The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Glacier/Howser hydro open house draws an angry crowd

by Art Joyce

An open house held by Purcell Green Power at the Lardeau Valley Community Hall was met with a contingent of angry citizens the afternoon of June 27. The company released to the public its Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Glacier/ Howser Creek hydro project as submitted to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

The open house was disrupted by a group of citizens who demanded answers and called a public meeting on the spot. Many felt frustrated that the microhydro project as outlined on the display boards represents a larger scale than had originally been proposed by Neil and Sean Murphy, and that the old proposal was the one still listed on the Glacier Power BC website. Neil Murphy said he was having problems shutting the site down. Project manager Simon Bourdeau of Axor Group Inc., the corporation providing the capital for the development, said the new Purcell Green Power website was up as of the day of the open house. Purcell Green Power is the new name for the numbered company (3986314 Canada) owned by Axor which holds the water licenses to Glacier and Howser creeks. Neil Murphy sold his Glacier Creek water license to Montreal-based Axor for a percentage return over the 40-year term of the project and will be retained in the capacity of consultant. Sean Murphy, a certified marine engineer, will likely be the on-site project manager.

Some at the meeting felt that the generating capacity of the hydro project had been increased, and could hardly be called 'micro' in scale. In fact the Murphys had originally allowed for a maximum generating capacity of up to 125 megawatts (MW), divided between the Glacier facility (60 MW) and Howser (65 MW). One resident said "we need to shut this project down."

Gary Diers took issue with the size of the penstock tunnels, which has been expanded from 3 X 3.5 metres to 4.5 X 4.5 metres. Diers, who prepared a critique of the project for the Purcell Alliance for Wilderness, said this will create over 30,000 tandem axle dump truck loads of waste rock. He wanted to know where this waste material would be deposited and whether the issue of acid leaching had been considered. In the draft ToR, it explains that some of the rock material will be used to build the concrete faced rock dam at Howser Creek. "It also reduces ... the number of cement trucks required to make the trip to the construction site." Diers said the open house was the first time he'd heard that the project would need to drill seismic lines to prepare for penstock construction. Bourdeau answered that these are needed in order to gather as much information as possible on the geology of the sites.

Many at the meeting were unhappy with the possibility that up to 80% of the annual average creek flow could be diverted by the penstocks, potentially impacting bull trout spawning. The bull trout is currently a blue-listed (threatened) species in BC.

EAO Project Assessment Director Garry Alexander said proponents "rarely have all the answers at this stage." They will be required to gather data on potential environmental impacts and respond to concerns raised by the public. He and Gourdeau stressed that the ToR are only the first stage (pre-application) of the formal process required by the EAO, which can take 255 days in the application review stage alone. Yet some at the open house felt that the process is only designed to wear people down and ultimately does little to incorporate public and environmental concerns.

Electrical engineer Don Scarlett agreed with many that BC Hydro's independent power producers (IPP) program is merely privatizing public streams. "We need to talk about the real issues – do we even need this project, and what effects will it have? Will it benefit us? Or is it yet another case of us getting the guts and feathers while the chicken goes to someone outside the community?" said Scarlett.

The EAO is holding a public commentary period on the Glacier/ Howser project from July 13 to August 20. Comments can be emailed to Glacier.Howser@gov.bc.ca or addressed to Garry Alexander at PO Box 9426, Stn. Prov. Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9V1. A copy of the draft Terms of Reference for the project is available online at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

PHOTO CREDIT: GAIL BAUMAN

Canada Day was celebrated with fireworks and so much more in many West Kootenay communities. This dazzling display is from Ainsworth, where over 100 people came out for the show. See back page for more Canada Day photos

'Howard's End' on Slocan River Road was a worthwhile stop on the Slocan Valley Art & Garden Tour June 24. Addy and Roy Howard's English estate-like gardens are so very colourful, with an amazingly wide variety of flowers. Roses of all types and colours are the distinguishing feature.

Colleen McCrory passes away

by Jan McMurray

People from the New Denver/ Silverton area and far beyond are grieving the passing of one of the greatest environmentalists of our time. Colleen McCrory died of a brain tumour on July 1 at about 9:30 pm at her home in Silverton.

Colleen was best known for her star role in having Valhalla Provincial Park created. She was also a key player in the establishment of South Moresby, in the Queen Charlotte Islands, as a national park reserve. More recently, she had been working tirelessly to protect the world's only inland temperate rainforest (ITR), and especially the part of it that is located right in our own backyard – the Incomappleux Valley.

Colleen accomplished her work as a member of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. A founding member of the society, she held the position of chairperson and then Executive Director.

Colleen had won many awards for her environmental work, including the world's most prestigious – the Goldman Environmental Prize.

Canada Day also marked the loss of an internationally acclaimed environmentalist, Colleen McCrory, who was born and raised in New Denver/Silverton.

Stream of Consciousness

In summer, rather than cranking the air conditioning on hot days, install a ceiling fan to cool you off, and leave your thermostat a little higher - around 26ºC. Fans should be installed with the blades at least 30 cm below the ceiling, 200 cm from the floor and 60 cm from the nearest wall. Air should be moved downwards from the ceiling in the summer to provide a cooling breeze on the room occupants. During the summer, switch the fan and light off when you leave the room. Fans don't actually cool a room, they just cool you by circulating air.

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Public meeting on cell phone service results in 30-day reprieve

by Art Joyce

Knox Hall in New Denver was packed to overflowing the evening of June 21 with residents concerned about the possible health risks associated with cell phone service being installed in the village. Mayor Gary Wright and council had called for the meeting with Telus representatives in response to a petition presented by citizens requesting a moratorium on cell service pending public consultation.

A clear majority of the 80 or so present spoke out against cell service in the village. One person spoke in favour, saying he wished that fire, police or emergency services had been present at the meeting to express support.

Mayor Wright acknowledged at the outset that under current federal regulations administered by Industry Canada, Village council is allowed to have input as to the location of radio communications equipment but cannot prevent its installation.

"People have asked us why Telus had no public process. I just wanted you to know it's not their fault – that's how the laws are set up," said Wright.

Wright explained that for some years now some residents in the New Denver/Silverton area have "harrassed" Telus to install cell phone and wireless internet in the north Slocan Valley. There is at present "no process in New Denver's OCP saying anything at all about cell phone service," he explained.

"I don't think anyone here is arguing that Telus is putting in an illegal installation," commented Daniel Sherrod, "but this needs to be a community decision."

Brock Enderton, Telus Real Estate and Government Affairs Manager for BC, opened by saying, "We really didn't expect people would be opposed to cell service." Telus had entered into negotiations with the CBC two years ago to use the existing TV tower for cell phone transmission equipment, in accordance with Industry Canada's mandate to encourage facilities sharing and minimize the construction of unsightly towers. Enderton said Telus "wasn't trying to come in without anyone knowing about it," and that New Denver was the last on its to-do list under the Connected Communities initiative of Telus and the BC government. He said Telus currently has 125 customers in the New Denver postal code with cell phone accounts.

In response to questions about potential exposure levels of radio frequency radiation (RFR), Enderton repeatedly cited Health Canada's Safety Code 6, noting that the cell equipment would be emitting power levels 1,400 times below code. Audience members responded that it's not the power but the pulsed frequency (800-1,800 Mhz) that is at issue. The advantage of the microwave band is that very low power is needed to transmit these frequencies. Penny Bonnett explained how RFR interferes with the basic process by which cells communicate and repair themselves, making the point that all life forms are affected. Enderton replied that there are already 16 sources of RFR energy being emitted from the existing antenna array, reiterating that Telus "complies in all cases with Safety Code 6."

Anne Sherrod was cheered by the audience when she said that she "doesn't trust Health Canada for one minute because they currently allow use of over 60 chemicals known to be carcinogenic." Others who spoke noted the wide disparity of exposure standards around the world, wondering why Canada's exposure levels were so much lower than European standards. Richard Caniell made the point that "for 30 years we had studies telling us there was no global warming happening," and asked if Telus would reconsider the adequacy of Safety Code 6. Enderton replied that Telus has no position on the Code except to comply.

Terry Taylor spoke of her concerns about the negative social implications on teens of cell phone use and asked if Telus had done any studies on the subject. Enderton replied that this was best left to the expertise of academic institutions. Eloise Charet agreed that "it's our children we worry about," citing the First Nations principle of considering the effects of one's decisions to the seventh generation.

In response to Enderton's claim that cell phones are a major economic development tool along with high-speed internet, many residents said it's what the community doesn't have in the way of modern amenities that makes it attractive to visitors. Bill Roberts said the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission taking advantage of the area's cell phone-free status as a marketing tool for tourism had been discussed.

Someone asked Mayor Wright if the Village could pass a bylaw to stop cell phone service and was told they cannot. When asked if Telus could relocate the equipment at a more remote location, Enderton said it's unlikely given the economics of a small market like New Denver. Mayor Wright asked if Telus would consider not completing the installation. Technicians were within 48 hours of completion and were told to temporarily halt installation when Telus heard of community concerns, said General Manager for BC Interior South Steve Jenkins.

"Very clearly what I'm hearing is, there's a low desire for cell service here," he said. Jenkins then offered to hold off on completing the installation for 30 days, pending a review of other options.

Following the public session, council debated several motions. A motion was proposed formally requesting Telus not to complete cell service installation for 30 days. Councillor Greensword was opposed, saying she wanted "to see a site as far away from people as possible." A second motion for a community referendum was debated but Mayor Wright saw potential liability problems if not all property owners received sufficient notice. Councillor Bunka suggested adding a request to Telus for a further 60 day postponement, so that "every citizen in town can have a say," but the motion was not brought to a vote. Council finally passed two motions: the first, that council write Industry Canada with its concerns regarding the location and public consultation process, with copies forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Union of BC Municipalities. The second motion passed was to advise Telus to consider installing the equipment at least 500 metres from residential areas.

Not all leaving Knox Hall were happy with the decision. Some felt council was "playing politics" and wondered why Village councillors came up with an arbitrary figure for locating the equipment. Others felt it was the best council could do given the limited scope of their powers on the issue.

Summer theatre school is back

submitted

It's that time of year again – the Valhalla School of Theatre Arts, (ViSTA), is putting on its second annual summer theatre school July 16-28! This unique thespian program is designed to allow kids aged 7 -12 and teenagers 13 - 18 to experience the excitement of theatre, as well as bring their own creative ideas to life. This year, the younger students will be performing plays on the theme of 'Pirates.' Directed by their own imagination, these dashing stories of bloodthirsty villains and heroic exploits will be publicly performed at 7 pm on July 20th and 27th at the Silverton Memorial Hall.

The teens will be starring in their own adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night's Dream.' This timeless classic will be performed with a semi-modern spin to it, but with just as much fun and laughs as Billy S intended. This is an event you will not want to miss! This play will be held at 7 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall on Saturday July 28th.

There are still a few spots left in both the children and teen summer theatre weeks. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this exciting program. Contact Bree Lillies at breelillies@hotmail.com or 358-7225, or visit the Valhalla Fine Arts website at www.valhallafinearts.org for more details.

Don't forget to mark these exciting events down on your calendar – ViSTA only comes once a year!

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Open Fire Restriction throughout the Southeast Fire Centre

Effective at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2007 and until further notice, Category 2 and 3 open fire is prohibited throughout the Southeast Fire Centre.

A Category 2 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than two metres high and three metres wide, or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares (2,000 square metres) in size.

A Category 3 open fire means an open fire that burns material in piles larger than two metres high and three metres wide, windrows, or grass over an larger than 0.2 hectares (2,000 square metres) in size.

This open fire ban applies within BC Parks and to all public (Crown) and private land outside of organized areas. This fire ban does not apply within municipalities or regional districts that have their own burning bylaws. Please check with your local authorities before lighting a fire.

This open fire ban is in effect to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused wildfires.

The Southeast Fire Centre encompasses the area extending from the U.S. border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands/Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C./Alberta border in the east. This includes all of the Arrow-Boundary, Kootenay Lake, Rocky Mountain and Columbia Forest Districts.

To report a wildfire or unattended campfire call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks. For more information on open fire restrictions or for updates on current wildfire activity, visit www.bcwildfire.ca.

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The Symposium will include sessions on a range of sustainability issues, with diverse speakers from both within and outside the Basin, sharing their knowledge and experience.

If you are looking for possible responses and strategies to deal with sustainability issues in your community, or want to share your perspective, plan to attend this Symposium at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

Symposium registration will open in September and space is limited. The Symposium is free of charge. A detailed agenda will be released in September. Watch www.cbt.org for more details.

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

Merits of provincial building purchase debated at Kaslo public meeting

by Dan Nicholson

About 30 Kaslo and area residents showed up at a meeting to discuss the fate of the old provincial courthouse building in that community. A referendum has been passed authorizing the village to borrow the money to buy the structure. What remains is to negotiate a final agreement with the province, and to develop a plan for its use.

As moderator Randy Morse put it, "We're here to discuss our hopes, fears and dreams for the provincial building."

Anne Malick asked about the Kootenay Lake Historical Society's (KLHS) archives. "If the village doesn't buy the building, what happens to the archives?"

Pete White, KLHS president, indicated that the preferred location for the archives is in the provincial building, where it is currently housed. Archivist Elizabeth Scarlett said that the brick and stone structure is an excellent place to house the collection, particularly from the perspective of fire hazard.

When questioned about the possibility of using the top floor of City Hall, after that building was restored, Scarlett indicated that the fire supression system might ruin archival material.

Someone wanted to know where the offer to purchase was at. Mayor Holland noted that the referendum authorizing council to borrow the money had passed, and that council had passed a resolution to purchase the building. The province and the village are still negotiating the terms of the offer to purchase.

Anne Malick and Linda Cole had concerns about the purchase of the building, particularly the 10-year lease to the government agent, which is an unfunded liability.

Rick Taylor wanted to know why the village didn't simply sell some of its land and use the proceeds to purchase the building, instead of borrowing.

Councillors Hewat and Leathwood said that the village wanted to complete the OCP before selling any land.

A number of people were concerned that there didn't seem to be a plan being articulated for the building's use.

Pete White was of the opinion that the village didn't need to define its use at this time. "The City Hall restoration is a five-year project. We need to relocate the village office on a temporary basis, anyway. The provincial building is a 1st class structure and we're getting it below market value."

Mayor Holland indicated that someday he'd like to see a museum of natural history on the top floor.

Shed at Rosebery log dump burns

by Geordie Rice

A fire that broke out in Rosebery's log dump on the night of Saturday, June 30 has been labelled suspicious and is under investigation.

The fire was first reported by Elly Scheepens around 10:30 pm. She had noticed flames coming out of the roof of a shed when she was passing by the log dump.

Scheepens alerted the residents of a nearby house, who called 911. The fire department responded quickly and the fire was extinguished, but the shed was destroyed.

The fire department has determined the fire began on the outside north wall of the shed, and has since collected samples that are being tested for signs of arson.

RCMP Corporal Heidema said, "We can't rule out arson, but we can't rule out spontaneous combustion either. We consider it suspicious in nature right now."

RCMP has sent soil samples to a laboratory in Edmonton to see if there are any accelerants present. Heidema says results could take a while to come back, "depending on the backlog."

The shed is on the Springer Creek Forest Products log dump in Rosebery, which hasn't been in operation for about two years. Heidema says there was no sign of vandalism or any other damage at the site.

The shed was completely gutted in the blaze, but fortunately it served as a lunch room, and contained only a few tables and chairs and a refrigerator.

No important equipment or hazardous materials were present in the shed, and total damage is expected to total less than $10,000.

PHOTO CREDIT GEORDIE RICE

Water and sewer regulations need tweaking

by Jan McMurray

New sewage and water regulations are making things more difficult and more expensive for rural people, and the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is trying to do something about it. People with personal stories about how these regulations have caused them grief are asked to call John Kettle, RDCK Director, at 250-428-6096.

"We'd like the Province's policies and legislation to be more responsive to public needs. People can't afford what they are being asked to do right now," says Kettle.

What it all boils down to is liability, he says. "Costs are rising because everyone is trying to cover themselves. We're at the point where either people take responsibility for their own health or the government will do it for them. The government is willing to take on that role, but people can't afford it."

The new sewage regulations, introduced in May 2005, require 'certified professionals' to design, construct and maintain septic systems, and to assume all liability for the work they do. The cost of the certified professional's liability insurance is passed down to the customer.

"If homeowners could take out their own permit, hire whomever, and assume their own liability, there would be substantial savings," said Kettle. "The regulations are making cheaters out of honest people," he added.

Kettle represents the RDCK on a working group set up by the Union of BC Municipalities to address concerns around the sewage regulation. That committee is expected to make recommendations to the Province by the fall.

The new water regulations favour very expensive water treatment systems to ensure safe drinking water. Local governments and community groups that are managing small water systems are being asked to upgrade their systems. Again, the cost is passed down to the users.

"If Walkerton hadn't happened, we wouldn't be talking about this today," says Kettle. "There were millions of dollars in lawsuits related to Walkerton. And Walkerton happened because of human error. The system was working fine – they just didn't add chlorine," said Kettle.

The RDCK board has adopted a policy that water systems with less than 500 users per day can use a point of entry system (treatment at the tap). These systems, which treat water through microfiltration and ultraviolet light, are much less costly than a water treatment plant that treats water at the source. However, local health officers, who ultimately approve water treatment systems, have been inconsistent in approving point of entry systems.

"There are communities throughout the RDCK where these systems are in place and everything seems to be working perfectly," says Kettle. "They provide multi-barrier drinking water protection, which is much better than just chlorine."

Director Kettle (Area B - rural Creston), Director Don Munro (Area H - Slocan Valley) and Director Andy Shadrack (Area D - North Kootenay Lake) are using some of their federal gas tax funding to put in point of entry systems at various locations in their areas. Kettle says other directors may follow suit.

"The RDCK is taking the lead on this issue and I think the Ministry might work with us on this one," he said.

SVEDC holds public meetings to discuss high-speed internet service in the valley

submitted

The Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) invites the Slocan Valley public to learn about the proposed community-owned high-speed internet service and the plans to borrow $232,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority to finance the implementation of the project this fall.

The meetings will be held on Monday July 9th Winlaw Hall in Winlaw, and Tuesday July 10th at the Doukhobor Hall in Hills at 7 pm.

For over 5 years now, the SVEDC and a number of community volunteers have been planning a community-owned wireless internet service, which will provide similar service and speed to what is offered in Nelson or other West Kootenay communities. They have created a detailed business plan that has the service paying for itself – resulting in no increase in property taxes.

There are a number of scenarios for how this project will roll out in the fall, each dependent on successful funding applications.

If later on this summer, the public approves the RDCK to borrow $232,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority, then the south valley (Crescent Valley to the south end of Slocan Lake) will be connected. If the grant application of up to $464,000 for federal/provincial funding is approved, then the north valley (Rosebery, Hills and Summit Lake) can be connected. As well, the overall project can be built better and stronger – giving the community more options in the future.

Behind the scenes, other partners have come on board lending the project credibility and energy, such as new addition Net Idea, which will be the initial internet service provider, and long-term partner Columbia Mountain Open Network (CMON).

Come out to Winlaw Hall on July 9 or Hills Doukhobor Hall on July 10, learn about the plans and get your questions answered. For more information contact Derek Murphy at 359-5998.

Voices from the Valleys

Mourning Colleen McCrory...

Our community lost one of its most beloved citizens on July 1st. Colleen McCrory was more than just an international environmental icon, she was a neighbour and I regarded her as a friend. She was, perhaps, the most passionate and dedicated person that I've ever met. I loved that. Whether you agreed with her or not, you always knew where she stood on an issue.

She was courageous, unwavering in her convictions and brave enough to speak the truth as she saw it. She brought energy and talent to whatever she turned her hand to. What a bright light she was.

Over the course of the fourteen years that I knew her, she berated me as often as she praised me. Whenever she came into the office to chew me out about something, I had to listen. Her complaints were never frivolous or mean-spirited. I knew that she was only doing it because she was kind of fond of me - she didn't want me to look stupid.

She was curmudgeonly, cantankerous and strong-willed. I've always admired that in a person. In Colleen, I loved it. She could totally destroy one of your arguments, yet do it with enough compassion and lack of pretension, that you would have to thank her for it afterwards.

Jan and I will be running a memorial edition on July 18. We'd like to invite you to send in your memories about Colleen. Please keep your stories short, we'll try to publish as many as we can.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

'Kootenay Rockies' label oversimplifies

Can someone explain how so much of BC's southeast interior became the Kootenay Rockies?

An article submitted to a recent *Valley Voice* indicates that this is where we live now. Silly me. I'd always thought that Kootenay Lake was in a valley between the Purcell and the Selkirk ranges of the Columbia Mountains. For years I was under the impression that when we drive west to the Okanagan we cross the Monashees, but evidently this is wrong.

Thank goodness the organizations that promote tourism in BC have declared that people are simply too thick-headed to understand that the region is full of different mountain ranges, which were formed in events millions of years different than the ranges adjacent. I guess they decided it's just simpler to dumb-down our geography. It makes so much more sense to lump these magnificent topographical features into one unarticulated mass.

I can't wait to see when these same reorganizers of our lands decide that it is just too complicated to differentiate between BC and Alberta. Oops! I guess they already are working on erasing the border with the TILMA (Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement) deal.

Bill Wells
Kaslo

Fighting against cell phone service

I write in shock and disbelief about the proposed installation of a cell phone antenna in the Village of New Denver. The transmission antenna is to be attached to the existing CBC tower located by the marina and the campground.

The information I have found concerning the potentially disastrous health effect of such a microwave transmitting site makes me both angry and already feeling sickened.

Angry because as the law stands now Telus had no need to advise the residents of their intended installation. Our federal government, whose record in protecting public health is far from stellar, has once again allowed the industry lobbyists to have the loudest voice in setting regulations for cell phone transmission that allow exposure to microwaves at levels far higher than found in many places in Europe.

In Europe studies are now appearing of the effects on people who have unwittingly participated in the experiment to see what happens when you are living in the vicinity of a cell phone mast, as they term them.

People's lives are disrupted by many symptoms that turn them into chronically ill humans with a much increased chance of developing cancer within a 5 to 10 year period.

I will not agree to this kind of experiment being conducted here in New Denver. I will fight to keep Telus from doing what they are legally entitled to do.

Because our federal health department has adopted the standards by which to govern the telecommunications industry from the USA, we are allowing a very profitable industry to cause untold medical costs into the near future. Unlike our American neigbours we have chosen to value all Canadians and with our taxes pay for a medical system that attempts to treat anyone of us that becomes sick. Now, I hardly need to comment that our system is already strained to the limit in many ways. Do we really want to knowingly contribute by allowing cell phone antenna sites to be placed in communities?

I ask every resident of New Denver to seek out the information that is available and in particular to view the documentary *Public Exposure*.

You do not want to introduce this dangerous technology here - we need a Village whose children can be healthy.

Penelope A. Bonnett
New Denver

Who needs a cell phone?

So often in our society situations are forced upon us which are beyond our control.

Any community which we might choose to live in has its up sides and down sides. Something that I've been impressed with as a newcomer to New Denver is the fact that there are many agitators here, people who have done their tours of duty in the 'civilized world' and are – like myself – fed up with being told that they have no choice. We've had our bellyful of having situations crammed down our throats and have now gathered in this beautiful garden called 'The Kootenays.'

We came here by choice, by doing our homework and by following our hearts. I think everyone who has moved to this community from somewhere else would tell you that it simply feels better here. We understand the importance of simplicity and balance because we had so little of it elsewhere. We also understand the importance of being connected and of communication but we are not willing to offer up our lives in exchange for the ability to talk on a gadget that is being proven to be unsafe.

So for those of you who grew up in this area please do not buy in to the belief that you are somehow less than those who live in the illusion of sophistication in the 'civilized areas.' They tell you how you should look, how you should dress, who you should be, but one thing that I find refreshing is just how real most people are here.

For those who really believe that they need a cell phone I humbly ask that you ask yourself why – what the REAL reasons are. People in the cities would kill for the lack of EMF pollution we have here. As a matter of fact people from the cities are moving here for that very reason among others – both environmental and social. Especially in the future, as the danger of this type of pollution becomes more widely know and accepted, our lack of the 'convenience' of cell phones will become a distinct advantage in attracting those people who want to live in a clean environment.

So in closing, for those of you who want cell phones so badly – do you not owe it to yourself and to your community to first know, beyond reasonable doubt, that this technology is safe. Your friends and loved ones lives could depend on it.

Jeff and MC Pilsner
New Denver

Colleen McCrory, true daughter of the Slocan

The sudden, tragic passing of Colleen McCrory from our midst touches everyone here and around the world who knew her uncompromising dedication, boundless energy, commitment to family and to the preservation of the wilderness environment – in our lifetime and for future generations.

This community shares the burden of grief, loss and sadness in gratitude for her life – her all-too-brief presence – with all her extended and extensive family and friends, taking comfort in knowing that she was surrounded in her home in her final days, hours and moments by loving hands who eased her suffering and guided her to her final rest this Canada Day.

My deepest, most heartfelt wish is that in the face of whatever outside pressures may be brought to bear in our valley, now and in the future, our community can finally stand united – speaking with one voice to protect her living legacy – Valhalla Provincial Park.

Colleen's inspired, impassioned life bequeaths to us all an authentic lifetime labour of love, a reminder of the fragility of our own lives and of all living things, and a call to always lead forth with our own lights ablaze in the world – to do what needs to be done.

May we always remember this true daughter of the Slocan.

Judith Ann Maltz
Silverton

Healthy Housing Society calls for ban on cell phones in New Denver

What do thalidomide, asbestos, and tobacco have in common? All were allowed for public use by public health authorities. Now you can add cell phone and wireless technology to that list of consumer products that a growing body of scientific studies are proving unsafe – in fact, carcinogenic – to human health.

The Healthy Housing Society (HHS), a registered non-profit group of citizens living in the Village of New Denver and outlying areas, is opposed to the establishment of cell phone and wireless services in New Denver. Citing concerns raised by international studies showing a 3-4 times greater incidence of cancer in populations living within 400 metres of a cell phone transmission tower or base station, the HHS is asking Telus not to install the service.

Studies done in Sweden, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, Israel and elsewhere implicate the technology as a likely causal factor for a broad spectrum of cancers, childhood leukemia, learning and behavioural disorders in children, and other health problems. Yet in North America the telecommunications industry and government regulatory agencies such as the FCC and Health Canada have relied on studies concluding 'no known effects' on human health. Even the World Health Organization's EMF (electromagnetic frequency) study group concluded that current safety levels for exposure to cell phone radiation are safe. However, the WHO has recently admitted that studies indicate a higher incidence of leukemia in children living close to high voltage power lines.

Telus officials insist that power levels required to transmit the microwave frequency cell phones operate in (800-1800 megahertz) are thousands of times below levels mandated by Health Canada's Safety Code 6, or as low as 2 watts. However, it's the pulsed microwave frequency, not the wattage in this case that is at issue in endangering human health.

We believe the limited radius of cell service (probably less than a six-kilometre range) provided by the Telus installation in New Denver does not deliver the promised safety benefits. And experienced wilderness hikers are far better served by satellite or radio phones or personal locator beacons.

Communities around the world have rejected the presence of this technology in their midst as providing far more risk to health than benefits. We as citizens must hold the federal government to the 'precautionary principle' – if there is ANY significant risk to public health, a product or technology must be rejected until proven safe beyond reasonable doubt. And that means proven by independent scientific study untainted by the financial interests of a multi-billion dollar industry. Remember: for 30 years, studies funded by oil companies told us there was no such thing as global warming.

Board of Directors
Healthy Housing Society
New Denver & area

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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Voices from the Valleys

New Denver needs referendum on cell phones

The New Denver council held a special public meeting to discuss the cell phone service that Telus is installing in the village. The crowd filled the hall to overflowing, and almost all of them were against putting the transmitter at the mouth of Carpenter Creek. They either didn't want it at all, or they wanted it placed out in the bush where it could not harm people.

Some of the council members were reluctant to take any real action. They excused themselves by saying that not all the village residents came to the meeting, and there are some who want the cell phone service. Very well, then, let's hold a referendum. A referendum requires a 90-day notice before the vote. Councillor Bunka moved that the installation be delayed a total of 90 days so that a referendum could be held. Only Councillor Katrine Campbell supported her. Mayor Wright and Councillor Greensword voted against it, which defeated the motion.

Instead they passed a resolution merely requesting that Industry Canada require public consultation prior to initiation of new transmission services. 'Public consultation' is not definitive of anything. Greensword and Wright said the input could be a petition, and it would be just as powerful a form of input as a referendum. But many people in the village will not sign a petition any more than they will come to a village meeting. They may be uncomfortable revealing their position on contentious matters in public. A referendum attracts maximum participation because it is anonymous. With only a petition, we may be sure that any council members not wanting to take action will simply say, "Sorry, this petition is impressive but not everyone signed it."

Council also passed a resolution requesting that the transmitter installation be held up for 30 days while alternative sites are explored. In all due respect, that is nothing more than what the Telus manager had already promised the audience.

A petition will require those against the cell phone service to expend huge time and energy taking the petition around. And they will have only 30 days to do it. It's not an accident that referendums require 90 days notice. It takes that long to do thorough research and get the information out to the public so that everyone can use their vote intelligently.

There were any number of critical issues that need careful consideration. For instance, a study in Germany has shown that people living within 400 metres of a cell phone transmitter receive 100 times the amount of radiation as people living outside that zone; and they experience three times as many cancers, which occur at an earlier age than for people outside that zone.

Trying to be helpful, the council resolved that it would like to see the transmitting station located 500 metres outside of residential areas. In reality, the scientific studies have not commented on the amount of radiation or the cancer risk at 500 metres. If there is three times greater cancer risk at 400 metres, might it be the case that there is two times greater risk at 500 metres? The council made a hasty assumption that 500 metres was safe, based on no information whatsoever. Is that the way to make decisions affecting people's health? All this was certainly well-meaning, and I hope they will see that it was a mistake, reconsider and hold a referendum.

Anne Sherrod
New Denver

Against cell service until proven safe

On the website of the International Association of Fire Fighters at www.iaff.org/hs/Facts/CellTowerFinal.asp, you will find the following: "The International Association of Fire Fighters' position on locating cell towers commercial wireless infrastructure on fire department facilities, as adopted by its membership in August 2004, is that the IAFF oppose the use of fire stations as base stations for towers and/or antennas for the conduction of cell phone transmissions until a study with the highest scientific merit and integrity on health effects of exposure to low-intensity RF/MW radiation is conducted and it is proven that such sitings are not hazardous to the health of our members."

Recently my stepdaughter developed a tumor on the side of her head where she used the cell phone.

Health Canada explains the health effects from cell phone towers in a brochure called 'Safety Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields.' It states: "Biomedical studies in Canada and other countries indicate there is no scientific or medical evidence that a person will experience adverse health effects from exposure to radiofrequency fields, provided that exposure is within the guidelines set out in Safety Code 6."

My stepdaughter is not an isolated case. I've heard of other similar incidents and there have been countless surveys all over the world showing serious health effects around cell phones and towers. But incidents of illness are not 'evidence.' They are 'anecdotes.' In other words, the evidence is 'circumstantial.'

To understand Health Canada's statement, we need to look at the scientific and legal definitions of the words 'study' and 'evidence,' which are not quite the same as in our day-to-day usage. The word 'study' means a controlled scientific experiment with an experimental population that is exposed to the substance being tested, and a control group that lives as similarly as possible to the experimental group except the substance being tested is held back. The word 'evidence' is tied to an interpretation of the outcome of the experiment made by someone who has the correct letters behind his/her name. Scientists, lawyers and corporations pick away at these interpretations. The experimental group may have been too small. Or the control group didn't get the placebo (sugar pill). They may have become ill psychosomatically, knowing that an active cell tower was close by. I can imagine how you would construct a fake cell tower, but how would you create a fake cell phone?

I don't wish to criticize the science on which our lives are based. It helped us get away from a lot of folklore superstition. But folklore and the more traditional approaches to illness did have some things right. This was in the use of the precautionary principle and the assignment of the burden of proof.

What is wrong with us handing the burden of proof onto industry? This would mean that we would accept cell phones and a cell tower only when the Health Canada brochure states: "Biomedical studies ... indicate there IS scientific and medical evidence that a person will NOT experience adverse health effects from exposure to radiofrequency fields."

Actually, as we speak, a major World Health Organization project is in progress organizing research in countries all over the world – because of concerns about possible health effects from exposure to EMF sources in everyday life. I guess the anecdotes are piling up.

I often hear comments from people reminding us how low the power use is in cell phone communication as compared to other electrical gadgets. So how can they be harmful? That kind of logic works until a member of your family gets a tumor right where they held the cell phone. Then suddenly we realize we haven't a clue what we're talking about.

I don't want to draw any conclusions for you. Just look at the circumstantial evidence yourself and then ask yourself if you really want to see our New Denver youth leading their social lives with the 'aid' of the cell phone.

Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

Apology to cell phone meeting goers and community

I am very sorry for my belligerent behaviour at the cell phone meeting in New Denver on June 21.

Earlier that day, I shot myself in a finger with a paslode gas finish nailer. Fortunately, just a flesh wound and yet self-inflicted. I've used this gun since 1994 and only once grazed a fingernail. I am very careful with my safety and with others' safety on the work site and elsewhere. My son Shane is a First Aid Attendant as well as my carpenter's helper. Healthwise, I try to eat organic food and the right combinations of food and drink. Sometimes I fail.

So when in 2000 I was diagnosed with chronic lymphocitic leukemia it was a big surprise. I had a blood test in 2000, wanting to be sure I hadn't brought anything back from my seven months in the South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. While in Australia (1997) I worked as a chippy (carpenter) and a younger carpenter I worked for, Brendan, was often using his cell phone for his home maintenance company and to call his family in Tasmania. He would often complain of a headache. Being concerned about his cell phone use, I found out 70% of Australians used cell phones and there were many reports of brain tumours and jaw cancer. I told him this and he said that the cell phone companies had done extensive testing and that cell phones were perfectly safe.

Back in Canada in 1998, when I came back to Nelson, I got the latest Telus Mobility 6500 cell phone. Like Brendan, I did not believe the cell phone companies might not be telling the truth. The cell phone was very convenient to receive and make calls anytime, anywhere, and it helped me to get my carpentry work. I would sometimes spend two or three hours on the cell phone in an evening, discussing future and present woodwork projects. The Telus cell phone would literally be hot to hold in my hand.

I started getting headaches that I hardly ever got before. I could often feel the difference on the side of my head where I held the cell phone. My bills were $120 to $140 a month – much more than my land line phone. After a year of cell phone use, I got blood tests to check if I had brought anything back from the South Pacific and because of my year of mild headaches.

Upon receiving the blood test results indicating I had chronic lymphocitic leukemia, I was flabbergasted, bewildered and scared. Leukemia is cancer, I knew, and was now told over and over again. It was recommended that I see Dr. Phillip Malpass, the only internist at the time at Kootenay Lake District Hospital. Three months of anguish later I was able to see him. Phillip told me the only 'cure' or procedure modern medicine could give me was a bone marrow transplant. Chronic lymphocitic leukemia is usually an old person's cancer. I wasn't even 50. Plus it doesn't kill you in two years like acute lymphocitic leukemia; it just drags on until you get old.

As new research is always being done, Phillip suggested at one appointment that we check out some info on the computer. He punched in 'CLL' and we got many hits: American research, Swiss research, Russian research. Many were looking into electromagnetic fields and how they affect our bodies, minds and especially our blood. My blood count was a 12 – zero being no malignant white blood corpuscles and 20 being too many and requiring a bone marrow transplant.

Being upset and totally stubborn, I read everything I could about the blood and how to make it strong and clean. I changed things in my diet and I stayed away from electromagnetic fields and sources. Our bodies have their own electromagnetic fields and when are in contact with artificial ones (power lines, transformers, electrical boxes, plug ins, cell phones, etc.), our own systems get disrupted. In a year, I got my blood count down to a three.

Cell phones are no longer a convenience to me. They now are cancer-causing devices. Again, I am sorry for my behaviour at the cell phone meeting as this area and its people are dear to my heart.

Lance Sage
New Denver

It's all about money

Electricity to our homes and businesses is supplied in the form of AC power. It is made up of charged particles measured in watts and volts. Watts are defined as the amount of power required to operate electrical equipment (60 watt light bulb) and volts is the amount of pressure in the line to transport the watts to the equipment (120V). To simplify, think of a garden hose. The water escaping from the hose is like watts and the pump driving the water are the volts. The more water (power) you use the more pressure (generation of power) you require to maintain that supply. That's how AC power works. The more wattage consumed the more power (pressure) needs to be put in the line. Power is transmitted through what they call the power grid. BC is a part of this power grid along with the entire Pacific Northwest and a few connections into Alberta. All power generating facilities put their power into this grid and are reimbursed through a series of power purchase agreements and contracts. How it all works is very convoluted and confusing to say the least. Most contracts are devised on not only how much power you are producing at a certain time but actually how much power you can produce. They call this 'Capacity.' Generally speaking, peak power consumption times are summer and winter months. This is when the demand for power is at its highest so naturally that's also when it's the most expensive to buy. Now let's say that the consumption of power goes over what a distribution company has in the form of power purchase agreements, they have to buy on the spot market which, depending on the circumstances, can be very expensive. Companies don't want to do this because it cuts into their rate of return. That's when you start hearing about self sufficiency.

Traditionally, peaking power generation comes from thermal plants such as coal or natural gas fired generators or hydro facilities with a huge fuel tank behind them called a reservoir. These facilities can be started at anytime of the year to provide more pressure in the line. In today's environment these facilities are looked upon with some disdain. So large companies are now promoting what they call 'IPP' (Independent Power Producers).

These independent power producers are not developing these facilities out of the goodness of their heart; they want a rate of return on their initial investment. Most IPPs that we are hearing about lately in this area are what they call 'run of the river' hydro plants and they are promoting it as green power. How it works is they obtain a water license CFM (cubic feet per minute) from the government to generate so many Megawatts (million watts) of power and they also go through an environmental process that basically says that water flow between the inlet and outlet of the facility must not be less than so many CFM. Now these developers go to the crown corporation and enter into negotiations for a power purchase agreement that supplies them with so many cents per kilowatt hour produced based on the CAPACITY of their facility.

Let's look at the Koch Creek development. High flow rates are during spring runoff. That's when this development will be able to support both the required CFM into the unit and through the watershed itself. But this is also a time when generation is at its most plentiful and the pressure on the system is not at peak levels because everyone is generating to pass excess water through the watersheds.

So now summer comes, and it gets hot and the load on the system is at it greatest – well everyone knows that Koch Creek at this time is a small meandering mountain stream and this facility will be shut down because there won't be enough water to supply both of the water licenses. But, and here's the kicker!, they still get paid for the capacity that they could be generating. So as rate payers we see our power rates continue to climb to fund these projects but in effect there is no generation increase at peak periods. It's all about money and it has nothing to do with energy self sufficiency.

In order to become energy self sufficient, we need to reduce the amount of pressure that is required in the line. We need a crown corporation that directs its focus away from making money to conservation. If the crown corporation would allow rebates to homeowners and businesses to purchase low voltage (low pressure) light bulbs or if everyone in the province lowered their hot water tank 10 degrees it would be a start in reducing the amount of energy required and eventually be self sufficient with the capacity that we already have and also see a reduction in our monthly bills to go along with it. We would be able to leave what untouched waterways we have left in this province alone.

Peter Kabel
Slocan Park

New Denver council, June 26: Backhoe purchase in the works

by R.N. Riley

•The Village is looking at spending $68,850 on a second-hand backhoe. This following a recent decision by the Village of Silverton not to ratify a draft agreement regarding a joint purchase of a backhoe and garbage collection equipment with the Village of New Denver. Council will make a formal motion to purchase the backhoe after Village staff finalize the deal with Brandt Tractor Ltd. of Surrey.

•Issues around snow and gravel removal, and bridge clean-up have been clarified following a meeting with a representative from YRB, Mayor Gary Wright reported. As far as snow and gravel removal goes, YRB's contract does not require them to provide this service, Wright said. YRB was also not aware that bridge clean-up was a pressing concern to the Village because of the timing of May Days, he added. Wright said the Village is now "in close contact" with YRB, which should avoid problems in the future.

•Council will ask the Regional District to hold off on a plan to pave the area around the recycling bins until after the bins are relocated. Mayor Wright pointed out that the Official Community Plan calls for the Village to establish an 'environmental zone' around the site, so there is no point in paving the area until the bins are moved to their permanent location, further from the well-head.

•Councillor Ann Bunka will draw up a policy regulating the maintenance of public boulevards, following a request by Mayor Wright. Wright said it had not been that much of an issue when residents were merely planting flowers on the boulevards. More recently, however, he has discovered that some people have taken to planting larger items, such as trees.

• The Slocan Lake Management Committee will receive a letter of support from council. A delegation from the committee attended to explain that the local citizens' group was formed to provide input regarding Slocan Lake to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) of the Area H North official community planning process. They outlined the group's objectives and its work so far, and stressed that its meetings and records are open, and membership is available to any interested parties. The group hopes to conduct a study to determine the current status of the lake, and to work with the APC to develop a long-term usage plan for the lake and its five main feeder creeks – Bonanza, Carpenter, Silverton, Wilson and Enterprise.

•The Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre has been officially designated a national historic site. A bilingual plaque acknowledging this designation will be located at the entrance to the Centre, with an official unveiling to take place at a later date.

•The Village will buy a "tapping machine" – used to tap into the water line without shutting down the entire system – for $2,485.

•Mayor Wright expressed his public thanks to Area H RDCK Director Don Munro for his donation of $300 to the New Denver Reading Centre. He noted that this was not the first time that Munro had donated money to the Centre.

•After a delay caused by the lack of someone with the equipment to do the job, the street pole banners are finally back in place along Main Street. The banners, provided by the Chamber of Commerce, had come down some months ago but were "looking great" now that they were back up, Carol Gordon noted.

•The Business Licence Amendment Bylaw regulating temporary summer rentals of private residences received final adoption.

• The summer council meetings scheduled for July 24 and August 28 have been cancelled. The July 10 and August 14 council meetings will take place as planned.

•The 2006 Annual Report was received and approved. Councillor Campbell took note of the "interesting facts" section of Mayor Wright's comments, wherein he noted that while the current Animal Control Bylaw allows residents to keep "wild animals" within the village, "tame or domestic animals and fowl are strictly regulated. Residents can have the usual cats, attack dogs, guard dogs, carrier pigeons and chickens – but not goats or apparently any other animal which provides an edible food product." Wright went on to note that while the Animal Control Officer (administrator Carol Gordon) is specifically required to catch, impound and milk – twice a day – any cow found wandering loose in the village, "the Administrator kindly requests residents refrain from illegally bringing cows into the village, then releasing them for her to catch and milk."

This section of the report was met with much hilarity and joshing of the Village administrator.

"That's my page [in the report], and I can write whatever I like on it," Wright chuckled.

Silverton council, June 26: Meeting set to review Memorial Hall reno

by Art Joyce

•CAO Ida reported that 2010 Live Sites had granted an extension until March 2009 for the completion of the Memorial Hall renovations. Councillor Wiseman wanted to know why the engineer's report was included in the council package. Mayor Everett explained that it is a public document that was released at a public meeting. The mayor said the engineer estimates it will take up to six months to resume renovations once council has made a decision on how to proceed. Council has scheduled a meeting to review the project for July 9, 7:30 pm.

•A delegation from the Slocan Lake Management Committee appeared to outline the committee's mandate. Barb Yeomans explained that the committee got its start a year ago when 350 residents signed a petition calling for a foreshore management plan and a moratorium on lakeshore development. She said MLA Corky Evans and MP Alex Atamanenko both support the committee's current efforts to acquire funding for a baseline scientific study of the lakeshore. Biologist Luce Paquin estimated that about half of the $30,000 budget for the study will be in-kind donations and about $9000 available from the Ministry of Environment and other agencies. A motion proposed by Councillor Wiseman to provide a letter of support for the committee's study was passed.

•In response to Councillor Bell's report of attending the New Denver council meeting with Telus and the public, Councillor Wiseman asked if cell phone service would reach Silverton. Bell said the range is only two kilometres or line of sight. Councillor Bell also reported that she has been elected chair of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission.

•Council discussed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the OCP Citizens Advisory Committee. A maximum of $500 for committee expenses was added, with anything above that amount requiring council approval. Voting members re-appointed to the committee were Bobbie Nesbitt, Leah Main, Bert Butchart, Cheryl Butchart, Heather Huether, and Councillor Laktin. Non-voting members will be Mayor Everett, Councillor Bell and Administrator Ida.

•In discussing the application for variance to construct a porch on the Linda McGeachy residence, Mayor Everett was again inclined to approve the variance, adding that he felt the bylaw was "terribly out of date and needs to be revised." At a previous meeting council requested McGeachy survey her neighbours, which she has done and none were opposed. Councillor Wiseman insisted that the existing Silverton bylaw #242 be adhered to, including the requirement to have the municipal clerk mail notices to all neighbours within 300 feet (100 m). Councillor Wiseman said "I'm not questioning the integrity of anyone here but it doesn't give neighbours a chance to respond. Council could be setting a dangerous precedent." Wiseman proposed a motion that council proceed with the existing bylaw and its intent. The motion carried, with Everett and Bell voting against.

•Curtis McGeachy, son of Linda, asked council during public and press time why the variance approval was taking so long, as it was becoming difficult to schedule contractors. He said the family was happy to comply with regulations but needed to know what they were so they "could be on the same page." Councillor Wiseman explained that the current bylaw was written in 1987 and was out of date but needed to be adhered to until an updated bylaw could be written. Councillor Bell added that revising bylaws has been deferred until the OCP process is complete.

•Council will inform the Capelles that it will review the location of the recycling dumpsters in the fall. The Capelles had written council calling them an "eyesore" and asking that they be moved. Councillor Wiseman will advise that a petition might be useful in guaging public opinion on the location of the bins.

•Kevin Higgins of YRB will be invited to the next OCP meeting to discuss ways of slowing down traffic through Silverton and respond to concerns regarding street sweeping. Higgins said power to Dewis Park has been restored.

•A motion was passed to cancel the council meeting of August 14 due to conflicting schedules of council members.

New directions for the Vallican Whole Community Centre

submitted

Nearly 40 years after arising from an infamous hole in the ground, the Vallican Whole Community Centre is looking forward to a vibrant future of endless possibility. This was the message from the board of the Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS), mother organization of the Whole, to its Annual General Meeting on June 24.

The board is infused with new blood, three of its members being young people whose early years were spent helping to create and improve the building. At a recent retreat, board members old and new came up with exciting plans for gatherings, environmental education, conferences, cultural and agricultural activities, and more.

For most of its years, the building's chief tenant has been the West Kootenay Educational Resource Society, widely known as the Whole School. Over time, the needs and space requirements of the school have grown. The RARTS board has decided it is not possible to provide a multi-use facility for the community at large while sharing the building with the school.

After much deliberation, RARTS has given the school one year's notice. "RARTS has not been able to fulfill its mandate in a meaningful way because we have complete access to our building for only three months of the year," said Joanne Ellis, current chair of the board. "We made this difficult decision convinced that in the end it will benefit both the school when they find a permanent facility and the broader community when we are able to open our doors year-round."

The Vallican Whole Community Centre invites everyone to participate in this opportunity to build authentic rural community by meeting our needs close to home. As a beginning, the Whole is hosting a 100-Mile Potluck, Market, and film showing on Saturday, August 18. This event will be the first of many creative endeavours to make the future of this community centre even more exciting than its colourful past.

Myles and Chillia return to Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

Chillia Zoll and Myles Berney will present their most recent photographs in a show called *Hops and Poppies* from July 4-9 at the gallery in New Denver. They will host an opening reception on Friday, July 6 from 7-9. Jeremy Down will entertain and refreshments will be served.

Myles said he was "captivated by the play of light on the hop vines climbing the veranda" of his Sandon home. It was last summer and he "waited for the evening light to capture the hop flowers at the right moment." Chillia Zoll's poppies are another enchantment of light well worth seeing.

The Hidden Garden Gallery is open every day from 11–4 during the summer season except Tuesday.

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Slocan City's audited financial statement 2006 presented

by Don Currie

At the June 21 council meeting, auditor Andrea Kramar presented a report of the audit conducted by Berg Naqvi and Lehman of the 2006 consolidated financial statement.

The highlights of the statement showed actual revenue from all sources totalling $889,973 compared to actual revenue in 2005 totaling $616,305. The increase in revenue in 2006 resulted from a one-time $100,000 contribution from Canfor for the boat launch and council's appropriation of the prior year's surplus of $116,608. Expenditures for the year were $638,870, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditures of $251,103. The statement revealed that the consolidated fund balance at the beginning of the year was $485,690 and dropped to $236,494 at the end of 2006. The Village's cash position at the end of the year was $277,903 compared to $324,004 for 2005.

The statement of changes in operating fund balances showed Village operating revenues from all sources in 2006 to be $512,135 with the major portion derived from real property taxes and unconditional grants. Overall expenditures were $638,870 showing an excess of operating expenditures over revenues for the year of $126,735. When operating fund balances at the beginning of the year were taken into account the overall operating fund balance at the end of the year was plus $90,531 compared to a balance of plus $344,240 at the end of 2005.

The audited report showed a trend for greater expenditures in 2006 over 2005 resulting from increased administration costs and capital expenditures. Newly acquired Village assets include the gazebo, breakwater, new sidewalks, the Wellness Centre and community library. Capital assets grew from a total of $1,913,320 in 2005 to $2,142,711 in 2006. All new assets are fully paid. The overall financial position of the Village, taking into account financial assets, capital assets, liabilities and equity was set at $4,853,970 with no debt. The auditor noted rising land values were positive for the Village's equity position but cautioned that new provincial rules for amortizing costs are coming and the Village should be prepared for the new accounting rules that will affect the real value of general capital assets.

Total general capital fund assets including the water works were $4,497,535 in 2006 compared to $4,419,384 in 2005. Total trust and reserve funds were $143,465 in 2006 compared to $139,051 in 2005. Council was advised by Kramar that water revenue and connection fees left a small surplus of $894 and that water revenues must go up if the facility is to be self supporting in the years ahead. Provincial law requires that utilities must be self funding. Copies of the audited statement are available at the Village office and taxpayers are invited to send written questions to the auditor concerning the information in the report.

During question period a lively exchange took place between Mayor John Van Bynen and Len Mortensen about a rise in residential property taxes. Mortensen asked the mayor when the public consultation process on the budget took place. Mayor Van Bynen replied that a public meeting was held February 12th. Mortensen said the meeting was to elicit public feedback on a capital 'wish list' but was not the traditional public budget consultation process of previous years. Mortensen wanted to know if council was aware when they set the mill rate that it would result in "a 60% increase in taxes" and if council "considered that was fair." Mayor Van Bynen said he didn't like taxes either and Mortensen responded that the mayor didn't pay taxes in the Village. Mortensen said he could afford to pay the increase but it would be a hardship for others. Councillor Septav said the increase in taxes was not due to a rise in the mill rate but an overall increase in property assessments over which council had no control. "Assessments went up therefore taxes went up." Mortensen responded that council does have control over setting the mill rate and it could have set it lower. Septav said the increase in residential taxes "reflects the times."

John Sarjeant asserted that a public budget consultation process was a "courtesy" and a public meeting should have been called to invite public input into budget estimates. He claimed that administrative costs had risen by $100,000 and that the increase in residential taxes was to pay for the increased costs. Administrator Eunice Ludlow said the budget process was in compliance with the Community Charter which requires one public consultation.

Following the meeting Administrator Ludlow requested an interview with the V*alley Voice* to place additional facts on the public record. The administrator said that there may be some residents who will face a 60% increase in residential taxes, but not all. She said in 2005 the assessment of properties actually were slightly reduced and only rose sharply in 2006, reflecting the increase in property values in the entire Slocan Valley. The mill rate is the same as last year.

She said increased revenues were needed to cover policing costs imposed by the provincial government and RDCK taxes, which had increased by $1,200 each on all seven categories of taxes required to be remitted by the Village. At the same time, the Province increased the threshold for homeowner grants, which mitigates the tax burden. Ludlow said current garbage rates do not cover costs and that the Village is actually subsidizing the per bag cost. The same applies to water rates, which she said would not cover the costs of operating and maintaining the utility. She said that municipalities are not permitted under provincial law to operate public utilities at a deficit.

The administrator asserted that despite increased expenditures the Village was in a healthy overall financial situation and has no debt. She explained that between year end and the time the Village receives its provincial grants in the spring, it is necessary to use reserves to finance operations which are then paid back when grants are received. Ludlow said the Village owns 208 properties and with the sale of only a few, the Village could replenish reserves allocated to capital with no serious effect on overall Village finances. She said the Village enjoys a very good credit rating but does not borrow, does not have a borrowing by-law and is completely self-funded.

Slocan council, June 21: Committee on lakeshore development gives an update

by Don Currie

•Council received a presentation from Rory Lindsay and Heather Burns of the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society (SVHTS). Lindsay, chair of SVHTS, reviewed the work of the joint Village of Slocan/SVHTS committee with participation of Springer Creek Forest Products and landowners Tom Brach and Craig Humphries. Lindsay invited council to appoint another member in addition to Councillor Perriere. He said consensus had been reached on four points covering a long range plan to guide all lakeshore developments, a green space at the trailhead near the gazebo and for best use of lakeshore for parking. Lindsay noted council discussions to move the cenotaph to open Delaney Avenue west of Main Street. Lindsay said SVHTS is willing to consider relocating its trailhead parking on to rail trail lands and to develop a green space. He called for joint SVHTS and Village co-operation to consider a best use plan for lakeshore development and said the Society would help obtain Tourism BC consent for developments on their land. Lindsay also pointed to problems of safety, degradation and liability arising from vehicular traffic from a spur line on to the trail used to reach the Valhalla Unit Crew location. There were also outstanding problems related to CPR title to the land that must be addressed.

•Council received a follow-up presentation from Robert Inwood of Mainstreet Consulting Associates to a public meeting on opportunities to access funding to develop Village heritage assets. Inwood proposed a feasibility study to identify buildings and proper restoration methods as a support to grant applications to BC Heritage Branch Planning Grants program.

Following his presentation, council approved a request by Joyce Johnson, representing a community heritage committee, to pass a heritage bylaw with terms of reference for a Village Heritage Commission to begin work on a heritage development plan for Slocan.

•Public works foreman Jerry Simmons reported that Teale's Water Utilities of Vernon quoted a cost of $115 each for water meters and $115 for installation. There are 190 connections in the Village for a total price of $43,700. The issue of water meters arose because of chronic over use by some residents.

Simmons reported that discussions took place with Brent Bailey of Highways to pave Arlington St. The Ministry might pave the street but the Village would have to maintain it, necessitating a boundary expansion to the south to bring the street into the Village.

The foreman reported that the Valhalla Unit Crew had completed Fire Smart work on Village property west of Giffin near the RV park. Their next project will be to begin building new floats for the dock that will replace the old boat dock. The berm at the new boat dock is finished with a new walkway. New cedar benches are being built for rest areas on Harold Street with new wooden covered garbage barrels. Quotes had been received for new security systems for Village facilities. Councillor Perriere asked if there was money in the budget for this project and was told that there was none.

•Councillors Ellis and Perriere voted against approving May disbursements. The councillors were irked that disbursement information was late and voiced their concern about lack of transparency on items listed as 'public relations.'

•Council approved all of the requests of the Slocan City Loggers' Sports for its 27th annual event in Slocan on Saturday, July 7, including a $500 donation to go towards insurance for a beer garden.

•Councillor Gates reported on the new RDCK fee schedule which increases fees in all categories of land development procedures. The new fee schedule will be appended to the Village Building Bylaw.

Gates reported that the carryover to 2008 of Columbia Basin Trust funds amounts to $791 after grants to Options for Sexual Health and Parent-Child Mother Goose Literacy programs received $1,050.

•Lawrence Redfern of the Mountain Caribou Project presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining efforts underway for mountain caribou recovery which he said has the "potential to impact local residents' social, economic and ecologic interests." He called for public support of recovery programs.

•Council received a request from the Slocan Lake Management Committee (SLMC) for a letter of support for its project "to draw up a comprehensive lake management plan for Slocan Lake." Before endorsing the committee's plans, council decided to write to the group to find out more about them.

•Council approved the request of Perry Weir to subdivide his property at 1015 Main St., consisting of six lots, into two three-lot parcels.

New Denver's preschoolers made the trek from the school to Centennial Park on June 21 for their annual Toddle-a-Thon.

VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

NOTICE OF ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with Section 98 of the Community Charter, the Village of Slocan will be presenting its Annual Report at a Special Meeting of Council to be held July 25, 2007 at 7:00 pm.

The Report details Council's achievements for last year, and what is proposed for this year and for 2008.

Copies will be made available to the public, and your comments are welcome.

For further information, please contact the undersigned at 355-2277.

Eunice Ludlow, CAO

Don't Miss the 27th Annual
Loggers' Sports Competition
starting at 11:00 AM
Sat. July 7, in Slocan City

with the Best and Fastest Male & Female Competitors from Canada and around the World!

THIS YEAR FEATURING
5 CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

With all the usual exciting competitions:

- **Choker Race:** Obstacle race with cable
- **Double Buck:** 2-person crosscut saw
- **Single Buck:** 1-person crosscut saw
- **Jack & Jill:** Man & Woman double-buck
- **Axe Throw:** Just what it says!
- **Birling:** 2 people trying to log roll on one log
- **Springboard Chop:** chopping top off 9' tree from springboard
- **Tree Climb:** Race to top (and bottom) of 80' tree
- **Dot Split:** Precision firewood splitting
- **Underhand Chop:** Between-the-feet chopping
- **Stock Saws:** Cut a round with Stihl saw provided
- **Hot Saws:** same as above, but the saws are REALLY JUICED UP!

Over **$10,000** in prizes!

Refreshments & Food available
ADMISSION: only $2.00

Please DO NOT bring pets with you!

Commemorative WWII plaque unveiled at Silverton Memorial Hall

by Jan McMurray

When Kathy Provan was working with the Silverton Historical Society archives, she came across mention of a plaque commemorating local people who died in WWII. Intrigued by the idea, she took it to the Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall. The Friends took it on, and on June 30 the hall saw the unveiling of the plaque at a memorable ceremony.

It was in the minutes of a Silverton Women's Institute meeting held in the 1940s that Provan found the reference to the project. The secretary/treasurer of the institute at that time was the grandmother of Linda Laktin, well known community member and a Silverton councillor. A lovely royal blue tablecloth that belonged to Laktin's grandmother shrouded the plaque until it came time for the unveiling.

Ken Poznikoff acted as emcee. In his introductory remarks, he recalled the words of a decorated war hero who said the true heroes were not the ones who had won medals, but the ones they had left behind. "Today, we honour the true heroes," said Poznikoff.

Silverton Mayor John Everett welcomed everyone and gave sincere thanks to the Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall for "bringing everyone together for this special occasion."

Ken Williams, Vice President of Nakusp Legion, said it was important to recognize individuals who had given their lives to make our lifestyle today possible. He mentioned that WWII was supposed to be the last war, but it wasn't, and reminded us that Canadians are losing their lives in Afghanistan today.

MLA Corky Evans told a story about his dad, who volunteered in the Korean War and WWII to keep his country free. When Corky was a young man, his dad gave him the keys to the truck and told him to go to Canada to be free. Evans said that many members of Canada's large immigrant population come from a country where it is dangerous to tell the truth about the government but in this country, it's dangerous not to. "The plaque is dedicated to the people who made it so," he said.

MP Alex Atamanenko sent his regrets, and a message that ended with a wish for a time "when we use our immense creativity to find ways to resolve conflict peacefully, so we never again lose people at war."

The Valhalla Choir sang three moving pieces and essays on war, written by Katrina Sumrall's grade 5/6 class, were read by Miss New Denver Erika Turner, Princess Jessica Bernhof, and grade 6 students Danika Hammond and Sarah-Mae Perry.

In closing, Poznikoff gave a brief history of the Silverton Memorial Hall. Built in 1919 by the Get Together Club to create a tribute to the local soldiers killed in WWI, the hall was built with volunteer labour. A plaque sits above the main entrance, listing the names of 46 men from the Slocan and Arrow Lakes Valleys who died in WWI.

The new WWII plaque is set into a beautifully carved piece of wood depicting Slocan Lake, poppies and maple leaves. The artist is Ian Francis. It will don the exterior wall of the anticipated addition onto the northeast side of the building.

The names on the plaque are as follows. From Silverton and New Denver: Ivor James Burkitt, Norman Francis Meers, William Archibald Walton. From Nakusp: Clarence John Hall, Frank Harold Green, John Hudson Benton, Charles Mizera, Ernest Joseph Shelling, Henry Hohenleitner, George Robert Steenhoff. From Slocan: Evander Donaldson Rogers, Hugh Mckean.

A plaque commemorating local soldiers who lost their lives in WWII was unveiled at a ceremony at the Silverton Memorial Hall June 30. L to R: Monica Irwin, Agnes Emary, Lorne McMillan, Ken Williams, John Gates, Franklin W. Wilkinson, Cpl. Kerry Heidema, Vern Harman, Ron Provan (in behind), Dick Hambly, Ian Francis.

WinStar Equestrian Center
Passmore
presents
a West Kootenay
Horse Fair
Sunday July 8
1-4 pm
demos, booths, etc
Admission free

Busy equestrian season ahead for WinStar and Ride On Enterprises

submitted

Over the next two months, WinStar Equestrian Center at Passmore and Brandy Saunders of Ride-On Enterprises will co-host several horse camps and clinics for children, adults, beginners and intermediate riders. Saunders is an Equine Canada certified Level 1 Coach.

Dates are as follows: Over 19 clinic June 30–July 1; Intermediate Camp July 6–8; Beginners camp July 11–12; Horse Trails Camp and Mini Event August 1-5; Beginners Camp August 20–21; Open Clinic Sept 15–16. On July 20-22 WinStar will host a clinic with Dale Irwin of Vancouver. Dale is a Level 3 Eventing (Horse Trials) and Dressage coach.

The public is invited to drop by and watch any of these events but our annual Horse Trials Mini Event on August 4–5 always draws the largest crowd of interested onlookers who enjoy watching riders compete in dressage, stadium jumping and cross country jumping.

For the first time ever WinStar will host a West Kootenay Horse Fair from 1–4 pm on Sunday, July 8. This will be an opportunity for everyone to get to know what horse related businesses, services and activities are available locally. There will be demonstrations, booths and Munch More will provide a concession. Admission is free, so plan to come and join us for the afternoon.

WinStar Equestrian is located in Passmore on Thomas Lane, off Highway 6 across the Passmore bridge. For information on any of these activities call Liz at 359-7293.

Carol's Garden Cafe celebrates ten years

submitted

Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood is celebrating ten years in business! Ten years ago, on January 27, Carol Stroshein took possession of the cafe. During that time, the cafe has become known far and wide for its ethnic specialty nights, art shows and eclectic line-up of professional musicians. On a hot, summer night, Carol's Garden is the place to be!

Over the last ten years, the entertainment has featured: belly dancers, the Be Good Tanyas, Bill Bourne, Emerson Coatsworth, Brother Ray Lemelin, Pancho & Sal, the Evans Sisters, Larry Anderson, Lo-fi Cowboy, Galitcha, and Eugene Smith to name a few.

The menu has been equally eclectic, ranging from Japanese sushi, Northern Indian feasts, superb Greek dinners, Cajun soul food to fiery Mexican fare.

In keeping with Carol's vision of the cafe as more than just a restaurant, she has conscientiously worked hard at showcasing local artists' work, renting the premises out for birthday parties and wedding receptions, as well as bringing in massage therapists and wholistic healers. There are used books for sale, art on consignment, and videos for rent.

The courtyard garden is perfect for wedding showers.

Carol's Garden Cafe summer hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-2 and 5-8 and on Saturday and Sunday from 10-8. Closed Tuesdays. Phone (250) 269-7494 for info and reservations.

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

Animals Are Soul Too!

DISCOVER THE MANY WAYS ANIMALS TEACH US ABOUT GOD'S LOVE

JOIN US FOR THIS FREE 90 MINUTE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY – JULY 14TH
2:00 TO 3:30 PM

Nelson Public Library
Downstairs

Presented by ECKANKAR

Religion of the Light and Sound of God

Whatshan Lake Music Festival

submitted

The Whatshan Lake Music Festival is in its seventh year of providing a fun getaway for families that enjoy their music along with some outdoor adventure. Over the weekend of July 20-22, the Whatshan Retreat Centre will hum and sway with a holistic blend of folk, country, slow rock and bluegrass music in a large grassy clearing surrounded by streams, trails, the lake and great mountain air.

Whatshan Lake is a 90-minute drive from Vernon and 45 minutes south of Nakusp. It is a light traffic, scenic river and lakeside mountain trip to Whatshan Lake whether you head down from Revelstoke, up from Trail and Nelson or roll in from the Okanagan Valley. Campsites for tents and RVs are $15 a night. Festival day passes are just $35 and it's free to those 12 and under. A weekend pass is just $60.

This year's headliner at Whatshan Lake is prairie singer and song-writer, Connie Kaldor.

Call 604-594-1030 for tickets, or email ddergous@shaw.ca. For more info, www.whatshanmusic.com.

J. V. Humphries Graduation Valedictory speech to the Class of 2007

by Amanda Dyck and Kirk Settle

We have spent 13 years waiting for this night to arrive; we have all reached the next chapter and we couldn't be more proud of each other!

Life will change drastically for all of us. There will be countless life-changing decisions and opportunities given by the world around us, with our virtues as our only guide. Just the thought of this creates wishes for just one extra hour to learn with our friends, and fully appreciate this care-free environment we once had together.

But graduation is more than just a measure of what we have learned through childhood and youth. It is proof that we are prepared to venture alone from our hometown and begin life anew. It's also a celebration of discovering who we are as individuals through years of friendships, relationships, and turmoil as a whole.

Tom, we'd better get your autographs fast, because the rock-star life is only seconds away.

Pnina, although your arrival was late to JVH, it was easy to see your great personality before year's end.

Marie, an easy way to brighten our day was to commingle with your spunky attitude.

Duke, with your dedication toward biking, the X-Games are only a bunny hop away.

Alex. P, after Malaspina, we will all claim to have known the next Johnny Depp.

Katie, a perfectionist may be a negative to some people, but it's what will make you a great engineer.

Morgan, it was great seeing your partying spirit to make up for the times we never had together.

Jeremy, you're as good a friend as you are a singer and actor.

Fran, whether it's music from his car, turntables, or mouth, we always hear Franny from miles away.

Kim, whether getting a blackbelt or getting A's, you're a whiz at anything you put your mind to.

Steph H, it's great to see you on the stands tonight: apparently being on time for graduation is better than being on time for T.A.G.

Justin, roses are red, violets are blue, every time gas was passed, we knew it was you.

Chyvonne, whether discussing Family Guy or Lion-o between photographs, you were always a great conversation to us.

David, always laid back and optimistic, your calm mood was great for the most stressful of school times. *cough* portfolio presentation *cough*

Jenna, your sense of humour is as stunning as your drop kick.

Chris, we congratulate you for being the first redneck to ever be in college before your high-school grad.

Jesse, you're as witty as you are short – a cool combination for an officer.

Leone, when singing, acting, or screaming and arguing in chemistry, you easily express your broad personality.

Jared, we envy the day that a stereo can play 'Fall Out Boy' around a true redneck like yourself.

Jessica A, perhaps one day, the kids of Kaslo will create parties around your cop cycles!

Candice, we always relied on your friendship and partying spirit for a good time.

Alex Z, when you become the first female sportscaster, we'll be waiting for some free tickets.

Joe, you'd always make us laugh, whether it was you singing 'tiny salmon' or wearing your insane costumes.

Heidi, we could rely on your aid for anything while you achieved the highest of grades and goals.

Jessica F, although you're a little shy and reserved, it's easy for us to see your care and friendliness toward others.

Sarah, you're the next Vincent Van Gogh, only without the insanity.

Amanda T, we're keeping our fingers crossed that you'll give just one jail-free-card for our class.

Peter, you're as fun at hangouts as you are gifted at technology. We await the Nintendo Wii-ter's release.

Daryl, an outgoing and fun attitude made you a great adversary against Carl Mortensen. We await the day you take ownership of the Kaslo Pump.

Jeff, your leadership skills and charisma will make you a wicked Prime Minister.

Shannon, you're a great artist by day, and the ultimate partier by night.

Stephanie M, we can't wait to read your first best-selling book: a Neopets novel.

Mark, it's great to have you graduate with us after such little time we spend together in the classroom.

Lindsay and Taina, we know you're out there somewhere. It's fantastic that you could make it back to spend this grateful day with us. Congratulations on grad, girls!

As Marcel Proust once said: "Time, which changes people, does not alter the image we have retained of them." When we arrive at our reunion in ten years as a group once again, we will all have different careers and outlooks on the world. We may not look the same and our past jokes may no longer be funny. The only real thing that matters is that our friendship remains strong as it is tonight in the many decades that come.

These are the days of our lives and don't let them pass you by, because you never know when you take you last breath, so take a deep one tonight.

Congratulations, Grad Class of 2007.

Kirk Settle and Amanda Dyck delivered the valedictory address at J. V. Humphries' 2007 graduation exercises.

Eric's Meat Market & Deli
"Serving Kaslo and Area since 1942"
Congratulations & best wishes to the 2006 Graduating Class of J.V. Humphries School!

Teresa's Coffee Shop
To all the 2007 Graduates Best Wishes for a happy & successful future!

Ronnie & Pauline would like to congratulate the 2007 Graduates. Best Wishes!
The Treehouse Restaurant

Congratulations!
Wishing each JVH Grad a successful life. Be curious, open to new ideas, and thank those who support you.
Andy Shadrack
Director Area D, RDCK

Congratulations and best of luck in your future endeavours!
KASLO BUILDING SUPPLIES

Kaslo Automotive
would like to Congratulate the class of 2006!
400 - 4th Street Kaslo

Congratulations Grads!
Keep healthy and active. Follow your dreams!
Ladies Fun & Fitness

Best Wishes to the Graduating Class of 2007
and congratulations on a job well done!
WHITE GOAT GALLERY
FRONT STREET 353-7735

Good job, grads!
Congratulations and good luck!
Kaslo Pump
6410 Hwy 31 353-3533

Congratulations!
IONA COTTAGE
to the J.V. Humphries Class of 2007, and best wishes in the future!
407 B Ave. • 353-2141

TO ALL THE 2007 GRADUATES
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL FUTURE!
Blue Ridge Retreat
REFRESH-RELAX-RECONNECT
9204 Shutty Bench Rd. • 353-7105

Con 'grad' ulations to the Class of '07!
Whatever your future endeavours, put your heart into it!
YOUR ARTS DESIRE
Fine quality art and crafts
423 Front St • 353-7500

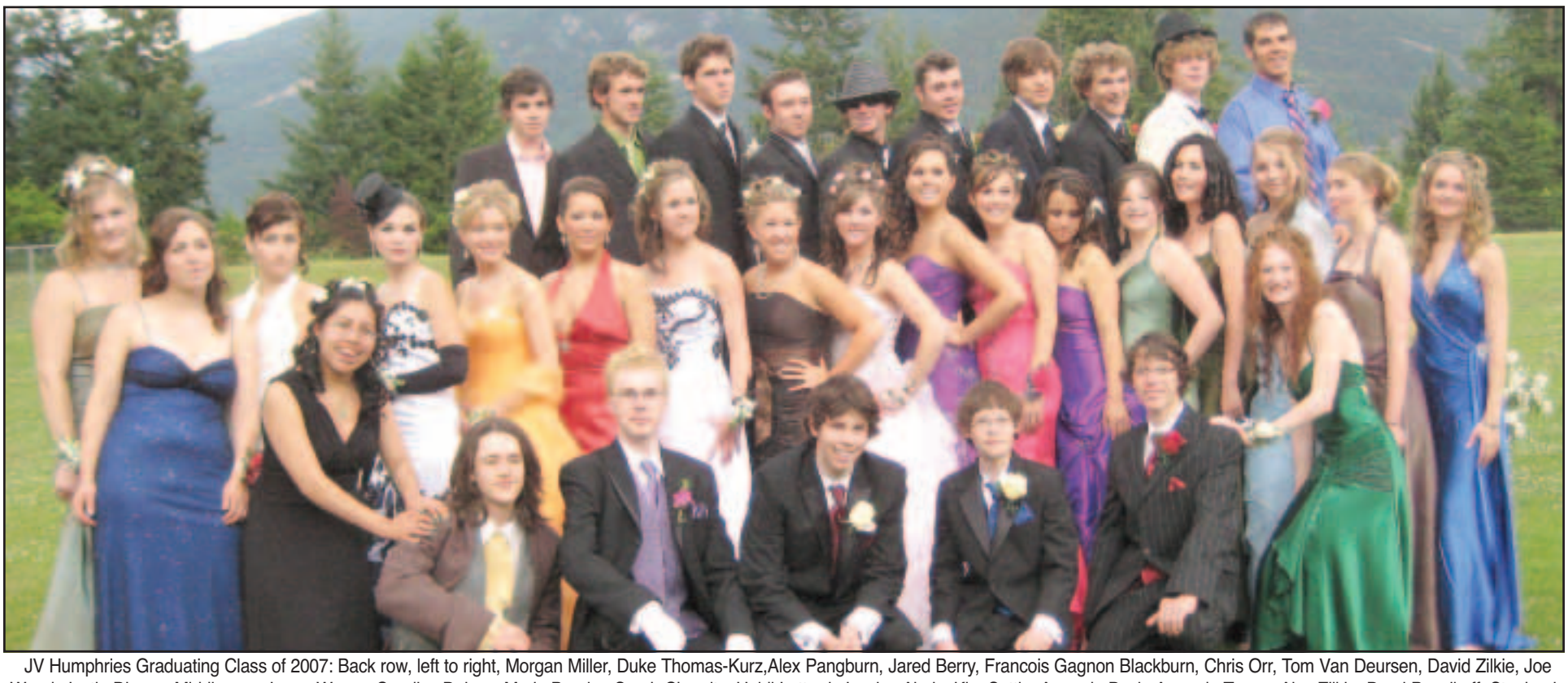
We're all proud of you!
Congratulations and best wishes from Don at
SCARLETT ELECTRIC

WELL DONE!
Congratulations, and best wishes for the future...
JonesBoys
4030 - HWY 31 Boats
353-2550

Congratulations to the JV Humphries graduating class of 2007, and best wishes for the future!
Jim's ATV Repairs & Sales
353-2389

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Grad Class of 2007!
The Clothes Hanger
250-353-9688

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations and best wishes to the Graduating Class of 2007!
Kaslo Motel
330 D Ave.
353-2431



JV Humphries Graduating Class of 2007: Back row, left to right, Morgan Miller, Duke Thomas-Kurz,Alex Pangburn, Jared Berry, Francois Gagnon Blackburn, Chris Orr, Tom Van Deursen, David Zilkie, Joe Wood, Justin Dixson. Middle row, Jenna Warga, Candice Delany, Marie Bernier, Sarah Chomitz, Heidi Lettrari, Jessica Alaric, Kim Settle, Amanda Dyck, Amanda Turner, Alex Zilkie, Daryl Poznikoff, Stephanie Hewat, Katie Foster, Pnina Ironi, Stephanie McLean, Leone Stanway, Shannon Lynch. Front row, Jessica Francisco, Jeremy Mercy-Ross, Peter Fox, Kirk Settle, Jesse Funk, Jeffery Funk, Chyvone Lynch

JV Humphries graduates a friendly, upbeat and positive class

by Jan McMurray

The JV Humphries graduating class of 2007 was described as "friendly," "upbeat" and "positive" by the school's acting principal for this past year, Anne Verkerk.

School trustee Pat Cattermole spoke about how impressed she was with the passion the group showed when presenting their grad portfolios. She advised them not to stop their education here, commenting on the great opportunities awaiting them – statistics say that for every grad, there are 10 new job openings.

Superintendent Bill Reid commented on how surprised and envious he was that many of the grads had lived in Kaslo their whole lives. "It allows you to put down roots that support you your whole life," he said. When the Minister of Education recently visited the district, she told Reid that SD#8 brings up the provincial average. Reid thanked the students for their contribution to that success, and advised them to bring up the average everywhere they went.

Guest speaker Jennifer Kidd started off her heartfelt speech by saying, "My heart breaks at the thought of losing this class." She said the portfolios allowed her to see what an incredible group this is. She had something personal to say to each student, and concluded by reading excerpts from a children's book. Later in the evening's program, when the grads were receiving their diplomas, she gave each grad a copy of the book.

Alex Zilkie and Peter Fox thanked Ms. Kidd; Katie Foster and Jeff Funk thanked the teachers; Heidi Lettrari and Justin Dixson thanked the community; and when Pnina Ironi thanked school counsellor Ian Einer, the students rose to give him a standing ovation.

During the Candle Light Ceremony, which is a 'passing of the torch' to the students who follow behind, Kim Settle and Kirk Settle lit a candle for academics; Shannon Lynch and Jessica Alaric lit a candle for art; Alex Pangburn and Leone Stanway for drama; Amanda Turner and Francois Gagnon Blackburn for sports; Joe Wood, David Zilkie, Chris Orr and Peter Fox for technology; and Jodie Carpenter and Shane McKinnon for grade 11.

Amanda Dyck and Kirk Settle, chosen by the class to be the valedictorians, had a personal message for each grad in their speech.

Principal Anne Verkerk and Vice-Principal Mike Hurley presented the grads with their diplomas, followed by the hat toss. The grand finale, as always in Kaslo, was the grand march.

Awards and scholarships were presented, as follows. **Sarah Chomitz:** Howard Green Memorial; **Candice Delaney:** Kootenay Lake Teachers' Association, Lakeside Learning (PAC), Lakeside Learning (Mohawk); **Amanda Dyck:** Edie Allen, Village of Kaslo; **Katie Foster:** Jennings Memorial, Kaslo Legion (Poppy); **Francois Gagnon Blackburn:** Trades; **Stephanie Hewat:** Leathwood Wynnychuck, Howard Green Memorial; **Pnina Ironi:** Columbia Power, Kootenay Lake PVPA, Dogwood District/Authority; **Heidi Lettrari:** Howard Green Memorial, Yellowhead Road & Bridge, Georgia Ethel McKeown, Columbia Basin Trust, Geoffrey Sinclair Memorial, Kootenay Savings Credit Union; **Chyvonne Lynch:** Kaslo Bay Resort, Jack McDowell Memorial; **Shannon Lynch:** Inter Church Council, Alan Hoshizaki; **Chris Orr:** McKinnon Family Fund Bursary, Trades, Fortis, Hewat/Baker/Mattes; **Alex Pangburn:** Kaslo Jazz Society, Kootenay Lake Teachers' Association, North Kootenay Lake Arts Council; **Daryl Ann Poznikoff:** Dinosaur Hockey, Nelson Rotary; **Kim Settle:** Parents Advisory Council, Bruce Jacobs Memorial, JV Humphries, Howard Green Memorial, Selkirk College Board of Governors; **Kirk Settle:** Farmers Institute, Howard Green Memorial, Ernie Gare Scholarship, Victorian Hospital Auxiliary, Kaslo Legion (Gaming), Selkirk College Board of Governors; **Amanda Turner:** Barry Butler, Old Timers Hockey; **Joe Wood:** McKinnon Family Fund Bursary, Trades; **Alex Zilkie:** St. Marks Church, Dallas Benwell Memorial, Aya Higashi, Hospital Employees Union Bursary; **David Zilkie:** Trades.

Pnina Ironi receives her graduation certificate from acting principal Anne Verkerk.

Aya Higashi presents Alex Zilkie with the Aya Higashi Award.

Leone Stanway lights a candle for drama at JV Humphries graduation ceremonies.

To the 2007 Grad Class
We are so proud of you!
Fern's Flowers & ...
Kaslo BC

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Graduating Class of 2007!
Ainsworth
HOT SPRINGS RESORT

We wish the Graduating Class of 2007 every success in their future endeavours
KS
Kootenay Savings
CREDIT UNION
KASLO

We are proud of the entire Graduating Class of 2007
from the Village Office, Mayor, Councillors and Staff
KASLO

Way to Go!
KASLO TRUCK & SAW
353-7409

Congratulations from
FALKINS
Est. 1907
INSURANCE GROUP
INSURANCE CONFIDENCE TRUST
Falkins Insurance
Kaslo

Way to go, Grads!
Reach for the stars!
We wish you all the best
figments
FINE CANADIAN CRAFTS

Our hearty congratulations to the Grads of 2007!
Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"
Kaslo, BC

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 GRADS ON A JOB WELL DONE!
Kaslo Drugs

Congratulations to the J.V. Humphries graduating class of 2007!
KASLO MOHAWK
MOHAWK

Nakusp gets ready to rock - fourth annual Saddle Mountain High Music Fest

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Music Fest, after just three years, has earned an excellent reputation among festival goers and performers alike. CBC Radio 3 recently ranked the festival among the top 10 open air festivals in North America.

The fourth annual July 13-15 will be another summer blast, with yet again a most impressive line-up of classic rock bands – and a few other flavours too – and top-notch family entertainers.

Get your ticket right now if you haven't already. The 4,000th ticket was sold June 15. With a capacity of 5,500 per day, there were only 334 tickets left as of July 1, according to the website at www.nakuspmusicfest.ca. Tickets can be purchased online or at 1-877-265-5565.

An adult 3-day pass costs $175; Sat & Sun pass $140; Fri Kick-Off Party $40; Saturday pass $85; Sunday pass $85. A Youth (13-18) 3-day pass costs $80; and a one-day pass $60. A children's (8 to 12) 3-day pass costs $20. Children 7 & under get in free.

One of every classic rock lover's favourite bands, Nazareth, headlines the Friday night kick-off party. Gates open at 4 pm. Music starts at 6 pm with Redfish, followed by Dr. Fun and the Nightcrawlers, Harlequin and finally Nazareth from 11:15 to 12:30.

Saturday's headliner is Collective Soul, a 90s band from Georgia, with many hits including 'Shine,' 'Gel,' 'Better Now,' 'Why Part 2' and 'Listen.' Appearing just before them is Doc Walker from 8:40 to 10:10 and the Blues Brothers Revival from 7 to 8:10.

Sunday night, it's Tom Cochrane, Glass Tiger and the Stampeders.

Gates open at 10 am on Saturday and Sunday, with music beginning at 11:50 am on Saturday and at 11 am on Sunday. There's plenty to do on the grounds all day and night – music on two stages; family entertainment in the family area, which has its own stage; food and crafts at Vendor Village; and a beer garden. Also don't miss the sand sculpture on the public beach by our famous Slocan Valley ice and sand scupltor, David Ducharme. The Village of Nakusp also offers lots of good eating and shopping, so take a meander through town while you are here.

Nazareth headlines the Friday night kick-off party of the Nakusp Music Fest.

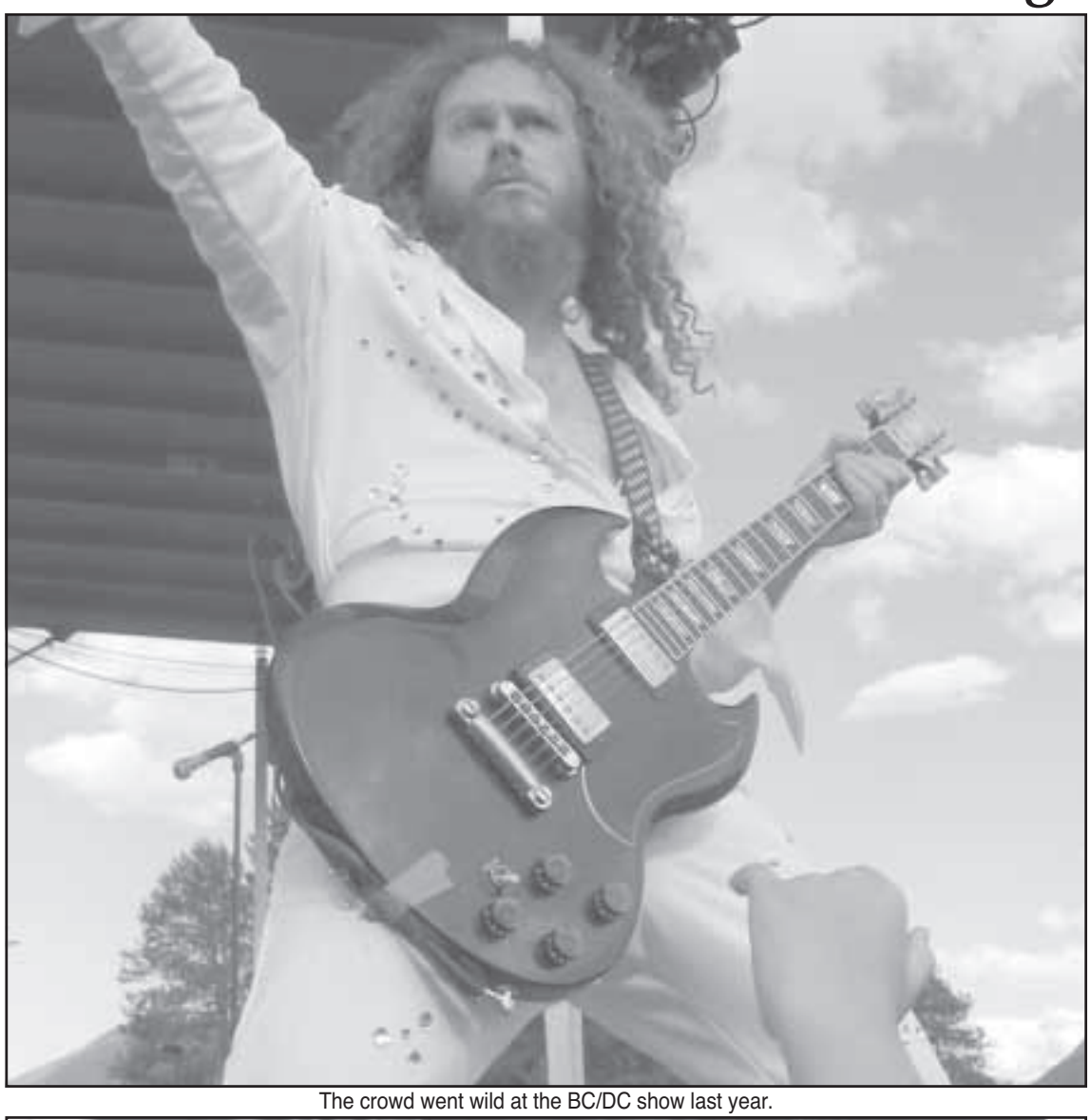
Collective Soul, a very popular rock band known for its support of America's youth, headlines the Saturday night show, 10:55-12:25.

Canadian rock legends the Stampeders of Calgary play Sunday 6:10-7:20.

The grand finale of the Nakusp Music Fest this year will be Tom Cochrane and Red Rider, playing Sunday night 10:05-11:35.

Looking back at the Nakusp Music Festival of 2006 – Saddle Mountain High

Queen cover band MerQury drew huge crowds both times they played the Nakusp Music Fest.



The crowd went wild at the BC/DC show last year.

Skavenjah will be back for the third year in a row by popular demand.

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4th Annual Nakusp Music Fest

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Nakusp Music Festival Tips

Bring low-back style lawn chairs, in consideration of people sitting behind you.

Bring your coolers full of food and drink, but please do not bring alcohol or glass containers. Enjoy your alcoholic beverages in the beer garden.

No pets are allowed on the festival grounds.

There will be First Aid facilities, ambulance attendants and security guards on the grounds.

There is a free shuttle bus service from various locations in the village to the festival grounds.

Nakusp has cell phone service.

No ticket refunds or exchanges.

The ferry to Revelstoke operates every hour – on the half-hour from the Nakusp side (6:30 am - 11:30 pm) and on the hour from the Revelstoke side (6 am - 11 pm). A second ferry provides daily extra service on the route between 10 am and approximately 7 pm.

The ferry at Needles, leading to the Okanagan Valley, operates every half hour from 5 am to 10 pm and on demand all night long. From the Fauquier (Nakusp) side, it runs on the hour and half hour from 5 am to 10 pm; from the Needles (Okanagan) side, it runs at 15 and 45 minutes past the hour from 5:15 am to 9:45 pm.

Allow 45 minutes travel time from Nakusp to either ferry landing.

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Hill Creek hits five million: best kokanee egg-to-fry survival rates since 1988

submitted

Kokanee fry emigration from Hill Creek Spawning Channel (HCSC) for the spring of 2007 has just completed and it has been an impressive one to say the least. Over 5.4 million fry (small kokanee, just emerged from the gravel) are estimated to have left the manmade spawning channel between April 18 and June 21. The peak of the run was in mid May when over two million fry were counted during a five-day period.

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) funds the spawning channel in partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment (MoE). Fisheries biologists with both organizations are very pleased with the number of fry this spring because extensive work has been undertaken over the last 12 months to increase egg-to-fry survival rates including scarification (cleaning the gravel beds) and increased monitoring of water flows.

This year egg-to-fry survival rate exceeded 50%; that means for every two eggs buried in the gravel in September of last year, one fish was able to survive and swim out of the channel into upper Arrow Lakes Reservoir. Most artificial kokanee spawning channels have about 32% egg-to-fry survival rates and survival in natural spawning creeks typically runs between five and 14%.

Although this is the highest egg-to-fry survival rate since 1988, there have been two previous years (2001 and 2002) when the number of emigrating fry has surpassed 8 million. Biologists are particularly pleased, however, that egg-to-fry survival rates have bounced back in the last two years, after lower than expected survival rates in 2004 and 2005.

"Our local contractor, Brian Barney, did a great job of carefully monitoring the flows," says FWCP's fisheries biologist Steve Arndt. "The spawning channel can receive its water from two systems, MacKenzie Creek and Hill Creek. If one becomes too turbid (sediment filled) because of high rainfall, we can switch it to the other. If both are turbid then we can reduce the flows over the spawning channel until things clear up.

"Severe rain falls, turbid water and a beaver dam were potential factors in very low survival rates in 2004 and 2005," added Arndt. "But improved turbidity monitoring, flow controls and other improvements at the channel have been factors in this year's much improved survival rates. We were also fortunate that Mother Nature did not deliver as much fall rain these last two years."

So how might this affect fishing in the reservoir in the years to come? Biologists estimate that HCSC provides approximately a third of the total kokanee population in the reservoir so although it is far from being the single source for kokanee production, it is an important one.

The FWCP works on behalf of its program partners, BC Hydro, the BC Ministry of Environment, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams.

BC Hydro open house generates questions from Lardeau Valley residents

by Art Joyce

Four BC Hydro representatives reported on Duncan Dam operations at the Lardeau Valley Community Hall June 20.

As the public referral period for the Duncan Water Use Plan (WUP) and accompanying Order issued to BC Hydro by the Water Comptroller ends June 29, residents were encouraged to ask questions and offer feedback.

Power Planning Specialist Heather Matthews gave an overview of snowpack trends for 2006-07. She said that with last winter's high snowfall, the Mica and Arrow dams were above capacity but that Duncan was about average. Still fresh in the minds of residents was the 2003 flooding, which destroyed hay crops when Meadow Creek overflowed its banks. Matthews said BC Hydro is projecting Duncan Dam to achieve peak storage between August 1-10, with gradually dropping levels into the fall. She added that without the dam there definitely would have been flooding this year.

RDCK Area D director Andy Shadrack, in his submission to the Water Comptroller, took exception to the corporation's lack of a compensation plan for valley residents affected by the 2003 flood. "What disturbs me," Shadrack wrote, "is that no compensation was ever offered to those who suffered economic loss, and it will never be known if the economic damage done to the Cooper Creek mill was the event that pushed it over the edge into closure." Shadrack has asked the Water Comptroller to include terms of reference for flood damage compensation in the WUP.

One resident said debris in the reservoir made boating too dangerous and asked what BC Hydro was doing to clean it up. Don Edwards, a 35-year resident of the valley, said the debris was the result of erosion to the Lardeau River banks from rising and falling water levels and had nothing to do with logging. Kelvin Ketchum, BC Hydro Integrated Operations Manager, said BC Hydro has already spent its $50,000 budget for the year at Duncan in piling and burning. Ketchum later said by phone that this was about double the previous year's budget for debris cleanup.

Another question raised by residents was why BC Hydro refuses to pay for mosquito control. Shadrack's submission points out that "350 cubic metres per second is the point at which mosquito breeding opportunities are likely to increase, however the BC Hydro WUP proposes a maximum flow of 400 cubic metres per second." At present the mosquito abatement program is co-funded by RDCK property taxes and Columbia Basin Trust affected areas grants. He noted that in years of excessive dam discharge, program costs can run as high as $93,000. Environment and Social Issues Manager Maureen DeHaan said the corporation's contribution at present is to manage the dam discharge, but that discussions are ongoing with the RDCK to negotiate a plan. Shadrack wants to see "a cost ceiling beyond which BC Hydro would agree to pay for additional program costs."

Edwards made the point that valuable fish spawning habitat is being lost to siltation. He estimates about 8-10 kilometres has been lost from the reservoir channel to the head of Kootenay Lake, and wondered why dredging is no longer done as in past years. DeHaan said the spawning channel is managed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). Shadrack asked if a meeting could be held with BC Hydro, MoE and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. DeHaan agreed to try to set up a meeting.

Shadrack has also asked the Water Comptroller to require BC Hydro to help restore bird nesting habitat in the Duncan Dam drawdown zone. Shadrack's suggestion is that earthen berms be built at the mouths of creeks entering the reservoir to help foster wetland habitat.

Another issue raised was the poor maintenance of winter access to the subdivision on Duncan Island. Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Jeff Knight said in an interview that his ministry has responsibility (through the highways contractor) for the section leading up to the gate just prior to the viewpoint, or about a 1.5 kilometre section. The ministry has discussed last winter's lack of maintenance at the Howser boat ramp with the contractor and BC Hydro, and will ensure maintenance occurs as necessary. He added that the forest service road access to the ramp is the logging contractor's responsibility to maintain while logging.

The idea of adding a generating turbine to the Duncan Dam was raised. Ketchum said this was studied about 10 years ago but isn't yet considered economical, though as power costs rise it could yet become feasible.

Toru invites everyone to his art show

Still here! Roots that go deeply into the West Kootenay Mountains since the days of internment. Here I am, Toru Fujibayashi, showing sculptures and drawings for what may be the last time.

The work will be at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver. The show runs July 11-16, 11-4 pm. Reception will be Friday, July 13, 7-9 pm, with Edward Fryer, guitarist.

The path is so interesting, from being an interned enemy alien to an international sculptor six decades later, showing in New Denver, a village that is part of my early memory of a pristine, peaceful, and safe environment.

Carving stone is my way of expressing and giving form and meaning to the ineffable images that evolve as the layers of marble fall away. Stone has life. The polishing of stone is one way of polishing my spirit.

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)

SCHOOL DISTRICT 10 ARROW LAKES

CERTIFIED MECHANIC/ SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

A 12 month per year Certified Mechanic/School Bus Driver position in the Nakusp area is available beginning September 4, 2007. Full posting details including the nature of the position, location, required qualifications, knowledge, skills and salary information are available at the District's website www.sd10.bc.ca (Positions Vacant). All interested persons must contact, in writing, the Superintendent/Secretary-Treasurer, School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes), Box 340, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0 prior to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, July 6, 2007.

PLEASE NOTE: It is School District policy that all applicants must agree to submit to a criminal record search before appointment. An offer of appointment may be withdrawn as a result of the search.

Welcome Shirley Kosiancic

Shirley has lived in the Slocan and Arrow Lakes area for most of her life. She understands the culture and is a strong advocate of this region. She has worked in real estate before and understands the needs of buyers and sellers. She is known for her personal and business integrity. Shirley is a team player and is a proficient mediator which makes her a valuable asset to both sellers and buyers. You can be assured that you will receive diligent, timely service from her. She cares about you and your needs.

Shirley will be working out of Nakusp for Century 21 Mountain View Real Estate based in Castlegar.

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VILLAGE OF Nakusp — HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

Village Council and Staff extends a big Thank You to everyone who helped make Pride Week a success.

Special thanks to Overwaitea Foods, Nakusp Elementary School, Girl Guides, Nakusp Golf Course, Nakusp & Area Library, Downtown Businesses and everyone who participated in the flower planting.

Council & Village Staff

Nakusp council, June 26: Boat ramp to be repaired by June 2009

by Jan McMurray

•The Mayor and CAO will sign the finalized 'Boat Launch Interim Repair and Access Agreement' dated June 26 between BC Hydro and the Village of Nakusp.

The agreement states that BC Hydro will aim to complete the ramp repairs by June 26, 2009. By December 1, 2008, BCH will have a feasibility study done on the replacement of the boat launch. Then, the Village and BCH will work co-operatively on an implementation plan.

Repairs total an estimated $392,000 and include replacing the guardrail and 375 deck planks, and improving several bearing piles, batter piles and fender piles.

•Council voted to move forward with creating a hot springs corporation, as recommended by the hot springs advisory committee.

Councillor Switzer, committee member, explained that the committee favours the same business model as the Community Forest, where the Village owns the only share in the corporation.

Switzer said this was an attempt to move towards a proper business model in order to make the facility financially viable. "I don't think we have the capacity to do that in our current structure," Switzer said. Councillor Mueller, also a committee member, said that issues had been bounced back and forth between the committee and council, resulting in delays and inaction. "It has lost money for the last 30 years. No money has been set aside for repairs. It has to be run like a business. It should generate revenue for the Village," she said.

•Council also approved the purchase of surveillance cameras for the hot springs facility, not to exceed $5,000.

•Information on the water conservation program of the Town of Okotoks was provided, as requested by Councillor Mueller, who heard about the program at a recent conference. Council was impressed with the town's brochure on the program, and Treasurer Mahoney said he would incorporate some of the information from the brochure into next year's notice about water restrictions that is sent to Nakusp residents with their tax bills.

Councillor Dahlen said she thought the water restrictions (lawn watering allowed from 7-9 am and 7-9 pm only) were unfair, now that the Village had doubled its water capacity with the new well. Other council members pointed out that an established lawn only needs one hour of watering per week, according to the Okotoks brochure, and that water in the reservoir was so low last year that the Fire Chief and Public Works became very concerned.

Council decided to leave the watering restrictions as is, with Dahlen opposed.

•Treasurer Richard Mahoney provided council with information on community bonds, which are an alternative to conventional debenture borrowing. Residents supply the funding for local project(s) by purchasing bonds. The Village sets the interest rate, which is usually a little more than the Canada Savings Bond rate and less than the borrowing rate in the debenture market.

Mahoney explained the process. Council would decide on the project(s) and the amount of borrowing, give three readings to a loan authorization bylaw and send it to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval, and obtain electoral assent through a referendum or an Alternative Approval Process.

Capital projects on council's 'wish list' include hot springs renovations, a new fire hall, and arena improvements (roof, ice slab and boards, refrigeration).

Council decided to consider the information in Mahoney's report at a 2008 budget and planning meeting scheduled in August.

•Council approved the purchase of a tanker truck (1982 GMC 1,500 gallon) from the Regional District's Tarrys Fire Department for $7,500. This will come out of fire department reserves, which stand at $204,000. The Village is accumulating reserves to replace Engine no. 3 by 2010.

The 2006 fire department audit recommended the purchase of a tanker. A new one would cost $300,000. The Tarrys tanker has five years left that it can be certified for front line fire use. After that, it can be used as backup and can also be used by Public Works.

•Council decided to postpone the first two readings of a zoning amendment bylaw that would facilitate the construction of a duplex in an area currently zoned for mobile homes and single family dwellings (Hwy 23 and 9th Ave. NW). This will be considered after the review of the OCP and zoning bylaws are complete. "As a council we have a duty to keep some places for affordable housing," commented Mayor Hamling.

•Councillor Heppner asked that the lane behind Broadway St. businesses be made a one-way lane for safety reasons. This issue was raised at council meetings in 2000 and 2001. Council decided to ask for opinions from the RCMP and Public Works.

•The Village will proceed with the 10-year lease for $1 with Arrow Lakes Search & Rescue (SAR) for space at the airport. SAR plans to replace the trailer on the property with a portable steel building on a cement foundation. The building will have a washroom with an outside entrance so that pilots can use it. A parking lot will also be created beside the building. The Village will pay the dump fees for the cleanup of the site and will supply water to the lot.

•Several amending bylaws were adopted: Cemetery Operation and Administration, Water Rates, and Sewer Rates. It is now an offence to use water inappropriately. Also, there is a connection fee of $2,500 for both the water and sewer systems for newly created lots and each unit of a new multi-family project until the Development Cost Charge (DCC) Bylaw comes into effect. Connection fees proposed in the DCC bylaw are much higher.

These bylaws will be reviewed once the OCP review is complete.

•Council appointed six people to the interim board of directors of the Nakusp Community Forest .

•The Village will provide a letter of support to the Nakusp Roots Music Society in its efforts to obtain CBT funding for the bandshell part of the Community Park Expansion project.

•Council passed a resolution calling on the Province to restore home support to 1994 service levels, as requested by the Edgewood-Inonoaklin Women's Institute.

•Council adopted the 2007 annual report.

BC Hydro updates Nakusp on its operations

by Geordie Rice

Representatives from BC Hydro hosted the annual Operations Update meeting in Nakusp on June 19.

Gillian Kong, senior engineer of generation, began the meeting with a water supply forecasts for the remainder of the year, as well as an overview of project operations.

Kong's report showed that reservoir water supplies in the valley are almost universally forecast to be at or above 100% for the second half of the year, with the exception of Dalles and Kootenay Local.

Actual supplies given for the reservoirs were 112% for Mica, 116% for Arrow, 90% for Dalles, 100% for Duncan, 97% for Kootenay Local, and 110% for Libby.

These high numbers are attributed to a higher-than-normal level of precipitation over the last year, with a record sudden melt of several snowpacks particularly to blame.

Kong's presentation was followed by Kelvin Ketchum, a member of Engineering and Generation, who spoke on market energy purchases, the Columbia River Treaty and its associated Non-Treaty Storage Agreement, and a summary of the Columbia River system for 2007.

Ketchum said that for F2007 (the period April 2006-March 2007), system inflows were 12% below normal.

This lowered inflow, along with inefficient gas plants, led to a 13% energy deficit for the province, necessitating the buying of energy from Powerex. BC Hydro buys and sells excess power via Powerex on a constant basis.

To cover the energy deficit, BC Hydro purchased 13% of BC's domestic need. It bought 5.7 TWh of market electricity and 1.9 TWh of gas-fire energy, with one TWh being enough energy to power 100,000 homes for about one year.

However, the increased snowpack and runoff levels across the province have led to a prediction of greatly reduced levels of purchased energy for F2008.

Also, the snowpack on the US side of the Columbia basin is below normal levels, leading to higher than expected market prices that should remain strong throughout the summer.

Harry Brownlow, Environment and Social Issues Specialist, presented the findings of the Arrow Lakes Boat Ramp Feasibility Study, which examined options for repairing or replacing public boat ramps at Burton, Fauquier, Edgewood, and Nakusp. All projects are still in the planning stages.

The next presenter was Environment & Social Issues specialist Maureen DeHaan, speaking about the Columbia Water Use Plan, the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, and the ongoing activities of the fisheries.

Revegetation has been started in an effort to establish vegetation in the upper portion of the drawdown zones in Kinbasket and Arrow Lakes.

A variety of studies have also been undertaken to determine the effects of flow management on fish stocks below Revelstoke, with an added objective of replacing the aging adult sturgeon population with younger fish until natural production levels occur.

Fertilization of the water systems has also restarted, although the cost of the fertilizer used has increased by 40%.

Other fisheries-related developments included the return of 100,00 spawning fish to Hill Creek Spawning Channel, the start of a hydroacoustic study to determine kokanee populations, and a push to develop a method to monitor bull trout population.

Additional revegetation occurred when 777 acres near Revelstoke were seeded as part of the Arrow dust control program.

As well, meetings will be held over the next year to seek input of revegetation plans and development of wildlife habitat, report on updates to the boat ramp feasibility study, along with the usual annual stakeholder meetings.

The meeting concluded with a short presentation from Jennifer Walker-Larsen of BC Hydro Community Relations.

Walker-Larsen gave an update on BC Hydro's efforts to achieve the 2007 Energy Plan goal of having at least 90% of energy be produced by clean or renewable methods.

Walker-Larsen also told of new generating units being installed in Revelstoke and Mica Dams, and the addition of a 'People and Leadership' category to BC Hydro's Corporate Donations programs.

BC Hydro can be reached at 1-800-224-9376 or www.bchydro.com.

School District No. 10 had its annual staff appreciation night at the Bonnington on June 27. Pictured here (L to R) are retirees Phil McMechan (BES teacher), Linda Williams (NES secretary), Alice Watson (NSS teacher), Marianne Vanish (LESS teacher), Sheila McGinnis (EES teacher) and Wil Brellisford (NES teacher). Also retiring are Don Cunningham, who painted the mural on the Bonnington's exterior wall, Theresa Radley, NSS teacher, and Bill Johnston, NES teacher. Dan Wilson, bus driver, was recognized for 10 years of service with the district; Joyce Hanson for her 20 years; Katrina Sumrall (LESS teacher) for her 25 years; and Henning von Krogh (Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association president) and Phil McMechan (southern zone teacher) for their 30 years.

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Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services

JOB POSTING

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Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services holds contracts with BC Transit to provide Transit Bus Services throughout the West Kootenays. The Transit coordinator is responsible for the provision of these services. Duties include supervising Bus Drivers and Dispatchers, Planning a maintenance schedule for the buses, Scheduling Routes in conjunction with other interested parties and responding to emergencies.

The ideal applicant(s) will be comfortable with the public, well organized with demonstrated computer, writing, presentation and communication skills. Previous experience working in a supervisory role and knowledge of Transit systems is desirable for this role. This position is based in Nelson, BC.

This position offers a competitive salary. A valid Driverís License and current First Aid certificate are required. The successful candidate(s) will be required to sign an Oath of Confidentiality and complete a Criminal Record Check.

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Teri Freeman, Hidden Garden Gallery board director, 'untwists the tie' in an unconventional ribbon cutting at the official Grand Opening of the gallery's improved garden space held July 1. There is a new deck and stage, and attractive slate borders for the gardens.

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- Club Championship, June 23 & 24
- Ladies' Open, July 4, 10:00 am - Shotgun Start

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,

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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)

2007 TOURNAMENTS:

- 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

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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!

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Winlaw Mini-Mart
Lemon Creek Lodge
Slocan Valley Co-op
Floyd's Custom Furniture
Nelson: Otter Books
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CAMPGROUNDS

• Kaslo Municipal Campground (250) 353-2662 kaslocampground@yahoo.ca

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• 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

WKPM

$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

HALCYON HOT SPRINGS

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

Ainsworth HOT SPRINGS RESORT

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

WILLIAM HUNTER CABINS

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

Silverton Lakeshore Inn

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

Selkirk Inn

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.

• Oldham's Lakefront Cottages ph. 358-2415 oldhamslakefrontcottages.com

Oldham's Lakefront Cottages

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.

• Valhalla Riversuites 250-226-7712 www.hellovalhalla.com

Valhalla RiverSuites

Four lovely new vacation rentals on the Slocan River at Passmore, south entrance to Valhalla Provincial Park. Hike, bike, or float the river with put-in or take-out on the property. Phone, TV, internet, ample kitchens, river & mountain views, wildlife, endless recreation opportunities.

GIFT SHOPS

IONA COTTAGE

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.

• Silverton Historical Society Intepretive Centre (250) 358-2285 www.silvertonhistoricalsociety.ca

Summer Hours: Wednesday – Sunday: 11 – 5 • Monday – Tuesday: 11 – 3

Archives and publications. Frank Mills Outdoor Mining Museum and Fingland Cabin. Captivating Photographs and Displays.

Kaslo council, June 26: Kaslo fire chief's resignation accepted

by Jill Braley

•Fire Chief Bryan MacMillan's resignation, effective July 1, was accepted with regret. He will be thanked for his service. When asked, CAO Rae Sawyer said she was hopeful a new fire chief will be found soon.

•A meeting will be arranged between council and the RDCK regarding fire extension service.

•The Kaslo Curling Club has withdrawn its application for a downtown beer garden for the weekend of Jazz Fest. With only six beer garden licenses available annually in Kaslo, the group realized there would be no licences left this year if it took one for the Jazz Fest weekend. It has come to their attention that the Kaslo and District Arena will require a licence for a fundraiser planned for the fall. The club asked council to review Bylaw 1022 to increase the number of licences available. The bylaw review was referred to the next Admin & Finance meeting on July 11.

•The curling club also advised council that it was not successful in its application for 2010 Olympic Live Sites funds, so the $7,500 loan guarantee offered by the Village of Kaslo is no longer needed. They have also been turned down for a Gaming Commission grant. The club is still committed to fundraising for its projects. Replacement of the most significant parts of the ice plant is estimated to cost over $50,000 uninstalled. This means fundraising will be ongoing to allow them to operate. The club provided council with financial information pertaining to the May Days two-day beer garden, which netted the club a profit of $1,884. The club asked if the Village's liability insurance would cover groups like themselves. The Village will inform them that it is prohibited from extending municipal liability coverage to groups or events the municipality does not directly control.

•An email from the RDCK regarding the establishment of the Kaslo Waterfront Trail Regional Park was referred to the Community Services Committee for recommendation to council in consultation with the Kaslo Trailblazers Society.

A report prepared by Randy Matheson at the RDCK regarding the establishment of the Ainsworth Wharf Regional Park and the Kaslo Waterfront Trail Regional Park was received. The report explains that adding these two parks to the regional parks service would increase the amount of taxation required for the service to approximately $25,000 from the current $10,000. This was roughly estimated to be $7.00 on a $125,000 home. The report recommends that the Village prepare an operational and capital cost analysis for the proposed Kaslo Waterfront Trail to facilitate long-term planning of maintaining the parks.

•Council received an email from Lynch Building Inspection Services regarding the provincial building. Lynch states there is no requirement for the building to meet the modern building code if its use remains unchanged. Regarding environmental risk, Lynch could provide an Indoor Quality Investigation for moulds only for $1,500. This entails an analysis by microbiologists of air samples from various locations in the building. However, he states this is not usually done unless there have been complaints by occupants or visible mould or odour. He feels the building is fairly clean in this regard, having large numbers of air changes through leaky old windows.

•Golder Associates wrote to council with a proposal to analyze the Dhillon reports on the provincial building for a cost of $2,500. The matter was referred to the next Admin & Finance meeting for recommendation to council.

•Vern Klapper of 688904 BC Ltd. requested Preliminary Layout Approval for a 2.1 acre lot in Kaslo Bay. Council granted approval, subject to three conditions, including a report on the fill in the gullies to determine suitability for road support and a finalized agreement between the Village and the developer to transfer a portion of the previously dedicated road to the developer for access to the site.

•Lang Michener (lawyer) wrote to council to confirm his client's (Vern Klapper) intent to purchase a closed road (approximately .385 acre) in the Kaslo Bay area from the Village for $120,000. The agreement will contain provisions whereby the Village will upgrade and pave to the Frontage Road. Council will advise that subject to receipt of the necessary documents from 688904 BC Ltd., administration will draft the required bylaw.

•Councillor Jones asked why a boat is still being tied, unauthorized, to the Village dock, and why there was still no response back from the Village's lawyer on this. Jones stated he has now contacted health officials regarding the disposal of human waste from this vessel. Council decided to ask the Public Health Inspector to investigate and report back to council.

•John Addison of the Spirit Square committee asked about the Village-owned property known as the 'bowling green.' Addison said it was his understanding these lots were donated to the Village and the committee wanted to obtain more information regarding the previous owner and the conditions of the donation. Council invited Addison to research the origins of the property and report back to the municipality.

•Tom Humphries, lawyer, wrote to tell council that he has been retained by Mr. Mac Radford for assistance in a proposed subdivision near the far southwest corner of the airport lands. Humphries said the most likely access to the lots involves passage through Village lands. He suggests that members of the Planning & Development committee join himself and Mr. Radford for a walk-through sometime in the near future. This was referred to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council.

•Elaine Smith spoke as the co-ordinator for Kaslo's Community Response Network and Kaslo & Area Health Advisory Council. Smith said that statistically, the seniors in our population are victims of more forms of abuse, more frequently, than any other group. It is estimated that as many as one out of five seniors suffer from some form of financial abuse. Smith advocated for accessibility of Village functions for the mobility impaired, maintaining emergency health services and requested that World Elder Abuse Awareness Day be declared on June 15. She also spoke in favour of supporting the BC Health Coalition position on home support. Council declared June 15, 2008 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Kaslo.

•Administration was directed to draft an agreement between Selkirk Paving and the municipality regarding use of the reservoir gravel pit. Okanagan Aggregates is crushing material to be used in the paving project. They are using a Jaw Crusher to maximize utilization of the material in the airport gravel pit. Crushing in the pit will take place until the end of June. It is agreed by Selkirk Paving to reimburse the municipality $2.50 per cubic metre of material removed from the pit.

•Monies, to a maximum of 60% generated by gravel sales in 2007, will be used to do additional paving in 2007, with the balance set aside for future expenditures.

•Councillor Vass advised parents and youth to be aware of the appearance of 'strawberry quick,' a new form of crystal meth.

•During public question period, Jill Braley asked council members if the 2006 audit had been completed by the accountants and if council had received any monthly financial statements for 2007. Council stated they expect to hear back soon from the accountant. Council has not received any 2007 financial statements.

•Accounts payable of $47,903 were approved, including $3,399.63 in legal fees regarding the provincial building lease.

Exploring the Microcosmos at Tipi Camp this summer

submitted

Get your family together and join the Tipi Camp staff and guides for a unique learning and leisure weekend July 6-8. This year's theme: Exploring the Microcosmos. Micro organisms play a decisive role in the maintenance of the life on the planet and within our own bodies.

In an informal style, appropriate for all ages, we will explore our intimate connection to the invisible and powerful microbial world. This journeying starts with our bodies and the realization that we are embedded in nature strongly by microscopic organisms. There are more bacteria in our guts than cells in our body! A human is more of an ecosystem than an individual.

Through biomythology, games, stories, and personal encounters, we will explore our co-evolutionary journey with bacteria, viruses, prions and parasites. We will look beyond the antibacteria and germ hysteria and see how co–dependant we are on these tiny, invisible, powerful beings. And around the campfire, late at night, we will tell germ and parasite horror stories.

While exploring the levels of the microcosmos, there will be all-ages instruction and practice in leather working with awl and rivets, cedar and willow basket weaving and other nature craft instruction.

There'll be time for trails, beaches, boats, campfires and hoola hoops, too, and hearty gourmet meals to keep us going. $200 per adult; $50 per child (ages 6-12); scholarship applications considered.

For more information contact Peter Mcallister 250-353-2575 or peterm@netidea.com. To register call Tipi Camp toll free 1-866-800-2267, locally 250-227-9555, e-mail tipicamp@netidea.com or visit our website at tipicamp.bc.ca.

Kaslo skateboard park announces grand opening

submitted

After years of fundraising and volunteer work, the Kaslo Youth Council is proud to announce the grand opening of the Kaslo Sk8park on July 7. The ribbon cutting will be at 12:30. Contests begin at 1 pm.

With 2010 matching funds all spent, numerous yards of concrete poured and dedicated volunteers rolling out the last truckloads of sod, Kaslo is now home to a world class skateboarding venue. Located on the beautiful shores of Kootenay Lake, there's no better place to skate.

There will be live music by Carnival Red, an up and coming local band, and skaters from Nelson and the Vancouver-based group Anti Social, with some of the top skateboarders in the world.

For information contact Lynn van Deursen at 353-2522 or vanfam@telus.net.

Kaslo youth volunteered two hours of their time on a very hot day Saturday, June 2 to assist Kaslo RCMP with an ICBC public awareness safety roadcheck. The main focus of the roadblock was asking motorists to slow down and respect the speed limits in Kaslo.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Looking in on Idaho Lookout

With the valley climate now well into summer mode, people are used to admiring flowers, gardens, and all the new green growth. With the July first long weekend now past, there are more folks wanting to plan daytrips to the meadows of Idaho Lookout. As a rule you can often get pretty far up the road on the east side once the snow is gone from the west aspects facing Slocan Lake and the main valley.

For sure there's still a great whack of snow remaining up in Wildgoose Basin, and the last two kilometres of the access road remain snowbound into July, however by now the road is firm and dry up to the basin entrance and hiking over the hard spring snowpack is a novelty on a hot July afternoon. I headed up for a look myself Sunday, June 24.

Over the years a number of mineral claims in this area have been logged out and this past winter saw Springer Creek Forest Products doing some blocks in the TFL license areas near Sandon, in particular part way up the Idaho Lookout road from Sandon. More harvesting is slated for near Cody and up Payne and Reco mountains so I was curious to see the after-effects of the activity along the access road to the lookout. This cutblock is around 40 hectares I think, with several seed blocks.

I drove up to Sandon about lunch time with temperatures somewhat cool and clouds with odd little showers sprinkling the valley here and there. After a short stop at the Prospector's Pick I unloaded my heavy but sturdy semi-freeride bike and began the slow, deliberate low gear ride up Idaho road to see if it's all messed up and to check the snowline. Sandon was pretty quiet and I met no vehicles coming down.

Work at the Wonderful Mine by Klondike Silver seems to have kept the road in nice shape up to two kilometres where the narrower forestry road proceeds from. From this junction the right of way has been widened and opened to daylight with some new culverts and after a kilometre you pop out into the main clearcut. There are some hard ruts and dips that are gradually being packed in as more folks venture up, and low clearance cars may struggle here. The sign is gone at the Queen Bess turnoff so pull left uphill at that fork, follow a new steep spur road up to a landing on the left and soon the route returns to the forest and things get familiar again.

Springer Creek will still be coming back to remediate the road and do some grading as well as some improvements to signage, so I think the net result will be the same as it used to be with some big new views and some overall improvements to the roadbase. Unfortunately though some trails dropping off the Queen Bess road took a hard hit.

Around six kilometres up from Sandon there were odd pockets of snow but the road is really good as ever up to the big switchback where you can park and look back at Sandon and on up Carpenter Creek past Cody. At this point I felt kinda tired because of the heavy bike but it has real low gearing and the fat tires make it seem like a two-wheeled tractor. Just one vehicle overtook me and that was Rob Farrell of WOC Cycle doing a shuttle and guiding some riders down the Alamo network of trails and likely back to Three Forks.

Deep snow halts any driving beyond the Alamo turnoff around nine kilometres, so I rode and carried the bike a bit further along the outside fringe of the road then dumped the bike and hiked several hundred metres on the solid snow into the Waterhole picnic area and parking lot. Bring spare dry socks and boots so you can plod through the snow up to the upper lot where the trail is now open and dry for this spectacular two kilometre final trek to the lookout building.

The earliest flowers should be just peeking out now and the bugs will be up and about as well, so bring cameras, field guides, protective clothing for bug protection and some sun-stopping gear as the July sun on reflective snow can really burn you out. In any given season the flower shows are best leading up to and following the August long weekend but it pays to make a few trips to the alpine to see the delights of the earlier and short-lived blossoms emerging from the snow and the later varieties that will dominate if conditions aren't too dry.

Get informed about road conditions and possible industrial use of these routes and make sure your vehicle, bike or body are in shape to get to these places.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and gets out for rides here and there. 358-2133.

RDCK board, June 23: Moratorium on crown land approvals

by Jan McMurray

Area H & Slocan

•Staff was directed to request a moratorium on approvals for crown land adjacent to Slocan and Summit Lakes for a period of two years to allow for the development of an Official Community Plan.

•Shemmaho Sioux was appointed to the Area H South Advisory Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2008. A letter of appreciation will be forwarded to resigning member, Bonnie Baker.

•$200 of Director Munro's discretionary grant funding will go towards gift certificates at Lemon Creek Lodge in recognition of the work of two community members. Recipients are Jo Brown, who took charge of all the organizational work relating to the CBT community initiatives grant funding, and Derek Murphy, who recently stepped down as chair of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission. Director Bell from Silverton is the new SVEDC chair.

•$500 of the Village of Slocan's discretionary grant funding was approved for the Loggers Sports event.

Area D & Kaslo

•McDonald Creek Waterworks Bylaw No. 1871, 2007 was amended to include the property at 1206 Victoria Ave., Kaslo within the McDonald Creek water service area. Staff was directed to approve the application for water service, pending signing of a contract between the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the Corporation of the Village of Kaslo, and to advise the property owner accordingly.

•The board received a response from Wayne Stetski, Regional Manager, Ministry of Environment, to a letter asking the Ministry to address the issue of illegal dumping of septic into lakes and streams, and asking for sani-dumping facilities at the Lost Ledge and Davis Creek provincial parks. Stetski says that the Davis Creek campground is currently being reviewed under the Ministry's capital program and will consider the possibility of adding a sani-station during the proposed reconstruction. As for Lost Ledge, he says there are limitations there that prevent adding a sani-station service at reasonable cost. These limitations are that the campground is quite small, very close to the lake, and has no pressurized water system.

•The board received a response from the Deputy Minister of Finance in regards to the request that the Province recognize the Village of Kaslo's eligibility for BC Hydro grants-in-lieu, as the municipality is impacted by the Kootenay Canal facility. The response states that the pondage at the Kootenay Canal facility is created by FortisBC's Corra Linn Plant, not by BC Hydro. It further states that the operation of the Kootenay system was set up before the Canal Plant was built in the 1970s. "There is no incremental up-stream impact on Kootenay Lake," concludes the Deputy Minister. She goes on to say that the Ministry of Community Services would be happy to discuss the possibility of the RDCK redirecting some portion of the Kootenay Canal grant it receives to services that would benefit the Village of Kaslo.

•A grant-in-aid of $300 was approved for the Ainsworth Community Association.

Area K

•The following grants were approved: Fauquier & District Golf Course - $5,000 towards a new mower; West Kootenay Herb Growers Co-operative - $500 towards a tour in co-ordination with the Invasive Plants committee; Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade - $ 311.88 for smoke detectors for distribution to people ouside of Nakusp's fire service area by the public health nurse.

•Area K has begun a land use planning review. The purpose of the review is to replace Rural Land Use Bylaw 1248, 1997 with a new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw. A questionnaire has been sent out to all Area K landowners. The deadline to send the completed survey back to the RDCK board office is July 6.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

The wonderful Windsor Hotel in Trout Lake

Hello out there all you food fans. Eaten lately? Try it! You have nothing to lose but that hungry feeling.

Now and then while gratefully fulfilling my duties as your intrepid 'food editor' I have an exceptionally enjoyable experience that sticks with me. Last Saturday I had one of those. I have wanted for quite a long time to visit the Windsor Hotel in Trout Lake. I've heard friends talk about it and ask me why I haven't been there yet. They all rave about the Windsor Hotel. Many of them are exclamatory about the food, especially the burgers AND the fries. Sounds like my kind of place. Meanwhile, I think I actually once visited Trout Lake, but it was at least thirty years ago – and I'm just not sure, but I AM sure that on Saturday I jumped in the company chariot with my map and headed north, with the Windsor Hotel as my destination. I was excited. Saturday was a beautiful sunny day. I breezed up to Nakusp and headed up Highway 23 towards Galena Bay. The mountain peaks across Arrow Lake glimmered with snow. I stopped at a waterfall, passed Halfway River and Halcyon and Coyote hot springs and finally turned right on Highway 31. The next 32 clicks were thick with multi-coloured wild flowers along the road. I also saw a black bear bound across the road, and another cinnamon black grazing on the road shoulder. Finally I arrived at the Windsor Hotel. It is a lovely place built in 1892; one of those stately old three-story buildings that seem to welcome you when you first lay eyes on it.

Jessee, who, with his wife Andrea, owns the hotel, came out to welcome me and give me 'the tour.' The lobby, and everything else is big on old-fashioned charm – totally unpretentious with a relaxing and friendly vibe. I loved it.

Finally Jessee took me to the kitchen where Andrew, the head cook, was waiting to entertain and feed me. Andrew has been cooking professionally for eleven years. He worked at Halcyon Hot Springs for two years before migrating to the Windsor where he appears to belong. He and Jessee get along famously, and I spent quite a while in the kitchen shooting the breeze with the boys. "I'm a cook, not a chef," says Andrew with a wry grin. I told him I'd heard good stuff about the burgers and fries. He assured me that the Windsor Burger is a 50-year-old institution, and his version is the best so far. They have an event at the Windsor called a 'Burger Down' where 'blind taste tests' of ten burgers are done. The winner becomes the official Windsor Burger. His version includes SEVEN OUNCES of the finest beef, big slabs of bacon, and more. He's proud of it and immediately convinces me to try one. OK! Then he tells me why his fries are so good. Start with fresh cut spuds, blanch them in CLEAN HOT oil, take them out of the oil and they'll continue to cook from their own heat, and then back into the oil till they're golden brown. Sprinkle them with 'kosher' salt and voila. Andrew keeps goats at home, and he gave me a jar of just-made goat cheese. Then he told me about the WINDSOR DOG – not really a hot dog, but a big hot chorizo sausage fried with onions and nothing else except the sliced baguette it comes in. I admit it. I ordered one of those too. I watched Andrew prepare the food. The guy is very comfortable in his kitchen and seems to be perpetually in a good mood.

When the food was done I took it, with a bottle of beer, into the 'restaurant-bar' area and sat down with Jessee to eat. The burger was big, juicy and preposterously delicious—and that's a fact. Then I tackled the Windsor Dog. Spicy and very satisfying. Thank you Andrew and Jessee.

Go to the Windsor Hotel in Trout Lake for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Take me with you. There's way more than fabulous burgers. It's simply wonderful. It's a feel-good place. I love the Windsor Hotel. You will too!

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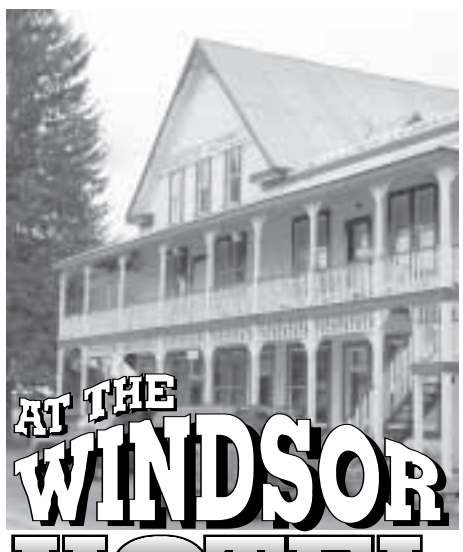

Go to the Windsor Hotel in Trout Lake for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Take me with you. There's way more than fabulous burgers. It's simply wonderful. It's a feel-good place. I love the Windsor Hotel. You will too!

- Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

518 KELLIE, TROUT LAKE 369-2244

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark and Dianne (Hoot-Owl) Perry are delighted to announce the marriage of their son Bryn to Julie Horton on June 9, 2007.

Jody and Tana of Columbia Kayaking would like to thank the communities of Nakusp, Silverton and New Denver for your support of our Kayak touring and rental business over the past 10 years. For the summer 2007 season we are not offering rentals or tours on Slocan or Arrow Lakes. We continue to operate as Seaward Kayak dealers and look forward to continuing our Kayak sales and paddle sport equipment business in the Slocan and Arrow Lakes area. Please call 358-2211 or 1-888-529-2510 for Kayak and equipment sales info.

AUTOMOTIVE

FREE: 1986 Audi Quatro, starts. 1985 Toyota Tercel also starts $200. Call 358-7276.

2002 VW JETTA. 2.0 GL. Automatic. Dark blue. Loaded. Sun roof. Heated seats. A/C, CD, roof racks, power everything. No leather. 129,000 kms. An amazing buy! $13,000. 250-269-7422.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU

The Queen of the Arrow Lakes Committee would like to thank everyone that helped make our pageant a success again this year. School District #10, Gary Grout, Anne Miskulin, Kennedy Pazurik, Judges, Crystal Volansky, Halcyon Hot Springs, NSS Grads, Nancy Bone, Shannon Roberts, Nakusp Figure Skating Club, On The Marks, Horizon 2 Horizon, CIBC, Nakusp Springs, Karen Hamling, A.L. News, Pope & Talbot, Tracey Kew, Sheila Seaton, Jessica DeWolfe, Carrie-Ann Lillies, Alyssa Clermont, Kristy Olson, Bonnie McGinnis, D.J. Latham, Kody Marks, Arena Staff, Set-up crew, Pat Dion, Chaperones, Parents, Matt McKee, Lisa Struck. Special thanks to Mark Isaacs.

If we have omitted anyone please accept our apologies and our thanks for your support.

-Jackie, Judy, Marsha, Shirley

COMING EVENTS

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.

BIBLIOBUS IS BACK on four wheels for two seasons every second week of the month. Check www.afkofrancophone.org or call Jocelyne 250-304-4558 or 352-3516.

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

EDGEWOOD WELCOMES THE COLUMBIA RIVER BRIGADE, July 5. A festival for the whole family starts at 12 noon at the Cenotaph Community Park. Free live theatre performance of the David Thompson Heritage Stage Show at 7 pm at the Whatshan Lake Retreat. Info: 269-0049 or 269-7246.

SLOCAN LAKE DANCE CAMP, July 27 - 30, New Denver. Latin, Ballroom, Western, Swing Workshops and Dance every night! For Teens & Adults. Bursaries available for Teens. July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, Tango Intensive. Watch for brochures locally, www.dancingbeat.org or 358-2448.

CAROL'S GARDEN CAFE in Edgewood hosts jazz / easy listening music July 6 by local area musicians Larry Anderson on sax, Larry Lavan on piano, Eric Johnson on drums and Bonnie Hindley on vocals.

Valley Voice Classifieds reach 7200 households
Email us – valleyvoice@netidea.com for details

OPEN HOUSE - ART SALE. Watercolour paintings by Rick Foulger in New Denver July 4 - August 7. 1106 Kootenay St. Everyone welcome. 358-7736.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY NEWS - Myles and Chillia - photographs - July 4-9. Opening July 6, 7-9. Toru Fujibayashi's sculptures, July 11-16. Opening July 13, 7-9.

FAMILY NATURE WEEKEND AT THE TIPI CAMP. July 6, 7, 8 KOOTENAY LAKE B.C. Join the Tipi Camp staff and guides for a unique learning and leisure weekend. This year's theme: Exploring the Microcosmos *Information: Peter Mcallister 250-353-2575 or peterm@netidea.com. Register toll free 1-866-800-2267, locally 250-227-9555, e-mail: tipicamp@netidea.com or website www.tipicamp.bc.ca.

KASLO ARENA FUNDRAISER is coming up on September 15. Don't miss it!!

100-MILE POTLUCK AND 100-MILE MARKET. Saturday, August 18, Vallican Whole Community Centre. Celebrate local abundance and sustainability! Everyone welcome. All producers of goods (not just food) created within 100 miles of the Whole, this market's about you. E-mail: meadow@netidea.com. Watch for posters and articles.

FOR RENT

TWO BEDROOM UNFURNISHED HOUSE for rent in New Denver starting September 1, $500/month. Additional upstairs bedroom loft. One block from the school and three blocks from the beach. rick.foulgerart@shaw.ca.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: One year old Rotti (nice dog) 500.00; Large propane powered water pump 2000.00; Welder — Ranger 8 Complete 4000.00; Quad Trailer 2000.00; Heavy duty Utility trailer $1500.00; Kenmore vac $125.00; Nearly new Vertical milling machine Model 185v jih fong $5000.00; 25 hp kohler engine n.i.b. CW new clutch 2000.00; 39 foot x 13.6 wide houseboat steel pontoons / 8x15 ft. cabin / 140 merc inboard cw radio depth finder 9.8 yamaha 4 stroke $30000 obo (nearly new). Phone 269-7416 Fauquier - Don Hallam.

FOUND

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

HEALTH

FULL SPECTRUM BODY WORK offers deep tissue and stress reduction treatments in the privacy of your own home. For additional info and to book appointments please call 358-6808.

HEALTHFUL ALTERNATIVES FOR THE HOME CHEF. Provide a quick, easy and fun approach to contemporary cooking. Our blends of herbs & spices are free of MSG, preservatives, artificial colours and anti-caking agents. For information contact: Tammy Alexander, (250) 285 - 3611, easyspice101@yahoo.ca. epicureselection.com/Tammy_Alexander.aspx. WILL BE IN NEW DENVER FROM JULY 16 - JULY 26.

HELP WANTED

BARTENDERS, PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS, SERVERS, breakfast cooks and line cooks wanted at Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Apply in person.

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BEAUTIFUL, 10-YEAR OLD BELGIAN CROSS MARE with quality double harness. Driving or riding. Very quiet, good for beginner. $4,000. 250-367-7809.

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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. Friday, July 27th. Threads Guild, Perrys Siding.

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

PHONE 250 226-0008

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HEALTH

Hand & Soul Healing Centre
Chiropractor, Larry Zaleski, D.C.
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Every other Wednesday in Winlaw or Nakusp
Counsellor/Healing Facilitator
Sue Mistretta, M.A., CCC.
358-2177 Silverton & Winlaw

Touchstone Healing Co-op Winlaw
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NOTICES

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

AA MEETING IN SLOCAN CITY. Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at WE Graham Community Centre.

PLUMBING

AQUALAB PLUMBING SERVICES. Ticketed. Insured. Local. 229-4391 or toll-free at 1-877-224-4391 or aqualab@shaw.ca.

REAL ESTATE

NEW DENVER. 2 OR 3 BEDROOM HOME. 1920 sq ft on 2 levels. Large deck with glacier view, workshop and 6 lots (150' x 110'). Close to school. Asking $249,000. Call Larry at 1-250-862-8100 Syber Realty Kelowna or email@syberrealty.com.

LAND FOR SALE: 30 acres in the Slocan Valley. For details please visit: www.bc4sale.ca, listing #23179 or e-mail: buyourland@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE WANTED

LOOKING FOR HOUSE & FARM with acreage or lakefront property on Slocan or Kootenay Lakes. Will pay cash. Phone Mountainside Property Management at 250-574-7774.

RENTAL WANTED

LONG-TERM RENTAL SOUGHT IN NAKUSP. Retired woman, quiet, responsible, no smoking, no pets. One or two bedroom house, cabin, mobile, detached apartment. $450-$550 per month plus utilities. For August 1 or September 1. Call collect: 1-250-494-5179.

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RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SEPTIC TANK CLEANING: "Serving the Valley" 7 days/wk, 24-hr. All-Around Septic Services, Don Brown (250) 354-3644, emergency 352-5676.

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ANTIQUE FURNITURE, old cars, trucks, metal signs, coins, jewelry, hockey cards, almost anything. Will buy complete estates. Will pay cash. Moe: 250-574-7774.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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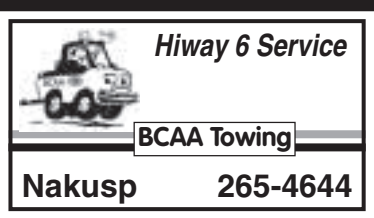

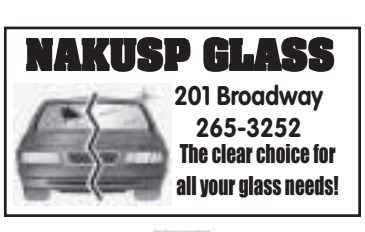

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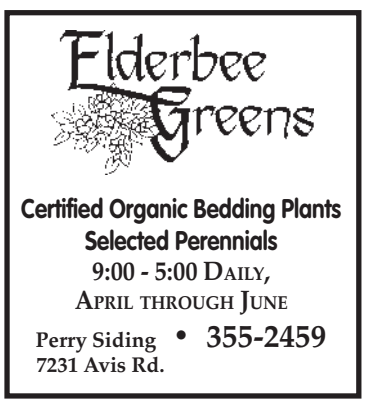

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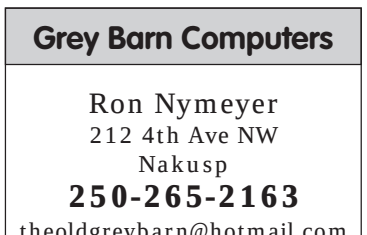

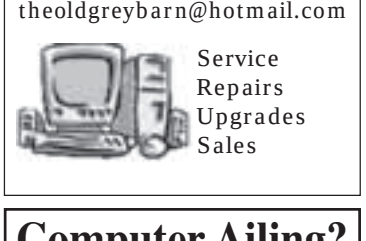

REAL ESTATE

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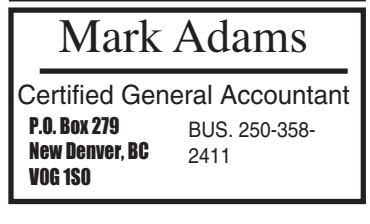

West Kootenay Communities celebrate Canada Day 2007 with parades and fireworks!

Nakusp's rising royalty show a little leg. From L to R: Queen of the Arrow Lakes 2006 Cassidy Wethal; Miss Halcyon Hot Springs 2007 Ruth Fulmore; Miss Kal Tire 2007 Jaimee Hamling; Princess 2007 Kyli Haugland; Queen of the Arrow Lakes 2007 Kristin Sokolowski; Princess 2007 Kaitlyn Devlin; Miss Rotary 2007 Laura Royko; Miss Royal Canadian Legion 2007 Jessica Harper; Princess 2006 Kaitlyn Reitmeier.

Brisas del Palmar Direct from Cuba!

In Concert at the Silverton Hall

Sat. July 21 7:30 pm

Hot Cuban Rhythms & Romantic Cuban Ballads

Advance $10.00 at Gaze n Chat, Silverton; Ann's Natural Foods, New Denver; Eddy Music, Nelson. $15.00 at the door

Musicians' Workshop for Cuban guitar, bass, & percussion.

Learn from the best in Cuba! 3:00 pm admission by donation.

Info 250.442.3514 www.sonicbids.com/brisasdelpalmar

Mayor Hamling helps Katelyn Horning with the microphone as she reads her award-winning essay on what makes Canada great for the grades 4-7 category.

The first annual Nakusp Soap Box Derby was held June 30.

Brian Magnusson was Silverton's recipient of the Canada Youth Award.

Mayor Karen Hamling and Queen of the Arrow Lakes 2007 Kristin Sokoloski cut the Canada Day cake at the Nakusp community park.

UNRESERVED MOVING AUCTION
Saturday, July 14, 10:00 am
Eight miles south of Swan Sea Point
#707 Swanshore Place (watch for signs)
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Saturday, July 21, 10:00 am sharp
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Slocan Lake RCMP Corporal Kerry Heidema and Constable Dale Sheets were in their red serge on Canada Day in Silverton.