsored by Slocan Valley Arts Council. Donations appreciated.

BALLROOM/LATIN SOCIAL DANCE CLASSES resume June 11 for 5 weeks in Nakusp & New Denver. Visit www.frandancing.com or 1-250-358-2448 for details.

RED MTN RD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AGM - Sun June 24 - 4 pm at Wendy Harlock's, #7918 Hwy 6. BBQ to follow. Call 358-7750 for info.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING W.E.Graham Community Service Society. Wednesday June 20th 2007. W.E.Graham Community School Library, 7PM. 915 Harold St, Village of Slocan. All are welcome to attend.

JULY 1ST FLEA MARKET - Calling all craftsmen and -women, householders with stuff, baking tables and gardeners with extra plants. Come one and all - bring your own table to the lawn in front of Silverton Gallery. 10 until 2. Madeleine for further info - 358-2475.

RURAL ALTERNATIVES RESEARCH & TRAINING SOCIETY (aka Vallican Whole Community Centre) AGM and Potluck. Sunday June 24, 5pm. Vallican Whole Community Centre, 3762 Little Slocan Road. Vallican. All members and prospective members welcome. 226-0097 for more info.

FOUND

FOUND: EYEGLASSES at New Denver May Days. Come and claim at *Valley Voice* office, on New Denver's main street across from laundromat.

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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.

YOUTH SUMMER JOBS Day Camp positions in Slocan. 7 weeks starting July 4th, 6 hrs per day Monday to Friday.

1 Lead Counsellor position suitable for student 18+ returning to school in the fall. Experience working with kids, planning to train in a related field. Rate of pay $15.00 hr.

2 junior counsellor positions suitable for ages 15+ enjoy kids, outdoor activities, sports. Rate of pay $10.00 hr. Please send your resume to: Day Camp applications, c/o Coordinator, WEGCSS, Box 10, Slocan, BC V0G 2C0. Deadline for applications 4:00PM June 11/07. Clearly mark which position you are applying for.

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NOTICES

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

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OBITUARIES

POZNIKOFF, CARL - 1938 - 2007 passed away suddenly on May 18, 2007 at Royal Jubilee hospital in Victoria, BC after a brief illness. Carl was born in Shoreacres, BC and spent his early years in Hills, BC. As a young man he worked in pulp and paper mills in Powell River and later, Port Alberni. He became involved in the hotel industry there and subsequently moved to Courtenay, BC. Carl was a diehard New York Yankees and Montreal Canadiens fan.

He will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered by his partner and friend, Donna Laplante, mother Mary, sisters and brothers, Natalie (Percy) Lloyd, Kathy (Nick) Berekoff, Johnny (Franca) Poznikoff, Lorne (Donna) Poznikoff, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father, John. A gathering was held to commemorate Carl's life on June 2nd in Courtenay, BC. Interment at the Hills Doukhobour Cemetery will occur at a later date followed by memorial gathering at Hills' Community Hall. Those who wish may make a donation to Hills Community Doukhobour Society, RR#1 New Denver BC VOG1SO.

KATHRYN SHEILA LeMESSURIER, born August 1, 1944 in Vancouver, BC, died in the Pavillion at New Denver, BC May 27, 2007, leaving her mother Phyllis French, her children Kristina Gardner of New Westminster, BC, Michael Poe of Moscow, Idaho and five grandchildren. A memorial will take place at a later date. The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and care aides at the Slocan Community Health Centre and the Arrow Lakes Hospital, and the hospice volunteers for their support and attention. Special thanks to Scott Cherry, Eloise Charet and Ganishka Dann, and especially to Frances Matthews and Gretchen, who were with her at the time of her passing.

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Area D Director Andy Shadrack proposes geothermal heating system for Jewett school

by Art Joyce

Area D Director Andy Shadrack says he can provide up to $35,000 toward the cost of retrofitting Jewett School in Meadow Creek with a geothermal heating system, or 50% of the net contribution from BC Hydro. Shadrack is consulting BC Hydro to find out how much funding is available.

He sees it as a part of his initiative toward greenhouse gas reduction, and an opportunity to reduce operating costs. Shadrack estimates a savings of $5,000-$8,000 per year on heating costs for the geothermal system recently installed in the Meadow Creek Hall. Total energy costs for Jewett school, a K-4 facility, were $10,790 for the 2005-06 school year. Shadrack wants to cut that figure in half.

"In answer to the question, what's it going to cost? If Meadow Creek cost $48,000 and we actually spent $48,000 on Jewett school, it would cost the school board $24,000 and me $24,000, less any grant that BC Hydro gave."

Shadrack's contribution will come from gas tax rebate distributed to municipalities and regional districts through the federal/provincial Community Works fund and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

With school enrolment figures declining, Shadrack also wants to take steps to ensure the building will continue to be available to the community. He has asked for right of first refusal in any future sale offering so that the school could be used for seniors or low income housing.

"There's always that nagging fear that if the numbers drop too low, the school could close. I'm not saying that's going to happen, I'm just trying to prevent the building going to the private sector."

School District #8 Director of Operations Larry Brown says he will be seeking a formal estimate for the geothermal conversion proposal at Jewett school.

"I can tell you we are considering geothermal as part of a global energy conservation strategy for the district. It's a very good offer Andy's put forward but we want to look at all our schools."

Brown says they spend $1.1 million annually heating the 29 buildings within the district. Operations staff are attending a certified energy management course sponsored by BC Hydro in Prince George the week of June 4. The new school in Crawford Bay is heated by geothermal, and is striving for Leadership in Energy Efficient Design (LEED) status, the worldwide 'green buildings' standard.

"These are public dollars, so it should be a green building."

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Your participation in this community input event is essential - Please come and provide your insights, knowledge and opinions about this topic of great importance to all of us.

SLOCAN VALLEY ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

COMMUNITY INPUT DAY:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Crescent Valley Community Hall
June 9th, 2007

10: 00 am Welcome And Introductions

10:10 *Panel on Regional and valley trends in population, labour and real estate*

Small business and labour force trends	*Paul Wiest, Community Futures*
Population and development activity	*Derek Murphy, Economic Development Commission*
Real Estate Trends: myths and realities	*To be announced*

10:45 – 11:15 *Community discussion and input: what size and type of population do we want? What does a healthy real estate market look like?*

11:15 am *Economic Issues Panel*

The future of forestry in the valley	*Gary Burns*
Tourism – myths and opportunities	*To be announced*
Supporting local retail and businesses	*To be announced*

12:15 Lunch – please bring your own bag lunch.
Beverages, cookies and fruit will be provided.

1:00 pm *Community discussion and input: what types of jobs and economic development should we be promoting? How should we manage conflicts between business and residential uses?*

1:45 Wrap-up

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION SUMMER PROGRAMS

ELEMENTAL ART FOR YOUTH Ages 8 to 12- July 5th & 6th (Thurs./Fri.). Twig, water, sand, rock - create from the elements around you! With Evelyn Kirkaldy

ELEMENTAL ART FOR TEEN/ADULTS - July 7th & 8th (Sat. Sun.). It's low to no-impact art at its finest! With Evelyn Kirkaldy

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS - Brent Kennedy School. July 9th to 12th with Gisele Chouinard. Ages 5 to 7 and Ages 8+

GYMNASTICS WITH RHONDA - Brent Kennedy School. August 13th to 16th. Pre-School to advanced!

KAYAKING CLASSES - Youth Week - July 16th to 20th, Women's Week July 16th to 20th (afternoon). Family & Couples - Aug.18th/19th. Endless Adventures, Crescent Valley

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS AT SLOCAN LAKE: Village of Slocan Beach. Lessons from pre-school to teen. July 30th to August 10th.

SIZZLING SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP - Ages 9 to 12 years. Aug. 20th to 24th. Crescent Valley Youth Centre.

RUSH HATS - For adults. With Sharon & Lynnda. Sunday, July 15th, Threads Guild Building, Perrys Siding.

DYEING WITH INVASIVE PLANTS - With Tricia Rasku & Juliet Craig. Sat. July 28th. Threads Guild Building.

14TH ANNUAL SLOCAN VALLEY POKER FLOAT - Sunday. August 12th. Join us for another pleasant valley Sunday!

226-0008

16th ANNUAL KASLO JAZZ FESTIVAL ETC

Swing en 4 -Costa Rica
Rastrillos -Mexico
Ndidi Onukwulu & Madagascar Slim -CDN
Djabe -Hungary
Rumba Calzada -CDN
plus 6 more great bands

New Policy for "Early Bird" Tickets
ONLY 500/day available - $45/day Early Bird
call 353-7548 to purchase tickets

TICKETS HOTLINE: (250) 353-7548

Canada

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Celebrate July 1st in Silverton the Beautiful!

Silverton Transport
CHALLENGES ALL BUSINESSES to a $100.00 Donation!

Vern Hartman
CHALLENGES ALL RESIDENTS to a $25.00 Donation!

Make this the most FABULOUS FIREWORKS ever!

Contact the July 1st Committee...c/o Ron Provan - Box 9A, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0...Tel: 250-358-2852