The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Treaty commission hears Sinixt concerns

by Jan McMurray

As a forerunner to the upcoming public meeting on the Westbank First Nations treaty negotiations, Mark Smith of the BC Treaty Commission came to New Denver to answer questions from the public about the treaty process at a meeting August 22 at the Bosun Hall.

Most of the approximately 20 people who attended were people from the Sinixt Nation and their supporters, and they had many questions and comments for Smith.

The lawyer representing the Sinixt, David Aaron, called the treaty process "offensive, tortious, reckless and proceeding to give away what it doesn't have to give."

Sinixt Chief Bob Campbell said that Sinixt land had been surveyed five times by the government. "This is our territory. We can prove it and they can't and they are trying to steal." He warned that this type of treatment makes people feel that perhaps they should protect their borders through violence. "Do you want to start a fight? Someone is going to get killed over this."

When Smith said he did not know the history of our area or the Sinixt Nation, people at the meeting were surprised and disappointed. Lawyer David Aaron informed Smith, "The way the provincial and federal governments are conducting themselves in negotiating away the territory of the Sinixt is a historical pattern. It starts with disenfranchising them of their homeland just before the Columbia River Treaty and continues to this day."

Campbell added that the Sinixt had spent 22 years fighting their extinction status. "We're the first ones in the history of Canada to be declared extinct. Why? Because of the location of our land."

Aaron said the Sinixt had applied through the courts to be recognized as status Indians as well as for a determination of their cross border rights and "they are being kept waiting."

Aaron and many people in the room said they had written letters to government and to the Westbank First Nation on these issues, and had received no reply.

"In the meantime, a process is underway that undermines their interests, which is very much in line with the community interest," said Aaron. He asserted that the process is an attempt to impose economic development on communities, and that both the Sinixt and local people had been shut out of the process.

He said the Sinixt were planning to file a claim against the federal and provincial governments in the next weeks regarding "conduct resulting in cultural genocide," and this claim would not only represent their own interests but also those of the community, which is "going the way of Kelowna." Aaron said the Sinixt were disenfranchised under the Indian Act for the same reason they are being disenfranchised under the treaty process – "so that development can proceed without any objection or concern to local interests, so that Wal Marts can be built."

In response to these concerns, Mark Smith from the Treaty Commission let the meeting know that the treaty process is a political one, not a proof of claim process. "We're facilitating a process that is political and without prejudice to other First Nations. The claims put forward by the First Nation are political claims, essentially. There is no verification done by anyone. They just have to prove they fit the definition of First Nation."

He said that there are many ways to deal with issues of overlapping territory in the treaty process. He said the two recently signed treaties contain "explicit language to deal with overlap" and added that "if there is any big infringement, there is an obligation on government to compensate, so I don't think it's reckless." Smith said that during negotiations, "all parties try to find their way through this very complicated issue" of overlap. He said that to date, overlapping concerns have dealt with harvesting rights such as the right to collect clamshells, and the right to hunt and gather. These are non exclusive in the treaties, so other First Nations are not excluded from these activities.

He said there had been court applications from nearby First Nations to stop the two recently signed treaties from being ratified, but they lost.

He said it was the opinion of the treaty commission that the treaty process was much more effective than going to court. Self-government and cultural protection are part of three treaties now, and are "big benefits," he said. He agreed that the law has not been kind to First Nations peoples. "The court process is long, expensive and uncertain, and to date there has not been one clear decision – there is not one decision yet on title."

Smith promised that he would take the concerns raised at the meeting to all parties in the treaty negotiation process: the Westbank Nation, the federal government and the provincial government.

Heather Huether, Valhalla Summer School of Music Director, is known as the force behind this very significant event. More pictures of the ninth annual VSSM on p. 10.

Controversy continues on Glacier Creek forestry road

by Jan McMurray

Glacier Creek Forest Service Road has been blockaded once again.

Earlier this summer, the road was blockaded in protest of the Glacier/Howser independent power project and concerns about the road's state of disrepair. That blockade was discontinued August 2 as a result of a 'gentleman's agreement' made between Mick and Gabriela Grabowsky, who live up in that area, and Bruce Fraser, Operations Manager of Kootenay Lake Forest District.

This time, Mick and Gabriela Grabowsky have blocked the road because they feel that the repairs the Ministry of Forests did to the road that goes through their property have made the area more unsafe than when they started. They are asking for hikers' forbearance until the issue is resolved.

Gabriela understood that part of the 'gentleman's agreement' was a promise that "a letter from the Ministry of Forests would be forthcoming to absolve us of liability in case of an accident resulting from a recent landslide on our property" where the road goes through. Then on August 21, Gabriela says they received a letter from Kootenay Lake Forest District Manager Garry Beaudry. It said that if an accident took place, "determination of liability would be addressed at the time."

"If the ministry chooses to open the road without doing further remedial work on this landslide, then they should shoulder the risk," says Gabriela. "Users are not aware of this potential danger. If the risk is minimal, then surely a letter absolving us of liability in case of mishap is no big deal. Otherwise, the road should remain closed until further safety concerns are addressed."

Bruce Fraser met with the Grabowskys in Argenta on August 22. Gabriela says it was determined at that meeting that no work would proceed until August 27, giving the Grabowskys time to have an independent engineer come and have a look. However, on August 23 and 24, the work was done. This included building a berm at the toe of the slide and "clearcutting a section of the hillside under the guise of removing danger trees," according to Gabriela. She says the independent engineer arrived August 25 and said the clearcut had made things worse.

In a telephone interview, Fraser from MoF was surprised to hear that the Grabowskys had thought the work would not start until August 27. "I sat down with them at Argenta Hall and I made notes of all we agreed to and I read all those notes back to them. I asked them if there was anything else that we needed to talk about and there was nothing," he said. "I don't recall them asking us to hold off till August 27. If that had come up, I would have written it down. I didn't want this to backfire – I wanted to make sure we were both on the same page."

Fraser said he came to an agreement with the Grabowskys at the August 22 meeting "on what needed to happen. We had a geotechnical engineer evaluate the hillside and he recommended we build a berm at the toe of the slope where it comes down to the road. We did this. The engineer also recommended the removal of some of the trees on the property. We agreed we needed clarification from the engineer, which we did, and that we would work with the Grabowskys to get the trees taken down, which we did. So the repairs are complete. The risk with respect to that hillside has been mitigated and we are prepared to open the road again."

On the liability issue, he said government lawyers had advised that indemnification for something like this is not what is normally done. "You don't go out and try and evaluate the probability of something happening and try to figure out who would be liable for something that may or may not happen."

Fraser said he hadn't seen the work that was done and he did not know why the faller would have taken down more trees than he was supposed to. He said it may have been to comply with worker's compensation safety regulations. "We leave it up to the faller to undertake the work in a safe manner," he said. The engineer and road foreman were on site on Friday, said Fraser, so "there were a lot of qualified professionals there." He said once the road foreman had confirmed that the work had been done to standard, the district manager made the decision to re-open the road.

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KDCFS gets close to finalizing application for probationary community forest agreement

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) recently held an open house as part of the public review of its revised application for a Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA).

The society is accepting written comments until August 29 and expects to submit the application to the Ministry of Forests by mid September.

Richard Marchand from the Kaslo community forest management team explained that the application had been revised to address the concerns that the ministry identified after the initial application was submitted in the summer of 2006. "We are not trying to re-invent the wheel," he explained "Everything that has already been approved by the public – it's not our task to change that. We're just trying to answer the ministry's concerns with our revisions."

Marchand explained that the government felt the original application was strong in many ways, but wanted to see more innovation and measurable commitments in the proposal. "The government made it clear that a community forest licence is different from a licence given to a for-profit, industrial company, and they wanted that to come through more in our application. The original application had some motherhood statements and non-committal statements that the government wanted tightened up."

Marchand says the society has responded to this mainly by adding Appendix IX. The appendix lists all of the objectives outlined in the proposal and states concretely how each of them will be measured. The appendix states, to give a few examples, that there will be 10 board meetings per year, 12 monthly financial reports per year, a minimum of one day per week when office staff will be available for public queries, $5,000 set aside annually in a research fund, and $3,000 set aside annually to explore recreation opportunities. Marchand explained that at the end of the five years of the probationary community forest agreement, the government will go through this appendix, item by item, to see if the number of meetings stated in fact took place and if the number of dollars stated were indeed set aside.

The society has responded to the ministry's request for more innovation in the proposal by adding a section in the Business Plan stating that KDCFS is interested in providing funding to support innovative research, education, recreation and innovation programs. Then in Appendix IX, a financial commitment has been made for each of these programs. A maximum of $5,000 per year has been committed for the research fund, for projects to do with such things as forest inventory, wildlife habitat, and hydrological issues. A commitment of $15,000 per year has been made for education programs, such as the "forest classroom" project, a "Summer in the Forest" festival, etc. A sum of $3,000 has been committed to "increasing recreational opportunities within the KDCFS landbase (trails, shelters, etc)." Finally, there is a commitment of $2,000 for each of three innovation programs: implementing alternative silvicultural systems, investigating the feasibility of a Christmas tree farm co-managed with the school, and implementing the findings of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan being done by the RDCK.

Wording has been added to the document to allow KDCFS the right to harvest, manage and charge fees for botanical forest products. Marchand said the intention here was to protect the landbase from large-scale, commercial harvest of products such as mushrooms and not to stop local people from their "right to make a few bucks." He said he knows of situations on the coast where a busload of people have come with rakes and shovels to harvest large quantities of pine mushrooms. He said there was no such abuse happening on the KDCFS landbase now, so there were no plans to exercise the right to regulate the products now. "The idea is to prevent this and protect the landbase and the only way to do that is to have control over it," he explained.

Another change is in the local hire policy. Marchand said that the management team and the board had extensive discussions on this and the board was reluctant to make the change. He explained that in the past, when there was a lot of demand for work, favouring local contractors was a good thing. However, now that there is lots of work and a shortage of contractors, the local hire policy discourages people from outside the area to bid on a contract.

When asked about the disbursement policy, which has been very controversial in the past, Marchand said the government had specifically asked that this be made clear and measurable in the application documents. Wording has been added that commits the board to updating the policy and to creating a legacy fund, which was an idea that was approved by the membership at the AGM. The concept of this fund is very similar to an endowment fund. The board will set aside 50% of the money allocated for disbursements into a bank account. Interest earned will then be available as grants to community groups.

Another addition to the application is a clear conflict resolution process. This was another item that the ministry specifically asked for. The process involves an attempt to reach a compromise between the two parties, and if this is unsuccessful, a mediator is brought in.

Marchand said that about 30 people attended the open house, and there was a lot of concern about how the public will know about KDCFS operational plans. The change from the required Forest Development Plan, which mapped roads and cutblocks, to the Forest Stewardship Plan, which is a much more general document, is the impetus of this concern, he said. The community forest is planning "to do a combination of both" by holding an initial annual open house to present a five-year plan, to be followed by another open house later in the year with a more detailed plan.

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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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Overflowing recycling bins to be serviced by new truck

by Art Joyce

Residents tired of trying to stuff their recyclables into overflowing bins have some good news. According to Jon Isfeld, Site Operations Technician with RDCK Engineering, recycling contractor Waste Management has added another truck to its pickup fleet. "That was part of the problem, that they didn't have enough vehicles," says Isfeld. "It sounds like a negative, having bins overflowing, but at least it shows that recycling has gone up. We just have to keep on top of it."

Jim Gray, fleet maintenance foreman and assistant manager for Waste Management, says they've added a third truck to the two originally used on the run.

"This year is odd, we've seen a huge increase in the amount of recyclables. We've noticed a lot of increase of materials from businesses."

Isfeld says they are aware of the problem with commercial users filling up bins, but says both residents and businesses support the recycling program with their taxes. At present the schedule is Wednesdays and Saturdays for the pickup runs in the west sub-region, which includes the Slocan and Arrow Lakes Valleys. Gray says there will be extra days added in some areas and an extra truck on the same days in others.

Waste Management is having discussions with businesses in the Slocan Valley to have them acquire their own bins. The company deals with businesses on a case by case basis.

"Even though it's a small additional cost to have their own bin, it saves them a lot in time and labour. The charge for having the bins is minimal," says Gray. "We've had a lot of good response so far – they have a good community spirit."

The RDCK is divided into three sub-regions: west (Castlegar north to Nakusp and west to Needles/ Edgewood), central (Salmo up to the Meadow Creek area) and east (east shore of Kootenay Lake to Creston/ Yahk). In the central sub-region, where recycling is run by staff instead of contractors, a separate bin will be set up for large volume users like the school board. In the central sub-region, Waste Management deals only with cardboard collection in Nelson and Ymir. Southeast Contracting services the east sub-region.

The schedule for the west sub-region has not yet been settled, Gray says, but the third truck is already in the system and the plan is to relieve the excess load by early September.

Performance review of contractors is an ongoing situation, Isfeld explains. The contract for the west sub-region is due to expire at the end of June, 2009. The RDCK keeps track of all such situations so that they may be worked into future contracts to anticipate and avoid problems.

Construction Advisory
Highway 31A

The Ministry of Transportation advises that a 15 kilometre section of Hwy 31A from the 10 Mile area to Kaslo is being resurfaced with asphalt pavement this summer. The work will include barrier replacement, shoulder widening, drainage improvements and asphalt surfacing.

Some side roads in the Kaslo, Balfour, Harrop and Proctor areas will also be resurfaced. Travellers can expect reduced speeds and minor delays of up to twenty minutes. Traffic control will consist of single lane alternating traffic.

Crews are working from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays

Until September 28, 2007
(expected completion date)

The Ministry advises that travellers may have to travel on sections of uneven pavement, and short sections of gravel. Sections of highway 31A will have areas where barrier has been temporarily removed. Temporary lane lines will also be in place until permanent lane lines can be painted.

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Nakusp Council to hear Slo-Pitch, soccer and 10th Ave. concerns before approving Music Fest community park proposal

by Jan McMurray

At a special Nakusp council meeting on August 23 to consider the Music Fest community park proposal, festival organizer Willi Jahnke hoped to get council approval to begin the logging required to build the road in the new camping area. He would like to get the logging underway soon, while people in the business are available to work. However, council decided to postpone the decision to an August 28 meeting, in light of concerns of the Slo-Pitch and soccer groups brought forward by Councillor Dahlen, and the expectation of 10th Ave. residents to have an audience with council.

The meeting began with Jahnke presenting changes made to the plan in consideration of the concerns of 10th Ave. residents, aired at an August 14 public meeting. The washroom building closest to 10th Ave. has been shifted 90°, placing it about 20 feet further away from the avenue. Three campsites have been moved as well. The entrance to the proposed new camping area has also been moved about 20 feet to the east in the revised plan, to address a safety concern of having the entrance on the corner. What could not be accommodated, Jahnke said, was moving the whole site over to the east, away from 10th Ave., because of the limited amount of space available.

Councillor Dahlen said the Slo-Pitch group was concerned that the proposed development was encroaching onto the area they use for parking and for their beer garden during the August long weekend tournament. She also said that people from the school's soccer program were concerned "that they can't use the field because it's so packed down from Music Fest." And, she said 10th Ave. residents had wanted to have an audience with council as well as with Music Fest representatives. She proposed that council withhold any decision until the Tuesday night council meeting, when these people's concerns could be heard. "Once we put this road in, we're done. We can't change it," she said.

Councillor Dahlen also took issue with the "extra campsites," as council had approved 20 sites for the first phase and there are 38 sites on the map. She was reminded that this had already been discussed and it was made clear that the road, power and water would have to be done for the entire project at the outset, even though the campsites would be completed in two stages – 20 in the first stage and the remainder in the second. Dahlen also said she was concerned that the municipal campground would look "scruffy" next to the new one. Again, she was reminded that this had already been discussed and the conclusion was that nothing could be done about that. There are no tax dollars available to upgrade the existing campground, and Music Fest cannot get funding for a project already in existence.

Jahnke took exception to Dahlen raising concerns that had been addressed long before, and mentioned that the Music Fest had already put $20,000 into the project. He said the Slo-Pitch group had not contacted him. Dahlen replied that the Slo-Pitch group had written a letter the first year and received a "negative response."

Bill Cowan spoke on behalf of a majority of 10th Ave. residents. "We have expressed a desire to see this move forward," he said, listing the few "minor concerns" remaining. He indicated that the residents wanted to see the road paved to keep the dust down, and the campsites fully serviced to address concerns around sewage. He said they also wanted consideration given to the types of trees planted and to the expense involved in maintaining them, as this cost would fall to the Village. Cowan also called for cohesiveness on this issue. "We have to work together as a community as a whole. I appreciate Councillor Dahlen's concerns about Slo-Pitch. This is something council, Slo-Pitch and Music Fest should be able to sit down together and work out."

In an interview after the meeting, Jahnke said that maintenance of the ball fields had been discussed in the past. He said it was agreed that the various groups would aim to share equipment, so the Music Fest bought a sweeper for about $6,000 that brushes and loosens soil and that is used after the festival every year. He said the school has an aerator, so the only piece of equipment missing was a tractor. He said he had not been part of discussions about the tractor for quite a while, nor about a clear plan for maintenance of the fields.

Electoral Boundaries Commission proposes new voting districts

submitted

The BC Electoral Boundaries Commission has submitted its preliminary report that recommends new electoral boundaries and names under both the current first-past-the-post electoral system and the proposed BC single transferable vote system (BC-STV).

The commission proposes three electoral districts for the Columbia-Kootenay under the current voting system, down from four, and one electoral district under the proposed BC-STV system. In either system, our region would have three MLAs.

The region the commission defined as the Columbia-Kootenay currently has four electoral districts: Nelson-Creston, West Kootenay-Boundary, Columbia River-Revelstoke, and East Kootenay. The proposed three districts would be called Kootenay East, Kootenay South and Kootenay West. The area dropped from our region includes the Boundary communities around Grand Forks. These would go into an Okanagan-based electoral district.

Most of the *Valley Voice* coverage area finds itself in the new Kootenay West district. However, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Kaslo and north to Argenta are in Kootenay South, and Meadow Creek and Shelter Bay are in Kootenay East.

The commission will hold public hearings in Castlegar October 16 so members of the public can comment on the electoral-boundary proposals before the final report is submitted by February 15, 2008. Complete information on the hearings can be found at www.bc-ebc.ca

Province-wide, the commission has proposed one less electoral district in the Cariboo-Thompson, the North region, and the Columbia-Kootenay, four new districts in the Lower Mainland and one new one in the Okanagan. This is an overall increase of two electoral districts, bringing the proposed number to 81. The commission has also proposed boundaries for 20 BC single transferable vote (BC-STV) electoral districts with between two and six members for a total of 81 MLAs.

During BC's 2005 election, the referendum on electoral reform resulted in 57.69% of eligible voters voting in favour of STV, just 2.3% shy of the required 60%. This occurred among more than 50% of voters in 77 of the 79 ridings, well above the minimum 48 ridings required. The election on May 12, 2009 will include a referendum question on STV, giving the voters of BC another opportunity to vote on electoral reform.

All-day music benefit and CD release party in Taghum

submitted

Vibe to the sensational sounds of a compilation of Kootenay artists 11am to 11pm Sunday, September 2 at the Taghum Hall, Taghum (just 10 minutes west of Nelson). The lineup for this free benefit includes Adham Shaikh, Arthur Funkarelli, Newpoetic, Green Season, Kris Ledrew, Gemmaluna and more (17 artists in all) on a sensational outdoor stage.

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NAKUSP, MON SEPT. 10, 7 PM
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AMU

VALLICAN, FRI SEPT. 21, 7:30 PM
NAKUSP, MON SEPT. 24, 7 PM
A young Indian American woman returns to her homeland to see the "real India". She finds herself drawn to the slums, but her adoptive mother resists these visits. Slowly she pieces together what happened to her birth parents. What was the truth? Why was it suppressed? 102 mins. PG

TEN CANOES

VALLICAN, FRI OCT. 12, 7:30 PM
NAKUSP, MON OCT. 29, 7 PM
"Ten canoes, three wives, one hundred & fifty spears...trouble", Unlike anything you've ever seen, this is a fascinating, entertaining & important encounter with traditional Australian Aboriginal culture. The story unfolds as a young man covets his older brother's wife. To teach him the proper way, an elder tells him a tale of love, kidnapping, sorcery, bungling mayhem & revenge gone wrong . 92 mins. PG.

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VALLICAN, FRI NOV. 2, 7:30 PM
NAKUSP, MON NOV 12, 7 PM
A celebration of the luscious music of top international Gypsy performers and stirring real life tales of their lives & backgrounds. Shot in Spain, Macedonia, Romania & India. 110 mins. G.

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VALLICAN, FRI NOV. 16, 7:30 PM
NAKUSP, MON NOV 26, 7 PM
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Voices from the Valleys

Private docks don't belong in public parks

There can be no question that the Rosebery Parklands Development Society began with the objective of creating a public park on the abandoned CPR land at Rosebery bay. It was incorporated by good-hearted people working towards a common objective. Thousands of hours of volunteer labour and many fundraisers were held in the community to make it happen. Eventually it was decided to subdivide the Parklands and sell off a number of lots to private landowners so that the dream of a public waterfront park could live on.

With the last of those lots sold, over a year ago, many in the community were looking forward to the prospect of having a regional park down in Rosebery bay. Imagine our chagrin when we went down on a sunny August afternoon, and discovered that someone had built a structure into our beloved bay, and festooned this structure with signs proclaiming it to be a "private dock." It was soon discovered that this unwanted dock had been constructed by one of the owners of one of those lots that the society had sold.

In the face of determined opposition from local citizenry, the permit to build the dock was denied. The builders of the dock hadn't waited for the permit before construction. If they had, they might have saved themselves some money, because the permit would likely have been rejected for the same reason. They don't own the foreshore. That belongs to the Parkland Society. The application was was rejected, despite the Society's Board of Directors at the time endorsing the proposal.

The issue of moorage for people who have bought land in the Rosebery Parklands doesn't have to be solved by private docks. If we allow a private dock on that bay for one adjacent landowner, we'll have to allow it for every adjacent landowner. Our public space will be so cluttered with private structures that we won't feel comfortable down there anymore.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Valley Voice read in Scotland

I get great pleasure in reading the back issues of the Valley Voice over the web (www.valleyvoice.ca). I only had two holidays in New Denver but feel in looking at the paper I am there.

Brian Griffiths
Scotland

Watch out for wasps

I had a severe allergic reaction after being stung by a wasp on my tongue while eating a sandwich at the Slocan River while getting ready for the poker float. This has never happened to me before. I developed severe itching and a rash all over my body plus swelling of hands, feet, tongue and throat.

I want to thank Rita for giving up her precious supply of epinephrine and Dr. Carolyn de Marco for injecting it. I also thank Dr. Skreenes, Alice and the other nurse at the hospital in New Denver.

It seems that wasps are particularly numerous and aggressive this summer, so watch out people, particularly when eating or drinking outdoors. I have rarely even had a local swelling before this when stung by a wasp.

Julie Betschen
New Denver

Which high speed proposal works best for us?

It seems that we now have two different wireless internet proposals for the Slocan Valley: a community sponsored one and a for-profit one.

It is worth considering how the systems proposed by these two types of providers might differ.

A community based system, such as the one proposed by the Economic Development Commission, that has as its goal connecting the broadest possible catchment of residents, will look very different from a for-profit system, which will probably service the easy-to-reach residents and ignore hard-to-reach ones, in the interest of maximizing the company's profit. This will leave many residents without service.

If high speed internet is to form part of the Valley's economic future, then it would not be good to leave some residents behind.

If it turns out that the Valley cannot fully support two systems, then the community will need to decide what kind of system will best serve its needs.

Scott Frederick
Winlaw

Thank you Slocan

I might be a little slow with my heartfelt thanks to the village of Slocan (but the depth of my sincerity grows as my life gets back together). Thanks for the incredible kindness, generosity and help in a time of stressful unbelief that a fire was about to destroy our world, our dreams, our future.

Everyone – the fire department, RCMP, forestry and the local residents and volunteers of Slocan – kept us regularly up to date with what was happening. They were there for us with anything we needed, from comfortable accommodation and meals to mental concerns, and to just listen or get answers to our many questions.

Getting back to our homes was a great relief but with all the noise of helicopters, all the smoke, not feeling comfortable to really unpack, it has taken the rain to make me feel like it's time to relax and regain some sort of normalcy. Thank you so very much Slocan, we will always remember you and look forward to visiting our many new friends.

Suzanne & Ted Blewett
Slocan

Praise to the residents of Slocan City

Watching a fire advance upon your property and finally evacuating is an emotional and stressful event. We live south of Enterprise Creek, and the recent forest fire burned just above our home, across the highway. I finally evacuated (my husband chose to stay to defend our home if necessary). At that time Enterprise Creek bridge was threatened so I and several neighbours were sent south to Slocan City. I was relatively unfamiliar with that community. Having moved here only three years ago, my focus has been north to Silverton and New Denver, where we pick up our mail and shop.

I have never experienced such a warm, generous, kind, thoughtful group of people in my life. Not only were the evacuation centre workers simply angelic in their loving (and well organized) response, but so many town folk showed up to offer us places to stay, storage space for all our evacuated precious "stuff," and even tranquil gardens to hang out in. From the workers at the Harold Street Café who were run off their feet with unusual business due to all the firefighters in town, to the campground supervisor (where I chose to stay)… it was a memorably positive experience. I am humbled by the goodwill shown to me.

Thank you again.

Andrea Saba Chambers
Enterprise Creek

Jumbo Master Plan approved

By Jove, they've gone and done it without any official peep because, as my contact tells me, the BC government figures it was a foregone conclusion that the Master Plan for the proposed Jumbo Glacier resort and real estate development would be approved - ah, yes. The process began just about three years ago when the Environmental Assessment Office granted conditional approval. And even though we've been watching and waiting, fully realizing that a major project has never not been approved, it still feels like GULP.

One would presume with this approval that all of the 99 Conditions and Commitments would be fait accompli, yet, wonder of wonders, they still don't know what to do with the grizzly bears. When I inquire, the answers are vague and noncommittal. "I'm reluctant to say anything at this time as we are still casting about for more studies on things like road kills, monitors on site and looking at bigger protection measures," the Manager of Major Projects, Psyche Brown, tells me.

And the Ktunaxa Nation continues to not support the resort development proposal, however, legally, they cannot prevent it. So the BC government is attempting to coerce them into accepting that their concerns are being "accommodated."

While they are plodding along with mitigation measures, no moss is growing on the proposal as the Master Development Agreement is being inked. This agreement is mostly nitty-gritty between the lawyers and will be rubber-stamped by the end of summer to early autumn.

Any time now we can expect the proponent to apply for rezoning the Jumbo area into Resort Municipality. If the Regional District of East Kootenay doesn't go along with it, they'll invoke Bill 11 – pretty clever timing, eh? In October there will be a Referendum in the East Kootenay for an entirely unrelated issue, but our allies there are attempting to include a Jumbo Rider – a simple yes or no resort. We in the West Kootenay will not be included, but we're planning a mail in ballot to coincide. Keep tuned.

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

No harm in cell phones

Being from Nakusp I did not want to interfere with the discussion in New Denver. However I feel sorry for the scared folks. My university diploma is in Electronic/Wireless Communications and I am not related to Telus or any interest group in any way.

Earlier cell phones probably did cause some damage to the brain cells, possibly disrupting the tiny signals amongst the brain cells, and potentially causing brain tumours. Long ago however the design was improved and the present phones have the antenna hidden in the back and shielded very well from the brain.

The energy needed to transmit from the cell phone to the tower is about equal to the energy needed to transmit from the tower to the cell phone, so also the tower transmits a very low energy. The energy discharged from the tower or antenna is reduced 1,000 times at a distance of just a few metres. Cell phones are extremely sensitive and need only a tiny miniscule signal to pick up and read.

To bring this into perspective, my cell phone battery could power an ordinary 100 W bulb for just a few seconds yet it is able to power my cell phone for eight straight days without recharge while being on 24/7 and with occasional calls.

It is a marvelous technology and the benefits of cell phones may outweigh any perceived harm 1000 times over. The biggest harm comes from the fear itself. Cell phones greatly reduce the usage of cars, as, for example, contractors can be reached at construction sites. Even picking mushrooms is safer in case of an encounter with wildlife or a broken leg. Cell phones save time, money, environment, lives. Just try to avoid using the phones while driving, as you could concentrate too much on what you say and less on unexpected traffic situations.

I am puzzled why Telus employees do such a poor job when explaining the facts to the folks.

Vladimir Stuchlik, P. Eng.
Nakusp

Local resident surgeon necessary in Nelson

One of the good things about living in the Nelson area is its nearness to most common services. Need your car fixed? Needing dental work? Visiting Nelson and need services? Nelson has most of what you need.

Fifty years ago in Nelson our services were probably not as efficient as they are today. But I bet citizens slept soundly at night, knowing their hospital

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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.

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Voices from the Valleys

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was there 'in case of emergency.' With local resident surgeons and local emergency surgery promptly available, there was less of a real and present danger to the health and safety of residents and visitors. Like now, citizens sensed they had a right to a safe, healthy, and decent living environment plus a right to have all urgent health needs responded to promptly.

Times have changed. Now, for the first time in over 50 years, KLH is without a qualified resident surgeon. Although we have a superb medical team at KLH, doctors and citizens share deep concerns. Emergency surgery is now banned at the hospital. The IHA has refused to recruit a local resident surgeon at KLH. Since Dr. Muth's retirement in July it now means we have a clear and present danger when emergency situations suddenly arise. Dwell upon that for too long and you may not sleep so soundly at night.

A recent incident report clearly illustrates Nelson's predicament of delayed emergency care. It is the latest of a number of similar cases where patients have suffered because of the cuts to surgery imposed in July 2002.

A retired nurse, age 82, self diagnosed with appendicitis, went to KLH at 9 am, where she was checked and her diagnosis confirmed. Six hours later she was transferred to Trail. Nothing happened there until 8:30 pm, by which time her appendix had ruptured. This happened at the beginning of June, and she has still not fully recovered. Had a resident surgeon been available, this emergency surgery could have been done in Nelson immediately – no rupture, no complications, and a speedy recovery.

Being without a qualified local resident surgeon and emergency surgery for the first time in over 50 years is not progress. When it comes to emergency surgical services, now is the time to re-establish our buoyancy and full confidence in our hospital's services by again providing a local resident surgeon and restoring emergency surgery at KLH.

Glyn Humphries
Nelson

Grants and conflict of interest

I am having great difficulty in writing this letter. I take no satisfaction doing this but feel it is a story that must be told.

It all ties in to the Area H proposal to put Wireless High Speed into the Lower Slocan Valley.

It involves:

1. Don Munro's statement of giving a rebate to the first 200 people who signed up for wireless hookups to cut the hookup cost of $400 down to $200. This was to come from a discretionary grant of $40,000. He also stated that he may do the same next year. This would bring the total to $80,000.

A. This brings up who gets grant money and how it is handed out. In New Denver, Silverton, and Slocan this decision would be made by their elected council. Who decides in Area H?

B. These grants are supposed to go to organizations who provide a service within Area H which benefits everyone and not to people who can afford high speed internet as they don't need it.

C. On the SVEDC website it states in their write up that they hand out small grants. Where does this money come from and on whose authority is it handed out?

2. It was my belief that the SVEDC was put in place to help businesses start up in the Valley. If this is so, then how come Columbia Wireless was thwarted at every turn when it proposed putting wireless in the valley?

3. Conflict of Interest. How can a person be on the board of directors of the SVEDC, CMON [Columbia Mountain Open Network] and the Lower Valley TV Society without being in a conflict of interest position. All these were involved at the same time with the wireless initiative for the lower valley. They may be members of the different organizations but never in a decision making role or in a position of making monetary decisions involving the other organizations they are directors of.

4. In a grant proposal for a grant of $694,000 which the SVEDC put in last January, it was proposed that cell phones could be connected up to the wireless system. In various publications since, a SVEDC director stated that he is trying to make the Slocan Valley a cell-phone-free zone. It would appear that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing.

Glenn Harper
Slocan Park

Cell service beneficial for area

I must say that I'm surprised and somewhat disappointed by the rampant pessimism in the Slocan valley in regards to the planned Telus tower. I freely admit that, as a visitor from Calgary (although I've been spending plenty of time in this wonderful valley for nigh on 15 years now) I may not have the same well formed ideals as the local residents. However, it must be clear that I am wholeheartedly in favour of the tower proposal.

A number of the reasons trotted out by those who oppose the tower are, quite frankly, ludicrous and closed minded. I expected more wisdom and insight from the residents of this valley, whom I have come to respect. The purported health risks of a cell phone tower are the progeny of half informed pseudo-science. There is no conclusive, universally accepted scientific evidence about the risks of wireless. Holes can be found in every study, leaks in every report. There are far more reports and studies that are both more scientifically sound, and reliably documented than the alarmist few that attack cell phone waves. And besides, if the reports about cancerous waves are to be accepted, shouldn't the majority of Canada be suffering from debilitating cancers and chronic leukemia?

I'm sorry, but the last time I checked, it wasn't.

But what about the effects on the tourism industry? On the social fabric? Well, for a start, I can assure any naysayer that more people will come to a place with phone service, than an area marketed as 'a low electromagnetic radiation zone.' If people really want to get away from the stress of work, then they will turn their cell phones off, rather than go out of their way to find a pocket of BC with no cell service. For many potential visitors, I believe it would be less stressful if they could check in with the office or loved ones every few days. And this is to say nothing of the inherent safety benefits lake-wide coverage would provide. And the worries about noisy conversations and ring tones in restaurants? It is perfectly logical that several such establishments could be marked as "mandatory cell-free zones" in which all phones must be turned off.

It's been said before, and I'll say it again: if you are worried about cell coverage or wireless waves, don't use a cell phone. If you want to boycott the tower, don't buy a Telus phone plan. If you are worried about what impact it may have on your kids, don't buy them one. It's that simple. The few people who are against the tower are childishly reluctant to face up to progress and change, and want nothing more than to block economic advancement in the valley, thus creating some misinformed sort of personal time capsule. This tower will undoubtedly be beneficial for the entire area.

Harry Sawchuk
Calgary

Changes to licence application are not in the community interest

Egads! Wake up folks! This present Community Forest board is making changes to the new area base licence application (PCFA) that are not really in the interests of this community at all.

They are sneaking in a binding commitment to place 50% of any profit into a "legacy fund" rather than ask the members to approve the concept as a society bylaw by vote at an AGM. They could have committed to simply stating that future boards will have the right to make disbursement policy decisions that are relevant for their time. Instead, what they are doing is force-feeding their narrow agenda down the throats of the whole community through a back door maneuver. Let the community decide!

But that isn't all. They are also applying for the right to all non timber products. That privilege would include the right to require permits and the right to charge fees to anyone harvesting mushrooms, huckleberries, or even firewood. Obviously this would be impossible to police, but that's not stopping them from taking away a right we have always known. The scope of control this small group wishes to exercise over the community is hard to credit.

What has also been dropped from the revised application is the Hire Locally Policy which had a 5% preference clause for local contractors within the bidding process. For some conspicuous reason this board has discounted all the expertise within its own area. Might that be because wisdom of local talent doesn't coincide with their special interests?

They also can only commit to 10 "monthly" meetings and only two updates for the members per year. What is so exasperating is that this board couldn't make a decision to do anything in 12 monthly meetings with the present small timber licence. How do they expect to get anything done with fewer meetings and a much larger quota?

One example of not getting things done is their failure to begin logging CP#10 last January. The inevitable subsequent increase in stumpage cost this CF approx. $72,000. Well now they keep offloading their responsibilities onto the hired non-local management team which is billing more and more every month until the members will once more be asking the question: "Where is the money?!"

Given the record of complete incompetence of this board since Oct. '06 in taking care of the business of forestry, it is ridiculous to think that they could begin to make any long term commitment decisions for the rest of us. What I have mentioned here is just a sampling of foolish notions, but there are other obligations that they are going to impose on this new license that are not only cost prohibitive but just make no sense.

I suggest that the current directors be told soundly that we want a money making business plan for the WHOLE community and not their silly idiosyncratic special interests.

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

Grateful for support during evacuation

It's been some time since we've returned to our home after the Springer Creek fire evacuation took place and it's nice to come back to a house that has suffered no damage. Thanks to Tom Brach of the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Structure Protection Units, headed in our case by Gaetan Effray of Strategic Fire Control, for getting things done effectively and promptly. His crew are a bunch of very nice fellows.

Our evacuation plan was based on the offers of help we received from our friends north of Enterprise Creek but when the orders came down the only way out was south. This led us to Slocan and the Emergency Social Services Centre located at the school. We were introduced to Denise. Ever-smiling and sensitive to our plight, she processed our forms as best she could amid our endless questions and indecision. Thanks to her efforts we were found accommodation in the Slocan Motel, where Chris and Tamara were willing to take us and our temporary dog. Small town hospitality is wonderful. We received vouchers for meals in the Harold Street Cafe, where we were looked after, in spite of our changes to the menu.

Later we were to have daily information meetings where the powers that be kept us up to date with the fire's progress and the status of our homes and answered our questions about the timing of our return. All the people giving us information were up front and as helpful as they could be, not knowing which way the wind was going to blow. It was an anxious time and the people at the centre did a good job in helping us get through it. Thanks to Carol Hockley, Denise Lemoyne De Martigny, Heather Burns, Corrie Traenenberg and Joanne Ellis for their efforts at the centre and to Nina Verigin and Laurie Hill from the On-Call Centre. It needs to be said that some of these nice people are volunteers and that their work doesn't stop with just the evacuees. They run programs for the children of the community and administer to the needs of the food bank. All in a not too obvious way. They are there when they're needed.

Thanks to the RCMP for organizing a quick in-and-out return trip to get the stuff we needed and left behind in the fray.

Of course, mention has to made about the contribution made by the firefighters and pilots. These people are the ones on the front lines risking injury and clogged lungs. They get the fire put out, and we're better for it.

Everyone participating in the ordeal pulls in the same direction and the results are a tight-knit community that can respond to an emergency with precision and sensitivity, to the benefit of us all.

We are truly grateful for everything done for us and our neighbours during a very stressful time.

Jim Simkins & Linda Hall
Enterprise/Memphis Creek

Permit required to pick daisies?

Some significant new commitments have been made by the Kaslo Community Forest's board of directors in their resubmission of the application for a long-term area-based tenure.

Startling to me is the new commitment to seek the right to harvest, manage and to charge fees for the harvesting of botanical products within the Crown land that has been set aside for this new tenure. Strictly speaking, if the government grants that right to the Society, you and I, or anyone, will lose our right to gather huckleberries, mushrooms or even a bouquet of daisies without the permission of the Community Forest Society. There is nothing in the minutes of the board's meetings in July (I was unable to secure minutes from June) to suggest that the directors have planned a program to make use of a newly acquired right to manage the botanicals that grow in the chart area. The image of the dog in the manger, jealously guarding the grain that he himself cannot eat, is inescapable.

Another commitment, written into the application as a measurable commitment (which must be fulfilled if they are to be judged by the government to be in compliance with the new forest licence) is a policy to lock up 50% of the money that the Board has allocated for disbursement, in a "legacy fund." This proposal was originally brought to the membership at the 2007 AGM, and a majority of Society members present did approve it as a policy. But once that policy gets tied up as a measurable commitment in a long term licence, it becomes part of the agreement between the Society and the Crown. It can no longer be changed in response to the needs of future generations of our community. I believe that the way the board controls its surplus revenue should remain at the policy, or even at the level of the bylaws. That way, changes can always be made through a balloting process – elections or member resolutions.

I was also disappointed that the commitment to local employment has been downgraded to an expression of "feelings." Here's the new assertion: "The KDCFS board feel strongly about retaining local contractors for work and local mills for processing the products from the community forest but believes that creating a local hire policy." That quoted sentence really does end there.

The new tenure application is long, and there are many other minor changes, some of them logical, to the application that was originally made in August 2006. The public review period for these changes lasts until August 31, 2007. If you think you want to comment about your loss of rights to harvest botanicals in the chart area without the Society's permission, or if you would like the disbursement policy to remain flexible, or if you have any other comments, you can still send an email to:
forestmanager@kaslocommunityforest.org, or kcfs@netidea.com, or call a director. The board has asked for your input and I believe it is up to us to respond.

Erika Bird
Kaslo

Open Letter to the Premier

The new electoral boundaries clearly indicate the rest of BC would like to get rid of the Kootenays and I

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agree with them. For many reasons we should become part of Alberta. A quick look at the new electoral map shows the Kootenays to be a natural fit. Alberta, unlike the Lower Mainland, knows where we are – just check the licence plates in the area.

If the regional districts and municipalities joined forces, we could offer Alberta a deal they could not refuse. Our coal mines, power production, forest industry and commercial recreation would be a welcome addition to their provincial revenues. In return we could expect to receive their expertise in building highways and other infrastructure. In other words, a fair return from our resources that we don't get now.

Mr. Premier, I urge you to begin negotiations with Alberta for the release of the Kootenays. It would save the government and the Olympic committee the embarrassment of explaining to the world about our poverty and lack of political representation. It's a win-win situation for BC, the Kootenays and Alberta.

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

Colleen McCrory continues to inspire action on environmental front

The 13th century Persian poet Jalaladdin Rumi once wrote: "Let the beauty we love be what we do." Although I can't claim to have known Colleen McCrory well, I think this sums up both the woman and the legacy she has left us. Colleen combined her love of wilderness and indeed, of all living beings, with a determination that is seldom matched and sorely needed in the environmental movement. Let's hope there are many more young Colleens ready to step up to take her place, especially now, as we face an environmental nightmare of global proportions.

Nearly 2 billion people tuned in on July 7 to watch concerts from seven cities around the globe in an effort to raise awareness about global warming. It was wonderful to see so many artists moved by Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*, using their star power to reach an audience of historic proportions. And while the reminders to turn down thermostats, replace light bulbs, and unplug cell phone chargers were nice, these were hardly the actions required of a crisis. Where was any discussion of corporate and governmental responsibility for the impacts of climate change? A single polluting factory or coal-fired electricity plant will pump out more CO2 in a year than the entire village of New Denver. Automakers have been living in the dinosaur age when it comes to introducing hybrid or even fuel efficient vehicles to the market.

Of course, we all share responsibility for global warming. Looking around us at this time of year it's hard to see that most people's actions reflect any sense of urgency at all about the crisis. While we're grateful for the tourist dollars supporting our summer economy in the Slocan Valley, it would be nice if these folks considered simplifying their lifestyles a little. Here we are simmering in unprecedented 100°F heat and yet I've never seen so many giant trucks and motorhomes in my life. The simple reality is that we can't have it both ways. If we really care about our children's future, we must make sacrifices – now. Colleen McCrory was willing to drive a rusted-out beater for years – a sacrifice she made so she could keep working for wilderness protection. Talk about walking the talk.

Here in the village where Colleen worked her magic with the Valhalla Wilderness Society, we could do better. Why do we need to drive three blocks in the car just to pick up a litre of milk and a bag of chips? You can walk or cycle anywhere in New Denver in minutes. Nelson is the arts and heritage city. Kimberley is the Bavarian city. Why not start working toward making New Denver the eco-village of the West Kootenay? We could have geothermal heating projects, rooftop solar panels, community bicycles, a community taxi for those who need help with groceries, and even demonstration projects for developing new sustainable technology. We could set up some of these projects in the village's downtown and rename it Colleen McCrory Square. That would certainly attract visitors. There's plenty of money available from various grant programs devoted to 'Towns for Tomorrow,' etc. What we need is the community will to do it. I'm up for it – how about you?

Meanwhile, to get serious about climate change right now, start by visiting www.Avaaz.org and taking their 7-step pledge to reduce your impact on this our precious, only Earth.

Art Joyce
New Denver

Ads on highway signage intrusive

Some of my recent letters have raised concerns as to possible entrepreneurial intrusions into our area that would impact our surroundings and way of life. One of which we should become aware is the increased incidence of highway signage and billboards. The Campbell government decided, once it gained office, that it would no longer enforce its regulation against highway signs. As a result there are now over 50 billboards outside Hope, about 30 outside Osoyoos and close to 20 outside the western side of Grand Forks, not to mention numerous ones between Trail and Castlegar, and some appearing en route to Nelson.

These signs (advertising Subway or Western Motels or Kelowna Resorts, etc.) are meant to impress their names and services on the public's mind when they're not being deluged by them on TV. These businesses have no concern for the scenery they despoil. But should businesses enlarge their profits by intruding into rural landscapes even beyond TV and the cities and towns in which their displays are rampant? Is our scenery to become a backdrop for commercial advertisements?

Most of the signs are large billboards; some are smaller, representing various businesses. In the States the signs eventually eclipsed scenery – signs were virtually all one could see instead of scenery, especially in the Middle West. As I see this growing scourge on the landscapes of Highway 3, I've become concerned about its spread into our area, the first appearance being a Nakusp business advertising in a sign at Summit Lake and three at Crescent Valley. And now, as the first sliver of intrusion here, I see four successive orange and red teapot-shaped signs from quite small to larger (like the one after Manyskies), to the largest on the highway in front of her store, signs stating 50, 40, 15, and 2 km (some with the words Pottery), south of Silverton and one north of New Denver.

When I saw them I decided to go in to the pottery store in Silverton and discuss it with the owner. When I told the young woman owner about seeing so many signs during my experience driving back from Vancouver, she interrupted to say that she felt the same way – she hated signs. That statement put us in sync until I learned that she made an exception for herself because, she told me, her signs helped her sales. I explained to her that such was the reason every entrepreneur would give. I pointed out that the pottery store had a large sign at the highway edge right at the store. She stated that was not enough. She seemed to have convinced herself, defending her signs by maximizing their importance, that she couldn't survive without them. Indeed, it was as if the large sign at the highway in front of her shop was useless. I believe she was misleading herself and left when she said she would not remove them.

Since that occasion, I have been accused of having gone into the store "raving and ranting, shouting" at the owner, no part of which is true. I began the discussion warmly and concluded it civilly. I explained that I'd spent 35 years of the 40 I've lived here concerned not only with the ecology but with everything that contributed to preserving the rare and lovely way of life in the lake villages. That concern was the standing or credentials for my objection.

The question, beyond this individual circumstance, is whether we should accept or protest the arrival of highway signage. Other entrepreneurs might want to erect signs small or large between New Denver and Silverton advertising their business, but the highway soon passes those very businesses, which also have signs on them, so why should we have this unnecessary commercialism inflicted on us? The entrepreneur's answer was "because it makes more money for me," but is that supposed to trump our collective rights to enjoying our scenery and surroundings without commercial signs?

Imagine, one small pottery store has six signs, five on the highway. And so, if that store has such a number, the next business may put up more, perhaps a third may put up one, another may put up six along the highway. Once this has begun, how can it be stopped except through villagers objecting now?

When each business wants to maximize their profit at the expense of surroundings and community, the aggregate of these intrusions, which can run to one sign larger than the next, to over-height buildings (more profit per square foot), to neon lighting (so the business can be seen) and so on, the consequence is visual pollution. If there is time to discourage this larger effect, it is when the first small intrusion occurs. I prize our scenery here, and the amazingly scenic highway that leads to our villages. I believe it is part of our business to recognize when an endangering instance arises, even if small. Indeed, many things that will aggregate into hugely objectionable features and consequences, start small. My hope is that, on retrospect, the entrepreneur involved will reconsider. Certainly, a sign in front of a business is helpful and appropriate, but cluttering our scenery outside the village with commercial signs is not.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

Thoughts of an old cowboy: The Hereafter.

When I was a young feller and working out in different camps – mining, logging and also on ranches – after work on winter evenings we would sit around the old barrel stove and BS. We had no radio or TV so we would have to come out with what I call good bunkhouse bullshit. We used to speak about the hereafter and what we would like to come back as the second time around.

My thought was that when I made my final ride beyond that high mountain I would sprout feathers and wings and I would fly up close to the sun and then fall down as a barbecued chicken. Then when you boys would tie into me you would say not only were you wise and witty, Pete, but damn it you sure taste good.

Pete Milton
Winlaw

Upset by private dock

As a former teacher, businessman and thirty-year resident who still owns a home in rural New Denver, I am upset with the news that a private dock has been constructed in the Rosebery Parklands. This is contrary to what I believed the Rosebery Parklands Society had intended when it stated in its Constitution that the Parklands was founded as a park for public use and to promote low-impact tourism. It is also my understanding that the private dock owners placed their dock in the bay without the required permit from the province. The owners are suing the Society to get an easement allowing their private dock to remain. This suit could be long and costly to the Parklands, which has been operating on a shoestring budget for sixteen years.

Wouldn't it be nice if the owners dropped the suit, thinking "Gosh, we really made a mistake when we bought that property, without checking with a lawyer to see if we really had moorage rights. Honestly, we never would have put this dock in illegally. Now we realize that it was because of the many people who spent thousands of hours of time and energy to get this Parklands protected from commercial development, we now have a spot for our beautiful home, with its panoramic view of the Vahalla Mountains and Park. Although we have no dock, we can walk 100 feet where our boat sits with others on the shore, and launch and explore the lake any time we want. We can live in and be a part of one of the most scenic, vibrant, interesting, welcoming and friendly communities in Canada. What an opportunity to work together with the community to preserve what we all have, and make this place even more special. What more could we ask for?"

Bill Finley
Victoria, BC

Ball fields for slo-pitch, not Musicfest

We have been asked by Mayor Hamling to keep the issue of the proposed campground separate from the damage done to the fields. We feel that this cannot be done. The fields are destroyed due to the Music Festival, which is the same group wishing to build this campground. There has been no care put forward by this group to fix the damage already done and now they are off to a new project. This new project will also affect the Slo-Pitch in a negative way.

It is quite laughable that the Music Festival has even been allowed at this location in the first place. These are SPORTS FIELDS designed for people; men, women and children, to play sports on. They were not designed for a music festival, with masses of people trampling the ground. To have these fields ruined and unusable for sports after such an event is intolerable. For Slo-Pitch, which actually developed these fields in the first place, to have lost the use of Helen Zeleznik park for this years tournament is unacceptable and a disgrace to the Zeleznik family. It would be quite interesting to take a little survey of surrounding communities like Revelstoke, Vernon and Kelowna to see what kind of answer their city council would give to a Music Festival asking permission to hold their festival on local sports fields. We would bet the answer would be No! Absolutely not, no matter who sits on council at the time. We would also bet they would be told to find another location. This is what should have happened here. I wonder if the Roots Society would have wanted this location when it was the 'Rec Grounds,' all dusty and barren.

So here we are again, the little guy fighting the giant. It just doesn't make sense how a group can so arrogantly charge right in and start taking things away from others. Why should Slo-Pitch lose our vending area, driveway or any of our parking lot. Mayor Hamling has suggested that we don't need this parking lot, that people could park at the Arena and walk to the diamonds. People cannot be expected to walk right through the outfield of Helen Zeleznik park to access these diamonds. This is not safe and is a lot to ask of the elderly. There is an existing parking lot for these diamonds why change that? Why should we be expected to give up our vending and beer garden area, our driveway and our parking? It would make more sense to develop the unused land. Why disrupt what is there now? Why not put in a new entrance and driveway for this new project and shift the plans to step away from what is already established and used by others? Why would the proposed campground plan to use the bathrooms for the ball parks? Isn't this supposed to be a new project, not an upgrade or expansion to anything else? After upgrades to this existing bathroom, would they then actually belong to the campground? It is an outrageous assumption that we would be willing to lose any of these things.

It is our hope that Village Council will never allow the second stage to be put on Kathy Pederson park. This year Helen Zeleznik park was left unusable and dangerous for playing on after the Music Fest. There is just no way that Kathy Pedersen park should be destroyed as well. There is no choice here. This cannot happen.

Mayor Hamling has suggested that we all give a little to make this project work for all of us. We believe that we have given a lot already, our fields for example. What do we get in return? At this point we would like to keep what little we have left. We are not asking for anything from Council or Music Fest. Nothing new, nothing more. Just protection for what is already there.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nakusp Mixed Slo-Pitch Society

Slocan Valley TV Society board surprised by flyer in mailboxes

by Jan McMurray

Last week, residents of the southern Slocan Valley received a flyer in their mailboxes announcing: "The Slocan Valley TV Society that brings you 5 television stations and 2 radio stations will soon bring you Kootenay Co-op radio and has permitted the use of our towers (at a financial gain to the society, which will reduce the tax load on property owners) to a high-speed wireless internet provider servicing our community from Slocan City to Crescent Valley/South Slocan."

Colin Mackintosh, who was elected to the board at the most recent AGM held in March, said the flyer came as a complete surprise to him and other board members. "The elected members of the board didn't know the flyer was going out and we didn't know anything was in the works regarding our towers and a high-speed wireless internet provider, so it was a big surprise," he said.

He explained that at the most recently scheduled meeting of the society, which was to be held August 20, longtime chair Mickey Kwasnicki showed up with seven other people, including former board member Eric Nygren. This group declared they were forming a new board, as the current one was not properly constituted. The reason they gave for this was that the new board members did not fill out membership forms. "After two hours of discussion – some of it very mean-spirited – we decided the best solution was to have a new AGM, so we left thinking there would be an AGM in September. Then we get the flyer in the mail on Thursday," explained Mackintosh.

Mackintosh said the TV Society's constitution states that to become a member, you must be a registered owner of property who is assessed by the RDCK for TV reception, and you must apply for membership and be accepted. At the March AGM, Kwasnicki was asked how to apply and he replied that by showing up at the AGM, you were considered an accepted member. "I had never been made aware of written application forms before the aborted August 20th board meeting," said Mackintosh. "Our board of seven has met three or four times since the AGM with no challenges. Now, six months later, we're being challenged, and it sure seems like it's tied to the high-speed internet issue," he said.

Attempts by the *Valley Voice* to contact Kwasnicki and Nygren have not been successful.

The 100-Mile market and potluck on August 18 at the Vallican Whole was indeed a celebration of local abundance and sustainability. Moe Lyons, one of the event organizers from RARTS (Rural Alternatives Research and Training Society), took advantage of the services of the local hairstylist who set up at the market. About 15 vendors came out to sell their local produce and artisan wares. Everyone was extremely well fed at the potluck with local turkey, pork, eggs and vegetables of every kind. After supper, Tamara Smith of FLIKS (Film Lovers in the Kootenays) showed The Fight for True Farming, an award-winning NFB film by Eve Lamont, which more than validated the idea behind the event and the book by Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon that inspired it.

SVEDC to hold public meeting on high-speed internet

by Jan McMurray

As a result of the news that Columbia Wireless was providing high-speed internet in the Slocan Valley, the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC), which has been planning to provide the same service in the same area, held a meeting on August 17 to consider its next steps.

The commission decided to hold a public meeting in mid September in Winlaw, and to invite Ben Leslie, CEO of Columbia Wireless, and Larry Lavan of Red Mountain Internet Society, which provides wireless high-speed internet to the Silverton area. SVEDC would like the two internet providers to make presentations so that the plan for the whole area is clear. The date of the meeting will be set at the convenience of the presenters.

At the beginning of August, southern Slocan Valley residents received a flyer from Columbia Wireless, a Nelson-based company, announcing that it was offering its service from Crescent Valley to Passmore. This came as a surprise to the SVEDC, which has been planning a wireless high-speed service in the valley for three years and recently announced that the publicly owned system could be in place in the southern valley by the end of the year.

Sculpture and photo exhibitions at the Hidden Garden Gallery

submitted

Don't let the summer go by without spending some time in our intimate garden and gallery. Rabi'a's exhibition of three-dimensional mosaics, figures and faces, titled *Evolving Journey*, continues at the Hidden Garden Gallery until September 3. There's still time to check out these wondrous, inventive and humourous pieces.

VC Boyd of New Denver presents *Old World*, an exhibition of her black and white and colour photographs, from September 5-10. This show is a retrospective body of work from 1988-91, with images from her travels around the world. Come and meet the artist at her opening reception on Friday, September 7 from 7-9 and listen to the beautiful voices of Diana de Groot and DJ Wright. Hopefully the weather will co-operate and the concert will be enjoyed in the garden. Refreshments will be served and admission is by donation. All are welcome to this pre-Garlic-Festival party. Let's give a big valley welcome to this new resident of our area.

New Denver donation store holds 'buck-a-bag' sale

submitted

Why do people love the Donation Store? Just for starters, summer clothing is currently offered at a 'buck-a-bag' to make way for new seasonal clothing coming in. We request that before bringing your items to us, consider, is it clean? Seasonal? And is it something someone else would want?

People who volunteer at the store notice the many benefits it provides the community: the relief of having someplace to recycle those treasures and trinkets, the delight of the honour system of paying what you decide is the right price, and that special feeling of knowing that all profits go to support the Bosun Hall.

Finding that perfect item of clothing or that lamp, book or tool, all these are special too! But the best part is voluntarily working with other community members to provide a service that benefits so many. Consider volunteering for a fun and worthwhile experience.

Slocan Valley Recreation runs rampant with fun this fall

submitted

The good times continue this fall with new programs and well-loved favourites from Slocan Valley Recreation beginning in September.

Several popular outdoor-themed programs for all ages are back. Michael Keefer will be hosting a fall Edible Valley Hike a little higher up in the hills on Saturday, September 15. Try screening for precious stones at Gem Fields of the Slocan Valley with Rod Luchansky on Saturday, September 29. On Sunday, September 30 the Fall Mushroom Expedition returns with Tyson Ehler and Doug McBride. Ivan Hawley will be offering both the PAL and CORE Hunter Training programs at Winlaw School beginning September 15.

Fitness programs for all ages are featured in September with two great instructors. Barbie Wheaton will offer Weight Training, Fusion Pilates, and Legs, Bums and Tums. Helen Kissinger returns with her popular Body Conditioning program as well as a daytime Osteofit – Joint Works class at the Crescent Valley Hall. She'll also be hosting a free Fitness and Aging Talk at the Crescent Valley Hall on Saturday, September 22.

There'll be Yoga for Young Women and Girls at the Crescent Valley Hall as well as Hatha Yoga in Slocan Park. Tai Chi and Pilates return in early October for another season.

Playgroups and art classes are coming up for pre-schoolers. School age kids can take aikido, gymnastics, swim lessons, several art classes or babysitter training. Outdoor soccer and T-Ball will continue as well, depending on coaches' availability.

Slocan Valley Recreation Fall Leisure Guides are now in all Slocan Valley mailboxes, are available at valley stores and can be found online at www.rdck.bc.ca (follow the links through Communities and Recreation).

For more information give the Rec' Guy a call at 226-0008.

Restorative Justice workshop

submitted

During the weekend of September 14-16, a training session will be held for those who would like to learn how to use the principles of restorative justice as they apply to minor infractions of the law.

Restorative Justice is a term used to describe a process where the focus is on repairing the harm done when an offence occurs. The Kootenay Restorative Justice program, under the umbrella of WE Graham Community Service Society, has been using this program successfully since 2003.

Friday evening's introduction is open to the public. Kay Medland, a certified facilitator trainer who is the Program Manager for Victim Services with the RCMP, will lead the session. She is also an instructor within the Human Services Program at Selkirk College and has previously led training sessions in this area.

School personnel, social agencies and other community members will find this information useful and relevant. People should register early as meals will be catered.

To register and for more information contact Carol 358-2125 or email krjustice@wegcss.org.

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Evergreen Natural Foods in-store cafe

We serve gourmet beverages, great foods, decadent desserts.

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Lunch Special • Food Demo • Door Prizes

Crescent Valley, 20 minutes drive
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Buck -a- Bag Sale!

The Donation Store

416 - Main Street

(beside Kat's in beautiful downtown New Denver)

Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
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We welcome your donations of Clean, Seasonal clothing and other useful items.
We cater to all age groups, sizes and shapes.
Supporters of the Bosun Hall

Restorative Justice Training opportunity!

Weekend of Sept 14-16 at W E Graham Community School in Slocan.

The public is invited to the Friday evening information session

Information-Carol Bell 355-2484 or krjustice@wegcss.org

Please register early for catered meal planning.

New Denver council acts on requests from citizens regarding cell service

by Jan McMurray

After receiving word from Telus on August 13 that the company was going ahead with its plans to install cell service equipment on the CBC tower in New Denver, a group of 11 concerned citizens addressed their Village council at its August 14 meeting.

Council agreed to address the group's three main concerns. First, Telus and CBC will be asked to indemnify the Village against potential legal action brought against the Village for downstream health damages or deaths. Second, the Village will ask Telus about its monitoring regime. The company will be asked to provide baseline measurements of existing electromagnetic fields (EMFs) being emitted from the tower, and a schedule of dates and times that monitoring will be done to ensure the EMFs are within the legal levels as regulated by Health Canada. Finally, the Village will write to the CEO of Telus asking for a further delay in the installation while residents gather more information.

The information that the residents feel they still need includes a response from Health Canada, which had not yet been received by anyone in the group, save a one-sentence letter sent to Norbert Duerichen. Also, Penelope Bonnett, who lives very close to the tower, said she needs time to consider how to protect herself. She added that there are products on the market, such as 'nano paint,' that reportedly cut down on EMFs.

Richard Caniell of the Valhalla Wilderness Society informed council that the sociey would also be taking this issue on. He said he felt it was "unacceptable" for a multi-billion dollar corporation to say it could not relocate the equipment because it would lose its capital investment. Caniell also pointed out that Health Canada "has lagged behind by many years and sometimes decades" in recognizing health hazards, using the example of second-hand smoke.

Art Joyce spoke to the importance of inquiring about a monitoring regime, saying he had read reports of ten times the licenced amount of EMFs coming off cell towers. He also suggested that the Village require indemnification, informing council that some communities in Israel had done this before allowing the cell phone company to install equipment.

Anne Sherrod asked council to amend its previous resolution stating that telecommunications equipment would preferably be located 500 metres outside of residential areas. She pointed out that the equipment was not necessarily safe outside the 500-metre radius. Councillor Bunka explained that council arrived at the 500 metres after a meeting with EMF auditor Chris Anderson, and because this would ensure that the equipment be installed out of town. Councillor Greensword and the mayor pointed out that more general wording would actually be a disadvantage, as it would be more open to argument.

Earlier this month, Councillor Bunka did a tally of the two petitions on cell phone service circulating around the Village, eliminating people from outside the area. She found that 124 people living within Village limits were in favour of the service and 142 were opposed. In the entire 358 exchange area, including the Village of New Denver, 185 were in favour and 243 were opposed.

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September 3rd , 2007

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Have a wonderful holiday!
Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior
337 Columbia Avenue, Castlegar, BC V1N 1G6
Public Hrs: Mon.- Thurs 10:00 - 12:30 and 1:30 - 3:00
(or by appointment)
1-800-667-2393

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New Denver's recipient of the Columbia Basin Trust's 2007 Youth Community Service Award, which recognizes youth for volunteer service in their community. Brian receives $2,000 towards his post-secondary education. Good luck in your upcoming year of studies.
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New Denver council, August 14: OCP bylaw revised

by Jan McMurray

•Council received suggested revisions to the draft OCP and Zoning bylaws from Bruce Gunn, RDCK planner, "because of what we have just gone through with Telus," to use Mayor Wright's words. Gunn's revisions strengthen local control, requiring the cell phone company to go through a site-specific zoning amendment process in order to obtain council approval for the installation of a telecommunication tower. Council amended the two bylaws to include Gunn's recommendations. Staff was authorized to set the date for the public hearing for the OCP bylaw.

•Mayor Wright asked if council would consider re-directing funds from the emergency program budget of $500 to look at some sort of volunteer recognition for those who assisted during the recent wildfire-related power outage and evacuation alert/order situation. Wright was on holiday for the first few days of the emergency, cut his holiday short to come back, and said he was very impressed with how things were handled.

•Hugh Wilson will be thanked for his gift to the Village of a framed display of photographs he took during the recent wildfire situation.

•Barry McLean, Treasurer of the RDCK, emailed to say he was in the process of clarifying acceptable rates of pay for persons working on the fire situations with the Provincial Emergency Program. He recommends that all municipalities pay their own staff and submit billings to the RDCK. Council decided to advise the RDCK that everyone working on the fire situations be treated as RDCK staff, as it was the RDCK who asked the Village to operate a satellite Emergency Operations Centre.

•The Village, as a Denver Siding property owner, received a letter from the RDCK informing them that at a recent meeting with Denver Siding residents regarding the future of their small water system, a preference to join the Village of New Denver system was indicated. The letter invites further comments from residents. Council received the letter only, after some discussion about the implications of having Denver Siding join the Village system, i.e. boundary extension, issues around chlorination, and extra costs such as snowplowing. Councillor Greensword was under the impression that the RDCK had presented four different options to Denver Siding residents and was curious to know what the other three were.

•The Village's application for a $9,650 grant for a Water Reservoir Replacement Study was successful. Mayor Wright said he hoped the reservoir would be replaced in the spring. He also noted that if there were any interest in boundary extension to Denver Siding, in light of the water system problems there, the scope of the study would have to be bigger. "I just note that right now. There's nothing we can do about it," he said.

•The Village received a complaint about the recycling depot area. CAO Carol Gordon said she had asked the Waste Management supervisor at the RDCK for another bin for cardboard, and was told this could not be provided. Mayor Wright said he advised the staff at RDCK to not pay for service not received. After all, he said the company's bid was to haul all of the recycling provided by communities, and that is not being done.

•Campground rates for 2008 were set at $18, $20 for lakeside campsites, and $22 for serviced campsites.

•Council received a letter from the 2008 Lucerne School Reunion Committee, which is planning a reunion for the graduating classes of 1988-2000 during next year's August long weekend. Although the group is aware of the no reservation policy at the campground, they would like to reserve half of the campsites for the event, with payment in advance and a commitment to do the entire cleanup of the park and campground at the end of the weekend. The request was referred to Public Works for a recommendation.

•A resident's suggestion for a tag system for garbage pick-up was referred to Public Works for consideration.

•A suggestion came in that council use its Community Tourism funding to build public washrooms in the downtown area. Councillor Greensword pointed out that washrooms were available at the museum, donation store, Ann's Natural Foods, Fat Kat's and for customers at other places. CAO Gordon noted that the City of Nelson no longer has public washrooms as "it cost them a fortune to maintain." Council directed staff to post a notice on the pumphouse at Greer Park that there are washrooms at the museum during the summer.

•Council received a copy of a letter from Hills resident Evelyn Goodell to the Minister of Transportation. She asks that potholes on Highway 6 be filled, and that shoulders be added for safe walking and cycling. Councillor Greensword said she would follow up with Goodell to get a copy of the response.

•The Village of Kaslo accepted New Denver's invitation to meet jointly with the Minister of Transportation at the upcoming UBCM conference, and invited New Denver to jointly meet with the Minister of Community Services regarding a municipal homeowner grant and resident tax rebate. The Village of New Denver will reply that it would like to participate, and will request a copy of the presentation Kaslo plans to make to the Minister.

•Public Works staff person Steve Deakoff has completed a program in Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance. He will be enrolled in a second course this fall.

•Fire Chief Leonard Casley wrote to the Village to request the purchase of a water tank that could be slipped into the back of the dump truck, an agreement allowing the fire department to rent the truck and operator, and an arrangement whereby a member of the department could operate the dump truck. Casley states that this would increase the department's capacity to fight a large fire in a cost-effective manner. The matter was referred to staff, as CAO Gordon said there were union issues with the driver.

Coco Love Alcorn wowed the audience at the Silverton Gallery August 23 with a selection of jazz standards and original songs.

Silverton man meets his life-saving bone marrow 'twin'

by Art Joyce

Imagine that you had a death sentence – terminal cancer – and then had it commuted to life. That's just what happened to Werner Mengler of Silverton, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in August 2002. He is alive today thanks to a bone marrow transplant.

Mengler was treated that year with chemotherapy, and responded well, sending the leukemia into remission. There is no history of the disease in his family. Doctors could only surmise that the trigger may have been a lifetime of exposure to gasoline fumes from his job working in the bush with heavy machinery. Mengler was told he would need a bone marrow transplant to survive, and was entered into the Canadian Red Cross transplant registry.

"All I could think about was living to see another Christmas, so I could see my grandkids again," says Mengler.

For Mengler, 2005 could have been the worst year of his life, or the end of his life. In May that year the leukemia flared up again. Then it was discovered in August that he had cancer in his spine. Again he responded well to chemotherapy. But no one in his family was a close enough match for bone marrow. Incredibly, a near-perfect match was found in a donor from Alberta, and the transplant operation was set for October 19, 2005. The terms of donor contracts stipulate that a minimum of one year must pass before recipients of organs can contact donors.

"I phoned him as soon as I found out who he was and thanked him," says Mengler. "To me he's superman – he kept me alive."

The donor turned out to be 29-year-old Chuck Canning of Carrot Creek, Alberta, a small community near Hinton. Canning, a transport driver in the oilfields, was what is known as a '10-10 match,' or as good as it gets. Mengler had to take anti-rejection drugs for only about a year after the operation. Canning and his wife Candace agreed to meet Mengler this summer and were invited to his Silverton home for a weekend of fishing and ATVing.

"He's my twin – on the inside anyway. That's how I introduced him, as my brother, even though he's 29 and I'm 58. It was raining hard but we just put on the slicks and went out anyway. We had a great time. Next year they're going to bring the kids too."

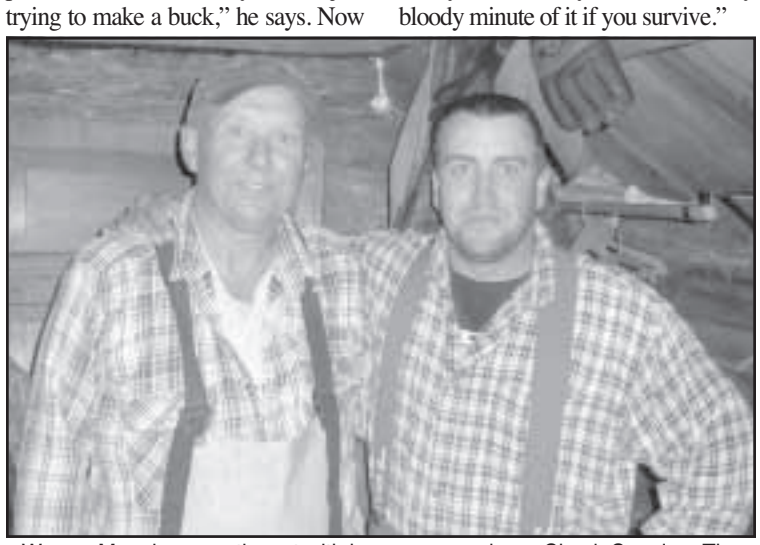
He calls his experience in the cancer ward at Vancouver General Hospital "an eye-opener." He estimates 60-70 people per hour were treated with chemotherapy while he was there, and says some cancer patients he met didn't make it.

"The nurses in the chemo ward are just run off their feet – they're incredible. I really want to thank all the nurses and doctors, and all the folks from home who kept phoning me while I was down there, and (Dr.) Chuck Burkholder."

Mengler says the whole experience has changed his outlook on life. In the past, he worked "seven days a week just trying to make a buck," he says. Now he takes the time to just chill out enjoying his prime view of Slocan Lake or fishing with grandkids Logan, Brett, Jody and Destiny.

He encourages others to consider becoming donors. Although donor Chuck Canning had no cancer in his family, he felt compelled to donate anyway.

"Lots of times the cure is worse than the disease, but don't give up," Mengler urges. "As long as you can withstand that, you'll be okay. It's worth every bloody minute of it if you survive."



Werner Mengler recently met with bone marrow donor Chuck Canning. The two enjoyed an ATV outing to the London Ridge area.

Passmore group concerned about Koch Creek microhydro project

by Art Joyce

Passmore residents aren't sure whether a proposed microhydro system on Koch Creek is a good idea, but proponents say it's too soon to tell whether the project will even be viable. Formerly Dandelion Energy, the company has now been registered as Koch Creek Power by partners Darcy Fear, and Harold Kalke of Calico Development, a construction firm.

"It's still really early to be jumping up and down about it," says Fear. "We want to do as little environmental damage as possible. We've spent a lot of money but we want to make sure it's feasible before we spent a whole bunch more."

Jennifer Yeow of Passmore Laboratories is affiliated with a group of citizens who believe both the geography and hydrology of the Koch Creek ecosystem make a microhydro system impractical.

"This is what has many of us concerned, because when we walk that section we see steep canyon, bedrock, and very little soil. How are they going to build the penstock? Are they going to have to blast?"

Fear says blasting won't be necessary. There's a long bench alongside the creek that could be used, and part of the 3.5 kilometre penstock pipeline could be buried under the Russell Creek forestry road. A lidar survey has been completed, using laser technology to map the terrain from a helicopter.

"We're putting 90% of it where the land is already disturbed."

Passmore Laboratories did a hydrographic study in 2001 to measure stream flow. Koch Creek has an extended low flow period, from late October through spring, leaving only about three months when there's a surge in water levels from the spring freshet. Flow rates fluctuate from 2-3 cubic metres per second during low flow, up to 60 cubic metres per second during the freshet.

Fear acknowledges that the huge variation in flow means the plant can't produce electricity for much of the year, and that this will be one of the determining factors in the project's viability. Instream flow requirements (IFR) stipulate a minimum flow to be left in the stream at all times. Fear says it's a given with run of the river projects that the peak period for power production could be as little as three months, with a small spike in the fall with the rains.

Yeow says there are 7-9 tributary streams that flow into Koch along the distance of the penstock. In order to protect the penstock from washout, the smaller streams must be controlled. Yet if the tributary stream is contained, e.g. inside a cement pipe, then sediment doesn't drop out, creating more sediment once it reaches Koch Creek. This could cause pools to silt up and banks to erode. Yeow is skeptical that the stream impact will be sufficiently monitored.

"We don't see anywhere in the regulations that they have to. Because of the pro-industry bias of this government, there's a tendency to just let business monitor itself, so there's no safeguards there."

Although there doesn't seem to be a lot of fish life in Koch, she adds, there is an endangered shorthead sculpin present, which likes cold water and large cobble in the channel bed. Yeow says only the Slocan, the Kettle River and a few tributaries of the Columbia have sculpin.

Fish studies for the project are being done by Masse and Miller of Nelson. Wildlife and archaeological studies have been completed based on field work done this spring.

"There's probably also some bull trout and rainbow trout there," says Fear. "There's certain times of year we'll have to let all the water go to sustain the fish. The rules are so strong you have to. From a wildlife point of view, there's really no damage. There's no red listed species as far as I know. I think the biggest issue is the fisheries, as long as we determine how to deal with it."

Fear understands peoples' skepticism about government holding industry to standard but says the IPPs he's visited in BC are subject to stringent controls.

As soon as the company's water power development plan is completed it will go to government for approval. There are recommendations in the plan to do further studies. Koch Creek Power will have to wait for the next call for power proposals, which will likely occur in spring 2008. The projected size of the project is 10 megawatts, though this has not been finalized. Yeow is relieved that no new transmission lines would have to be built (the site is within a kilometre of existing Fortis lines), but said there's a tendency for proposals to grow in size. She questions what the benefits to the local community will be in the way of jobs or lower hydro bills.

"Using all this public infrastructure and resources for private gain rubs us the wrong way. Our hydro rates are going to skyrocket in the future, especially when they can sell to the highest bidder."

"We're no big corporation, we don't want any part of that," says Fear. "We're not going public. We just want a little plant we can run ourselves. It's too early to say – it might not be financially feasible."

Koch Creek Power will be holding another public meeting this fall.

Voices for Hospice event links New Denver to the world

submitted

The New Denver Hospice Society is making plans to join the world's largest regular singing event – Voices for Hospice 2007. On October 5, events and activities will take place worldwide to raise awareness and understanding of the need and importance of hospice and palliative care. The goal of hospice organizations is to give the best quality of care to people at the end of their lives, and to provide support for bereaved families, friends and caregivers.

Voices for Hospice began in the late 1980s when the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher, England held a concert to raise vital funds and increase public awareness. By October, 2003 that one performance for one hospice in one country had grown to become an international wave of concerts from Argentina and Australia to Wales and Zimbabwe. More than 500 concerts for more than 400 local hospices take place in over 60 countries.

Voices for Hospice takes place once every two years and is still growing. Events take place in churches, village halls, theatres, concert halls, pubs, clubs, schools and a host of other venues across the globe. Each event supports a local Hospice Society or palliative care unit, and most importantly, each event allows communities to support their local hospice in a direct way.

Please mark October 5 on your calendar and join us as we link with others worldwide to celebrate all who provide and receive this vital service.

For more information contact the New Denver Hospice Society, Box 38, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0.

Slocan Outdoor Market

The Slocan Outdoor Market is 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!

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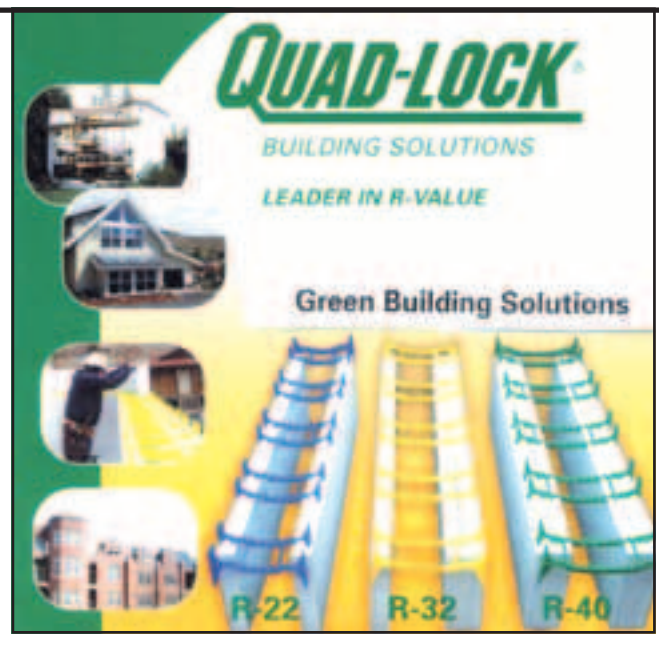
Remember: No dogs please!



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True Value Hardware

West Kootenay Toy Run set for another successful year

submitted

The West Kootenay Toy Run is quickly approaching its 20th year of bringing motorcyclists together from afar for a day of socializing, riding and charity. It all starts at the Castlegar Recreation Centre Sunday September 9 at 8 am for registration and a pancake breakfast by the Castlegar Air Cadets.

Registration is $10 or a new toy per person (toys are preferred) and everyone is welcome to donate toys at any of our stops. Please do not forget about the older kids 11-15. We are told that the Salvation Army often falls short of gifts for this age group. There will also be a Nelson registration at 9:30 am.

Thanks to the Toy Run participants and the Harley Davidson raffle we are now able to donate over $25,000 annually to local food banks, women's shelters, Salvation Army, various family support organizations and high school bursaries. This year will put us well over the $200,000 mark to date.

Shortly after 10 am Santa Claus will escort the Toy Run through downtown Castlegar and on to our first stop about 11 am in Nelson on Baker Street to pick up toys collected by Nelson Home Hardware and Heritage Pawn. Santa will then guide us to Salmo where the firefighters will put on a great lunch for all 500 plus from 12-1 pm. After lunch Santa and all of his two-wheeled helpers will stop outside Ferrero Foods in downtown Trail about 1:30 pm to pick up toys at Wolf's Den Tattoo (toys are also being collected at their Castlegar location). Then it's up to the golden city of Rossland to pick up toys collected by the Legion and Eagles clubs and finally back down to the Castlegar Rec Complex at about 3:30.

The afternoon continues with live music by Diane Strom and The Random Act, dinner put on by the Air Cadets, vendors, great door prizes (donated by the community) and the main event, the draw for the Black 2007 Harley Davidson FatBoy at 6 pm. If you bought a ticket be sure to stop by for the draw. The Salvation Army along with others will be on hand to receive the toys we've collected.

Join us on your bikes or just come out and wave us on. For raffle ticket information, to volunteer, donate toys or if you have any questions please contact us at toy.run@shaw.ca, Kevin at 365-6466 or James at 365-7371. Thanks for your support from the West Kootenay Toy Run Association!

The final concerts featuring all who participated in the Valhalla Summer School of Music took place at the Silverton Memorial Hall on August 17. A stunning calibre of musicianship was shown over and over again by people such as this young violinist.

The youngest VSSM students perform May There Always be Sunshine, with actions, at the afternoon concert August 17.

In Concert at the Silverton Hall

Sat. Sept 8 7:30 pm

Hot Cuban Rhythms & Romantic Cuban Ballads

Advance $10.00 at Gaze n Chat, Silverton and
Ann's Natural Foods, New Denver $15.00 at the door
Info call 250.442.3514 www.sonicbids.com/brisasdelpalmar

Art in the Kohan, held August 15 and 16 in New Denver's lakeside Japanese garden, was a splendid show of arts and fine crafts. Koko (Tsuneko Kokubo) was one of several artists who set up both to work and to display their art in the lovely garden setting. A special feature was a live show of Morgen Bardati's creative garments on Wednesday.

Nakusp Fall Fair continues century-long local tradition

submitted

A long-standing tradition dating back to the year 1910, the annual Nakusp and District Fall Fair is set to take place Saturday, September 8 at Nakusp arena/auditorium, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm. Entry registration takes place Friday, September 7 from 4-7 pm only, with judging to follow.

Each year, the popular fair's central theme spotlights the hundreds of categorized, individual various-age entries which are showcased throughout the day, ranging from florals and vegetables, homemade wines and brews, baking, canning and a host of fine as well as home arts and craft hobbies which proudly exemplify the theme 'The Best That We Can Be.'

This year's theme 'Returning to Our Roots: How Does Your Garden Grow?' has attracted the attention of a limited number of commercial vendors, as well as non-profit groups and organizations who plan to set up new displays to share details of the various district-wide programs, services and opportunities which they offer to the public.

The Fall Fair serves as a fundraiser for the Arrow Lakes Arts Council organizers, which sponsors a professional and community artist six-concert series at the Bonnington Arts Centre with performances held throughout the year, in addition to other arts, cultural and heritage related activities. Memberships and season's tickets will be available at its booth.

The Fair also facilitates the fundraising and informative activities of such important causes as the Nakusp and Area Foundation, with its Celebrity Mock Jail, and the newly formed Celebration of Wellness festival which will be held in the Spring of 2008.

Plan to have lunch with the youngsters at the delicious homemade food concession. Then share in the fun and excitement of the World Famous Nakusp Kids' Zucchini Races, organized by Mark Aeichele and family with the generous added support of local businesses.

Faye McPherson will add her expertise by demonstrating the traditional skill of homemade breadmaking (11 am and 1 pm) and Moira Miller will be on hand to demonstrate the 'try it yourself' creative art of rubber stamp crafting at the Making Memories activity table throughout the day.

Admission, $2 adults (children under 12 free). For more information, pick up your copy of the Fall Fair prize booklet from downtown merchants or call 265-0075.

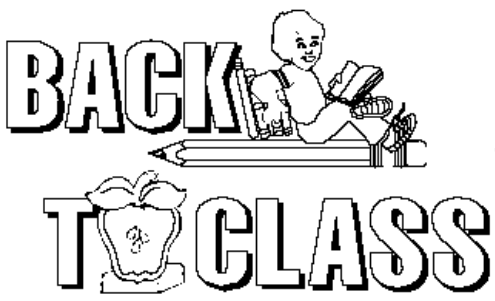
School District No. 10
(Arrow Lakes)

SCHOOL OPENING 2007/08

September 4, 2007 - all district schools will be in session 1/2 day only

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ATTENDING LUCERNE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL AND NAKUSP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will be contacted by the teacher prior to attendance.

First day of attendance for BURTON ELEMENTARY AND EDGEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS is Wednesday, September 5, 2007.



STUDENTS RIDING SCHOOL BUSES MUST BE AT THEIR STOP 5 MINUTES PRIOR TO POSTED BUS ARRIVAL TIME.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:

School Hours are unchanged from last year but Bus Routes have been slightly changed. Please check the schedules carefully. Should you have any questions, please call 250-265-3638. ext. #0.

EDGEWOOD / NAKUSP ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Andy Cruden • Bus #7100

AM RUN		PM RUN	
7:13	Leave Base	3:00	Leave Base
7:14	YRB Yard	3:05	NES
7:17	Zerrath	3:08	NSS
7:24	Fenton	3:38	BES
7:30	Hwy 6 Junction	3:41	Silver Queen Rd.
7:35	Hockman	3:51	Wolstenholme
7:45	Ferry	3:54	Royko
7:55	J & S Snacks	3:55	Stebanuk
7:58	McGinnis	3:56	McGinnis
7:59	Stewart Road	3:58	J & S Snacks
8:00	Royko	4:00	Ferry
8:03	Wolstenholme	4:15	Hockman
8:13	Silver Queen Rd.	4:21	Hwy 6 Junction
8:16	BES	4:25	Fenton
8:45	NSS	4:31	Zerrath
8:48	NES	4:34	YRB Yard
8:50	Base	4:35	Base

EDGEWOOD ROUTE 2007/08

Driver - Laura Latter • Bus #4101

7:50	Leave Base	2:40	Leave EES
8:10	Needles North Road	2:50	Galloway
8:15	Gravel Pit	2:51	Dever
8:18	Frederick	2:53	Shuler
8:21	Highway 6 Junction	2:55	Highway 6 Junction
8:23	Shuler	3:00	Frederick
8:25	Dever	3:02	Fenton
8:26	Galloway	3:05	Gravel Pit
8:35	EES	3:10	Needles North Road
		3:35	Base

SUMMIT LAKE/GLENBANK/HIGHWAY 23 ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Raynelle Posnikoff • Bus #6100

AM RUN	PM RUN
7:35 Leave Base	3:00 Leave Base
7:55 Hwy 6 Turnaround	3:05 NES
7:56 Summit Lake Rd.	3:10 NSS
8:01 Kingfisher Rd	3:16 Hot Springs Rd.
8:02 Fox	3:17 McDonald
8:07 Wilson Lake Rd.	3:18 Homis
8:13 Command	3:19 Hwy 23 North Turnaround
8:17 Carter	3:23 Home Ranch
8:19 Alexander Road Turnaround	3:27 Lindgren
8:20 Southin	3:28 Herridge
8:22 Vet Clinic	3:30 Matchett Subdivision
8:23 Wanstall	3:35 Bateman
8:24 Bateman	3:36 Wanstall
8:27 Matchett Subdivision	3:37 Vet Clinic
8:29 Herridge	3:40 Carter
8:31 Lindgren	3:41 Southin
8:34 Home Ranch	3:42 Alexander Road Turnaround
8:36 Homis	3:44 Command
8:37 Hwy 23 North Turnaround	3:52 Wilson Lake Rd.
8:41 McDonald	3:58 Fox
8:42 Hot Springs Rd.	3:59 Kingfisher Rd.
8:45 NSS	4:04 Summit Lake Rd.
8:47 NES	4:05 Hwy 6 Turnaround
8:50 Base	4:25 Base

Where Bus service is not available, Transportation Assistance may be provided to eligible parents who apply for assistance. Remember to apply in September as Transportation Assistance is paid starting at the beginning of the month when submitted and not retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS

(effective September 4, 2007)

September 4, 2006 - all district schools will be in session 1/2 day only.

SOUTHERN ZONE SCHOOLS - George Harding, Principal; Sally McLean, Vice-Principal

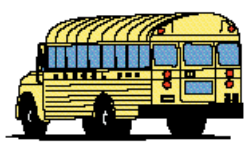
Edgewood Elementary School - Phone 269-7212 Hours: 8:42 - 11:50 and 12:35 - 2:35
Kindergarten: 12:20 - 2:35 Monday to Friday

Burton Elementary School - Phone 265-3253 Hours: 8:20 - 12:05 and 12:50 - 3:26
Kindergarten: 12:35 - 3:26 Monday - Thursday

NAKUSP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - George Harding, Principal; Sally McLean, Vice-Principal
Phone 265-3731 Hours: 9:00 - 12:00 and 12:45 - 2:56
Kindergarten: 9:00 - 11:15 and 12:41 - 2:56 Monday to Friday

NAKUSP SECONDARY SCHOOL - Kees van der Pol, Principal; Susan Paterson, Vice-Principal
Phone 265-3668 Hours: 8:49 - 12:14 and 12:54 - 3:05

LUCERNE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL - Trish Hawkins, Principal
Phone 358-7222 Regular Hours: Grades 1-7 9:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 3:05
Grades 8-12 8:54 - 12:14 and 12:59 - 3:05 Kindergarten: 9:00-12:15 Tuesday to Friday



HILLS ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Dan Wilson • Bus #2611

AM RUN		PM RUN	
7:57	Leave LESS	3:10	LESS
8:17	Purdy Road	3:16	Golf Course
8:21	Crown Road	3:17	Maxinuk
8:25	Sopow	3:19	Log Dump
8:26	Hills Mail Boxes	3:20	Rosebery Loop South
8:27	Laktin Road	3:21	Rosebery Loop North
8:28	Bonanza Rd.	3:28	Bonanza Rd.
8:36	Rosebery Loop	3:29	Laktin Road
8:38	Log Dump	3:30	Hills Mail Boxes
8:40	Maxinuk	3:32	Sopow
8:41	Golf Course	3:35	Purdy Road
8:46	LESS	3:39	Crown Road
		4:10	YRB Yard

BURTON-NAKUSP ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Tim Fox • Bus #2734

AM RUN	PM RUN
8:02 Lv. Base / BES	3:05 Lv. NES
8:04 Buerge	3:10 Lv NSS
8:05 Clark Drive	3:15 Cann
8:06 McCormack Rd/Crossroads	3:16 O'Brien
8:07 Burton Loop Rd	3:17 Brinker
8:08 BES	3:20 Bayview Estates
8:10 Rupp	3:31 Arrow Park Ferry Rd.
8:11 Reimer	3:33 Cenotaph
8:13 Orr	3:34 Adshead Road
8:14 Robins	3:35 Burnett
8:16 Kuhnle	3:36 Kuhnle
8:17 Burnett	3:38 Robins
8:19 Adshead Road	3:39 Orr
8:20 Cenotaph	3:41 Reimer
8:23 Arrow Park Ferry Rd	3:42 Rupp
8:33 Bayview Estates	3:45 Buerge
8:36 Brinker	3:47 Clark Drive
8:37 O'Brien	3:48 McCormack/Crossroads
8:39 Cann	3:50 Burton Loop Rd.
8:44 NSS	3:51 BES / Base
8:47 NES	

SILVERTON ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Craig Besinque • Bus #4100

AM RUN		PM RUN	
8:05	Leave YRB Yard	3:10	LESS
8:30	Red Mountain Road South	3:11	Orchard
8:37	Red Mountain Road North	3:14	Hicks Road
8:39	Silverton Bigway	3:15	Silverton Ball Park
8:42	Silverton Ball Park	3:18	Silverton Bigway
8:43	Hicks Road	3:20	Red Mountain Road North
8:46	Orchard	3:27	Red Mountain Road South
8:47	LESS	4:05	YRB Yard

CRESCENT BAY / BROUSE LOOP ROUTE 2007/08

Driver – Denis Desrochers • Bus #2457

AM RUN	PM RUN
8:07 Leave Bus Shop	2:55 Leave Bus Shop
8:11 Hwy 6 / Crescent Bay Rd.	3:05 NES
8:13 Brooks	3:10 NSS
8:17 Beech Rd.	3:15 Hwy 6/Crescent Bay Rd.
8:18 Bartley Rd.	3:17 Brooks
8:20 Yoshida	3:21 Beech Rd.
8:22 Billings Rd./Brouse Loop Rd.	3:22 Bartley Rd.
8:25 McKee	3:24 Yoshida
8:26 Neftin	3:26 Billings Rd./Brouse Loop
8:28 Zeleznik	3:27 Christie
8:30 Christie	3:28 Brouse Loop/Hwy 6
8:32 Brouse Loop Rd./Hwy 6	3:29 McKee
8:35 Carson's Corner	3:30 Neftin
8:37 McQuair	3:32 Zeleznik
8:41 NSS	3:36 Brouse Loop/Hwy 6
8:44 NES	3:39 Carson's Corner
8:47 Base	3:41 McQuair
	3:45 Base

VEHICLE OPERATORS: September 4, 2007 will be the official opening of school for School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) 2007/08 session. We like to remind motorists to watch out for children walking to school or waiting for school buses.

ALTERNATE FLASHING LIGHTS: School buses are equipped with alternate flashing red lamps and when they are flashing, ***traffic in both directions must stop and remain stopped until the red flashing lamps are turned off.*** The flashing lights are to indicate the school bus is loading or unloading school children. ***It is an offence under the Motor Vehicle Act to pass a school bus with its overhead red lights flashing.***

SCHOOL ZONES: **Motorists driving through School Zones between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. must use caution and restrict speed to 30 km/hr.**

Extension refused on public comment period for Glacier/Howser IPP

by Art Joyce

Environmental activists in the North Kootenay Lake region won't be granted their request for an extension of the public comment period on the Glacier/Howser microhydro project.

"We've given more time than usual for the process," says Garry Alexander, Project Assessment Director for the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

Gary Diers of the Purcell Alliance for Wilderness and other locals contacted Alexander asking for a 30-day extension for the public comment period. Diers points out that there has only been one open house in the west side so far, and one in the east in Invermere. Requests for an open house in Nelson were denied, forcing some to make the four-hour round trip to the Meadow Creek open house. The public comment period was 36 days, a time frame Diers believes was far too short.

"There's just too much information – counting the maps, it's a 120-page document. For the public to understand how it's going to affect their local environment, it's too short a time. The timing was poor as well, at the height of summer vacation period."

Alexander says when the proponent (Purcell Green Power) submits an application for its Environmental Assessment Certificate, then a second public comment period will be scheduled. The terms of reference haven't been approved yet, so the proponent can't submit the application until this is done. A response by the proponent to public concerns is required but only where such concerns are seen as legitimate. When asked who decides what is 'legitimate,' Alexander answered, "Essentially, it's me. Many of the comments are just expressing opinions. We do tally public opinion and that goes to the minister, but whether they're for or against the project doesn't get into the terms of reference."

Legitimate concerns might include an assessment of the water quality, cumulative impact, or other specific objections.

"We would ask the proponent to respond to these and show how they've addressed them in the application."

A 180-day review begins once the application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate is accepted. It must also be scrutinized to ensure it meets the terms of reference. The certificate allows them to proceed to the permit stage to actually begin construction. He says the provincial Ministry of Environment (MoE) and federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) work co-operatively in the environmental review process.

"Before it ever gets to not approving an application, either DFO or MoE work with the proponent to try to resolve the issues or mitigate the impact."

The proponents for Glacier/Howser plan seismic drilling this summer to "test the physical and geological properties of the three different rock formations the Glacier and Howser tunnels will be crossing." Diers says none of this should be done until the EAO environmental review is completed. However, Alexander says seismic drilling, if it falls into the category of exploration, is allowable at this stage. Under the BC Environmental Assessment Act there are sanctions for proponents who do seismic work for construction prior to receiving EAO approval.

"If the project consists of tunnels, which this one does, then we would want to know if that's feasible, and we'd want to know that as early as possible," says Alexander.

During the week of August 14-18 Diers helped organize an expedition with Gregory Byrne of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee to upper Howser, Edward Creek, and both option A and B transmission lines proposed for the Edward Pass. The expedition collected information and photos on plant, bird and animal life in the pristine wilderness. Purcell Green Power spokesman Neil Murphy's assertion that no old growth forest will be cut for transmission lines is an "absolute impossibility," according to Diers. "It's hard to imagine that DFO and the Ministry of Environment would put up with the destruction of bull trout habitat. The same goes for the transmission line, cutting through endangered grizzly and wolverine habitat."

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100-Mile Diet authors to visit Nelson, September 14

submitted

What would I be willing to give up in order to only eat local foods? Sugar? Maybe. Rice? No problem. Olive oil? Yup. Coffee and chocolate? Not on your life. For freelance writers Alisa Smith and JB MacKinnon, the decision to make a year-long attempt to eat foods grown and produced within a 100-mile radius of their Vancouver apartment has resulted in a memoir, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*, published by Random House Canada. Join the authors for a reading from the book at the Nelson United Church on Friday, September 14 at 7:30 pm.

Sure, a lot of us in the Kootenays grow our veggie gardens, buy our eggs from farmers' markets and shop at natural foods stores and feel good about it. But the 100 Mile Diet is fostering a new genus of homo sapiens: the 'locavore', individuals who are committed to eating locally grown and produced foods. People everywhere are picking up on the idea: 100-mile community potlucks and markets are being organized and families are playing the 100-mile game at their dinner tables. Far more than merely a fad, locavores are looking ahead to the post-oil era.

Not a how-to book, *The 100-Mile Diet* takes the reader through the authors' process and how it both affected their eating and buying habits and increased the strain on their relationship. Smith and MacKinnon were pretty unprepared for the realities of hunting down local foods, especially in April 2005, when they started their diet cold turkey. "For the first few weeks, we ate a lot of potatoes," Smith writes.

The 100-Mile Diet started with the authors' early postings on a local website, *The Tyee*, and Smith and MacKinnon's musings and munchings gained them immediate notoriety. David Suzuki is a supporter, and the book has been both praised ("A compelling, relevant story." *Vancouver Sun*) and panned ("I think they're nuts." Anthony Bourdain, author of *Kitchen Confidential*).

Kaslo's grocery store under new ownership

by Jan McMurray

Kaslo's former IGA, now Front Street Market, has been under new ownership since July 16.

Rick Wiltse, one of the owners, has moved to Kaslo to manage the store. He and his wife Robin met each other in Nelson and married there. "We have always wanted to move back to this area and were quick to jump at this opportunity," he says. They bring their two daughters, eight-year-old Rowan and five-year-old Fyfe.

The other owner is Ryan Haynes of Fairmont Hot Springs. There is also a small group of investors from Fairmont.

Rick Wiltse is one of the new owners of Kaslo's Front Street Market.

The store is 100% independent – it is not part of any chain. Wiltse says there have been no changes in staffing and no big changes in product lines. "The store is well developed and there isn't a need for a lot of big changes," he said. "Bruce and Deb did a great job building the variety in the store and I will continue to offer the same products and expand where it is needed. My main focus is getting it filled with products that the customers are looking for."

He says some product lines disappeared during the change-over, as he had to create new accounts with the various suppliers, and says he appreciates the people who have been helpful and patient during the transition.

Wiltse has an extensive background in the grocery store business, starting out at 14 at his father's store. He has been owner/operator of two Super Values, in Port McNeil and Chetwynd. Just before moving to Kaslo, Wiltse managed Mountainside Market in Radium.

Top skiers buy Retallack Resort

submitted

A group of investors including freeskiing superstars Seth Morrison and Tanner Hall has acquired the BC-based cat-skiing and boarding company, Retallack Resort and Alpine Adventures Ltd. The operation is located off Hwy 31A between New Denver and Kaslo.

The company will now be known simply as Retallack and will be based in Nelson. Retallack is already undergoing a major overhaul of its summer operations and improvements to its winter business.

Retallack CEO Chris McNamara said the investors were excited to have acquired some of the best terrain in the industry.

"Retallack is now 100% owned by skiers, snowboarders and other adventure sports enthusiasts. That means our decisions are made by riders, for riders," McNamara said.

The new owners will ensure that the revamp of Retallack's operations is in keeping with the company's status as the greenest backcountry skiing and boarding destination in Canada. Retallack is totally self-sufficient and 'off the grid,' drawing all its power from its own hydro-electricity plant. It is also the only cat or heli-skiing operation to be awarded four green keys from the Hotel Association of Canada's Green Key Eco-Rating program, meaning that it has been judged a national industry leader in its commitment to protecting the environment.

John Beerbower of Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society receives a $19,700 cheque from Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison, Lynda Lafleur, for portable toilets for Kaslo's annual Jazz Festival.

Retallack's outgoing general manager, Harry Berlow of the Slocan Valley, said that he and the rest of the company's former owners had worked hard with the new management team to ensure a smooth transition.

The new owners have committed to a multi-year improvement plan, including a revamped guiding program, new staff accommodation and the purchase of two new biodiesel powered snowcats for the 2007/08 winter season.

Retallack is set to feature in the upcoming ski film *Believe*, produced by Hall and starring both himself and Morrison. Further details of the new plans for Retallack will be released on the new website in September.

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)
CASUAL CALL-OUT EMPLOYEES

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) is accepting applications for casual employees throughout the district in the following job classifications:

- Bus Drivers
- Custodians
- School Secretaries
- Noon Hour Supervisors
- Special Education Assistants
- Library Clerks
- Program Assistants

Successful candidates will have their names placed on the C.U.P.E. Casual Call-Out List and are needed to replace full and part-time employees on an as required basis. A resume outlining grade 12 completion, qualifications, and experience should be attached to your application.

Employees currently on the Casual Call-Out list must reapply by September 1, 2007.

For further information please contact the School Board office in Nakusp, 265-3638 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. prior to 1:30 p.m. on September 7, 2007.

Please Note: that prior to being placed on the casual call-out list, applicants must submit to a criminal record search and must have a minimum grade 12 education.

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes)
P.O. Box 340
Nakusp, B.C.
V0G 1R0

Pope & Talbot strives to sell assets to stave off bankruptcy

by Jan McMurray

Pope & Talbot, one of Nakusp's largest employers, is in trouble. All of its assets are up for sale as part of an agreement with its lenders and bankruptcy is a possibility when the agreement expires September 17.

While the company's corporate headquarters are located in Portland, Oregon, most of its manufacturing is done in Canada. It has two pulp mills, four sawmills and the Nakusp woodlands operation in BC, and only one pulp mill and one sawmill in the US.

The strong Canadian dollar and the poor softwood lumber market brought on by the downturn in the US housing market are the factors that have led to the company's poor financial position.

The company's common stock was suspended from trading before the opening of the market on August 22 by the New York Stock Exchange, because of its "abnormally low" trading price, which plummeted to .40 on August 16. It was at $8.44 in February. Another reason for the de-listing of the stock was the company's recent news releases regarding its liquidity.

On July 31, P&T entered into an agreement with its lenders that will allow the company to continue to borrow until September 17. During this six-week period, the company has been exploring its options to strengthen its balance sheet and generate cash, is making efforts to sell its assets, and is analyzing its ability to restructure its debt, including, if necessary, through bankruptcy.

After the September 17 deadline, a news release issued by the company states it cannot provide any assurance that it will be successful in obtaining any further relief. "Even if the Company is successful in obtaining additional covenant relief, it will continue to be challenged in its ability to maintain adequate levels of liquidity relative to the size of its operations," states the release.

The company's efforts thus far include increasing its prices on northern bleached softwood grades, a two-week shutdown of its sawmills in Grand Forks and Castlegar, a temporary capacity reduction at its Nanaimo pulp mill, reducing inventories, reducing non-employee administrative expenses, implementing a salary and and new hire freeze, closing the corporate flight department, and selling the company airplane.

The company reported a net loss of $42.9 million for the second quarter of 2007 compared with a net loss of $21.8 million in the same quarter of 2006 and a net loss of $18.6 million for the first quarter of 2007.

Construction of ten more beds at Minto House begins

submitted

A groundbreaking for 10 new residential beds in Nakusp was held August 23 with representatives from Interior Health, the West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital District (WKBRHD) and Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling. The new beds, being developed by Tri City Contracting Ltd. of Kamloops, will more than double the existing eight beds in Minto House, located adjacent to Arrow Lakes Hospital.

The single-storey addition will feature a cottage design with a private bedroom and washroom for each resident along with a shared dining area, activity lounge and laundry facilities.

"We've been waiting for this project to get underway for some time and I'm thrilled to see shovels in the dirt," said Deborah Austin, Interior Health's Community Administrator for Nakusp.

The total project is valued at $2.7 million, with the WKBRHD contributing 40 per cent of the total project cost, and Interior Health funding the remaining 60 per cent. Project completion is targeted for summer 2008.

"The addition of 10 beds to Minto House is a much welcomed project in our community," says Mayor Hamling. "We have been looking forward to this for a long time. Along with the recent renovation of Halcyon Home for assisted living, this new addition to the Minto Lodge for complex care gives our seniors more choices for quality care. A great big thank you goes to the IHA and the WKBRHD."

Deborah Austin, Carol Markowski and Karen Hamling participate in the official sod-turning for the 10-bed expansion of Minto House, adjacent to the Arrow Lakes Hospital.

Edgewood's hawthorn project on the leading edge

submitted

The West Kootenay Herb Grower's Cooperative, based in Edgewood, has gained much attention with its Hawthorn Agroforestry Demonstration Farm Trial project, kicked off in 2005.

George Powell, BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative Facilitator, says ,"The West Kootenay Herb Growers Cooperative's work is an outstanding regional example of sustainable development in action and is also at the forefront in the development and use of agroforestry."

He says he often highlights the work of the Edgewood cooperative in the presentations he makes. "The hawthorn agroforestry farm trials were also featured in presentations to delegates at the 10th North American Agroforestry Conference this past June in Quebec City. Based on comments from that conference, it is clear that their work is unique and at the leading edge of development in North America," he adds.

Agroforestry is the intentional, integrated production of trees or shrubs with other crops or livestock. In this case, hawthorn is being grown with other medicinal herbs. Hawthorn has a long history of use for treating cardiac weakness and as a "blood vitalizer" – lowering cholesterol, improving blood circulation, and alleviating hypertension. The Hawthorn Project seeks to find answers to several questions. Is native hawthorn equivalent medicinally to the traditionally used European species of hawthorn? What is involved in planting and managing a hawthorn orchard? How do we process and store hawthorn flowers and leaves, or berries? Can hawthorn cultivation provide a sustainable supplementary income?

On August 1-2, the cooperative participated in a native shrub workshop in Vernon, hosted by the BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative. Day 2 featured the hawthorn trial sites as a tour stop on the field tour agenda.

On August 3, the cooperative teamed up, in Edgewood, with the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee in hosting an Invasive Plant presentation and tour, followed by an Agroforestry presentation and hawthorn trial sites tour. The tour stopped first at the cooperative's processing house, to see the large cabinet drier that was constructed last year. The second stop was at a hawthorn growing trial site, where attendees were able to see hawthorn shrubs of varying sizes and shapes.

The cooperative was incorporated in August 2004 with the purpose of developing herbal opportunities that balance economic, social and environmental concerns. It has grown to eleven members from the Arrow Lakes and Slocan Valley areas. For more information, contact Jeanette Lee, at d_sawyer@columbiacable.net or 250-269-0038.

Community Forestry receives support from Vancouver Foundation

submitted

FORREX Forest Research Extension Partnership and the British Columbia Community Forest Association (BCCFA) have received funding from the Vancouver Foundation to assist First Nations and rural communities develop sustainable and viable community-supported forests and businesses.

Vancouver Foundation, Canada's largest community foundation has confirmed a $50,000 grant to FORREX and BCCFA for the 18-month project. The project will provide educational and networking opportunities for communities participating in BC's Community Forest Agreement program. Community Forest Agreements are a form of legal tenure by which the Province transfers decision-making to communities that wish to meaningfully participate in the stewardship of nearby Crown forests. They are intended to stimulate long-term stewardship for all forest values including rural employment, education, and skills training, as well as other social, environmental, and economic benefits.

Jennifer Gunter, Coordinator for the BCCFA, indicated that the grant will have a significant impact on the resources available for community forest organizations. "Community forests have the potential to be models of forest stewardship and sustainable community economic development. But they are still a new entity in BC. Communities require practical information to maximize the opportunities inherent in their stewardship role and to gain the capacity to foster innovation and diversification." Chris Hollstedt, Chief Executive Officer of FORREX added, "FORREX is really pleased to partner BCCFA in enabling knowledge-based and innovative community forests."

Sita Sewell from Dallas Texas tries on the Nakusp Search and Rescue raffle ATV for size. A few tickets are still available for the September 3 draw. Contact Helmut Klughammer, 265-4370, for details.

Arrow Lakes Arts Council announces 2007/08 Concert Series

submitted

Now in its 30th year of supporting arts related activities in the Arrow Lakes region, the Arrow Lakes Arts Council (ALAC) is offering five concerts in the 2007-2008 Concert Series.

This season's concert series starts on Tuesday, September 18 with New Orleans North. Band members Lloyd Arntzen, Alan Matheson, Grant Simpson and drummers Craig Scott or Graeme Peters come from Northwestern Canada to serve up a spicy gumbo of tales, music, humour and just plain fun. New Orleans North is a traditional jazz band, infused with the spirit and enthusiasm of the hottest jazz bands of the 20s and 30s.

The second event in the series is the Mirror Theatre performance of *Wyrd Sisters*, a play written by Stephen Briggs, on Friday, October 19. This young but dynamic group from Fauquier has been winning awards through Theatre BC festivals. The play is a comedy based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This is a planned Halloween spectacle, with many actors of all ages, directed by Mick Royko.

The third concert will be Triple Forte, on Thursday, November 22. Triple Forte brings together three of Canada's most prominent soloists: violinist Jasper Wood, cellist Yegor Dyachkov and pianist David Jalbert. This sought-after piano trio has been capturing critics' and audiences' attention with their passion, intelligence and sensitivity. Separately, as soloists, these three stars have delighted audiences internationally for years.

The fourth event of the series is on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, with comedian Lorne Elliott. The Canadian-born Elliott has performed all across Canada, the US and Australia. Starting as a writer and folk musician, he went on to writing comedic material for one-man shows. His current performance, *The Collected Mistakes 2007*, is a witty, clever and fast-paced performance of thought-provoking contemporary satire.

The fifth and final concert of the series will be performed by Canadian pianist Michael Kim on May 5. Kim continues to receive acclaim for his performances throughout Canada, and more recently in the United States, South America and Korea. A recitalist and chamber musician, he has received his Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts from the Julliard School, where he held the Vladimir Horowitz scholarship.

Tickets can be purchased for each concert or in a package of three or five events. The package of three is $55 for adults/$40 for seniors (60 plus)/children (12 and under), package of five $95 for adults/$70 for seniors/children, single tickets $20 for adults/$15 seniors/children. Those who purchase the package of three or five will have an assigned seat. Single ticket holders will have open seating. Season ticket holders from last year will be asked to come to the Fall Fair on Saturday, September 8 to pick up their series tickets. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the package deals may come to the Fall Fair or contact Marilyn Massey at 265-4087.

Pharmacy Technician Position available at Peoples Pharmacy in Nakusp. Pharmacy or retail experience required. Successful applicant should be customer service oriented, and have excellent organizational and interpersonal communication skills. Candidate must be energetic with a high level of professionalism and enthusiasm, have a positive attitude and be able to work as a team player and have a team approach, with the ability to work well under pressure and multi-task in a fast paced multi-faceted environment.

Please mail resume to:

Peoples Pharmacy
PO Box 279
Nakusp, BC

PEOPLES DRUG MART

Local business finds a way to help economy in slow season

submitted

Drawing on their background and contacts in the music and arts industry, Bill Mitchell, owner of Rock Island Resort and his wife Susan Janzen have created a number of new events to help boost the slow 'shoulder season' for tourism. One of those events is the Rock Island Music, Media and Arts Camp (RIMMAC) being held from September 12-16 at Rock Island Resort, south of Nakusp.

As summer winds its way to fall, many businesses will see a dramatic downturn – an ongoing problem for tourism and retail operators in our area. According to Mitchell, a retired economic development/ tourism coordinator, the shoulder seasons (May-June and September-October) provide the greatest opportunity to enhance existing businesses.

"Finding creative ways to bolster your shoulder season is the easiest way to add to your existing business with the least capital output. It is important to use the skills and knowledge that you already have available to you," said Mitchell.

The Rock Island Music, Media and Arts Camp is an interesting mix of entertainment and education opportunities. There will be workshops with singer Gary Fjellgaard (songwriting), performing artist Ginny Mitchell (vocal and performance), producer/director Marty Collins (video production and lighting), local artist Susan Janzen (introduction to clay), a free concert Friday night with the songwriting students, and a Saturday night concert with Gary Fjellgaard and Ginny Mitchell.

The cabins and the yurt at the resort will be converted to venues for the workshops and camping is available on-site. There will also be opportunities for other accommodations to host workshop participants who don't wish to camp. All of the food and supplies for the event are being purchased locally.

"That's how these events trickle down through the economy, the hosts purchase locally, and visitors purchase gas, food, lodging and gifts and perhaps go to the hot springs. When they go home they tell their friends how beautiful and quiet it is in the fall," says Mitchell.

For more information check www.rockisland.ca.

The Garden Cafe's World Famous Lasagne!
Friday August 31st
SUPERSTAR SUMMER JAM SESSION
hosted by CHARLIE FISHER and THE BOYS FROM DEEP IN THE HEART OF LUMBY!

ALL MUSICIANS WELCOME!!
Carol's Garden Cafe
Mon, Wed, Thu ... 10am-2pm 5pm-8pm Friday ... 10am-2 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm or later
Saturday ... 10am-8 pm or later Sunday ... 10 am - 8 pm CLOSED TUESDAY

Last chance to celebrate Carol's Garden Cafe's tenth year

by Jan McMurray

Carol Stroshein's tenth year running Carol's Garden Cafe in Edgewood is coming to a close. August 31 is your last chance to spend a summer evening dining in the garden and taking in a show at Carol's this season. Everyone in the region is welcome to the Superstar Summer Jam Session, hosted by Charlie Fisher and 'the boys from deep in the heart of Lumby.' All musicians are encouraged to come and participate. Carol will be serving the garden cafe's world famous lasagna for dinner that night.

The ten-year mark is significant for Carol. "I said I would run it for ten years and I did, and now I am willing to pass the spatula on," she says. The cafe is for sale.

Carol is one of those people who has no end of energy. Her food is home-made with herbs grown in the garden, local produce, and her sauces and salsas are canned in the cafe's kitchen.

Over the years, Carol's has been so much more than a restaurant. "I originally envisioned it to be a centre for community activities as well as a restaurant," she says. And indeed it has been. Carol's is a place where local artists show and sell their work, and where people can hold events like birthday parties, wedding receptions and conferences. During the summers, she has brought in a very impressive line-up of professional musicians from near and far.

"I couldn't have done it without my faithful friends and staff," she said, listing at least a dozen people. "Thanks to everyone who has supported my vision over the years."

Carol is very community and globally minded. She has been a member of the local women's institute (WI) for 30 years. "This is a very good umbrella organization for women who are trying to make a difference in the world – think globally and act locally," she said, explaining that WI members are automatically signed up with other international groups. She has also been a member of the Edgewood Legion and the Inonoaklin Recreation Commission. She is currently involved with the Health Action Network Society out of Vancouver, which is "very powerful politically. It does checks and balances on the government's health policies."

Carol's political activism is evident when she donates time and products to local causes. She was very involved in organizing a benefit last year in support of a young Latin dancer, Ja, who needed a bone marrow transplant.

Carol has been in Edgewood for 30 years. Originally from Saskatchewan, she came to Edgewood to visit her cousin, Pat Carson, in 1976. "I loved it so much that I rented a cabin in Burton sight unseen," she reminisces. "Edgewood was packed with people from the back-to-the-land movement back then." Carol's stories about her experiences in Edgewood over the years could provide hours of entertainment.

Song Writing, Vocal, Performance & Digital Video Workshops

Gary Fjellgaard - Songwriting Workshop
Ginny Mitchell - Vocal & Performance
Marty Collins - Digital Video Workshop
Susan Janzen - Introduction to Clay

Gary Fjellgaard

September 12-16

Camping and Meals included with full registration
For More Information: www.rockisland.ca and follow the links to "Music, Video & Arts"
Or phone: 250-265-0040

Gary Fjellgaard & Ginny Mitchell
In Concert - Sat. Sept. 15
Time: 6pm Location: Rock Island Resort, 21km south of Nakusp on Hwy 6 to Vernon
Tickets: $18 advance, $20 at the gate.
Available at: Prima Materia, Broadway St., Nakusp or Rock Island Resort

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Inspiring Arts & Crafts
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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
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

Charles Granewall, Treasurer of the Nakusp Curling Club, accepts a cheque for $2,500 towards the purchase of curling brooms and a nipper from Lynda Lafleur, Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison.

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

Makes a great gift!

Only $4.95

CAMPGROUNDS

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

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

• Centennial Campground

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

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023

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

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

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

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472

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

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

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

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

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

• Woodbury Resort and Marina (250) 353-7717

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

HOT SPRINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

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

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

• Silverton Lakeshore Inn (250) 358-7929

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

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

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

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

Oldham's Lakefront Cottages

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

• O'Brien's on the Lake, 1710 Hwy 6 Nakusp, Ph: (250) 265-4575 www.obriens.kootenays.com

Beautifully hand-crafted log cabins with a million-dollar view. Full kitchen and bath. Satellite TV. Private phone and barbecue on lake-view deck. All units non-smoking. No pets please. World class fishing, golfing, hiking and much, much more just minutes away. **It's so much more than a place to sleep.**

BED & BREAKFASTS

• Sweet Dreams Guesthouse & Licenced Dining Phone (250) 358-2415 Fax 358-2556 www.newdenverbc.com / sweetdreams@newdenverbc.com

B&B in historic building by the lake. Licenced dining & patio by reservation. Ethnic style meals.

MUSEUMS

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

Open 10:00 to 5:00. Located 13 km east of New Denver on Hwy. 31A in historic silver mining ghost town. Collections of stunning photographs and fascinating artifacts including the famous "two story mousetrap." Admission (Cash only): 18 & over: $4,* 12-17 yrs. & Seniors $3, *Children under 12, Members free, *Family (4): $10

• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288

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

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

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

• Silvery Slocan Museum (250) 358-2201

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

Kaslo council, August 16: City Hall Conservation concerns heard

by Jan McMurray

•Mark MacKenzie appeared as a delegation on behalf of the City Hall Conservation Committee.

The Village agreed to ask Heritage BC to feature Kaslo Village Hall on the 2008 Heritage Week poster.

A document MacKenzie presented, 'Updates, requests and questions for Kaslo Village Council' was referred to the next Planning and Development committee meeting. The document indicates that the committee would like the Village to apply for CBT funding for heritage week events, and asks council to commit $1,600 from the renovations account to purchase T-shirts for fundraising and to commit up to $3,700 from the same account to produce 2008 Kaslo area heritage calendars for a fundraiser. The document also indicates that the committee would like clarification on the position of the P&D committee on fundraising for the City Hall Conservation Project (P&D did not support the Silent Auction fundraiser idea), the status of the renovations account and the availability of funds in that account, and on the meaning of "multi-use community facility," which is the stated outcome of the restoration project as it applies to the second floor.

•John Addison of the Kaslo and Area Residents' Association sent an email with the results of his research with Elizabeth Scarlett of Kootenay Lake Archives on the bowling green lots. They found that the lots have been owned by the Village since 1933. The previous owners, the Barnetts, had their Lake View Hotel there until it burned down in 1931. They did not pay their taxes from 1931 to 1933, and the City of Kaslo purchased the lots through a tax sale. Then in 1939, council introduced a bylaw to set aside the lots as a recreation ground and bowling green. Council resolved to set aside the lots, by bylaw, as a park reserve, with Councillor Vass opposed.

•Council received the official Certificate of Approval of the loan authorization bylaw to purchase the provincial government building from the Deputy Inspector of Municipalities.

•Council decided to accept the Dillon reports findings on the provincial building and not to pursue further due diligence with Golder Associates.

•Lori Staples, lawyer, was directed to advise ARES that the conditions of the lease must be settled before the purchase agreement for the provincial building will be signed.

•John Eckland from the Kaslo Hotel Development Corporation wrote with a proposal for stormwater drainage for the hotel. He offered to pay for all the material required to extend the stormwater drainage pipe along Water Street to an existing catch basin at the intersection of 4th and Water Streets. The installation work would be done by Village staff and equipment. Council referred this to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•Eckland attended the July 31 P&D committee meeting to present his ideas and concerns as he goes ahead with the Kaslo Hotel redevelopment project. These include: interface between the bowling green and the hotel's covered walkway from Front Street toward Water Street; a proposed public washroom for the southwest corner of the bowling green; burying of utilities on Water Street; and parking on Water Street. This was referred to the Official Community Planning (OCP) process.

•A resident wrote concerned that the hours the washrooms at the public beach are open are inadequate. She will be advised that this will be considered in the review of the OCP.

•An OCP meeting was scheduled for September 19 at the Seniors Hall.

•A letter from Vladimir and Anne Malik was referred to both the Public Works and the Planning and Development committees. The letter thanks council for its efforts to ensure that festival weekends are a positive experience and points out two things that still need attention: the enforcement of the temporary business license requirement and the inadequate garbage capacity on Front Street.

•Roberta Garrett's letter inquiring why council voted to pay half the cost of security at the campground during Jazz Fest was referred to the Administration and Finance and Planning and Development committees for recommendation to council.

•Responding to a request from the Village, Ramona Mattix of the RDCK informed that she had not seen a proposal for a subdivison of the Radford property beyond the Kaslo municipal airport. She said the RDCK would get a referral for comments from the Ministry of Transportation if the property was in the regional district, but if it is in the Village, the application would go directly to the ministry. Radford had approached the Village for a right of way through the airport to the proposed subdivision. Council referred the matter to the Planning and Development committee for recommendation to council.

•The RDCK will be advised that the annual cost for the Kaslo Trail Regional Park is anticipated to be $12,600.

•A request from the Hospital Auxiliary to have the roof of the A Avenue fire hall repaired by the Village was referred to the Public Works committee for assessment and recommendation to council.

•A visitor to Kaslo wrote to strongly recommend that uneven concrete on sidewalks be spray painted as a way to warn people to be careful. An elderly person who visited Kaslo with her fell down on the sidewalk. The letter was referred to the Public Works committee for action.

•The fence for the community garden is making progress, with council considering a DVP to allow for a six-foot fence. Also, the Village will provide a grant of $1,000 towards the project.

•The Village will purchase a Kaslo River Trail bridge tread for $200.

•Bylaw 1050, Outdoor Burning Bylaw, was read three times.

•The Village put out a request and received information back from other local governments regarding trail use conflicts and problems with public docking facilities. This information was referred to the Administration and Finance committee for recommendation to council.

Kaslo won't sign offer to purchase provincial building until satisfied with take-back lease

by Jan McMurray

The take-back lease part of the provincial building purchase agreement continues to be the sticky point for Kaslo council. The purchase price is $120,000 cash, plus ten years of free rent for the space in the building that is occupied by the government agent. The take-back lease covers the terms and conditions of the ten years of free rent.

At the August 16 council meeting, council directed its lawyer, Lori Staples, to advise the Province's Accommodation and Real Estate Services (ARES) that the conditions of the lease must be settled before the purchase agreement for the provincial building will be signed. ARES has extended the deadline for negotiations to October 1, with the purchase completion date 30 days later. In emails back and forth between Charles Chan of ARES and Staples, Chan repeatedly asks that the purchase agreement be signed. He points out that there is a clause in the agreement that states the purchase is subject to the Village being satisfied with the take-back lease. "...if we cannot agree to it by October 1, there is no deal," says Chan in his July 26 email.

Staples asked Chan many questions on behalf of the Village in a July 18 email. Chan could not answer the question asking if the tenant 's requirement could be to "leave the premises in good repair" in the take-back lease, in exchange for a commitment from the Village to do only absolutely necessary repairs. He referred Staples to ARES Lease Manager Andy Schimmel to answer this question.

She also pointed out in her July 18 email that the Business Case on the purchase done by the chartered accountants recommends that the Province's share of the operating costs, as the occupant of the "prime space," should be 50% of the total occupancy costs. Also, the tenants should agree to arrange and pay for their own janitorial service. Chan answered that the value of the lease at $105,000 means that the Village must be responsible for the majority of the operation and maintenance costs of the building. "We cannot...agree to the 50% share as it will reduce the value of the 10-year rent free period resulting in us receiving less than the...$105,000 in the lease and thus compromising our mandate to achieve a fair market value," replies Chan, adding that the same principle applies to the janitorial service.

Staples also asks Chan if the Province is willing to "accede to the standard approach" of doing repairs to the building that are identified in a building inspection, or deducting the cost of the repairs from the purchase price. Chan replies: "The property is sold 'as is where is' so in this instance, any repairs or upgrades required by the Village would be subject to negotiation, not a standard approach."

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Two lakes between two villages

I've always been intrigued by the similarity of the settings of Nakusp, New Denver and Kaslo, in that each village is on a large lake and has a junction highway connecting it to the adjoining valley with another small village. Summit Lake is at the one pass, and at the Zincton Pass between Kaslo and New Denver are Fish and Bear lakes.

Bear Lake seems to have all the fish, and Fish Lake has the rest area that attracts all the bears, and originally Bear Lake was named Fish Lake and vice-versa. These small shallow lakes lie several hundred metres apart at an elevation of 1,100 metres and are skirted by both Highway 31A and the old road grade. The highway has become famous as the scenic and winding north connector of the Selkirk Loop road tour.

Although these two little lakes lack the drama and significance of the big valley bottom lakes, they can make a satisfying half day kayak outing. One of my favourite boats is the nine-foot long plastic kayak I bought last year. One of my neighbours got one recently as well, so we drove up to the pass the other day to do the double tour of the lakes. These kayaks cost around $300 at any big box store and are very sturdy, extremely safe, spacious, and idiot-proof. That can be helpful...

Zincton Summit can be windy and shady in the shoulder season, so take a sweater when you head up there. There's a handy gravel bank at a pullout halfway down the shore of Bear Lake. There's a great mass of driftwood that floats around the lake as the winds come and go during the high water period. Every few winters a massive avalanche will roar down onto the lake from London Ridge and freshen up the selection of woody matter, much to the angst of those hoping to hook a fish.

The present-day highway follows the old K&S Railway and you can still drive the old road grade around the far side of the lake. There's a parcel of private land with some cabins at the back corner of Bear Lake but it seems okay to drive through it if you're going to try fishing off the far shore. The log-littered shoreline is fine for kayaking – just paddle real slow and look lots as this is a short tour and full of things to see, including spectacular peaks and ridges.

Reloading at the roadside, you drive a kilometre east to the Fish Lake rest area. Earlier in the summer you'll see billions of tadpoles or tiny, somber faced toads slowly hopping about the shoreline as they plan their immediate futures. The toads' only predators are car tires as they cross the highway, failing to look left or right.

The other prolific critters here are the beavers, who have demonstrated great industry in their forest clearing and water impoundment projects. Likely without valid permits these busy beavers have worked the waters of Fish and Bear lakes and also Kaslo River and Seaton Creek drainages over some distance. One time I kayaked the multi-tiered beaver ponds just west of Bear Lake and was really awed by how much impact these persistent creatures can have.

Anyhow, launching from the rest area allows you to spend a pleasant hour if you dawdle enough, and again, with the kayak you can remain just a metre or two offshore to see all the rich plant life and waterworld below. Of great interest to me is a long narrow channel at the grassy west end of Fish lake that extends at least 200 metres into the swampy low bush growth. This channel is as wide as outstretched arms and deep enough to allow paddling/poling the kayak a great distance. The beavers have dredged out mud and plants and made this amazing canal that finally ends in some windfalls.

Although right along the highway corridor, this is still a wilderness interface area some 18 kilometres in from New Denver and 31 kilometres from Kaslo. Plenty of wildlife here and in the evenings when all falls silent it returns to the backcountry ways. Driving home from Kaslo last month I avoided at least 40 deer and was amazed to see two caribou (no, not elk) standing by the road shoulder near the Retallack Resort turnoff. Didn't see the resident moose cow at Three Forks but kept driving slow all the same. Always watch the road, but enjoy the roadside too.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and enjoys even these small outings. 358-2133.

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with Jamie Barber

Many local escapades and adventures have their impetus on the 'flight deck' of the Silverton Hotel. This one was little different as the suggestion was raised that perhaps the next Doc Spanner's column could be devoted to an in-depth report on "Hugh's Humvie". Having partaken of a couple of Kootenay's cool ones, it seemed like a great idea to me at the time.

Here's a bit of background information so that all this makes sense. First of all, Hugh is an old friend of mine. He's a bit quirky, and very inventive. I've watched this vehicle come together right from scratch, as Hugh just lives across the highway from me. Secondly, the village was dead at the time. The stars had aligned in such a way that I had been evacuated out of my rural homestead due to the forest fire, the tourist and truck traffic had all been diverted, and for the first time I could remember, we had our village to ourselves at the most beautiful time of year.

Hugh's machine is really a bicycle with a motor on it….wait - that doesn't do justice to it. Actually, the machine is a highly complex motorized vehicle based on a bicycle platform. The frame is pretty standard mountain bike, as are the wheels. The power plant is Hugh's old Johnserud chain saw and the drive gear is a complex series of chains, sprockets, pulleys and belts that give a total of 14 gears in high and low range. The exhaust pipe is a broken leg off a lawn chair and all of the parts are either scrounged or hand made. There are three separate brakes – two on the handlebars and one foot brake. It is even equipped with a speedometer.

Now Hugh's machine is normally used for back country work and he has put many miles on the old girl, going over trails and gravel roads, but it is also very sweet on the pavement, even though it lacks any formal licence. In a normal situation, I might have been a bit hesitant to try driving the vehicle, as I could see from the outset that the controls required a fair bit of getting used to, but these chances don't come too often, so I placed my baseball cap in the "speed position" and fired it up with a few helpful hints from Hugh. I wobbled out from the flight deck parking lot onto the deserted streets of Silverton for the big test drive.

It didn't take long to become familiar with the brakes and the thumb throttle, but the power engage lever, (which is an old hand brake lever activating a clutch pulley), was difficult to get the hang of. I found that there was a distinct knack of engaging the main drive belt without having the engine drive belt come flying off one of the pulleys. It took me a few tries, but perseverance paid off and I was soon able to climb up hills, change gears and make a confident start from stand still. There are lots of things to pay attention to when you are riding the old girl but I was surprised at how well it glided down the road, climbed the steepest hills and let you cruise at high speeds if you wanted. The complex shifting system easily keeps you in the sweet spot of the engine and anything from a crawl to a burst of speed was there for the asking.

A proper test for a vehicle of this type requires a variety of road types, so I cruised up the highway from the Hotel, turned right at Hand and Soul, took a left down the back alley behind the Silverton Building Supply, crossed the highway again and cruised in front of Carl and Mel's house, past the Silverton Gallery, down Hume Lane and then ripped back down the highway with gravity on my side so I could see how the girl handled at speed.

It was great fun and a privilege to ride. I'd do it again in a flash if I had the chance. Is it the vehicle of the future? Probably not, but if you are as inventive as Hugh and you have a garage full of old bicycle parts and a dead chain saw, maybe you could build one too.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Middle Earth

Everyone knows that good food is more enjoyable when you are with friends. That's why, last Saturday, I asked two of my most elegant friends to accompany me to Nakusp where we would try out a new restaurant. To my delight they both accepted the invite. We drove in the sunshine and arrived in Nakusp. We cruised the main drag, hung a right at the light and proceeded slowly towards our destination: MIDDLE EARTH. I knew the approximate location, but it turns out to be a place you can't possibly miss. MIDDLE EARTH is a new restaurant that grabbed us visually before we even got out of the car. It looks like a tiny castle nestled between mountains.

We left the car and headed, arm in arm, up the curving walk past a sign that said "Conscious Cuisine." Arched doorways and windows and lots of hanging petunias welcomed us to MIDDLE EARTH, Nakusp's newest eatery.

Once we stepped inside, the castle motif continued. There were more arched passageways into various rooms finished partly with 'cultured' stonework. The place seemed vaguely familiar to me. I left my lovely companions for a minute, and after walking under various arches finally found Daniel Gagnon. Daniel and his partner Andrea Eigelshoven are the folks who saw the need for an 'alternative type' place to eat in Nakusp, and for the last year and a half they have worked tirelessly to bring it into existence. They are amazing people. Daniel travelled the world for sixteen years. This includes cycling across Canada twice and Europe once. Andrea lived for six years in the B.C. wilderness where, among other things, she raised and looked after two hundred sheep. No electricity! By some quirk of fate they met in Nakusp a year and a half ago and fell for each other. Andrea blushes as she says "It's the best thing that ever happened to either of us." Together they dreamed up MIDDLE EARTH, the theme of which, Daniel tells us, is 'Medieval Fantasy.' Every square inch of the place reflects this theme, but it is not intrusive. It's a comfortable place. The decor is there to enjoy. I could write pages describing it, but instead lets talk food.

MIDDLE EARTH is big on paninis. The breakfast paninis are full of proschuto, scrambled eggs, Swiss cheese, onions and herbal mayo.

The Greek paninis sport chicken, cheese, olives, toms, pesto and roasted red pepper. Myself and one of me lovely friends had the Greek paninis. It was excellent! There's also an Italian panini with choice of ham, salami, or proschuto. The veggie panini: spinach, arti, or avocado along with olives, toms, cheese and roasted red peps.

Soups at MIDDLE EARTH are outstanding. Andrea makes them all from scratch. She has no fixed recipes. She says she just looks at what's on hand and goes from there. When my friends and I got there they had just run out of organic curry-apple-lentil soup, so we had the chicken-curry soup with peas, red pepper, purple onion and more.

Salads include organic spring salad, Greek, pesto pasta, fruit salad and arrugula salad. There is also a plate of antipasto available.

Smoothies at MIDDLE EARTH are mind boggling. There's one with pomegranate, blueberry and Yerba Mate. "Its got diet Pepsi beat all to heck," says Daniel.

The teas served include Tessa Thai Chi, Matcha green tea, blended chai, and many others that I can't pronounce, most of them highly anti-occident. Want coffee? There's regular java, Lattes, cappuccino, mocha-frappe, black tea and iced tea.

The deserts are fabulistic! I had the worlds best carrot cake with fresh whipped cream, strawberry slice, blueberry, and a fresh mint leaf.

One of my companions had teardrop-shaped four-berry cheese cake with checkerboard sides. How 'bout a mango smoothie with Italian biscotti?

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Middle Earth Restaurant
There is so much to say about MIDDLE EARTH. I only mentioned a fraction of the wonderful food. Andrea and Daniel are perfect hosts. Behind the counter "Deb" cracks jokes all day. MIDDLE EARTH is unlike any other place I've ever been. I strongly recommend MIDDLE EARTH Restaurant.
Andrew Rhodes, Food Editor
NAKUSP, BC

AUTOMOTIVE

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS to the following people who so graciously contributed their time and spirit to help make my garment show at the Kohan such a success: Terry Blizzard, Catherine Allaway, Helen Davis, 'Koko' Tsuneko Kokubo, Paul Gibbons, Ric Bardati, Penelope Stuart and Taeko at the Raven's Nest.

-Morgen Bardati

THE FAMILY OF MATSUO MORI wish to thank all our relatives, nieces and nephews, friends and neighbours for your kind words of sympathy, cards, phone calls and visits. Special thanks to Dr. C. Burkholder, Home Care Nurses, Home Support Workers, Hospice Society and the Nursing and Dietary Staff at the Slocan Community Health Centre.

-Amy, Leonard and Raymond Mori

CARD OF THANKS to everyone who helped make the Slocan Lake Dance Camp a success! For the talented visiting dance instructors: Michael Wiebe, Gayle McFayden, Ricardo Pacheco and Rita and Ian Deane. For support and assistance from the Slocan Lake Recreation Commission, the Slocan Valley Arts Council and from RDCK Area H Director Don Munro and the executive and membership of the Kootenay DanceBeat Club.

Plus thanks to the Silverton Gallery Society, Ann Bunka, Bev Casley, Carol Bell, Tim Wiseman, Heather Huether, Donna Jean Wright, Katrina Sumrall, Margareta Van Krichman, Burgin Jacobs, the Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton for assistance with infrastructure and other stuff. Also thanks to the following businesses who graciously donated doorprizes Raven's Nest Gallery, Nuru Design, Home Hardware, Silverton Building Supplies, Gaze n' Chat, Still Eagle (Nelson) and Blue Sky Clothing (Nelson). Thanks to the following dancers who traded workshops for assistance with set-up, clean-up and registration: Patti Sebben, Glen Jordan, Hans & Flavia Elias, Josana Starbuck, Ray Lyver, Gerald Dalum, Liz Richardson and Caroline Alarie. Last but not least thanks to the local press for their cooperation in printing press releases and photographs. Dance on!

-Fran Wallis, Director, Slocan Lake Dance Camp

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.

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 - Rabi'a art continues until September 3. Don't miss this unique show. V.C. Boyd photographs from September 5-10. Reception September 7, 7-9. Diana de Groot and Donna Jean Wright will entertain in the folk genre. All welcome.

MEN ONLY! We are looking for your collections: photos, stamps, tools, etc. to show at the Hidden Garden Gallery September 19, 20, 21, 22. To celebrate the end of a memorable summer season. Call Barry Lamare for info. 358-2643. Party goes with it.

FOURTH ANNUAL ART AND ADVENTURE FALL COLOURS PAINTING RETREAT October 9 to 12 at Little Slocan Lodge - three evenings of discussion and sharing of work and two full days of intensive painting in the out of doors. Generous discount for registration received before September 15. Contact Barbara Wilson at 250 226 0021 (please leave a message) or bewilson@telus.net (ArtandAdventure.ca).

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TAKE THE FEAR OUT OF PUBLIC SPEAKING, starts Sept. 24;

HOW TO USE YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA, Sept. 29 - 9am-12noon,

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IN MEMORIAM

RUSSELL GEORGE STORMS. July 15, 1939 to September 1, 2006. We miss talking to you and wish you were still there keeping the home-fires burning. Loving you forever, your family and friends.

LOST

MISSING CAT - All black, yellow patterned collar with bell that may have fallen off. Last seen on August 14 in Nakusp. Very friendly. Phone Dawn anytime day or night. 265-2199 or 265-3188 or 265-4900.

NOTICES

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

THE NAKUSP AND AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION will be holding their Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2007 at 12 noon in the Boardroom of Arrow Lakes Hospital. Everyone is welcome.

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Colleen McCrory memorial attracts overflow crowd from across Canada, US

by Art Joyce

An environmental champion, mother, grandmother, sister, loyal friend, caring neighbour – Colleen McCrory was all these things to the nearly 400 people who gathered at Silverton Memorial Hall Sunday, August 26 to celebrate her life. The McCrory family had to accommodate the overflow crowd in tents on the south side of the hall as colleagues and friends arrived from all over Canada and the US.

"This is the right place for us to meet," Colleen's brother Wayne McCrory said, "across the lake from Colleen's favourite place – Valhalla Park."

Wayne opened the service with an intimate account of growing up together in a poor family. He recalled the night Colleen was born, January 5, 1950, being so cold there was ice a half inch thick on the walls of the family's tiny home. Patrick McCrory had to walk his wife Mabel through the freezing streets to New Denver's old hospital, where Colleen was born by the light of a coal oil lamp, giving rise to her early nickname 'Coal Oil Colleen.'

The family's Silverton home, built from an old prospector's cabin, came to be a drop-in centre for old miners and even bootleggers. Wayne believes it was these experienced backcountry men who first taught Colleen and the rest of her siblings about the wildlife in the mountains. The first stirrings of environmental activism in the family came in 1975, when a large logging company moved into the valley, bought up the independent mills, and began clearcut logging.

"It was a shocking wake-up call for us," said Wayne. "We thought our valley would stay the way it was forever."

After a couple of years of intense campaigning to have a provincial park created, Wayne and the other activists at the Valhalla Wilderness Society were getting burnt out. Colleen asked if they needed a secretary and managed somehow to buttonhole cabinet ministers by phone in between taking Sears orders at her store and caring for babies. The battle she came to lead for the creation of Valhalla Park required some eight years of campaigning to finally achieve. Colleagues at the memorial spoke of Colleen's fearlessness in confronting government and industry executives by simply refuting attacks with facts.

"Never was it done with malice," said longtime friend Maire Rodham. "Her purpose was clear: expose the lies. She knew deeply that injustice of any kind affects all of us, wherever we are."

Longtime VWS colleague Richard Caniell said Colleen's many environmental awards "never inflated her," and that she was most moved by the cartoon by Dave McMillan showing old growth trees thanking her for protecting them. Citing the 700 emails the society received in condolence, Caniell said Colleen "would be amazed to see she was so loved and respected."

Current Green Party leader Elizabeth May recalls meeting Colleen when she and Vicky Husband were working on the South Moresby campaign. May said Colleen foresaw the death of Nigerian writer-activist Ken Saro Wiwa.

"She said, 'Oh my god, they're going to kill my friend Ken.' It was personal to her."

Past Green Party leader Adriane Carr spoke of Colleen's 'nose' for sniffing out scandal and dishonesty and her strategic savvy in coming up with campaign slogans like 'Brazil of the North'.

"She worked for a planet in peril and I'd like to ask all of us to keep on doing that," Carr concluded.

Roland Dixon, whose grandfather knew renowned American conservationist John Muir, travelled from California to be present. Emotion cracked his voice as he spoke of Colleen as someone who had a profound effect on his life. He quoted the words of another conservationist, Grey Owl, who said, "We are not the lords of this planet, we are its children. …The money we gain is not worth the price we pay."

Others spoke of Colleen's joy at being a grandmother and the difficulty she felt trying to balance family responsibilities with her environmental work. Yet she repeatedly helped those too sick to help themselves, filling out forms, cooking and cleaning. Daughter Rory spoke tearfully of how her mother's greatest gift was "raising us in this beautiful place."

Former CBC reporter Ian Gill spoke of how Colleen earned his respect by insisting that he come out and get the story 'on the ground', and by interviewing those affected face to face, not from a distant news desk.

"I take some comfort that Colleen's story doesn't end. When I hike in Haida Gwaii, Colleen is there," said Gill. "When I dip my paddle in the waters of Clayoquot Sound with my son, Colleen is there."

Colleen McCrory's memorial, held August 26, was a tribute to her life and work in the Slocan Valley and around the world.

Vote for Carly Rae Jepsen for Canadian Idol. One of the four finalists as of August 27, 21-year-old Jepsen has a local connection. She is the niece of Stuart Hobson, English teacher at Nakusp Secondary School. Watch the show on CTV on Monday nights at 9 pm to find out how to vote. Your vote is super important to Carly!

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

FALL EDIBLE VALLEY HIKE - With Michael Keefer. Sat. Sept. 15th noon to 3:00 pm. LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

POSSESSION & ACQUISTION LICENSE - Sept. 15th & 16th (Sat. Sun.) Winlaw School

CORE HUNTER TRAINING PROGRAM - Sept. 22nd & 23rd (Sat./Sun.) Winlaw School. Instr: Ivan Hawley

GEM FIELDS OF THE SLOCAN VALLEY - With Rod Luchansky. Sat. Sept. 29th Slocan Park Hall.

FALL MUSHROOM EXPEDITION - With Tyson Ehler. Sun. Sept. 30th Threads Guild Building, Perrys Siding.

FITNESS CLASSES - Legs, Bums & Tums - Sept 17th; Body Conditioning - Sept. 17th Weight Training - Sept. 25th; Fusion Pilates - Sept. 27th.

PIT FIRED POTTERY - With Bev Greer. Begins Sept 27th (Thurs.) in Slocan.

YOGA CLASSES - For Your Women & Girls - Begins Sept 27th at C.V. Youth Centre. Hatha Flow Yoga - Begins Sept. 27th at Slocan Park Hall.

FALL RECREATION GUIDE - Is now available in all Slocan Valley stores and online at www.rdck.bc.ca

UPCOMING PROGRAMS PHONE 226-0008

Agent hired to promote organic farming in BC

The Certified Organic Associations of B.C. (COABC) is allocating its $100,000 grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to create a new Organic Extension Agent position, which will provide resources and support to existing, startup and transitioning organic farm operations in BC.

BC is Canada's leader in organic production, according to the recently released 2006 Statistics Canada Census on Agriculture. BC organic farms account for 16.3 percent of all farms in the province, compared to the national average of 6.8 per cent.

"It is important that British Columbians have a choice at the store, market or farmer's gate," said Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell. "This new position will help producers become organic and provide even more options for consumers."

Rochelle Eisen has been hired for the position, which commences on September 1, 2007. She has worked for the BC organic sector since 1989 and has diverse experience in all types of land-based organic operations.

"We value the relationship that we have developed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands over the years, and we're pleased to have their support in creating this new position," said Deb Foote, president of COABC.

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