The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Nakusp Music Fest community park proposal withdrawn

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Roots Music Society (NRMS), organizers of the Nakusp Music Festival, decided to abandon the community park project at a meeting September 6.

"The fact that council continues to delay a decision which would move the project forward has already resulted in time delays which would not allow us to complete Phase 1 as scheduled by November 30, 2007," states a letter to the editor from NRMS (see page 5). The letter also says that 11 core members were at the meeting and the vote was unanimous.

NRMS has been successful in obtaining grant funding through the federal Job Creation Partnership (JCP) program and through Columbia Basin Trust's community initiatives program. The project got underway June 18, with five people hired under the JCP program. They were supposed to work until November 30. NRMS has wanted approval to begin the logging required for road construction in the new RV park area since August 23, and informed council that timing was tight to get a contractor.

Getting the go-ahead for the road work to begin was on the agenda at council meetings held August 23, August 28 and September 5 and is on the agenda again for the September 11 meeting, when it looks like it will be a moot point.

With Councillors Mueller and Switzer declaring a conflict of interest and removing themselves from council chambers for any agenda item concerning Music Fest, the decisions are left up to Councillors Dahlen, Heppner and Mayor Hamling. Councillor Dahlen has raised concerns of Slo-Pitch, soccer, 10th Ave. residents and some of her own at all three meetings and asked that they be resolved before the project begins. She walked out of the August 28 meeting so that council would not have quorum after Heppner and Hamling both said they felt comfortable approving the road construction work, as all groups had shown a clear willingness to come to an agreement.

Although many people have voiced many concerns since mid August, the majority of them, including Councillor Dahlen, have prefaced their remarks by saying they are supporters of Music Fest.

Groups most directly affected – 10th Ave. residents, Nakusp Mixed Slo-Pitch Society, the soccer program at Nakusp Secondary and the Nakusp Soccer Association – have all strongly voiced concerns recently, and NRMS reps have worked quickly to resolve them. Project plans have been revised to accommodate 10th Ave. residents, although not all of them seem totally satisfied.

A written agreement has been signed by NRMS and Slo-Pitch that says: "Both societies walked the site and reached an understanding on all issues" and "Both societies ask council to approve the changes to the Community Park and make a motion in favour of this park." The changes agreed to include removing two campsites so as not to interfere with the Slo-Pitch concession and beer garden. To make up for parking spaces lost due to the creation of three of the campsites, the two societies suggest that the Village allow for some additional angle parking along the RV park access road off 4th St. NW. Also, Stage #2 would be about 100' further north and green space in front of the stage, located in Kathy Pederson Park, would be protected by slightly elevated plywood panels.

In response to the sports groups' concerns about the condition of the Helen Zeleznik field after the festival this year, a 'quick fix' to prepare the field for the upcoming boys soccer tournament has been agreed upon, and work has begun on a longer term maintenance plan for the fields. This all happened in short order after the August 28 meeting, when concerns were heard loud and clear. Slo-Pitch was unable to use the field this year, and Rod Morrison, athletic director at the school, was afraid he'd have to cancel the upcoming boys soccer tournament – the largest in the province. Armed with photos of the damaged field, Morrison showed that it was very compacted, scattered with dead spots, as well as with dips of up to 12 cm. "For four years I have said you need to aerate and top dress when you are finished, but it has fallen on deaf ears at Music Fest," he said. Dom Castellano, Public Works Manager at the Village of Nakusp, has since informed council and Jahnke in an email that "it looks like over fertilization is part of the problem" with the fields, so that "the amount of people at music fest didn't help" but that was "not the sole reason for the damage."

So the remaining questions are mostly coming from Councillor Dahlen and members of the public, who mostly want more financial information about the new RV park that the Village would end up with. This information is included in the September 11 council meeting agenda package, along with a list of answers from Music Fest to eight questions from Councillor Dahlen.

Projections prepared by Treasurer Richard Mahoney indicate profits between $1,676 and $29,426 on 20 campsites, depending on occupancy rates (25% and 75%). On 36 sites, profit was estimated to be $10,600 with 25% occupancy and $60,550 with 75% occupancy. Jahnke has provided council with a projected cost of the project, totalling $885,000 over three years. This first phase was estimated at $185,000.

It appears that this information is academic now, and perhaps there will be some pondering of the question posed by Joanne Cowan at the August 28 meeting: What is the cost of not proceeding with the community park project?

The project, first presented to council on November 23 last year as a "win-win" project for the community and the festival, would have created an RV park and permanent stage in the treed area west of the current festival site. NRMS proposed to pay for the project through grant funding, and then turn the facility over to the Village upon completion. The only stipulation would be that the Music Festival could use the grounds for the festival weekend each year. The Music Fest would benefit by having expanded festival grounds; the Village would benefit by gaining a new camping area with washrooms and a 'village square' with stage and seating. Council granted support in principle at that meeting late last year.

Since then, the Nakusp Music Festival group has come to council with an update at the February 13 meeting, held a public meeting March 8, held a public meeting especially for 10th Ave. residents August 14, and has been back to council meetings August 23, August 28 and September 5. The Village sent a questionnaire to 1,218 mailboxes in Nakusp and area in April, with 77% of respondents in favour of the project.

Tracy Brown sells her scrumptious garlic, with the assistance of her daughter, Amber, at the 15th annual Hills Garlic Festival, held Sunday, September 9, in New Denver's Centennial Park. 160 vendors showed up for this year's event. An estimated 5,500 people attended the festival. Both vendors and the public greatly enjoyed the expanded grounds.

Mock disaster scheduled for Nakusp September 30

submitted

The Nakusp & Area Emergency Response and Recovery Committee and the local and regional emergency services agencies are expecting a major catastrophe on Sunday, September 30, 2007. **LUCKILY, NO ONE WILL ACTUALLY BE HURT.**

An MCI (Multi Casualty Incident) is being planned to provide a training opportunity for the Emergency Operations Centre personnel, local Fire/Rescue, Ambulance, ESS, Hospital, RCMP, Search & Rescue, MOT, and Public Works.

The training will focus on the Nakusp & Area K local emergency plans as well as the support of the Emergency Operation Centre to the incident scene and the co-operation of all the emergency service agencies, working together to save lives. The communications and unification of agency protocols among the different agencies is a large part of a successful outcome during such an incident. This event has been generously supported by RDCK, Arrow Lakes Hospital, Nakusp Fire Brigade, Columbia Basin Trust, Nakusp Ambulance Association, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #20, Ministry of Transportation, Arrow Lakes Search and Rescue, the Village of Nakusp, Overwaitea Food Group, Crescent Bay Construction, Kal Tire and the Nakusp Music Fest.

To ensure an authentic experience for the emergency responders, details are being kept quiet – even the 'patients' won't know their injuries until the day of the exercise. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, contact Susan Gustafson at 265-4496 or Terry Warren at 265-0230.

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- Only run your dishwasher when it has a full load of dirty dishes needing cleaned. Some dishwashers even have a water saving cycle. Make use of it. When you don't have a full load of dishes, use your sink.
- Leaking valves and faucets can waste more than 400 litres of water a day. Leaking faucets are often caused by a worn out washer that costs pennies to replace. Most hardware stores will have faucet repair kits with illustrations showing how to replace a washer. Install a low-flow faucet aerator, which can cut water use in half.
- Soak pots and pans before washing. When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water.

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Slocan Valley TV Society decides to meet with lawyer over wireless agreement

by Art Joyce

Many lower Slocan Valley residents were mystified recently by a notice that appeared in some mailboxes claiming that the Slocan Valley TV Society had signed an agreement for the use of its towers with a private wireless high speed internet service provider. The notice was not authorized by the current board. Society directors met at the Passmore Fire Hall the evening of September 5 to consider their next steps.

Columbia Wireless owner Ben Leslie has said his agreement was made with society president and chair Mickey Kwasnicki, who claimed the society's AGM held in March was a "non-event," making the current board invalid. Kwasnicki has said he would dissolve the board and re-appoint its directors. Both Kwasnicki and Leslie were invited to the September 5 meeting but neither showed up.

Jim Ross, a computer network technician who lives in the lower valley, said he phoned Leslie and urged him to appear at the meeting. He was told by Leslie that the company's board of directors are unable to comment on the details of the agreement. Treasurer Barb Ilhen explained that the board didn't care whether broadband proposals came from public or private sources, but clearly needed to be consulted on any agreement made on behalf of the society.

Murphy said that the board had been acting as individuals in response to the situation and needed to pass resolutions as a board in order to act in a legal capacity. He added that the provincial government registrar of companies has told him it does not intervene legally in society conflicts. Ross interjected that before the board made any decisions it needed to consider which of two options it wanted: to get into protracted litigation, or to provide high speed wireless service. Board member Craig Sapriken said in his view, Leslie needed to be served notice to cease operations on society towers. Ross retorted that if that stance was taken by the board, and "if you impact my business, you will see me in court." Both Sapriken and board member Colin Mackintosh said they had no desire to have that happen but that if the society were in contravention of the law, it had to protect itself. Ross answered that from what he knew of Industry Canada rules, the wireless industry is mostly unregulated.

Murphy said it was important for the board to deal with the issue of unauthorized activity by board members. A motion was thus passed to write the Kootenay Savings Credit Union to remove Kwasnicki as a signing authority on the society's account. A second motion was passed to write Columbia Wireless a letter stating that, from the perspective of the board there is no functioning agreement; that no further equipment be installed on society towers; that the society invites Leslie to meet with the board; and that seven days be given as the timeline for setting such a meeting which is to occur within 14 days. If no such meeting occurs, the board will determine what actions to take next.

Craig Lawrence asked if the board needed to provide some verification of its legitimacy. Murphy said that was one of the questions the society needed to ask a lawyer and that a meeting had been scheduled with lawyer Kenyon McGee at 9 am September 7. A motion was passed authorizing the board to attend the meeting.

A letter from Area H Director Don Munro was read, informing the society that funds had been withheld due to the fact that the RDCK had not received financial statements from the society for the past four years. Board members said there had been problems getting some documents from Kwasnicki. Barb Ilhen offered to research society files to provide financial statements. She wanted to resign as treasurer but remain as director, to avoid any appearance of conflict. Her resignation as treasurer was accepted and Mackintosh's offer to replace her as treasurer was also accepted.

Murphy said the society's plan to borrow $232,000 from the Municipal Finance Authority for a publicly owned high speed internet system was "in limbo." A motion to schedule a special general meeting was tabled due to uncertainties regarding the outcome of the previous motions.

At the board's meeting with Kenyon McGee, the lawyer agreed with the direction the society has taken and will be writing Columbia Wireless a letter reiterating the points the board has made. Murphy said the board will also be inspecting the towers to see what work has actually been done, as all information on this to date has been received second-hand.

Fire season in monitoring and rehabilitation stage

by Jan McMurray

Slocan seems to be the hot spot for wildfires this season. Over the Labour Day weekend, lightning caused 37 new fires in the province. Although all were fairly small, the largest one (3.5 ha) started three kilometres north of Slocan, on the steep cliffside just south of the pullout.

The fire itself, very visible from the highway, is not as big a concern as the stability of the bluffs. "The fire is burning on such a steep slope that rocks are coming loose and debris is rolling down onto Hwy 6," said Karlie Shaughnessy, Fire Information Officer at the Southeast Fire Centre. She reported that the Ministry of Transportation was putting in cement barricades on the side of the highway below the fire last Friday.

As of September 7, the fire was 100% contained. "We have retardant guard around all sides except one, and that side is cliffs, so the fire doesn't have anywhere to go," explained Shaughnessy.

The fire started Friday evening, August 31 at 7:47 pm. Shaughnessy said large aircraft had been deployed to the fire and helicopters were bucketing it. She noted there were no watersheds or structures in the area.

Shaughnessy also reported that the Springer Creek fire five kilometres north of Slocan, which caused evacuation orders and alerts earlier in the season, was 95% contained. "That's as contained as it's going to get," she said. "The other 5% is really steep terrain, so crews are mopping up and patrolling the area and doing rehabilitation projects." She said crews would continue working on mopping up until there is significant rainfall, and reported that Enterprise Creek and Springer Creek Forest Service Roads are now open.

The Ministry of Forests has been conducting risk assessments on the Springer Creek and Sitkum Creek (near Nelson) fires to map burn severity and identify risks. The main risk is flooding and landslides after heavy rainfall. "Preliminary inspections indicate there are likely to be risks of flooding and debris flows in several gullies and creek channels below the Springer fire, and possible flooding on the Sitkum Creek alluvial fan," states Vern Quaroni, Acting Regional Executive Director of the Southern Interior Forest Region in an email sent to Forestry personnel and local governments.

The other three fires causing major concern in our area last month – the Arrow Lakes Penstock fire, the Argenta (Hamill Creek) fire and the Kemp Creek fire – are all 100% contained at this point.

Appledale Hall controversy may go through restorative justice

by Jan McMurray

The Appledale Progressive Association, the non-profit society that looks after Appledale Hall, has gone through a change in the board this year that has not been very smooth.

In attempts to get advice on any recourse available to them, the old board members have contacted the Registrar of Companies in Victoria, elected representatives Don Munro and Corky Evans, and a lawyer. Munro, RDCK Area H Director, has put them in touch with the Slocan Valley Restorative Justice group (SVRJ).

Carol Bell, new co-ordinator of SVRJ, says she's been in touch with members of both the old and new boards, and that SVRJ would like to see it proceed. She says the issue may need to be referred to a body other than SVRJ, "but we'd like to start the process, because we share this valley – our children and grandchildren work and play together. We need to model appropriate behaviour."

She said the old board members have confirmed that they would like the restorative justice process to proceed with their case, and said she is still waiting for an answer from the other group.

According to old board members Floyd and Nick Verigin and John Minnaert, the AGM was scheduled for December 17 of last year, but was rescheduled to January 21 due to poor attendance. At the January 21 meeting, past board member Willie Harasemow attended and suggested that he conduct an audit of the books. A motion was passed at that meeting to further postpone the AGM to February 4 to allow time for Harasemow to complete the audit. At the February 4 meeting, there were many questions about missing receipts and other paperwork and the meeting ended in a "shouting match."

On February 13, the first in a series of registered letters was sent to Nick Verigin, Floyd Verigin, Marion Bullanoff and John Minnaert. This first letter was signed by 21 society members and asked that a general meeting be called within 21 days for the purpose of appointing a new board, and that all records, books, documents and keys of the society be handed over. It says that at the February 4 meeting, a motion carried that the current board members resign, to no avail.

Several registered letters have been sent since. Also, some documents filed with the registrar in Victoria have been posted publicly. One of these, a 'notice of changes in directors other than at an annual general meeting' lists new appointed directors as Mabel Kabatoff, Vera Stooshnoff, William J. Stooshnoff, Joanne Taylor and Rick Taylor.

The Verigins and Minnaert are quite astounded with the course of events. "We had nothing to hide, so we gave Willie the books when he asked for them" back in January, said Floyd. He says he found all the paperwork that Harasemow claimed was missing during the audit, and met with him to go through it all, item by item. He says he, Nick, John Minnaert and Marion Bullanoff had been directors of the society for nine years, because no one else had shown any interest. What was most puzzling, he said, was that Harasemow had been on the board at times during those nine years and had never raised concerns about the way the affairs of the society were being managed.

Telus agrees to wait "briefly" on New Denver cell service

by Jan McMurray

Telus has responded to two of three requests that council made at its August meeting.

The company will delay the project until Health Canada has responded to some residents' correspondence, but it will not indemnify the Village against any downstream heath effects. Although the request for a monitoring regime has not been received in writing, Shawn Hall of Telus said in a telephone interview that the company would be happy to do "pre" and "post" emissions readings and make those figures available to council.

"I understand that some residents are waiting to receive information from Health Canada regarding concerns they may have about health. As a result, we are pleased to delay any work at the site for a brief period so that Health Canada has an opportunity to respond," states Tony Geheran, Vice President, Customer Solutions Delivery at Telus in a letter dated August 28.

Geheran points out that although the health issue is a concern to some residents, there are many who would like the service. He also notes that Industry Canada encourages wireless providers to share infrastructure, which Telus is doing by using the CBC tower in New Denver. He assures "the amount of radio frequency energy from the site will be fully compliant with the Code and well below the limits set by it." He adds that cell phones provide another communication link for emergency response.

In an August 29 letter, Geheran addresses the indemnification request. "Given that the Village has neither a contractual obligation regarding the installation, nor any regulatory responsibilities with respect to its use, there is nothing for Telus to indemnify the Village against. For these reasons, Telus is unable to provide the Village with an indemnity as described above."

He also informs council that Telus has decided to build a smaller building than originally planned at the site, so it will not require a building permit. He notes that although the Village issued a building permit for the larger building, the permit has to do with enforcing the BC Building Code, not the approval of the use of the building.

BUDGET 2008 CONSULTATION

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES
Chair: Bill Bennett, MLA (East Kootenay)
Deputy Chair: Bruce Ralston, MLA (Surrey-Whalley)

What are your views on the upcoming 2008 provincial budget? British Columbians are invited to participate in the budget consultation process now underway.

Call For Written Submissions And On-Line Responses

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has been appointed to consult with the public and to make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding questions posed in the Budget 2008 Consultation Paper. The Committee's work will assist the government in making decisions regarding the allocation of surplus revenues, the continued use of contingency funds and healthy forecast allowances, and how to pay for important infrastructure projects. The public is also encouraged to comment on other matters relating to the province's fiscal priorities.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

This fall, the Finance and Government Services Committee is accepting written submissions on the province's fiscal priorities. In addition, we have developed a website that will allow all British Columbians to respond directly to the questions posed in the Consultation Paper. The Committee's report will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2007.

For more information on sending a written submission, or to complete the Committee's on-line response form, visit our website at www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations

or contact: Office of the Clerk of Committees, Room 224, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4; phone: (250) 356-2933; fax: (250) 356-8172; toll-free in BC: 1-877-428-8337; e-mail: FinanceCommittee@leg.bc.ca

The deadline for written submissions and on-line responses is **Friday, October 19, 2007.**

Craig James, *Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees*

Jury is out on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and microhydro – Part One

A special report by Art Joyce

While few would dispute the fact that BC's power needs are growing as its population grows, and that we need to reduce greenhouse gases by clean power generation, the IPP solution adopted by the BC Liberal government has created sharp division.

For generations, British Columbians supported the development of a hydro-electric system which invested their tax dollars in building infrastructure that produced direct benefits to those same hydro users. The price per kilowatt-hour or gigawatt-hour was based on a cost of generation-plus calculation that rewarded BC consumers with some of the lowest electricity rates in North America. According to the 2006 annual report by Hydro Quebec, *Comparison of Electricity Prices in Major North American Cities*, BC ranks among the lowest in all categories of power costs, next to Manitoba Hydro and Hydro Quebec, also publicly owned utilities.

Privatizing power generation in Ontario has already created a problem. "The failure of the private sector in Ontario to bring to market sufficient electricity to meet domestic demand resulted in a huge surge in prices," explains economist Marjorie Griffen Cohen. Consequently private firms were bailed out by the government with a subsidy which covered the spread between the 4.3 cents per kilowatt-hour paid by consumers and the 8.8 cent market cost of power.

Some readers may already be confused. Isn't BC Hydro still publicly owned? Yes, as Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Richard Neufeld is quick to point out. However, under the 2002 Energy Plan created by the BC Liberals, it can no longer build new energy infrastructure. That job has been delegated to IPPs, from whom BC Hydro will acquire electricity through the granting of Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs).

These contracts, which result from periodic Open Calls for Power from the government, span between 15-40 years and lock in the price per megawatt-hour at a fixed rate. What is needed to enter the game is a water license on a suitable river or creek and the funds to jump through the environmental and regulatory hoops.

The 2006 Call for Power produced bids in the $74-87.50 per mW/hr range, up from $50-55 just two years earlier. Historically BC Hydro customers have paid $6 per mW/hr, although as Minister Neufeld explains, this figure is based on existing, paid-off infrastructure, not the cost of new construction.

IPPs reasonably argue that bid rates are a function of high development costs, which can reach into the hundreds of millions. Indeed, the costs of financing a private microhydro or other IPP project are much higher than would be the case for BC Hydro, which "enjoys a gold standard credit rating," according to John Calvert, adjunct professor of political science at Simon Fraser University. This added cost of debt servicing is necessarily reflected in the mW/hr bid price.

Many economists believe the BC government's purchasing of all new power through IPPs will not result in any net benefit to consumers. Essentially, explains Cohen, "the public will continue to invest heavily in electricity, although this will not be for... the accumulation of public assets, but rather to subsidize...private sector ownership of power generation." But Steve Davis, President of the Independent Power Producers of BC (IPPBC), believes the argument that the public is subsidizing private IPPs is nonsense.

"After 40 years the water licence and land right of ways reverts to the Crown. The commercial value of the concrete and steel in the infrastructure isn't much if you don't have those rights."

Still, BC Hydro infrastructure when paid off is owned by the public. IPP infrastructure will remain privately owned, so shareholders will be strongly motivated to renegotiate these lucrative licenses when they expire.

Davis points out that failed past projects undertaken by BC Hydro have cost taxpayers millions. He cites the Hat Creek Coal project, which cost BC Hydro $70 million in development costs during the 1970s and 80s, and the gas-fired plant at Port Alberni/Nanaimo, among others. Plutonic Power's 15 mW Rainy River microhydro project is the first casualty of the new IPP revolution in BC. Plutonic has had to exit its EPA contract due to an inability to guarantee minimal impact on fish population, costing the firm a $100,000 withdrawal penalty plus other development costs.

"Developing power projects is risky, whether by BC Hydro or IPPs. Some projects fail," says Davis. "If an IPP fails, its private shareholders pay. But if a BC Hydro project fails, all British Columbians pay."

Meanwhile, the government sanction for IPPs has created what many are calling a new 'gold rush.' To date, some 495 water licences or applications on BC creeks and rivers have been registered by the government. According to Calvert, two-fifths of the licences are held by 10 companies and there is no restriction on foreign ownership. Even considering the average cost of a water license ($10,000) plus financing and construction costs, and provincial and federal land and water taxes, IPPs of any substantial size stand to make billions over the terms of their leases.

Regardless of who bears the development risks and costs, economists predict energy consumers can expect to pay steadily more. NDP Agriculture critic Corky Evans sees the shift to privately based hydro infrastructure as part of "the most stunning reversal of culture and public policy in North America."

"Historically we thought government's job was to steward public resources for posterity. When you privatize stuff, it turns to a return on investment timetable instead of a transgenerational timetable."

NEXT ISSUE: *The argument that BC is a net importer of electricity is examined, along with the environmental and local government control issues.*

Westbank First Nation treaty meeting postponed

by Jan McMurray

The Westbank First Nation treaty negotiations public meeting scheduled for September 6 in New Denver was postponed and has not yet been re-scheduled.

Raf De Guevara, Westbank Treaty Negotiator, explained that the meeting was postponed because the First Nation had its elections on August 31. "Out of respect for the potential new chief and council, we decided to postpone the meeting until we brought them up to speed," said De Guevara.

As it turned out, De Guevara reported, there was only one change on council. The new councillor, Brian Eli, has served many times before, and was chief for one term in the past. However, De Guevara says it will still be a while before the meeting takes place. "I have to do a full presentation on the process to the incoming councillor," he said.

The meeting was set for just two weeks after a public information meeting about the treaty process was held in New Denver with a representative from the treaty commission. Most of the approximately 20 people who attended were Sinixt and their supporters, who had many criticisms of the treaty process and objections to the Westbank negotiations. Barb Coble, senior researcher in the intergovern-mental affairs department of the Westbank First Nation, said she did not believe this meeting had anything to do with the decision to postpone the Westbank meeting, but "it would not be fair to put council into that situation with contention," she added. "The timing was just not right."

When asked if the Westbank had made any decisions regarding the Sinixt, Coble said the chief and council would be having a planning meeting in the near future "to strategize how to deal with the issue."

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Kaslo:	September 18, 2007
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Trail:	September 21, 2007

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Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission
Open Meeting
The Public is Invited
Winlaw Hall
Monday, Sept 17
7 PM
To discuss the options for wireless internet
The EDC wants the public to make choices based on all the available information.
Larry Lavan of Red Mtn. Internet Society and Ben Leslie of Columbia Wireless have both been invited to attend.

Voices from the Valleys

Public Park Proposal shot down

The Nakusp Public Park Expansion project is dead. Despite overwhelming public support, this opportunity to improve the Village of Nakusp's recreational infrastructure at no cost to the taxpayers has been lost. 36 new campsites for visitors – gone. Permanent stage for a variety of community events – no more. An improved venue for Nakusp Music Fest – merely a pipe dream.

It's wrong to blame the process. This has been the most open and transparent process for any public project that I have ever seen. There's been public meetings and surveys of public opinion conducted. The park project has been discussed at every Nakusp Village Council meeting since March. Many changes have been incorporated into the plans as community concerns have been raised.

It's wrong to blame the Slo-Pitch Association, or the soccer players. Their concerns have been addressed, and the project proponents made significant compromises to accomodate them. It's also wrong to say that sports fields cannot be the site of rock festivals. As a young man, I enjoyed many concerts at Empire Stadium in Vancouver. It takes a fair bit of work, I imagine, to rehabilitate your field after such an event, but it can be done, and quickly if necessary.

It's wrong to blame the 10th Avenue residents. A majority of them wanted to see the park proposal go ahead. It's unfair to blame the proponents. They have bent over backwards to reconcile the competing demands of the community with the need to proceed in a timely fashion. It's also unfair to blame the media. We often focus on problems. Sometimes we can lose sight of the big picture. Still, we have no control over the public agenda, or whether work permits are granted or not.

No, the responsibility for killing the park proposal rests squarely on the shoulders of Councillor Dahlen. She used a procedural trick to deny council the quorum that they needed to authorize the work to begin. She could have registered her dissent from the majority opinion, and the project could have moved ahead. No one would have held it against her. Instead, she took advantage of the fact that two councillors had declared a conflict of interest, to thwart the expressed will of the majority of Nakusp residents. I hope she knows what she's doing.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Farewell Colleen

It's hard for us that you are now unseen
who strove to keep our forests vibrant, green.
But in our hearts and minds you still live on,
nourishing our will to keep things green.
You nourish us to keep alive the cause
to keep our forests live - Colleen, Colleen.

David Herreshoff
Kaslo

Likes signs

I have just a few things to say to Richard Caniell about his little tirade over certain signs along the highway.

Richard, one of those signs is at the end of my driveway, and I find it in no way offensive. In fact, I like the sign. It is cheery and colourful and brings to ones attention that there is a fine ceramic artist in the neighbourhood making a go of it in Silverton. The signs are certainly not the harbinger of giant and frightening billboards. Richard, if you are really concerned about eyesores in the neighbourhood, take a look at the two-story buildings along New Denver's main street. There's one in particular whose shabbiness sticks out like a sore thumb. Start there!

Andrew Rhodes
New Denver

Supports local potter

I feel compelled to comment on the opinion of Richard Caniell as expressed in his letter to the editor in the August 29 issue of the Valley Voice.

In Mr. Caniell's opinion the owner of the pottery store violates his sensibilities with her roadside signs. Does he accost weekend yard sellers with his opinion as well? The offending signs are at best 10 inches high! What's next, sandwich boards? Come on, how petty.

To harass a person that has the courage and initiative to start a business in at best, a difficult and highly seasonal enterprise and that is a sole proprietorship and not a "Subway, Best Western, Kelowna Resort" is in my mind cowardly. I suppose it's easier for him to confront a young woman trying to make a living as opposed to going after the bigger game. Going into her premises is not enough though, why not injure her and her business more by putting his opinions in print as well?

I'm beginning to believe that some people in the area have too much time on their hands that could be put to more constructive and positive use.

Chris Boven
New Denver

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Visual pollution?

Although I agree with Richard Caniell that commercial signage along our highways can lead to "visual pollution," surely he has created a tempest over a teapot with his recent visit to a local small business and follow-up letter to your paper.

His lengthy argument boils down to "give them an inch, they'll take a mile," but I believe that his concern is misplaced. The signs he complains about are, after all, very small by any standard, artfully hand-painted by a young artist struggling to make a living in the valley where she has grown up, and erected on the private properties of a few long-time friends who support her efforts.

Ironically, the commercial storefront from which Mr. Caniell and his colleagues operate on Main Street in New Denver has been allowed to deteriorate to a state undeserving of its heritage building status. Visual pollution? One could make the argument, but no doubt Mr. Caniell and company could claim that the demands of their workload have prevented them from attending to the upkeep of their building.

It is noble to argue on principle but important to consider circumstances.

R. Allin
Hills

Scourge of billboards?

I am responding to Richard Caniell's August 29 letter, "Ads on Highway Signage Intrusive."

Mr. Caniell writes lengthily on everything from the evils of corporate advertising to the Campbell government. Fiery stuff. What's his inspiration? He cannot abide a local potter's small and unobtrusive highway signs, which he likens to billboards for "Subway or Western Motels or Kelowna Resorts" and which he denounces as "the first sliver of intrusion" in a forthcoming "scourge [of billboards] on the landscape."

Good grief. While I agree with Mr. Caniell that corporate advertising can be irritating, let's keep a sense of perspective. A 3-foot sign for a locally owned and run pottery shop is *not* a 30 foot billboard for Wal-Mart. To suggest that they are the same, or that the one may precipitate the other — which is exactly what Mr. Caniell is doing in-between the lines — is insulting, manipulative and a distortion.

Small entrepreneurs play a key role in growing the vibrant and beautiful community in which we live. We want to encourage our entrepreneurs, not make it harder for them than it already is. Mr. Caniell would do well to direct his energies towards more productive ends.

Travis Brunn
Nelson

Industrializing streams

Here is a question we must seriously ask ourselves when considering the issue of independent power producers harnessing power from our creeks: do we want to industrialize all mountain streams of any size so that BC Hyrdro can export power to California? Here is a quote from the National Energy Board: "...On November 25, 2002, the BC Government released its new energy policy, which contains a number of actions directed toward the electricity industry. One of these actions is that BC Hydro Transmission Corp., a separate entity, will operate BC Hydro's transmission system with the purpose of ensuring fair access for all generators. This will allow independent power producers (IPPs) to serve large customers in BC and enable them to participate in US wholesale markets." (section 3.1) Consult the NEB website. There is lots more information.

If we continue devastating our environment in the interest of private profit, we will have to one day start calling our parks museums, as a reminder of what we once had.

Kuris and Lorraine Raits
Passmore

Tempest over teapots

In response to recent concerns expressed in your excellent paper over roadside signage, I do agree that large-scale billboards are unwanted eyesores, and are especially crass and inappropriate in our gorgeous mountain valley scenery. The case of the beautiful small handmade teapot signs, painted on recycled wood by the artist in question, is entirely different in my opinion.

These little signs are posted by the Pottery Gallery with permission of local land owners who are supportive of the arts and of this local small business. I find the signs to be an affirmation of the creative values that our communities and mountain valleys offer to both locals and tourists. How wonderful to have businesses around us that celebrate the arts. Visitors come to this area to enjoy the extraordinary beauty, for recreational possibilities, mountain culture, and also to enjoy our unusually talented and lively arts scene. Original signs of a very modest scale that express the spirit of our artists are so much more attractive than any generic commercial or government offering.

Perhaps resolution of conflicting viewpoints could result from thoughtful recommendations to the Slocan Valley Plan regarding standards for the size and placement of signs— this could protect us all from billboards.

I strongly hope that the artistic creativity and diversity of our vibrant community will continue to be encouraged and appreciated by visitors and locals alike. It is challenging to try and make an honest living from the arts, and I am proud to support all those who are doing so in every way I can.

Pamela Nagley Stevenson
Winlaw —Instructor:
Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College

Respect our beaches

I took a walk along Hills beach the Monday of Labour Day weekend. It was something I hadn't done for far too long. Probably a year anyway. As ever it mesmerizes me. The sound of whispering cottonwoods. The clan of cedar waxwings who live in the old green-beard cottonwood, darting into the air and back again to mossy crooked limbs, hunting bugs. Silence that belongs only to Slocan Lake. The chuckle of Bonanza Creek spilling into blue-emerald water. Sandy beach so free of clutter, free of ATV tracks. . . . wait a minute.

I suddenly felt like the place had been invaded. I looked around, saw tracks crisscrossing everywhere, right up the soft shoulders of Bonanza Creek marsh, and veering right into the water. And it occurred to me, if someone were paying attention, they might have noticed the Government of BC recently passed a law whereby anyone caught damaging a delicate ecosystem, for example a marshland, with an ATV could be subject to a $100,000 fine or a year in prison or both.

You know, we don't mind when the relatives come from over the mountains. After all, we only see them once a year. And sure, they work hard the rest of the year. But when they party all night, leave beer cans and garbage all over the lawn, tell us how to live, and tear up all the wild gardens we so carefully tended, we get thinking, "Gee, maybe it would be nice if these folks didn't stay so long."

Show some respect for this gem in the eye of creation. What you do to her, you do to yourself.

Art Joyce
New Denver

Engineers aren't doctors

I would like to respond to Mr. Stuchlik's claim that there is no harm in cell phones. He makes this claim from the perspective of a university diploma in Electronic/Wireless Communications. Assurances about health effects from his perspective would be similar to the judgment of a mechanical engineer on the health condition of an automobile accident victim. Health effects must be assessed by people qualified in the biological sciences.

Technical people can provide technical information, but, in my estimation, these remarks about the low power usage of the gadgets of the wireless industry stretch the truth and are a serious red herring. Mr. Stuchlik compares the power used by the cell phone with the power used by a light bulb. Shawn Hall of Telus compares it with the power used by the clock radio

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Voices from the Valleys

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beside your bed. This is the typical apples and oranges argument. In fact, even an apple and an orange have more in common than a 60 Hz wave (as comes into your house) and one that has a frequency of around 2 billion Hz (as used by the cellular industry).

The higher the wave frequency (whether a water, sound or radio wave) the less power you need to have an effect over a distance. For a given power (or wattage) a higher frequency wave will be more intense, that is, have a greater amplitude in relation to the wave length. This gives the wave its distance of travel and is precisely why microwaves are used by the wireless communication industry. You need less power to do the job.

You could get a rough comparison of power needed to achieve effect (resonance) over distance with an inverse proportional calculation between wattage and frequency. The 18 watt antenna (which is the wattage of each of the antennae proposed for New Denver) at 1.8 billion Hz (microwave frequency) would need a 540 million Watt antenna if 60 Hz (household frequency) were used to achieve resonance at a similar distance.

The effect of 18 watts at high frequency will, no doubt, be less dramatic than a jolt from millions of watts. The question is, what in the living cell will resonate unfavourably with a particular signal? This is not a task for a technical expert or for a public relations person from industry. This research must be left to those versed in the biological sciences.

Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

re: letter 'Cell service beneficial for area'

Excuse me and the rest of the valley residents for being so "ludicrous and closed minded," and I – no we – humbly apologize for our "lack of wisdom and insight."

Have you been spending too much time on an ostrich farm? You see, these odd birds apparently bury their heads in the sand when threatened, and this gives them a false sense of security.

I seem to recall skeptics and naysayers spouting a similar argument against the weight of scientific evidence on the health risks of smoking tobacco and second-hand smoke. More recently of course was the denial of global warming.

I guess you need to see the hospital wards jammed with patients waiting for MRIs and CT scans, chemotherapy treatments for brain tumours etc., as proof positive.

Some of your comments would lead me to suspect that you may be showing symptoms of brain trauma. Last time I checked we had phone service in town, so those stressed-out tourists have no difficulty touching base at the office or home and it doesn't require a cell phone. Of course, that would require possibly walking a block or two, that can't be too good for the health! Unfortunately not owning a cell phone does nothing to protect one from the health risks posed by the towers (sound familiar – second-hand smoke scenario?) to say nothing of the intrusion on a quieter, simpler lifestyle.

I grant you that in an emergency situation cell phones add another level of security, and being a paramedic with the local ambulance I know the frustration of poor communication firsthand.

"The few people..." actually the majority of residents, which in New Denver I suppose is a few, are opposed to service. I hardly think they are all "childish" by the way.

I presume there must be an attraction for you to keep coming back over the years, despite our backwardness and reluctance to jump on the bandwagon of so-called progress and change. My, how you must have suffered over these years! Perhaps on reflection it is the quiet, peaceful 'time capsule' that is our valley that lures you back time and again.

You said it best: "I may not have the same well-formed ideals as the local residents." Now there we can agree!

J. Matthews
Silverton

Monitor wireless technology

I appreciate the views of the two gentlemen who joined the discussion about cellphones. Since learning about the proposed Telus cellphone base station installation here in New Denver we have been corresponding with Health Canada and learned there is conflicting evidence about health effects from cellphone level intensity electromagnetic radiation (EMR).

Reviewing the scientific literature as a whole Health Canada concludes that "the overwhelming preponderance of scientific data shows no adverse health effects from exposure to EMR at environmentally relevant levels".

What are we to make of this statement when the industry appears to have had undue influence in forming the regulatory framework for wireless technology applications. Several questions arise.

1. When the scientific literature as a whole is reviewed one wants to know who funded the various projects. We have read and seen testimony by scientists claiming significant interference in their work and the results that they were allowed to publish.

2. What aspects of the EMR were subjected to examination? When only the thermal effects are studied then it seems that minimal damage is observed due to the low power of these devices. Were base stations the subject of any studies in Canada?

3. Over the twenty years that there has been interest in this topic a large number of projects claim no adverse health effect. If a current review is conducted including the more recent reports that do indicate damage to living tissue there can be a significant dilution effect skewing the picture and allowing Health Canada to make its calming statement to us. Is this a reasonable conclusion to draw?

After three months of involvement in the cellphone controversy I have been surprised by our Federal Government's lack of interest in protecting public health on the whole subject of the explosion in wireless applications.

The glaring gap is a lack of monitoring programs providing field data. We have found that Industry Canada, designated by Health Canada to be the regulator of the telecommunications providers, has no community monitoring in place.

The fact that more and more people involuntarily exposed to cell base station radiation are reporting sickness provides strong indication that we need to find out exactly what these wireless installations are emitting into our residential areas.

I believe it is time for Health Canada to require Industry Canada to establish community monitoring protocols around base stations to measure all the frequencies emitted, the extent of the transmissions and to involve local medical professionals in establishing registries for people to report the effects they are experiencing from chronic exposure to wireless devices.

We really cannot afford to continue in our naive innocence to accept the much touted benefits of wireless technology without attempting to make it safe for all people, both users and those who make the choice not to use wireless devices. We also have no clue as to the impact of these emissions on all the other creatures who share our space on the Earth.

Penelope A. Bonnett.
New Denver

Wants different electoral boundaries

I have yet to find anyone who supports the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Preliminary Report of August 15, 2007 in the West Kootenays, and in fact I have just seen a letter in the August 29 edition of the *Valley Voice* suggesting that the Kootenays should ask the Premier to arrange for us to join Alberta.

On page 18 of the report the Commission states that:

"We were told to keep like-minded communities together (i.e. draw boundaries along the height of land, not down highways, be aware of community trading routes, and make boundaries clearly identifiable to the public, elections officials and political parties)."

In the case of the boundary between Kootenay-South and Kootenay-East in the Lardeau Valley of Area D, Regional District Central Kootenay, this was clearly not done, as people in the same postal code areas, telephone exchanges and historically associated communities are now divided off one from another, as are the residents of Trout Lake from Nakusp.

Further, given section 9 of the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act, I fail to see any justification for inclusion of any part of the west shore of Kootenay Lake in Kootenay South (and can find no evidence of inclusion since before 1890) and also understand from my friend and Board colleague John Kettle (Area B RDCK) that there is considerable consternation with regard to the proposed boundaries of Kootenay East and Kootenay South in the East Kootenay.

I have now also heard from a former Rural Director in the Boundary who objects to Kootenay-Boundary being broken up as well. It therefore behooves us all to consider other options and to especially ask the Commission why they only chose 81 seats when they could have opted for 85. To be blunt the notion of an ever shrinking number of seats in the Interior, three this time, is repugnant to me as it means that fewer and fewer Interior MLAs will be forced to represent ever more vast areas of geographical territory.

I have an alternative proposal which I intend to present at the October 16 Boundary Commission hearings in Castlegar, which may require some tweaking. Above all I think we need to reiterate that communities which have no trade and service, no road and communication (radio, tv and newspaper), and no historical links should not be willy nilly thrust together. And those in the same postal code area and telephone exchange certainly should not be rent assunder as is the case with parts of Area D in the RDCK.

Above all I note that my boundary proposal eliminates any one MLA being forced to represent residents scattered across 50,000 square kilometres, but instead chooses boundaries that have been in place since November 30, 1965 so at least local politicians are used to talking to each other about common problems and issues. What a novel concept – boundaries that approximate another level of government, thus facilitating better communication and representation!

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D
Regional District Central Kootenay

Local decisions should be respected

Great thinkers of our time, like Noam Chomsky and Jane Jacobs, are believable in their conclusions that our society has had a break down in trust. This coincides with industrial development and the Laws pertaining to limited liability and the creation of Corporate Law. That Law - - - DOES NOT CARE ABOUT ANYTHING OR ANYBODY. Further, Laws can be changed to restore trust. I suggest that the lack of moral consideration in Corporate Law is the reason for this breakdown in trust.

Some examples of the lack of moral application are:

1. The very unprofessional journalism surrounding the Iraq war;

2. The "leaky condos" and other frequent building and bridge failures;

3. Foresters who must ignore knowledge of unsustainable practices, destruction of habitat, global warming, etc.

Moral principles are often deemed too expensive by corporations, unless imposed by Law. For example, they may plead ignorance or use "risk factors" to justify minimal expenditures. Professionals sign legal documents stating that the corporate undertaking meets the Law. If a Professional feels that they can't morally sign off on a project for whatever reason their usefulness to the Corporation ends.

If cell phones are safe, then where are the tests with more sensitive measurements to measure harm? A grizzly can smell a rotting carcass 40 km upwind, probably measurable someday in parts per trillion. Sensitivity is life to the bear but with no quantitative measurement, Professionals and Corporations ignore the animal's territorial needs. What about bees? It has been suggested that bees' communications are compromised. I've yet to hear discussion on the documented lack of pollinators in some cell phone areas. Where is the discussion on technological alternatives?

I think the pompous of the single-minded professionals who would so quickly change our valley should do some holistic learning, and become more sensitive to cultural values other than their own. Professional fields are not holistic. Professionals need to seek "whistle blower" status to regain their ethics and society's trust. The holistic void of Professionals could then be moderated as they apply life protecting Precautionary Principles.

I seek and appreciate Learned and Accredited information from many sources before forming decisions. A decision based on Holistic information is intelligent; there is reason to be "scared" by insufficient information. These comments from letters – one from someone "in a snit" because they might be denied a cell phone; another from a Professional saying it's safe because he knows the industry; and yet another from a Calgary Developer who says that we can't be without cell phones – are not sufficient to form an informed decision.

I can not support any venture that is not sensitive to the hard found values and wisdom of this valley's intelligence base: Call it cultural sensitivity!

We have a niche market for tourism: It's stupid to compete with other markets by degrading our assets to compete with motorized, citified activity levels: As residents, we'll be left with nothing of value concerning the air, water, soil, flora and fauna. Those that would use us as a wilderness vacation destination can enrich the whole community in a much more manageable way than the "Rubber Tired" tourists that pass through town only enriching the gas stations and restaurants in a boom or bust scenario.

Wilderness Tourism has risk factors that are important to the benefits participants enjoy. The Harley-Davidson motorcycle company had a psychological study done in the early '60s that found that the element of risk was important to their buyers.

Remote Niche Tourism would include companies holding conferences here so their employees can relax and focus their attention without any cell phone distractions. The instant accessibility aspect of cell phones could be a negative factor to such "remote" niche market tourism. We have "land lines", so emergency access is usually close, and satellite phones are not uncommon.

Our Valley Culture is what it is because people want what they bought which was not available elsewhere. There is pride in our lifestyle of putting down roots to become true Stewards of the Slocan drainage. Crown lands are our COMMONS, and they are part of the whole of the valley. All our life forms need sustenance from the whole valley, through wildlife corridors for example, which often cross private land.

We will use our resources and brains, and collectively we'll find right answers. I hope it won't be a treeless, fenced, polluted, waterless, superimposed city culture with its hustle and bustle. Seasonal residents have already displaced our workers by almost eliminating the supply of rental housing. Let's have a good debate on this and decide, as the full-time STEWARDS of this Valley, how WE want it to be.

Eric Faulks
Hills

Park proposal off

During an extra-ordinary meeting held on September 6th, the Nakusp Roots Music Society decided to remove the society from any further development of the Community Park Project. This decision was made by eleven core-group members in attendance. The decision was unanimous.

We have tried our best over a long period of time but it is clear now that Councillor Dahlen is determined to block the project. She has succeeded. We would have loved to have her on our side but this has not happened. This is the most unfortunate circumstance for the Village and Nakusp Music Fest.

The society feels that they have done everything required. The fact that council continues to delay a decision which would move the project forward has already resulted in time delays which would not allow us to complete Phase 1 as scheduled by Nov. 30, 2007.

All agencies involved in this project have been notified about our decision. Thank you to our supporters.

Nakusp Roots Music Society
Nakusp

Hills logging by Springer Creek Forestry leaves residents questioning future plans

by Art Joyce

Proposals by Springer Creek Forestry to log five new cutblocks in the Hills area has residents Eric Faulks, John Herrmann and Wayne McCrory concerned about the impact on local ecosystems. Although no date has been set for a meeting with residents, according to Springer Creek woodlands manager Dwane Sorenson this could occur by late October. He says the advance map sent to John Herrmann was the company's response to community concerns over lack of consultation on the Bonanza face cutblocks.

"Certainly we've heard from people in the community who are very upset about the destruction of the visual zone across from their properties," says McCrory. "We have major concerns regarding the new logging and the spawning for 30,000 kokanee in Bonanza Creek."

Springer Creek forester (RFP) Ed Hadikin points out that the cutblock map sent to Herrmann is an expression of interest on the part of the company, not a set of firm boundaries. Avalanche, visual quality objectives, terrain stability, and wildlife assessments have yet to be done before cutting permits can be obtained. Hadikin estimates they are 1-2 years from beginning to log these areas.

"Some of the openings are big but the retention areas could be as much as fifty percent," says Hadikin. "People are looking at those maps thinking these will be big clearcuts but that's not the case."

From McCrory's perspective as a professional biologist, existing cutblocks on the Bonanza face may meet existing forestry regulations but don't go far enough to protect hydrology, wildlife connectivity, and other ecological values.

"They're not protecting biodiversity, old growth, or wildlife corridors. If the density of roads exceeds one lineal kilometre of road per square kilometre of bear habitat then some bears will stop using that corridor. On the Bonanza face, our analysis is that their road building exceeds that threshold."

Concerned residents would like to see the area included in a conservancy connecting Valhalla Park to Goat Range Park, to protect wildlife connectivity corridors, caribou and kokanee habitat. McCrory says that previous land use plans called for Hills to become part of a 'special management area,' but that this idea was abandoned by the current government. This has also meant the abandonment of the local wildcraft economy.

"Hills is one of the better pine and chanterelle mushroom picking areas in the valley, yet there's been no protection of hemlock forest. Locals who earned income from mushroom picking have lost that source of revenue."

Herrmann says he's not against forestry companies creating jobs if they can do so sustainably. However, he believes local forestry companies need to recognize the impact of their actions on the 'big picture'. He cites an article in the August issue of *Scientific American*, in which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says greenhouse gas emissions between 2000-2004 have increased at three times the rate of the 1990s, accelerating climate change at an even faster rate than predicted and leaving some ecosystems and species vulnerable to imminent collapse. Forests act as a natural filter, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"We need to start going back to government and saying, the regulations you put in place aren't enough to protect our landscape or even our planet."

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Closing of Carol's Corner a loss for New Denver

by Art Joyce

As the old saying goes, it's not the big gestures that keep a relationship together, it's all the little ones, like the stitches that hold a jacket together. And Carol Walker has been stitching together customers' clothes for 18 years at the same location on 6th Avenue.

"I hated home-ec classes when I was in school," she recalls. "I just started sewing because I had two little girls and had to make their clothes."

She started Carol's Corner by selling mostly kids' clothes, sewing notions and yarn, but gradually added some adult clothing as she saw the need. The sewing business arose naturally when Bobbie Nesbitt opened a clothing store next door and needed alterations or mending done for customers. It wasn't long before people in town knew where to go if they needed a button sewn back on or a hem repaired.

"Sometimes it's just the challenge of being able to fix things. I used to make kids' clothes – that was fun."

Although most of her sewing has been mundane mending work, Carol sewed the wedding dress for her daughter-in-law. With characteristic humility, she shrugs off what to most would have seemed a daunting task. Possibly her most unusual request came from Ray Nunn, who needed a sail made for his sailboat. But for Carol it's been as much a labour of love as a business, something to keep her busy.

"I never really made a living at it. Mostly it's just something to do. And it's been enjoyable visiting with people who stop in regularly."

Carol's business has steadily declined in recent years. When she started, wholesalers were more willing to supply her with the low volumes and variety she needed. But with the advent of Wal-Mart as a dominant force in retail, it has become harder for small businesses like hers to compete.

The costs of material and patterns have skyrocketed in the 18 years she's been in business. And the quality of clothing made for the mass market is often of poor quality. Carol says these days even new clothes are brought in for mending. But with the high cost of materials, it can still be cheaper to buy clothes than make them. In today's hyper-busy world, few have time to sew anyway.

Carol's Corner has become a fixture on New Denver's main street, a part of the local culture that will be missed. Carol – who will only admit to being "past retirement age" – is looking forward to having more free time to hang out at home and with her grandson Ty McCrory. Her major regret is that no one has stepped in to fill the vacuum in sewing supplies that will exist when Carol's Corner closes.

"I think with most people, you get up one morning and say, I don't want to do this anymore. I've appreciated my steady customers – you can tell them thank you."

Carol Walker will no longer be doing mending from her Main St. storefront in New Denver.

Fitness and aging talk offers hope and useful suggestions

submitted

Join well-known fitness instructor and columnist Helen Kissinger for an afternoon talk on Fitness and Aging on Saturday, September 22 at the Crescent Valley Hall from 1–2:30 pm. This free program is offered by Slocan Valley Recreation.

A diagnosis of osteoporosis or arthritis can leave a person feeling both vulnerable and uncertain how to live their lives. It can also make one fearful of exercise. Fear of falling, breaking bones and/or the pain associated with both conditions can hinder adults from incorporating active living into their lifestyle. Research has shown that with gentle training, improvements in the quality of life is possible.

Kissinger is a Certified Osteofit Instructor whose background includes research with the UBC Bone Health Centre. Her work with physiotherapists and doctors was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (October, 2002). She has worked with seniors for five years in Vancouver, offers fitness classes locally as well as one-on-one training.

Knowing what exercises were most beneficial to participants helped her design classes that got results. The most rewarding part of the classes for her was that people actually increased their bone density (in conjunction with medication). She will offer ideas and strategies on dealing with these limitations.

The talk also will serve as an information session for those interested in the Osteofit-Joint Works program she will be offering on Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning September 27.

Please phone Slocan Valley Recreation in advance at 226-0008 if you're planning to attend.

Winlaw Fall Fair features trebuchet launch

submitted

The 8th Annual Slocan Valley Fall Fair is being held this year on Sunday, September 16 at the Four Seasons Greenhouse. This year the Slocan Valley's only Fall Fair comes with the added bonus of having a trebuchet on site, launching pumpkins during the afternoon.

A trebuchet is a version of catapult which stands 15 feet tall. The event runs from 11 am to 4 pm with the launch scheduled for mid-afternoon.

During the afternoon, the fall fair features games for young and old, live music as well as pie and watermelon eating contests. There'll be a giant pumpkin contest as well, so don't forget to bring yours along. There'll be craft booths where local growers and artisans display their wares. The Winlaw Fire Rescue and Ambulance will also be there for the kids to see just what local volunteers are doing to support their community.

The regular agricultural and craft competition will be going on, where farmers and gardeners can show off the best of the season to good effect. If entering items or setting up exhibits, please do so on Saturday, September 15 between 3–5 pm.

This free event is sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Slocan Valley Branch 276 and Four Seasons Greenhouse. For more information about the event, call Fred or Pearl at 226-7254.

Ron Provan, Penelope Stuart and Armand Lange receive $10,000 for the Silverton Community Club's new event, Christmas By The Lake. The club is planning to hold this outdoor market event on the Silverton Gallery grounds November 30-December 2 this year.

Silverton council, August 28: Councillor Provan resigns from facilities and recreation committee

by Art Joyce

•Councillor Kathy Provan announced in her report that she is resigning from the facilities and recreation committee. She gave no reason.

•Councillor Wiseman gave a report of the Memorial Hall renovation subcommittee. "Our main goal is finding where we can proceed without funding. The washrooms can be dealt with as a separate entity but we need a new estimate. We're working as hard as we can to get an answer back to council." Wiseman said Councillor Provan has submitted a funding application to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF), which had an August 1 deadline. The application was for $150,000, requiring a one-third commitment by council. Mayor Everett was concerned that the subcommittee had exceeded its authority. "Have you given thought as to where that $50,000 will come from?" he asked. Councillor Wiseman answered that council is not required to accept any grant monies it receives, and that there was no intention to "blindside" council. "My concern is that it's a huge amount," said Mayor Everett, "and we haven't even looked at next year's budget yet." Council passed a motion in support of the MRIF application.

Councillor Provan added that the subcommittee has an estimate on the fire suppression system for the Hall of $34,000 but will be seeking a second estimate.

•Joe Matthews appeared as a delegation to follow up on a complaint he made to Village staff regarding an incident during the Valhalla Summer School of Music. Matthews was particularly upset about comments made to him by Councillor Wiseman. "I haven't had a response from council. What I got was a response from Councillor Wiseman on the street, and I don't think it's appropriate for him to speak on behalf of council." Mayor Everett intervened, saying he felt it wasn't in the best interests of council to debate the issue publicly. Matthews said perhaps it would be best if the public knew the nature of his complaint. The mayor explained that Freedom of Information policy requires complaints to remain confidential until they're resolved. Councillor Wiseman had been seeking clarification from Matthews, adding that it was "different than the average complaint, there's more details than meets the eye." Wiseman apologized to Matthews for his comments at the end of the meeting. The complaint is being examined by council *in camera*.

Later a related item was brought forward from earlier *in camera* discussions. The Village complaint form will be updated based on Freedom of Information guidelines recommending that forms indicate clearly whether the complaint is confidential or not. Complainants have the right to decide which they prefer.

•Mayor Everett in his report had high praise for fire crews during the recent firestorm and for Village staff. He had special thanks for New Denver emergency service coordinator Ann Bunka and Silverton CAO Junko Ida, who returned from vacation to help out. During the power outage it was discovered that public works crews had to leave the generator shed doors open for ventilation, leaving the Village open to liability concerns. The mayor has directed staff to get estimates for fencing and warning signage. Village administration is considering replacing the vacant position of outgoing public works staffer Tom Hughes with a series of on-call workers. The Cooper's beach float has been located and will be retrieved by public works.

•Councillor Carol Bell noted in her report that she has signed up to attend the climate change workshop at the upcoming UBCM conference. Councillor Wiseman proposed that Bell be made the Village's representative, since she will already be attending as the RDCK representative. Council agreed.

•Council voted to approve the Silvery Slocan Historical Society's request for assistance in using the Village backhoe to lift a 4-cylinder gas engine formerly used in the historic boat Lancet. The engine will be transported across the lake from its current location at the Doug Wells property.

•Council's lease of the fire engine is up as of September 10. MFA Leasing Corporation requires council to renew the lease or pay it out, and recommended a three or five-year lease plan. Council voted to go with the five-year lease at $514.36 per month.

•A statement of asset valuation from CGI Risk Management Services, the Village's insurer, was received following renewal of their contract. Mayor Everett said he wants a re-assessment of Village assets before signing off on the statement.

•Ty Capelle informed council during public and press time that there has been a problem with thieves cruising the campgrounds, adding that "we can't tolerate this." Capelle and campground contractor Bert Butchart reported the problem to the RCMP and were told campers must be reminded to lock up valuables. Mayor Everett said the situation arises every year during the music school and for this reason the Village has asked the contractor to stay at the campground during this period.

•Council voted to pass the variance application for the Linda McGeachy porch proposal.

•A letter from Jim Ahasay was received asking permission to trim deadwood from two pine trees on Village property. Mr. Ahasay will be informed that public works will do the trimming.

Public Notice

Notice of Application for Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) Water Stewardship Division by Bergevin Developments Inc. to create a water utility for 31 lots of Rosebery Highlands.

For information contact:

M.O.E. Water Stewardship Division
P.O. Box 9370 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9M1
Phone: 250-387-6341

Bergevin Developments Inc.
R.R.#1 Site 2 Comp. 46 New Denver, B.C.
VOG 1SO Phone/Fax: 250-358-7172
e-mail:bergevinelectrical@telus.net

Popular Food for Thought series returns

submitted

The *Food for Thought* talks, co-sponsored by the Hidden Garden Gallery and Silverton Gallery, will kick off the fall program with Ken Clatterbaugh taking a philosophical look at the theory of intelligent design. The commentary, titled *Were We Designed?*, will be at the Silverton Gallery on September 12 at 7 pm. Admission by donation.

Darwin's theory of evolution is up for grabs as it appears that a majority of both US and Canadian citizens agree with the notion of a superior being fiddling about in his lab and creating us. Philosophy – the ever squinty-eyed observer of easy answers – will be represented by our own Dr. K. Intelligent design is on its own. We think a good time will be had by all. Don't miss this event.

Audrey Repin (standing), Director of Communications and Community Relations for Columbia Power Corporation, presents a cheque for $2500 to Carol Bell (left) and Agnes Emary for the Bosun Hall revitalization project. The money will go towards the purchase of a shed to house the old wooden tables and 20 new plastic light weight tables and 50 folding chairs. Serving as the hall's manager since 2004, LACE hasl istalled a new floor, overhead lighting, a commercial dishwasher and has upgraded the heating system. LACE is now seeking funds to upgrade the building's front wall and has hired an architect to help with plans to renovate the kitchen and add dressing rooms and storage to the facility.

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Installation Available
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reg. $1.39/bd ft Sale $1.10/bd ft
Lino: Armstrong Traditions 12 ft "Rustic Blue/Grey"
reg. retail $36.75/sq yd Super Sale $15.95/sq yd
Lino: Armstrong -Patina Industria- 6' 6" 3 Colours
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Toll-free: 1-800-332-0588
sbs@silvertonbuilding.ca
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True Value Hardware

The New Denver Hospice Society is joining the world in Voices for Hospice Celebration.
Friday, October 5, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Silverton Memorial Hall.
Over 60 countries will be participating in over 500 venues.
Join us for an evening of musical entertainment and visiting.

Fall Specials up to 70% off NOW!
Shop early for best selection.
VALHALLA PURE
~ New Denver location only ~

Our community celebrates the end of summer - Hills Garlic Fest 2007

Brisas del Palmar were among the entertainers at the 14th annual Hills Garlic Festival, Sunday, September 9.

Eloise Charest and her wonderful hand-woven cedar baskets at the Hills Garlic Festival.

Valley Voice publisher, Dan Nicholson accepts a burger from Grade 5/6 teacher, Katrina Sumrall at Lucerne School's annual barbecue, Thursday, September 6.

Major funding announced for Nakusp's water and sewer upgrades

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp is receiving federal funding of $1.6 million to upgrade its surface water system on Brouse Creek, and federal / provincial funding of $647,381 to upgrade its sewer system. These announcements were made on September 4 at the gazebo in Nakusp's lakeshore park by BC's Minister responsible for local governments, Ida Chong, and Kootenay-Columbia MP Jim Abbott, on behalf of the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, federal minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Western Economic Diversification.

In his address, Abbott stated, "This is happening because Nakusp is a community that is prepared to invest time, energy and perseverance to make these projects a reality. Thank you for bringing important projects such as these forward for funding consideration."

Chong said in her speech that it was "tough to select" successful projects under the federal/provincial Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) program, as 338 applications worth $1.2 billion were received and there was $150 million available. She said Nakusp's sewer project was successful because it was "innovative in finding solutions," by re-using waste water for irrigation and reducing the demand on the water supply in summer. She also told the press after the ceremony that the two most important criteria for MRIF funding were public health and the environment, and Nakusp's sewer project fits both bills.

Janis Dahlen spoke on behalf of the Union of BC Municipalities, which administers the Gas Tax Fund. Also a Nakusp councillor, she commented that it was a pleasure to be on both the giving and receiving ends of this funding. "Nakusp is to be commended for improving how water is treated and distributed, and for using the water flow to generate energy at a microhydro facility that will run the water treatment plant. Maybe surplus energy will be sold to the grid."

Mayor Hamling wrapped it up by saying she was extremely grateful for the MRIF and Gas Tax Funds. "We are small, hard working and sometimes we feel isolated, so it's nice to be recognized for our work." She added that many communities are facing aging infrastructure, and this funding would truly help Nakusp, which has no industrial tax base, to meet its goals and move forward. She also thanked Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering, "who has really helped us get through this." Shephard has been in charge of both projects.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Columbia Basin Trust invites you to attend their regularly scheduled public session, which is held at their Board meetings every two months.

The public session being held in Nakusp offers an opportunity to ask questions about the work CBT is doing throughout the Basin. The meeting is being held at:

Kuskanax Lodge
Tenderfoot Conference Room
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
September 14, 2007

If you are interested in making a presentation to the Board at the September meeting, please contact Maureen Forster at 1-800-505-8998 or mforster@cbt.org.

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org

Judith Maltz named Rosebery Regatta Commodore

by Jan McMurray

This year's Commodore, the winner of the Rosebery Regatta, was Judith Maltz. There was only one other winner this year – Tera Nicholson's watercraft, 'Corky,' won in the 'cutest boat' category. To get this, she had to promise judge Dan Nicholson, her father, that she would do the dishes for him.

New this year was a 'Commodore's Cup' race. This cup, donated to the regatta by John and Bay Herrmann, is sure to be coveted by all former commodores. Bay explained that the cup was one of those items that she didn't know whether to keep or take to the donation store, and was very pleased with the decision to place its destiny in the hands of the Rosebery Regatta.

Howard Bearham, acting Commodore this year (as last year's true Commodore, Dee Evans, reportedly "didn't even want to come to the continent this year" in anticipation of having to fulfill his host role for this year's event), announced that this Commodore's Cup race was to take place annually forevermore. Only former commodores can enter this race, and the course is across the bay and back again. The bonus is that it is entirely separate from the regular race – you can win it without any fear of winning the Commodore's title and being saddled with all the responsibility that goes along with it.

As always, many irregularities were revealed as the day wore on. John Herrmann and Howard Bearham were the only former Commodores present, and Bearham admitted he had not contacted any of the former Commodores to notify them of the chance to win the new cup. As it ended up, no one won the coveted cup, as the two boats would not go in the same direction.

As Herrmann and Bearham were setting out in their rowboats to launch the regatta entries, Herrmann openly announced that they would be up to their usual antics of blocking the wind, etc., to interfere as much as possible with the outcome of the race.

Dan Nicholson and Leah Main volunteered to be judges. Richard Johnson, a judge last year, declined the honours this year, complaining about the lack of bribes. "If there were any bribes, he kept them all," he said in an accusatory tone, pointing his finger at Nicholson, his fellow judge last year. Nicholson retorted, "I shared the promise of a bottle of whiskey with you," and was sure to let the press know that it was Dick Callison who has not yet come through with his promise.

Although Main's misguided 'Hunny Bear' boat made it to shore first, Nicholson declared her disqualified because of her conflict of interest situation as a judge. Maltz was ecstatic at this turn of events, as she had never before had the privilege of wearing the stylish Commodore's jacket and hat.

Acting commodore Howard Bearham presents incoming commodore, Judith Maltz with her regalia and trophy. It's unclear who is accepting the bribe.

15th annual Hills Garlic Festival attracts 5500 visitors to New Denver

Local potter, Elly Scheepens took her Artel Studios booth to the Garlic Festival again this year.

Chillia Zoll had a booth at the Garlic Festival. Here she is with Valley Voice Food Editor, Andrew Rhodes.

Bay Herrmann shows us the contest winners: Heaviest clove (50 gr) – Tracy Brown. Largest bulb (tie) –Judy Wapp, Peter Helmer. Prettiest Braid – Paula Johnson. Adult Poetry – Rubin Parkinson. Kids Poetry – Aya Anderson

Local couple opens eco-friendly pet furniture business

submitted

Plume n' Tails makes lovingly handcrafted pet furniture for small dogs and cats with ecology in mind. Their pet furniture is made with ethically harvested, reclaimed and recycled cedar, spruce, pine and a variety of deciduous woods.

"Our little dog likes to wear clothes," says Emily Youngreen, "and soon we were finding his clothing mixed in with ours. It was obvious he needed his own space. That's when we created the Doggy Wardrobed – a 36-inch tall, 18-inch wide and deep wardrobe closet and bed combination with a drawer for his toys and top shelf for his accessories – and Plume N' Tails was born."

Admittedly indulgent dog and cat owners, with over 35 years of animal husbandry experience, they understand what works for pets. Caring and responsibility go into the making of every one of their Doggy Wardrobeds, Kitty Kozy Klosets and Natural Cat Scratching Post from start to finish.

The Youngreens have been partners for 43 years, managing, milling, reclaiming and recycling wood on their 29 acres of lush green Slocan Valley forest since 1970, some having been carefully harvested and milled on their property more than 30 years ago.

"Along with our terrific son and daughter, we have raised horses, goats and sheep as well as many purring and barking family members too."

Now, a couple of empty nesters, they've given up farm life and decided to turn some of that reclaimed and recycled wood into fine furniture to help nurture loving dogs and cats better, while contributing positively to maintaining our forests and to reducing carbon emissions.

Gustav and Emily operate their business as an online pet boutique. You can visit them and their two fur baby mascots, Mr. Rutgar and Cuja Lula Belle, at www.plumentails.com.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

2007 COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST SYMPOSIUM
CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN
TALK. LEARN. CONNECT. LISTEN

Register now for Columbia Basin Trust's 2007 Symposium: Change and Sustainability in the Columbia Basin, October 19-21 at Selkirk College in Castlegar.

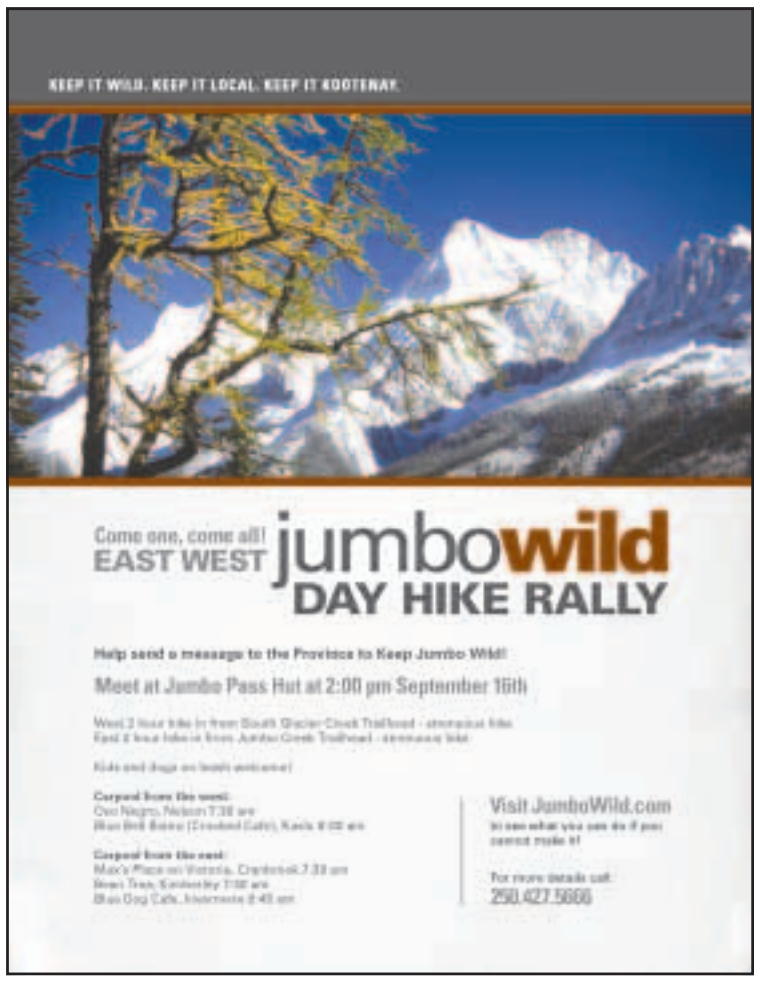
The Symposium draws attention to the issues affecting Basin communities. Our climate, our labour market, and our population are just a few areas that have recently seen significant changes. Our collective responses to these changes will affect our lives, and future generations of Basin residents. If you are looking for possible responses and strategies to deal with sustainability issues in your community, or want to share your perspective, plan to attend this year's event.

Sessions on topics such as community decision making and strategies for development, workforce issues and affordable housing, and climate change will be offered.

Space is limited so register early. Anyone who registers before September 28, 2007 will be entered into a draw to win one of three Grand Prizes.

A detailed agenda and registration package can be found at www.cbt.org/2007symposium or by calling 1-800-505-8998.

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org



COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
INVESTMENT MANAGER

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is responsible for overseeing and managing a $300 million dollar endowment on behalf of the residents of the Columbia Basin region in southeastern British Columbia. This endowment has been invested in a portfolio of energy assets, real estate, commercial loans, and market securities in order to generate a steady stream of income to fund a delivery of benefits program to the residents of the region. The organization is seeking to an Investment Manager to assist in the management and monitoring of the real estate and commercial loan portfolio. This new position will ideally work from CBT's head office in Castlegar, BC.

The position involves considerable travel throughout the Basin to actively build relationships in order to promote CBT as a preferred investment partner. Duties include:

- investment research and development;
- evaluating proposals;
- preparing recommendations to the VP, Investments;
- monitoring investment performance;
- conducting periodic risk assessments; and
- ensuring compliance with Investment Policies and Procedures.

The successful candidate should have an undergraduate degree in business or finance and a minimum of 5 years direct commercial lending experience. He/she should be able to work under pressure in multi-disciplined project teams and have excellent analytical skills, business acumen and a passion for working with small and medium businesses.

Deadline for applications is September 24, 2007.

Interested applicants should forward a detailed resume to: Debra Stewart, Human Resources Coordinator at Suite 300, 445 13th Avenue, Castlegar, British Columbia, V1N 1G1 or dstewart@cbt.org.

Visit www.cbt.org for a full job description and more information about CBT.

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org

Nakusp council, August 28: Public meeting to be scheduled on boat ramp

by Jan McMurray

•The agreement between the Village and BC Hydro on access to the wharf during repairs has been signed. "I think council deserves a pat on the back on how well we've dealt with this," said Mayor Hamling. "We stuck to our guns and got what we wanted, so congratulations."

To deal with immediate repairs, Hydro plans to replace the four existing wooden rafts that are chained together, end-to-end, at the boat launch. A description of the work involved was provided to council for review and comment.

Hydro also asked council for a date for a community meeting on the longer term plan for the boat ramp. October 10 is the tentative meeting date.

•Bylaw 609, to adopt permissive tax exemptions for the purpose of downtown revitalization, was given two readings. This bylaw provides incentive for people in the commercial core to do renovations of at least $5,000 on their buildings. The incentive is the opportunity to apply for a tax exemption in the amount of the increase in the property assessment after renovations.

•Bylaw 442-4, to amend Business Licence Bylaw 442, was given two readings. This bylaw adds food and drink vendors as a permitted use in designated areas adjacent to the public beach.

•The Village approved a request from the RCMP to construct a duplex, to be used to house its members, on a lot in the vicinity of 4th St. NW and 4th Ave. NW.

•Council received a letter from caterer Deb Guest, asking that she not be charged for the rental of the arena kitchen during the Music Festival, as she had to rent other kitchens in town to make up for the lack of facilities at the arena. She also lost $131.85 worth of seafood when one cooler failed overnight. Council acknowledged that the facility needs upgrading and that the Village is working towards that, and pointed out that Guest should be well aware of the inadequacy of the kitchen. Council decided to refund her $131.85.

•Council received communication from Bud Brown about the lack of maintenance at the Glenbank cemetery. It was decided that staff would meet with him on site and report back to council.

•Councillor Heppner brought forward a concern about overnight parking/camping on streets during Music Fest. Staff was directed to investigate appropriate signage and to discuss the issue with Music Fest organizers.

•Isaque Vieira applied for a Development Variance Permit in connection with his proposed subdivision on industrial property beside the airport. He'd like to postpone the requirements of a community sewer system, community water system, storm sewer system, underground wiring and street lighting until he has finished extracting gravel on the property. Council decided to approve the DVP as long as he provides a letter of credit or promissory note from his financial institution in the amount of the value of the work. Staff will arrive at the value after conferring with Delterra Engineering and Public Works manager Dom Castellano.

•Council decided to send a letter to the Ministry of Forests and BC Hydro stating their concerns about the lack of communication during this year's fire season and resulting power outage, and to ask that they hold a community debriefing session.

•The "deplorable situation with recycling" prompted council to have a letter sent to the RDCK West Waste committee asking for more diligence on the part of the contractor in picking up the bins.

•CAO Bob Lafleur reported that the owner of the apartment at the corner of 1st and Broadway now has a place to take his derelict vehicles and is willing to clean up the premises, after receiving notices from the Village June 25 and July 16. Lafleur will work with the owner and report back to council.

•Larry Parkes, project co-ordinator of the auditorium revitalization project (Cultural Community of Nakusp and Area Society) wrote to ask for council's approval to go ahead with phase one of the project . This would include the purchase of a sound system, large screen, portable staging, and laptop computer. Council expressed some concerns about how the project has changed over time, the lack of a public process, the appropriateness of a sound system without addressing acoustics and conflicting ideas in the community about the project. However, as it had been approved in principle by council in the past, it was decided to give the group the go-ahead, but to let them know that the next phase will require a public process.

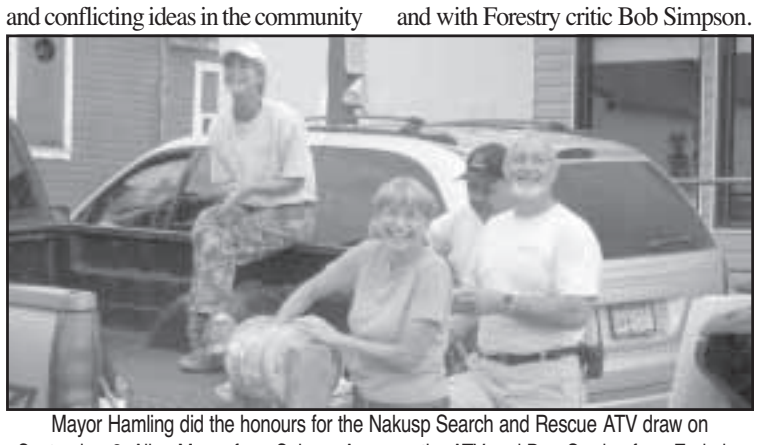
•The Village will provide a letter of support to the Arrow Lakes Historical Society, which is applying for Heritage Week funding from the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance.

•The Village received a response from the Minister of Forests regarding protection of source water for the hot springs. Minister Coleman says that the area is in BC Timber Sales tenure and there are no plans for development in the area over the next five to ten years. He adds that staff has been requested to ensure that council be involved in any further planning for the area.

•Councillor Switzer was appointed as Village rep on the CUPE negotiating team.

•The Village received gas tax funding of $29,546.39 at the end of July, and $5,025 in 2006 dividends from the Municipal Insurance Association of BC at the beginning of August.

•Council members attending the Union of BC Municipalities convention at the end of September will meet with reps from the Ministries of Health and Transportation, BC Ambulance Service and with Forestry critic Bob Simpson.



Mayor Hamling did the honours for the Nakusp Search and Rescue ATV draw on September 2. Allan Mcrea from Salmon Arm won the ATV and Don Gordon from Enderby won the second prize of $2,000. The Search and Rescue crew thanks everyone who bought tickets in support of its fundraising efforts for a new command vehicle.

Adult Basic Education classes start up

submitted

Selkirk College's new Nakusp Learning Centre has opened its doors for adults to come in and explore their options for school, learn new skills, and take courses for further education – all in a new centre tailored for adult learning.

Adult Basic Education instructors at the centre meet with each person to talk about their hopes and plans and how Selkirk College can help. Together, they make a plan that considers available time, other commitments, past education and learning style, and then they tailor a package just for that individual.

Some people come back to school to keep their brains active and healthy; some come back to learn new skills to use in their lives – like computer or math skills – and some come back to take the first steps on a journey to a new career. Instructors help them to figure out just where they are at and make realistic plans for their future.

In addition to offering a full set of high school math, science, English, social studies and computer courses, the ABE program also provides tutoring and study space for those taking courses from other institutions, assessment of learning styles and academic skills, career and educational advising, and support for those applying to post secondary programs.

Nakusp's ABE program helps people learn by offering support and guidance in a flexible, motivating classroom environment, where questions, ideas, and the joy of learning abound.

The classroom is open during the day from Monday to Thursday, and Monday and Wednesday evenings, as well. Students attend when it is convenient for them.

ABE instructors, Richard Allin and Allison Alder, can be reached by calling 265-3640.

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

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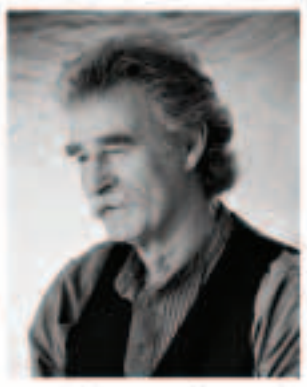

Saturday, September 15th
Starts at 6pm Sharp
21km south of Nakusp on Hwy 6 to Vernon
Tickets: $18 advance, $20 at the gate
Bring A Lawn Chair or Blanket to sit on
Tickets at: Prima Materia, Broadway St., Nakusp
or Rock Island Resort - 265-0040

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For more information please call Mary 265-9986

SIGN-UP for Beginners and Seniors
Tuesday September 11th, 2007 - 7:00 pm
Nakusp Elementary School Gym
- Beginners classes Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:00 –8:30 pm Nakusp Elementary School Gym
- Seniors classes Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 – 11:00 am Seniors Hall
- $20 to Join - Membership $180/year = $15/month

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents:

In performance at the *BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE*

NEW ORLEANS NORTH
The sounds of traditional jazz

TUESDAY, Sept. 18th at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $20 Adults and $15 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under)

Members of Jazz Band $10.00 with coupon

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.
Hospitality Host:
Murphy's Landing

gallery
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619 Broadway Street, Nakusp, BC

Celebrating our 10th year, we are proud to present our 6th & final exhibition for the 2007 season

"IMPRISONMENT FOR REMOVAL"
BETTY FAHLMAN (Painter)

Wed, Sep 12th through Sun, Sept 30th, 2007

Opening Reception 6 - 8 PM
Friday, Sep 14, 2007

Gallery Hours: Wed thru Sun 12-4 pm

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New artwork by Pam Sims, Andrea Saba, Patrizia Menton.
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Gorgeous reclaimed timber furniture. Visit us soon!
318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

On September 4, Nakusp's Outreach Employment Services office was decked out to celebrate 30 years of providing its services in the Arrow Lakes and North Slocan Lake area. MP Jim Abbott attended and announced a three-year federal funding commitment of $597,722 to the program. About the same level of federal funding has been provided to Outreach in the past, but this is the first time the contract has been offered for three years instead of one. Nikta Boroumand of New Denver, an Outreach client, also spoke about how invaluable the service has been for her. She attributed her ability to stay in the area to the program. Left to right: Nikta Boroumand, Barb Chwachka (Chair, ASLCS), Ann Jensen (Service Canada, Nelson), Doug Switzer and MP Jim Abbott.

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
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GREEN FEES: **Adults $20.00**/9-holes, **$28.00**/18-holes
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10 game punch card available
Golf lessons with Burt Drysdale, CPGA Pro, available.
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FULLY LICENSED EXCELLENT RESTAURANT
Walk-on tee times, no reservations required.
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New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
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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;**
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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.
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NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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

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CAMPGROUNDS

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

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• Centennial Campground

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

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023

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

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

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

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472

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

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

$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!

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

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

ACCOMMODATIONS & RESTAURANTS

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

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

• Silverton Lakeshore Inn (250) 358-7929

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.**

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

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

BED & BREAKFASTS

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

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

MUSEUMS

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

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

• Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (250) 358-7288

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

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

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

Kaslo council, August 28: Kaslo supports new fire service from Coffee Creek to Shutty Bench

by Jan McMurray

•Richard DeCruyenaere, Larry Badry and Andy Shadrack attended to speak in favour of a Regional District referendum to extend a fire service area from Shutty Bench to Coffee Creek. Later in the meeting, council passed a motion in support of the new fire protection service area. Council also received a letter from Randy Matheson of the RDCK saying the Regional District is proceeding with expanding the current fire protection area to include Fletcher Creek.

•A delegation from the library attended to advise council of the new library website, and to present council with cards and PIN numbers.

•Council received a letter from Tourism BC informing that Kaslo's application to the Community Tourism Foundation's development program has been reviewed. As a final application step towards full approval, Kaslo is being invited to host a four-hour meeting with tourism representatives from the province, region and community. The goal of the program is to develop a tourism plan for Kaslo. Council voted to proceed with the process.

•Mayor Holland made a statement that Councillor Vass is relieved of all duties as a member or chair of any committee until he makes an "acceptable apology" for his actions at the skatepark grand opening. Holland further stated that Vass is to attend no further public functions as a council member.

•Council received information regarding post-fire rehabilitation. A memo from Deputy Clerk Susan Van Zandt let council know that a Ministry of Forests representative would be in Kaslo on August 29 to meet with Community Forest representatives on the subject. Mayor Holland committed to attending the meeting.

•Council received an email from Jill Braley to notify that she will no longer be maintaining the Practica doggie bag dispensers, a volunteer service she has been providing for two years. She will be thanked for her service.

•Doreen Langille's letter expressing concern about the tree on the boulevard in front of her house was referred to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•The lease on the Village loader will be renewed.

•A letter from Craig Pettitt of the Valhalla Wilderness Society regarding loud motorcycles and the practice of modifying or eliminating mufflers was referrred to the local RCMP and Community Consultative Group for comment.

•An email from Graham Gilbert regarding visibility at the corner of the highway and the golf course road was referred to the Ministry of Transportation.

•Notice of Chamber of Commerce President Jim Archer's resignation was received with regret, and a letter of congratulations was sent to Dawn Lang upon her appointment to the position.

•Patrick Mackle wrote to council to bring attention to the deterioration of the pavement on 8th Ave., particularly on the corner of A Ave. He says the pavement was put in about 10 years ago and suggests council get an opinion on the reasons for the rapid deterioration while the paving crews are in town.

•Council approved a recreation grant of $100 to the Kootenay Lake Historical Society to support Family Fun Day.

•A helipad, separate from fixed wing operations, will be prepared at the Kaslo airport, as per earlier discussions with Transport Canada and Ministry of Forests.

•Bylaw 1050, Outdoor Burning, was adopted.

•Accounts payable of $18,178.91 were approved.

Kaslo's survey results show economic priorities

by Jan McMurray

SmartGrowth BC has tabulated the results of Kaslo's community survey, sent out as part of the OCP (official community plan) process. Kaslo council received the results at its August 28 meeting.

The questionnaire asked respondents to rank issues as 'extremely important,' 'very important,' 'somewhat important' or 'not important.' 'Creating employment opportunities in Kaslo' was the issue that had the most number of 'extremely important' rankings (57). This issue was ranked 'very important' by 42 people, 'somewhat important' by 22 and 'not important' by 11. In the same vein, 'developing an economic development strategy to attract and retain employment opportunities to Kaslo' was 'extremely important' to 52, 'very important' to 37, 'somewhat important' to 23 and 'not important' to 15 people.

Affordable housing also came through as a strong priority for Kaslo. 'Affordability of housing' was ranked 'extremely important' by 52, 'very important' by 55, 'somewhat important' by 16 and 'not important' by 7 people. 'Availability of housing options, i.e. rental, condos, etc.' was ranked 'extremely important' by 35, 'very important' by 44, 'somewhat important' by 36 and 'not important' by 9 people.

'Engaging in a community-wide education strategy around social, environmental, cultural and economic issues in Kaslo' was 'extremely important' to 38 people, 'very important' to 40, 'somewhat important' to 29 and 'not important' to 13.

Issues around recreation came next. 'Providing access to in-town recreation facilities' had 29 'extremely important' rankings, 35 'very important' rankings, 40 'somewhat important' rankings and 17 'not important' rankings. 'Facilitating access to surrounding recreational opportunities' was 'extremely important' to 19 people, 'very important' to 34, 'somewhat important' to 42 and 'not important' to 24. 'Providing/upgrading facilities for tourists' got 24 'extremely important' rankings, 38 'very important' rankings, 47 'somewhat important' rankings and 20 'not important' ones.

The most evenly balanced issue was 'promoting resource-based activities' with 23 'extremely important,' 28 'very important,' 32 'somewhat important' and 28 'not important' rankings.

The least important issue was 'allowing small livestock (with strict conditions) within town boundaries.' This one had 7 say it was 'extremely important,' 29 say 'very important,' 46 say 'somewhat important' and 43 say 'not important.'

89% of respondents were year-round residents while 11% were seasonal residents.

Joan Adrian, Treasurer, and Alvin Mitchell and Len Trenholm, volunteers working on the Meadow Creek/Lardeau Community Hall, receive a $13,000 cheque from Columbia Basin Trust Community Liaison, Lynda Lafleur, for siding of the building.

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Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2436

Open Letter of Thanks for Fire Protection Efforts: Fire Incidents Kemp Creek N7-171 & Keen Creek N7-176

The Kaslo & District Community Forest Society would like to express thanks to all who responded to the fire incident above Kemp Creek, and in the Keen Creek drainage, in the period from July 31 to the present time.

We are especially grateful for the efforts taken to protect the watershed and water quality values of the Kemp Creek drainage, which forms a part of the Village of Kaslo water supply. In addition, we are appreciative of the decision to action this fire, and the value placed on protecting the active cutting permit associated with the Kaslo & District Community Forest License.

We would like to recognize the first-response efforts of the Kootenay Lake District Ministry of Forests office, followed by the professional and coordinated efforts of the Forest Protection Branch and the SE Fire Centre.

We give special thanks to Henry Saphan, Incident Commander, Gene Drew, Branch Commander and Tracey Pearson, Kaslo Liaison, and would ask them to extend our thanks to all of their support staff and fire crew personnel.

We would like to acknowledge the ground crews, especially Nadina I & Nadina II. These crews worked in steep and difficult terrain, and did a very professional job. Additional thanks are due to the pilots and individuals who led the air attack on the fire, and all of the support personnel, and those at the Command Centre camp at Sunshine Bay.

The members of the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society, and the community of Kaslo owe you a debt of thanks!

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Daytripping to Shannon Lake and beyond

Most visitors to Valhalla Provincial Park tend to be lake users exploring the west shore of Slocan Lake either as day trips or multi-day tours. Most hiking occurs at the south end of the park where you can readily get to the alpine areas from high elevation logging roads, but the centre of the park requires very long hikes from lake level. For purposes of lighter day hiking there is also the Shannon Lake area just north of the park.

I first saw Shannon Lake in 1982 when I was on the Forest Service Recreation crew, based in Nakusp. I did the hike September 2 with another guy after a summer of everything but hiking. Access to the trail head parking lot is good, and with sturdy shoes or boots you'll do just fine.

From Hills take the Bonanza Creek road to a kilometre past some homes and a farm and across the bridge on Bonanza Creek. From here the gravel road climbs reasonably for 14 kilometres to where you cross Ruby Creek, where an enormous washout was fixed last year. Use your map. Right after Ruby Creek is an obvious branch road to the left which crosses Shannon Creek and then angles up Huss Creek to a switchback – also the parking spot.

The well-used but kinda rough trail plunges into the brush beside the creek and goes through an old logging block. The day we went, the crops of blueberries, huckleberries, currants, thimbleberries, and gooseberries made some nice snack stops. Huss Creek is basically an extended waterfall that tumbles down alongside as you grind up the steep knobby trail to Shannon Lake. After a less steep segment as you climb beside this loud little creek you come to the north end of the lake after perhaps an hour and a half.

A rest break here and the views may be all you need, or you can follow the rather bony, bumpy trail along the shoreline past a couple of campsites and across small swamps.

From the south end of Shannon Lake a steep rockslide leads up to a pass where you can look down at Wragge Lake and into the heart of Valhalla Park, still some distance south. You spend a lot of time scrambling over piano-sized rocks (grand, not upright) and also some car-sized stuff (import, not limo) and now and then a boulder will teeter underfoot, so best keep a move-on. There were still tiny pockets of snow at the pass and the gurgle of rock-covered streams.

We decided to blast on up to the summit of Mt. Vingoth to the east of this pass and it can be done without rope but does need some level of prowess. From this summit at 2525 metres you can have a sweeping panorama to savour and plenty of camera and binoculars time. Some of the rocks at the summit have been ground into coarse sand so you can even squeeze in some beach time up there if you want.

The return from this summit is tougher than the ascent. I can climb up trails almost indefinitely, but I dread the descents. Darkness fell as we plodded down the steep trail to finally emerge at the truck.

Oh yeah, I forgot to mention the two big mountain goats we saw from the summit of Vingoth, which were quickly crossing the steep rock faces below. Also heard some pikas in the rocks by the lake and some birds and squirrels. The sky was high dull overcast which reduced the sun's intensity and kept the temperature down in the teens.

Shannon Lake remains a grand yet quite do-able daytrip. The farther y'go the more y'see, but even just the hike to the lake is great and can't possibly need more than two hours. Bugs can be a factor and the shady route up Huss Creek may be chilly. Walking sticks are likely a good idea too. This outing is a nice example of the Valhalla experience without the lengthy hike.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and finally pulled off some hiking time. 358-2133.

Financial forum

with Debbie Pereversoff

Is the Sky Falling?

The sub-prime debt fiasco that started in the United States has created some trouble for investors both inside and outside of the US, including Canadian investors, who have seen the benchmark S&P/TSX Composite Index drop almost 11% since July 19. Although we have seen some rebounds since then, this sudden sharp drop in the markets may have caused pain for some: Margin debt in Canada hit an all-time high in May, the latest month for which we have data.

However, Canadian investors are typically a pretty conservative lot, and most are still sitting pretty, as this decline came only after the market reached an all-time high of 14,625. Indeed, through the end of July, Canadian investors had enjoyed a total annual return of almost 19% in the previous five years, well above the 11.8% return for the U.S. benchmark S&P 500 Index.

While there may be more short-term weakness ahead for the Canadian market, we suspect that the current period of market volatility will be a mere blip when looking back five years from now. Sub-prime mortgages make up only 5% of the Canadian mortgage market compared with 20% in the United States, so any escalation in sub-prime defaults in Canada should have a fairly limited impact on the Canadian economy.

Q: So what is a sub-prime mortgage? A: It's a mortgage given to a home-buyer with less than stellar credit, or who lacks the paperwork to prove an income that can support payments. While such mortgages may not seem like the greatest idea, lenders flush with money were making loans in the US to almost anyone who asked, and charged a little more in interest for riskier loans. The bet was that rising US house prices would paper over any mistakes. But when US housing prices started to fall, and interest rates began to rise, many borrowers ended up in trouble and lenders started to become insolvent (at last count about 50 have been wound down).

Q: How did the problem spread from sub-prime lenders into the rest of the financial world? A: Many of the companies that were making the sub-prime loans weren't holding onto the loans, but instead sold them to other parties, including hedge funds and pension funds looking for higher returns. Often, the loans were packaged together (think of a mutual fund holding thousands of individual loans) and sold to investors. When those loans started going bad, suddenly lots of people all across the financial world were affected. Concerned about losses, investors and lenders started demanding higher interest rates to make loans, or stopped doing so entirely. Thus began the credit crunch.

Q: So where does Canada fit into all of this? A: The fundamentals of the Canadian economy are quite strong. At 6%, Canadian unemployment is at a 30-year low. At slightly more than 2%, inflation is not a concern. Housing prices in Canada's 25 largest markets gained 13% in July, compared with a year ago, while unit sales increased 10%. Unlike the US, Canada's government finances are in very good shape.

However, some analysts are saying there is worse to come before a bottom is reached on the TSX. In my humble opinion, it was high time that we had a 'healthy correction' mixed with a good dose of fear injected into the market. No doubt, there will continue to be volatility in the coming months where the latest lows in the market will be retested.

Investor emotions may convey fear and uncertainty, however, some terrific opportunities present themselves now. As with any market correction, this provides an ideal time to buy low. It is important to remember that for every seller, there is a buyer. Many market participants sold heavily over the past few weeks, but institutional portfolio investors were not among them. Instead, they took the other side of the trade and accumulated assets at relatively attractive price levels.

It's worth remembering the next time all hell is breaking loose on markets and you want to hit the "sell" button.

Debbie Pereversoff CFP, CSA is a Certified Financial Planner, Certified Seniors Advisor and co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group Inc., in Castlegar.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Name that New Caf...!

Hello out there all you fabulous food fans. Did y'all go to the Hills Garlic Fest? Takes your breath away doesn't it? You'll be happy to know that there is another food event coming up on Sept. 15 in Crescent Valley. On the second floor of one of my fave stores, Evergreen Natural Foods, a brand new café is holding its Grand Opening. The name of said café is_____! You see, that's where YOU, dear reader, come in. The café has been open for eight weeks, (and it's fab), but is yet to be named. So. Hurry down there on the 15th and bring your suggestions for a name for the café. If your suggestion is chosen, you win a great big gift basket of wonderful stuff. There will also be door prizes and sample tastings. It promises to be a grand event. The café itself is beautiful. It's decked out to feel like a big bamboo room. There are bamboo counters and chairs, a bamboo 'roof,' and a floor made from laminated bamboo. It's bright and airy and open and comfortable with a colourful mural on one wall and a happy fig tree in one corner. It is an enjoyable place to be.

I was there last week. An effervescent gal named Seathra Bell was my friendly host, and the first thing she pointed out was a fifteen foot wide chalkboard that listed enough coffees, teas, smoothies and other drinks to make your head spin. The teas include green tea, various herbals, chai, chaigor, chai latte, mate latte, inca latte, and many many more. Coffee? The coffee is organic and includes espresso, Americano, macciato latte, cappuccino, mocha, and breve. All these coffees can be put on ice if you like. You must try their 'Frappacino:' a blended iced coffee drink with praline and hazelnut. There's another one they call the Caribbean Sun. Many natural juices and Italian Sodas await you.

Smoothies include 'the anti-oxidant express' with blueberry, pomegranate or strawberry or combinations thereof. There is also tamarind drink. The choices are endless.

Seathra tells me that the food choices are in constant flux depending on what proves to be popular. Wraps, sandwiches and salads abound.

Veggie, fish and meat wraps, vegige, fish and egg salad sandwiches. Oh, what about that veggie curry wrap or the South West chicken taco or even the black bean burrito? Maybe you feel like a calzone with sun-dried toms and artichoke? Seathra tells me that if anyone in the kitchen has an inspiration, they prepare it and see if it flies. Chicken sausage rolls? Spinach and cheddar rolls? Why not? You might like a pie. Mini chicken-pot pies, quiche with a brown rice crust, marinated tofu and good old potato salad are visible. Various samosas lurk about.

Dessert? The muffins are dairy-free and made with organic spelt flour. Lots of big cookies prowl about made with spelt or wheat. I don't know if I've said enough about the smoothies. This café is 'Smoothie Heaven' with countless combos of ingredients. Whoops, there goes a vegan truffle cupcake. Now bring on the sushi from Mori Nori in Nelson. Did I mention pina colada with mango and coconut and pineapple juice?

Are you getting the picture that this place has enough selections to make you happy? Soon the lunch specials will appear with soup and lasagna, mushroom-feta strudel and various salads. I had curry chicken soup and a veggie samosa along with a fantastic smoothie. Then I suffered through a chocolate Irish cream cheesecake.

Seathra, along with three other women and one man do all the cooking. Their experience ranges from cooking in oil-patch and logging camps to learning from Mom. Their big smiles indicate that they are all very much at home in this as yet un-named café. By the way, if you happen to want a good old ham and cheese sandwich, there's one waiting for you there. Go there for the Grand Opening on the 15th. Bring your suggestions for a name.

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NO MORE WEEKEND SHOWS

As the cycling season winds down, I've stopped being on active duty out front each Friday and Saturday. I'll be back to the routine in March 2008, but in the meantime I'll still be around lots most days of the week for autumn cycling needs. Tons of parts and accessories and even a few bikes left for sale!

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CARD OF THANKS

Thank You from the family of Colleen McCrory

Words cannot express our sincere appreciation of the overwhelming support from the community during our recent loss of our mother, grandmother, sister and friend Colleen. The warm embrace from everyone has touched us all so very much, the kindness shown us by the community has helped us through these times.

The expressions of sympathy through cards, emails, donations to the Valhalla Wilderness Society in memory of Colleen, the opening of residents' homes for billets and the kind words have deeply touched us all. To individually name every one is too great of a task, but to each and everyone of you, please accept our sincere heartfelt thanks.

-Sean, Rory, Shea & McCrory Family

On behalf of the **Reitmeier family** I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to all of our friends and family for their love and support following the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather Ted.

Special thanks to Drs. Burkholder and Skrenes for providing such exceptional care and going above and beyond the call of duty. We are extremely fortunate to have such caring medical professionals in our community.

Our family gratefully acknowledges the wonderful care provided by the hardworking nursing staff at the Slocan Community Health Centre who supported and comforted Ted and his family during his illness. We would also like to thank the ambulance crew for safely transporting Ted to the hospital on numerous occasions. During Ted's roughest days you all still had time to bring a smile to his face and we are grateful for that.

Thank you to Father Scott for the beautiful service and to the Saint Anthony's Parish and their dedicated helpers for the wonderful tea that followed. To Joan Law for providing the music at the service.

Words can never truly express our appreciation for the thoughtful gestures shown to our family. To those who have provided us with food, flowers, cards and visits, thank you.

Sincerely,

Isabel Reitmeier and family

STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS of the Mount Sentinel Forestry class would like to thank Springer Creek Forest Products Ltd for their continued financial and technical support. The Forestry program enables students to acquire an overview of the forestry science while receiving exposure to exciting forestry careers through participation in actual forestry work projects.

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Rosebery Parklands Development Society adopts a 'no docks' policy

by Jan McMurray

At its September 1 AGM, the Rosebery Parklands Development Society (RPDS) board asked for clear direction regarding docks from its members – and the members delivered. A 'no docks' motion was passed with 58 in favour, two against and eight abstentions.

This is the second AGM in a row where the dock issue has been at the forefront for this society, which owns approximately seven acres, including all of the waterfront, at Rosebery Bay.

Last spring, when private owners of land bordering the parklands installed a dock in Rosebery Bay, it became apparent that many local citizens, including former and current society members, were opposed to the dock. At last year's AGM, a negotiating committee was formed to come up with a solution with dock owners Brian and Mary-Jane Sykes within three months. If there was no solution after the three months, the society was to hire an adjudicator to facilitate a solution within one month. None of this happened, and the Sykes filed a lawsuit against the society in BC Supreme Court on June 25.

At this year's AGM, the negotiating committee reported that it became apparent the committee was not in a position to negotiate with the Sykes without a clear position on moorage. Barb Yeomans, member of the negotiating committee, said, "This current board inherited this problem and you asked us to fix it in three months. It took us four or five months to get the records in order and then we started to think about the complexity of the issue. If we approve one dock, we may have to approve seven docks...No board needs to inherit such a problem without policy direction, so we're coming to you now to give the next board that direction.

The direction could not be any clearer. In addition to the 'no docks' motion, society members passed a resolution in support of a 'no private moorage' policy in areas under RPDS jurisdiction (Rosebery Bay). They also defeated a resolution in support of a shared dock in the bay. According to the 'no docks' motion, the only dock ever allowed in the bay will be a temporary one for short-term events and with the permission of the parklands management agency.

Another resolution passed was that the society transfer the ownership of the parklands property to the RDCK, subject to the negotiation of 15 covenants. These covenants are intended to ensure the continued use of the land as a "public, low impact tourism park," as stated in the society's constitution. This issue is expected to come before the RDCK board at its September 22 meeting.

Also, members gave the board the go-ahead to spend money on lawyers to "proceed with the pending negotiation and if necessary litigation, based on the moorage policies approved at the AGM." An estimate of legal costs, provided to the board by the society's lawyer, was "up to $30,000 if we win."

Information clarifying the Sykes' position was posted on public bulletin boards in the New Denver/Silverton area towards the end of August. They say in this written statement: "In no way did we intend to detract from the pristineness of the bay or detract from the public, after all our family has a history on Slocan Lake as well, Brian's father grew up there. We continue to allow people to utilize our dock; most just wanting to have fun, others that have been caught in dangerous situations and needed to get off the lake. Where did this go wrong?"

The Sykes also say in the statement: "Please know that we (Brian & Mary-Jane Sykes) have never done anything that we did not have permission to do, and that we were told we could do. We have followed all rules and have a permission letter to put in our dock."

The letter of permission was also posted on the bulletin boards. It is dated January 31, 2006 and signed by Scott Leyland, RPDS President and John Herrmann, RPDS Vice President. This letter grants permission to moor a dock in the northwest corner of the bay and concludes: "So, to reiterate, we have built into the covenants of each lot, the right to cross lot 6 [parklands] to access Slocan Lake. We have noted in several meetings (including AGMs) that moorage in the corner of the bay would be a right of each lot owner."

However, it is interesting to note that the Sykes were not successful in obtaining a permit for their dock from the provincial government. A fact sheet prepared by the RPDS negotiating committee and available at the AGM outlines the following events.

Shortly after receiving the letter of permission from Leyland and Herrmann, the Sykes applied for the required permit for their dock from the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB). Included in their application package was the Leyland/Herrmann letter of permission, an undated draft of covenants and a copy of the 'by foot only' easement that all lot owners have over the parklands to access the lake. In the spring, before receiving a permit, the Sykes had their dock installed in the bay. According to the ILMB report on the Sykes application, ILMB was prepared to issue a permit when it received a number of letters from local residents objecting to private moorage. This alerted ILMB to ask the Sykes for clarification on the easements and covenants they had provided. The Sykes sent in minutes from several previous society meetings, which actually clarified that the covenants were never approved by the society or registered on the Sykes' lot. ILMB wrote to Sykes on July 24, 2006 to notify them that a permit would not be issued. This letter from ILMB clarified there were no covenants on the Sykes' lot giving them the right to moorage and stated that the ministry's policy does not provide for private moorage for second tier [non waterfront] properties.

The fact sheet states that the Sykes are asking the Supreme Court to say 'yes' to one or both of the following two questions, to which the ILMB has answered 'no': (1) Does the 'by foot only' easement on the parklands or the unregistered draft covenants imply guaranteed private moorage for all adjacent lot owners, including Sykes? (2) Does the Herrmann/Leyland letter granting Sykes permission to apply for moorage demonstrate intent by the Society to allow Sykes' dock on the foreshore in front of parklands property?

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Kaslo Hotel owners frustrated with RDCK bureaucracy

by Jan McMurray

The Kaslo Hotel project is in jeopardy because "the bureaucracy at the RDCK has been impossible to deal with," according to owner John Eckland. However, Ramona Mattix of the RDCK said on September 10 that the building permit is expected to be issued in the next couple of days.

"We hope to have the issues resolved with the entire group on this project within the next few days. We believe we have a resolution worked out on the equivalency basis that will both meet the code and be fair to the developer," said Mattix.

In a letter to the *Valley Voice* dated September 3, owner John Eckland stated that the Kaslo Hotel Development Corporation was seriously considering abandoning the project, a total renovation of the former Mariner Inn on Kaslo's main street. He describes a chain of events that include delays due to building inspectors' vacations and receiving conflicting information from different inspectors.

The 'last straw' for Eckland was an email from the senior building official at the RDCK, Max Hoedeman, on August 30 notifying that all new construction was to be suspended until two items related to fire safety were addressed. Hoedeman says in his email that "the preferred course is to have a fire protection engineer propose a solution."

Eckland, whose corporation has put about $1.5 million into the project so far, says that rather than "spending any more on needless consultants," they will spend money to redesign the project into condos, which are less complex as far as the building code goes, "or simply put the property up for sale."

Ramona Mattix, Manager of Development Services at the RDCK, conceded, "We certainly should have been more timely. We certainly could have provided better communication with the developer." However, she pointed out that the only permit issued for the project as of September 10 is a demolition permit. "Developers rarely engage to the extent of construction in this project without a building permit, and when this occurs it is frustrating to all concerned. Normally issues ... are resolved before construction goes vertical." She also said the "main slowdown" with this particular building permit application was "not having adequate information provided by the architect."

She said that her department still has not received stamped structural plans from the engineer or his letter of assurance of his involvement, which are required before the building can be enclosed.

Mattix noted that a new building code was adopted in December 2006 and "all of us, building staff and architects and designers alike, are in the process of using this code." She also said, "At any given time, an inspector juggles over 50 permits at various stages of completion."

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YOGA FOR YOUNG WOMEN & GIRLS - With Krista Schroeter. Begins Thursday, Sept. 27th at the Crescent Valley Youth Centre.

GENTLE HATHA FLOW YOGA - With Maya Engelbrecht. Begins Thursday, Sept. 27th at the Slocan Park Hall.

FREE FITNESS & AGING TALK - With Helen Kissinger. Sat. Sept. 22nd 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Crescent Valley Hall.

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VALLEY FITNESS PROGRAMS: Legs, Bums & Tums with Barbie Wheaton - begins after school on Sept. 17th; Body Conditioning with Helen Kissinger on Monday & Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 17th; Weight Training with Barbie begins Tuesday, Sept. 25th; Fusion Pilates begins Thurs. Sept. 27th.

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OBITUARY

REITMEIER, Theodore (Ted) John - We regret to announce the passing of our loving husband and father on August 30th, 2007. Theodore (Ted) John Reitmeier. Ted was born April 24, 1937 in Loon Lake, Sask. Ted's parents & siblings moved to Osoyoos in 1947 where he then married his best friend Isabel Hoy on November 20, 1958 and together they eventually made a wonderful home in New Denver in 1966, raising six beautiful children. Ted was a man of many talents. Just to mention a few: He was a skilled carpenter, a talented mechanic and a logger working in the bush most of his life, starting his own company in 1972. Ted also loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman and hunter. Loved picking huckleberries and wild mushrooms.

One of Ted's proudest achievements in his life was to teach his children and grandchildren that life's true values were derived from the heart, to always hold close to each other and that there was no greater joy than family.

Ted leaves to mourn loving wife Isabel, sons, Rod (Chiyoko), Rick (June), Ken (Nat), daughters, Kathy (Gord), Marlene (Roy), Barb (Trent). 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Brothers, Peter (Mellie), George (Anna), Reynold, Sisters, Liz (Art), Dot, & Judy (Clarence). Numerous nieces and nephews. Ted was predeceased by brother-in-law Art Eastwood and parents Marie & Ted.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Slocan Community Hospital Emergency ward in Ted's memory.