The Valley VOICE

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

West Kootenay experiences Firestorm 2007

by Jan McMurray

Our part of the province saw the worst of the 2007 fire season.

The three most notable fires in the province this year were in the Southeast Fire Centre area – Springer Creek five kilometres northeast of Slocan; Arrow Lakes Penstock fire, one kilometre north of Needles on the west side of Lower Arrow Lake; and the Hamill Creek fire near Argenta. All three of these were interface fires and were threatening property.

The Springer Creek fire was the biggest, caused evacuation orders and alerts and a highway closure, and prompted the RDCK to declare a local state of emergency for Area H from August 1-6.

The fire grew to 2880 hectares or 28.8 square kilometres on August 6, and was reported to be within 100 metres of homes from August 1 to 3. August 3 was probably the most stressful day, when the fire was "pretty much at the highway" according to a forestry official at a public meeting in New Denver. At 5:35 pm that day, the fire jumped across Enterprise Creek to the north, approximately 2.5 kilometres upstream from Enterprise Creek bridge.

Thankfully, the direction of the wind changed late in the evening of August 3, pushing the fire southward, back on itself. On August 4, crews conducted a burn-off along the southwest flank, significantly reducing the threat to the community. By August 7, the fire was five kilometres from the nearest home. There was no damage done to any homes or structures, including Enterprise Creek bridge.

Evacuation orders were issued to a total of 30 households on August 1 and 3. Homes south of Enterprise Creek to the Slocan bluffs (Memphis Creek) were issued the order on August 1, while homes north of Enterprise Creek to Aylwin Creek (just south of the southern entrance to Red Mountain Road) were issued the order on August 3. Ten evacuees from the south side of Enterprise registered at the reception centre in Slocan, at the youth centre across from WE Graham School. 32 evacuees registered at the reception centre in New Denver, located at Knox Hall. Ten people under evacuation order chose to stay in their homes, and signed papers saying they had made this choice. RCMP reported that these people were "as safe as they can be" and indicated that some had an escape route by water. On August 8, effective 8 am, the evacuation orders were rescinded and residents returned to their homes. The area was still under evacuation alert as of press time.

On August 3, evacuation alerts were issued to a total of 60 homes in the area from Aylwin Creek to the southern boundary of Silverton, including all homes on Red Mountain Road. At the August 3 public meeting in New Denver, it was reported that the alert was "a matter of expediency, not danger." The alert was rescinded August 8.

Highway 6 was closed between Aylwin Creek and the Slocan bluffs on August 3 at 9:30 am and re-opened August 8 at 8 am. It was closed "due to burning trees, falling debris, smoke and ash," according to Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Lisanne Bowness. Since it re-opened on August 8, it has been reduced to single lane and alternating traffic, with a pilot car so that people will not stop in the area. The Ministry had a geotechnical engineer fly over the area on August 6 to assess the situation. The main concern was the Cape Horn bluffs – the ministry wanted to ensure that any rock loosened at the bluffs would be removed before re-opening the highway. Bowness said the preliminary fly over by the geotechnical engineer confirmed that fire had not reached the bluffs, so slope stability at that location was not impacted.

The largest number of resources reported were 178 firefighters on the ground, 8 helicopters and 28 pieces of heavy equipment. The Martin Mars bomber worked on this fire on August 3. The fire was discovered July 29 and was caused by lightning. It was 50% contained on August 12.

The Arrow Lakes penstock fire, about one kilometre north of Needles on the west side of Arrow Lake, was 97% contained on August 12. The biggest impact of this fire was that it caused a power outage in a large area – from just north of Fauquier to Burton and Nakusp, and down the Slocan Valley to New Denver, Silverton, Red Mountain Road and all residences on the north side of Enterprise Creek. The power went out on August 1 at about 9:30 am and came back on August 2 at about 4:20 pm.

As soon as the power went out, the fire became a "type one" fire, and a type one crew was dispatched. Rob Krause, type one incident commander from Burns Lake, was called to take over the fire about 22 minutes after the power went out. He and information officer Sue Croft held a public meeting in Nakusp on August 6.

The fire got to 570 hectares in size. An evacuation alert was issued to 18 homes on Needles North Road on August 1 and rescinded on August 9 at noon. One of these households self-evacuated.

Krause said there were 80 firefighters on the ground (three 20-person BC Forest Service crews and two ten-people contract crews), a total of 136 BC Forest Service staff, six helicopters and ten pieces of heavy equipment on the fire on August 6.

Krause gave a brief history of the fire. The lightning-caused fire was reported by a member of the public on July 17 at 1:30 pm. It started on a rock cliff, and was spot size, burning in the rocks. It was actioned that day with an initial attack crew and a helicopter with a bucket, but accessibility was a big issue for them. On July 19, someone called in to report that the fire was flaring up again. A crew was dispatched, but again they could not get down into the rocks. They tried to rappel down, but couldn't, so they built a helicopter pad

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The Springer Creek fire, taken from the air on August 7.

The Martin Mars bomber taking off after filling up with water from Slocan Lake, August 3.

Water bomber from Mars seen above Slocan and Kootenay Lakes

by Art Joyce

When fire gets out of control in the woods, who you gonna call? How about the Martin Mars – a vintage World War II bomber capable of dropping a 60,000 pound 'wet blanket' on a raging wildfire.

Residents of Silverton and New Denver got an up-close glimpse of the Martin Mars water bomber as it scooped a payload from Slocan Lake to fight the Springer Creek fire on August 3. The targets for the Mars bombers in the West Kootenay were the Springer Creek fire and the Hamill Creek fire north of Argenta. The Mars aircraft were also pressed into service in Kelowna during the 2003 firestorm.

There are actually only two Martin Mars air tankers currently in existence – the Philippine Mars and the Hawaii Mars. Designed by Glenn L. Martin in 1938 for US Navy ocean patrol, the plane was deemed obsolete for this use by 1943 and converted to transport aircraft. The original Hawaii Mars was lost in an accident in Chesapeake Bay but was replaced as part of a fleet of five built for the navy in 1947. The others were named the Marianas Mars, Philippine Mars, Marshall Mars, and Caroline Mars. The Marshall Mars was lost near Hawaii to an engine fire and the remaining 'Big Four' worked as cargo planes on the San Francisco-Honolulu route until 1956.

The Mars aircraft nearly met an untimely end when they were to be sold for scrap in 1959. Dan McIvor, who represented a consortium of BC lumber companies, foresaw their value as water bombers. A company called Flying Tankers Inc. was formed to purchase and convert the Big Four for aerial firefighting. The Marianas Mars crashed while firefighting near Northwest Bay, BC on June 23, 1961 and all four crew members were lost. Just over a year later, on October 12, 1962, the Caroline Mars was destroyed by Typhoon Freda.

The Hawaii Mars and Philippine Mars entered service in 1963. They were operated by Flying Tankers Inc. as a subsidiary of TimberWest Forest Ltd. until late last year, when they were sold to Coulson Air Tankers. The planes are based on Sproat Lake, near Port Alberni, BC.

The Mars bombers are powered by four engines of 2,500 horsepower each, and can carry up to 7,200 US gallons (27,250 litres) of water, in either a side or belly tank. Each Mars carries 600 US gallons (2,270 litres) of foam concentrate, which is estimated to increase firefighting efficiency by 30%, especially in interface fires. They can be in the air in 10 minutes and can make a drop every 15 minutes. Each drop can cover an area of up to 4 acres (1.6 hectares). The Mars is also equipped to deliver Thermo-Gel, which forms a light gel by encapsulating water droplets, providing a more even, longer lasting coating of the fuels on the ground.

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The Filmon Firestorm Report card – how did government do during Firestorm 2007?

by Art Joyce and Jan McMurray

"We're mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore!" That was the sentiment at many of the community meetings during the recent firestorm in the West Kootenay. While most people were grateful for the protection of their homes and businesses, a number of objections were raised at public meetings in Fauquier, Nakusp, New Denver, Kaslo and Argenta.

The same situation prevailed during Firestorm 2003, when 334 BC homes and many businesses were destroyed by fire. Although this year's fire situation was extreme for the Kootenays, it was dwarfed by the provincial scale of wildfires unleashed during that summer, which cost $700 million and caused the evacuation of 45,000 people. That crisis led to the production of an independent review of BC government response headed by Gary Filmon, now known as the Filmon Report or Firestorm Report.

The Province has scored well in many respects, improving in areas such as communications, although some would argue more needs to be done. Media complained to Filmon's team in 2003 that the government in some cases seemed more interested in "managing the message" than in getting complete information out to communities. "Next to the wildfires themselves, the most lasting impression many people have of Firestorm 2003 is the information vacuum they found themselves in during the crisis," noted the report. Also, a lack of inter-agency communications between fire responders was considered a serious problem in 2003.

Filmon's team recommended "the development of a provincial communications strategy" including the formation of a "communications SWAT team with members from municipal, regional, provincial and federal governments" and other stakeholders. To its credit, this year the Province held daily teleconferences with media during the worst period of the fires and public meetings were held in the communities. Yet Mayor Karen Hamling of Nakusp reported having to wait seven hours to meet with forestry officials to be briefed on the situation the day the power went out. Many complained that fire information on the Ministry of Forests website (www.bcwildfire.ca) was up to two days behind. And some media reported receiving conflicting information.

A major concern voiced in Nakusp was the lack of warning for the hydro blackout. Many felt that given the location of the Penstock fire and its obvious proximity to power lines, some notification could have been given to allow businesses to prepare for a possible outage. Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman said it's not always possible to get warnings out ahead of time. He said the Province has streamlined the permit process for BC Hydro to clear brush from its right-of-ways as a fire prevention measure. Coleman added that "it wouldn't be usual" that businesses would receive compensation for lost business due to the power outage.

An objection heard at the Nakusp and Fauquier meetings was that as much as 10 days elapsed from the time the Arrow Lakes Penstock fire was spotted on July 17 until crews started working at the scene. The incident commander explained that the fire was in fact actioned immediately, but was extremely difficult to put out due to inaccessibility to the steep, rocky terrain in the strike zone near Needles. One person at the New Denver meeting asked the same question of ministry officials regarding the Springer Creek fire but was told the meeting was better spent focusing on solutions than blame.

Some at the public meetings wondered why fire crews weren't starting work until 9 am. This objection was also noted in the Filmon Report, which noted: "Veterans said it was always accepted that the most effective time for fighting the fires was between dawn and 10 am, before the heat of the day and the midday winds become a serious impediment to controlling the spread of the blaze. We were informed by Ministry of Forests personnel that crews were held back for safety concerns." Rob Krause, incident commander on the Penstock fire, said it was "easy to say let's start the crews for 6 am, but much harder to make it happen." He said there were several things to take into account, such as the cooks, who get up at 3:30 am to prepare breakfast for a crew of 100 that leaves camp at 7 am. If they were to get up even earlier, they would be trying to get rest at the hottest time of the day. Also, an aircraft must be on site before crews hit the ground, for safety reasons, and Transport Canada has restrictions about pilots' hours.

Another objection raised at the public meetings was that fire crews and Ministry of Forests personnel were all brought in from outside the region, making little use of local knowledge and expertise. This concern was also heard by Filmon's review team in every community they visited in 2003. The Firestorm Report recommended that the ministry access local firefighting expertise, in part by establishing a database with "a current and accurate provincewide inventory of certified forest firefighters available for fire response at the local level." Responding to the concern over the centralization of firefighting resources, Minister Coleman said that system has been in place since 1994.

"We hear this every year – 'I'm a logger, I know the forest and can fight the fire better' – but the reality is we don't want to put anyone in harm's way. Gone are the days when we could just pull people off the streets to fight fires. Even when we had the military in 2003 we had to send them to a training program for a week before we could send them to a fire."

Coleman says appropriate training and safety certification is essential, although Filmon's team recommended the Province find a mechanism to help quickly re-certify those with past experience in firefighting or forestry. Coleman says the Province has done well in implementing the Filmon Report's recommendation to utilize the firefighting skills of more First Nations people. And indeed, at least one of the fire crews seen in Kaslo was predominantly First Nations.

The Filmon Report recommendation to deploy structural protection (sprinkler) units was well utilized in this year's fires, as appreciatively noted by many residents whose homes were at risk in the Argenta, Red Mountain Road, Enterprise Creek and Needles areas.

As ever, whether the government gets an A+ or a C– depends largely on the eye of the beholder.

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Until September 28, 2007
(expected completion date)

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Fire interface protection – what's the plan for the West Kootenay?

by Art Joyce

Living in the 'interface zone,' where communities and rural acreages meet forested slopes, presents a clear risk to Kootenay residents during fire season. Many residents wonder: What is my community or regional district doing to ensure fire safety in interface zones?

It's an appropriate question, in the light of the 2003 Filmon Firestorm Report that assessed the aftermath of that year's terrible fires across this province. Filmon's team noted the irony that a century of diligent firefighting by the Province has left the forests with a huge buildup of fuel. The report urged the implementation of a province-wide Community Wildfire Interface Management program. This would include "fuel-treatment pilot projects in locations of high interface fire risk; on-site removal or burning of spacing slash to mitigate the surface fuel hazard; assessment of fire-prone ecosystems within or adjacent to a wildland urban interface for risk reduction; and, training more professionals who can implement a forest fuel reduction program..." Also stressed was the need for the Province to encourage the forest industry to "harvest high-risk, low-value fuel types" by amending the Annual Allowable Cut in "uneconomic tree stand areas within the wildland/urban interface."

The report urged the provincial government to share the costs of interface management plans with local and regional governments, with a priority on funding fire management planning, fuels mitigation, and overall fire protection. Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman says the Province allocated $25 million for this purpose through the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities).

The RDCK has hired Blackwell and Associates to prepare its Community Wildfire Interface Management program, which is currently at the draft stage. The draft is circulated to community fire departments and other stakeholders for input before moving to its final form. Once a final version is completed and signed off by the RDCK board, it must be submitted to the Ministry of Forests, which assesses whether the plan meets its quality objectives. The communities of Nelson, Nakusp, Kaslo and New Denver/Silverton have chosen to participate in the RDCK's plan, while Creston and Castlegar will develop their own. All electoral areas of the RDCK are included in the plan. The second phase of the project will be for each community to apply for 'mitigation' funding.

According to RDCK Emergency Co-ordinator Noreen Clayton, the regional district was divided into four zones to help deal with the problem on a manageable scale. Bruce Blackwell's firm has had to do some 'ground-truthing' to verify Ministry of Forests data by collecting data using ground crews and satellites. From there a set of possible solutions or recommendations will be produced. Each village will take the recommendations to their council to decide how many are feasible or affordable to adopt.

"It's a complex issue, since fuel removed from the forest also creates more fuel sources that need to be dealt with," says Clayton. "What the plan does is look at the fire risk in each community and comes up with ideas about how you can reduce the risk."

Clayton says Don Mortimer of Fireline Consulting, the contractor who placed sprinklers by homes in Argenta during the recent evacuation alert there, took the opportunity to educate householders about ways to reduce interface fire risks. Joe Chirico, Manager of Community Services at the RDCK, says residents can do their part long before the plan is finally enacted.

"The big thing to point people to right now is the FireSmart Guide," says Chirico. "There are things people can do to be pro-active on their properties; they don't have to wait for government."

Chirico says the mitigation measures enacted by Nelson Fire Chief Randy Brieter is a good example for communities to follow. Brieter asked Nelsonites in the city's perimeter to clean up brush and debris and provided designated pickup points. The City also purchased a 40-unit residential sprinkler protection kit but had to do so out of its own funds. Brieter says the current funding formula provides money for mitigating hazards in parklands and City properties, including labour costs, but not equipment purchase. He says it's too early to tell whether the provincial funding formula will be added to or improved. Communities may have to pool funds in order to cover mitigation costs.

"We'll have to determine how far we're able to go with the tax dollars available," Brieter says. "We were lucky there were no other major fires around the province, so we had the focus. But we need equipment on hand here in the Kootenays that can easily and quickly be deployed."

The FireSmart homeowner's manual can be accessed online at www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/FireSmart-BC4.pdf.

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Top three fires in the province rage in Slocan, Arrow Lakes and North Kootenay Lake Valleys

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to fight the fire from up above. Krause said there were crews on the fire every day, but it continued to grow around the rocks and was estimated at 214 hectares on July 29. Fire activity overnight July 31-August 1 was substantial, and this was when the fire burned a three-pole transmission structure to the ground, causing the power outage.

Krause said BC Hydro crews had sprayed power poles with fire retardant on July 29. However, he said the tops of the poles cannot be reached from the ground, and the three poles burned from the top.

Krause reported that on the morning of August 6, the transmission poles had been replaced, but that re-energizing will not take place until there is no longer a risk of the fire spreading.

To restore power temporarily, BC Hydro used a decommissioned line running from the Monashee substation. Gene Bryant, community relations at BC Hydro, said in a telephone interview, "Luckily, crews were able to adapt and make the outage much shorter than originally anticipated. We were able to tap into the decommissioned lines to bypass the damaged area and re-energize the outage areas." Bryant also reported that BC Hydro mobilized five generators on August 1 that were on site in the communities of Nakusp, Fauquier and New Denver on August 2. He explained that these generators are fairly small units that can provide service to emergency centres and town halls in support of emergency response efforts. He said local governments decided where the units would be best served. Generators will be in place until the forest fire risk had subsided.

Bryant said BC Hydro was aware of the threat to the power lines and were monitoring the situation since July 28. When asked why residents weren't warned of a possible power outage, Bryant said it was a "multijurisdictional situation" and "that question might be better asked to the Forest Service." When asked if there might be any compensation for businesses that lost meat, dairy and produce because of the outage, Bryant replied, "BC Hydro is not responsible for the actions of a fire situation. The last thing we want is a power outage and we prepare as best we can. The fix was put in place in a very short period of time based on the circumstances." In a telephone interview, Minister of Forests and Range Rich Coleman said, "It wouldn't be usual that business would receive compensation for lost business due to the power outage."

The Hamill Creek fire north of Argenta got to 1,523 hectares in size. The lightning-caused fire was discovered on July 15.

On July 30 at 6:30 pm, four homes were put on evacuation alert, with the fire one kilometre away from the nearest structure. From August 4-9, the fire was reported to be about 800 metres from the nearest structure. The evacuation alert was rescinded on August 9 at noon.

Starting August 3, the fire's growth was towards the northwest, away from structures. On August 5, it was reported that crews had created a contingency containment line between the fire and residences.

The largest number of resources on the fire were 111 firefighters, 13 pieces of heavy equipment and six helicopters.

Part of the east flank of the fire crept into the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, and the Earl Grey Pass trail has been closed since August 3 due to fire suppression activities. On August 6, there was a burning off operation to protect a cabin in the Purcell park. Crews also burned off an area near Clint Creek on the east flank and built a helicopter pad, enabling crews to access this difficult area. They also put in a handguard along the east side of the fire, creating a good fuel-free area from peak to peak across the valley. The August 6 report from the Southeast Fire Centre was that the fire was burning along Hamill Creek, not further into the park, and was burning out quite well. Since August 8, the fire centre has been reporting that mop-up is occurring along all guard lines and rehabilitation planning is underway. Containment lines are holding the fire north of Clint Creek, and containment lines are complete outside the park area except at the mouth of Hamill Creek, where the ground is inaccessible. It was 50% contained as of August 12.

Other fires of note in our area are the Kemp Creek fire near Kaslo and the Sitkum Creek fire near Nelson. The Kemp Creek fire is estimated at 220 hectares, and has been 70% contained since August 6. The Sitkum Creek fire, 1222 hectares, was 100% contained on August 12.

On August 10, the Southeast Fire Centre issued a press release that addressed rehabilitation efforts, stating: "While fire suppression activities continue, engineers, hydrologists and other specialists have been consulting with land managers to develop comprehensive site rehabilitation plans for fire guards, roads, camps, staging facilities and other features that have been affected by fire control efforts. Site rehabilitation begins as soon as it is safe to do so and in many cases is already underway.

"The province also has specialists assigned to assess the effects of the wildfires on the broader landscape, which may include impacts to watersheds, infrastructure and timber values, so that appropriate rehabilitation measures can be taken."

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Evacuation centre in New Denver a labour of love

by Art Joyce

Valerie Piercey, New Denver's Emergency Social Services Director, and her dedicated volunteers didn't get much sleep during the Slocan Valley firestorm of '07. But they did learn firsthand just how amazing a community can be when it pulls together to help its neighbours.

Piercey says BC's Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)is a model for other provinces. The emergency social services aspect of PEP is designed to provide evacuees with food, accommodation, and medical needs for 72 hours. Suppliers for the program are businesses or families in the community who can provide supplies or accommodation.

"It's really designed to create comfort for people," says Piercey, "even if it's dog food, shampoo, or diapers when they've been evacuated on short notice. I think the program is extremely generous for what it provides for 72 hours."

She says if after three days the evacuation order hadn't been lifted, evacuees would have been able to simply return to the reception centre to be issued another referral slip for 72 hours of services. When the evacuation order is lifted, services are ended.

The first job was to register and interview evacuees coming into the reception centre at Knox Hall. "Nothing fancy – our signage was two orange cones and an orange vest over a chair. We do a small town version of the model, the low-budget hillbilly version. But the services we have are like gold to the people."

Piercey was helped by volunteers, who meet and greet people to determine if they're okay. If not, they must be assessed for help. Elaine Bohnet and Marlene Schiavon were Piercey's "right and left arm," while Ruby Truly was Piercey's "whole body." Gretchen Perk and Wendy Harlock, Liz O'Neill, Sue Mistretta, and Susie O'Donnell rounded out the reception centre volunteer staff.

"When you meet an evacuee at the door, you know that they're in distress, they're displaced. The true effectiveness of emergency social services is to open your heart and have compassion for these people."

"Paper equals money," explains Piercey, so the first step after making evacuees feel welcome is filling out forms. Questions asked include: Do you have friends or family who can billet you? Do you need a hotel room with cooking facilities? Do you need restaurant food or groceries? Help can even be offered for families with livestock that need to be billeted. In a larger centre, the emergency social services centre usually has a child care area with volunteers to watch kids while parents get their paperwork filled out. All of the information taken down on evacuated families is private and confidential.

The night the evacuees were given permission to return to their homes, there was a meeting at the Knox Hall reception centre with about 16 representatives from various government agencies. IHA brought in someone to speak about stress-related issues. Forestry brought in someone to explain instability on steep slopes, and remind people to be aware that "yes, it's over but not completely over yet." A pilot spoke of the resources used to put out fires, and what was in each of the fire retardants, to reassure them there were no health hazards.

""It was amazing working with the Village on this – it was really a team effort," says Piercey. "Tamara was wonderful, bringing over delectable goodies from Nuru Design at the end of each day. Doug and Shay brought over water and ice from the PetroCan and refused to accept payment. Ann Bunka was incredible – she dropped her whole life to deal with this."

If Piercey could have but one wish for next time, she says, it would be a computer to do all the paperwork and communications by email and save money on phone bills.

Piercey has done 10 days of training in reception centre planning, documentation, and organization.

Many homes in the interface areas of this season's fires were protected by Structural Protection Units (SPUs). There are four SPUs in the province, designed to be deployed to areas on evacuation alert. An SPU is essentially a trailer full of sprinklers, hoses, pumps, tanks and other firefighting equipment. Each SPU contains about 350 sprinklers and can protect between 30 and 35 homes. SPUs were first used in BC in 2004, following the Filmon Report recommendation that "Communities and homeowners in the interface should be encouraged to invest in methods of self-protection, such as sprinklers, as soon as possible." With provincial funding, the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) had the SPUs designed and purchased the four units, which are jointly managed between UBCM, the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Ministry of Forests.

Westbank First Nation
TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
Notice of Public Meeting

Topic:
Westbank First Nation Treaty Negotiations

Thursday, September 6th
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Bosun Hall, 710 Bellevue Avenue
New Denver, B.C.

Westbank First Nation and the governments of Canada and British Columbia are negotiating a modern treaty under the British Columbia treaty process. You are cordially invited to attend a presentation by representatives from Westbank First Nation, Canada and B.C. concerning these negotiations.

A question and answer session will follow formal presentations.

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Voices from the Valleys

Colleen

C is for the care she gave her family.

O is for others that she touched.

2 Ls is for all the land and lakes she loved so much.

E is for every memory she left us.

E is for her Irish eyes that shone.

N is for that naughty smile she bestowed on everyone.

Put them all together, they spell Colleen. A mother, sister, friend no one will forget. Your work on earth is done. Now rest in peace.

Ann Deakoff
New Denver

Solution to power outage

With the addition of some simple switches it would have been possible to direct electricity from the Kane Creek hydro generator to the New Denver area. We could have functioned as an Emergency Measures Centre.

Funding for such switches should be in the EMO budget. Low-use emergency power could have been provided to locals by dividing the area into zones and then giving each zone one hour of power every five or six hours.

John White
New Denver

A note of thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to express our personal gratitude and respect for the outstanding dedication and perseverance shown by the New Denver and Silverton Fire Department, the Forestry Department and the many people involved in protecting our lives and our homes during the recent fire that threatened all of us.

We are so grateful for the numerous hours you gave of yourselves and are indebted to all of you. Some might say "it was just doing your job" but we personally think it went way beyond the call of duty. "Thank you" seems inadequate to say the least, but from the bottom of our hearts we do thank you. I would think we express the sentiments of all the residents from the Slocan bluffs to all of Red Mountain Road. May God bless each and every one of you.

Larry and Lorna Anderson
Red Mountain Road

Cell phones provide safety

If you don't want cell phone service in New Denver, don't buy one. Turn it off if you are already taking advantage of the service, or let the battery go dead, but don't deny the community as a whole the safety features that having a cell phone does provide. This idea is about as intelligent as it would be to cut off all phone, television, and power service to maintain a place to get away from it all. Gimme a break!

Sabrina D George
New Denver

Ode to trees (in honour of Colleen McCrory)

Clear-cuts ravished old-growth, forest green

Mountain-sides, barren, mud slides an' debris;

Look thousands of miles...no trees can be seen.

Big business an' logging companies, get off free

Emerald splendor, faded photographs – what has been

Taxpayers' expense – saplings planted, growing trees,

Clear cut again, short term vision – money machine.

Interconnected, ecosystems, brought to their knees;

Rise! Protect what is left – defend the saplings' dream!

Vera Mahina
Silverton

Hi-speed yes, wireless no!

There are preliminary plans to place several wireless transformers/masts in the Slocan Valley, including the YRB yard in Winlaw, Paradise Valley Rd., Skycastle Lookout, and an undisclosed site in the Lebadho Flats / Vallican area, as well as at the existing TV tower in Crescent Valley. This is very disconcerting. Unlike TV and AM/FM radio waves, wireless technology utilizes pulsed microwave radiation. The threshold for health risks is much lower for pulsed radiation and government guidelines have not kept step with this.

There is lots of solid science out there, mostly in Europe and Asia, that indicates the strong connection and damaging effects that microwave radiation has on the human organism at the cellular level. Our youth is the highest at risk. The International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (ICEMS), with scientists from many nations, including the US, recently signed a resolution calling for precautionary strategies while research continues. They urge, among other things, that governments promote alternatives to wireless communication systems (like fibre optics and coaxial cables), and inform the population of potential risks of wireless products.

Some good websites on this topic include: www.powerwatch.org; www.hese-project.org; www.electrosensitivity.org.

We would do well to heed the advise of the British Ministry of Health and the Danish Health Council: "Use the internet via cable connections. Wireless networks lead to high radiation exposure."

Eric Twitty
Winlaw

Thanks to all firefighters and support workers

THANK YOU, THANK, YOU, THANK YOU, to all the firefighters, pilots, village staff, support workers, highway crews, and many neighbours, friends, and family. Everyone wants you to know how much they appreciated everything you did to protect our communities, homes, animals, and property from the dangers of the fire.

Word on the street is that you gave a great deal of time and energy in so many ways. Words cannot express everyone's gratitude. Thanks again. We owe you so much.

What a welcome relief the rain was today.

Sally and Barry Lamare
New Denver

Forever grateful

Three cheers for all the Forest Service Fire Crews on the Springer Creek Fire! I will be forever grateful for the heroic effort put forward by everyone involved in the Springer Creek Fire. Special accolades go to the fire crews, the structural crews who did a fantastic job setting up an intricate sprinkler system, the helicopter and water bomber crews and support staff. The tremendous amount of people and equipment moved into the Slocan Fire Camp in such a short time is truly amazing!

Only through the massive onslaught of people, equipment and technology was my heritage homestead saved from the wildfire raging on the steep slope across Hwy. 6. I'm so thankful, my wilderness haven for 38 years is still standing. The original house, barn and cabin date back to the early mining days and were there long before there was even a highway. The oldest building, a small log cabin, was in use when the miners used pack trains to make their way to the mines up Enterprise Creek. It's wonderful this small piece of Valley history is still intact.

More big thanks to the RCMP, Emergency Social Services, Regional District, Village of Slocan, Ministry of Transportation, BC Parks, all the contractors, the Province of BC and everyone else who joined the massive effort to save our wonderful Valley from wildfire. I'm lucky to live in a place where everyone can join forces when an emergency situation suddenly arises.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

Freyja ManySkies
Slocan

Deep appreciation for firefighting efforts

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends, neighbours and the community at large for all the help and kindness shown to us in our time of need.

When Jamie and I returned from a motorbike ride, unaware of any news, to find a raging fire near our home, firefighters dousing the house and an evacuation notice pinned to the door, it was all a shock. We had little time to collect our most valued possessions and it was a sad and poignant moment when I said my goodbyes to our little cabin and closed the door, believing that we would never see it again.

It is wonderful, therefore, to have our home back and I would like to express heartfelt and sincere thanks to all who valiantly fought the fire and gave us back our home. I also thank all those, both officials and volunteers, who worked hard to make our experience less fraught than it may have been by offering accommodation, food and general care. I am sure everyone affected could cite many examples of kindness and consideration, such as the Chief Fire Commissioner, in a time of trauma, taking the trouble to care for our cat before our arrival.

Again, I know that all those evacuated from their homes would join me in expressing their deep appreciation to all those we know, and the many people behind the scenes we never met, for all they have done for us. It is such kindness that makes it a pleasure to live in this small, friendly, caring community of Silverton and New Denver. Bless you all!

Penelope Stuart
Silverton (Enterprise Creek)

Fire smart forest management

The evening of Friday, August 3 was a busy time for us and our neighbours.

First we loaded a pick-up with some of the things we care most about to take to New Denver; we had been put on evacuation alert earlier in the day. As we were packing, the great plume of smoke rose in the southeast on the other side of Mount Aylwin and we were sure that the Springer Creek fire had crossed Enterprise Creek and was moving north. We decided to add the bags we had packed to the load in case we were not coming home that night, turned on the sprinkler I had installed on the roof two days before and went to the fire meeting in New Denver. At the meeting it was confirmed that the fire had crossed Enterprise Creek and burned up the south side of Aylwin into the alpine. After unloading the pick-up and storing things with a friend we watched the fire burn on the face south of Enterprise above the highway. When the fire reached the clearcut there the fire took off – it was like an accelerant had been added.

On Tuesday, August 7 I downloaded the aerial photograph on the government website that showed the extent of the Springer Creek Fire. As I examined the image I could not help noticing the cluster of cutblocks along the route the fire had followed. Some very large, some almost adjacent to each other and some that straddled the ridges separating the drainages the fire had crossed through. I could not help but wonder if these cutblocks had the same accelerant effect on the fire that I had observed in the clearcut above Enterprise, facilitating the rapid growth of the Springer Creek Fire. I think it is time we asked the question. Can clearcut logging be compatible with fire smart forest management?

Bruce Charlton
Red Mountain Road

Motorcycles roar around town while police turn a deaf ear

The noise from motorcycles has been allowed to disrupt the peace and quiet of our communities throughout this summer. On the weekend of July 29 the noise had grown to unbearable proportions as a gathering of these high powered motorcycle riders was in New Denver. During this weekend there was hardly an hour during daylight hours that the window rattling roar of these motorcycles could not be heard from several kilometres away.

Closer inspection of these motorcycles revealed that approximately half of them are operating without any mufflers. They are merely equipped with highly chromed straight through exhaust pipes that maximize engine power and noise. This raises the question that if motorcycles up to 1650 cc are condoned with straight pipes what about cars and trucks with engines up to 6000 cc? Can you imagine the noise we would be subject to if police allowed these vehicles to run with straight pipes also?

This practice is clearly in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act (Section 7.03).

Throughout the summer we have been subjected to the deafening noise from thousands of violations of this section of the Motor Vehicle Act and the RCMP appears to be turning a deaf ear

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LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

The Valley Voice Box 70, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0

Phone: 358-7218 Fax: 358-7793 E-Mail:valleyvoice@netidea.com Website: www.valleyvoice.ca

Publisher - Dan Nicholson • Editor - Jan McMurray • Food Editor - Andrew Rhodes
Contributing Writers - Art Joyce, Don Currie, Jill Braley, Geordie Rice
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Voices from the Valleys

to these violations. Was even one operator ticketed over this past weekend for violation of these regulations? How many have been charged this summer in and around New Denver and Silverton? What about our Village noise bylaws? Have our Village councils made any complaints to the RCMP? We have seen in the past when peaceful residents have banded together to protect their right to clean drinking water that the RCMP had no trouble dispatching a 'SWAT TEAM' that enforced a court order to protect corporate logging interests. Yet they are nowhere to be found when a cacophonous motorcycle group comes into town shattering the peaceful community atmosphere. Any motorcycle in contravention of the muffler regulation should be banned from operation within our communities and the riders discouraged from staying here.

It is well past time that the RCMP started enforcing the Motor Vehicle Act in regard to motorcycles and that the municipal councils and Regional District start enforcing the noise bylaws on the streets and highways within their jurisdictions.

Craig Pettitt
New Denver

Lots to consider in management of Nakusp Rosebery rail trail

Peter Roulston is right that local trail users, motorized and non-motorized, are doing a good job of keeping the Rosebery-Summit Lake rail corridor open for all of us, but I don't think these efforts will be enough in the long run, nor do I think it will necessarily be an "awfully long time before these trails ever get crowded." The rail trail is a great public asset, but it's unlikely that we can keep it that way by just letting it be.

The Bonanza Creek section is deteriorating rapidly. Besides fast-growing brush and blowouts on tributary creeks, ever-changing beaver activity could easily take out a major chunk of the trail at any time. Volunteer trail work can be tricky in Bonanza, as it's one of the prime fish spawning and wildlife habitats in the Slocan system.

The rail trail is also in danger of fragmentation from other sources. How long before someone with deep pockets and good connections tries to get a piece of crown land along the lake between Rosebery and Hills? Already a few private landowners are using the rail grade for personal use or are disputing its status as a public corridor.

The major increase in tourist traffic and property values in the past few years, and at least one application to run commercial ATV tours on the rail trail point to increased use in the future.

There is broad support and good reason for securing the rail grade as a public recreational trail, and the RDCK has proposed taking it on if the community can agree on a management framework. I have been part of the volunteer committee that has been working on this.

It's the management issue that's the sticky point. The majority of users between Summit Lake and Rosebery are non-motorized, but most seem to be okay with the present mix of use. Concern for Bonanza's fish and wildlife habitat, however, runs high. Designation as a trail and the promotion of it in brochures and by tourist businesses would no doubt increase use, and a big increase in motorized use would not be okay with many people. There are also locals, supporters of physical fitness or greenhouse gas reduction, who would like to see more non-motorized trails. Meanwhile, motorized users want to keep the trail open to them.

At the other end of the rail trail, use from Nakusp to Summit Lake seems to be mostly motorized, and fish and wildlife values are less of a concern.

Clearly there is a lot to consider here and getting solid support from the community for any trail plan will be important.

Richard Allin
Hills

Concerned about wireless services

I am extremely concerned about the current move towards wireless internet and cell phones in the valley.

I and many others moved here specifically because there were no cell phones. It is a rare thing indeed and an incredible blessing. I understand the desire for high speed internet, but it can be done through the cables and not wireless. Wireless technology is very dangerous and has not been around long enough to fully know the damage it does to our health and all living creatures around us.

As a mother I do not want my child or future generations exposed to the cancerous vibrations of wireless technology. Unlike TV and radio, which is continuous wave radiation, wireless radiation is pulsed in microwaves between 2 and 24 times per second. This pulsing is in the frequency range of our brainwaves and can cause them to speed up or slow down, changing our level of consciousness. Effects on health include a reduction in melatonin production (which regulates sleep and protects against cancer formation), headaches, tumours, and most of all development of cancers.

The big argument is that there is not any scientific evidence. This is false! A great deal of research has been done and is available if you look, but unfortunately the telecom industry works hard at stopping independent research and supports research that sheds doubt on studies that have found ill effects.

Why are North Americans so clueless? Will we wait another 100 years before governments put true safety guidelines in effect? Have we learned nothing from our past mistakes with DDT, tobacco, asbestos, lead paint, and other forms of radiation, that we can't see the danger of wireless 'electrosmog'? The public debates over tobacco, asbestos, and x-rays took over 100 years to officially settle public health issues. Now we are witnessing the same debate over 'electrosmog': an ever-increasing, ubiquitous, invisible form of pollution generated by all things wireless.

If all those waves were suddenly made visible, we would see how it fills the earth's atmosphere, penetrating every living cell, plant, animal, and human. Please if this concerns you too, speak out for your health. Call Don Munro, write letters, sign the petition at Gaia Tree in Winlaw and let's protest. We can stop this from invading our valley, but we have to take action.

Please educate yourselves about this and think about if you want microwave towers radiating next to your schools and local businesses. Everyone needs to phone Telus and request high speed ADSL, which means through existing telephone lines.

Beth Campbell
Winlaw

Open letter to Telus re: cell phones

I am opposed to the implementation of cell phone service in the New Denver area for several reasons and have decided to write you an open letter.

Although health concerns relating to cell phone mast radiation and cell phone use are actively being debunked by industry spokespersons (including Shawn Hall from Telus), I have now examined enough material showing possible negative health effects, especially on children, to feel that the precautionary principle is warranted in this instance. In other words, I would like to see our area hold off on cell phone service until further studies are completed and a conclusive determination about safety can be made. Possibly our area could be used as a control group of non-users in a several year study comparing health outcomes in cell phone users with those of non-users. A former provincial Minister of Health who is still active in government in a province outside BC suggested this health study idea to me.

Another reason to cancel implementation of cell phone service is the proposal by the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) to market our area as a cell-phone-free zone, which could provide further incentive for tourists to visit. Such an economic marketing strategy has evidently been very successful in an area near Salzburg, Austria and has provided financial benefit to that region. Visitors could consciously choose to visit our scenic region to de-pressurize from the stress of a busy working life and have a chance to escape from being constantly available to callers during their precious vacation time.

Cell phone service could bring some undesirable cultural changes to our relatively tranquil rural setting as well. The peacefulness of public spaces such as parks and restaurants likely would be disturbed by annoying ring-tones and loud one-sided telephone conversations. Such commotion detracts from the relaxed ambience of life in our small villages. A number of people are also speculating about what social effect cell phone use will have on younger users.

Considering the above mentioned reasons, plus the fact that a substantial number of residents in the New Denver area are strongly opposed to implementation of cell phone service, I am requesting that Telus cancel plans to provide any such service. Although summer vacations and distractions such as a two-day power outage followed by a wildfire emergency may have temporarily muted dissent from our area, many people remain absolutely determined to keep cell phones out of our community and are willing to work long-term towards that goal. An official tally conducted by Councillor Ann Bunka has now confirmed that 243 people from the 358-exchange area have signed the petition in opposition to cell phone service, and 185 people from the 358-exchange area have signed the petition in favour.

Thank you for attending to this letter,

Stephen Lones
New Denver

Won't you be my neighbour?

Before I start my ramble, I have to admit my own mistakes. Until yesterday I was allowing my goats to go free range during the day. Yesterday there were four goats, today there are only three. Free range goats on Perry Ridge – not the smartest thing to do. I've learned from my mistake. We live at the end of a rural road on Perry Ridge and we have no gun. Another mistake. Although isolated I've always felt we could count on our neighbours in a pinch. Another mistake.

To make a long story short, our dogs alerted us to something going on outside. We discovered that there was a cougar who had freshly killed one of our goats only 10 feet from where we were standing. While my partner Simon tried to call the dogs off, I ran to the house in a panic and grabbed the bear banger. The cat didn't flinch. We realized we needed to call someone. Who has a gun?

The first person who came to my mind was a nearby cattle farmer, who we know has a gun. I tried him first, no answer, then I worked my way through the book calling every neighbour I could think of. With mostly no answers, I left a few frantic messages, then called the Conservation Officer. I was informed they were in Castlegar and that they'd be 45 minutes. Simon was still trying to get the dogs to come away from the cat and the kill. Feeling like 45 minutes was too long to wait, I again dialed the first number I'd tried. This time there was an answer. I explained what had happened and asked if he could come as quickly as possible with his gun. His response was "call the game warden." The cat did not leave its kill and the Conservation Officers came and dealt with the issue for us. It was a young cat that had likely just been kicked out by its mother is what we were told – the mother may still be around.

That evening we took it upon ourselves to inform two guys that often hike up the mountain behind us that there may be a cougar in the area. They told us they had seen the cougar at the exact spot it killed the goat, and its mother sitting up on the hill above it at 7 am. The cougar stalked our house and livestock for 4 1/2 hours. I have two children.

It all worked out I suppose except for a dead cougar which I regret, a dead goat which I regret, and a humbled goatherd (that's me). But the saddest part of all, I realize how alone we really are out here...except for the wild animals.

We'd like to express our thanks to Jason and the other Conservation Officer, Wizard the Hound and his handler, and the guy who got his shirt dirty.

Angela Peebles
Perry Siding

Not feeling safe with cell service

On May 27th I wrote to the New Denver council when I heard that cell phone service was coming to the Village. I was amazed as there had been no notification of residents living near the transmission tower. Now, ten weeks later, having received information from USA, several countries in Europe and other parts of the world I realize how lucky we are not to have such a service here. That we still have a chance to prevent this microwave intrusion is a great opportunity.

Do I feel safe saying yes to Telus to place an antenna or two on the CBC tower? Absolutely not. Once that happens their competitors will seek similar contracts with CBC and we will have yet more radiation in the Village.

In the United Sates there are seven active class action suits against the cell phone industry. There are now 3 billion cell phones in use worldwide provided by a self-policing industry. Cell phones were never subjected to safety testing because of the low power exclusion given in 1984. Today, in Canada, your health is protected by a set of guidelines that suggest what the telecom industry should use when powering up its antenna and phones. Who can enforce guidelines? You may wish to find out what monitoring is conducted by our government once an antenna is installed. When residents have taken measurements around masts they typically find the guidelines are being exceeded. The exposure levels change according to phone traffic, weather and other sources in the area.

New phones have software that needs greater power, which makes it likely that heat effects will be added to the biological effect on living tissues

Government bodies with responsibility for health issues are unanimous in confirming there is no valid evidence that electromagnetic radiation affects health and therefore there is no need to reign in the microwave technology explosion we are witnessing now.

A new disease, 'electrohypersensitivity,' has been officially noted and applies to humans whose sensitivity to electromagnetic radiation makes their daily lives miserable and dysfunctional. In Sweden where these exposures have been increasing from the early '80s, there are an estimated 200,000 people categorized in this way. In the extreme cases they cannot leave their homes without special metallized clothing to protect them. Sounds like a science fiction movie doesn't it? Yes, we really do have ordinary folk getting chronically ill, yet governments deny the problem and are unwilling to curb the explosion of microwave applications.

Interestingly the Russians were early researchers in the field of microwaves and learned how life damaging this technology is. Indeed, they employed it to annoy the Americans during the Cold War by beaming microwaves at the American embassy in Moscow and succeeded in making staff there chronically ill sending two successive ambassadors home with leukemia, the blood cancer that is typical from exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

There are many unanswered questions and little apparent willingness to conduct independently funded, properly designed, long-term studies to understand what is happening. I do know ordinary folk, like you and I, are being made sick by chronic exposure to microwave technology and women and children appear to be the first to develop symptoms.

If we reject Telus proposed service we can then promote the area as a low electromagnetic radiation zone (low EMR zone). More and more people will be eager to visit an area without such unhealthy and annoying devices. For those already experiencing chronic effects from the electrosmog such an area as ours will be a place to seek respite. Parents who value their children's well-being will want to live here so their kids can develop without the deadly effects of brain-destroying cell phone radiation.

Please contact me to sign the petition that states that we do not wish to have cell phones in the New Denver area.

Penelope A. Bonnett.
New Denver

Vallican Whole School celebrates 35 years of alternative rural education

submitted by the Whole School board of directors

Alternative education is alive and well in our community.

The Vallican Whole School is celebrating its 35th year of rural alternative education. This school was the first independent school in British Columbia. The success of our school is a result of a dedicated and supportive community, a parent body which manages the school with deep love and commitment for alternative education, and brilliantly creative teachers.

The school began 35 years ago when a group of homeschooling parents combined with a group of individuals who wanted to build a community centre. Together, they created and built the Vallican Community Centre. The centre was used at first as a meeting place for homeschooling parents and children, and over the next 35 years grew into a fully accredited private alternative rural school.

We are exceedingly lucky to live in a community where we have a different choice to the public education system. Not all children are suited to institutionalized education and some parents are unable to homeschool their children. The Whole School makes an excellent alternative and engages the children as much as the parents.

The Vallican Whole School is non-graded, self-paced and experiential in learning style, with a strong focus on outdoor education. No grade point averages cloud its approach to the education of the heart, mind and spirit. The children at the school spend less time comparing themselves to others and more time having fun learning. Learning through exploration is a cornerstone of our educational approach. This instills a life-long love of learning which does not stop at graduation.

One young man tells the story that he thought he never learned anything at the Whole School. He felt that he played all day long. He was concerned that he would know nothing when he graduated from the school. He soon discovered that he knew as much, if not more, than his peers in a traditional school setting. He continued in the traditional system as one of the top in his class.

A parent investigated what teachers in the public system who received Vallican Whole children in their classes thought about them. The answer was much the same from each teacher: "We love to get children from the Whole School in our classes – they are easy to talk to, well adjusted, they make eye contact when you talk to them and they are self-motivated and excellent achievers."

School commences again in September and will continue to do so for at least the next 35 years. We are excited to introduce two new, vibrantly creative and experienced alternative teachers for the new school year. We will also start planning an expansionary phase for the Whole School as we are growing and need more space.

The Whole School is now accepting applications for new students in all classes – Preschool (2-5 year olds) two days per week, and K – grade 7, four days per week with special programs each Friday. We strive to enroll any and all children that will benefit from an alternative approach to education. Spaces are filling up fast. Contact Rachel at 226-7737 or email her at vallicanwhole@netidea.com, or contact us through our website www.vallicanwholeschool.com

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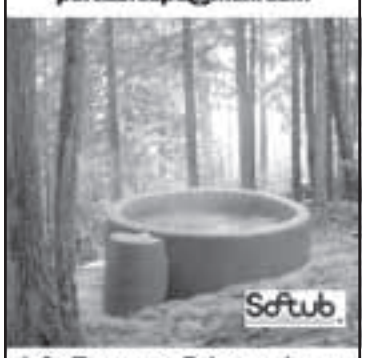


info @ www.softubcanada.com

Private company offers wireless high speed in southern Slocan Valley

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Wireless, a Nelson-based family business, is currently offering wireless high-speed internet service in the southern Slocan Valley, and has plans to expand further. "We're hoping to cover most of the Columbia Basin as our ultimate goal," said CEO Ben Leslie in a telephone interview.

The service is now being offered from Crescent Valley to Passmore. The next phase of the expansion will be from Passmore to Winlaw, and there are plans to provide service as far as New Denver within a year. "We're hoping to provide 85-90% coverage in the Slocan Valley," and Leslie.

The company, which has been in business since October 1, 2006, already serves the area from Ainsworth to Thrums and Pass Creek. Leslie explained that these areas are covered by six towers – four that belong to the company, and two CBC towers. Leslie says he will likely contact local TV societies in the Slocan Valley to see about installing his equipment on their towers.

Leslie added that the company owns its own fibre optic backbone in Nelson, so is able to operate independently from Telus.

He says Columbia Wireless offers high speed internet access only, and refers customers to third party providers for services such as Skype or Vonage. "They work well through our system. Our connection is reliable. We have battery backup on all our towers and a diesel generator on a few of them, so there is a good two-hour supply on every station," he said.

See www.columbiawireless.ca or call 505-4041 for more information.

When asked if he had been in touch with the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC), which has been working on a wireless system for the Slocan Valley for the past three years and recently announced that the publicly owned service could be in place by the end of the year in the southern valley, Leslie said he hadn't communicated much with the organization. "I'm my own independent company and I want to provide high speed internet. I don't want to step on anyone's toes – I just want to offer the service now to the clients of the valley," he said.

Derek Murphy of the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) said he was surprised to hear about Columbia Wireless' plans. "In light of this news, the SVEDC will have to sit down and determine our next steps," he said.

Murphy said he met with Leslie once and spoke to him on the telephone back in October, but Leslie did not seem to want to discuss his plans with the SVEDC. "He did not tell us whether he was or wasn't planning to come in to the Slocan Valley," reported Murphy, who added, "Our goal is to get high speed to the largest number of people possible in the valley, not to run a publicly owned system."

Parklands Society sued

submitted

The Rosebery Parklands Development Society (RPDS) is currently being sued by lot owners Brian and Mary Jane Sykes, whose property borders the Rosebery Parklands. The Sykes installed a private dock on the foreshore in Rosebery Bay.

The Sykes have filed a writ against the RPDS in the BC Supreme Court. After lengthy discussion, the current board has filed a Statement of Defense, disputing the claims.

It is the intention of the society that the lakeshore remain public in fact, in law, and in appearance.

Further details will be available at the Society's AGM September 1st at 12 noon (11 am memberships available), at the Silverton Gallery.

The Suzuki Valhalla Institute performed their final concerts of this year's week-long camp on August 10. Daphne Hughes described this year's camp as "the best ever." There were 81 participants.

Enterprise Creek bridge replacement plans unchanged

by Jan McMurray

The Springer Creek fire has not changed the Ministry of Transportation's plans to replace Enterprise Creek bridge, according to ministry spokesperson Lisanne Bowness.

"The project is going ahead as planned. The fires have not impacted delivery of this project," she said. The project is scheduled to begin in September and to be completed by June 30, 2008.

The $2.9 million contract has been awarded to Mijomon Holdings Ltd. of Galloway, BC. The work involves replacing the existing single-lane wooden structure with a new two-lane, 18-metre arch pipe structure and improving the approaches.

The paving of Highway 31A between Kaslo and New Denver is currently being completed. An approximately 15-kilometre portion of the highway from kilometre 31.4 to the Village of Kaslo is being resurfaced. The $4.7 million contract was awarded to Interoute Construction Ltd. out of Crescent Valley and includes re-surfacing of a significant number of district side roads in the Kaslo, Balfour, Harrop and Proctor areas. The project should be completed by September 30.

Coco Love Alcorn plays Silverton Gallery

Whether it's touring North America opening for Ani DiFranco, making videos with Kinnie Starr or writing songs with Marc Jordan, Coco Love Alcorn has been a unique and powerful Canadian musical force for over a decade.

The critically acclaimed vocalist first made her presence felt with the independent release of her eponymous debut in 1995. The album introduced Canada to a stunning new vocalist who displayed a mastery of technique well beyond her years. Following the release, Coco quickly established herself as an artist to watch. Throughout the late '90s, she became an in demand performer with high profile appearances at Lilith Fair in Vancouver and The Stardust Picnic in Toronto.

Coco Love Alcorn will be playing the Silverton Gallery on August 23. The Silverton show will be in the beginning leg of her cross-Canada tour playing duo shows with Vancouver guitarist Neil Cruikshank.

Telus to go ahead with cell service in New Denver

by Jan McMurray

Cell service will be available in New Denver by the end of September.

In an August 13 letter to the New Denver mayor and council, Brock Enderton of Telus says work at the CBC tower will likely begin again within two weeks and be completed by the end of September.

"Based on our 53-day review of the site and other alternative sites, we have determined this is the best option and will be moving ahead with the addition of an antenna to the existing CBC tower. The advantage is that no additional tower will have to go up," said Telus spokesperson Shawn Hall.

Enderton points out in his letter that costs Telus has already incurred in construction at the site cannot be recovered if the site were to change. He says Telus has determined that there is no suitable location for the equipment outside of Village boundaries. Also, in response to council's preference for transmission lines and telecommunications equipment to be located 500 metres outside of residential areas, he notes that there are no such sites within the Village.

What's the deal with treaties?

Learn about treaty making in British Columbia by attending a public information meeting being hosted by the BC Treaty Commission.

7 p.m. Wednesday, August 22, 2007
Bosun Hall, New Denver

All welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

This is an ideal presentation to prepare you for the upcoming public information meeting for the Westbank First Nation treaty table being held in New Denver September 6, 2007.

For more information call 1-800-665-8330 or email to info@bctreaty.net

100-mile diet lifestyle the subject of Vallican potluck and market

submitted

The Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society (RARTS) is saying: "100-Mile Diet? Of course, fabulous idea! And while we're at it, why not the 100-Mile Life?" On Saturday, August 18 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre, RARTS is hosting a 100-Mile Market from 10 am – 4 pm and a 100-Mile Potluck at 5:30. Organizers are describing the event as "a celebration of local abundance and sustainability." Admission is by donation, although there will be a small vending fee.

At 7 pm that evening, FLIKS is showing the award-winning National Film Board film by Eve Lamont, *The Fight for True Farming*. The film has been "flying off the shelf" at the NFB.

The market will feature anything created within a 100-mile radius of Vallican, as well as an array of fresh produce and other food products. Non-profit organizations can display their information and vend their fundraising items for free. If you make saleable goods, come to the market and let everyone see just how self-sufficient we can be here. If the materials that go into your products and crafts aren't sourced locally, you can still sell them.

"We're not going to be purist about this," says market organizer Moe Lyons. "What we'd like, though, is for vendors to make one or more items from local materials, and/or put together a page of information indicating just what would make it possible for you to make your products from materials closer to home."

"We can't wait to see how many innovative ways people find to prepare zucchini," says organizer Rita Moir. "We're also hoping that some people will try to see just how complex a mix of ingredients they can find within 100 miles of here."

The event is being held in conjunction with the Eat Local campaign sponsored by Community Food Matters in Nelson and the surrounding area. RARTS drew inspiration for this event from The *100-Mile Diet*, by Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon. An account of the event will be added to their blog. Jennie's Gardens will have copies of the book for sale on site.

Another 100-Mile Potluck is planned for the the winter. For more information, and especially to sign up to be in the market, contact Moe at 226-7730 or email her at meadow@netidea.com.

Slocan council, August 8: No public questions allowed

by Don Currie

Slocan council met for an abbreviated meeting on August 8 after a public notice was posted on July 20, signed by Mayor John Van Bynen, which read: "Please take notice that on the advice of lawyers acting for the Village of Slocan, all regular council meetings and other public meetings are suspended until further notice."

A second public notice signed by the Mayor stated that at the August 8 meeting, council would complete the agenda of the July 11 meeting and then proceed to the agenda of the regular August 8 meeting. The July 11 meeting had ended in confusion and was adjourned by the Mayor before the agenda was completed. The notice also stated that no delegations or questions from the public would be permitted at the August 8 meeting. An RCMP police officer was in attendance at the August meeting.

The meeting opened with a request by Councillor Ellis that an item be added to the agenda on the upcoming poker float. She also queried if Bylaw 549 dealing with an auditor's recommendation on per diems would be debated. The mayor permitted the item on the poker float to be added to the agenda, but ruled out debate on Bylaw 549.

Council proceeded to adopt the minutes of the June 21 meeting. The disbursements were approved, with Councillors Ellis and Perriere voting against the motion. Councillor Perriere presented a form used in 2004 that she said would solve some of the concerns about what items were covered by cheques listed in the disbursements. The mayor said the form should be passed on to staff as a suggestion. Council then passed a resolution to adopt the new fee schedule recommended by the RDCK inspection branch that will be attached to Building Bylaw 430.

The meeting was adjourned without any explanation as to what had caused Village lawyers to advise council that regular meetings be suspended, or why delegations and questions from the public were disallowed. The next regular meeting of council is scheduled for the second Wednesday in September.

Sandon Museum summer student Sophie Kolodziejczyk pulls the winning 1897 Reco Avenue photo print winner's name – A. Beketor of Crofton, BC – from Hank Hasting's hat with Judith Maltz looking on at the close of the museum's Open House on August 6.

New Denver mayor's message

As of press time, the forest fire danger to residents living near Enterprise Creek has receded enough that they have been allowed to return to their homes. That they can do so is due somewhat to the caprices of nature and a whole lot to the efforts of hundreds of people working thousands of hours over what would otherwise have been their August holidays. On behalf of those of us lucky enough to live here, I want to thank:

• New Denver Councillor Ann Bunka, who left her own business to spend days and nights as the Village's Municipal Emergency Plan Coordinator, as well as volunteering to be the Satellite Liaison Officer for the regional district's emergency program;

• Carol Gordon, New Denver's Chief Administrative Officer, and her Executive Assistant Catherine Allaway, who – with great volunteer help from Dawn Lindstein, Nancy Guise and Chyoko Reitmeier – kept the Operations Centre open 24 hours a day;

• Fire Chief Leonard Casley and every volunteer firefighter, who – as ever – answered the call;

• Emergency Social Services Coordinator Valerie Piercey and all of you who worked with her to make sure all evacuees had the shelter, food and medical services they needed;

• Public Works employees Mike Simpson and Nick Reitmeier, who kept a 24-a-day watch on our emergency water system generators during the power outage;

• Councillors Bonnie Greensword, Katrine Campbell and everyone who went door-to-door to every house in town to provide information about the fire, power, and water situations;

• All of you who kept our volunteers fed and flooded with homemade treats;

• RDCK Fire Services Coordinator Bernie Van Tighem, RDCK Sub-regional Coordinator Terry Warren and more than a dozen "friends you may not have known you had," who not only staff the regional district office in Nelson but spent their August long weekend manning the regional Emergency Operations Centre around the clock;

• Area H Director Don Munro and RDCK Vice-chair Josh Smienk;

• BC Hydro crews who did a truly exceptional job of limiting power interruption to our community and providing us with additional backup generators (we also have our own) to assure basic emergency power;

• Bob Varaleau of Telus – an evacuee himself – who quickly wired together an excellent emergency communications centre at the Village office;

• The men and women of our provincial forest service, highways service, health services, emergency program service and the RCMP, whose professionalism has been recognized by so many.

My thanks to all of you for your understanding during our power outage, your commitment to conserving water which might be needed by our firefighters, your upbeat approach to dealing with this emergency, and most of all, your immediate and ongoing concern for each other.

Mayor Gary Wright, New Denver

NOTICE

The Village of Silverton Annual and Financial Report is now available for public inspection at the

Municipal Office
421 Lake Avenue
Monday through Thursday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Annual Report and Financial Report will be presented to Council at the Public Meeting to be held on:

Tuesday, August 28, 2007
at 7:00 pm
Council Chambers

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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

Hills Garlic Fest is Coming!

September 9, 10 am - 5 pm

Larger grounds, more garlic, more entertainment!

Kootenay Grass Band, Brisas del Palmar & Children's entertainers

Admission: $3.00
Children 12 & under: Free

Advance tickets: Still $2.00 - available at the Friday Market starting August 24.

Come join us for this great community event!

Sponsored in part by CBT

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

Remember: No dogs please!

LIFETIME WOOD TREATMENT

LifeTime Wood Treatment has been treating marinas, houses and decking for over 60 years with a recipe handed down through three generations of wood-working craftsmen.

This product is unique to the world of stains. In this age of concern about our environment, both consumers and contractors are very receptive to products that are low-toxic and friendly to nature.

Lifetime Wood Treatment is an Eco-Friendly, Non-Toxic Wood Treatment that lasts a LIFETIME!

LifeTime Wood Treatment is:

Non-Toxic - The natural substances penetrate the wood fibres, permanently modifying the wood structure. Independent laboratory testing confirms that LifeTime creates no harmful residue in soils and water. LifeTime is friendly to plants, animals and people and can be used in direct contact with garden soil.

Easy to Use - A powder concentrate available in 3.8 liter/1 gallon and 19 liter/5 gallon packages. Just mix with water. Apply to bare, untreated or pressure treated wood using normal application methods. An all-purpose treatment for all new wood without need for maintenance. There is no need to ever scrape, re-stain or worry about fading and wear.

Inexpensive - The suggested retail price for 3.8 litre/1 gallon package of concentrate is $17.95 CAD. In powder form, LifeTime can be stored indefinitely. Because you only mix what you need, you will never have large amounts of LifeTime solution left over.

LifeTime Wood Treatment has been applied to all of these signs.

Available at

SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES

216 Lake Avenue, Silverton
Phone: 358-2293
Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588
sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca

BUILDING CENTRE

True Value Hardware

Build, Bail and Sail provides more than a few laughs

by Jan McMurray

At this year's Build, Bail and Sail event on the August long weekend in Nakusp, it was proven out that experience really does count.

There were seven teams of two. Three of the teams were very experienced, three were first-timers and the one female team was slightly experienced.

The three experienced teams placed first, second and third and the slightly experienced female team placed fourth. One of the first-time teams got shipwrecked, while the others simply went down with their ships.

Boat #1 ('Joke 1'), built by Joe and Kevin Desrochers, was the first place winner. Joe has won more than once in the past, and the team worked from a boat design Joe has used before. "We're perfecting the design, making it more streamlined and lighter," reported Joe while building the watercraft.

Roger Waterfield and Darin Garnett, building Boat #4, were the second place team. Even though this was only Garnett's second time in the race, Waterfield has placed first in this event countless times. "We're cleaning up an old design – this is the third time for this one," said Waterfield, explaining that the shape was the same, but they were trying a new way to build it.

The other seasoned team, Keith and Curtis Desrochers, placed third. Keith won the race with his dad (Joe) last year, and wanted to race "against him and beat him" this year. Better luck next year! Their Boat #2 ('Millenium Falcon') was a completely new design for the Desrochers boys.

Fourth place – last but certainly not least – was valiantly won by Terry Irving and her mother Kit. They built 'Kitty,' Boat #7. Terry entered last year with her father, and tried a new boat design this year. Although far behind the three other teams, the women showed incredible determination and perseverance. The rescue boat approached them during the first heat and offered to throw them the rope, but the women refused. "When we start a job, we like to finish it," said Kit when they finally came ashore. They discovered that the boat would float better upside down, so made a few adjustments between heats, but to no avail. The boat was a slow-poke, no matter how you rode it.

Now to the three first-time, losing teams. Boat #3, built by Owen Scott and Brenden Reimer from Nakusp, and Boat #5 ('The Hunley'), built by Steve Leach and Jim Peters from Vernon, who had no power tools, sank. Boat #6 was built by Brett Zeleznik and Dane Olsen of Nakusp. "We're just hoping to make it to the water," they said during the building phase. Well, they accomplished that goal, but not much more. The boat fell apart in the first heat, to be the only shipwreck of the day.

'Joke 1,' built by Joe and Kevin Desrochers, was the winner of this year's Build, Bail and Sail event. Joe Desrochers won last year as well.

Steve Leach and Jim Peters of Vernon joined the fun for the first time this year. They built their boat without any power tools. It sank.

August long weekend Sandcastle contest results

There were 14 entries in the second annual Sandcastle Contest during Nakusp's August long weekend festivities. Results were as follows:

Children 12 & under – Castle Theme 1st: King Neptune Junior's Castle – Tamara & Lindsay Cann, Trinity Miller, Amy Surina, Hannah, Rebecca & Hunter Guidon; 2nd: Pentagon Castle – Patrick & Devin O'Brien; 3rd: Castle Dirt – Adam, Cailan & Connor McQuair, Jacob Hammond, Clinton Surina, Michael Guidon, Nathyn & Dougan McGinnis.

Children 12 & under – Open Theme 1st: The Flying Angel Heart – Sarah-Mae Perry, Tera Nicholson, Ayla Vondette

Family Category – Castle Theme 1st: Castle Rock - McLeod Family; 2nd: Princess Castle - McQuair & Miskulin Families.

Family Category – Open Theme 1st: Ariel – Spavor Family; 2nd: Sally the Sea Dragon – Anderson & Andrew Families; 3rd: Arwin the Dragon – Moody Family.

Open Category – Castle Theme: No entries.

Open Category – Open Theme 1st: Beachbug – Helen & Grace de Wit, Jamie Sokoloski, Emily & Kimberly Kosmynka; 2nd: Features of the Arctic – Shawn Coady, Jacob & Zachary Schofield.

People's Choice Award: Beachbug – Helen & Grace de Wit, Jamie Sokoloski, Emily & Kimberly Kosmynka. Carson's Corner sponsored the sandcastle trophy.

Thank you to the judges: Kathy Bone, Leon Pendleton and Kyle. Thank you to sponsors: Carson's Corner, Mayor Karen Hamling, Rec Commission #4, Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce, Nakusp & Area Development Board, True North Forestry Ltd.

The People's Choice Award and first place in the open category in this year's sandcastle contest went to the Beachbug, sculpted by Helen & Grace de Wit, Jamie Sokoloski, and Emily & Kimberly Kosmynka.

Slo-Pitch results for long weekend tournament

Kelowna's 'Browns' won the 21st annual Slo-Pitch tournament held in Nakusp on the August long weekend. Second place went to the Young 'Uns, a team that calls Nakusp home. The Eagles from Cheney, Washington placed third and the Bandits, another local team, placed fourth.

Most sportsmanlike team went to the Nelson team; the Most Valued Player was Corey from the Browns; the Most Valued Female Player was Abby Jones from the Young 'Uns; Best Pitcher went to Kyle Weatherhead from the Young 'Uns.

As the long weekend drew closer and the fire season was heating up, organizers decided to cancel the event, but then decided to go ahead with the tournament. They ended up with 13 teams out of 23 that had registered to come initially. One of the organizers noted that this "ended up being a good thing considering that Helen Zeleznik Park was unusable after the Music Fest. There were many holes in the outfield that would be dangerous to play on, so we had to make do with the two other parks." She added, "We had a great turnout of fans and great weather throughout the weekend."

The Bandits get another run in, playing against Kaos on Sunday. The Nakusp team placed fourth in the 21st annual Slo-Pitch tournament.

Terry and Kit Irving were the only women in the race. The fourth place winners, they were way behind the others, but showed great determination and finished the race.

Young talent joined Nakusp band 'Switchback,' host of the Classic Cars and Country Music show on Sunday of the August long weekend in Nakusp.

16th annual Kaslo Jazzfest features an eclectic range of artists

Ndidi Onukwulu and Madagascar Slim played together on Sunday evening.

Mythmaker, this year's children's and family entertainment, had some fantastic costumes.

The crowd couldn't help but get up and dance when Rastrillos took to the stage on Saturday.

Stilt walking was only one of many talents shown by Mythmaker, a multi-disciplinary artist collective performing at this year's Jazz Fest.

Simone, Big Bad Blue, belts out some awesome tunes.

Raven Gregoire, of Winlaw, had his face painted at the Kaslo Jazzfest, Sunday.

Ndidi Onukwulu, young Canadian blues artist, has a voice that wowed the crowd at Kaslo Jazz Fest.

Bruce Cockburn played many favourites on Saturday night of the Kaslo Jazz Fest, including 'Wondering where the lions are' and 'Lovers in a dangerous time.' He also played a tune that was inspired by a trip to a natural hot springs in our area in the '70s.

The Blind Boys of Alabama were the closing act at this year's Jazz Fest.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR THE CHANGING CLIMATE, CHANGING BASIN INITIATIVE

Changing Climate, Changing Basin is a community based planning and action initiative that will work with selected communities, within the CBT area, to assist them in identifying local community sensitivities to climate change and its impacts, and then develop and implement a proactive adaptation plan to meet these challenges.

The project is being initiated by the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) in partnership with a variety of provincial, federal, first nation, and regional government agencies, and academic institutions.

The Project Coordinator for the Changing Climate, Changing Basin initiative will work closely with the Project Advisory Committee, the project assistant and other project partners.

For a project description and detailed outline of this position, the qualifications, skills, and experience required, visit CBT's website at www.cbt.org/about/main.asp?fl=10&pg=career or call Charlene Desrochers at 1-250-344-2911 or email at cdesrochers@cbt.org.
Applications must be submitted by September 7, 2007 by 4:30 pm MST

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org

Nakusp's sewer upgrade imminent, according to consultants

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp has a good chance of getting a government grant to upgrade its sewage treatment system, and Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering and Luce Paquin of Galena Environmental Consulting gave a presentation about the project to a small number of people at a public meeting August 9 at the arena.

The government has reviewed the Village's grant application, and has asked for an environmental assessment by August 15. Paquin explained that the assessment entails assessing any impact the project may have on vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat or on First Nations archaeological sites in the project area. Paquin said the project area had already been "highly disturbed," so she did not foresee that the government would have any concerns.

Nakusp's present system consists of three lagoons, which drain into infiltration basins. Waste water is treated by aeration and bacteria in the lagoons, then soaks into the ground from the basins. However, the basins have not worked effectively since they were built, because they were built in "bad soil to start – the gravels were already plugged up," explained Shephard.

This is the main reason that council hired Delterra to come up with a solution. Also, the system is located on the north side of Kuskanax Creek, just 700 metres from the lake. Its proximity to the creek poses a risk to the creek, and it is possible that ground water is being affected by the plugged basins.

The new system will use the existing lagoons. A narrow strip of the forested area between the lagoons and the basins will be cleared (30 foot wide trench dug) to make way for a building, which will house sand filtration, ultraviolet disinfection and chlorination equipment. Four of the six existing basins will be made into one reservoir for storage of the treated waste water that will be used to irrigate Village parks. Two of the existing basins, which are functioning well, will be kept for backwash water when the filters are being backwashed, and as a back-up system in case something goes wrong with the new system. Treated waste water that is not destined to be reclaimed for irrigation will be discharged into a very deep part of the lake. Government regulations require that it be discharged to a minimum of 30 metres deeper than the low water level and over 100 metres out from the low water line on shore.

CAO Bob Lafleur said that the water discharged into the lake will have a lower coliform count than what has been recorded in the Kuskanax. Government regulations allow 2.2 coliforms per 100 ml for the reclaimed water. The water being discharged into the lake can have 200 coliforms per 100 ml.

Shephard said no one lived near where the discharge will enter the lake, and it is so deep that there is no plant or fish life there. He explained that government regulations state that the water that is being reclaimed for irrigation must be chlorinated, while the water being discharged into the lake must not be chlorinated – they have found that chlorine affects fish.

Also, he said the Village will have to hire a contractor to sample the water twice a month for the first three years, and Village staff will have to do regular sampling. "There will be a strict sampling protocol until everyone is comfortable," he said. Two of the staff are qualified to operate the plant, he said, but extra training will probably be needed. "Part of the contract will be training."

The new system will be able to handle twice the amount of waste water than it currently processes. The lagoons are built to handle 1.2 million litres per day, and because of the plugged basins, the system is running at only 600 litres per day. Currently, there are about 900 hookups to the system, so the new system should be able to take 900 more connections. The treatment plant will be linked to the SCADA computerized system, so Public Works will be alerted if something goes wrong.

This area of town, the Kuskanax fan, is slated for residential and resort development, and CAO Lafleur asked about odour. Shephard said that about the only thing that can be done is to operate the plant as well as possible. He said the only time there would be foul smells would be when the plant is overloaded and cannot keep the waste oxygenated. He said it would be possible to upgrade the plant in future to deal with solids before they enter the plant, through composting, for example. Shephard warned against septic trucks dumping into the lagoons, while some members of the public said products such as petrol products and pharmaceutical medications kill the bacteria that are essential to the breakdown of the solids. Mayor Hamling acknowledged that public education around this would be a good idea.

Another resident asked that some landscaping be done around the area to hide what he called an "eyesore."

Shephard said he hoped to lay the reclaimed water pipeline using the existing easement for the sewage pipeline and CPR right of way. However, some of this may be private property, so he said he would research this further.

Shephard said the irrigation would come online in phases, as things would have to be retrofitted. He said the new community park expansion would be a good place to start the reclaimed water program.

The grant program, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), will cover 2/3 of the total cost of the project, which is estimated at $971,071. The Village portion, $323,690, will come out of reserves, community works fund, gas tax rebate and surpluses from Village operating funds. There will be no tax increase to pay for the project.

Good reasons for this project, other than the malfunctioning basins, are that Village water can be used for domestic use and not irrigation; the reclaimed water is sustainable; and cleaner effluent will be disposed to the environment.

If all goes well, Shephard said the design would be done over the fall and work could start in the spring. He said the deadline for the plant to be operational was March 2010.

Residents pointed out that while excavation work was being done on this project, it would be a good opportunity to work on getting water supplied to the Kuskanax fan area of town. Lafleur said he would look into this.

Constable Doug Robinson is the newest member to Nakusp's RCMP detachment.

Nakusp's newest constable gets 'broken in' by Music Fest

by Jan McMurray

Constable Doug Robinson is the newest officer at the Nakusp RCMP detachment.

He comes to Nakusp from Vernon, where he was stationed for 13 years. Robinson has been with the RCMP for 30 years – half of that time in small towns and half in bigger centres.

"I've had a taste of both small town and big town policing, and I like the small town a little better. You feel like you've made a difference in a smaller detachment," he said. "It's kind of fun driving down the main street of Nakusp in a police car and having people wave," he added.

Robinson was happy to come to Nakusp because of the size of the village and because he is still reasonably close to his children, who live in Vernon. He arrived about a week before Music Fest, and was very impressed with the event.

"Something like this in another town would be a mess, but this was great. I'm impressed with the organization and the people who attended. My son and daughter are coming next year – I'd encourage anyone to come to this festival."

Robinson was raised in Nova Scotia, but "BC is home now." He says he is happy to be in Nakusp and looks forward to the next three years here.

It takes a regional community to respond to an emergency

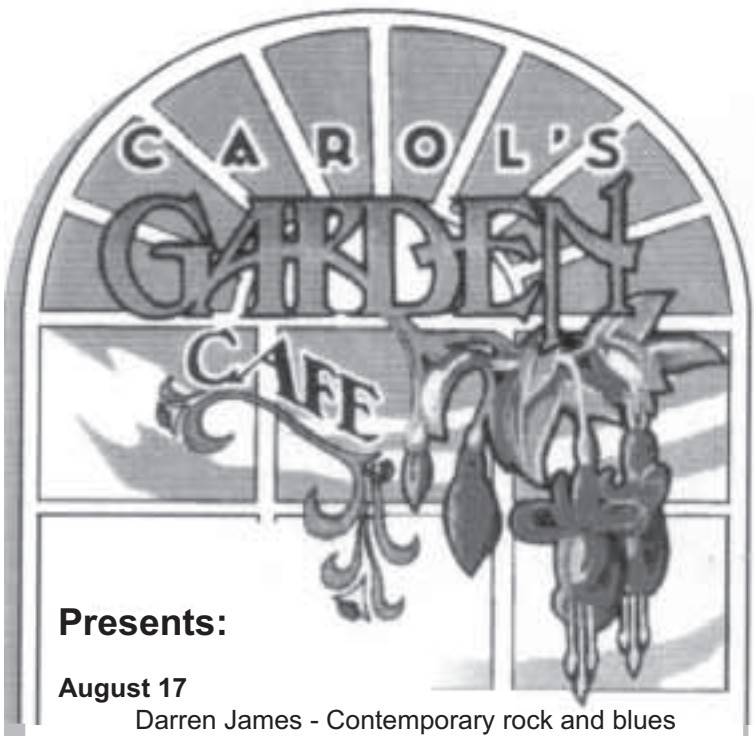
by Jan McMurray

Terry Warren, Emergency Co-ordinator for the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valleys, was one of many busy people during this year's fire season.

Agencies involved in the emergency response efforts include the Ministries of Forests, Transportation and Environment, BC Hydro, Interior Health Authority, RCMP, Provincial Emergency Program, the RDCK, the municipalities, the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre, the Emergency Operations Centre in Nelson and satellite offices, Emergency Social Services, Search and Rescue and local volunteer fire departments. There are hundreds of people involved.

"Everybody did a phenomenal job," said Warren. "From top to bottom, everybody pitched in. Local politicians and municipal and RDCK staff worked together and helped in any way they could. The forestry front line firefighters did an excellent job. BC Hydro did their best to accommodate and help us. The RCMP delivered alerts all night long one night. Emergency Social Services reported that the evacuees were great people to work with. It was amazing."

Warren wants to stress that everyone should be prepared at all times for the first 72 hours of any emergency. He also urges homeowners to firesmart their properties.



Presents:

August 17
Darren James - Contemporary rock and blues with guest chef and a barbecue in the garden

August 24
Greek night with double belly dancer delight, Zahira and Brendalee
Greek platter dinner

August 31 - LAST EVENT OF THE SUMMER
The Garden Cafe's world famous lasagna
Super Jam Session, hosted by Charlie Fisher and friends from deep in the heart of Lumby - Good country rockin'!
All musicians welcome

All dinners served from 5-8 pm
Performances start at 7 pm - $6 at the door

COME CELEBRATE 10 YEARS at CAROL'S GARDEN CAFE

Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:
Nakusp and District Fall Fair
Saturday, September 8

Prima Materia
Global Gift Discoveries
Inspiring Arts & Crafts
textiles . objects . artworks
New custom made functional pottery by Susan Janzen
Visit us this spring and summer for fabulous gifts, furniture and home decor with a world beat twist
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alfa guild
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Celebrating our 10th year, we are proud to present our 5th exhibition for the Summer of 2007
"DAYS AT THE KOHAN GARDEN"
BOUKJE ELZINGA/TSUNEKO KOKUBO
(Painters)
Wed, Aug 22nd through Sun, Sept 9th, 2007
Opening Reception 6 - 8 PM Friday, Aug 24, 2007
Currently showing.....- INTERPLAY-
SUSAN ROBERTSON (Pottery and ceramic art)
Until Sun, Aug 19th, 2007
Gallery hours: 12-4 Wed thru Sunday

The Vikings came out to this year's Poker Float down Slocan River, August 12. They won the 'Best Hats' prize.

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
RENTALS: Power and pull-carts available
Juniors' Night Mondays at 4:00 • Seniors' Morning Mondays • Mens' Night Thursdays • Two-for-one golf Fridays after 2:00 pm plus WING NIGHT!

NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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

THE THIRD EDITION OF THE POPULAR

Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook

IS NOW AVAILABLE AT:

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

Silverton: Silverton Bigway
Gaze 'n Chat
New Denver:
The Valley Voice
Eldorado Market
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Mountainberry Foods
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• Centennial Campground

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• 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.
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McDonald Creek Provincial Park
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Rosebery Provincial Park
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• Selkirk Inn Ph: 1-800-661-8007 / (250) 265-3666 Fax: (250) 265-4799

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

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• 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.

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MUSEUMS

• Sandon Museum & Visitors' Centre (250) 358-7920 www.slocanlake.com/sandon

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• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288

The only historic site in Canada dedicated to telling the WWII internment story. Located in *The Orchard* in New Denver, open 7-days-a-week 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

• Arrow Lakes Historical Society Ph/Fax: (250) 265-0110 265-3323 alhs@netidea.com

e-mail: alhs@columbiacable.net Location: 92B - 7th Avenue NW (BC Hydro building). Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 - 3:00. Archives and publications. Best source for area history and family research.

• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201

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

Summer Hours: Wednesday – Sunday: 11 – 5 • Monday – Tuesday: 11 – 3
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Glacier Creek forestry road standoff resolved through negotiation

by Art Joyce

The blockade on the Glacier Creek forestry road was discontinued on August 2 as a result of negotiations between protesters, Area D Director Andy Shadrack, and Kootenay Lake Forest District Operations Manager Bruce Fraser.

Protesters had blockaded the road since mid July, turning away motorized traffic, citing concerns over unsafe road conditions and objecting to its use as a potential inroad to the Glacier/Howser independent power project. Protesters Mick and Gabriela Grabowsky, who live up Glacier Creek forestry road, were especially concerned that the condition of the road could expose them to liability issues near their Rainbow's End Ranch property.

Bruce Fraser arrived at the blockade the afternoon of August 2 with a working agreement for consideration. Fraser said he preferred mediation to confrontation and wanted to avoid obtaining an injunction. He said he told protesters he had no problem with an information booth on the Glacier/Howser hydro project being set up alongside the road.

Under discussion during the meeting with Fraser were construction on Glacier Creek road, and scheduling right of way repair across Rainbow's End Ranch during the time when bull trout would be least affected by debris and sediment entering the creek. Also discussed was the Grabowsky grazing permit application, in efforts to resolve the issue of the Grabowskys' horses grazing on crown land without a permit. By the end of the day a 'gentleman's agreement' had been reached, though Fraser still has to consult with ministry officials to formalize the agreement.

The Ministry of Forests has brought in heavy equipment to block the road with large boulders – a safety measure to prevent people driving through the slide and washout areas. This is strictly an interim measure until road repairs are completed. The road has actually been closed since spring when a slide blocked passage at kilometre 13. Then in mid-July, a rainstorm caused a washout at kilometre 14.

Eloise Charet of New Denver, one of the protesters, says the group plans to set up an information camp in the Howser Creek area very soon, and on the Grabowsky property once the road repairs are done and the road is re-opened. The Grabowskys and other protesters believe the Glacier/Howser hydro project will damage sensitive ecosystems and expose the backcountry to damaging motorized recreation. Charet said youth have chased the Grabowskys' horses with ATVs, played 'chicken' with logging trucks, and set off firecrackers in extremely dry conditions. Police have been searching the area for the culprits.

"People don't come to re-create themselves, but what I call wreck-reation," says Charet. "And all of the Duncan is subject to that kind of reckless partying, because no one's around to monitor it."

The protesters are convinced the Glacier/Howser hydro project is being built to facilitate the proposed controversial Jumbo Glacier Resort. Charet says 90 percent of the people who came to the blockade were fine with it and even signed the petition against the Glacier/Howser hydro project. She believes too much logging has been done in the area already, endangering the inland temperate rainforest so badly needed to help offset rising CO2 emissions.

"We're not giving up, especially concerning Axor [the company behind the Glacier/Howser independent power project] – we feel there's a strong connection with the Jumbo resort," says Charet. "Morally I can't accept that these people can destroy the earth and get away with it, and even threaten people who are concerned about it."

Kaslo Golf Club says thanks – a lot!

submitted by Graham Gilbert

Over 140 members and their guests turned out on August 11th to an appreciation supper staged at Kaslo Golf Club's brand new clubhouse. The event – a pot luck based around a pig roast – provided an opportunity for the executive and members to thank all those who pitched in to see it completed.

For a relatively small club (less than 150 members) it was a major project. President Barry Hill noted there were sizeable contributions from Hamill Creek Timber, Boards by George, Kaslo Community Forest, YRB, Sunshine Logging, CJ Logging, the Federal Government through its Labor Training grants, Dennis Jensen, Hugh Ellard, Barry Leathwood and a number of other people and businesses in the area. Hill noted as well that the project would not have proceeded without those club members who stepped up and purchased debentures to give the Club enough cash to buy materials needed.

President Hill proceeded to acknowledge the many members who put in literally hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. Among the leaders in doing so was Vice-President Earl Zilkie, who managed the project and volunteers and has been on the site virtually every day for the last year and a half. In a move which caught him totally by surprise he was given a life membership in the club – and a well-deserved standing ovation by all attendees.

The result is a building of which the Club and the community can be truly proud. At a cost of almost $500,000 it provides an attractive potential meeting space with handicap access, a fully equipped kitchen and a stunning view. Use of the golf course has already increased as a result of the modernized facility, and it is accepted that golfing is a major attraction for the many tourists who visit the area each year. Many of these are 'recreational' golfers who prefer the 9-hole format rather than the more daunting (and expensive) 18-hole alternatives in the area.

Barry Hill, president of the Kaslo Golf Club board of directors, presents Earl Zilkie with a lifetime membership at the appreciation dinner held August 11. Zilkie managed the construction project of the new facility as a volunteer.

Langham presents In/Visual Words

submitted

Visit the Langham Gallery for the opening of a new exhibition Friday, August 17, 7-9 pm. In/Visual Words brings together the works of master printer / designer Peter Bartl and book artist / designer Jane Merks. The exhibition runs until October 7.

"Our not-so-fine printing is about experimenting with textures, layers and the wild side of ink! At pb+j press, we produce limited edition artist books, typographic art prints and unusual ephemera using the obsolete technology of letterpress printing, cool papers, fabric, found objects and whatever strikes our fancy."

Peter Bartl graduated from the College of Design in Basel, Switzerland with further studies in England, Holland, Switzerland, Canada and USA. He taught Visual Communication Design at the Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta from 1971 to 2000 and has received numerous awards for his work.

Jane Merks received a Master of Design from the University of Alberta, Bachelor of Design from NSCAD University, Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University; and has extensive teaching experience in Visual Communication Design at various universities and colleges.

Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, 1-4 pm. Visit www.thelangham.ca for more information.

The Sacred Side of Jazz

submitted by Mary Stickell

There was a full house on Sunday August 5 at St Andrew's church in Kaslo for the morning service, addressing the sacred side of Jazz. Even though the featured Jazz group cancelled out the day before, some musicians from the Jazz Festival filled in, and Rev. Shelley Stickel-Miles pulled together a time of spoken word, singing in rounds, accompanied by some great brass, and the event was an outstanding success.

The donations were generous, and will be used for the re-roofing project at the church, and some financial support for the young family whose house and all their possessions were lost in the fire of last week. The response from all the jazz festival visitors was very gratifying, and there were many requests that this service be repeated next year.

Jenna Gailan Shell performed at Shimmer Apparel, downtown Kaslo, during the Jazz Fest weekend.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

An odd roadside attraction

I have three favourite roadside stops here in the West Kootenay, and they are the wharf at Ainsworth, the bridge on Perry's back road, and the Silverton Lookout. A couple of weeks ago when I was at the lookout there was an added attraction that may not happen again. No one was hurt, but it did involve a wild animal....

I like the Silverton Lookout for several reasons. The 12 kilometre bicycle ride from New Denver is very scenic and includes a challenging climb in lower gears. On hot afternoons there can be ravens, hawks, and eagles soaring in the updrafts. In the spring there's a pretty show of glacier lilies and even some tulips and of course there's always that stunning view of Slocan Lake and Valhalla Park.

Anyhow, recently at the end of a long and active day I felt adventurous but lazy so I fired up my Honda motorcycle and did a ride up to Silverton Lookout to watch the sunset in Nemo Creek while I enjoyed a beer. It was the evening of a super hot day, near 40 degrees, and when I rolled into the lookout lot, there was a clutter of cars but everyone was looking up the steep slope above the highway. I parked in the shade, pulled off my helmet and just had to look up to see what was the big deal.

The big deal was a moose calf far up the very steep gravel slope above the highway just opposite the parking lot. I guess the poor little fella had been moosing around the edge of the road and got spooked when a car appeared after perhaps a quiet spell. That calf was stuck way up there, unable to lunge over the top of the cutbank to get into the steep treed slope above, yet fearful of the crowd of people below gawking and filming away. Rocks and dust spilled down and you could hear the panting and wheezing of the distressed beast.

Then it was as if everyone realized they had to leave the moose alone and all the traffic dispersed and drove off. I was sitting back at the picnic table in the shade and decided to remain there silently. In minutes the exhausted creature skidded and slid part way down, fell a ways, then stumbled down to stand on the highway, played right out and wobbling back and forth. The sun was nearly set but boy, it was hot.

I heard a truck coming from Silverton pretty fast and figured that moose would get hit but amazingly the truck was the Silverton/New Denver Fire Department out for their Thursday night practice, en route to a location out Red Mountain way. What luck! Both trucks showed up actually, and right away the guys piled up and geared up to help out. Two dudes flagged traffic, several approached the moose to assess it and things seemed way better. The calf was flopped down in the ditch, unable to get up and still panting like crazy.

The guys had some water and I found a yogurt cup in the dumpster so it could have a drink. Odd cars came past but people didn't stop because of all the activity and controls. Finally the moose calf rose up and pivoted around to start moving down the ditch line south toward the curve of the highway. It started to trot and all of us trotted too, hoping to herd the calf off into the forest at a safe spot. There was the sound of a car coming in fast from the south and at that point the moose decided to scoot across the road.

The hapless people in that arriving car must have been surprised to see a young moose galloping down the centreline straight at them with a crew of anxious firemen in hot pursuit in the early evening dusk. Welcome to the Slocan, right? The car slowed down just fine, the calf crashed into the bush below the road and all ended well.

I want to say that the volunteer firefighting crew dealt with this whole scenario in an excellent manner and immediately took steps to protect both passing traffic and panting moose. A couple of the fellows are hunters and knew generally how the distressed animal might act. Everyone present played a helpful role and rose to the challenge. Here in these tiny Kootenay communities we depend on volunteerism and benevolence to provide so many of our services and I was glad to be there to see the happy ending to a rather unlikely emergency situation.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and has seen some strange things. 358-2133.

Financial Forum

with Collin Ludwar

Why are you not a millionaire?

Do you ever wonder why some people appear to be living the high life? Do you ever wish that you could be a millionaire? Do you ever wonder what you might be doing wrong? In most cases, the simple answer is it's because you're not focused and don't have the discipline that it takes. Like other Certified Financial Planners, I have the knowledge to help anyone become a millionaire. It isn't magic because the concepts are easy enough for a fifth grader to understand. Most people have already been told what they need to do so why aren't more driving Porsches and Jaguars?

The reason most individuals aren't wealthy is the same reason we have obesity in this country and why people still choose to smoke. Individuals make personal decisions with an emphasis on instant gratification and ignore the long term negative effects. Becoming rich does not happen overnight, so people make decisions contrary to what they should be doing, over and over again.

I could continue to write articles on how to save taxes, receive higher returns on investments, enhancing your estate and ways to have your business make more money. Instead I am going to show you three ways to become wealthier that can apply to virtually everyone.

Save more money! Most Canadians do not save nearly enough. This can be easily identified by the fact that most people still have contribution room left in their RRSPs. People want instant gratification! Instead of saving, they buy new boats, time shares, big screen TVs, enough junk (to make Wal-Mart one of the largest companies in the world) and a whole lot more. The number one excuse I hear is that you want to enjoy your life today. This is perfectly fine and certainly I am guilty of this too. However, don't complain that you have to work until you're 65 or that the cost of living is skyrocketing as you get older. As investment advisors, we spend a great amount of time focusing on performance returns, risk tolerances, investment styles, etc. This means nothing when you are not focused on investing enough. The best investment you can make – is to make an investment!

Protecting against the unknown – If you are actually on track to save enough money for retirement you will find it isn't enough if you or a family member becomes ill, injured or dies prematurely. So instead of buying a six pack or a fancy coffee, take your money and purchase insurance that will protect you against these life altering events.

Take advice! – Our job as financial planners is not to deliberately cause you pain. We are here to help you achieve your goals. If your goal is to live for today and not worry about tomorrow, then keep doing what you're doing. If your goal is to become financially secure, then follow the recommendations of your advisor. Clients can be too emotional and irrational when it comes to their finances. They would be much better off in the long run (even if it is a boring approach) if they simply followed the recommendations of their advisor.

There are no get rich quick schemes because creating wealth takes time, a lot of hard work and personal sacrifice. It's up to you to make wise choices, not more excuses.

Collin Ludwar B.Comm CFP is a financial planner with The Affolter Financial Group who specializes in wealth creation and risk management strategies for individuals, professionals and business owners.

Zen Cyclopaths see the world from a Kootenay perspective

submitted by Rick Millikan

Last summer, the Zen Cyclopaths of Vancouver's southern suburbs came to the Kootenays for their annual summer cycling tour. Here is an account of their trip by one of their members, who described the tour as "one of our most ambitious and fascinating."

After a sonorously snore-full evening in Castlegar's Creekside Campground, early Sunday we Zen Cyclopaths pedal off. We soon glimpse Brilliant, a century old Doukhobor commune. Persecuted in Tsarist Russia, these humanitarians immigrated to Canada and many eventually settled here. Past the tomb of their illustrious leader Peter Verigin, the swift Kootenay River converges into the Columbia.

Emerald Slocan Valley emerges past Brilliant dam. On this popular bicycle route, many cyclists travel looping 800-kilometres. At Slocan Lake's southern tip there's an exhuberant coast into Slocan past buildings with murals depicting its proud history and natural heritage.

After sweating up the first of two challenging hills outside Slocan, I pause to enjoy a spectacular lakeside panorama and then breeze downward. Swigging my thirst quencher, I grind to the next apex and let gravity pull me into historic Silverton. Arriving in New Denver I join my group refreshing in crystal clear Slocan Lake.

Monday we spin up to Summit Lake and witness the seasonal Western Toad migration. Thousands of tiny toads hop through culverts along a creek gathering in 'knots' on the beach, where males grab females in amplexus. Gelatinous eggs drift in the shallows; pollywogs wriggle nearby.

The jaunt culminates with an exhilarating descent into Nakusp. A florid pathway stretches along Arrow Lake's shoreline to a white sand beach perfect for a dip. Our Nakusp campsite borders an action packed baseball diamond. Hitching a ride to Nakusp's famed Hot Springs, we soak.

Tuesday we return to New Denver, dividing into afternoon duffers assailing the nine-hole course, and tourists visiting Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre and New Denver's two-storey museum, once a Victorian-style bank.

Wednesday we do a sunny pedal to Kaslo through a mountain pass full of early mining remnants. Goldenrod, purple knapweed, and white daisies line the roadside. The blue flowered chicory supplied miners with roots for a coffee-like-brew and salad leaves. Yellow mulleins rendered soft woolly leaves for toilet paper. At the summit along Fish Lake we spot a black bear rummaging in briars for thimbleberries.

Kaslo maintains gardens full of relics, heritage buildings and two museums including the meticulously restored *SS Moyie*. Replicated cargo fills its freight deck. Stairs lead us into the classy smoking room past a 'well stocked' bar. Eight seemingly occupied staterooms border the elegant Dining Saloon with a pantry hinting at its ample meal service. At the stern, we see the century old salon that provided refuge for women and children.

Thursday we relish Kootenay Lake vistas and soak midmorning at Ainsworth Hot Springs. Long after George Ainsworth founded this townsite, a lodge and pool developed. These facilities, including its steamy cave, were recently upgraded. Invigorated, we advance to a dedicated free cyclist campsite at Kokanee Creek. Trails fan out into pristine habitats, where we look for kokanee spawning in its refurbished channel.

Friday we pack, rack and roll along Kootenay Lake's West Arm. Crossing what locals call BOB, Big Orange Bridge, we enter bustling Nelson, a happening city where Buddha statues smile at customers through shop windows offering alternative culture publications. Its stores sell hemp-wear; and foodmarts offer organic foods.

Pedalling southward, we stop in Ymir for lunch. Only an old hotel and a few rustic structures remain of this once prosperous mining town. We camp in nearby Salmo.

Saturday we're whirling onward to breakfast in Fruitvale. Named to promote land sales, it's a pleasant bedroom community. Refueled, we pass through nearby Montrose, rise above the Columbia River, and then descend into Trail, relaxing in its riverside park. Pedalling through town and up past Cominco's huge lead and zinc smelters, we ride once more high above the blue Columbia.

In Castlegar we savour borscht, tasty dumpling perogies, and pastry pirozhki. Our tour culminates at Doukhobor Village Museum posing before Count Leo Tolstoy's statue. Tolstoy not only helped the Doukhobor immigration, he was an avid cyclist, writing: "There is nothing wrong with enjoying one's self simply, like a boy." Leo would delight in hearing about our 447 klicks of boyish splendiferous Kootenay adventure.

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WASTE DISPOSAL & TRANSFER business for sale. New Denver and surrounding areas. Contact Colin 250-358-2881.

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.

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.

YOGA - There will be no yoga at the Domes for the month of August. Yoga will resume September 6th, Thursday. The community is welcome to join morning yoga classes at the Domes during a retreat from August 26th to August 31st from 8:00-9:30 am.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY - Patrizia Menton's photo show 'Imagine Italiane' Aug 15-20. Opening Aug 17, 7-9. Music by Howard Bearham. Rabi's Art - 'Evolving Journey' Aug 22-Sept 3. Opening Aug 24, 7-9. Music by Michael Taylor.

CELEBRATION OF WELLNESS 2008 Event - We would like to send an invite out to the Nakusp community inviting you to come to our kick-off meeting Sept 22, Kuskanax lodge meeting room, 7pm. If you have an interest in being involved with the Celebration of Wellness event 2008 or have ideas for us please come along and share them with us. We hope to continue the festival yearly and it is our hopes that the event serves Nakusp and area's needs on topics of wellness. We are looking for someone to help us put together a web page. If you are that person, please contact Beverley Darnell 250-265-9977 bbdarnel@telus.net

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HELP WANTED

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SLOCAN LAKE EARLY LEARNING SOCIETY seeks qualified Early Childhood Educator for part-time position at our licensed preschool in New Denver, BC. Applicants must have Early Childhood certification with a BC License to practice, a valid first aid certificate and be willing to submit to a criminal record check. Please forward a cover letter and resume to Jan McMurray, Box 70, New Denver, BC or valleyvoice@netidea.com. All applications must be received by August 20, 2007.

AINSWORTH HOT SPRINGS RESORT has immediate openings for dishwashers, housekeeping staff and servers with min. 2 years experience. An attractive wage and benefit package will be offered to successful applicants. Reply in person, fax (250-229-5600) attention: Joyce Mackie or email resume to ahsr@hotnaturally.com.

HOME SUPPORT WORKER WANTED. Personal care and household management for active disabled male. 4 hrs/day, Mon-Fri or 4 hrs/day Sat and Sun. Part-time to start. Require Care Aide course plus First Aid Certificate, bondable, $17.50 an hr to start. Submit application to Box 433, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0 **PLEASE NOTE:** The last time this ad appeared, the Box # was incorrect.

THE CIRCLE OF HABONDIA Lending Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the financial empowerment of women and families in the region. We wish to hire a contractor to manage and administer a training and outreach program 24 hours/week. Bookkeeping and people skills an asset. Apply in writing by Sept. 7 to Box 143, Crescent Valley, BC V0G 1H0. For job description email habondia@netidea.com.

CASUAL PART-TIME BARTENDER WANTED. Nakusp Legion. Call 265-3033 for more information - send resume - Box 157, Nakusp V0G 1R0.

NOTICES

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

ROSEBERY PARKLANDS DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY AGM will be held September 1, 2007, at 11 am at the Silverton Gallery.

FOR BACKGROUND and current news about Glacier Creek Road, MoF and Rainbow's End Ranch, visit www.eloisecharet.ca/duncan.

OBITUARY

CAPTAIN IAN WELLINGTON MOORE MACKENZIE

has sailed away into still waters…

28 OCTOBER 1945 - 29 JUNE 2007

Ocean Falls, BC - Vernon, BC

Precious husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend. Marine Captain (35 years of service with the Marine Branch for the Province of BC), outdoorsman, bird feeder and keeper of the roses.

He will be deeply missed by all those he left behind in his shadow. Our lives and world will never be the same without him.

We will treasure fond memories of a man with a tender heart, cocky sense of humour, infectious laugh, bright eyes and smile. With "Too soon old, too late smart" and "straight goods, no bull" his mottos.

He is survived by his loving family: wife, Renée; sons, Sean (Wendy) and Scott (Jodi); daughter, Crystal; grandchildren, Thayne, Sophia, Lillie, Connor and Brooklyn; sisters, Heather and Marg (Allan); brothers, Rob (Wendy) and John (Andy); nieces, Megan, Robin, Emma, Sara and Courtney; nephew, Devin; uncles, cousins, in-laws and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Ian may be made to the Vernon Hospice House, 3506 27th Avenue, Vernon, BC, V1T 1S4 or to NONA Child Development Centre, 2802 34th Street, Vernon, BC, V1T 5X1. Condolences may be sent to sympathy@bowersfuneralservice.com

Arrangements are in the care of Bowers Funeral Home and Crematorium, Salmon Arm.

JOANNE EDITH SIMPSON (03/19/50) passed peacefully in her home, on the evening of July 30. She was a graceful, spiritual woman who will be remembered for her peaceful, generous nature; her wise, honest counsel; and her strong coffee.

Her daughter Angela wishes to thank everyone for their love and support. Especially the friends, volunteers, and professionals who made it possible for JoAnne to remain at home.

"In time all is revealed
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RDCK board, July 21: Community Wildfire Protection Plans in preliminary draft stages

by Jan McMurray

•The 'Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Options for Four Application Areas in the Region, Part 1,' prepared by BA Blackwell & Associates Ltd. was received in draft. Staff was requested to review the document and prepare a report with suggested recommendations for the board's consideration.

•The board adopted Bylaw No. 1907, a bylaw to implement a municipal ticketing system in the RDCK. The bylaw lists five offences that can be ticketed: Animal Control Bylaw (max. $500 fine); Defined Area K Dog Control Bylaw (max. $500 fine); Building Bylaw ($100); Areas B, F, G, I, J Unsightly Property Bylaw ($100); Area F Noise Bylaw ($200).

•Meetings will be set up with the appropriate ministers during the upcoming UBCM convention regarding: small water systems and sewerage regulations, interface fire protection & water quality; BC Transit rural transit issues; Hydro grants-in-lieu distribution.

•The RDCK was successful in its grant application for $45,038.75 under the 2007 West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative program.

•Reinhard Trautmann, Services and Waste Management Supervisor, reported that new requirements for the disposal of waste cattle material do not allow the RDCK to receive any of this waste in RDCK landfills. The board decided to send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture & Lands, requesting he intervene with the Minister of Environment and federal Minister of Agriculture to address implications of the new regulation for the disposal of bovine wastes in order to make it possible for the safe disposal of such waste in BC. Copies of the letter will be forwarded to the UBCM and local governments in the Province.

Area D

•The terms of reference for the Area D official community planning process were endorsed.

•The Community Works Fund application submitted by Director Shadrack for the Lardeau Community Hall water treatment system in the amount of $5,000 was approved.

•Area D's portion of Community Tourism funding, phase two, is $8,008.

•Discretionary grants were approved for: Blue Lake Forest Education Society $73.60; Kootenay Kids Society $ 1,600.

•Nelly Edmeads, Fletcher Creek and Fiona Daniels, Cooper Creek were appointed to the Area D Advisory Planning Commission. Letters of appreciation will be sent to Steve Scott and Jim Lawrence, who have resigned. Tom Humphries, Kaslo was appointed as Commissioner-At-Large to the Area D Advisory Planning Commission for the term ending December 31, 2008. Notice of the resignation of Joe Hawes as Commissioner for Ainsworth was accepted and a letter of appreciation forwarded.

•RDCK staff was authorized to negotiate with BC Hydro any billings from Morrow Bio-Science Ltd., which delivers the Lardeau Valley mosquito program, effective July 16 at 8 am and until a later date agreed to between RDCK and BC Hydro. It was agreed in November 2006 between the two agencies that backflooding occurs from Duncan Dam discharges above 350 cubic metres a second. Between 8 am on July 16 and 1:30 pm on July 19, BC Hydro increased Duncan Dam discharges from 332 cubic metres a second (cms) to 510 cms.

•Director Shadrack will request meetings with the appropriate ministers during the upcoming UBCM convention re: state of roads in the areas of Ainsworth, and Highway 31 north of Schroeder Creek to Howser; and upgrading of Duncan Forest Service Road north of the Argenta/ Johnson's Landing turnoff needed if Purcell Green Power Project goes ahead.

•The board authorized the release of funding for the following Financial Grant Services: Fire Contract with Village of Kaslo - $26,887; Kaslo & District Library - $28,350; Kaslo & D Regional Park - $ 5,000; Lardeau Valley Community Hall - $9,683; Kaslo & District Arena - $38,601; Argenta Community Hall - $2,106; Lardeau Valley Community Centre - $8,424; Ainsworth Community Hall - $2,106; Johnson's Landing Community Hall - $1,404; Recreation Commission No. 2 - Ainsworth Community Hall Assoc - $1,439; Argenta Community Hall Assoc - $2,697; Village of Kaslo $6,833; Meadow Creek Community Assoc - $5,575; Johnson's Landing Community Hall Assoc - $1,439.

Area H

•Director Munro allocated $2,000 of Community Tourism funding, phase one, to the Taghum Bridge project. Areas E and F are also contributing at least $2,000 to the project, which will provide a second crossing of Kootenay River in case of emergency, as well as a fishing and promenade-like site for tourism.

•Area H's portion of Community Tourism funding, phase two, is $23,929.

•Discretionary grants were approved for: Options for Sexual Health (West Kootenay Branch) $1,000; Crescent Valley Youth Centre $5,000; Crime Stoppers $300; Slocan Lake Dance Camp $300; Silverton Historical Society $300; Hills Recreation Society $2,500; Slocan City Loggers Sports $1,000; Inspiring Youth For Change $1,000.

•The board authorized the release of funding for the following Financial Grant Services: Economic Development - $ 8,375; Fire Contract with Village of New Denver - $21,416; New Denver Cemetery - $6,021; Television Area H North - $34,912; Television Slocan Valley TV Society - $29,729.

Area K

•Area K's portion of Community Tourism funding, phase two, is $10,566.

•Discretionary grants were approved for: Arrow Lakes Historical Society $2,000; Edgewood Community Internet Society $500.

•The board received a letter from the Ministry of Forests and Range expressing concern over a property with access off the Whatshan Lake Forest Service Road. There are 26 owners on the title of the property. However, it has never been subdivided, so the Ministry has never gotten a chance to make comments about the residential development of the property. The ministry is concerned about road safety and unauthorized driveway connections to the forestry road. This was referred to the Rural Affairs Committee.

•The board authorized the release of funding for the following Financial Grant Services: Economic Development - $5,734; Fire Contract with Village of Nakusp - $60,307; Fauquier Fire Service - $5,984; Nakusp Cemetery - $16,000; Nakusp Library: $68,000 - Summit Lake Ski Hill - $19,645; Burton Community Hall - $4,981; Fauquier Community Hall - $5,154; Recreation Centre - $166,404; Recreation Commission No. 4: Burton Recreation Society - $ 2,013; Fauquier Recreation Society - $1,022; Edgewood Recreation Society - $369; Inonoaklin Recreation Society - $1,382.

OBITUARY

SCHIAVON: Gerald (Gerry) of Nakusp passed away peacefully on August 13, 2007, with his family at his side after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Gerry was born in Trail on February 12, 1941.

He began his teaching career at KJSS in Castlegar, before moving to Crawford Bay, BC, where he was principal at Crawford Bay School for 22 years, retiring in 1994. Gerry and his wife Debra moved to Nakusp in 1998 and started a new business, "What's Brewing on Broadway?" Gerry became well known as the Brew Master Extraordinaire, and counseled friends and customers from his station at the Brew Shop Window.

Gerry and Debra were married in December of 1998, bringing together a family of five girls and one boy.

He had a great love of music, and was often counted on to provide entertainment with his guitar and an endless list of songs at all family and social gatherings. He played hockey, loved sports in general, and had perfected the infamous 'overhand drop shot' in bocce tournaments throughout the country. Gerry will be remembered for his sage counsel, his love of teaching, his irrepressible spirit, his love of life, and his sense of humour— always punctuated with his unforgettable giggle.

Gerry is survived by his wife Debra, six children: Gord (Annie) Schiavon, Sue (Dollard) Buchanan, Sheree Schiavon and her partner Stephen Pol, Kaela Tompkins, Ashley Tompkins, Jodi Tompkins and her partner Alex Saumaure, his four grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters: Carol (Lorne) Babcock, Laurence (Marlene) Schiavon, Pricilla (Toby) James, Louis (Diane) Schiavon, Sandy (Mike) Calder, as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Gerry's life will take place on Saturday, August 18th, 2007, at 2:00 pm at the Alliance Church (formerly Glenbank School) on Alexander Rd. in Nakusp, BC.

As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to the Arrow Lakes Hospital Foundation, 97-1st Ave N.E., Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence at the family on-line Memorial Register at personalalternative.com.

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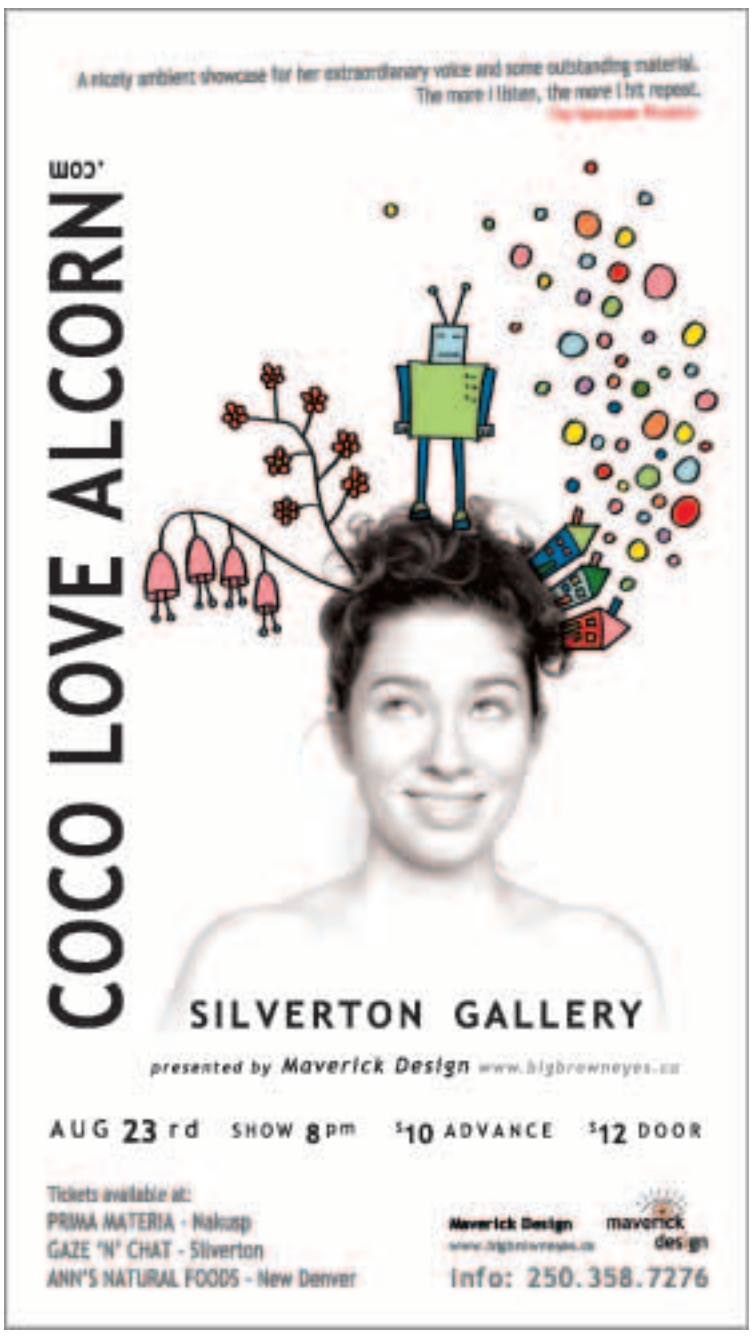

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