The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Nakusp Music Festival sizzles, capacity crowd enjoys the heat

by R. N. Riley

Despite a trio of curve balls at the last moment, the fourth annual Nakusp Music Festival went off with scarely a hitch this past weekend, according to organizer Willi Jahnke.

When the truck delivering his main stage broke down Friday in Golden, Jahnke was forced to make do with the smaller second stage. Then on Saturday, the trailer carrying equipment for headliners Collective Soul broke in half — also in Golden.

"That Golden, it's like a new Bermuda Triangle," Jahnke laughed ruefully.

To top it off, a family emergency sidelined the band "King Karma", forcing Jahnke to bring in a replacement act, Canadian rocker Jerry Doucette, at the last minute.

When the smoke cleared, Friday night's show was a huge hit, with Nazareth wowing the crowd, Collective Soul was only a few minutes late starting their show, and Jerry Doucette — with his original band members — had the whole "infield" rocking with their energetic brand of R&B.

"We were very lucky to get Jerry at the last minute like that," Jahnke said. He came and had a heck of a show, and he wants to come back next year. He was the first band to get called back for an encore. It was wonderful; I'm very happy."

With an increased police presence, there were no repeats of the violence that marred last year's festival, and with temperatures hovering in the mid-30 degree range on Saturday, the worst thing to happen was that one woman had to be rushed to hospital with heatstroke.

Considering the almost 15,000 festival-goers who flowed through the town, — an increase of about 60 percent —"that's very good," said Jahnke. "It's incredible."

Some residents reported problems with merry-makers sleeping on their front lawns overnight, but Jahnke said police were urging anyone to had a problem to contact them, as they had a "contingency site," that would hold up to 100 or so.

Jahnke said there are "no plans to increase camping capacity, but we will increase the site. That's what this whole park expansion project is about; increased quality, but not capacity."

Willi Jahnke, producer of the Nakusp Music Festival, catches a moment to sit down at this year's event.

Canadian legendary rock band, the Stampeders, hit the Nakusp Music Festival stage Sunday evening. More Music Fest coverage on page 9.

High-speed internet may come to the Slocan Valley this year

by Jan McMurray

Wireless high-speed internet service may be up and running in the southern valley by the end of the year and in the northern valley by spring 2008 if funding is granted through the provincial/federal Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

The proposed service was the subject of informal public meetings held July 9 in Winlaw and July 10 in Hills. Derek Murphy, who has been working on the project for about five years as member of the RDCK's Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC), explained that 'Plan A' is to build a system that will serve the entire Slocan Valley, from Crescent Valley to Hills. This plan depends on a $464,000 MRIF grant. Word on this grant is expected by the end of September. If the grant does not come through, 'Plan B' will see the service stop at the end of the lake (rural Slocan) for now, and people from Rosebery and Hills will have to wait for a future project phase.

Red Mountain Internet Society (RMIS), which already provides wireless high-speed internet service to Silverton and area, is working co-operatively with SVEDC to bring the service to the northern valley. Murphy explained, "If we get the grant, we'll be putting up towers and talking to RMIS to see how we can co-operate in delivering the service over the RDCK towers. If we don't get the funding, we'll have to talk with RMIS and the northern communities to find out what the most cost-effective solution is."

The estimated cost of Plan A, to build the infrastructure for the entire valley, is $690,000. For the southern valley (Plan B), it is $232,000. The RDCK plans to borrow $232,000, which will either pay for the southern valley plan or cover the cost over and above the MRIF grant to connect the entire valley. Rather than waiting on the grant to get the ball rolling, the SVEDC has decided to proceed with 'Plan B' – to serve the south valley only – but is ready to switch to 'Plan A' if the grant comes through.

The wireless system will consist of towers or masts, each with a radio attached, set up throughout the valley. Each customer will have a radio and antenna installed on their property, no more than 100 metres from their house, that plugs into a router or directly into a computer in the home. This equipment must be able to pick up the signal from one of the towers.

"It's not strictly line of sight," said Murphy. "The radios can deal with foliage in the way, but they can't deal with a ridge." He assured, however, that "our engineers say we should be able to cover most people." For people who are not getting a clear signal, Murphy says they will try to remedy the situation with repeaters, which will likely have to be installed on private property in co-operation with neighbours.

Preliminary plans are to use the existing TV Society tower at Crescent Valley, and to erect a tower or mast at four other locations – Skycastle Lookout south of Slocan, at Paradise Valley east of Winlaw and at the Winlaw YRB site. Murphy said they are still looking for a suitable site in the Vallican/ Passmore/Lebhado Flats area and welcome suggestions from the public.

Murphy also said they had decided to "avoid the cell phone issue." On the health effects of the radio transmissions, he said, "The main equipment is up on a hill, not in someone's backyard. The wireless system is low power compared to cell phones, and there are no known direct health effects. We don't know the long-term health impacts, so we're not going to ask the school to put masts there, and repeaters will be installed on a voluntary basis."

Although the cost to the customer has not yet been finalized, Murphy says the "best guess" is $40 per month, with a one-time equipment and installation cost of $400.

Murphy explained that people will purchase the service from NetIdea out of Nelson, while the RDCK will build, own and be responsible for the infrastructure.

SVEDC also has a goal to connect the network to a supplier other than Telus. In a provincial government deal, Telus has agreed to give communities access to the Telus network at low cost until January 2010. Murphy said there are alternate suppliers in Nelson and Castlegar, such as CMON and Shaw Cable. "We're afraid that Telus may decide to come in and compete against us once the deal has expired," said Murphy. "We don't want to be dependent on any one supplier." He said that connecting to CMON was part of the grant application.

To pay for the infrastructure, the RDCK will borrow $232,000, to be paid off by the monthly user fees. The business plan done on the project shows that 200 subscribers are enough to break even. With 1100 households in the lower valley, Murphy says they are expecting more than 200 customers.

Area H Director Don Munro has agreed to set aside $40,000 of his BC Hydro grants-in-lieu funding for each of the first two years of the service if it is needed, to alleviate cash flow problems that often plague new businesses.

However there is a small risk that tax money will be needed to pay off the debt. "At the end of the day, it's our taxes that are the security for the loan," Murphy said. "If the business fails, your tax dollars will be needed." Munro said that taxes would come to about $16.30 per $100,000 of assessed value, and would be collected over ten years, to pay off the $232,000 loan.

In order to borrow the money, the RDCK must get electoral approval. This can be done through a referendum or the alternate approval process (AAP). The AAP is preferred, as a referendum costs more and takes longer. Under the AAP, the intent to borrow the money is advertised. If 10% of the electorate registers their dissent, the RDCK is not authorized to borrow the money. It would then have to go to referendum, and would need 50% plus one to pass.

To sign up for the service, contact Derek at murphy@netidea.com.

Stream of Consciousness

Turn off your computer when not in use. Computers and other electronics account for an increasing energy load in most homes, and often use energy even when switched off. When away for extended periods of time, unplug equipment on standby (such as a computer, monitor, TV, VCR or stereo), and turn off your hot water tank breaker for savings on your power bill. Consider energy-efficient computer systems and monitors when you replace a system. Make sure you enable your computer's energy-saving features. Be sure to at least shut off the computer screen, as 60% of the power used by a computer is used by the monitor! (The other 40% is used to keep your hard drive spinning and to power the electronics.)

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Slocan council, July 11: Government reps to visit Slocan to discuss abattoir

by Don Currie

•Administrator Ludlow reported that the provincial government has reviewed its stringent requirements for processing abattoir waste and will be in Slocan before August 12 for consultations. Councillor Perriere said a public meeting should be called on the issue because people in proximity to the proposed site are concerned.

•Ludlow reported that Russ Tyson of Typlan Consultants had requested a meeting with council on August 7 to consider plans for a hydroelectric plant. She said the consultants were requesting a hydrology report and asked council for a resolution to support grant applications to have the report done. Councillor Joanne Ellis said council should not proceed until it has water rights. Ludlow said the Village has sufficient rights on Springer Creek to proceed and that Nelson Hydro had expressed interest and may do consulting work for free. Councillor Perriere said that Tyson didn't have hydro plant expertise and she recommended that councillors visit a project near Revelstoke built by Dynex out of Vancouver to be better informed before proceeding. She volunteered to visit the site. Council tabled a decision on Tyson to the end of the month.

•Assistant Foreman Tim Hill reported that the hot weather is putting a strain on the water plant. He said debris from high water on Gwillam Creek limited the flow of water through the filters and slowed the filling of the reservoir. Low reservoir levels forced staff to temporarily shut down sprinklers at Village Parks. Hill said the Village was "way over" on consumption. Normal use is 60,000gals/day but had shot up in the first week of July to over 250,000 gals/day. Hill said he was working on obtaining a device from the fire department that can be used to detect leaks in the system.

•Dogs at large and campers at the beach provoked requests for action from Slocan citizens Rudy Markovic, John Sarjeant and Linda Taylor. Councillor Perriere wanted the bylaw control officer to deal with the problem. Mayor Van Bynen said the officer was issuing warnings, but until the Village passes its ticketing bylaw, enforcement is difficult.

Ludlow reported that the Municipal Ticketing Bylaw is proceeding and is now in the hands of the Village lawyers. Administration has consulted other municipal bylaws for fee schedules and the Nelson Court has agreed to process Slocan tickets.

•Hillary Elliot from the Slocan Lake Management Committee (SLMC) appeared as a delegation to ask for council's support for a scientific baseline study of Slocan Lake. SLMC formed last winter and is made up of residents from Area H, Slocan, New Denver and Silverton. The group has met with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Integrated Land Management Bureau and RDCK. A motion by Councillor Perriere to support the SLMC failed, with Councillor Gates and Mayor Van Bynen opposed. Both Gates and Van Bynen wanted more information before supporting the motion. Gates said he wanted to know how it would affect "our largest taxpayer," Springer Creek Forest Products. Councillor Perriere countered that she was concerned about Council "dealing itself out of the process."

•Am Naqvi and Andrea Kramer of Berg Naqvi and Lehman, Village auditors, attended as a delegation to review the highlights of a confidential letter sent to council with suggestions on improving the management of Village finances. Naqvi outlined what he considered to be the roles of council, administration and the public in the management of Village finances. He said the public has entrusted council to do the job and councillors in turn expect administration to do their job. The functions should not overlap. He said it was not productive to demand detailed accounting and the public should be concerned that council was fulfilling its broad program as laid out in plans as required by the Community Charter. Following his report, a discussion developed among members of the public attending the meeting, some complaining of increases in taxes, the failure to call a public meeting on the budget and alleged overspending.

•Following Naqvi's report, council proceeded to approve disbursements, with Councillors Ellis and Perriere demanding more information on several items. The meeting then dissolved into a fracas over consultation on setting meeting dates, resulting in Councillor Ellis leaving the meeting. Councillor Perriere asked for a two-minute pause. When she and Ellis returned, Mayor Van Bynen adjourned the meeting stating he had had enough. The remainder of agenda items of the July 11 meeting will now have to be rescheduled for a later date.

Silverton council, July 10: Financial concerns aired

by Art Joyce

•While reviewing the statement for accounts payable, Councillor Wiseman asked about the $6,457.29 cheque issued to Rollins Machinery Ltd. for a garbage bin. Mayor Everett explained that the bin had been purchased during discussions with the Village of New Denver regarding shared garbage collection services, and council had since decided against sharing services. "So basically we have a piece of equipment worth $6,000 we can't use," Wiseman said. CAO Ida was directed to contact the company to see if a refund or exchange would be possible.

•Councillor Wiseman raised concerns during consideration of the May and June 2007 financial statements that more than half of the budget seemed already to have been spent, with half a year yet to go. Mayor Everett explained that the Chief Financial Officer has discretion to spend more of the budget earlier in the year. Wiseman objected that some budgeted items such as employee benefits are fixed costs and could see a shortfall by year-end. The mayor said the budget was thrown off balance due to the $30,000 not recovered from the planned cost sharing of the backhoe with New Denver. The May financial statement was passed but the June statement was tabled pending further review by Councillors Wiseman and Provan of the budget and 5-year financial plan.

•No recommendation was received from the facilities and recreation committee regarding the engineer's report on Memorial Hall. Councillor Provan said a heritage conservation delegation will be arriving this week to assess the hall and gallery and she would like to meet with them.

•A request from the Silverton Historical Society for shared use of the Village's internet connection for research purposes generated considerable discussion. A motion proposed by Councillor Wiseman for a letter of regret to SHS stating that "the Village is unable to share its internet connection due to security reasons" was passed.

•Madeleine McCarthy sent council a letter notifying them that she will no longer be caring for the gardens by the Memorial Hall, thanking Ron and Kathy Provan for their assistance over the years. The mayor instructed administrator Ida to send a hearty letter of thanks to Ms. McCarthy.

•Council discussed a letter from the Village of Nakusp seeking support for the Make a Wish Foundation. The foundation is asking council to send business cards to Craig Shard, a 7-year-old boy from Atlanta, Georgia with a terminal brain tumour who hopes to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest business card collection. Council will forward a Village of Silverton business card and Councillor Provan volunteered to collect cards from local businesses.

•A bill received from the Silverton Lakeshore Inn for mowing Village lawn adjacent to the hotel will be responded to with a letter of thanks for providing a public service.

•Silverton council has gone on record as opposing the Trade, Investment, Labour and Mobility Agreement (TILMA) signed last year by Premiers Klein and Campbell. TILMA is an agreement between the two provinces which imposes penalties on local governments for 'trade barriers' that could extend to challenging municipal bylaws.

Cuban salsa band comes to the Silverton Memorial Hall

submitted

The Cubans are back! Brisas del Palmar will be at the Silverton Memorial Hall Saturday, July 21, performing at 7:30 pm as part of their fifth tour of Canada. A musicians' workshop for Cuban percussion, guitar, and bass will be held at the hall at 3 pm, with admission by donation.

This year, fans are in for a special musical treat with the addition Sigfrido Borbon to the group. Sigfrido is the top percussionist from Eastern Cuba and a master at the bongos, congas, and Afro-Cuban Bata drums. He taught percussion for many years at the renowned University of Guantanamo before joining Brisas del Palmar.

This will be an evening to listen to awesome Cuban music, and an opportunity for some great salsa dancing. Advance tickets $10 at Gaze n Chat, Silverton; Ann's Natural Foods, New Denver; Eddy Music, Nelson. $15.00 at the door.

For more information call 250.442.3514 or see www.sonicbids.com/brisasdelpalmar.

The inspiring Cuban music of Brisas del Palmar is coming to the Silverton Memorial Hall on July 21.

Slocan Lake Dance Camp has all the smooth moves

submitted

Slocan Lake Dance Camp once again has all the smooth moves for you this year with a full slate of courses from July 27- 30.

The passionate, sensuous Argentine Tango will be featured on Monday, July 30, 'Smooth' Day. Instructor Ricardo Pacheco of Calgary's Tango Bar will teach a two-hour workshop for beginners and intermediate dancers.

Registration is still being accepted for all the Swing, Latin and Country dance workshops scheduled for the other days. Workshops specifically for teens are scheduled for each day of the camp.

Richardo Pacheco and his wife Violeta in an Argentinean Tango pose. The pair are from Calgary's Tango Bar and will be instructing at the Slocan Lake Dance Camp in New Denver July 27 to 30.

Highlights include Salsa on Saturday with Ian and Rita Deane of Nelson. Popular East Coast and West Coast Swing are offered on Friday along with disco style Hustle. Cowboys take note, smooth and stylin' Two Step is scheduled for Sunday. Other classics of Waltz, Quick Step and Foxtrot are scheduled for Monday along with the Tango.

Beginner, intermediate and advanced dancers will all find something to suit their skill level. Each evening there will be a practice dance – an opportunity to socialize with new dance friends and try out the new moves.

Following the official dance camp, a three-evening Tango Intensive is set. Dates are July 31, August 1-2. Historic Bosun Hall is the venue for both events.

The schedule is paced to permit time during the day to visit the beach, enjoy a round of golf, stroll through the Silverton and New Denver art galleries and enjoy a leisurely meal.

So pack up your canoe and cooler, your coolest Hawaiian shirt or your twirliest dance dress and come enjoy this pristine area and reinvent romance in your life. Come on you know you want to!

Visit www.dancingbeat.org for the all the details about the Tango Intensive and a full Dance Camp schedule and a printable registration form. For more information on the Tango Bar see www.tangobarcalgary.ca.

More residential care beds coming to Nakusp

submitted

Interior Health has signed a contract with Tri City Contracting Ltd. of Kamloops to construct 10 additional residential care beds at Minto House in Nakusp. Construction of the new 10-bed addition to Minto House will begin in July, with project completion targeted for summer 2008.

The 10 residential care beds in Nakusp are being added to the eight already provided at Minto House, located at the Arrow Lakes Hospital. The single-storey addition will feature a cottage design with a private bedroom and washroom for each resident along with a shared dining area, activity lounge and laundry facilities.

The 10 beds for Nakusp are valued at $2.7 million. The West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD) is contributing 40% of the total project cost, with the Government of British Columbia, through Interior Health, funding the remaining 60%.

Local Search and Rescue members attend weekend training camp

submitted

Slocan Lake Search and Rescue team members Tracey Brown, Wendy-Ann Harmer, Dave Hodsall and Chris Chodat along with about 70 others from the West and East Kootenays attended the annual regional SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) weekend held in Kimberley this year.

Training started at 6 am Saturday morning and continued until Sunday afternoon. The New Denver group participated in a ground search scenario involving different types of searches, and learned about communications, first aid, and packaging a body to prepare for transport. There were also opportunities to observe and participate in a swift water rescue and a rope rescue.

This kind of service is important for areas such as ours. Anyone interested in joining the Slocan lake Search and Rescue team can call 358-7278, email valhallareef@yahoo.ca or show up at the group's regular meetings on Tuesdays at the old medical clinic at 7 pm.

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Perry Ridge Water Users Association seeks ecoreserve

by Art Joyce

The best way to ensure the safety of homes, persons and the environment of Perry Ridge is to turn it into an ecoreserve extension of Valhalla Provincial Park. That was the message being given the Advisory Planning Committee (APC) for Area H by the Perry Ridge Water Users Association (PRWUA) the evening of July 12 at Slocan Park Hall.

David Sullivan, who holds a bachelor of forest science from Berkeley, took APC members through a powerpoint presentation in hopes of gaining the committee's endorsement for the ecoreserve. Marilyn Burgoon of PRWUA explained that the ecoreserve designation is necessary because class A parks allow recreational activities that are inappropriate in sensitive or damaged ecosystems. The RDCK board passed a resolution in April that the proposal to link Perry Ridge to the park be considered as part of the Official Community Plan review for Area H. A petition circulated by the Water Users Association for the proposal already has 600 signatures.

Sullivan said Perry Ridge is a critical bridge in the connectivity of Slocan Valley ecosystems and wildlife travel corridors. It is home to wolverine, cougar, grizzly, mule deer, coyotes, and elk, as well as reptile species such as the Rubber Boa, Alligator Lizards and the endangered Western Skink. The area is also prime avian habitat, with such signature species as the Peregrine Falcon, Pileated Woodpecker and Bald Eagle. Already, Sullivan warned, with the extensive clearcutting in the valley, we're facing the problem of 'islands of extinction' in remaining intact forests.

Sullivan further explained that maintaining forest cover will be critical in coming years to combat the phenomenon of global warming. The steep slopes are an inherently unstable land form vulnerable to further erosion. Logging is squandering our 'natural capital,' whereas an ecoreserve could provide long-term economic opportunities for management, education, and restoration.

Marilyn James spoke from the persepective of the Sinixt nation's concern over the cultural significance of Perry Ridge. James is endorsing the ecoreserve as a means of protecting Sinixt burial sites and traditional food sources, and respecting traditional beliefs about caring for the land. She said that due to erosion and flooding from human activities the Sinixt have had to re-inter ancestors' remains on traditional lands.

Burgoon said the provincial government has already informed the Water Users Association that it will not consider creating any new protected areas, based on the existing Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan – a document she believes is out of date.

"The plan isn't representative anymore of what this area needs," she said. "Since it was made we've had climate change, and it's not adequate for safety."

Burgoon felt it was important for the Regional District to proceed on the basis of protecting homes and property on Perry Ridge. An ecoreserve would be one means of exercising the precautionary principle before logging creates more slope instability and flooding. The cost to RDCK taxpayers of cleaning up the Little Slocan South Road landslide earlier this year was $14,000, she noted. Burgoon said the Water Users Association is prepared to go all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary, using the Charter of Rights to argue that logging on Perry Ridge abrogates the basic right to "safety of person."

APC member Derek Murphy agreed that the Regional District has a responsibility for protecting public safety. Area H Director Don Munro said he thought this approach stood a good chance of affecting the provincial government. The APC will consider endorsing the proposal as part of its OCP review.

Retrospective show by Fujibayashi may be his last

by Art Joyce

Toru Fujibayashi may not be a household name in the Kootenays where he grew up, but his work has reached a worldwide audience. Fujibayashi showed a retrospective of his drawing and sculpture at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver from July 11-16 which he billed as his 'last show.'

Fujibayashi's work has been exhibited at sculpture symposiums as far flung as New Zealand, Nunavut, and China. The 65-year-old sculptor lives with wife Jan on a 6-acre homestead just outside Nakusp, where the couple live simply and grow their own food. Fujibayashi was born in Vancouver to a Japanese father and Japanese-Canadian mother and was uprooted to the internment camp at Slocan City while just a few months old. He speaks with surprising grace of the experience.

"It was a great place to grow up, having the whole place to yourself – the lake, the mountains. We used to travel the dusty roads to play baseball and hockey in New Denver, Silverton, Kaslo, and Nakusp."

Fujibayashi says the sense of duality expressed in his art is derived from growing up in the internment camp. "It was John Wayne movies on a Saturday night and Samurai movies on Sunday." Yet any angst he had from the experience has succumbed to the even-handedness of age. He believes Canada is a great country because of its freedoms and tolerance of ethnic diversity. A sign in his workshop at Nakusp reads: "No whining."'

He can still remember a drawing of a cowboy he did at age 6 or 7 that caused his grandmother to remark: "You're going to be an artist." Fujibayashi attended the Alberta College of Art in Calgary from 1963-67. Although he told his family his goal was to become a commercial artist, he knew within months of starting art school he wanted to become a sculptor. From Calgary Fujibayashi made his way to East Texas State University near Dallas for graduate school. With the electricity of change in the air during the late '60s, he found the experience "transformational."

Fujibayashi has a disarmingly humble passage in his artist's statement that reads: "Letters behind my name. Master of nothing." It accurately sums up the approach he's taken to his art career – a dedication to pursue his vision with integrity regardless of commercial considerations, and a refusal to be limited by others' perceptions of art.

Fujibayashi's first job after graduate school was labouring at a Nelson sawmill but he was soon asked to help set up the art curriculum at the then-new Okanagan College. He has since taught at the Kootenay School of Art, Cariboo College, the University of Victoria, and Arctic College in Nunavut. His wife Jan said she loved his work the moment she saw it and wanted to help promote it in any way possible.

"We both work at this. Toru lives like a recluse until I find him something to do. Then one day he goes from our land to Beijing, where he'll be for three months."

When asked about his influences, he mentions Brancusi, Henry Moore and American sculptor Noguchi, but says it goes further than that. As with the great sculptors of art history, he sees his job as opening to universal energy to awaken the memory of stone and release its hidden imagery.

"You can't help but be influenced by all who came before, going back to the ancient Olmec and all native traditions. To carve stone that is such an integral part of this Earth is humbling, challenging, yet immensely rewarding."

With so much evocative art to share, one might wonder why Fujibayashi is calling the New Denver show his last. Partly it has to do with age, and the sheer physicality required to move heavy sculptures from gallery to gallery. He had high praise for the Hidden Garden Gallery, saying he felt no more important than the volunteer spirit that permeates this community venue.

"I somehow feel my best work is ahead of me. I'm 65 and with health issues, realistically, I just want to focus my energy on the work."

Toru Fujibayashi showed his beautiful stone carvings and drawings and paintings at the Hidden Garden Gallery in New Denver in mid July.

Improvements to Idaho Peak trail and lookout to go ahead this summer

by Art Joyce

The trails leading to the alpine splendour of Idaho Peak will soon get much-needed restoration work, according to Dan Reibin, Recreation Officer with the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. Work is slated to begin the last week of July, depending on the availability of crews. Anyone interested in working on the trail is asked to contact Dave Fitchett at 250-365-2524.

The Ministry has budgeted $60,000 for the first year of a two-year project which will also include building benches and repairs to the fire lookout tower. A helicopter will be used to bring in locally sourced gravel to firm up the trails leading from the parking lots. Both directional and interpretive signage will be created over the winter for installation next spring, from Sandon all the way to the peak. An engineer's report will be be sought this year to assess the necessary structural restoration for the tower and determine the budget for next year. Reibin says the intent will not be to make the lookout an interpretive centre like the one at Buchanan Peak near Kaslo, but to preserve its historical features.

"We want to preserve the fire lookout because it's such an integral part of Idaho Peak," says Reibin, "so that means keeping the spiral staircase inside but to rebuild the observation platform to make it safe for visitors would just be too costly at this point."

A meeting was held in New Denver June 27 with Reibin and Dave Fitchett from the Ministry and representatives from New Denver and Silverton councils, Sandon Historical Society, Friends of Idaho Peak, and trail maintenance volunteers. Reibin said local support for the project is strong. During peak season, an average of 200 people visit Idaho Peak daily, he estimates. The trails will remain open while work is carried out.

"We realize this area is used by hikers of all abilities so we're trying to accommodate that," says Reibin.

The road leading to the peak is the responsibility of the Ministry of Forests, which usually delegates maintenance to logging contractors. Springer Creek Forestry has recently created a large clearcut near the trail and has done some resurfacing and grass seeding of the banks, Reibin said.

Valhalla School of Theatre Arts celebrates second year

submitted

The Valhalla School of Theatre Arts, (ViSTA), is celebrating its sophomore year with two exciting performances.

Youth aged 7-12 will be performing *Pirates,* their exciting tale of dashing rogues and thrilling adventures on the high seas, on July 20 at 7 pm at Silverton Memorial Hall.

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed by the 'big kids' July 28, 7 pm at the the Silverton Gallery. Actors aged 13-18 will combine with the second group of 7-12 year olds to portray Shakespeare's classic with an eclectic/modern fusion that will result in a night you'll never forget. Be prepared to laugh until your britches burst – as well as experience 'The Dream' as you've never imagined.

Both shows are free or by donation. There are still a few spaces available in the both the teen program (July 16-28) as well as the 7-12 group (July 23-28). Register by calling Bree Lillies at 358-7225.

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Voices from the Valleys

Road work poorly organized

In the last few weeks a paving company was working on Highway 6 between Nakusp and New Denver to fix the broken pavement. That is a very good thing, but I wonder who made the decision to fix what part of the highway. Between Nakusp and New Denver, there are whole sections that are still in very bad shape with broken pavement and potholes. The person that made the decision what to pave or not to pave must have been asleep or is blind.

Also, two weeks before that, the yellow and white lines were repainted, but now with the pavement job done whole stretches of the lines will have to be repainted. I wonder why YRB (the company that holds the maintenance contract) is not doing a better job in co-ordinating all these activities?

Why is our tax money being wasted and nobody from the government is checking up on how the private contractors are performing the work that they are supposed to be doing?

Albert Boers
Hills

Happy Canada Day, Eh?

On Canada Day, my friend Steve and I went up for a day to have a look at Mt. Gimli in the Valhallas. We had a great day, with perfect weather, until we came back down to the parking lot. Steve's rental car, with its California plates and small US flag sticker, had been the victim of a mindless attack. The mud over the flag may be construed as amusing. The gravel in the gas tank was a lower blow, but still relatively minor. However, the profanities that you scratched into the front and side panels reflects your immaturity and stupidity. If you have a problem with Steve or myself, maybe you should see us in person. If you have a problem with US policy, maybe you could find a more useful outlet for your frustration. The sad irony is that Steve is one of the most liberal and outspoken people you could hope to meet in the US. Of course, that doesn't help him pay the $1,000 bill that he is facing for the damage to the car.

Ico de Zwart
Nelson

Health – the bottom line in the cell phone debate

Returning to the matter of cell phone service to be offered by Telus out of New Denver, I noticed a poster, featuring a colour picture of a teenage woman using a cell phone, that claims to look at the advantages of such service and goes on to quote studies from Dade County Florida. I find that a difficult comparison – maybe the author of the poster should look around and notice New Denver is a cohesive community where people assist one another and luckily, burglaries are a rarity. For me, that is one of the significant quality-of-life indicators here.

Safety for your children is not provided by giving them cell phones. Children are vulnerable to the penetration of the microwave radiation emitted by the phone. After seeing studies showing diminished brain function, cell damage and increased cancer risk, a United Kingdom Board recommended that no children under 8 years of age be permitted to use a cell phone.

Recent work has indicated that deep microwave penetration into young brains disrupts the subtle brain cell communication system, causing an inability to both concentrate and remember, thus impairing the ability to learn. Add to that the effect of a two-minute call which opens up the protective blood brain barrier and permits accumulated body chemicals to enter the brain and you surely begin to wonder where the word "safety" comes in to the argument for use of these devices.

Adding a cell phone to a car increases the chance of an accident, not only due to one-handed driving, but due to the impaired reaction time and memory dysfunction. The heightened probability of having an accident lasts up to 15 minutes from completing the call. It should also be apparent that a car is a metal container in which the microwave radiation is reflected and amplified, turning the car into a simulation of a microwave oven.

So, reconsider supplying your child/teenager with a cell phone if you love them and want them to become healthy adults. Cell phones are based on an insidious, invisible and it seems addictive technology that has many more negatives than positives.

Your health is your most treasured possession – don't compromise it by using cell phones or encouraging the installation of cell phone antennae anywhere near your family.

Penelope A. Bonnett
New Denver

Here's a novel idea

As the province grows and there is a need for extra power, just think about all the LCD and plasma TVs that use three times as much power as conventional TVs, cell phones and battery chargers, and now hybrid cars, which will need to be plugged in also. Where are we going to get all this power?

Thermal is out of the question. Although clean coal technology is making leaps and bounds, it would be a hard sell to develop. There's always nuke but it's the old 'not in my backyard.' Let's go Hydro, it's green power. No it isn't.

With all this talk about climate change, I think back to when I was a kid when we called it air, water and land pollution. Yes, thermal plants pollute the air but their footprint on the land is very small. They use the same water over and over again to create steam. Yes, nukes use radioactive materials which are hazardous to store after they are spent but again their footprint on the land is minimal and their air by-product is just steam – no greenhouse gases.

Hydro facilities have a huge footprint on the land. The reservoirs that provide fuel are immense – Kootenay and Arrow Lakes for example. They flood good farmland and forests, and they destroy human well-being. The power development in China on the Yangtze River displaced well over one million people. They destroy fish habitat. The production of hydro power in Washington State on the Columbia River made the largest salmon population in the world extinct. And talk about greenhouse gases – when reservoirs such as Arrow and Kootenay Lakes fluctuate, they leave plant and animal life and logs on the banks which in turn rot and give off methane, which is a greenhouse gas. Think about a reservoir that's 120 km long and reducing its level by three metres. That's a lot of surface area. That's a lot of methane. We don't think of it because we can't see plumes of smoke, but it's there all right. Hydro facilities, through their discharge and spills, inject an abnormal amount of dissolved nitrogen into the water, making it hazardous for fish habitat and creating a perfect environment for weeds such as milfoil, choking out all other species. But the worst one is the destruction of wetlands which are the kidneys of our water ways.

We need to start changing how we use power. We need to reduce the amount of energy required and our crown corporation needs to start thinking of innovative ideas such as what's happening in Germany. Power companies there, realizing that rates are going sky high, put forth a proposal to help large stores and factories with the cost of installing state-of-the-art solar generators on their roofs. Then they install a reverse metering system, where any power that they do not use can be put back into the grid. Stores are generating enough electricity to run their facilities, and they get a credit for the excess that they are producing. Now even home owners are getting into the act. Germany figures by 2030, 30% of their power requirements will come from solar.

Just think of all the solar panels that could be installed throughout BC without any impact on the land whatsoever, without any greenhouse gases and with absolutely nothing to do with our waterways. Sounds pretty novel to me.

Peter Kabel
Slocan Park

Open letter to the Westbank & Ktunaxa Nations

I would like to introduce myself to your people. To clarify my intention, I would like to share with you who I am and why I am writing this. My name is Cliff Woffenden. I am originally from Montreal and am of British descent. In the 1970s I left my job as an engineer to live in the wilderness of northern British Columbia. My daily contact with the wild creatures of the forest made me aware of a huge hole in my education.

This motivated me to look closely at the traditional spiritual ways of the original peoples of this land. My journey eventually led me to the presence of a Cree elder, Albert (Buffalo Child) Lightning, of Hobema, Alberta, who became my teacher. This amazing being was not only the spiritual leader of his people – he was one of the most respected spiritual leaders on Turtle Island.

Among the many things Albert taught me was respect for the cultural laws of the land. That is why, upon my arrival in he Slocan Valley, I was obligated to make contact with the original people of this area. Their obvious lack of presence made me curious and I set out to find out why. I studied the archeological and historical records. I travelled to Vancouver and Victoria to investigate the disappearance of a people from their landscape.

My studies led me to Colville reservation and the descendants of the Sinixt. It was my cultural duty to ask their permission to live on their land. In 1989, I was hired by the BC government to caretake the Vallican Heritage site to protect it from vandals. Shortly after, I went to the Colville reservation with another person of British ancestry, to apprise the Sinixt of the intention of the government to build a road dangerously close to their sacred burial grounds at Vallican and to ask them to return home to help protect it.

I lived with these people through this very traumatic event. I shared their tears and their joy. Their story and determination has been a major motivating factor in my life ever since.

So it was with great sorrow that I saw the deliberate attempt by the government to continue the genocide of the Sinixt by asking the Ktunaxa and Westbank aboriginals to claim Sinixt land. Watching this so-called treaty process has been very frustrating because it goes against all I have been taught to respect about aboriginal culture.

One of the traditional laws of the land has always been that if a person or group moved to the territory of another nation, they integrated and became members of the host nation. That is why I am an associate member of the Sinixt nation.

So when the Sinixt, for example, were dispersed by persecution by white miners, settlers and disease in the 1800s, they went to live among their neighbours. Some went to the Okanagan, some to Ktunaxa territory. Some ended up as far away as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Those that live among the Ktunaxa have become Ktunaxa. Those who went to live among the Westbank became Westbank.

This is also why the Ktunaxa and the Westbank bands have living memory of cultural ties to Sinixt territory. This is why it pains me to see these nations claim Sinixt territory as theirs. It is against cultural law. Those among these nations who are of Sinixt ancestry should be standing in solidarity with the Sinixt against the genocide of their people. Instead they entered into negotiations with the government to steal Sinixt land. This is not the way of the people. I can't imagine the magnitude of the pain the Sinixt feel at this betrayal.

We are entering a new era in human consciousness where separation has no place. We are all brothers and sisters of the same Mother, Mother Earth. We can no longer stand alone against the juggernaut of capitalistic interests. The governments of Canada and British Columbia have intentionally designed this so-called treaty process to divide and conquer the aboriginal peoples – to pit one against the other. It is time to make peace among nations. It is time to bury the hatchet.

Someone has to make the first move, to break the ice. Negotiate among yourselves before making deals with Canada or BC. I suggested to one of our elders, Ganishka Silver Fox of Nakusp, that perhaps she should try to use her wisdom to find a way to bring the local nations together to smoke for peace and understanding of their shared brother/sisterhood.

Respect each other. Respect your mother. We are all one under Father Sky.

All my relations,

Cliff Woffenden
Sinixt territory (Nakusp)

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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Check out Littlefest at Little Slocan Lodge for alternative mountain music

submitted

Plan to be at the second annual Littlefest at Little Slocan Lodge on Sunday, July 29. This one-day outdoor music festival features alternative mountain music from noon until 2 am.

Performers include: newgrass greats the Breakmen; dreamy folk-blues singer Ora Cogan; old-timey inner city blues duet SALT; Appalachian-style Sheesham & Lotus with their jaw harp, fiddle and banjo; local favourite hick-hop storyteller Ridley Bent; real life macabre comic book characters Hank & Lily; local gypsies Mazu; zombie-folksters Meatdraw; young, raw and passionate balladeers the Sumner Brothers; alt-country and conscious Rae Spoon; and Amy Honey, the pioneer woman.

There will be a food concession and Bavarian tent, children's area, merchandise kiosk, shade and free camping. Car camping is permitted in the lot while tent campers can walk their gear in. Organizers stress that dogs and alcohol are not permitted.

Tickets for the one day festival is $30 in advance – available at Eddy Music (Nelson), Sleep is for Sissies (Winlaw) and Slocan Village Market (Slocan City) – and $38 at the gate. Kids under 12 are free, teenagers (under 18) and seniors (over 60) are $15. Only 500 festival tickets will be available.

Little Slocan Lodge is an off-grid strawbale and timberframe lodge that operates as a backpacker hostel and retreat center. It is located 7 kms from Slocan City up unpaved Little Slocan Forest Service Road.

For more information call 250-275-4958 or visit www.littleslocanlodge.com.

Computer repair now available in New Denver

by Geordie Rice

In a sign of the ever-increasing integration of technology into everyday life, New Denver now has a computer repair service.

Loren Oldham has opened Oldham's Computer Services, a full-service repair and upgrade shop for Windows-based PCs.

The full range of services Oldham offers includes everything from minor software debugging to hardware repair and replacement, building of custom computer rigs, and setting up networks.

Oldham doesn't stock spare hardware and peripherals, but orders them from a dealer as needed, and the public can order parts through him as well.

Best of all, the service is in-home, meaning customers no longer have to disassemble their set-up and fight with legions of tangled wires before dragging the system to a shop.

Of course, people who still find it more convenient to drop off their computer can do that as well.

Oldham's shop is located at 616 Eldorado, and he can be reached by phone at 358-2344. Oldham's hours are open ended, so while he tries to be near the phone for a regular 9-5 work pattern, he will also make evening and weekend visits based on the urgency and severity of the computer problem.

Loren Oldham offers computer repair services in New Denver.

Even better, this isn't a hobby shop, as Oldham comes fully qualified with training from a Computer Informations course at Selkirk College.

Oldham, who was born here and worked his way through the halls of Lucerne, opened his shop after returning to the valley from a few years away and noticing the need for an in-home repair service for the area.

Give the gift of health

by Jan McMurray

Karen Dubreuil's passion is helping people, and she is doing that through her new home-based business in New Denver, 'Gifts of Wellness.'

"I can't stand to see people in pain," she said, "and I can help alleviate some of it with essential oils – they really work for a lot of people."

Dubreuil retired here four years ago from a small community outside Winnipeg, where she says she was honoured to have earned the nickname 'Medicine Woman.' She has been working with essential oils for more than 18 years, but has never made a business of it before now.

The demand for her essential oils is what made her decide to open 'Gifts of Wellness.' After getting tendonitis in both ankles, Dubreuil started using a new brand of essential oils and quickly began to get better. "Everyone was asking about it and they said they wanted some of what I had," she says.

She makes potions with the oils for all sorts of ailments – arthritis, allergies, colds, migraines, cuts and wounds, bug bites and many more. "Arthritis is the best seller," she says. "Oils work quickly and they're very potent."

Dubreuil does not diagnose or prescribe, but simply shares her 18+ years of experience and knowledge.

She also makes household cleaning products, air fresheners, and personal care products with the oils. She is an independent distributor of Young Living essential oils and products. Call her at 358-2828.

Karen Dubreuil has started a home-based business - Gifts of Wellness.

New Denver council, July 10: Cell phone issue sparks discussion

by R. N. Riley

•Telus has confirmed that it will halt work on the installation of cell phone facilities in the village, and will not commence work again until a review process has been completed. The Village will be advised before any further work is undertaken.

•The Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw have passed two readings, and will now go to a public hearing, to be announced at a later date. Councillors spent some time discussing a proposal for an amendment to the zoning bylaw that will give council control over any future developments similar to the proposed cell phone transmitters.

"To me, the issue is local control," said Mayor Gary Wright. "Public consultation is just a sop. What good does it do if someone consults and then goes ahead and does whatever they want to anyway?"

•Phase Two of the Community Tourism Funding from the Province is underway, and council members are looking for suitable projects. Last year, the Village built a staircase beside Carpenter Creek bridge and a picnic area at the base of the main street with its $16,000. Residents with suggestions for projects should contact a councillor or the Village office.

•Council approved the expenditure of $68,850 for the purchase of a second-hand backhoe from Brandt Tractor Ltd. of Surrey.

•Council will request additional containers for the recycling depot following reports of a mess at the site. Village staff urges residents to remember to push cardboard and other items well back into the bins to prevent them from piling up and falling over the sides.

•Council is cracking down on village boulevards. Henceforth, no unauthorized planting, landscaping or development of boulevards will be permitted, and residents will be advised that any existing plants must be removed by September 30 of this year.

•Council approved the use of Centennial Park for a memorial for Colleen McCrory on August 18 and 19. Further details concerning the memorial will be forthcoming.

In Praise of Accidents

Ironies, Flukes and Curiosities
A Photodocumentary of the Unintended
by Daniel Hellyer

Hidden Garden Gallery
July 25-30, 11-4
Reception July 26, 7 pm

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

Silverton Community Club's July 1st Committee would like to thank all the Volunteers, Citizens, and Businesses for an Amazingly Successful Canada Day Celebration!

Thank you to those who met our fireworks challenge:
Silverton Transport, NURU Design, Lynn-A- Teck, Nesbitt Drilling, Silverton Dental Clinic, Valley Voice, C & D Enterprises, Silverton Building Supplies, Vern Hartman, James Ahasay, Bert & Cheryl Butchart, Barry Barker, Ty & Cynthia Capelle, Mac & Clara Norris, Allan & Linda Laktin, Frances Harding, Ron & Kathy Provan, Bruce & Judi Gardiner, Gary & Jan Willman, Mark Adams, Terry & Bobbi Everett, Barb DaRosa, Larry Zaleski, Ken & Barb Poznikoff and Ken & Maureen Murphy

A special thank you to those who donated to our Silent Auction:
Rick Tegeler, Michael Dorsey, Leah Main, Ann's Natural Foods, Sue Mistretta, Silverton Lakeshore Inn, Madeleine McCarthy, Ulla Lange, NURU Design, Glacier View Service, Wilson Creek Woodworking, Terri Lynn Blizzard, Kathy Provan, Eric Renk, Silverton Building Supplies, Clara Norris, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Larry Zaleski, Mountainberry Foods, Cheryl Butchart, Jim Pownall, Slocan Lake Golf Club, Silverton Resort, Valhalla Inn, Anita's Hair Design, Bigway, Carole Heidema, Tip to Toe Beauty, Bonanza Creek Gallery, Silverton's William Hunter Cabins, Koko, Silverton Historical Society, Silverton's Wine Mine, Horsefeathers, Fran Wallis, Raven's Nest, Gaze n Chat, BO Crafts, Barb DaRosa, Perfect Touch, Redneck Hippy Junction, Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts, Maureen Thompson, Slocan Lake Hardware

And our sponsors RDCK Don Munro, Recreation Commission #6, Village of Silverton and Heritage Canada

A tribute to Colleen McCrory - one of Canada's greatest environmental champions

by Richard Caniell

In the 40 years I have lived in New Denver, I have never before experienced such an outpouring of grief as has flooded over the lake towns about the death of Colleen McCrory. It is often so that we don't know quite what we had in another person until we've lost them. Those at Valhalla who worked with Colleen, as I have over the past 35 years, have been inundated with emails and telephone calls. Many of those calling have been in tears. Somehow, born and raised here, her presence in so many community events, her work on the school board, her cheery smile and straight talk touched us in ways which go beyond language so that losing her seems to break our hearts.

What would Colleen think to see grown men cry over her departure, she who faced so much enmity or adversity because of prejudice against her and her cause, not only from industrial interest, but from environmentalists and even in her own home town? I think she'd be amazed that she was so loved, and that even Premier Campbell would express his admiration of her. Strange things like that cry out for a short biography.

Central to it all was Colleen's love and defense of the unprotected, abused, exploited and endangered, whether it was people, animals or forests. This called out of her a hidden strength of character that was forged, year by year, in the fires of adversity. Her battles for the native peoples in the boreal forests have brought grieving accolades from many bands, no different than those from the environmental organizations worldwide. They share with us our grief.

Colleen came into the world in 1949, delivered by coal oil lantern in the New Denver hospital. She was born into a mining family, one of nine children. Some people still recall her toddling about in diapers with her sister Kathy, exploring the village streets. They grew up poor, but this launched Colleen and her brother Wayne into life with a self-reliance and pluckiness that would help them save the wilderness they loved as children from despoliation by industrial uses.

When Colleen was 14 years old, the owner of the Newmarket Hotel, Anne Uphill, gave her her first job. "I had no idea she was that young," says Uphill. "She was so tall and energetic. She was a chambermaid for the bedrooms upstairs and worked in the restaurant downstairs. In the restaurant the tips just poured in for Colleen. And she would bound up those stairs like a gazelle to do the bedrooms." (In fact, Colleen was a champion athlete in track and field in her teens.) Thus began their lifelong friendship and Anne's role as something of a guardian angel to Colleen.

Meanwhile, many old-timers who had worked in the mines found a home around the kitchen table of Colleen's mother, Mabel. From these early influences Colleen developed a love of old-fashioned values and a down-to-earth character. Despite her hometown tone, she became an international figure. Many people concerned about the environment shared her concerns and ideals; but Colleen put her life energies behind realizing them.

In 1974 Colleen and her brother Wayne joined forces with Craig Pettitt, Grant Copeland, myself and several other people to found the Valhalla Wilderness Society. She started out as the secretary of the Society, but very soon there emerged what many in the environmental movement have called a warrior. With her brother Wayne as a scientific advisor and a strong team of strategists, writers and researchers behind her, Colleen led the way to preserving the Valhallas as a Provincial Park and South Moresby as a National Park Reserve.

The BC government wanted to create only an alpine park and log the slopes of the Valhallas down to the lake. This kind of political compromise had tragically stripped many other park proposals in BC of their trees. Several times during the campaign, insiders in government leaked information that the proposed Valhalla Park was about to be sacrificed to logging. Colleen would board a night bus and arrive in Vancouver or Victoria by morning, where she brought together press coverage of these secret betrayals with strong denunciations. Of course, the government would then deny her information and delay the decision.

Eventually, after an eight-year battle, she won both Valhalla Park, and some years later was part of the fight to establish the South Moresby National Park Reserve. She did this with no financial support other than what was provided by the Society's members and the sale of T-shirts and posters. During that time, as a single mom (divorced), she raised three children.

As a potent spokesperson for the South Moresby campaign, she became the target of an industry-funded hate sheet. False accusations against Colleen and the Valhalla Wilderness Society stirred up local enmity that fell chiefly against her as the main spokesperson. She endured repeated libels, threats, a rock through her living room window and hatred on the streets. As more customers began to avoid her store, she went deeply into debt and lost the business. Yet she remained just as outspoken and active. During those years Colleen was repeatedly heard and seen on radio and television.

This painful history was assuaged by a flood of international recognition. In 1991 she won the Goldman Award, which is considered to be the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the environmental field. This brought with it a large monetary prize that helped to cancel her debts. It also brought meetings with the head of the United Nations in New York and the President of the United States. There were also the Governor General's Award, the UN 500 Award and Equinox Award for Environmental Achievement.

This worldwide attention never changed Colleen. She was loved by many in these villages because she was first and foremost a warmly loving human being. Despite her leadership role, she would cook, clean house and even iron clothes for people with whom she worked when they were in need. She had an indefatigable concern for the lonely, the aged and the sick. Over the 40 years I've known and worked with her, there wasn't a Thanksgiving or Christmas that she didn't invite individuals who were alone to holiday dinner at her house. She often cooked for 20 to 30 persons.

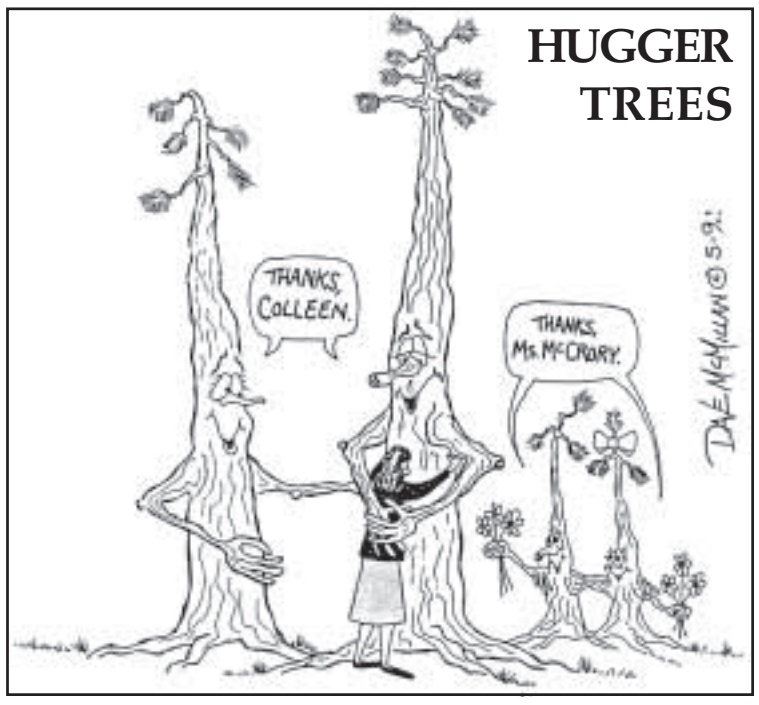
Meanwhile, she continued in her role as Chairperson or Executive Director of the Valhalla Wilderness Society. She assisted her brother, bear biologist Wayne McCrory, in spearheading the Goat Range Provincial Park, the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary and the new Spirit Bear Conservancy.

After her children were grown, caring for sick and elderly people and responding to needs of every kind in those around her became a major involvement of Colleen's life, even while she continued her environmental work. In many ways, Colleen had a difficult life – more than many recognized – but it was, in other ways, immensely rewarding.

She was always surrounded by family and friends. She lived to see some very large dreams come true. She played a key role in creating a legacy of over a million acres of parks. She helped to give us a beautiful and healthy place to live. And she survived all the acrimony, resentment and dislike, to be seen as the strong-willed, likeable daughter of the town whom we now sorely miss.

Because I worked with her since 1975, I saw her through many adversities and a few important successes. The awards that finally came her way were just accepted quietly and reverently, but when a cartoon about Colleen appeared in the Nakusp newspaper in 1992 only then did the recognition of others touch her to tears. The cartoon by Dave McMillan showed a family of trees embracing her, saying, "Thank you Colleen," as indeed all of us now thank her with all the broken-hearted emotion we can summon.

Colleen McCrory and Craig Pettitt took local media on a hike in the Incomappleux Valley last fall. The Incomappleux is part of the inland temperate rainforest that Colleen had been working to protect in the last few years.



This cartoon by Dave McMillan of Nakusp appeared in the Arrow Lakes News in 1992 and reportedly brought tears to Colleen's eyes when she saw it.

Canada's most celebrated environmental activist leaves behind a legacy of BC parks

Canada has lost one of its greatest environmental champions, Colleen McCrory. Colleen died peacefully at home on July 1, only two weeks after falling ill with what turned out to be brain cancer. Her environmental work won her honours and recognition all over the world. She played a critical role in the creation of innumerable parks in BC. Her loss has left a groundswell of sorrow for the family, numerous friends and the BC environmental movement that is shared by many people across Canada and in other countries.

Colleen was born in a mining family in the Kootenays, in the small village of New Denver. She lived in New Denver or its sister village, Silverton, all her life. As children, she and her many brothers and sisters often accompanied their older brother Wayne tramping, in the heart of grizzly country, into magnificent wilderness that she and Wayne would one day help to protect. Their activism work really began when they joined forces with several other environmental activists in New Denver to form the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

Colleen was most famous for her key roles in protecting Valhalla Provincial Park and South Moresby National Park Reserve. These parks required many years of fierce battles with the logging industry, and Colleen was in the forefront of these battles, representing the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

The Society went on to lead successful efforts to protect the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Sanctuary, the Goat Range Provincial Park and the new Spirit Bear Conservancy, in which Colleen assisted campaigns led by her brother, bear biologist Wayne McCrory. The Valhalla Wilderness Society is now credited with successful campaigns to protect over a million acres of parks in BC.

Colleen's work was much larger than the Valhalla Wilderness Society. She was a veritable switchboard connecting with environmentalists all over BC and Canada. She gave her energies to many small, grassroots environmental groups to help them get funding, when she didn't have enough funds to do her own work. And she was never more happy than when she was travelling backroads all across BC and Canada, meeting aboriginal people in their homes, learning about their problems and trying to help them.

Her work took her far afield to Europe, South America, Russia and Japan, but her home base was always, to the very end, the Valhalla Wilderness Society. Her work there was backed up by a team of strategists, writers, researchers and scientific expertise. Many environmentalists say they were inspired by Colleen, but Colleen's guiding light, who worked closely with her on many of her campaigns, was Richard Caniell, one of the founding members and a current director of the Society.

While doing this, Colleen was the loving mother of three children and grandmother to four grandchildren. She was also well known in the local community for her dedicated help with people in need of home care or other assistance – a legacy passed on by her late mother 'Angel Mabel,' who also helped with saving Valhalla Park when Mabel was mayor of New Denver.

Colleen's final campaign, covering the last nine years, was to protect the Inland Temperate Rainforest of southeastern BC and the endangered mountain caribou. The Society has just released its new park proposal, the Central Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposal. The Society is dedicated to carrying on with this campaign. Wayne McCrory's work to protect coastal bear habitat will also continue.

Statement from the Premier

British Columbians mourn the loss of one of BC's most distinguished environmentalists, Colleen McCrory. Over her lifetime, Colleen demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the well-being of BC's wilderness and the future of this province.

A founding member of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and Canada's Future Forest Alliance, and a winner of the 1992 Goldman Environmental Prize, one of the world's top environmental prizes, the Governor General of Canada Conservation Award and Vancouver Island Human Right Coalition citation for Outstanding Contributions to Protection of the Environment, she was a tireless champion for the preservation of our province's natural habitat.

Colleen shared her knowledge with the world, and reminded us of the true value of our forests, our mountains and the wildlife that inhabits them. She built a network of environmental, native, industry, labour and community leaders and helped us work together for the betterment of British Columbia's wildlife and its people.

Colleen McCrory's loss is deeply felt by British Columbians. To her family and her community, we offer our sincerest condolences.

Premier Gordon Campbell

Mitchikanibikok Inik

While we grieve for her sudden passing, we celebrate her and her life's work. We will always remember her; she is an inspiration for all of us.

Chief Jean Maurice Matchewan
Algonquins of Barriere Lake

Please accept my sincere condolences for the passing of a Warrior, Colleen McCrory. We will miss her dearly. Colleen was a staunch supporter of the Degalmuukw Title Action from start to finish. The Gitxsan will never forget her and what she had done to protect the spirit in the land.

Walk on, walk on, Colleen. There is happiness and laugher at the campfires of our ancestors.

Sincerely,

Don Ryan, (Mas Gak)
Hannamuxw

Our community remembers and applauds Colleen McCrory

A Tribute to Colleen McCrory

The planet's environmental movement lost a warrior with the passing of Colleen McCrory. Colleen worked tirelessly as an international environmentalist and former Provincial Council Chair and Deputy Leader of the Green Party of BC. Like the many giant old-growth trees Colleen devoted her life to protecting, Colleen will be remembered as a giant in environmental activism. She will be greatly missed.

Nelson-Creston Green Party Constituency Association executive

Salute to Colleen McCrory

The demise of Colleen McCrory has left the world a poorer place in which to live. She was the ultimate champion of our world and the creatures in it.

Colleen and I spent several years together on the Arrow Lakes school board, and while we were always in tune about the goals we had to achieve, we didn't necessarily agree on how to get there.

However, people like Colleen are sorely needed in our world, and while I cry at her passing, my heart aches for her family, who have lost so very much more than a mother or a sister.

We thank you and we salute you Colleen!

Bernice Rutski
Fauquier

Admired Colleen

I moved to New Denver 18 years ago and met Colleen soon after. Although not a personal friend, I talked to her several times and was impressed how knowledgeable and unpretentious she was. I heard her speak many times. She always spoke passionately and articulately.

I look at Valhalla Park and the lake with awe and marvel that a few dedicated individuals are able to achieve so much.

Thank you Colleen and Valhalla Wilderness Society for all your hard work, while many of us, who enjoy the fruits of your labours, hardly lift a finger.

Julie Betschen
New Denver

Colleen changed the world

Just last month Colleen McCrory stepped in to help out on a local project. She identified some tasks that needed doing immediately, then stepped in and did most of what was needed and helped me with the rest. I was very impressed how fast she acted, how thorough was her knowledge and how calm and effective she was. Days later she was diagnosed and just as quickly, she was gone. Having just witnessed her in action I had a deeper understanding how great was the loss.

As it happened, on that day that she stepped up and helped out, I also switched from one computer to another. Yesterday I went back to the other computer and saw that there were a few emails from that day that I hadn't opened. I was electrified to see one from Colleen.

She had taken the time to express her appreciation to me for my effort and she made light of where I felt I had faltered. She said, "We can try again another day." It had a profound impact on me to see her kind and encouraging words. She is still saying that we can't give up.

Margaret Mead's famous quotation applies perfectly to Colleen:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

The world desperately needs changing and, thanks to dedicated people like Colleen, there is hope that it will.

Hillie Wells
Silverton

In memory of Colleen

The unexpected sudden illness and untimely death of Colleen McCrory has stunned and saddened us. For over 30 years, we've known Colleen, co-founder of the Valhalla Wilderness Society, as an extremely hard working, caring, honourable, and courageous environmentalist. She and the Society worked ceaselessly to establish the Valhalla Provincial Park and to influence countless national and international environmental campaigns. Over the years, Colleen won two national awards and received three international awards for her dedicated and passionate efforts to protect the natural environment. We, along with thousands of people in the Slocan Valley and throughout the world, owe Colleen a great debt of gratitude.

Because of Colleen and the Valhalla Wilderness Society, we look out of our windows and view one of the most beautiful parks in the world, magnificent mountain ranges, luxuriant forests, the New Denver Glacier, creeks, waterfalls, and the undeveloped, stunning Slocan Lake shoreline. But sadly the view will also remind us of Colleen, her warm friendly smile when she greeted us and her formidable presence at public meetings and protests. We will miss her as a friend and as an environmental activist. Our deepest regards to her many family members, her co-workers, and her numerous friends and neighbours.

Sally and Barry Lamare
New Denver

Let's act for Colleen

I want to honour Colleen McCrory by being pretentious enough to write what I think she would want me to write – short on the story, big on the action.

We met together seven summers ago at a picnic table along Kootenay Lake in Kaslo unrolling map after map. One last large unprotected wilderness was still extant in the West Kootenay and we needed to identify the intact valleys within it. She told me she had one last big fight in her and this was it.

After years of studies and thoughtful planning, this spring the Valhalla Wilderness Society unveiled their Central Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposal. This park is Colleen's last big dream. I cannot think of a better way to honour Colleen than to take action and create this park. Maybe it should even be renamed Colleen McCrory Park.

We can begin simple and strong. Take two envelopes. In one enclose a letter to Premier Campbell thanking him for his tribute to Colleen and then insist that Colleen be remembered forever by establishing this new park. In the other envelope stuff a big fat cheque to the Valhalla Wilderness Society.

Let's fulfill Colleen's dream and protect the last big wilderness in the West Kootenay in her honour and for generations to come.

Gary Diers
Argenta

On losing Colleen

In Colleen we lose a superbly committed environmentalist and a fine human being. She literally devoted her life and energies to the cause of nature protection and environmentally sustainable development. Her aim, and legacy to us and our children, is quite clear: to ensure the protection of species in danger, because of human activities. She understood how to combine theory and practice. She knew how to generate pressure. She knew how to reach people.

What she achieved in life is truly remarkable. With persistence and devotion she managed to mobilize people, awakening public awareness, mobilizing the public in support of her work and objectives, which became ours as well.

Her untimely and sudden disappearance leaves us in great sorrow, but strengthens our will and commitment to the ideals she held.

Goodbye, Colleen, we will miss you greatly. We will miss your smile, your voice, your determination, your friendship, and your beliefs in what still needs to be done!

Charles Caccia
Former federal Minister of Environment

Memories of Colleen McCrory

I first met Colleen at a meeting of an environmental group and was immediately happy to find someone of her skills and ability working in the Kootenays. Shortly after this, when I was on a Baker St. sidewalk, she stopped her car to tell me she'd just read an article I'd written on nonviolence and thought I had the right approach. Later, when I told her I was planning to lead workshops on nonviolent direct action, she provided me with many valuable addresses of people to contact.

Over the years, she came often to Argenta, where I lived then, to discuss environmental and political concerns with people there.

When I visited her in her home, I was amazed that a person as busy as she was could keep such a tidy house!

Jack Ross
Mountain Lake Seniors Community, Nelson

A true visionary

In your lifetime, you might be fortunate enough to meet a person who is truly a citizen of the world – a true visionary. To me, that person was Colleen McCrory. It was a privilege to know her and to call her 'friend.'

Most of us lead quiet, unassuming lives, never really knowing, or questioning, why we've been placed on this particular planet at this particular time. We spend our lives avoiding taking a moral stand, avoiding confrontation or making waves. Few have the fortitude, the guts if you will, to stand up when everyone around us is shouting 'Sit Down!' Colleen, thank God, didn't sit down.

Few of us have the courage of our convictions. We 'bravely,' or smugly, sit in the comfort of our own home, surround ourselves with like-minded individuals and criticize those who do take a stand. Or, we timidly slink off into a corner and whine "But what can I do?" Colleen asked herself "What can I do?" She identified a problem, focused on a goal and went for it!

Colleen devoted her much too abbreviated life fighting for the survival, preservation and quality of life on this, our planet, our only home. She made great personal sacrifices to preserve the beauty that surrounds us here in this province. And for that, she was often vilified by people in her community, the logging industry, the government and still she persevered. She was a person of fierce determination and dedication. And she never wavered. Who amongst us can say that about ourselves or people we know?

History will record few people of this time who had the courage and foresight to stand up and take a stand against the forces who wish to destroy the planet for no other reason than their own personal greed. Historians of the future will look back and will honour the names of people like Rachel Carson, Al Gore, David Suzuki and Colleen McCrory.

As inheritors of our greed and inaction that has led to the consequences of global warming and environmental destruction of every sort, our children, their children and their children's children will look back on this period in history and ask of their ancestors: "You knew the problems, you knew what needed to be done to solve those problems and yet you did nothing. Why?" In their eyes, we will be the ones vilified, and people like Colleen will be regarded as visionaries and prophets.

Colleen was a kind and gentle soul who wanted simply to leave Planet Earth a better place for her descendants, and for people everywhere. She bravely fought a long, lonely battle against tremendous odds and no doubt had the scars to prove it. There is an old adage I learned in the Boy Scouts: "Leave the campsite in better condition than when you found it." Colleen left the planet in better condition than when she found it. And she left a great legacy of courage, determination and dedication as an example for all of us to follow.

A brave voice in the wilderness has been stilled. May its echo go on forever.

Dave McMillan
Nakusp

Kootenay hero

I was just listening to the radio and heard that an acquaintance of mine passed away of brain cancer the other day. Her name was Colleen McCrory.

Some of you may have heard of her. About 15 or 20 years ago she became quite famous for the stand she made to protect a very rugged and beautiful part of the BC interior called the Valhallas. Today it is a park, but back then industrialists wanted to strip it, clearcut it, and do what they've done to so much of the world. Colleen stood up. Others joined her, and in the end they won some battles.

Many people didn't like Colleen. Some for fear, some for reasons of their own, some for her abruptness, some for her arrogance, some for no reason other than it was fashionable for a time to hate Colleen McCrory. I've probably heard more bad things about Colleen than I ever heard good, and for that reason alone I liked her. There were other reasons.

When I was a beat reporter for Hollinger, Colleen used to call me with tips. She'd give me ideas for stories, hot leads, and a lot of background information. Even years later, when I was out of the biz, she would stop me on the street and say, "Hey Will, how ya doin', have you heard about..." She was just one of those people who knew if you told me something interesting I would look into it, and if there was something I could do to make it more interesting, I would.

I also liked her because when the people around here turned on her, she stayed put. She didn't run and hide. Maybe she had to close up shop and make herself a little less of a target, but she didn't go far. Heck, she turned around and tried to get elected for the Greens in the very community where she was persona non grata. That took some guts. Collen had guts, lots of guts. More guts than most of her detractors have ever mustered.

I didn't like a lot of Colleen's politics. And yes, a couple times she even used me a little for her own purposes. She even had some old fashioned ideas that rubbed my socialist soul the wrong way. And more than once her and I had debates that ended in stubborn obstinence, on both sides. She was intense, at times narrow minded, gruff, and sometimes even harsh, but Colleen McCrory could see the forest for the trees. She knew what was right, and she stood up for what she believed.

I don't care what anyone else thinks of the woman, but as far as I'm concerned she was a modern day Kootenay hero and a Canadian treasure. I'll miss her scowl as much as I'll miss her smile, which I thought was quite delightful, having been lucky enough to see it a few times.

So here's to Colleen, who I'm sure is rocking the boat somewhere up the line.

Will Webster
Kaslo

Open letter to Premier Campbell

The Valhalla Wilderness Society greatly appreciates your public statement honouring Colleen McCrory.

You say that she "shared her knowledge with the world, and reminded us of the true value of our forests, our mountains and the wildlife that inhabits them." Indeed, that is so, and it is gratifying to know that you recognize it. Colleen carried around the world the knowledge that our forests are "the lungs of the planet." If governments had acted appropriately at the time that Colleen and many other environmental activists began to tell us this, the carbon pollution, global warming and massive species loss that are now happening could have been slowed down.

Instead, governments valued only the economic benefits of clearcutting the forest. To politicians, that was more important than the survival of species. Their logging policies are directly responsible for the threatened extinction of the mountain caribou, the spotted owl and other old-growth dependent species such as lichens. The same old-growth forests that these animals needed could have been storing carbon for us. They could have been holding in water, moisturizing the atmosphere. But now most of the old-growth is gone, and it seems that one of the species at risk may soon be human beings.

I am aware that your government has vowed to do better. The key ingredient of Colleen's success when she vowed to do something was that she put her actions where her words were; and she kept doing it.

Although Colleen is gone, I can tell you what actions she would recommend if you want to honour her memory. Colleen spent the last nine years of her life calling attention to the value of the old-growth inland temperate rainforest and trying to save its endangered mountain caribou. She was extremely upset that old-growth forest continued to be logged even while the mountain caribou was struggling to survive.

Colleen was particularly concerned about the mountain caribou in our area: the Central Selkirk herd. The Valhalla Wilderness Society has identified the area needed by this herd. It is our new Central Selkirk Mountain Caribou Park proposal.

Your statement about Colleen is a good start, but only action can honour the memory of Colleen McCrory. She spent over 30 years of her life fighting massive damage to the environment that was covered up by talk. Please contact me to arrange a meeting to discuss the park proposal.

Anne Sherrod
Chair, VWS

Hidden Garden Gallery hosts student art, photographs, music

submitted

How do you make fabric look like a painting? Check out the stunning fabric mural created by Lucerne School students at New Denver's Hidden Garden Gallery July 18-23.

A reception will be held Saturday, July 21 at 7 pm, with professional musician Trevor Caswell performing at at 7:30 pm. Caswell played to a very appreciative crowd at the gallery last summer, soothing us with his gentle acoustic guitar, harmonica and homegrown songs.

Ten grade 7-11 Lucerne students created a fabric mural under the guidance of teachers Patti Sebben and Brighid Bowman, blending some 600 tiny pieces of fabric to produce a 5X3 foot quilted image of the glacier and Slocan Lake. Each student worked on a square, which had to harmonize with squares on either side, so the group learned to work as a team.

Two additional quilt blocks will hang next to the mural, showing why the students enjoy living here. The mural is the product of a twice-annual, four-day program called Fall or Spring Into Learning, when classes are suspended for an experiential, hands-on experience that's out of the usual course of school life. Students chose this spring between film animation, creative writing, a canoe trip on the lake, or fabric art.

Students of art teacher Brighid Bowman's grade 7-9 classes will also show their masks, drawings and painting created over this, the first year of fully fledged art classes at Lucerne School in 10 years. The Hidden Garden Gallery is delighted to host a show by creative young minds and hands, and hopes that other young people will choose the gallery for their artistic expressions.

Close on the heels of the student art comes *In Praise of Accidents: Ironies, Flukes and Curiosities*, an exhibition of photographs by Daniel Hellyer from July 25-30. The opening reception will be held July 26 at 7 pm.

"I travel slower than most people," explains Hellyer. "And I try to always have a camera at hand for those 'What the—?' moments. If I'm quick, and lucky, I get a shot of something, like a face in the clouds, that soon blurs into everyday reality."

For more information on the student art contact Patti Sebben at 358-7750 or Brighid Bowman at 358-7790; for photo exhibition contact Daniel Hellyer at 358-2612 or Anne Champagne at 358-2666.

3rd annual Stoked and Glazed exhibition to feature guest artists

submitted

Discover the spirited and diverse work of a group of Slocan Valley potters at their third annual Stoked and Glazed show at the Slocan Park Hall in Slocan Park, July 27 and 28. The show opens Friday July 27 at 7 pm and will run throughout the day on Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm. Admission is free and there will be door prizes.

The exhibition will showcase an intriguing range of pottery by valley residents Kaitlan Murphy, Robin DuPont, Lisa Martin, Pamela Nagley Stevenson, Lance Hall and Maureen McEwen. This year's event will also feature guest artists: potter Diane Sullivan of Calgary and painter Meghan Hildebrand from Powell River. There will be a wide selection of both functional and decorative pottery at this show. Each work has a distinct character and both potters and artists will be on hand to explain their chosen methods.

Every year the show draws more and more community members and tourists from further afield. Member Lisa Martin said last year's turnout on the Friday evening encouraged the collective to expand the event to include live music, refreshments and door prizes.

This collective of clay artists first came together in 2004 to discuss opportunities to support one another in their commitment to creating handcrafted art. They agreed that hosting a joint show would contribute to promoting their craft and the overall rich artisan culture of the Slocan Valley. Last year the group welcomed Kaitlan Murphy of Huckle Mountain Pottery in Silverton to the collective.

For more information contact StillPoint Pottery at 250-226-6876.

The Slocan Valley clay collective Stoked and Glazed gears up for its third annual exhibition of pottery and paintings July 27-28 in Slocan Park. (Top, left - right): Lance Hall, Pamela Nagley Stevenson, Robin DuPont (Middle): Lisa Martin, Isla Belle DuPont (Bottom): Kaitlan Murphy.

Public invited to Valhalla Riversuites open house

submitted

Valhalla Riversuites, four new vacation rentals in the Slocan Valley, invite the public to an open house on Saturday, July 21, from noon to 3 pm. Located on the Slocan River just north of Slocan Park at the Passmore Bridge, the suites are at the southern entrance to Valhalla Provincial Park.

Brenda Curry, manager, says the four suites are all different, "and delightful in their own way." All suites have outdoor sitting areas, and two have upstairs decks overlooking the river. From a three-storey suite with a bunkroom sleeping up to eight, to a wheelchair-accessible efficiency suite, all have ample kitchens, full-sized fridge, phone, TV, internet connection.

"Developing the site has been more than challenging," muses Dorothy McKenzie, owner. "The site is part of the old Burns lumber mill, and tons of debris was unearthed as the foundation was dug." Some is still evident on the back of the property. A large drainfield grew mostly knapweed, now partly under control. The riverfront landscape, however, with large continuous arbor and many plantings, shows the beauty of the property. Two sides of the large lot are planted with new evergreens.

Refreshments will be served at the open house. For more information or directions, call 226-7712, or visit www.hellovalhalla.com.

Valhalla Riversuites as seen from Passmore Bridge.

Slocan City holds annual Logger Sports

PHOTO CREDIT: JANICE BURNS

Sarah Burns (L) and James Essig (R) in the Jack and Jill Double Buck.

PHOTO CREDIT: JANICE BURNS

Trevor Schofield in the Canadian Championship Open Tree Climb.

PHOTO CREDIT: JANICE BURNS

Brad Delosa, Australia, Open Underhand Chop.

PHOTO CREDIT: JANICE BURNS

Jacqulin McNicol from Vancouver, BC in the Intermediate Obstacle Pole

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Harlequin guitarist Derrick Gottfried played some excellent guitar at Nakusp Music Fest on Friday night.

Nazareth was the Friday night headliner, a first time for the kick-off party to feature an internationally famous classic rock band.

Harlequin's lead singer dedicated a song called Success to 'Pizza Phil,' who moved to Silverton last winter to run the kitchen at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Phil and the band go back to their younger days in Winnipeg.

Collective Soul headlined Saturday night at the Music Fest.

The festival is known for its family friendliness.

The extremely talented Gary Comeau served up some high energy roots and blues music on Sunday afternoon.

Local favourite Dr. Fun and the Nightcrawlers played the Friday night kick-off party.

Crowd favourites at the second and third annual Nakusp Music Fests, Skavenjah, did not disappoint at this year's fourth annual 'Saddle Mountain High.'

Jerry Doucette saved the day when he came at short notice to replace King Karma.

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VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

WATER LINE FLUSHING
JULY 23 – 27, 2007

Village crews will be carrying out water line flushing during the week of July 23rd to 27th.

During this period you may notice some discolouration and a slightly higher chlorine residual. If you experience these symptoms please run your faucets for a couple of minutes to clear the water.

Thank you.

Get your entries in for Build, Bail & Sail Sunday, August 5

Fun for the whole family!!!

Pick up entry forms (limited) at Loma Lumber 88-3rd Ave NW, Nakusp 250-265-3681

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Nakusp council, July 11: Good news on sewer upgrade project

by Jan McMurray

•Council received word that the $880,000 grant for the sewer upgrade has been approved, subject to an environmental assessment and First Nations consultation. Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering, who has been handling this project, will be engaged to complete the necessary paperwork. The deadline is August 15.

•Municipalities have been invited to apply for UBCM Community Tourism Phase II funding. Nakusp is eligible for $19,091. Council agreed that $11,000 of this will go towards the continuation of the Community Projects Co-ordinator position, held by Beth McLeod. The rest will go towards a 'branding' exercise for the Village. 'Branding' means coming up with an overall identity system for the Village, including a logo, that will help to make marketing more effective.

•Councillor Heppner reported that the Mixed Martial Arts event went very well and was attended by about 700 people. "The arena was cleaned up well and there were no real incidents to report. I have no problem seeing another one next year," he said.

•Bylaw 517-6, Ticket Information amending bylaw, was given two readings. This bylaw adds two offences to the list: "Using water excessively or inappropriately" with a fine of $100 per occurrence; and "Tampering with a Water Meter" with a fine of $200 per occurrence.

•Bylaw 606, to impose Development Cost Charges (DCCs), will be sent to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. When it comes back, it will go before council again for final adoption.

The bylaw divides Nakusp into three zones: zone 1 is the core downtown area; zone 2 is the peripheral areas; zone 3 is areas brought into the Village that were not part of the Village at the time of adoption of the bylaw. For each newly created single family residential lot in zone 1, the DCC is $4,060 plus 5% of the fair market value of the land. For each newly created single family residential lot in zone 2, the DCC is $5,075 plus 5%. For each newly created single family residnetial lot in zone 3, the DCC is $6,090 plus 5%. Formulas for DCCs for multi family units and commercial or industrial developments are also set out in the bylaw.

DCCs are charged to help the Village pay the capital costs of providing sewage, water, drainage, highways and parks.

•Councillor Mueller pointed out that there is still no notification about ferry waits posted just outside Nakusp on the way to the ferry landing. She asked that a letter be sent to Western Pacific Marine, the company that operates the ferries, to express concern about this. "When you're leaving town, you have to know if you need to take food and water," she said.

•Council set a date of August 21 to meet with solicitor Ken Watson to discuss the hot springs committee restructure.

•Accounts payable of $306,679.57 were approved.

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 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, who is joined by many of the most jovial and talented entertainers in the southern interior of British Columbia.

A few of the other bands appearing at the festival include: the boisterous Salmon Armenians – an exciting fusion of traditional rhythms with soaring folk music themes; the Kimberlites – great harmonies with their smooth and energetic voices; the Kettle Valley Brakemen – with a boisterous railway and hillbilly excitement to their musical storytelling; Steelewater – a popular soft-rock band that performs to delighted audiences throughout the province.

For more info, www.whatshanmusic.com.

Mud Bogs cancelled this year

by Jan McMurray

The Mud Bog event in Nakusp over the August long weekend has been cancelled this year. Head organizer, Wayne Abbott, reported that the group did not have time to organize the event this year. "What with me opening my own business, and everybody else in the group busy with other things, we thought after 15 years, it was time to take a break." He added that the group usually begins organizing the event in February.

Abbott says the group hopes to hold the event in Nakusp again next year. "Stay tuned to find out, but hopefully we'll get it going next year," he said.

The North West Mud Racing Association has scheduled a mud bog event for the August long weekend in 100 Mile House this year.

The August long weekend in Nakusp will still be full of festivities, including the Build, Bail & Sail event, sandcastle contest, slo-pitch tournament and the Classic Car and Country Jam.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECT AWARDS
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives Program

Further to the Public Meetings held earlier this year, **Electoral Area K (Arrow Park, Burton, Edgewood, Fauquier & Nakusp)** approved the following proposals for funding from the Community Initiatives Program sponsored by the Columbia Basin Trust:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Arrow Park		
Arrow Park Community Association	Building Improvements and Water Pump Purchase	$3,700.00
Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue	Command Vehicle	$1,000.00
Burton		
Burton Community Hall Association	Fire Equipment Building	$7,500.00
Burton Community Hall Association	Parking Lot Renovation	$1,349.25
Burton Saddle Club	Burton Sports Grounds Groomer	$1,892.75
Edgewood		
Edgewood Community Internet Society	Ironoaklin Valley - Edgewood Broadband Project	$5,000.00
Edgewood Community Parks Board	Edgewood Park Play Area – Preparation & Construction	$2,768.77
Edgewood Sports Grounds Trustees	Under 12 Softball Team Start-up	$302.84
Ironoaklin Recreation Commission	Whatshan Rec Beach	$1,000.00
Lower Arrow Lakes Conservation Association	Clubhouse Addition	$1,930.04
Lower Arrow Lakes Conservation Association	Clubhouse Window Upgrades	$1,389.90
Fauquier		
Fauquier Communication Centre	Upgrading Computer Technology	$4,000.00
Fauquier Community Club	Canada Day Celebrations	$1,455.59
Fauquier Community Club	Hall Dishes	$1,000.00
Fauquier Community Club	Whatshan Recreation Beach	$1,000.00
Fauquier Community Reading Centre	Reading Centre	$680.00
Nakusp		
Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade	Road Rescue Truck	$20,000.00
Cultural Community of Nakusp & Area Society	Auditorium Revitalizations	$20,000.00
Nakusp Roots Music Society	Community Park	$20,000.00
Arrow Lakes Search & Rescue	Command Vehicle	$5,000.00
Protecting Animal Life Society	Animal Rescue Program	$10,000.00
Arrow Lakes Ridge Riders	Rescue Snowmobile	$10,000.00
Bayview Residents Association	Fire Caddy Storage Shed	$4,881.00

For more information, please contact Trish Gerald at the Regional District of Central Kootenay: 1-800-268-7325 or email tgerald@rdck.bc.ca

Car accident claims Nakusp man's life

by Jan McMurray

A Nakusp man died from injuries sustained in a single motor vehicle accident that occurred on July 11 at about 11:45 pm in the Arrow Park area. Three males were in the vehicle, which was travelling towards Nakusp on Highway 6. About 23 kilometres south of Nakusp, at Arrow Park, the car went off the road, struck the hillside, and came to a stop on the highway. All three men suffered injuries and were transported to the Arrow Lakes Hospital. Shortly after arrival, 47-year-old Donald Woychuk from Nakusp died. The other two men, both from Alberta, were flown to Kelowna General Hospital by helicopter early the next morning.

RCMP report that the cause of the accident is unknown, but the men were not wearing seatbelts. "This is another reminder for people to wear their seatbelts," commented Constable Robinson of Nakusp, who attended the accident scene.

West Kootenay Traffic Services is investigating the incident.

Nakusp Canada Day parade winners announced

submitted

The following people won ribbons for the parade:

Best Store Decorating: 1. Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic; 2. Barton Insurance.

Best Community Theme Float: 1. PALS; 2. Overwaitea.

Best Children's Group Entry: 1. Minor Hockey; 2. Rotary Interact.

Best Children's Entry: 1. Amy Surina; 2. Miss Maybee Trucking.

David Thompson Brigade paddles history into Nakusp

by Art Joyce

The David Thompson 2007 Columbia River Brigade made a dramatic landing on the shores of Nakusp the afternoon of July 4. Eight cheering canoe teams glided onto the sand wearing traditional voyageur sashes in celebration of David Thompson's exploration of the Columbia River Basin 200 years ago.

The landing was followed by a race on the waterfront by the canoe teams, with prizes handed out later by Nakusp Councillor Doug Switzer. First prize went to the Nakusp Canoe Club, one of the teams participating in the re-creation of Thompson's historic Columbia River journey. Onlookers were then treated to historic displays in the community park from the Nakusp Museum featuring Sinixt First Nation artifacts, interpreted by volunteer Sharon Montgomery. A community meal was catered in the park by Deb Guest, followed by the David Thompson Heritage Stage Show. Introducing the stage show were Mayor Karen Hamling and Sinixt Nation spokesperson Marilyn James.

"Their eyes must be full, their senses reeling with all the beauty of these waterways," said James, adding a reminder that, "as we look to the future, let's make sure we have everything on the land that's here now – the grizzlies, the fish, the caribou are here to stay."

Brigade organizer Norm Crerar agreed with James, pointing out that so far the brigade had seen only one other canoeist on Arrow Lake, "a shame, since it's one of the greatest waterways in the world." Crerar and co-organizer Vic Maxwell were both in teams that recreated voyageur canoe trips for Expo '67. Eight of Maxwell's original Expo team are participating in the brigade. Crerar and his wife have been canoeists since their teens and he estimates they've paddled some 40,000 miles since then.

Yet as 'David Thompson' explained in the stage show, even Crerar's hardy efforts pale in comparison to the legendary mapmaker's historic feat – charting over two million kilometres of Western Canada by canoe. Actor Geoffrey Ewert portrayed Thompson at different stages in his life, drawing on his journals. Cormac Eby played a Scottish voyageur with footstomping prowess on the fiddle. Thompson's Métis wife Charlotte Small made a cameo appearance to provide highlights of their 57-year marriage and the 13 children they raised together.

The legendary mapmaker began work for the Hudson's Bay Company at age 14 but eventually defected to its rival, the North West Company. In 1808, David Thompson was able to return to Fort William (now Thunder Bay), Ontario with good news – the fur trading company had been hoping to find a route through the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific and Thompson had done just that. Between 1784 and 1850 Thompson explored and mapped 3.9 million kilometres of North America the old fashioned way – using only a compass and sextant. The map of Canada he created was so accurate it was used well into the 20th century. Yet the mapmaker was forced in later life to sell his possessions to survive and he died in poverty.

Even now David Thompson ranks only 73rd out of the 100 Greatest Canadians in a CBC TV poll, after film stars like Jim Carrey. Crerar had to struggle to get funding for the brigade but is hoping that documentary film footage being shot of this year's journey will help raise awareness of this Canadian icon. Funds are in place for the filming but more needs to be raised to complete the documentary.

The brigade wrapped up its Columbia River odyssey in Trail on July 7. Next year the Bicentennial David Thompson Brigade will re-create Thompson's 1808 cross-country trek from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario. For more information: www.canadianvoyageur.com/crb.

Geoffery Ewert portrays legendary Canadian explorer David Thompson in the stage show following the landing of the 2007 Columbia River Brigade in Nakusp July 4.

The Columbia River brigade continued on to Edgewood on July 5. Festivities in the park overlooking the water in Edgewood began at noon, with the paddlers arriving to the sound of bagpipes and drumming at about 2:30 pm. A five-and-a-half-foot-long cake in the shape of a canoe was cut by brigade organizer Norm Crerar, with the help of local children. Paddlers spent the night at Whatshan before leaving the next morning for the last leg of the journey to Castlegar.

The David Thompson Columbia River Brigade lands on the Nakusp beach July 4 after paddling from Shelter Bay with the raised paddle salute historically used by voyageurs.

Wildfires near Burton and Kaslo

by Jan McMurray

As of July 16, the two fires of note in the Southeast Fire Centre were near Burton and Kaslo. Neither fire is a threat to any structures or communities, though they may be very visible from Kaslo and Burton.

The Naumulten Mountain fire, 10 km south of Burton, was estimated at 60 ha in size on July 16. There were almost 60 firefighters working with helicopter support to contain the fire. The Deer Creek fire, 10 km west of Kaslo, was 10 ha in size, with 10 firefighters and two helicopters working to contain it. It was hoped to have 20 firefighters on site by the end of the day.

The Southeast Fire Centre responded to 85 new fires on the weekend of July 13-15 after lightning storms moved across the region. While most of the fires were started by lighting, 12 were started by human activity. The public is urged to be careful in and around wild lands as human-caused fires draw on resources that are needed for lightning-caused fires. The fire danger remains high to extreme throughout southeastern BC.

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.

GIFT SHOPS

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

GOLF COURSES

•Nakusp Golf Club

Phone/Fax: (250) 265-4531
9-HOLE PUBLIC COURSE , RATES IN EFFECT 7 DAYS A WEEK
GREEN FEES: **Adults $20.00**/9-holes, **$28.00**/18-holes
Weekly Pass: **$160.00**
Juniors 13 & under: $10.00 / 9-holes, Senior rates - 10% off
10 game punch card available
Golf lessons with Burt Drysdale, CPGA Pro, available.
Rental carts, clubs, pull carts. Driving Range available.
FULLY LICENSED EXCELLENT RESTAURANT
Walk-on tee times, no reservations required.
Ladies' nights Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00 Guests welcome.
Men's nights Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 Guests welcome.

•Slocan Lake Golf Course,

New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$18.00**/9-holes, **$27.00**/18-holes,
Day Pass: **$40.00,** Weekly Rate: **$175.00**
RENTALS: Clubs and Pull carts available.
Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
RESTAURANT: 8 AM TO 8 PM (LICENSED)
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

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

NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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

THE THIRD EDITION OF THE POPULAR

Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook

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Kutenai Showcase
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Sandon: Sandon Museum
The Prospector's Pick
Slocan Valley:
Arica Gardens B&B
Mountain Valley Station
Winlaw Mini-Mart
Lemon Creek Lodge
Slocan Valley Co-op
Floyd's Custom Furniture
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Eldorado Market
Silvery Slocan Museum
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Nikkei Internment
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Makes a great gift!

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CAMPGROUNDS

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

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

• Centennial Campground

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

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023

65 sites, full/semi hook-ups, tenting, boat launch, paddle boats & canoes, pets welcome, children's playground, firewood, fishing, hiking trail, confectionery, sani-station, showers, laundry facilities, large gazebo with BBQ pits.

• Springer Creek RV Park & Campground (250) 355-2266 springr@telus.net

Open May 18 to Sept. 30. Located at 1020 Giffin Rd., Slocan. Turn right immediately off of Highway 6 entrance to Village of Slocan. Full hook-ups, partial hook-ups, tenting sites, sani-dump, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472

Situated on Slocan Lake at Leadville & Turner Streets. Lakeshore and Creekside Tent and Trailer Sites. Fire pits and firewood.

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

$14/night $7 extra vehicle. Cash only. May 01 - October 15th.
Fire ring, tables, pit toilets.

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

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

• Woodbury Resort and Marina (250) 353-7717

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

HOT SPRINGS

• Halcyon Hot Springs •(250) 265-3554 •1-888-689-4699 •Fax (250) 265-3887

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

• Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort •(250) 229-4212 •1-800-668-1171 www.hotnaturally.com

Experience our main Hot Springs pool in the crisp, clean air, explore the tranquil steam bath in the Hot Springs cave, take a plunge in our stream fed cold plunge. Savour the fabulous food in our Dining Room and then enjoy the comfort of one of our 43 air-conditioned rooms.

• Nakusp Hot Springs & Campground •(250) 265-4528 Fax (250) 265-3788

www. nakusphotsprings.com email info@nakusp.com Relax, refresh and always return, to the Nakusp Hot Springs & Campground. Enjoy the soothing mineral waters in BC's cleanest hot springs. Camp in a beautiful mountain setting beside the Kuskanax. Visit the snack bar for light refreshments and the gift shop for souvenirs.

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

• William Hunter Cabins (250) 358-2844 www.williamhuntercabins.com

Three hand-crafted log cabins in the heart of Silverton. Each cabin contains two self-contained suites with pine furniture. Views of the Valhallas, close to lake, beautiful gardens and wonderful berry picking. 303 Lake Ave.

• Silverton Lakeshore Inn (250) 358-7929

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

• Selkirk Inn Ph: 1-800-661-8007 / (250) 265-3666 Fax: (250) 265-4799

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

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

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

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

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.

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 (Cash only): 18 & over: $4,* 12-17 yrs. & Seniors $3, *Children under 12, Members free, *Family (4): $10

• 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, July 10: Provincial building purchase and City Hall conservation plan to go ahead

by Jill Braley

•The Village will make application for final Certificate of Approval for the bylaw authorizing the borrowing of $122,200 to purchase the provincial building.

•The Mayor and CAO will sign an agreement between the Village and the Ministry of Tourism for an $8,720 grant to develop a conservation plan for the City Hall building.

•Trish Bennett, municipal campground attendant, requested two security personnel be hired to patrol the lakefront from the SS Moyie to the Kaslo River from 10 pm until 3 am for the three nights of Jazz Fest. She proposed the cost be shared by the Village, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jazz Festival and herself. She said there are ongoing problems of large groups of noisy, disruptive youths in the campground area who refuse to leave when asked. This situation is creating a loss of revenue at the campground. Bennett's concerns were referred to the Planning & Development committee, which set a special meeting for July 16 at 3:30 pm.

•Debra Barrett, resident of lower Kaslo and administrator of Periwinkle Children's Centre in Vimy Park, voiced her concerns about large groups of young people causing disruption between 3rd Street and Vimy Park after 10 pm. She has come across broken beer bottles on the beach in front of the children's centre, as well as on the porch and in the playhouse on the premises. Barrett has asked for regular patrols of these areas on weekend nights. This was referred to the Planning & Development committee and the Community Consultative Group for recommendation to council.

•Council will confirm that the fire department continues to be agreeable to extending its fire coverage to the Fletcher Creek area. If so, for the current fiscal year only and ending December 31, the Village will charge the same rate to Fletcher Creek residents as is charged in the rest of the fire service area. Councillor Vass was opposed.

•Volunteer Fireman Richard DeCruyenaere was appointed as interim Fire Chief for a three-month term.

•Fiona Anderson spoke on behalf of the Kaslo & District Chamber of Commerce about a cost sharing proposal for the reprinting of the 'Big Mountain, Small Village' brochure. The Village will contribute $794.79 (40% of the total cost) through its Community Tourism grant funding, phase 2.

•The following appointments were made to the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Official Community Plan review: Erika Bird, member at large; Randy Morse, member at large; Dawn Lang, Selkirk College; Heather Hewat, North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society; John Addison, Kaslo and Area Residents Association; and Ruth Thompson or John Eckland, Chamber of Commerce.

•Jen Sibley wrote with concerns that the Village's lawn watering restrictions were not being enforced and even ignored by the Village itself. Sibley stated lawns are being watered throughout the day and sprinklers are being left on Village properties all night. This was referred to the Public Works committee.

•Kaslo will participate in a UBC water quality study. The study will look at two treatment approaches to dealing with new, emerging contaminants that are produced when naturally occurring organic matter reacts with free chlorine during disinfection. Drinking water quality guidelines for these contaminants are currently being developed, and preliminary studies have indicated that small systems will not be able to meet the increasingly stringent guidelines. The UBC project will focus on identifying cost effective and practical strategies for small communities.

•Accounts payable of $25,361 were approved.

Kaslo Sk8park holds long-awaited grand opening

by Jill Braley

Talk about excitement! Under a very warm sunny sky, more than 200 people of all ages, from all over the province, gathered in Kaslo for the Grand Opening on July 7 of its new Sk8park.

The event was sponsored by Tribute Boardshop from Nelson and the master of ceremonies for the event was Don Page, who worked together with David Wiebe and Kaslo's youth to make this dream finally come true. Page said they have been trying to obtain a sk8park for Kaslo since 1993.

The event included a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Stan Leathwood, Councillors Molly Leathwood, Suzan Hewat, Peter Vass and Rich Jones, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison Lynda Lafleur, Dylin Grbick, Jordy Hogan, Seron Beattie, contributor Jeff Mattis of Sunshine Logging, David Wiebe, former mayor and strong supporter Robert Douglas, Youth Council member Ursula Ringwald, Gail Bauman (special thanks for all the grant writing), Area D Director Andy Shadrack, and Don Page, sporting the Canada Day hat.

Jim Barnum from Spectrum Creations Ltd., who designed the skatepark ,was on hand to answer any questions from the public and stated, "Kaslo has a first class skatepark and should be very proud."

The crowd enjoyed the music played by Kaslo's own band Carnival Red, with the sound provided by Sonotech (sound and lighting) owner Jan Loimand. Neal and Dallas were mixing hip hop when Carnival Red wasn't playing. The sk8team Anti Social from Vancouver gave the crowd quite a show in the skatebowl. Tribute Boardshop gave out prizes of skateboards and T-shirts, wheels and trucks. Fruit Union sk8team from Nelson was also on hand. A good time was definitely had by all.

The Kaslo Youth Council was on hand selling water, popcorn and hot dogs. The group is now fundraising for picnic tables, benches, and a water fountain. If you would like to assist in their fundraising efforts by giving a donation please contact David Wiebe at 353-2658.

PHOTO CREDIT: LARRY BRALEY

More than 200 people of all ages, from all over the province, gathered in Kaslo for the Grand Opening on July 7 of its new Sk8park.

Lardeau Valley Historical Society AGM gets livened up

by Deb Borsos

The societies that focus on the preservation of history don't tend to make the papers very often. By default, they don't have much 'new' going on. Much of what they do is based on the 'old', and more power to them. If we don't know where we have come from, how can we possibly know where we are going?. Recently, an incident well worth reporting occurred at the Lardeau Valley Historical Society's AGM.

The society's museum is located at the north end of Kootenay Lake in Meadow Creek. The building itself is historical, once used by Department of Fisheries in Gerrard in the first part of the century, then moved to Meadow Creek for its new incarnation as the museum beginning in 1993.

In between those two identities, there was a time when Esther Brandon lived in the building with her grandchildren in Gerrard, exactly where the viewing platform sits today. Due to unfortunate circumstances she could no longer live in her own house and the fisheries people had allowed her to move into their fisheries building, which was empty at the time.

Fast forward to June 6, 2007. Just as the Annual General Meeting for the society was beginning, Laurie Hepburn pulled up to the museum with a truck loaded to the hilt with valuable antique furniture. And photographs. And books. And stories she told us about these items.

Currently living in Rock Creek, Laurie had not been back to the Lardeau Valley for almost 45 years, but the furniture and other artifacts she had with her were for the museum. They had all once been in this building when her grandmother lived there, and she wanted them to return there.

She was thanked by all present for this contribution. And then a moment came when her spirit of generosity and awareness of the value of history truly came through. She told us "well I'm downsizing because I need more room for my new business." When asked what she would be doing, her reply was "I'm opening an antique store."

Hats off (and a round of applause) to Laurie and those like her, who see beyond the dollar signs and understand how important preserving local history is.

Pemberton's *Swooping Swallows* at the Kaslo Primary Health Centre

submitted

Kathleen Pemberton's art exhibit *Swooping Swallow,* named for a view of an ice field visible from her Queens Bay home, is on display at the Kaslo Primary Health Centre. Pemberton's paintings will be there for your viewing pleasure until September.

When the artwork went up during this past long, tedious winter, it was like a breath of spring, with brilliant colours and images full of motion and life. It continues to entertain and educate (have a look at the impressive colour charts on the wall!) those who visit the PHC. Following Pemberton's show, watch for a collection of beautiful photographic work by local artist Fred Rudolph.

You don't need to wait until you're ill to visit. Come and view the shows and enjoy one of many examples of the arts in healthcare.

Open: Mon to Friday 9:00 to 12:30, and 1:30 to 4:30.Closed Wed afternoons. For information call 366-4325.

'Shimmer' brings high fashion to Kaslo

by Geordie Rice

Run by Kaslo resident Minka, Shimmer offers a selection of clothing for women and men that covers a wide variety of styles. Beyond golf shirts and other 'upper-middle class casual,' Shimmer offers a blend of local and designer labels, and has clothing suitable for anything from a biker party to a wedding to a red-carpet gala.

Minka describes her selection as "casual, fun, funky, and high-end fancy." Something really notable about Shimmer is the selection of designer labels offered at lower-than-normal prices. Many world-famous labels, including Versace, Armani, Chanel, Dior, and Gucci are available for as much as half the prices that would be found at a fancy boutique in the city.

Customers can even order clothing through Shimmer. People interested in ordering are asked to contact Minka with a "good idea" of what it is they're looking for, and Minka will place an order online.

Shimmer isn't just about clothes – you'll also find wigs at the shop. Minka is working with the Canadian Cancer Society in a effort to provide chemo-therapy patients with wigs for greatly reduced prices, or maybe even free.

Shimmer is located at 404 Front Street in Kaslo, is open 11am-7pm Monday-Saturday, and can be reached at 353-7334.

Minka offers a blend of local and designer labels

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

It's about time to get your feet wet

Into the second week of the big heat wave, it seems that everyone's heading for the lake to swim, tan, go boating or fishing, or to simply sigh and take in the fine view. Water levels have receded about a half metre from the high mark and surface temperatures are nearing 40°C. I've been on the water more than ever this season and have enjoyed Slocan, Arrow and Kootenay Lakes in one or the other of my small boat fleet.

At least a couple times each year I like to load up my power boat at the marina and do an overnight cruise down Slocan Lake for some beach camping and some breakfast at the Harold Street Cafe in the heart of Slocan City.

So I set out in my sleek new boat, which is cleaner, quieter, and more stable (and faster) than the old one that now sits in my yard. Usually I camp on one of the beaches on the west side but our local park ranger, Bob, gave me some good advice on anchoring out from shore a little ways to avoid bugs, critters and having to pitch the tent. The new boat has sleeper seats and the clear weather assured a dry night out. Travelling down the centre of the lake I saw several campfires flickering in the dusky shadows of the beaches at Sandy Point, Nemo Creek, Corey's Ranch and over at Bannock Point.

Farther down the lake are the beaches of Indian Point and Ben Brown and some smaller pocket beaches then finally Evans Creek as you get towards the south end. There were some tents at Indian Point but no one at Ben Brown so I tried the anchor thing there with enough slack to nudge into shore for a visit.

Sleeping in a boat is very soothing and feels safer from those odd sounds from the forest that come and go through the night. Occasionally several waves would jiggle the boat as some wake from a distant boat would pass by to at last lap against the shore. Just as the dark closed in, a couple boats came past with lights on, running to Slocan City after their day out on the lake. Distant sounds of music floated across the water from the cabins at the big bay north of the Slocan blufs and I could hear odd cars on Hwy 6.

It's surprising how sounds will carry across open water in still air. Whether it's the squawk of a soaring raven, the roar of a motor or just people talking, the sound does carry well, for better or worse. Despite the privacy and refuge of camping along the shores of Valhalla Park, you sure do notice all the traffic, lawnmowers, dogs and vocal people that populate the east side of the lake...

The summer sun rises in the northeast and popped up at 6 am from Idaho Lookout. The steep east side of the lake remains in shade through most of the morning so those west shore beaches are the best places to greet the day.

Things were still shady and cool in the lee of the Slocan bluffs and the soaring walls of rock make this part of the tour quite magnificent. From there I picked up speed and cruised up the main body of the lake past the cabin colony near Memphis Creek and past the new development at Enterprise Creek, which is mainly just some wild road layout. Bannock Point and several campers doing morning chores and soon I was back in port and home again to attend to some morning chores of my own.

Summer's here in full force, likely for fewer weeks than we'd wish it to be, so get out and get wet by swimming or sailing, paddling or power. Be considerate of other lake users and residents, recreate ethically and socialize when the time seems right.

Peter Roulston owns the BICYCLE HOSPITAL in New Denver and spends a lot of time around the lake. 358-2133.

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Financial forum

with Debbie Pereversoff

Does money buy happiness?

At the Affolter Financial Group, we spend a lot of time coming up with ways to help you grow your wealth – but does more money really make you happier? Popular music insists it doesn't. We've all heard the refrain that says the best things in life are free but hardly any of us act as if we really believe that notion.

Studies find that about one third of us describe ourselves as very happy. That percentage hasn't changed for decades – despite big increases in income and standard of living.

Does that mean happiness is genetically programmed and money doesn't have much to do with it? No, it means that we have been looking for happiness in the wrong places. While there is some genetic component to our happiness – some people are born with a happy disposition while others are not – our genes define a range, not a set point. A Natural Born Grouch may not be able to transform himself into a continuous Ray of Sunshine, but we all can become significantly happier. And most people fall far short of their happiness potential.

Researchers found a very low correlation between material wealth and happiness – except in cases of poverty, where people's basic needs were not being met. These studies point to the fact that happiness is mostly contingent on our state of mind, rather than the state of our bank account.

Money can contribute to our happiness if we understand the nature of happiness. To lead a happy life, we need to experience the combination of both meaning and pleasure. For example, if I find my work meaningful but not pleasurable, I will ultimately burn out. If I find what I do pleasurable but it has little meaning for me, I will quickly lose interest.

People with money have more freedom than others to construct their lives around activities that provide both meaning and pleasure. We still find that most people continue to chase the next promotion, the next raise, the next temporary high, but wealthy individuals who are happier recognize that wealth is secondary, and that 'happiness is the ultimate currency.'

There's nothing wrong with making a lot of money, as long as it doesn't impoverish us in happiness – the ultimate currency. There are three questions that you should ask yourself: What gives me a sense of purpose? What do I enjoy doing? What am I good at? The challenge is then to find activities that fulfill these three criteria of meaning, pleasure, and strength.

Research shows that a positive mood enhances creativity as well as the ability to grasp the big picture – both are critical for investors. Second, those who enjoy their work are more motivated and energized. If you do not enjoy what you do, then you should look elsewhere. No financial reward can compensate you for sustained unhappiness.

Another characteristic of great investors is that they take time off. Regular breaks prevent burnout and contribute to the person's happiness and creativity. It is no coincidence that we come up with our best ideas in the shower, while driving a car or during our down time (typically while we're trying to sleep at 2 am).

The best investors and the most successful individuals recognize the importance of doing nothing. They understand that leisurely recreation is often a prerequisite for wealth creation. In other words, it might be time to take that holiday!

With summer upon us, take some time to relax and chill out and think about your life. And remember, don't equate happiness with money. If you truly want to make a positive difference in your life, take that next step by taking control and setting some achievable goals for yourself.

Debbie Pereversoff CFP CSA is a co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc. specializing in retirement issues and wealth management solutions.

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Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Wild Daisy rendezvous

Emily and Deborah are old friends. Deborah hails from Scotland, Emily from Calgary via Oxford England. Deborah is visiting Emily in Calgary. They decide to travel by car to take in southwestern BC. On Saturday morning they headed towards Trout Lake from Galena Bay. Had they had a copy of the last issue of the V*alley Voice*, they might have stopped at the Windsor Hotel, but instead they kept driving, enjoying the old highway and the stupendous scenery on the way to Meadow Creek and on to Kaslo. A lovely drive. They might have stopped in Kaslo, and if they did they might have seen this reporter at the Kaslo Saturday Market buying garlic tops and strawberries, but I digress.

Emily and Deborah left Kaslo heading south on curvy Highway 31 past Mirror Lake and spectacular views of huge Kootenay lake. They really wanted coffee now and were getting hungry too, and they fantasized that they'd come upon a small cafe where they'd sit in the shade, relax, have coffee or tea and a bite to eat. Then they saw the sign: WILD DAISY CAFE -1 km. They had succeeded in manifesting their fantasy!

The Wild Daisy Cafe was very small, yet inviting. Emily and Deborah pulled in, parked, saw the sign that said 'Good Food Served Here,' walked up the two steps onto the small deck and into the cafe where a breeze from Woodbury Creek keeps everything cool. Inside they met Traci Goertzen, the manager, cook and waitress. Traci welcomed them with her great big smile. There were also several customers hanging around praising the quality of the food on offer. One of them was a tallish guy who kept mumbling into a tiny tape recorder. He appeared to be interviewing Traci, but he listened as Deborah and Emily explained enthusiastically how they'd somehow known they'd find this little cafe, and sure enough, they had. Traci was all smiles as she chatted back and forth between customers and pointed out the menu on the chalkboard (low menu stress!).

Breakfast: Bacon, Sausage + Egg wrap, Garden Wrap, Santa Fe Wrap, Pancakes and Sausage (the pancakes are wheat-free and made instead with five different grains including hemp hearts), and finally, Yogurt Fruit cups, Bagles + Cream Cheese. Sounds good!

On to Lunch and Light Dinners. First and foremost, today's special: Egyptian Chicken Wrap (it's what the tall guy with the tape recorder had). The recipes for this and everything else on the menu are Traci's very own. The two years she spent in Egypt came in handy for the chicken wrap. The spices include cumin, lemon, loads of garlic, and cayenne – plus some of Traci's secret ingredients. Instead of a wrap you can have this and the following dishes in a rice-bowl format. OK. Here we go: Falafel Wrap (that's what Deborah ordered), Burrito Wrap, Philli Steak and Mushroom Wrap (Emily's choice), and four other meat and/or cheese wraps. Traci also offers lots of big cookies, giant butter-tarts, special coffees – hot or cold– and there is ALWAYS some kind of fresh baked fruit pie on the go. Pop, ice-cream and chips are also available.

Emily and Deborah decided to have their food and drinks out on the deck at a table under a big umbrella. The tape recorder guy followed them out and asked if he could join them, and of course some of you know that guy was me – your intrepid food editor. Deborah and Emily were chatty, fun to talk to, and they loved the food. Their travel plans were loose, but they figured they'd try the Okanagan. I suggested they try the Slocan Valley because of its incomparable magnificent stunning beauty. We'll see.

Meanwhile, Traci Goertzen, in the four weeks since the Wild Daisy Cafe opened its doors, has whipped the place into great shape. Her food is excellent. Her mission, she says, is to provide a quiet comfortable place where people can relax and enjoy good food. She has succeeded admirably. The Wild Daisy Cafe is open 7 days a week from 7 to 7. You'll find Traci there five days a week, and you'll be glad you did. I had Strawberry Rhubarb Pie a la mode for dessert.

Wild Daisy Cafe
Traci Goertzen
Manager
Highway #3 at Woodbury

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Wraps!

"Traci Goertzen, in the four weeks since the Wild Daisy Cafe opened its doors, has whipped the place into great shape. Her food is excellent. Her mission, she says, is to provide a quiet comfortable place where people can relax and enjoy good food. She has succeeded admirably."

-Andrew Rhodes, Valley Voice Food Editor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS during Nakusp's 2007 Canada Day celebrations, with the theme of "Community": Soapbox Derby: Stock Class: Cody Desjarlais, Jacob Morrow, Tim Barisoff; Modified Class: Adam Webster; Student Essay: Katelyn Horning; Parade entries: Community Theme - PALS, Overwaitea, Loma Lumber; Children's Group – Minor Hockey, Rotary Interact, Girl Guides; Children's Entry – Amy Surina, Miss Maybe Trucking, Dalton; Store Decorating: Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic, Barton Insurance, Home Hardware; all the BMX/SK8 Competitors; Overwaitea's Duck Race: Doreen Yano, Joan Gibson, Lena Fahlman; Official Fireworks Display Starters: Rowan Wurst, Rowan Moody.

The organizers would like to send thanks to all the sponsors: Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Department of Canadian Heritage, Octopus Music, NAPA Nakusp, Overwaitea, Paddywagon, Pope & Talbot, Nakusp & Area Development Board, Village of Nakusp, and to Music in the Park, Nakusp Music Fest, and H&G Maxfield for equipment loans. Also special thanks to the judges and other volunteers, and to those of you who saw something that needed to be done and pitched in at the last minute!

-from the Nakusp Canada Day Committee

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CARD OF THANKS

I'D LIKE TO THANK Dr. Skrenes, Dr. Malpass, the Kootenay Lake Hospital staff and the palliative care nurses for their care and support. A very special thank you to my nurse Michele Suber, who even took time off work to tend to my needs. She administered my many drugs, saw to it that I ate properly, etc. Also a very special thank you to my daughters Melody, Joanne and Bonnie, who also did their part in making my life more pleasant. Melody took several weeks out of her life to tend to mine.

Also a big thank you for all the cards, flowers, gifts, baking, visits, phone calls, etc. I am sorry I had to turn friends away at times, as I was just too sick to receive company. With cancer, you don't know if or when you might get a good day!

-Karna Franche

PATRICIA GEORGE. Thank you to all the friends and family that volunteered their love and support to make Pat George's Memorial a loving and caring celebration of her life.

TO THE STAFF OF LONG-TERM CARE at Slocan Community Health Centre, the physiotherapy department and Doctors Burkholder and Skrenes. Thank you for the special care and kindness given to our sister, Pat George. We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and comfort shown to us, her sisters, during this difficult time. We want you to know that you do make a difference.

-Virginia Taylor, Gwendolyn Partington and Rowena Wilson.

NAKUSP'S DAVID THOMPSON COLUMBIA RIVER BRIGADE event organizers would like to thank all who attended the event to welcome the paddlers to Nakusp. A huge Thank you to Columbia Basin Trust for sponsoring the 100 paddlers' dinners, as well as to Arrow Tipi, Loma Lumber, Deb Guest's Catering & Cakes, Village of Nakusp, Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Nakusp & Area Development Board, Martha Nichols and Richard Cann. Thanks to Nakusp & District Museum, Arrow Lakes Historical Society and the Sinixt Nation for participating. Congratulations to the Nakusp Canoe Club members who paddled from Revelstoke to Nakusp with the Brigade, and for winning the 50 metre sprint! Thank you to Saddle Mountain Medical Clinic and Three Lions Pub & Chumley's Restaurant for sponsoring the sprint purse.

CARD OF THANKS to all who helped me celebrate on June 29, especially Doug Sexton, Lana Wocknitz, Gayle Swanson, Valerie Piercey-Wilson, Dick Callison and Joan & Albrecht McKay.

-Marianne Vanish

IRENE POZNIKOFF OF THREE ISLANDS RESORT would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2007 Walk/Run for Fun, which raised $1,285 for the Arrow Lakes Hospital: Alley Health & Fitness, Arrow Lakes News, Arrow Lakes Theatre, Beadloft Antiques & Collectables, Bon Marche Dollar Store, Broadway Deli & Bistro, Captain Jack's Sport & Marine, Carson's Corner, Cutrite Meats, Forever with Flowers, Gypsy Hollow, Joe & Ann's Maintenance, Kuskanax Lodge Clothing & Hotel, Leland Restaurant, Lester's Hobbies, Marvin Small Motor Repair, Nakusp Bakery, Nakusp Esso, Nakusp General Store, Nakusp Home Hardware, Nakusp Hot Springs, Nakusp Music Fest, NAPA, Nick's Place, Olson's Guided Fishing Tours, Overwaitea Foods, Paddy Wagon, People's Pharmacy, Prima Materia, Reawakening Health Centre, Second Sight, Shaggyz Hair, Spectrum Evolution Specialty Store, Sunflower Clothing, The Hut, Three Island Resort, Touch of Fashion, What's Brewing on Broadway, Wood Fire Pizza n More, Ann's Natural Foods, Apple Tree Restaurant, Gaze n Chat, Slocan Lake Home Hardware, Mountainberry, My Aunt's Place, Valhalla Inn, Valhalla Pure Clothing Store, Valley Voice, Silverton Building Supplies, Silverton Lakeshore Inn, Biznet (Castlegar), Downtown Shell Castlegar, USCC Cultural Interpretive Society (Castlegar), Crescent Valley Maple Leaf Store, KC Drilling & Blasting Ltd. (Crescent Valley), Glade General Store, Irene's Beauty Salon, Playmor Flowers, South Slocan KSCU, Fomi's Bakery, Four Season Greenhouse, Winlaw Mini Mart, Don & Angie Waddell (150 Mile House), Peter & Marg Fairbridge (Alberta), Melanie & Terry Fedick (Calgary), Dan & Teresa McCrea (Edmonton), John & Teresa Hlookoff (S. Slocan), Steve Hatt (Summit Lake), Murray & Sheila Sloan (Trail), Don & Marilyn Furutani (Winnipeg), Fred & Colleen Jmaeff (Nelson), Donna Hall (Victoria).

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.

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.

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

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.

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 at Gaze n Chat, Silverton; Ann's Natural Foods, New Denver; Eddy Music, Nelson. $15 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.

ALL DAY AFKO CAMP IN NEW DENVER July 20 and 28! Fun activities for kids ages 4-14 in French and English. Affordable! Call Stephen at 352-3516 for info.

ON THE GALENA TRAIL. Ten days of landscape painting, drawing, heritage architecture and local history along the Selkirk Loop with artist Barbara Wilson. Begin from Castlegar, end in Nelson, August 16 to 26. Information 250-226-0021. Register by July 20 (ArtandAdventure.ca).

THE HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY presents Days at Kohan - new paintings and drawings by TSUNEKO KOKUBO and BOUKJE ELZINGA. Wednesday August 1 through to Tuesday August 6 from 11 am - 4 pm. Opening reception Tuesday, July 31 from 6-9 pm with Brazilian music by Sinja and Ugi. An event not to be missed.

OPEN HOUSE AT VALHALLA RIVER SUITES at Passmore, by the bridge Sat. July 21 - noon to 3:00 pm. Come tour the suites and see what we have to offer. Refreshments. Info 226-7712.

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FABULOUS MOVING SALE! elliptical, bowflex, ping pong table, desk, other furniture, framed pictures, tiling tools. 706 Park Ave., Brandon, via Slocan City. From Slocan St., turn east on Park Ave. and follow two blocks to the end. Saturday, July 21st, 9:00-3:00.

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HELP WANTED

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

AINSWORTH HOT SPRINGS RESORT is seeking an individual for the position of Night Audit/Front Desk. Applicant must possess a background in computer applications, accounting/bookkeeping, and be willing to work on their own within a team environment. A competitive wage and benefit package will be offered to the successful candidate. Reply in person, by fax (1-250-229-5600) Attention: Joyce Mackie, or email to ahsr@hotnaturally.com. Please use Attention: HR Dept. in the subject line.

HOME SUPPORT WORKERS WANTED. Personal care and household management for mature disabled male. Sunday to Thursday 4 hrs/day or Friday and Saturday 4 hrs/day. Require Care aide course plus First Aid certificate, bondable, $17/hr. Submit application to Box 422, New Denver, V0G 1S0.

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Notes from the RCMP

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

Kaslo detachment

Motor Vehicles: A report was made June 5 of vehicles speeding between 180 and 200 mph on Highway 31 on the Fletcher Creek straight stretch. Police warn that the large number of side roads and blind corners in this area can cause serious accidents if the speed limit is not adhered to.

Increased enforcement of motor vehicle infractions will begin in and around Kaslo following a report of a red off-road motocross bike and others riding in public areas, and people not stopping at stop signs.

Bicycle Thefts: A black Norco Wolverine bicycle with a green camel seat in fair condition was stolen from JV Humphries School the night of June 5. If anyone has seen this bike please report it to the RCMP. A child's bike was stolen on June 16 from the municipal campground. The bike is described as a Norco Mountain Bike, silver in color, a six speed with a value of $200. Another bike was stolen in the Kaslo River Trail area, even though secured with a U Bolt lock. On June 23 a mountain bike was found at the Kaslo Provincial Building. Contact the Kaslo RCMP for further information.

Break & Enter: On June 10 owners arrived at their summer cabin to find it broken into and items stolen. Rumours indicated a known suspect, who was apprehended. Charges are pending. Another report of a break and enter to a summer cabin revealed 10 marijuana plants being grown in pots on the property.

A store owner reported on June 3 that a group of youths entered a high end clothing store during May Days and a large amount of clothing was stolen. The clothing has since been returned due to the store owner's own investigation.

Lost & Found: A 15-foot aluminum boat was found on June 13 near Argenta. The boat was damaged, with no motor attached and life jackets found under one seat. To claim the boat, call with a detailed description. A silver chain link bracelet with glass stones was lost at the Saturday Market on June 19. Value approx $400. Please call the RCMP if found.

Drug Enforcement: Kaslo RCMP conducted search of a property in Meadow Creek on June 18 and 70 marijuana plants were seized. An investigation is ongoing. Police have also uncovered a marijuana grow op on the Duncan Lake Forest Service Road. Approximately 160 plants were seized. Charges are pending.

Nelson detachment

•The summer drinking and driving CounterAttack campaign runs from July 15 to August 15. Last year in BC, more than 400 people died in motor vehicle collisions and 30% of fatalities (120) involved an impaired driver. Impaired driving remains one of the top three priorities for traffic enforcement officers along with the non-use of seatbelts and aggressive driving.

•A suspicious fire occurred on July 7 at Kootenay Innovative Wood on 3020 South Slocan Station Road. The fire is under investigation. Contact Nelson RCMP at 352-2156 with any information you may have about this fire, or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

•On July 10 Nelson RCMP and Nelson Search and Rescue responded to a call for help from a 34-year-old Seattle resident who became disoriented while mountain biking in the Kokanee Glacier area. The lone mountain biker was lost and had run out of water. He called for help on his cell phone and was located by Search and Rescue at about 5:45 pm. He was treated for dehydration and released.

Fast-track program for small electricity projects

submitted

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld has announced a Standing Offer Program for clean electricity projects of up to 10 megawatts. The program is designed to streamline the paperwork for small-scale power projects. Neufeld said it's all part of BC's Energy Plan, a committment by government to achieve electricity self-sufficiency by 2016.

"We're offering a standard contract with set prices and a straightforward administrative process," said BC Hydro President and CEO Bob Elton. "This will give smaller-scale projects the opportunity to contribute to B.C.'s supply of clean electricity."

A 10-megawatt hydro project typically provides 40 GWh per year of energy, or enough electricity to power 4,000 households. BC Hydro is seeking feedback on the proposed terms and conditions of the Standing Offer Program from potential developers, First Nations, customers and other stakeholders. BC Hydro is planning to hold regional meetings during July and early August to get further input on the design of the program.

Projects eligible for the Standing Offer Program must be proven technologies, i.e., those already available on the market for at least three years; 10 megawatts or less; and either clean, renewable or cogeneration with an overall efficiency greater than 80 per cent.

The draft documents for the Standing Offer Program along with a list of regional stakeholder sessions can be found at www.bchydro.com/standingoffer.

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

OBITUARY

GWENDOLYN WHITE McGEE
December 18, 1913 - July 4, 2007

Gwendolyn White McGee died peacefully at Kootenay Lake Hospital July 4, 2007.

Gwen was born in Denver, Colorado December 18, 1913, attended school there and graduated with a BA from the University of Denver in 1935. As a little girl, she often traveled to and lived in San Francisco and always retained a love for the Bay area and the ocean.

She taught school in Denver for 8 years. In June 1939 she married Grant E. McGee. She and Grant had two children: Kenyon James and Kathleen Ann.

She loved spending summers at the Rimrock Cabin, in Sphinx Park, Colorado, enjoying family hikes and fishing trips, as she was an avid dry-fly fisher.

She and Grant moved to Yuma, Arizona in 1973 and Gwen continued to enjoy her summers in Winlaw, British Columbia, moving permanently to BC in 2005.

She gave freely of her time and energy to St. John's Cathedral in Denver, teaching Sunday School and helping to organize the annual Bazaar. In Yuma, she and Grant joined the congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

She was a member of: AAUW, Garden Club of Yuma, The Yuma Fine Arts Society and The Mortor Board of D.U.

Gwen was a lifelong learner and an avid reader, with an appreciation for music, poetry, and a special love of Southwestern Indian art.

She is predeceased by her husband of 38 years, Grant in 1980.

She is survived by her son, Kenyon McGee of Winlaw, her grandchildren Grant McGee of Winlaw, and Erin McGee of Vancouver, her great grandchildren Haely Vajda & Cole Vajda of Vancouver, British Columbia; and her daughter Kathleen Opal, husband Edward, and grandchildren Travis Opal and Justin Opal, all of Cranbrook, BC.

A family Memorial celebration will be held in Winlaw on July 28, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. (at Gwen's house) and a memorial service will be conducted at: St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Yuma, Arizona on October 6, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Donation in Gwen's memory may be made to St. Paul's at 1550 South 14th Avenue, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

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