The Valley VOICE

Free!

Volume 16, Number 19 September 26, 2007 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**
"Your independently owned regional community newspaper serving the Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay Lake Valleys."

Jumbo Wild gathering disrupted by 'Friends of Development' protest

by Jan McMurray

An east/west Jumbo Wild day hike rally on Sunday, September 16 did not go exactly as planned.

The Jumbo Pass hut was to be the meeting place for people hiking in on the Jumbo Creek trail from the East Kootenay and people hiking in on the Glacier Creek trail from the West Kootenay. The group from the east made it, but those on the west ran into an unlikely group of protesters – the 'Friends of Development' – who were allowing only foot traffic to pass.

Roger Leroux of Meadow Creek got the idea of organizing people to block the road to the trailhead when he saw the publicity for the Jumbo day hike rally in the paper.

"We're always on the wrong side of the protest – no one ever hears our side of the story. I read that in the paper and it bugged me. It was real spur-of-the-moment – I started organizing on Saturday morning. This is the first protest any of us have been on. It was good to turn the tables on them for once and get our message across," he said.

About 30 people showed up, he said, to let the hikers know that they want to see jobs in the area, and that they are mad they were shut out of the recreational areas up Glacier Creek Road for most of the summer because of the blockade at the Grabowsky property.

The blockade at the Grabowskys is in protest of the proposed Glacier/Howser independent power project. It is also about safety. Glacier Creek Road goes through the Grabowskys' private property, and the Grabowskys have liability concerns about the unstable slope on their land just above the road.

Leroux said the group wants to see the Glacier/Howser project go ahead because it will provide jobs in our area and allow more young people to stay. He said they don't have strong feelings about the Jumbo Resort proposal, as that project will economically affect mostly the East Kootenay. However, he saw the Jumbo hike as a good opportunity to tell the other side of the story.

"We thought this Jumbo hike was a good chance. They [the Grabowskys] will open the road for them [the Jumbo hikers], but we couldn't ride our quads up there or hike Monica Meadows or anything all summer. They are all the same people – they are professional protesters, and it makes you mad after a while," said Leroux.

Rowena Eloise, member of the Coalition for Jumbo Wild, was the first of the Jumbo hikers to arrive at the scene of the protest, at the junction of the Duncan and Glacier Creek forestry roads, at about 8:30 am. She says she decided to turn around and warn other hikers. About 100 hikers showed up, she said, and parked at the Hamill Creek bridge about 7 kilometres below the 'Friends of Development' blockade, and decided to have a "nice rally" of their own there.

She said people wanted an update on the Jumbo project, so she told them the latest – that bear biologist Michael Proctor had brought his grizzly bear study to the attention of government agencies involved in making the decision on the Jumbo proposal. His study shows that the grizzly bear population in the Jumbo area is much lower than thought. So, the impacts of the resort on the bears has probably been underestimated. Eloise said at that point, many in the group decided to "bare it for the bears" and took their clothes off.

Eloise Charet of New Denver reported that the hikers were "a group of young people that weren't shy, so they decided to 'bare themselves for the bears.' They all took off their clothes and stood on the bridge – to express the 'wild' in 'Keep Jumbo Wild' – and after all, this form of protest is a Kootenay tradition," she said jokingly, adding that she was very happy that they injected some humour into the situation.

Then some went for a hike up Meadow Mountain and others went down the Fry Creek trail.

Both Rowena Eloise and Eloise Charet said that they were happy to see the 'Friends of Development' group "get organized" and "get political."

"We're happy to see them politically active, because generally they are not," said Rowena Eloise. "Both gatherings got their point across – we found ourselves in a large crowd with no antagonism and no bad feelings against the other group," she said.

Constable Andrew Luukko of the Kaslo RCMP went up to the protest at about noon, after receiving a call from a citizen concerned about confrontation between the two groups and the possibility of firearms and alcohol on the scene.

"But there was nothing like that. It was a peaceful protest, with people of all ages there."

Luukko said the hikers had already dispersed by the time he got there.

He also explained that the RCMP respects the right to protest. "From an RCMP standpoint, we'll protect property and people's safety, but when there are no threats or reports of property damage, it's not up to the police to be involved. We would need a court order from the ministry or the hydro company to remove either of these blockades."

Both groups reported that there was some interaction between the two. Rowena Eloise says some hikers found the 'Friends of Development' to be "belligerent" and "aggressive." Leroux says it "felt good being on the other side for once" and said he did not see much possibility of the two groups ever seeing eye to eye. "They've got tunnel vision," he said.

At least 140 East Kootenay individuals of all ages drove up to three hours and hiked up to three hours from Jumbo Creek to reach Jumbo Pass, overlooking the proposed resort site. Ranging in age from a few months to over 80 years, the group included hunters, business owners, professional athletes, and conservationists. The gathering involved a photo shoot and discussion surrounding the twenty-year struggle to keep the upper Jumbo Valley wild.

Telus not in a rush to complete New Denver cell installation

by Jan McMurray

New Denver still does not have cell phone service.

Telus spokesperson Shawn Hall says they are still waiting for confirmation that Health Canada has replied to correspondence from New Denver residents before they complete the installation on the CBC tower near the marina.

"There's no rush," said Hall. "It's reasonable that the residents have asked us to wait until they have heard from Health Canada. We're just waiting for that to happen."

At New Denver's September 11 council meeting, a letter was received from Telus Customer Solutions Delivery Vice President Tony Geheran agreeing to council's request for a delay. The letter stated that the company would "delay any work at the site for a brief period so that Health Canada has an opportunity to respond."

New Denver Mayor Gary Wright says he had a telephone conversation with Brock Enderton of Telus on September 17. He says he told Enderton that "we'd heard from Health Canada and Health Canada said everything met the standards. At the same time, I informed him that the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce wanted a cell phone free zone, which kind of took him aback – this is a stronger position than the Village's."

Wright says he also told Enderton about the University of Albany (New York) report released August 31 on electromagnetic fields and health. This report raises serious concern about the safety of existing public limits that regulate how much EMF is allowable from power lines, cell phones and other sources.

Wright says the report cites over 2,000 case studies in North America and around the world and concludes that cell phone usage increases the risk of brain tumours by 200% when the user always puts the speaker to the same side of the head. He says he asked for a meeting with Enderton as soon as possible to suggest that, with the new information coming in, the Village wishes Telus to consider allowing time for a referendum on this issue.

"We'd like our residents to receive a full information package from the Village and from Telus on the issue and make up their own minds," said Wright.

Wright says Enderton indicated he would take this back to his colleagues and would be back in touch with the Village.

The mayor also noted that CTV News had recently aired a report about cell phones and had cited several different studies that talked about brain cancer and hearing loss associated with cell phone usage.

The citizens' group in New Denver that is concerned about the health effects of the wireless technology, including the Valhalla Committee for Environmental Health (a subcommittee of the Valhalla Wilderness Society), has submitted numerous reports on the dangers of cell phone usage to the Village, other local politicians, Health Canada and the media, and has posted them to vws.org. Among these are a news report issued by the German government on September 9 warning its citizens to avoid using cell and wireless phones and urging them to use conventionally wired phones, and a report from the European Union calling for urgent action on the issue. This EU report states that delay in acting against exposure to radiation from mobile phones and their masts "could lead to health crises similar to those caused by asbestos, smoking and lead in gasoline."

In a September 21 letter, the Valhalla committee asks Health Canada what it has to say about the 610-page report from the University of Albany. "And while you are viewing its findings, we request that you inform Telus that your position on safety is suspended until you examine the findings."

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Trust boosts community initiatives program by $2 million

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust has announced a $2 million annual increase in its Community Initiatives Program (CIP), which includes the Affected Areas funding.

Beginning April 1, 2008, there will be $3.3 million allocated annually to the program. Of this, $2.2 million will be allotted to the community initiatives funding stream and $1.1 million will be allotted to the affected areas funding stream. CBT has committed to this increase for three years.

"I'm really pleased that the CBT not only continued the program, but also tripled the community initiatives funding and doubled the affected areas funding," said Paul Peterson, the RDCK's representative on the CBT board.

Neil Muth, CBT CEO, explained that the community initiatives funding will continue to be divvied up on a per capita basis, while the affected areas funding will be divvied up a little differently – half of it will be distributed on a per capita basis and the other half will be distributed equally among the 12 affected areas in the basin.

'Affected areas' are the regions most impacted by the Columbia River Treaty, Muth explained, and generally are situated within 10 kilometres of a treaty reservoir. In the *Valley Voice* coverage area, affected areas are Nakusp, Area K (the Arrow Lakes) and Area D (North Kootenay Lake). Nakusp's allotment of affected areas funding will increase to $94,121, up from $51,108; Area K's will go up to $102,787 from $58,792; and Area D's from $29,440 to $77,667.

"This is one of the main sources of funding for the lower Arrow Lakes and Nakusp area that make up for the hardship caused by the flooding of the Arrow Lakes. I'm looking forward to working with the five different groups within Area K and going through the new rules," said Area K Director Peterson.

Now in the tenth year of a 10-year commitment, the CIP underwent an independent evaluation in the months leading up to this announcement. The evaluator, Lochaven Management Consultants of Vernon, made 24 recommendations aimed at strengthening the program.

"The evaluation confirmed what the board and management believed – that the program is very much valued and appreciated throughout the basin," said Muth.

He said that the board closely reviewed the recommendations and amended some of them. "Some of the recommendations still need some further work," he explained. "There are a number of recommendations on more operational matters, and we want to work with the delivery partners on those to make sure that they are comfortable with the changes, and that we're not missing anything."

Delivery partners are the Regional Districts of Central Kootenay, Kootenay Boundary, East Kootenay, City of Revelstoke, Town of Golden, Village of Valemount, and the Ktunaxa Nation Council.

Muth said some other examples of the report's recommendations were to clarify the program's guidelines and to get greater public involvement in the decision making.

"The evaluation was extensive, and largely based on interviews with the delivery partners, administrators, project proponents and CBT management," he said.

The CBT board made the decision about the CIP funding program at its most recent meeting in Nakusp September 14 and 15. During the public portion of that meeting, Muth and Vice President, Investments Johnny Strilaeff gave some idea of what the Brilliant Expansion project coming online means to the Trust. They forecast a $15 million per year return on that investment by 2011.

Muth said the CBT's entire Delivery of Benefits program, of which the CIP is a part, is just over $5 million today. He said they had budgeted $10 million for next year and $15 million for the year after that. "We feel comfortable with these forecasts, but there can always be hiccups, as we saw with the Arrow Lakes Generating Station [needing extensive repair work recently] and with the delays on the Brilliant Expansion project."

UN AIDS ambassador Stephen Lewis inaugurates Mir Centre for Peace

by Art Joyce

"The desertion of the peace ethic is creating terrible damage everywhere," said Stephen Lewis the evening of September 21 at the Brilliant Cultural Centre. His talk was the culmination of a day's celebrations to inaugurate Selkirk College's new Mir Centre for Peace. Lewis was introduced by Doukhobor leader JJ Verigin, who spoke of Lewis' long political and activist career, culminating in his recent position as special UN AIDS envoy to Africa from 2001-06.

Lewis praised the Mir Centre for its inclusiveness, honouring both Doukhobor and First Nations cultures. He said what is needed is not merely an absence of war but a bringing together under one umbrella the disciplines of conflict resolution, gender equality and environmental studies. He was encouraged to see so many youth in the audience expressing an interest in peace.

But he reminded the audience that the directors of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists at the University of Chicago have reset the 'doomsday clock' to seven minutes to midnight, the closest is has been since the clock's inception in 1947. Lewis cited as a contributing factor the "abject abuses of statehood" by the Bush government in Iraq and Afghanistan. In his view, these military actions were designed to enrich multinational corporations with close ties to the Bush administration. He warned Canadians not to be too complacent, however.

"Deep within the Canadian soul is the terrible recognition that what we're engaged with in Afghanistan is wrong."

Lewis focused his talk around the theme of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals, which so far have had dismal support from wealthy nations. He said the hope held out at the turn of the century that globalism would unite the world has "failed in every respect," due to the widening gap in wealth created by predatory capitalism. This is especially evident with respect to millennium goals such as the target to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger worldwide by 2015. He said the UN has had to actually cut the rations it sends to Darfur in half due to member countries failing to fulfill their promises of aid.

"There is violence in hunger. If you're going to create peace, you have to address hunger."

The issue of hunger is closely tied to disease, Lewis explained, noting that 30,000 children die daily around the world from preventable diseases. There are 2.3 million children living with AIDS worldwide, and 50% die before the age of 2 if not treated. The issue isn't one of medical science, but of inequity – almost no child in developed countries dies of AIDS, thanks to drugs that increase survival prospects to 99%. By 2010, 15% of some African populations will be orphans, with 60-80% being cared for by their grandmothers. He said one hopeful sign was the introduction of 'microcredit', very small loans given to empower women to start a small handcraft business or buy livestock to feed their families.

Lewis spoke of visiting people in villages throughout Africa ravaged by malaria and AIDS. Despite their suffering, when these children are asked what they want most, it's the chance to go to school. This answers directly another of the UN's Millennium goals: achieve universal primary education for all boys and girls by 2015. He says the reason for many poor countries' inability to provide universal primary schooling is simple: World Bank and IMF 'development' loans which stipulated user fees for schools, making it impossible for most families to afford.

"A learning environment embodies peace," he insisted.

What was most shocking about Lewis' talk was his discussion of gender equality. Often taken for granted in the West, he says in the poorest countries the abuse of women and girls has reached pandemic proportions. He related horrifying tales of rape gangs in the East Congo, yet another ignored catastrophe that has that country tearing itself apart in what he called "an open season on women and girls of all ages." Lewis, who proudly calls himself a feminist thanks largely to his activist-journalist wife Michelle Landsberg, concluded by saying that a priority in primary education must be teaching young males respect for females. He urged the Mir Centre to support the UN Secretary-General's idea of creating an international womens' agency to provide aid and dispense microcredit.

"The struggle for gender equality is the single most important goal on the planet. You cannot marginalize 52% of the population and expect to have peace."

PHOTO CREDIT: ROB GIANNETTO

The Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College in Castlegar celebrated its grand opening on September 21. L to R: Myler Wilkinson, Steve Podovennikoff, director of Facilities, Marilyn Luscombe, president of Selkirk College, Christian Schadendorf, board chair, Linda Wilkinson, Luke Gleeson, Peace Studies student, and JJ Verigin. The Wilkinsons, who are both instructors at Selkirk College, were instrumental in creating a vision for the Mir Centre for Peace.

Incomappleux road to be open to pedestrians

by Jan McMurray

Work is underway to open up the Incomappleux road to foot traffic. Two years after a huge rock fall came down onto a bridge on the road, which leads into the Incomappleux Valley near Beaton in the Upper Arrow Lakes, the Ministry of Forests is clearing the bridge of rocks and stabilizing the area.

"For public safety, our engineers have to have a look and come up with a repair plan," said Rob Babiarz, engineering officer, Arrow Boundary Forest District. "We know there are a lot of people going up there, and it's unsafe right now, so we have to make the area stable."

Babiarz explained that the bridge belongs to the ministry, which is required to inspect it every couple of years. If there is any damage, ministry engineers have to come up with a plan for repairs. "But we don't have to open it up for vehicle access. We just need to know the extent of the damage so if a logging company wants to get in, they would know up front what it would cost them to do that."

Babiarz said a rock scaling company was removing some of the loose rock and trees up above the bridge to prevent further rock slides. Then the bridge will be cleared of rock. This work is expected to be done by mid October. It will then be safe for an engineer to get under the bridge, assess the extent of the damage and come up with a repair plan.

"There is a trapper, private properties, mining interests, a mountain hostel and Pope & Talbot's Tree Farm Licence up there," said Babiarz. "Someone put a rickety fence for a walkway over the rock and that is not condoned by us. We didn't authorize it and we know there are a lot of people going up there, so we have to make the area stable."

Two years ago, protesters blocked Pope & Talbot from doing road building work to prepare for logging in Boyd Creek, a tributary of the Incomappleux. The day after the protesters were served with a court order and cleared the road, the rockslide came down onto the bridge. The road was closed near the end of September 2005.

The Valhalla Wilderness Society issued a press release on September 17 outlining its concern that the road was being opened so Pope & Talbot could resume operations in the Incomappleux Valley.

The 19th Hole Restaurant will be closing for the season on Saturday, September 29th at 6 pm.

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IPPs promoted in Province's 2007 Energy Plan as path to 'energy self-sufficiency'

by Art Joyce

The provincial government's 2007 Energy Plan's policy of "energy self-sufficiency" by 2016 is a fine enough goal at face value. Yet many economists suggest the policy is in fact a red herring.

The government has claimed that BC has been suffering an "energy deficit" the past five years, requiring it to import power to meet domestic needs. BC is connected to the energy grid of Alberta and the US Pacific Northwest, and therefore able to trade electricity. Powerex, BC Hydro's trading arm, plays this trade like a stock market, aiming to maximize not only energy capacity but profit for hydro shareholders. As Richard Neufeld, BC's Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources explains, Powerex buys during low-use periods (off-peak) and sells during peak-use (on-peak) when power can be sold for top dollar. Buy low, sell high. The fact that BC Hydro generates the majority of its power from hydro dams, where water can be stored for later release to produce electricity, gives the province an added advantage on the market.

"We're not a self-sufficient province for power, we're importing 5-8% of our power from the US and Alberta per year for the past 5 years," says Neufeld.

However, in 2006 BC was actually a net exporter of power. The 5,900 gigawatt hours (Gwh) it imported were not to meet domestic needs but, as economist Marvin Schaffer explains, "because it was economic," i.e. profitable to do so. Schaffer adds that "IPP industry lobbyists have argued that BC Hydro should not be importing electricity under any circumstances. However, what this ignores is that importing electricity has been a very cost-effective strategy for BC Hydro." Minister Neufeld agrees. "BC Hydro has been using a market-based system as long as they've been around, and will continue to trade power on the market because it makes sense."

The BC government has chosen to meet its goal of energy self-sufficiency through the granting of Energy Purchase Agreements (EPAs) from IPPs rather than investing in new public infrastructure. Tens of millions of taxpayer dollars already invested by BC Hydro to research renewable energy sources – a publicly funded database – will now benefit private developers. The 2006 Open Call for Power resulted in a commitment by BC Hydro to purchase $9.5 billion from private power developers over the next 25 years, at a substantial increase (7.4-8.7 per kilowatt-hour) from the half cent per KWh now paid by consumers. And the 2007 Energy Plan's call for 3,000 GWh of electricity 'insurance' over and above projected needs, according to Schaffer, could "potentially double the cost impact" of self-sufficiency.

The 'energy insurance' clause of the plan raises a red flag, especially when one examines the corporate restructuring of BC Hydro over the past five years. Administrative and customer services were contracted out to American firm Accenture in 2003. Yet BC Hydro had an enviable record for efficiency and no business case for such a move was ever presented. Meanwhile, Bermuda-based Accenture, which rose from the ashes of the collapse of Enron accounting firm Arthur Andersen, has run afoul of the law in several US states and is banned from doing business in California.

The restructuring continued in 2003 with the formation of the BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC), "a Crown corporation that independently manages, maintains and operates BC Hydro's high voltage transmission assets." BCTC is not a subsidiary of BC Hydro, which continues to own the transmission grid. Why the sudden need for these divisions of labour? To make BC Hydro compliant with US utility agency Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which requires separation of transmission from other components of hydro systems.

Further documents filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC), the regulatory authority for the Province, by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) in May 2006 recognized NERC as "the electric reliability organization" within the province. According to its website, "NERC's mission is to improve the reliability and security of the bulk power system in North America" by developing and enforcing reliability standards.

If the $9.5 billion in IPP energy contracts signed by the BC government are designed to provide "energy independence," why are we signing agreements with US regulatory agencies? It raises the distinct possibility that these agreements facilitate energy exports to satisfy increasing American needs. IPPBC President Steve Davis argues that IPPs are signing EPAs that require them to sell exclusively to BC Hydro, and that Powerex can only sell this energy to the US if it obtains an Energy Removal Certificate. However, under Bill 40, the Utilities Commission Amendment Act of 2003, these certificates were abolished. Environment Minister Barry Penner claimed they were "redundant."

Increasing energy exports hardly squares with the government's stated goal of self-sufficiency, and could leave us vulnerable to the kind of market volatility that plagued California with electricity 'brownouts' a few years ago. Neufeld insists California and BC are "totally different cats," and blames their troubles on a flawed market system.

"We have cost-based electricity in BC and it will continue that way."

Energy independence for BC? Or energy security for the US? You decide.

Four more weeks of credit for Pope & Talbot

by Jan McMurray

Pope & Talbot's agreement with its lenders was extended for four more weeks, allowing the company to continue to borrow until October 15.

The original agreement between P&T and its lenders was made on July 31. Since then, all of the company's assets have been up for sale.

Mark Rossolo, media contact, said there had been some interest from prospective buyers. "They've had some bids come in. We can't discuss the level of interest, but they've been looking at various options," he said.

Rossolo also wanted to clarify that the company was looking at selling either its pulp division or its sawmill / timber operations, or the entire company. "The company is not looking at selling off individual assets at this time."

So, the Arrow Lakes timber operation will not be sold off separately. It will be sold either with the entire company or with the sawmills in Castlegar, Grand Forks, Midway, Fort St. James, and Oregon. "Things could change in the future, but right now, that's what the company is looking at," said Rossolo.

The Nakusp operation directly employs 47 people.

It became clear in August that the company was in dire straits financially. On August 22, the company's stock was delisted by the New York Stock Exchange when the value of a common share dove to .40, down from over $8 in February. The company reported a net loss of $42 million for the second quarter of 2007, and has indicated that bankruptcy is a possibility.

The company's poor financial position is due to the strong Canadian dollar and the poor softwood lumber market, brought on by the downturn in the US housing market.

Electoral Boundaries Commission goes back to the drawing board

submitted

On September 13, the premier announced that the Province will provide new legal tools to the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission to protect the number of electoral districts in rural British Columbia while ensuring fair representation in growing regions of the province.

"Since the commission released its initial report on August 15, we have heard clearly from British Columbians that reducing rural British Columbians' representation in government is unacceptable," said Premier Gordon Campbell. "We will set broader guidelines under the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act to give the commission the flexibility necessary to adjust electoral boundaries and ensure fair and equal representation for all regions of the province."

The legislation will give the commission the legal ability to carry on its work to recommend new electoral boundaries. Based on the 12 regions identified in the preliminary report, the commission will be required to ensure no region loses any existing seats. As such, the legislation will protect representation in the three regions where the draft proposal had suggested reducing the number of MLAs (Columbia-Kootenay, Cariboo-Thompson and the North). The commission will also be directed to allocate an additional five seats to reflect population growth.

Increasing the number of MLAs in total by eight will allow the commission to strike a balance between protecting rural representation and increasing representation for growing areas. As a result, the next Parliament will have 87 Members. The Commission will be asked to address single transferable vote (STV) allocations and boundaries for all 87 Members of the Legislative Assembly as well.

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Notice of Power Interruption
Nakusp, New Denver, Burton and surrounding areas.

When: Sunday September 30
Time: 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

We will be returning the fire damaged portion of circuit 60L210 to service on September 30. As a result, it will be necessary to interrupt electrical service for approximately four hours, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. The area affected is Nakusp, New Denver, Burton, Summit Lake Hills, Red Mountain, Roseberry and the surrounding area.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause, and will restore service as quickly as possible.

Please protect all sensitive equipment. If you experience any electrical problems following the interruption, or would like further information, please call 1 888 POWERON (1 888 769-3766).

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Notice of Community Meetings

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District, with assistance from the Trout Lake and Rural Revelstoke Advisory Committees, has prepared a new **Official Community Plan (OCP)** for Electoral Area B. A fourth set of public meetings is now scheduled to present the plan and to collect community feedback.

The new OCP has been developed over the last 18 months through a consultative public process. We appreciate the input that has been submitted through the Advisory Committees, surveys, letters, emails, and attendance at public meetings. The next community meetings will include a presentation of proposed plan policies followed by a question and answer period.

The CSRD values your input. Please plan to attend to learn more about planning for the future of Electoral Area 'B'.

To view the draft plan, visit www.csrd.bc.ca, click on the "Development Services" tab and look under 'Area 'B' Draft Plan."

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Rural Revelstoke Community Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Location: Community Centre
Time: 6:00 to 7:00pm - Open House
7:00 to 7:30pm - Presentation
7:30 to 9:00pm - Questions & Answers

Trout Lake Community Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Location: Community Hall
Time: 11:00 to 11:30am - Presentation
11:30 to 2:30pm - Questions & Answers

Voices from the Valleys

Bear murder

The person, I wouldn't call him a man, who murdered the grizzly bear from a safe distance for no good reason, requires some major work in order to fill his empty core with real substance.

No punishment would be helpful to him except, possibly, banishing him to the bush, far from phones, roads, his big truck and his big gun.

He would soon come to realize the great distance required to travel within himself to truly become a real man.

I grieve for the bear.

Walter Pasieka
Nakusp

Teapot stolen

Since publication of my letter expressing my sincere and honest opinion concerning R.C.'s little tirade over the tea pot signs along the highway, more than two dozen people from New Denver, Nakusp, and Silverton have contacted me by phone and in person to say they liked my letter and felt the same way as I do. Thank you all. Then again, yesterday, while grocery shopping, I was approached by a member of the VWS who told me in his best indignant tone that my letter was a 'cheap shot.' Isn't it fascinating how opinions differ? Meanwhile, some third party genius has actually stolen the teapot sign at the end of my driveway! Where will the Great Teapot Controversy lead us all???

Andrew Rhodes
New Denver

VWS doesn't own eyesore

I just thought I would clear up an obvious misconception. The Valhalla Society does not own the building they have their offices in. That building was my mom's, and since her passing now belongs to me, and my brothers. I'm very sorry that it is such an "eyesore," but as you can well imagine, my mom did not take home a very large salary as a self-employed environmentalist, and fixing costs money. On a similar vein however, if there are any talented carpenters out there that would like to look at the building and give me a written quote for repair and paint we will see what we can do.

Thank you all so much for your ongoing concern for the appearance of main street.

Rory Pownall
New Denver

Cellphones - a proven technology

Doctors are not trained in cell phones and communication technologies. Engineers are trained in the safety and health effect of electrical and electronic devices, and they are obliged to design such devices so that public safety is observed. Cell phones are in use world wide for decades now. For instance in the Czech Republic where the cell phone ownership per capita is the highest in the world, and where virtually every child has his or her own cell phone under the family plan, no adverse effects have been observed. With over a billion cell phone users world wide, one can imagine the lawsuits and bankruptcies of the cell phone manufacturers should any medical adverse effect be substantiated at the court of law. Mr. Duerichen acts as if cell phones were something new, untested and not proven worldwide for decades.

Vladimir Stuchlik, P. Eng.
Nakusp

RDCK has TV Society financial statements

Regarding your recent copy on the 'Slocan Valley TV Society…' - as a 2 term elected representative to Area H/ The Slocan Valley, I am astonished that, in your September 12, 2007 publication, you printed the following: "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."

While I am not astonished that you printed it - what is remarkable, is knowing that the RDCK - WILL NOT provide annual funding to any function, unless the previous year's audited statements are submitted to the RDCK.

And, it is a matter of FACT and RECORD, that the RDCK has received financial statements from the Slocan Valley TV Society for the past 4 years, and that the requisite funding, INCLUDING the 2007 funding, has been paid by the RDCK, to the TV Society, which continues to provide TV and radio signals to us folk in the valley.

And, I would suggest that one could not competently represent our public interest, if one were unaware of the above. It's like - 'THE GROUND RULES.' It's like knowing the alphabet as a prerequisite to being able to write.

Astonishing. And absurd.

Eric Nygren
Winlaw

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*.

Open Letter to Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry

As you may or may not know, there is currently a debate in the community of New Denver, BC, in regard to proposed cell phone service. The village council has come out not supporting the project because the proposed cellular phone mast will be located within 500 metres of residential housing.

Minister, the issue here is not whether one agrees that there should or should not be cell phone service in the area. What is at stake here is the question of local control. According to the Mayor of New Denver, any municipality should have the ability to regulate building construction in local boundaries. This is currently not the case. Telus is planning to go ahead with the project and has refused to give the Village administration more time to consider the impact of cellular service on the community.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of New Denver, I urge you to do what you possibly can to insure that the control and responsibility for regulating building construction is placed in the hands of locally elected officials and not senior levels of government or corporations. After all, these are the people elected to work on behalf of citizens of their community.

Thank you for your consideration.

I would be happy to work with you to achieve this very important goal.

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

Cheap power?

Remember your history, fellow Kootenay-ites! In the mid 1960s, BC Hyrdo paid thousands of residents from Revelstoke to Needles a pittance for their bottom-land orchards and farms. They were evicted from their homes, churches and schools as the waters from the Castlegar dam rose to flood their valley. Now the Arrow, Duncan, and Kinbasket flood lakes act as enormous heat sinks in the centre of the province, responsible for local climate change and accelerated melting of the Purcell and Columbia Ice massifs. This was repeated in many other valleys around the province. Just how cheap was that power?

Past BC Hydro management and political cronies have often been tangled up in corruption controversies at home in BC and internationally. The list of squandered millions of dollars, hundreds of thousands of acres of forests, and thousands of kilometres of rivers and lakeshore is very long. With complacent insider political-appointee oversight and no voting shareholders – what else could BC Hydro be except a rogue entity?

BC's rapid population growth is jumping electrical demand, disrupting the overall trend towards greater efficiency and sustainability. New power generation is going to be a lot more expensive than the good old days where BC Hydro could just evict everyone in the valley they choose to flood, burn everything to the ground, and bulldoze a huge pile of dirt across the valley to dam the snowmelt.

By submitting to intense informed public vigilance on diversified, small-scale power generation, the government and BC Hydro could champion the "public good" for future generations. It's a gross historical rewrite to suggest BC Hydro has done anything but the opposite in the past. That power is going to cost more in the future should not be grounds to revisit a failed dirigiste past.

David Harley
New Denver, BC

Slopitch supports the Music Fest

To start we would like to state that we are huge Music Fest fans. We look forward to it every year. We take our family of five and spend much more than we should, but enjoy every minute of it, even standing in line for a beer or a burger (this is a good time to meet the people beside you). We are also strongly in favour of the proposed park. We had a few issues regarding Slopitch that were easily sorted out after meeting with some members of the Roots Society, who earned our respect immediately. They listened to our concerns, talked easily with us and worked with us to come up with some simple solutions. They showed real concern regarding the field damage and together we brainstormed on ways to repair and maintain the fields. This was an enjoyable process and we look forward to working with them in the future. Our only regret is that our meeting didn't come sooner.

The thing we find quite disturbing now is the way some people have proceeded to slam Councillor Dahlen for doing the job she was elected to do. Isn't it her job as an elected official to hear the concerns of community members regarding local issues and work hard to get answers to the questions they ask? Some Nakusp residents have come forth with questions and have even gone to Council meetings with concerns, which were never answered or addressed. Why were they not answered? The taxpayers have a right to know where their money is to be spent. Councillor Dahlen has taken a lot of abuse for trying to do her job. If these questions had just been answered, chances are the park would be under way and there wouldn't be the drama we are seeing played out now.

Jamie Jordan and Melody Smith
Nakusp

Tempest in a Teapot

Small shop owners face considerable financial pressures throughout the world and too many are unable to make a go of it. That is unfortunate because, in many ways, such shops give a place its unique character. This is especially so in the Slocan Valley.

So, in July, while taking a break from work in Hong Kong, my husband and I were delighted to see our daughter's teapot signs as we drove to our New Denver home. We viewed them as further evidence of her determination to make a go of her pottery shop in Silverton. Success in her venture would enable her to stay and work in her home town, an eventuality not available to most of her classmates.

We were subsequently dismayed, when Kaitlan phoned us to tell us of Mr. Caniell's visit to her shop and objections to her signs. Her recollection of that visit was slightly more traumatic than Mr. Caniell's version in his recent Letter to the Editor. She felt that she was being accused of being a sell-out and a greedy capitalist. Artists don't usually have to face these accusations until they are rich and famous!

And Kaitlan is decidedly not rich although she did feel the signs were helping her to make a decent income this July. Unfortunately, however, as a result of Mr. Caniell's protestations she is now a little more famous than she would like to be.

Unlike Mr. Caniell, I don't think Kaitlan's 'teapots signs' are the beginning of a slippery slope that, "may aggregate into hugely objectionable features" such a "larger signs, over-height buildings and neon lighting." As to whether they will lead to a proliferation of like signs along Highway 6, I don't see any problem as long as the signs are as tasteful and unobtrusive as Kaitlan's.

Perhaps citizens should be more concerned with the increasing numbers of 'for sale' signs as local people sell their homes and businesses because they can't afford to stay in the valley anymore.

Margaret Raymond
Hong Kong

Dedicated to Colleen McCrory, Laura Savinkoff and Marilyn Burgoon

There are people in our world who have come with a purpose. Like droplets of water, they form a river. They are unstoppable. They cannot stop, and they are my heroes.

They choose to flow into the very heart of oppression and injustice. They choose to flow into the very soul of hatred and greed, where powerful kings abide; kings who care nothing for the innocent and enslaved and victimized.

They courageously flow into the shadows, where death and suffering and murder are commonplace and on the rise; where wounded hungry children can't even run for their lives.

They are like droplets of water, forming a river, and they cannot stop. They will continue to flow.

They flow to where there is ignorance to wash it away; to clarify the hearts and minds of the people.

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Publisher - Dan Nicholson • Editor - Jan McMurray • Food Editor - Andrew Rhodes
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Published and printed in British Columbia, Canada

The Valley Voice is distributed throughout the Slocan and Arrow Lake Valleys from South Slocan/Playmor Junction to Edgewood and Kaslo on Kootenay Lake.
Circulation is 7,200 papers, providing the most complete news and advertising coverage of any single newspaper serving this area.
SUBSCRIPTIONS: CANADA $55.12, USA $84.80, OVERSEAS $127.20. (Prices include GST)
Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement #40021191

Voices from the Valleys

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There is a better way they say; they pray.

And as this river flows, it envelops thousands of years of torturous terror and reign, and they feel the shame of being human and the underlying cause of centuries of pain.

They have chosen to do it this way; to be fluid; to carry the woes of this world upon their backs, to cleanse the shadows of darkness away from the power of humankind, and they are making a difference.

They are the inaugurators; the cleansers.

They are amalgamated droplets; forming a river, absorbing corruption and insanity, and they are transforming it through their acts of good will and through their very souls.

They are often wounded and feel the burdens of pain; yet, they are a powerful force, as they continue to flow. Through kindness, compassion, and nonviolent action they are filling the hearts and minds of the people with hope. There is a better way they say; they pray.

They are gifting our planet with peace and sustainability.

They are unstoppable. They are my heroes.

They have come with a purpose, and they continue to flow.

Nadine Podmoroff
Uranium Free Kootenay Boundary

Sign owner defends teapots

I am the owner of Huckle Mountain Pottery in Silverton, BC. I advertise my tourist-based business with teapot signs. I have made 7 red teapots signs from one foot to three feet in size and they are placed over an 80 km range from Passmore to Hills.

I know that some people find my teapot signs obtrusive. Many do not. And the fact of the matter is that not only are those signs located on private property, with the express permission of all the landowners, but also they have brought my very small business to the attention of otherwise unaware tourists, not to mention countless locals who did not even realize I was here. Although I respect other people's opinions, my sales tripled with the addition of my roadside signs. With this said, my income is meager at best and those signs ARE my livelihood. On Saturday the 15th, as I drove home from Rosebery, I noticed that one of my teapot signs was missing. I was later informed that my sign 15 km south of Silverton was also taken down. If the person who removed my teapots was so displeased with them, why would they not speak to me directly or make a recommendation to the Slocan Valley Plan?

Diplomacy over thievery and trespassing. I would like whoever is responsible to think about his or her actions, and to know that not only was this act illegal and shameful, but it has damaged me both personally and in my potential business. It makes me sad to think that I might not be able to continue working and living in the community that has been my home for nearly my entire life. I am sorry that my signs have caused such inadvertent controversy, but I cannot make any apologies for doing what many others and I have thought to be a contribution to our home.

Right now, I am working out of town, and I would appreciate finding my teapot signs in my yard in New Denver when I return.

Kaitlan Murphy
New Denver

Highway signs are illegal

Can a few small commercial signs along the highways bring more and larger signs? Just look at what's happening now. Highway signs are against the law in BC, but the present government declared it would not enforce the law. Since then, more and more businesses are putting up highways signs, and they are not all small.

Right now there is a 4 x 4-foot sign spiked to two large trees on the road to Kaslo, advertising a kayaking business 20 kilometres away. It is not only an intrusion on the scenic highway, but over time it may injure the trees. People who don't want this have no protection other than to complain to the businesses that post them.

Will setting up "standards" for highway signs solve the problem? Would any park lovers be alarmed at the idea of setting up standards to log in parks? Right now the law says no logging in parks. The law has been violated in some cases; but change the law to make the violations legal and we have lost everything. Governments can rob us of any legal protection they want, by refusing to implement the law, allowing violations to take place, then legalizing the violations with "standards."

People who haven't put up signs yet because it is still against the law would certainly begin to do so once the standards have been passed. And why should we think that the standards would allow only small signs, or accommodate only small-business people in the Slocan Valley? People who own the big signs going up all over the province will not want to lose them, and they have their rights to be heard too. Once standards are established, it will be the easiest thing in the world to get them changed.

When the logging companies came to log our watersheds, we heard, "It's only a few small clearcuts, carefully done." In vain did we try to tell the government, the courts, the media, that even small clearcuts add up year after year. Cumulative effects no longer exist in a system that looks only at the impact of the individual clearcut, and only at the clearcuts proposed today - or looks at the issue of highway signs and sees only a few small teapots "artfully done." It's time to look beyond these small signs and the personalities for and against them to the broader issues.

Anne Sherrod
New Denver

Nelson needs a resident surgeon

Glyn Humphries' letter regarding the absolute necessity of having a resident surgeon in Nelson is most timely. I'd like to add one important additional point in support:

The population in Kaslo and "up the lake" is expanding rapidly. People are relocating here in large numbers, building houses, opening businesses and increasing the potential number of patients requiring emergency surgery. The new marina condominium complex in the Bay, the ambitious Mariner Inn redevelopment project, etc. will inevitably lead to more people moving here. It's a one hour drive from downtown Kaslo to Nelson by car; longer if the patient is conveyed by ambulance. If it's an ambulance transfer the patient will already have waited at his home or elsewhere for the ambulance to arrive. Our ambulance personnel are wonderful but it does take time to reach the patient, assess the situation and decide whether to transfer him directly to Nelson (or Trail) or to stop off first at our community health centre so a doctor can be brought in to stabilize the patient (especially if it's after regular health centre hours, weekends or during the night). I've been involved in this process several times so am acutely aware of what these delays can do to the patient and the family – and all of this just to get to Nelson from Kaslo or beyond.

I urge Mr. Humphries and the other dedicated health care activists in the Nelson area to add the information provided here to help convince the number crunchers at the IHA to fund a replacement surgeon for Nelson and "up the lake." The latter area is a growing population for which the IHA is mandated to provide surgical care and needless deaths will inevitably result in the outlying areas if an emergency room surgeon is not available at the Nelson hospital. I also urge residents of the outlying areas to add an organized voice to the Nelson activists. I know our elected politicians in the region are paying attention but what is also needed is an organized, united effort to support our demand for an emergency surgeon in Nelson by areas outside the city limits. We are all in this together. The present regional hospital was located at the extreme edge of the huge area it is mandated to serve. For the time being we are stuck with that foolish decision. Meantime, the present dangerous situation can be alleviated by immediately restoring an emergency surgeon to the Nelson hospital.

I sometimes think it a pity that we Canadians are less inclined to pursue class action lawsuits than our neighbours south of the border.

Jessie Herreshoff
Kaslo

Do we need cell phones in our valley?

As an electrical contractor, I have relied heavily on cell phones in the past and while it may seem to make business easier for the customer and the contractor, it is actually both refreshing and productive not having cell phone access. Without being accessible to everybody at all times, your interruptions are limited to the customer who is currently paying for your time. I have also read the research on electro-magnetic fields, in particular, cell phones, and have decided that I am against the cell phone tower in New Denver.

There are other ways to conduct business, just like contractors have been doing here for years. While I agree no one should be scared into anything, I also think before you make your decision, you must do the research yourself; read the articles, read the science. I did and now I am convinced. Don't believe that because the government says it's OK, that it is. Look at climate change and how long it took before government even admitted there was a problem. If you must have government sanction, look to Germany. The government there, in particular the Federal Office for Radiation Protection has just come out warning citizens that "People should avoid using Wi-Fi wherever possible because of the risks it may pose to health." It also "advises its citizens to use landlines instead of mobile phones, and warns of "electro smog" from a wide range of other everyday products, from baby monitors to electric blankets."

Definitely, there are other items that we receive EMFs from, right in our homes, but maybe we need to re-examine those as well. Do we need more? The question right now is, do we need cell phones in our valley? To those of you who may be skeptical, what if they do contribute to health impacts on our kids, our neighbours, ourselves? Is it worth the risk? What happened to the precautionary principle? Just think about it, you are holding a pulsed radiating field against your ear for however long, for however many hours a day. Think of teenagers on phones and think of the impact to their health. We need to re-think how we live, how we're wired.

There are locals here, who are doing the research, compiling the science. We should be thanking them for dedicating their time to protecting our health as a community. Instead of questioning them and accusing them of fear mongering, go and talk to them. Or better yet, do your own research, and then make your own decision.

Michael Bowick
New Denver

Disappointed

Recently, I had the pleasure of organizing the visitation of the French bookmobile to Kaslo. I invited the members of AFKO (Association Francophone de Kootenay Ouest) to come to a "place of business" here in Kaslo for a meal, a drink and some French conversation. With that, the bookmobile was there with French books, CDs and movies and even maple syrup products for sale. Ten of us sat at 2 tables, all of us had something to drink and many of us ate (it was great food)! I thought we had an excellent evening and I was very pleased with the outcome until I was informed (after the local patrons paid for their meals and drinks) how unwelcome we were at this "place of business" under the pretext that we did not ask permission to be there.

The impression the bookmobile driver/librarian got was that we were in the way of other customers (especially out-of-town customers) even though the place was virtually empty when we got there. Even the patio had only 3 people sitting there all evening.

When I arrived there, around 4:30 pm, there were 3 persons sitting outside and maybe 3 people sitting inside. I sat at a table outside, waiting for people to arrive. There were many of us so we acquired another table. We enjoyed our time together and decided, because it was very quiet, to put the books on the tables already occupied by us (we did not take up any other tables).

The owner will use the argument that we did not ask permission to be there. Frankly, I thought we were doing her a good turn by showing up (some had yet to visit this restaurant) and by bringing her some good business on a very quiet Wednesday afternoon. She lost some potential customers with her actions. The reason we did not ask permission (sound childish does it not?) to be there was because to my dismay, we were refused once before, in May under the pretext that we would take too much space (with the books, etc.) and the hours were her busiest, 10:30-12:30. I checked then to see if it was so crowded and there were maybe 5-6 people there on that day in May. It seemed that any time was too busy a time. Or should we have reserved the entire restaurant? I have spoken to other people about this and they said that they have been to this restaurant in large numbers and were never turned away because they did not have permission. Was it the space taken by the books (on the table where we were already eating)? I was very disappointed.

I believe it is important for businesses to realize that the local patrons are the main source of income during the long winter months. I have been living here for 30 years and have always felt welcome everywhere. There is no excuse for it and it makes no sense to me why she objected so strongly to our being there, especially since our intentions were to bring her more business. Like I said, this little episode left me very disappointed.

Denise Fournier,
Kaslo

Evans conflicted

Interesting that MLA Evans is conflicted over removing land from the ALR for treaty purposes. When Corky was Minister of Agriculture, he was not in the least concerned about turning a working farm into bushland. BC Hydro's fish and wildlife branch purchased a working farm in Meadow Creek and now it's not fit for man or beast. I would say MLA Evans is now in double conflict.

When pressed for support to keep the farm for agriculture, Minister Evans' answer was, "It is still technically in the land reserve." The truth is, once Heritage Land, forever sacred Heritage Land.

BC Hydro's fish and wildlife branch is at it again. They are going to or have already purchased more prime agriculture land at Argenta. Once again they are paying much more than market value just to let it become bushland.

Will MLA Evans be conflicted over destroying farmland in his back yard or does that only apply to treaty land?

Larry Greenlaw
Meadow Creek

Voices from the Valleys

Open letter to Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation

I live near Trout Lake, 25 miles from the north end of Upper Arrow Lakes. I have lived here for 44 years. In all that time I have never been so frustrated with the Galena Bay - Shelter Bay ferry as I have been this week. Apart from the major breakdowns this midweek, I have had 5 to 6 hours added on to routine trips to and from Revelstoke because of ferry waiting time. It is utterly impossible to keep, or make any appointments, in Revelstoke and get there on time. Forget trying to meet or get a bus.

Why is the second small ferry, M.V. Shelter Bay, not running until Thankgiving weekend, as it has in the past? This would certainly cope with some of the lineups at the present. The Kootenays do not shut down after Labour day weekend.

We can all see the increase in commercial traffic, tourists and industry. Roca's Max mine at Trout Lake will be adding to this traffic. Chip trucks, logging trucks and other big trucks have increased. On the morning of September 18 the logging truck in front of me at Galena Bay decided to turn back to Nakusp and take the lower Arrow Lakes Ferry rather than wait because it was uncertain when the ferry would run. What a waste of fuel and time!

This week at Shelter Bay, I met tourists ,from Germany, planning a detour from Banff to Kelowna, to visit the hot springs at Halcyon and Nakusp. Seems someone is spreading the word in Germany that this a "must see" part of BC. Needless to say they did not wait for the ferry after learning it would be a three-ferry wait.

My brother here on a visit from Scotland cannot believe we are so tolerant of these waits. He keeps reminding me that he has spent more time on the ferry waits than he has spent travelling here! He is amazed that the commercial traffic he has seen is not complaining. I presume they are complaining

I have used this ferry, and before the MV Lardeau, to cross the Arrow Lakes for 44 years but have not felt this angry before. I have been accepting of waits in winter and this spring when the Rogers Pass blocks from slides and this route becomes Trans Canada to get from Revelstoke to Calgary. I have waited 10 hours then. I have had 8-hour waits in the summertime because of the Nakusp Music Festival. But this week beats all that because the MV Shelter Bay should be still in service while there is a need for it. It is docked at Shelter Bay; all it needs is the crew.

My comments in no way are a negative comment on the ferry crews. I feel they are taking a lot of flak for the present situation. Over the years, they have always been very helpful. They have helped me many times with car breakdowns, in bad winter weather, health emergencies and other emergencies. They are very dependable.

Please look into this situation. The least that can be done immediately is that the MV Shelter Bay continue to run.

Irene Linden
Trout Lake

Loves the Regatta

Jan McMurray's excellent coverage of the annual Rosebery Regatta has prompted this letter, and I send my congratulations to Judith and Tera.

Unfortunately, I was well and truly 'off the continent' this year. As a 'past commodore,' I am delighted to learn of the Commodore's Cup. I look forward to being a competitor next year.

I support the bribe system and know a 'good' judge when I see one. Thanks, Jan, for covering an event that is dear to my heart. Until next Regatta, smooth sailing and fair winds to all.

Marianne Vanish
New Denver

Happiness doesn't equate to cellphones

According to a CBC radio news report on September 20, 2007, some economists are now starting to develop an Index of Happiness to measure the degree of happiness that citizens of different countries experience in their lives. Studies of tens of thousands of people have been done to examine the relationship between factors such as income, blood pressure and happiness. High blood pressure was associated with depression and low blood pressure with happiness. And high income did not necessarily lead to high happiness – very low income certainly didn't either.

How nice that economists are finally starting to consider happiness as a factor in monitoring the social effects of economic growth and technological development upon us, the poor human beings who are trying to keep up with the latest developments. Does rapid economic growth and technological advance actually make us happier? Should there be places where people can go to decompress and unwind from the stress of modern-day life – places where people can escape a fast-paced lifestyle and be free of constant access to others through wireless technology such as cell phones and blackberries?

Many people in the New Denver area along Slocan Lake, and in the rest of the Slocan Valley, want to hang on to their relatively relaxed rural lifestyle, and aren't particularly keen to get 'up to speed' on all the latest urban-oriented technology. Also, many people are becoming concerned about studies which show adverse health effects on people exposed to radiation from wireless antennae or from wireless devices such as cell phones. A few people even see a real potential for attracting visitors and tourists who seek a restful place where they can enjoy beautiful scenery and experience nature without all the distractions and disturbance that modern technology can bring.

There is such a place near Innsbruck in the Austrian Alps called the Villgraten Valley, where rural life continues on as it has for hundreds of years. While neighbouring valleys are full of ritzy hotels and ski lifts, the Villgraten is famous for what it doesn't have, i.e. modern conveniences and technology. People line up to visit the limited accommodations in the valley in order to experience nature in an unsullied manner and get in some great skiing.

It is important to note that the New Denver Village Council, the Slocan District Chamber of Commerce and the Slocan Valley Economic Development Commission (SVEDC) are now all opposed to Telus Mobility's plan to bring cell phone service to New Denver. The SVEDC proposes the creation of a no-cell-phone zone in the entire Slocan Valley as a marketing strategy. Of course the SVEDC will have to wrestle with the issue of wireless internet in the valley as well, a system which can be just as harmful to human health as cell phones because of the similar technology it employs.

Incredibly, the corporate bosses at Telus refuse to listen to our local government, or to community economic organizations, or to the majority of citizens who have signed a petition opposing cell phone service. Telus plans to finish installation of its cell phone antenna and shed at the CBC tower in New Denver in the immediate future. Are they afraid that the small village of New Denver would set some sort of awkward precedent by having their wishes honoured? Maybe other people might think they have a voice and a choice? Legally no one can stop Telus from forcing cell service onto the New Denver area, and that is a travesty in itself. Where is the federal government when we actually need their protection from corporations that run amok?

The safest alternative would be to create an extensive network of fibre-optic lines in the valley, with minimal wireless. Such a system would provide broadband internet and excellent full-service communication. While it is a more expensive option in the short term, there would be far fewer health and social impacts in the long run. It has been done successfully in other locations and has worked out very well indeed.

I would like to end my letter to the editor with a bit of irony. CBC Radio ran their story today about an Index of Happiness which is being developed by economists. Yet the CBC itself is actively leasing space to wireless companies on their extensive national system of broadcast towers so that corporate bullies like Telus can force unwanted cellphone service down people's throats. Our goose is getting cooked by microwave radiation, the CBC is helping Telus turn up the heat, and the federal government is looking the other direction.

Stephen Lones
New Denver

Congrats to hugfest blockaders

I would like to offer my congratulations to the organizers and participants of the 'East-West Hugfest' blockade.

The looks on the faces of these 'cavers' (citizens against virtually everything) must have been truly inspirational. Score one for the silent majority. Bravo!

Rick Foster
Lardeau

An open letter to Mr. Beaudry, Ministry of Forests

We have the following questions and concerns:

1) Do you consider that the work done on the Glacier Creek forest service road at around 15 kilometres, where our property is sliding onto the road because of the steep outbank, is sufficiently stabilized for safe public passage?

2) If it is considered stabilized could you please provide us with a letter to this effect?

3) If it is not considered stable, who is liable for public safety?

4) If we are considered liable for public safety, then the road will have to remain shut until this is remedied.

5) If we are to allow public access through our land then we would appreciate speed bumps, especially around the slide area, to ensure traffic does not cause more vibration than necessary.

6) We strongly suggest that pins be placed to monitor movement of this slide area. This we previously proposed, but has not to our knowledge been done.

7) We would also like signs for traffic to slow to 20 kph in the congested area. A half-kilometre of road passes through our land and dust can be excessive.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to hearing from you.

Gabriela Grabowsky
Rainbow's End Ranch

Don't diss the Trading Post

Richard Caniell's letter on highway signs led a couple of letter writers to blame him and "his colleagues" for the condition of the Valhalla Trading Post. It was called an "eyesore" whose "shabbiness sticks out like a sore thumb." I've heard of the saying, "if you don't like the message, shoot the messenger." But if you want to shoot the building in which he works, you should first find out who owns it.

It was the personal property of Colleen McCrory. It became run down when Colleen was giving almost everything in her personal life, practically including the shirt off her back, to do her work. It eventually became the office space of the Valhalla Wilderness Society and the Immortal Performances Archive, both registered charities. They both paid their way in maintaining a livable working space inside. However, they could not spend thousands of dollars, raised to preserve our environmental and musical heritage, to upgrade the exterior of Colleen's personal assets.

Work on the exterior was started in the autumn of 2004, but a movie company asked Colleen to postpone it so they could use it in the film *A Simple Curve*. It was extremely inconvenient to call off the work, but she did it for the community. By the time filming was done, the weather had shut down and the work had to be carried over to the next year. By that time Colleen no longer had the money, and when she had it again, she couldn't find the time to deal with it. The building has now passed to her children. It is my understanding that they have put a high priority on renovations, but I expect with all they are going through now, it will take them some time.

Wanting to get a sense of how much the appearance of the main street is hurt by it, I went there expecting to feel apologetic for Colleen. I stood in front of Mark Adam's accounting office and was surprised to really see how the peaks that crown Valhalla Park tower over the building. Look down the street from the Eldorado or Panini's and the park, free of clearcuts, is by far the most dominant feature affecting the appearance of our town. The overall effect of Colleen's and the Valhalla Wilderness Society's work on the appearance of our town was one of preservation of its natural surroundings.

No one will ever know how much revenue the park has brought to our local businesses, but it must be a lot. The state of the building represents how Colleen spent nearly all the resources of her life, not on herself or on material belongings, but on a legacy for all of us. Some people look at the building and see something "shabby." I see a triumph of the spirit. Everyone owes it to themselves to take a closer look at the store before it is fixed up, and then go look at Colleen's awards in the window.

Carolyn Parker
New Denver

Doesn't support signs on the highway

Some letters in the last *Valley Voice* portrayed Richard Caniell as being against commercial signs in town. However, Richard's August 29 letter in the *Valley Voice* explicitly supported signs in town; it was only against signs out on the highway. I asked him what he was going to reply to these letter writers. He told me he was too busy working on the cell phone issue to say anything more about this subject. So I have a few things to say about it.

The message I took from the letters was: If you support the arts community, you will support these pottery signs being on the highway. If you don't, then you are discouraging the arts in this area; you are against any and all small businesses; you are against people trying to make "an honest living" (as if people will have to rob banks if they can't have highway signs).

Well, I'm a photographer hoping to start my own business, and I don't support these signs. Our highways are very scenic here and one could take many fabulous photographs right from the highway. Advertising is important to me, but there are many ways to advertise, and there are many ways to support the arts community.

When Richard came to this valley 40 years ago, he lived very frugally to make a living as a landscape painter. While doing this he won the Canada Council of the Arts award for his paintings. He had no trouble selling paintings, one of which is hanging at UBC. He later began working as a sound engineer to restore historic opera recordings, continuing to live on a shoestring. He won another Canada Council award for his musical work. His recordings and writings about music are now famous around the world, though he's barely covering living expenses because he spends so much time on environmental matters.

I've heard quite a few artisans and small business people say they came here because of the beauty of the area. Richard could have made a very good living from his paintings and music, but he didn't, in part because he was one of the central people who fought for Valhalla Park. He also spent years defending the arrestees and lawsuit victims of the Slocan watershed protests. He was receiving no money from the Valhalla Wilderness Society and very little from his recordings. Today, at 75 years old, he is fighting the cell phone issue, still working on the chip truck issue and the visual pollution around us. Some of the letter writers must know some of these things, but they seem to have thought very little about how much it takes to do this.

As far as supporting other artists, recently he had an agreement with John Kadz, head of the VSSM, to record the best of the young performers and issue a 2-CD album free of charge to further their careers and the school's cause. The recordings had to be cancelled because Richard was working on Colleen McCrory's memorial. Just goes to show you how little some people know about things they talk a lot about.

Juscha Grunther
New Denver

New Denver council, September 11: Public access to Village property and cell phones

by Art Joyce

•Jörg Becker attended as a delegation to ask that council remove the sign at the end of their property that reads 'Pedestrian Only Access to Beach'. Becker said that since the sign has gone up, it seems to have attracted more and more people looking for parking, causing the Beckers' driveway to sometimes be blocked, dogs to be let loose, and attracting noisy motorcycles. Mayor Wright said the fact that the Village owns the lane adjacent to the property complicates the situation.

Mayor Wright said the sign had been erected to deal with the problem of people driving down Beckers' driveway assuming it was a beach access road. "This council is totally committed to keeping public access." Council voted to pass the mayor's motion to leave the sign as is and contact the RCMP to police parking.

•Richard Caniell wrote to protest council's resolution asking Wally and Mary Fulkco to remove trees and squash plants from Village right of way. Councillor Bunka said her concern was for the water lines and drainage under the turnaround paved by the Fulkcos without permission from the Village. Mayor Wright said he would "love to go to Fulkcos and say, you can have this as a private park if you're prepared to manage it, if you sign a letter acknowledging it's Village property." A motion was passed authorizing the mayor to meet with the Fulkcos to discuss an agreement.

•The Village of Kaslo has requested to share time with the Village of New Denver in meeting with the opposition critic for highways at the upcoming UBCM convention. Council voted to approve sending one councillor to the conference. A meeting has been confirmed with Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon. Wright also noted that Klondike Silver was having its official grand opening at Sandon on September 14, commenting that "it's good to finally see something happening up there." The mayor said the first steps have been taken in a feasibility study for an assisted living facility in New Denver.

•Public Works/Water: The Village has yet to hear from the RDCK about adding Denver Siding to the municipal waterworks. Council will go ahead and meet with WSA Engineering September 12 to begin its water reservoir replacement study. Wright said he will be speaking to the RDCK about the prohibitive costs of new sewerage regulations and asking the Province to allow homeowners to install their own septic as long as qualified inspectors are available. He reported that Waste Management has purchased their new truck and RDCK staff will be monitoring recycling pickups. Wright will also be meeting September 17 with the Rosebery Parklands Society to discuss the transfer to the regional district.

•Councillor Brookfield attended the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting and reported that the major issue under discussion was cell phones. All but one of the directors voted to declare New Denver/Silverton a 'cell-phone-free area.' Brookfield said this squares with his understanding of the Economic Development Commission's position. "So much for Shawn Hall's claim that the businesses want it," commented Councillor Campbell. Mayor Wright said he had been on the phone earlier with MP Alex Atamanenko and expressed his concern with the lack of local control regarding cell towers. Atamanenko said he would represent the Village's concerns in Ottawa. A letter was received from Telus Vice President of Customer Solutions Tony Geheran stating that because the Village is not party to the contract governing the CBC transmission tower, Telus cannot legally indemnify the Village against damages. Councillor Brookfield said he wanted confirmation on this from the Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) and a motion was passed to this effect. Geheran further wrote that Telus will delay installation pending a response to the Village from Health Canada.

•The second reading of zoning Bylaw 612-2007, regarding mobile home compliance with municipal lot regulations, was rescinded to allow for a clarification proposed by CAO Carol Gordon on the redefinition of width. While an addition can be used to bring the structure into compliance, an unroofed deck cannot. The structure can include a roof with posts but doesn't have to be enclosed by four walls. Gordon said there had been problems in the past with people buying lots and camping on them.

•Council discussed the UBCM's invitation to join its BC Climate Action Charter, calling for municipalities to support Premier Campbell's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2010 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% by 2020. A motion was passed to sign onto the Charter.

•Craig Besinque and Lane Haywood wrote council asking for a statement of support in opposing the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) currently being negotiated in secret by Prime Minister Harper, President Bush and Mexican President Calderon. They enclosed a petition signed by area residents. Mayor Wright said he needed more time to study the implications of the SPP, but it reminded him of a similar agreement in Asia prior to World War II designed to allow the Japanese to take over China. The letter was received for information.

•Tuesday, October 16, 7 pm has been set as the tentative date for the OCP (Official Community Plan) review.

Silverton OCP review meeting addresses community values and goals

By Art Joyce

SmartGrowth BC planners Jodie Siu and Erin Welk were in Silverton the evening of September 19 to help residents take one step closer to actualizing their community vision.

The two meetings already held produced a set of visionary guidelines based on citizen input. These were broken down by Siu and Welk into a list of eight broad principles: let the public landscape reflect the spirit of the community; maintain the unique magic and character of Silverton; protect the local environment; promote a resourceful and diverse economy; encourage local self-sufficiency; support the housing needs of the entire community; make it easy and safe to get around; and encourage services that add value to the community. Siu acknowledged that there would be overlap in many areas, and asked the audience of 30 people to further focus their priorities by placing red stickers on the categories most important to them.

By far the majority of stickers showed up under preserving the "unique magic and character of Silverton" and "protect the local environment," with housing needs, local self-sufficiency and promoting a diverse economy close runners-up.

These issues were then addressed in discussion groups. In the discussion regarding environmental protection, it was noted that the recently formed Slocan Lake Stewardship Society is working to attract funding for a baseline biological study of the lakeshore. This will provide data to inform the creation of a foreshore management plan. Siu encouraged residents to think about how such plans could be reinforced in the community's OCP. The group agreed it doesn't want to see commercial marinas on the lake and that preserving public beach access is a priority.

Discussions regarding the preservation of Silverton's unique character dealt with the issues of aging demographics and seasonal residents. Some felt it was more important to accept the situation as is and work with it rather than indulging in "wishful thinking" about the future. Others saw the need to try to attract younger families and new 'virtual' (internet-based) businesses. Welk pointed out that there are ways to make a vision happen if you plan for it, though there are no guarantees of success. There was a consistent belief that a clean natural environment is integral to the magic of the village.

Siu said that in her experience working with BC communities, only in the Kootenays is there such an awareness of the need for local self-sufficiency. The idea of maintaining parks and other Village-owned lands was discussed as possible future sites for community gardens, although current bylaws do not allow for the keeping of livestock.

Meeting the community's housing needs centred largely on the issue of providing seniors' housing, possibly by having the Village purchase a property on the main street to develop. The problem of Village finances seems to be an obstacle to this goal. Some felt this could be overcome if a non-profit seniors' housing society were formed to pursue grants and funding partnerships. Other solutions suggested were to allow for carriage houses, duplexes and basement suites in the bylaws.

Ideas for developing the local economy included loosening business zoning bylaws, creating a database of work opportunities for self-employment, promoting businesses based on high-speed internet, and having the Chamber of Commerce do a better job of marketing the community. Siu said other communities SmartGrowth is working with have acknowledged that small villages like Kaslo and Silverton can't support a local Economic Development Officer on their own, but could share the costs of one.

The quote of the evening goes to Ty Capelle: "I have to believe there are young families out there who don't know this place exists and would give anything to move here."

Marijuana bust in the West Kootenay nets 25,000 plants

A recent police initiative targeting indoor and outdoor marijuana grow operations in the West Kootenay netted 25,135 plants with an estimated value of $25 million. Thirteen individuals are facing drug-related charges. RCMP units from Slocan Lake, Kaslo, Nelson, Nakusp and Castlegar dedicated extensive resources to the bust, including16 staff, three auxiliaries and one pilot in the investigation, which began in mid-July and concluded at the end of August. The operation required the use of a helicopter, boats, ATVs and snowmobiles.

Nineteen search warrants were issued for properties in Hills, New Denver, Silverton, Slocan, Winlaw, Slocan Park, Nelson, Balfour, Kaslo, Crawford Bay, and Riondel. The grow ops were located on both private and Crown lands. Plants discovered on Crown lands were destroyed on-site with a chemical solution.

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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.

Open Invitation from the Village of Silverton

The Village of Silverton has been successful in inviting two representatives from the BC Heritage Branch (Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts). You and your organization are invited to a public presentation to be held at the **Memorial Hall in Silverton on October 1st, 2007 at 7:00 pm.**

Many communities in BC are looking for ways to conserve their heritage and make their communities unique places that are economically and environmentally sustainable. How can heritage conservation help communities realize these objectives? What is heritage conservation? How can your community's heritage benefit from legislative tools and provincial funding programs?

Ms. Berdine Jonker and Ms. Brenda Manweiler of the BC Heritage Branch will give a presentation entitled, "Introduction to Heritage Conservation, Where, What, Who and How?"

Please attend this important presentation that could benefit your organization and municipality and hear the answers to the above questions. A question and answer period will follow the presentation as well, refreshments will be served.

Slocan council, September 12: Abattoir project and finances discussed

by Don Currie

•The adoption of the agenda required some sorting out. Councillor Ellis requested that agenda items left over from the July 11 meeting be added to the agenda. Mayor Van Bynen said the July 11 items should be dealt with after he and Councillor Septav return from the UBCM convention in Vancouver. Councillor Ellis said if issues left over from the July meeting couldn't be dealt with now, she proposed that agenda items which she defined as "huge" and "Charter issues," such as proposals to sell Village property and the adoption of a Village borrowing bylaw, be deferred until more information was available. Another item of new business, an explanation from council as to the reason for the Chief Administration Officer (CAO) not being approved for attendance at the UBCM, was also deferred to the next meeting. Councillor Perriere wanted to know why the public question period had been dropped from the agenda. Mayor Van Bynen said it was due to the "review we are having" and he had been given "strong verbal" direction from legal counsel that question period be dropped for now. The mayor agreed to allow questions and comments after council business was concluded. After agreeing to defer some new business items and correcting the July minutes, council proceeded.

•Mayor Van Bynen commented that the purchase of land for a proposed abattoir may put the Village over budget. The land in question is a 3.7 acre parcel just outside Village boundaries. Questions posed by Councillor Perriere to the mayor revealed that a $5,000 deposit had been made on a total purchase price of $70,000. The mayor was confident that the land purchase was a good investment for the Village even if the abattoir project did not go through.

Council has already received a $150,000 provincial grant and more is being applied for towards the completion of the P3 project. Councillor Perriere said there were concerns expressed by some residents over potential environmental impact of an abattoir and called for public input to the project. Councillor Septav commented that one of the problems in moving forward to the public consultation stage was the fact that the "the government seems to keep changing the goal posts," referring to rules for the disposal of waste byproducts.

Mayor Van Bynen reported that he had attended a meeting in Creston where farmers expressed support for the project and indicated that costs of disposal in the range of 5 to 7 cents per pound were reasonable. The mayor reported that farmers warned the government representatives that failure to provide reasonable costs for disposal of waste would result in "piles of animal waste in the bush."

Councillor Gates expressed support for the project on the grounds it would serve producers from the whole region and make organic meat available to village and valley residents as well as providing some jobs. Joanne Ellis asked if there was any paperwork on the project and the mayor said there was and it would be available to council in a week.

•The agenda item dealing with accounts payable sparked a series of questions and discussion. Councillor Ellis expressed concern that the Village was over budget on funding the services of the bylaw enforcement officer. Administrator Ludlow confirmed that council was over budget on that item but the officer would not be coming as often now that summer was over and he may not be available to the community as he was considering other options.

•Councillor Gates wanted to know where council was on the budget. Administrator Ludlow said there are two months to go on the current budget and circulated a copy of the financial statement for the fiscal year 2007 period 1-8. The statement revealed that budgeted revenues for the period were $779,548 and the actual for the period was $770,527. Total General Fund expenditures were budgeted at $779,548 and actual for the period was $629,281.

•Approval of monthly disbursements continues to split the votes of council members. Questioning a series of items including funds budgeted for the administrator's pension plan, a higher than usual Fortis bill and travel expenditures, prompted a demand by Councillor Ellis for a financial report detailing where the Village is at with the budget contending that "we have overspent for two years." Administrator Ludlow explained that $15,000 for pension funding was previously approved and the increased Fortis bill was for six emergency lines to the fire base set up during the Springer Creek fire and that the funds would be recovered when accounts were settled. Ludlow said the travel expenditures funded her attendance at a meeting of administrators for training in new government accounting practices that will occur in 2009 dealing with municipal capital assets. Ludlow said a financial statement would be available before the end of the week. Ludlow warned that council faced a very large legal bill for "adjudication." Councillor Septav asked if more costs would be needed for land purchases. Mayor Van Bynen intervened stating that "anything to do with land goes in camera." July disbursements of $69,316 were approved with Councillors Ellis and Perriere opposed.

•Mayor Van Bynen drew council's attention to provincial grant money available for water projects and recommended that applications be sent forward. Councillor Perriere wanted a discussion first. Councillor Ellis cautioned that applications to be successful should be accompanied by a budget. Councillor Septav argued that Council must be in agreement on the application or "we won't get it" and that might involve putting the application in before all of the information is in. Council settled on a motion that the application should refer to proposed looping of water lines, for ultra-violet purification and dealing with leaking pipes.

•Responding to a letter from Doug Waneck and Leslie T. Yerex expressing concern about the ramp to the breakwater and calling for improvements, council agreed that the ramp was not part of the recreational use of the breakwater and it may be necessary to take it down until a remedy can be found. The mayor suggested the matter be referred to the Works Foreman for proposals.

•Council approved $500 towards Oktoberfest planned for October 6 and $1,000 for the annual Halloween Hoot. The funds will be taken from $3,000 left in the RDCK discretionary funds.

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World record holder

Submitted by Bonnefied Land Speed Racing Crew

Winning is fun but it takes a lot of hard work and a little luck to make it happen. For Ron Scroggins from Silverton it all came together this year on the racecourse at the Fourth Annual International Speed Trials by BUB 2007 held on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

His dream to race a motorcycle down the salt flats in Bonneville for a land speed record started a long time ago but came into reality two years ago in his workshop in Silverton. This September Ron was after the world FIM (Federation Internationale de Motorcyclisme) record for his Special Construction 500cc Weslake in a Triumph frame. He got it (pending ratification), along with an American Motorcycle Association (AMA) record and the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA) record this year, to make him a three-time record holder. When asked by his crew what it feels like to ride down the salt this is what Ron said.

"The run down the track starts with me leaning over the bike in hot leathers waiting for the green flag so I can feel the rush of the cool air as I accelerate down the racetrack. As my speed increases the horizon rushes up like a wave and the glare off the salt blurs my side vision. As I reach my maximum speed at the two-mile marker everything around me seems to stop except the ground below me that is ripping past. My thoughts are focused on the rhythm of the exhaust and the thump of the motor as I race towards the finish line one more mile ahead. I let the engine decelerate for a mile because braking at this speed is dangerous. What I've just done doesn't sink in until I get to the timing shack at mile seven. Once I'm there the numbers tell the story. If I'm fast enough I have to make a 'back run' within two hours to qualify for a world record. My crew is there to hydrate me and get the bike ready for the back run. Once again, the numbers tell the story. A new World Record. I think that says it all."

"I can only add my sincere thanks to the many folks that made this a reality. First of all my wife Nancy for everything it took and takes to get here, and my wizard crew: chief push rod Pat Mackle; Harry Weslake, Jaguar, British Cycle Supply, Nova Scotia; Antig Weslake, UK; Derick McLeish, mentor; Turner Restorations, Silverton; Doug and Shea Fisher, Glacier View Service, New Denver; Chris Fox, New Denver; Howard Bearham, Rosebery Manor; Rob Farrell, Wilds of Canada Cycle, New Denver; Steve Klopecki, Sandon; Mitch Hart, paint; A-1 Cycle Salvage, Fruitvale; Mongoose Engineering, Vancouver; Rob at the Apple Tree Sandwich Shop, New Denver, for-counseling; and of course Burt Munro who 'showed me the way.' Please forgive me if I've missed someone, so many people helped.

"To achieve three records in a year's time is a lifelong dream come true." There's more to come. Stay tuned. For more information email bonnefiedlsr@netidea.com

The Bonnefied Land Speed Racing Crew poses on the Utah salt flats to celebrate its third consecutive land speed record. (L-R) Ron Scroggins, Nancy Guise, Pat Mackle.

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Slocan Valley TV Society blocks effort to remove $58,000 from bank account

by Art Joyce

The Slocan Valley TV Society board met the evening of September 13 to deal with complications arising from errant board chair Mickey Kwasnicki.

An attempt was made to remove $58,000 from the society's account but the directors were successful in blocking the transaction. The directors passed a motion requesting that all files and society assets held by Kwasnicki be returned. Kwasnicki has been removed as president and chair and Craig Sapriken will be acting President.

The board also voted to set a special general meeting Wednesday October 3, 6 pm, at the Winlaw Hall. The meeting agenda will include three items: the removal of board members for misconduct, specifically Kwasnicki; filling vacancies on the board; and providing the community with financial and operational updates. At the meeting members will be provided with a copy of form 11, which has signatures of the duly elected board from the March AGM and is submitted to the registrar of societies. This is to counter claims being made by Kwasnicki that the current board is illegitimate. Notices have been sent out in a mail drop from Slocan city to Playmor junction, and posters put up to advertise the meeting.

"One of our goals is to get our financial statement and get things as up to date as we can so we can report to the community," says Treasurer Colin Mackintosh. "Everything done by Mickey over the last six weeks, including deals with Columbia Wireless, has been completely in secret and as a board we've had no communications."

This is in part a response to concerns raised by community members who attended the meeting September 13. Concern was expressed that the society's assets be protected. Some felt there hasn't been proper fiscal accountability for some time. Those attending concurred with the board that a special meeting was the way to go. The society gets $29,000 from RDCK annually and secretary Derek Murphy says the community needs to decide whether it's a good use of tax funds. He adds that prior to this year's AGM, the society had not held regular AGMs for several years.

Murphy says the board lacks full documentation of records prior to 2005. "There is concern that a community asset is being managed in a way that's not accountable to the community, and we share that concern."

On two occasions the society's financial statements were inadequate, according to Area H Director Don Munro, causing him to withhold funds. Broad categories were listed but the regional district needed to know a more detailed breakdown of spending. Munro released the funds when the statements were amended and re-filed. He also needed to know whether individual board members had received payment for services rendered as volunteers. On another occasion logging was done to erect a tower in Passmore. The society listed the logging as an expense on two years' statements but showed no revenue from the logs. Munro says he had been told the logs were stored at Kwasnicki's property for eventual sale. It's still unclear whether the logs have been sold and funds received by the society.

No word was received from Columbia Wireless in response to the society's request to meet by September 17 to discuss the unauthorized use of society infrastructure. President Craig Sapriken says this issue is tied to the issue of public accountability. That infrastructure includes four towers at Pedro Creek, Crescent Valley, Passmore and Springer Creek. "We reiterated that our goal is not to shut down any community wireless but to ensure that we know the arrangements are legal and sound. We also need to know it's in the public interest, given that the towers are public infrastructure."

Sapriken says the society's top three goals are to establish a relationship with Columbia Wireless, establish for the record who are the legal representatives of the society, and re-establish community accountability. After meeting with lawyer Kenyon McGee the Board has decided to initiate a petition to the BC Supreme Court to resolve outstanding issues with Mickey Kwasnicki and Columbia Wireless.

Fire destroys cabin on Fitchett property in Hills

By Art Joyce

A fire broke out the morning of September 15 and completely destroyed a two-bedroom cabin owned by the Fitchett family in Hills. The 18 by 24 foot wood structure was the Fitchett's original family home, where they lived for 13 years prior to building their new house. The cause of the blaze is uncertain but is thought to be electrical.

"The only thing that I could think of is that Jim had a pack rat trap set up there and maybe one chewed through a wire," says Linda Fitchett. "We kept power in the cabin so we could keep it from freezing. It started at the top floor and worked its way down."

A forestry firefighting crew had been passing on its way to a brush fire further south in the valley when they noticed smoke, and thought someone was doing open burning during the prohibited season. They went to investigate and found the cabin on fire. The crew was well equipped with a pump and other tools and began working to contain the flames. Linda phoned Lawrence Schiavon, of the Hills Fire Brigade. While Schiavon was bringing up the fire truck, Rachelle Champagne worked the phone tree to activate volunteers on the first responders list. In short order there were 20 volunteers on the scene and Constable Dale Sheets attended from the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment.

Linda's husband Jim had left for work about 15 minutes before the fire started. She had hoped to clear the porch of some items but the forestry crew told her there was too much smoke coming from the roofline. The Fitchetts maintain a pond, which was put to good use fighting the fire. Pat McCrory was called to fall trees close to the cabin and succeeded in keeping the blaze from spreading to the surrounding forest cover.

"It's another lesson for people to clean up their trees around their dwellings and make sure everything on their property is FireSmart," says Schiavon. "If we'd had a wind come up, it could have really taken off."

The fire truck, an older model donated to Hills from the Ymir Volunteer Fire Department, experienced some problems on-site, starting with a hose that ruptured. The brigade is not a certified fire department. Its truck has about 1,500 feet of hose and a Honda pump, and can be filled from a standpipe but is not equipped to draw water from peoples' wells. Even a standpipe from a well is often not enough to keep a fire hose running. Another solution for rural residents is to keep a water storage tank filled. Schiavon says at present it's not likely the brigade could be certified but it can act as first responders.

"We need more young people, most of us volunteers are over the hill," says Schiavon.

The cabin was padlocked so it was impossible to retrieve anything from inside. Linda had plans to fix up the cabin for rental, so there were a number of appliances and her vintage wood cookstove inside. Some heirloom curtains from Linda's grandmother were lost in the blaze, but fortunately no other irreplaceable personal effects. A wood heater survived intact.

"It was a real Hills community effort – it was amazing how many people helped," she says. "It's been so dry the past couple of months we're lucky the forest didn't catch fire."

To mark United Nations International Peace Day, September 20, WE Graham students made peace pinwheels.

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YRB requires equipment operators for the upcoming winter season at the Salmo, Winlaw, Nelson, Kaslo, Nakusp, Edgewood, New Denver, Crawford Bay and Creston locations in the Central Kootenay area. Minimum qualifications include Class 3 licence with air endorsement, previous driving experience, ability to carry out duties in an outdoor, all weather environment on both day and night shifts. Must be physically fit.

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Weight 2.3 lbs./sq.ft.
Length 12' planks

Beaded Cedarmill© and Beaded Smooth (not shown)
Thickness 5/16"
Weight 2.3 lbs./sq.ft.
Length 12' planks

Colonial Roughsawn® and Colonial Smooth® (not shown)
Thickness 5/16"
Weight 2.3 lbs./sq.ft.
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Highway 6 - Enterprise Creek Construction Advisory

The Ministry of Transportation advises the public that work will soon begin to replace the existing single-lane wooden bridge at Enterprise Creek with a new two-lane, 18-metre Arch Pipe structure. Improvements to the approaches will also be carried out as part of this project. This work will begin:

September 24, 2007,
continuing (weather permitting) until the end of November

Work will commence again in the early spring of 2008, and it is anticipated that construction will be completed by May 31, 2008.

A construction speed zone will be in effect while the work is being done, but only minor delays are expected.

For further information, contact Bob Corey, Project Manager
Phone 250 354-6417

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Klondike Silver re-opens historic mine and mill in Sandon

by Dan Nicholson

Klondike Silver re-opened their mill in Sandon, on Friday,September 14. CEO Richard Hughes and many board members were on hand to greet the large crowd of shareholders, employees, dignitaries, mining analysts and media personalities that arrived for the event.

A ribbon-cutting was held, and company executives outlined some of the projects that Klondike Silver and its affiliated companies are involved with around the world.

Mayor Gary Wright, of New Denver, Mill Manager Leonard Palmer and local Mine Geologist, Dave Good were among the speakers.

After the ceremonies, tours of the active mine and the operating mill were conducted.

On Saturday, a number of area mines were toured.

Andrew Rhodes displays his talent as a storyteller at the Sandon Museum, performing in front of the Klondike Silver group on Friday morning.

Richard Hughes holds the mike as Leonard Palmer prepares to cut the ribbon at Klondike Silver's Sandon millsite. Wanda Palmer looks on.

Dick McLeod answered questions about the mill's operation.

Elmer Grasdahl moves ore through a chute at Klondike Silver's Sandon mill, during Friday afternoon's tour.

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In Woodbury Creek
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(250) 353-2550

Woodbury Resort & Marina
Rainbow Derby
October 6th to October 8th
First $1500.00
Second $750.00 Third $500.00
Entry Fee $25.00

Awards Party - 1:00 pm, October 8th
Refreshments • Door Prizes Galore
Tickets on Sale at Woodbury Resort, JB's Pub, Gill & Gift, Balfour, Barren Fly & Tackle, Kaslo

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNICATIONS ANALYST

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) has an opening for a Communications Analyst. This is full-time, 2 year position. The Communications Analyst will work within the Communications Department on a full range of communications and public involvement programs.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Experience coordinating publications such as brochures, reports, etc.
- Experience writing media releases and other public documents
- Working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Acrobat
- Experience dealing with the media
- Strong computer skills

The successful candidate should have post-secondary education in communications, public relations or journalism and a minimum of 3 years experience. He/she should be able to work under tight timelines and in diverse working groups.

Deadline for submission of applications is: October 12, 2007.

Check our website at www.cbt.org for a full job description and more information about CBT.

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 electronically to dstewart@cbt.org.

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org

Nakusp Fall Fair has 224 award-winning entries

submitted by Marilyn Boxwell

Following months of intensive planning and preparation, a highly successful Nakusp and District Fall Fair took place September 8 at Nakusp auditorium. Impressive displays including 224 award-winning entries featuring handmade articles, baking, canning, florals, vegetables, examples of fine and home arts and so much more. All represented the Fair's overriding purpose – to demonstrate 'the best that we can be.'

In addition, a range of government, community service and non-profit agencies provided program and service information, while hands-on demonstrations, foods, health-related as well as arts and craft items were made available through various commercial vendors.

Always a hit with audiences of all ages, were the 'World Famous Nakusp Zucchini Races' for kids 12 and under, organized by Mark Aeichele and his enthusiastic team with the added sponsorship of area merchants.

A major fundraiser for Arrow Lakes Arts Council which in turn supports a variety of projects undertaken by this all-volunteer organization, the Fair attracted a large following, including 554 adults and close to 150 children of all ages up to 12 years.

The Fair also facilitated the fundraising efforts of Nakusp Community Foundation through its Jail and Bail booth. In excess of $5,000 was raised by the Arts Council, while a further estimated sum of $3,000 was raised by the Community Foundation on this occasion.

According to organizers the Arts Council appreciated the chance to schedule the Fair at a particularly opportune time since thousands of visitors from many parts of the northwest were expected to attend the highly popular Garlic Festival which took place the following day in New Denver. This made it possible for locals and visitors alike to attend both events and at the same time, help bolster the district tourism/hospitality trade and associated merchants, in support of the local economy.

Exhibitors and vendors are asked to take note: the 2008 Nakusp and District Fall Fair is scheduled to take place on September 13 at Nakusp arena auditorium. For more information and to offer volunteer assistance, call the Coordinator at 265-0075.

PHOTO CREDIT: DON CURRIE

Some of the award-winning blooms at the Nakusp Fall Fair.

Analisa and Sakura Azzopardi at the Argenta Fall Fair.

They grow big pumpkins in the Slocan Valley.

Sack racing at the Slocan Valley Fall Fair.

This year's eighth annual Slocan Valley Fall Fair in Winlaw featured a Trebuchet Launch during the afternoon. The medieval seige engine went through several of the food groups, firing off pumpkins, watermelons, squash, green tomatoes as well as water-filled milk jugs before an enthralled crowd. This trebuchet was built by Tom Bradley last summer at a Slocan Valley Recreation program. He was assisted at the firing by fellow trebuchet owner Phil MacDonald and Slocan Valley Rec Guy Craig Lawrence.

Hallowe'en Party
Silverton Lakeshore Inn
Saturday, October 27, 2007
with The Usual Suspects
$100.00 prize for the Best Costume
Don't forget, it's 2 for 1 Steak Night on Friday!
No Cover Charge!!

Prima Materia
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Inspiring Arts & Crafts
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Oktoberfest
September 28 - October 6
New Fall Hours:
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Open Monday 4-9
Tuesday-Saturday 11 - 9
Original Bavarian Food • Imported German Beer
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Reservations recommended
265-0060
Wood Fire Pizza N'more
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Nakusp, BC
V0G 1R0

Nakusp council, September 11: Village to apply for funding for arena improvements

by Jan McMurray

•Council decided to apply for funding under the Towns for Tomorrow provincial program to replace the floor and roof at the arena. Mayor Hamling said she spoke to Minister Chong when she was in town to announce the funding for the water and sewer systems, and Chong said she would personally look for the Village's application for the arena project. The grant would cover 80%, up to a maximum of $400,000, of the total project cost.

•CAO Bob Lafleur reported on the preparations for a public meeting on the boat launch issue. Harry Brownlow of BC Hydro was advised that October 10 was a suitable date, and Brownlow has provided an agenda. Mayor Hamling and Councillor Switzer volunteered to plan and facilitate the meeting.

•Reports from the CAO and treasurer with details regarding the community park proposed by the Nakusp Roots Music Society were received. Councillor Dahlen asked that they be discussed, so Councillors Mueller and Switzer declared their conflict of interest and removed themselves from council chambers.

Mayor Hamling stated, "I find it really unfortunate that the process ended up going this way. We just couldn't get council to come to consensus so we have lost a project that's close to $900,000 and five jobs."

Councillor Dahlen said she wanted to review the staff reports "in all fairness to the public that asked those questions." Hamling replied that all the questions have been answered in the past – at the public meeting, on the survey, at the 10th Ave. meeting and at council meetings. "I don't know any other process where we have been delegated to death like that and I think the questions are a moot point. They have cancelled," said Hamling.

Councillor Heppner added, "In the interests of fairness to all, we fairnessed this project to death. The Music Fest was under a time frame to get this done with free labour or partial free labour and we delayed it until they can't start it so they pulled out."

Mayor Hamling said each councillor could speak only once on this issue. Councillor Dahlen thanked staff for doing the research, said the answers to the questions are there for the public to see, and "it's unfortunate that that's how much we get to say."

•During public time, Bill Cowan read out a letter expressing his disappointment that the community park project did not go ahead. He sugggested that everyone's concerns should have been addressed three months ago, and stated that "each and every member of council had a responsibility" to see this was done.

•Following up on the problem of people camping on the streets during Music Fest, council voted to discuss the matter with Nakusp Roots Music Society. After touring the problem areas, staff decided against signage because too many signs would be required, enforcement would be difficult, and in the end, signage would probably not resolve the issue.

•Council received a response from the RDCK regarding recycle bins during Music Fest. Although an additional pick-up had been arranged for the Saturday of the festival, the RDCK did not know that the depot would be used as a campground for the weekend. This prevented the contractor from accessing the site on Saturday. So, the RDCK asked the contractor for an extra pick-up on Monday. The contractor could provide a driver, but needed assistance to load up the material. The RDCK asked the Village for assistance, but the Village declined the request. The letter also mentions that in other large centres in the RDCK, individual businesses contract with the private sector to have their cardboard picked up. Councillor Dahlen indicated that she would like to discuss this with the businesses and said she would get clarity from the RDCK about who should approach the businesses.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the RCMP have expressed concern about the amount of crack cocaine in the community, not in the high school but among the 20-year-olds. It has been shown that crack cocaine use leads to crystal meth use, and that this all leads to more Break and Enters and assaults. She said the RCMP reported a slight rise in B&Es in Nakusp. She urged the public to call CrimeStoppers if they witness vandalism or anything suspicious. She added that the detachment is down to two officers again.

•Mayor Hamling reported that the two new doctors were not able to stay. She said she met with the IHA, which is working hard to find replacements. "If they don't find a replacement, our emergency will be closed down. We can't expect the two remaining doctors to work 24/7." Dr. Goranson is in Nakusp until October 7 to help out.

•Council voted to advise the Cedar Chalets that the hot springs will not be able to supply them with water during a power outage. CAO Lafleur explained that prior to the mechanical upgrade at the hot springs, there was a bypass that provided them with treated water. However, the bypass was disconnected during the upgrade and it is now only possible to supply them with untreated water.

•Councillor Mueller reported that the hot springs committee had received a letter from the Ministry of Forests advising that they do not intend to conduct any work in the area around the hot springs source.

•Bill Cowan and a Mr. Dunn attended as a delegation to request that the trees behind 10th Ave. properties be thinned. Cowan said he thought there was a misunderstanding when this had gone before council before. "The intent was never to have all the trees gone. The intent was to open it up so visitors and residents can have a view." Cowan also mentioned that the cotton trees there affect people's breathing problems, that the pine trees there are dying, and that ground fuels are being created. "Quite frankly, it's unsightly," he added. Dunn emphasized the fire hazard issue, saying that people camp in these woods during Music Fest and "all it takes is a fire to get away."

Mayor Hamling said part of the new upcoming OCP is that Nakusp be a firesmart community, but explained that adoption of the OCP bylaw was still some months away. Dunn asked if the area could be cleaned up before next fire season.

Later in the meeting, council voted to have the fire chief and staff visit the property and prepare a report.

•A request came in from the new owners of Loma Lumber to purchase the laneway through the lumber yard. CAO Lafleur said he understood that the laneway had been leased by Loma for many years. He also mentioned that the fire department has access on all four sides of the property. Mayor Hamling explained that the purchase price would be the appraised value. Council approved the sale, pending the confirmation of the lease, approval from the fire department and the obtaining of the appraisal.

•Council received a letter from residents who wanted to report "the ongoing occurrences of tires from the Kal-Tire lot rolling onto residences and town property." They said such incidents have caused damage to their ornamental fence, flowers and shrubs and the door of their vehicle. Council voted to send a letter to Kal-Tire to notify them of the complaints and request that they secure their tires.

•Bylaw 442-4, to allow food and drink vendors in designated areas adjacent to the public beach, was adopted.

•The bylaw to accommodate Polmac Enterprises' (John and Janice Falkiner) 26 half-acre lots subdivision proposal in Glenbank was given two readings and will go to public hearing. Council members indicated they would like to hear from the public before making a decision.

•Council granted a request from the Revelstoke Grizzlies hockey team, which includes Nakusp players, to set up a beer garden at the arena during a Junior B league game against Nelson on October 5.

•The Nakusp Co-operative Marketing Committee will apply for funding to celebrate BC's 150th birthday in 2008.

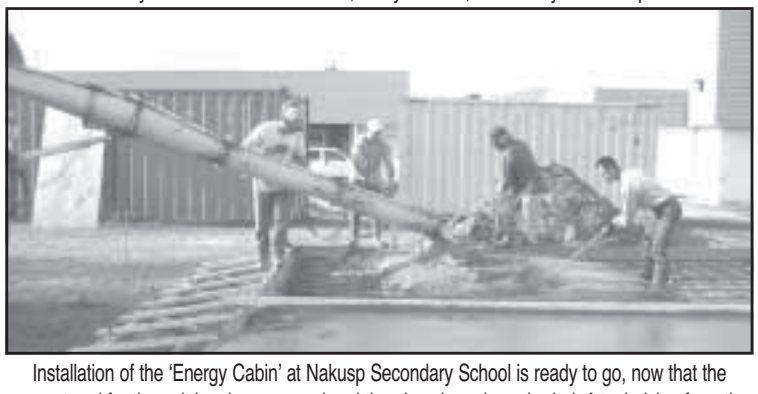
•Councillor Switzer asked if council would support a motion to investigate the costs of publishing a quarterly Village newsletter. Council agreed.

•Mayor Hamling will sign the BC Climate Change Charter on behalf of the Village of Nakusp at the UBCM conference September 24-27.

•Accounts payable of $228,060.46 for the month of August were approved.

The Rock Island Resort in Arrow Park hosted an outdoor concert with Gary Fjellard in mid September. Resort owner Bill Mitchell described it as "a truly magical evening."

Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) has donated $2500 to the Cultural Community of Nakusp and Surrounding Area Society for the purchase of a large projection screen for the Nakusp Auditorium. Pictured in the photo are (left to right): Society Members Rosemarie Parent, Carole Moroz, Marilyn Massey, John and Audrey Repin from CPC. Missing are other Society members Beth Macleod, Larry Parkes, Janet Royko and Alph Puder.



Installation of the 'Energy Cabin' at Nakusp Secondary School is ready to go, now that the cement pad for the unit has been poured and the pipes have been buried. A technician from the manufacturing company in Austria is scheduled to arrive next month to complete the installation. The storage containers in the background of this picture house the unit, which was described as "a big pellet stove" by project proponent Ray Greene of the Nakusp Energy Corporation.

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PO Box 279
Nakusp, BC

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Invitation to Tender (Project N. 05-910)

ROTARY VILLA – PHASE IV

12 Unit Seniors' Housing Facility
#206 - 7th Ave NW, Nakusp, BC

Scope of Work (Sections 1 and 2)

Site Preparation, Foundation, Underground Services and Framing

Tender Documents may be obtained at
Rotary Villa #201 Unit 3 (Project Office)
8th Ave NW, Nakusp, BC
September 27, 28 between 11 am and 3 pm

Closing Date and Location – Oct. 5, 2007 by 3 pm
Rotary Villa – #201 Unit 3 - 8th Ave NW
Rotary Villa – #212 - 7th Ave NW (Manager's Office)

Contact Number during Bid Period: 265-7117

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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

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9-HOLE PUBLIC COURSE , RATES IN EFFECT 7 DAYS A WEEK
GREEN FEES: **Adults $20.00**/9-holes, **$28.00**/18-holes
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Ladies' nights Tuesdays 4:00 - 6:00 Guests welcome.
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•Slocan Lake Golf Course,
New Denver **Phone: (250) 358-2408**
9-HOLE GOLF COURSE , OPEN 7 AM TO DARK
GREEN FEES: **$18.00**/9-holes, **$27.00**/18-holes,
Day Pass: **$40.00,** Weekly Rate: **$175.00**
RENTALS: Clubs and Pull carts available.
Power cart: **$15.00**/9-holes **$25.00**/18-holes. *All prices include tax*
RESTAURANT: 8 AM TO 8 PM (LICENSED)
2007 TOURNAMENTS:
• Club Open, Sun. Aug. 12: $40 members / $45 non-members*
• Bushwackers, Sat. Sept. 8: $20/couple
• Club Closing, Sun. Sept. 23: $15
(* fee includes dinner)

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

NOTICE TO VALLEY VISITORS:

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

THE THIRD EDITION OF THE POPULAR
Silvery Slocan Heritage Tour Guidebook
IS NOW AVAILABLE AT:

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

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

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CAMPGROUNDS

• Kaslo Municipal Campground (250) 353-2662 kaslocampground@yahoo.ca
May 1-Sept 30. Serviced ($20) Unserviced sites ($15) Water and power hook-ups, fire pits, picnic tables, restrooms and hot showers. Downtown location, close to park, beach, playgrground, SS Moyie infocentre and great shopping! Pets on leash welcome.

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

• Three Island Resort Campground (250) 265-3023
65 sites, full/semi hook-ups, tenting, boat launch, paddle boats & canoes, pets welcome, children's playground, firewood, fishing, hiking trail, confectionery, sani-station, showers, laundry facilities, large gazebo with BBQ pits.

• Springer Creek RV Park & Campground (250) 355-2266 springr@telus.net
Open May 18 to Sept. 30. Located at 1020 Giffin Rd., Slocan. Turn right immediately off of Highway 6 entrance to Village of Slocan. Full hook-ups, partial hook-ups, tenting sites, sani-dump, pets on leash and seasonal Tourist/Information Booth.

• Silverton Municipal Campground (250) 358-2472
Situated on Slocan Lake at Leadville & Turner Streets. Lakeshore and Creekside Tent and Trailer Sites. Fire pits and firewood.

• West Kootenay Park Management Inc. 1-866-937-5734 www.westkootenayparks.com
$14/night $7 extra vehicle. Cash only. May 01 - October 15th.
Fire ring, tables, pit toilets.

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

Rosebery Provincial Park
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• Woodbury Resort and Marina (250) 353-7717
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www.halcyon-hotsprings.com e-mail: info@halcyon-hotsprings.com Halcyon Spa opens June 2005. Always fresh, natural, mineral hot springs with its own lakeshore comfortable chalets, cabins, full RV hook-ups, camping, Bistro-Restaurant, historical chapel, bodywork, horseback riding, tours and much more... Have some happy Halcyon days!!! Big swimming pool now open!

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

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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.

Springer Creek fire causes increased risk of landslides

by Jan McMurray

The Ministry of Forests has had a post-wildfire risk analysis done of the watersheds affected by the Springer Creek fire.

"Many of these watersheds have a documented history of debris flow and debris slide activity and now, due to the wildfire effects on the vegetation and soil, the likelihood of landslides has substantially increased for the next three to five years," states the report.

The report assesses the increased risk to residents in the area as well as to the public travelling on Hwy 6 from Enterprise Creek to south of the bluffs. The risk is high for residents in the Cory Creek and Allen Creek watersheds, and is high for the travelling public on several sections of the highway.

The four agencies that are reviewing the report to consider its recommendations and how to mitigate the risks are: Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Transportation, Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and the RDCK.

Jim Whyte, director of operations, PEP, explained that this process, where the different agencies work together to see if they can prevent the potential damage in the aftermath of wildfires, is relatively new. "We're trying to avoid the situation we had in 2004, following the 2003 fires, in the Kuskanax drainage that destroyed two homes just outside of Nelson," he said.

Bernie Van Tighem at the RDCK says that most of the residents in the approximately 12 households in the area are aware of the situation, and says a letter will be going out to them soon with updated information from the report.

One of the report's recommendations is to evaluate the effectiveness of diversion berms, catch basins or other structures above homes, private property and the highway.

Whyte said they had hired a consultant to work with the RDCK "to see if there are some things we can do to reduce the risk to the homes. It will take some time, but hopefully the end result is that we're able to protect people as best we can from debris flow or floods that may come down."

Ministry of Transportation spokesperson Jeff Knight said the ministry had just recently received the report and would soon be reviewing the recommendations and looking at strategies. He pointed out that concrete barriers had already been installed at locations with a potential for increased rockfall, and changeable messsage signs had been placed on the north and south ends of the section of highway in the area of the Slocan bluffs.

One of the high risk areas for debris flow coming down onto the highway identified in the report is in the vicinity of the Enterprise Creek bridge, due to a steep gully above the highway near the bridge. The report points out that the gully may be close to the location for the new bridge and recommends that the ministry "confirm the design, location and construction of proposed new crossing of Enterprise Creek is compatible with the risk (relative to debris flood activity)." The new bridge project is scheduled to begin September 24.

The Ministry of Forests is dealing with the impacts of the fire on the vegetation and soil on crown land. Larry Peitzsche, district manager of the Arrow Boundary Forest District, explained that when a fire burns as hot as this one did, it produces a waxy substance like resin that coats the surface of the soil that takes two to three years to break down. This resin ends up running off in a heavy rain instead of being absorbed into the ground. So, this fall, the ministry will put down straw, which will hold the water during rainfall. In the spring, planting activities will begin.

"We're very concerned about slope instability because of how hot the fire burned," he said.

Right now, the ministry is deactivating all roads and trails used to fight the fire. Peitzsche says the ministry will carry on with long-term studies for hydrology and slope stability as well.

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Nakusp Secondary School hosted the largest boys soccer tournament of the year on September 21-22. The NSS senior team placed first out of ten teams, and the NSS junior team placed second out of five. Here, the undefeated senior team accepts the trophy after winning 1-0 against Osoyoos in the final game. The juniors were undefeated going into the final game, but lost to Creston 2-0.

Third annual Sinixt Barter Fair bigger and better than ever

Support the Sinixt Native Indian Nation in their journey from 'extinction', thereby supporting a sustainable world and partying hearty at the same time. The third annual Sinixt Barter Fair takes place September 28-30 at the Sinixt Fairgrounds, 4120 Lower Passmore Road, Vallican. This is the region's largest swap meet with live music, crafts, fall harvest cornucopia, vendors, great foods – all things new and old. Rain or shine – we'll be fine.

A live music stage will feature performers three days running, with 18 bands and seven DJs. Artists from the Black, Sioux and Hawaii Nations will perform, along with veteran Earl Sundance and his irresistible blend of roots reggae and indigenous rhythms. Don't miss Adrian Xavier's triumphant reggae return to the Barter Fair with his hit *Heart and Soul*. The impressive list of musicians includes MAZu, Pure Blend, Carol Street and Friends, Smooth, DJ Sa'Squatch, Marty Carter and Amigos, DJ ALEXi, Amy Poznikoff with Gilles Parenteau, Papa Roots, EverOne, Kenny and Olie, Brian Rosen and Roots, DJ Jaliya, Afrosojourn, Shlocane Roots HiFi, DJ Sonico, DJ Meszenjah, Up the Irish with Catherine and Tera Tera, SoundSerious, Malrobo, all grandly introduced by MC Bessie Wapp. More blues, country, world fusion, traditional Indian drummers and reggae bands to be announced.

Be there for the opening welcome Friday at 7 pm, and honour World Rivers Day with us on Sunday. Admission by sliding scale – $10 to $100, children free. Camping is free but dogs are $10, allowed on leash only. Barter or cash exchanges are acceptable.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact 250 226-6743 or 226-6726. For vendor inquiries contact 250 226-7581. Vendors must supply their own electricity. Please bring your own potable water.

Reggae veteran Earl Sundance brings his irresistible blend of roots reggae and indigenous rhythms to the Third Annual Sinixt Barter Fair, as part of a three-day program of music, trading, and fun.

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Other technical skills required are:
- Microsoft Internet Information Server
- PowerPoint
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- Other web related software

For more information about CBT and to get a detailed description of duties, skills, and qualifications for this position, visit the CBT website at www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998 or 1-250-365-6633.

Deadline for applications is October 10, 2007.

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

1.800.505.8998 info@cbt.org www.cbt.org

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Oliver:	Wed., Oct. 10	Oliver Legion, 36217 97th St
Grand Forks:	Thur., Oct. 11	Senior's Centre (City Park), 565 71 Ave
Trail:	Fri., Oct. 12	Trail Labour Centre, 910 Portland Ave
Nelson:	Sat., Oct. 13	Nelson United Church, 602 Silica

Time: 9 am – 6 pm

The clinic will be held on a first come, first served basis to a maximum of 450 people per clinic. Please come early and be prepared for a wait.

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For more information on these clinics, please contact the office of Alex Atamanenko, MP at 1-800-667-2393

State of forestry in BC – the picture varies depending on who's looking

by Art Joyce

The state of BC's forestry, as with its forests, varies depending on who's looking, and where. On a purely economic basis, it's hard to argue with the importance of forestry. According to BC government figures, forestry "is responsible for 15% of the province's economic activity and directly employs about 80,000 British Columbians. Outside the Lower Mainland, forestry remains the largest or second-largest source of income for 77% of BC communities."

Even with recent shocks to the forest industry due to the rising Canadian dollar and the housing slump in the US, Canada is the world leader in forest industry exports, at nearly $40 billion a year. Canada still held over 60% of the US import market as of 2003.

However, as a result of human-driven climate change, the mountain pine beetle (MPB) attack has devastated entire forests in some parts of BC. According to the Fraser Basin Council, recent surveys "show about 9.2 million hectares of BC forests – an area nearly three times the size of Vancouver Island – are in 'red attack' stage. The epidemic has killed an estimated 582 million cubic meters of merchantable timber, equivalent to 15 years of normal harvest for the province's central and southern interior. The outbreak continues to kill mature pine trees in the central interior and is well established in the Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay regions."

Forestry consultant Gary Burns of Slocan has flown over vast areas of beetle kill in BC and says its spread will easily outrun industry efforts to harvest pine before its commercial value is lost. The economic reality of road-building costs will force the industry to abandon much of the pine beetle cut. MPB began by attacking older growth pine but as warmer winters persist, have moved into stands as young as 30 years. Mills are finding that excessive 'checking' (splitting) of beetle-kill timber on such small trees is reducing the amount useable for dimension lumber. Much of it will have to be used for pulp or chips. A crossover effect is now being observed, Burns says, with the MPB infesting spruce stands. Fortunately the West Kootenay is somewhat protected by its naturally diverse mixture of tree species.

"I think the government needs to be assisting small – particularly northern – communities in preparing for the economic 'falldown' that's going to happen in a few years," concludes Burns.

One idea being proposed by forestry academics is Reciprocal Wood Flow Agreements, where the affected region allocates their excess salvaged timber to an unaffected region, who reduce their AAC proportionately. In the future, the unaffected region reciprocates an equal amount of AAC to the affected region. Instead, the BC government's seven-point Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan focuses largely on diversifying local economies through incentives for the mining, oil and gas industries. Yet these industries contribute to climate change, at a time when Premier Campbell has declared his government's goal to become carbon neutral by 2010. The plan also puts millions into the development of new products based on salvage lumber, and increasing annual allowable cuts (AAC) for lumber companies and First Nations engaged in 'innovative' forestry practices.

But the devastation wrought by the pine beetle isn't all that threatens BC forests. NDP MLA Corky Evans and other critics argue that the new results-based forestry code introduced by the BC government in 2003, the Forestry Revitalization Act, has few teeth when it comes to enforcing regulations that protect the environment. The Act seems to lay the burden of responsibility for compliance on the Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) hired by logging companies. To many this seems an obvious conflict of interest.

"The government has laid off so many people in the forest service that they've essentially turned the forest over to industry," says Evans. "I think the government has decided that it doesn't need a plan, it can just turn it over to the corporations to rule."

Evans hastens to add that as a former logger, he sees logging as an honourable way to earn a living. He says he is "hugely proud" of family-based West Kootenay companies like Huscroft, Kalesnikoff, Springer Creek, Wynndel Box & Lumber, and others who have resisted the urge to become multinational corporations. He says it's the only part of BC he's aware of that maintains these relationships between the lumber companies and their communities. With lumber prices now less than they've been for 20 years, at around $230 per thousand board feet compared to $400 just a few years ago, he can appreciate how difficult it is to keep such local operations afloat. Evans cites the current financial difficulties facing Pope and Talbot as a case in point of the BC government's abandoning its role in protecting community interests.

"Historically this would have resulted in the government going out to the community to ask, how would you like us to respond with your land? Now it's turned over to a market situation, as if the government had sold the land to the companies and not even bothered to collect taxes."

Dr. Tom Beckley, of the University of New Brunswick's Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, points out that the mountain pine beetle is a devastating case in point of our inability to manage nature through science. Beckley thinks the accepted notion of sustainability as the area where isolated social, economic and ecological needs merely intersect needs to be reassessed. Rather, we need to recognize all of these as one mutually interconnected sphere. Sustainability needs to expand from managing the physical environment to influencing human behaviour. Beckley's survey research revealed that 70% of those polled admitted that their actions did not match their pro-environmental values.

"By placing excessive focus on what we can measure easily and effectively, we may lose sight of the things that are most important – things that are more challenging to quantify… but that are most related to happiness, sustainability, or survival."

Community Futures helps pine beetle impacted communities access funding

submitted

Local organizations and entrepreneurs with questions about the federal government's Mountain Pine Beetle Program – Community Economic Diversification Initiative (CEDI) can now turn to Community Futures Central Kootenay for answers.

Western Economic Diversification Canada has launched a Request for Expressions of Interest, the first stage of the application process for CEDI. The deadline for initial Expressions of Interest is October 19.

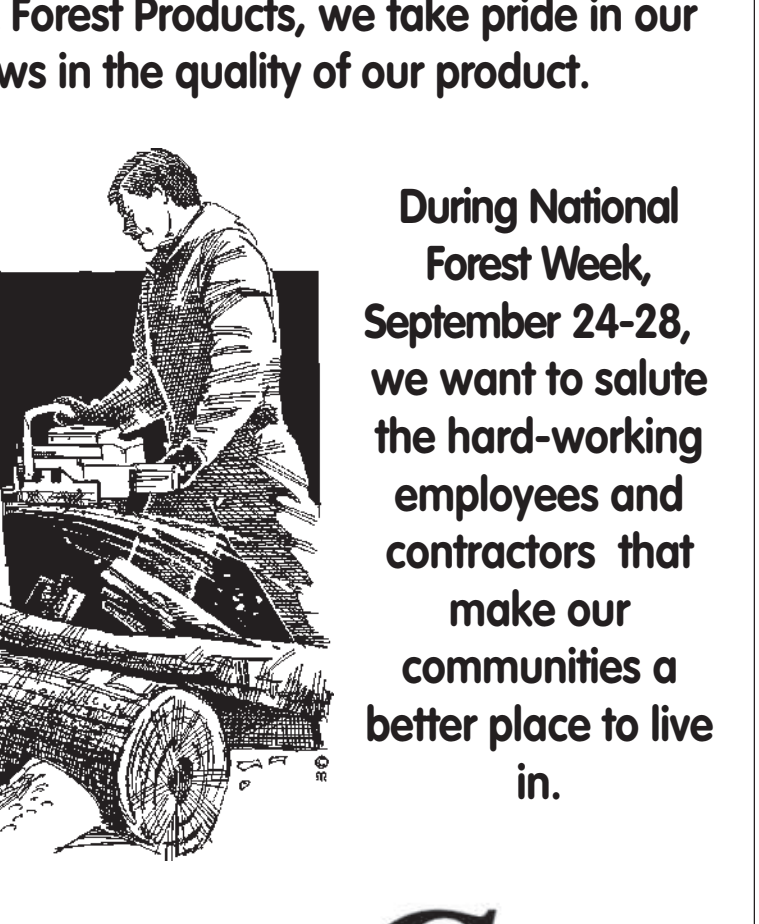
The Community Economic Diversification Initiative is an important component of the federal Mountain Pine Beetle Program. It is a two-year federal contribution program aimed at helping to diversify the economic foundation of forest-dependent communities and contribute to their long-term stability.

"We are very excited about this new initiative," said Paul Wiest, General Manager of CFDC Central Kootenay. "We hope it can help address the economic challenges that are arising due to the impact of the mountain pine beetle."

Western Economic Diversification Canada will deliver the initiative on behalf of the federal government. Working with Community Futures Development Corporations of BC and other key stakeholders, the department will invest over $33 million in projects that support economic growth, job creation and future sustainability of communities adversely affected by the widespread beetle infestation.

CFDC of Central Kootenay will provide outreach and information on CEDI and the application process including coaching and mentoring for those clients in our region who require assistance with their Expression of Interest.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is the first stage of the CEDI application process. Western Economic Diversification Canada will review each Expression of Interest and rank it according to pre-established assessment criteria. For more information on eligibility, application deadlines and how to submit an Expression of Interest, please review the completion guide available at: www.wd.gc.ca.



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Kaslo council, September 11: Provincial building negotiations continue

by Jan McMurray

•Negotiations with BC's Accommodation and Real Estate Services (ARES) on the Provincial building purchase are ongoing.

Council received copies of emails sent back and forth between Andy Schimmel of ARES and Staples from August 28 to September 6. Schimmel states in one of his emails that he understands the Village does not like the lease agreement, but this same agreement has been used in numerous transactions in the past three years, since the Province began selling properties and leasing back space. However, he indicates that "there are many aspects of the Lease Agreement that we are prepared to negotiate..." and goes on to list some of the concerns of the Village and ways they could be accommodated in the lease.

To the great surprise of Staples and council, Schimmel sent a copy of the revised lease on August 31 that was not what was expected. After a telephone conference with Kaslo council, Staples replied to Schimmel, "We were all dismayed and disappointed by this document..." She says that "...changes made during negotiations have reappeared and new ones have appeared that were not discussed."

She asked for, and received on September 6, confirmation that this is the correct version of the lease.

At the September 9 council meeting, council directed its lawyer, Lorena Staples, to continue negotiations until October 1.

•Anne Malik wrote to council about the provincial building purchase, pointing out that several motions carried at council meetings have not been acted upon. Most of these motions have to do with obtaining and advertising the costs of repairs needed for the building.

•The Village is working with the RDCK to establish Ainsworth Wharf as a regional park, and to expand the Kaslo Beach Regional Park to include the waterfront trail. The new expanded park would be re-named the Kaslo Waterfront Regional Park.

An RDCK report shows that taxation for the regional park service would double if the two new parks were included. Currently, the service collects a total of $10,000 in taxation – $5,000 for Kaslo Beach Park and $5,000 for Glacier Creek Park. Under the new formula, a total of $20,000 would be collected – $5,000 for Glacier Creek Park, $5,000 for Ainsworth Wharf Park and $10,000 for the Kaslo Waterfront Park.

Taxation for the new service translates to $12.60 on a $125,000 home, which would currently be taxed $6.30.

Council decided to advise the RDCK that the Village supports the new service.

At the RDCK meeting September 22, the bylaws to include the Ainsworth Wharf in the Kaslo and Area D Regional Parks service area and to borrow $58,000 for wharf remediation were given three readings. As soon as the Village of Kaslo provides a letter of consent for this bylaw, it will be sent to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval and then will be adopted by the RDCK board.

•Mark MacKenzie or, alternately, Louise de Pape was authorized to attend a 'Business Strategies for Heritage Organizations' workshop Oct 15-16 in Quesnel, with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy and charged to the City Hall renovation account.

•The Village dedicated $3700 to the purchase of heritage calendars for 2008. These calendars are a fundraising project of the City Hall Conservation Committee. At the committee meeting August 27, it was reported that the City Hall building would be considered for the 2009 Heritage Week poster produced by the Province.

•Councillor Jones was authorized to attend the RDCK wildfire debrief session on September 14 in Nelson, with expenses paid pursuant to municipal policy.

•The process for implementing a bylaw to control transient boat parking at municipal property was referred to the Administration & Finance committee for recommendation to council.

•The 2006 Annual Report was received, and a public meeting will be held October 9 with Auditor Am Naqvi present. Also received were the 2006 audited financial statement and the financial report for the period January through July 2007.

•Accounts payable of $55,712.87 was approved for payment.

Electric fencing saves grizzlies – for now

submitted

When a hungry mother grizzly bear and her three yearling cubs were seen eating fruit and sniffing around both chickens and pigs in the Lardeau area, North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart Program co-ordinator Gillian Sanders went to each location and installed electric fencing around the livestock before there were any conflicts with the bears. In each case, the electric fence proved effective, and though the bears remained in the area, the pigs and chickens have been left alone.

"Now the bears are on the spawning redfish," says Sanders, "but after the fish run is done, there is the possibility they will move on to unused fruit or garbage if these attractants are not managed."

She says electric fencing is also effective to keep bears out of your fruit trees. Sanders is available free of charge to help install electric fencing to protect fruit trees or livestock in the North Kootenay Lake area.

It's bear season again and hungry bears have entered Kootenay neighbourhoods looking for food so they can survive the coming winter sleep. Preventing and reducing conflicts with these animals is the goal of the North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart Program. If bears find a yummy, high calorie meal in your neighbourhood, they will return for more.

There is a bumper crop of fruit in the Kaslo area, and the NKL Fruit Tree Project is in full swing. The project feeds families, not bears, by linking those with excess fruit with those who volunteer to harvest the fruit for their own use. The project helps to manage windfall by providing this fruit to local livestock owners.

The project is also working with the Kaslo Food Security Project to run weekly canning and fruit processing workshops every Monday at noon at the Kaslo Seniors Hall. These workshops are to help promote skills to utilize our beautiful local fruit and increase local food security.

To register your excess fruit for harvest, to harvest free local delicious fruit, information on processing workshops or questions about electric fencing, call the North Kootenay Lake Bear Smart program and Fruit Tree project, 353-1137.

Kaslo and District Community Forest update

by Jan McMurray

•The board decided to appoint Kim Planidin to the board on September 6 after advertising for candidates for the vacant seat. Two people responded to the ad, and board member Don Scarlett says it was a very tough decision between the two applicants. Scarlett reported that Planidin is a forest technician and did some work for the community forest several years ago. This seat was vacant because there were three seats available and only two candidates at the May 16 AGM. Planidin's appointment expires at the next AGM.

•Steve Fawcett is the new RDCK appointee to the board. This was ratified at the September 22 RDCK board meeting. This seat had been vacant since Dave Russell resigned early in the summer.

•With the public commentary period for the Probationary Community Forest Agreement over on August 31, Scarlett reported that the board is now distilling the information. He said they accepted some late comments, and letters to the editor published in the August 29 *Valley Voice* were also being treated as comments. According to a resolution passed at the last AGM, the board has at least three weeks to revise the document based on the comments.

•The road building contract has been finalized and CJ Logging began the work on September 4. The board is still awaiting finalization of timber contracts for CP10 and CP13 in Shutty Bench.

RDCK board, September 22: New CAO announced; Area D highlighted

by Jan McMurray

•It was announced that Jim Gustafson, current CAO at the City of Castlegar, will take over as the CAO of the RDCK as of October 29. Dawn Attorp has been acting CAO for over a year, as CAO Carol McGowan has been ill.

•A letter will be written to the Integrated Land Management Bureau regarding the application for a marina in Argenta. The board is requesting that the comment period be extended by one month to allow time to make comment after an October 11 meeting in Argenta between the interested parties.

•Director Shadrack's application for $7,352 from the Community Works Fund was approved. It is for the Pine Ridge Water Utility for domestic water metering and water conservation.

•The bylaws to include the Ainsworth Wharf in the Kaslo and Area D Regional Parks service area and to borrow $58,000 for wharf remediation were given three readings.

•Director Shadrack's proposal for a different way of distributing some of the hydro grant-in-lieu funds was referred to 2008 budget discussions. He is proposing dividing up the $74,232 that currently goes into the rural administration budget among seven municipalities, excluding Castlegar and Nelson. These two cities receive other large hydro grants.

Notes from the RCMP

by Jan McMurray

•Three people have been charged with Break and Enter and mischief in an August 9 incident at the provincial building in Kaslo.

Constable Andrew Luukko reported that the Kaslo RCMP received a call at about 12:30 am from a resident who could hear glass breaking in the vicinity of the courthouse. Police attended immediately, located the suspects a short distance away and took them into custody.

Suspects are two young offenders and one adult. Two of them are from Kaslo and one is from Alberta.

"They smashed the front window to gain access and went on a rampage, throwing over bookshelves and pamphlet shelves, smashing mirrors in bathrooms and damaged as much as they could," reported Luukko.

Alcohol was a factor.

•Kaslo RCMP received a report on September 17 of a theft of $20,000 cash from a Meadow Creek resident's home. The investigation is ongoing. If anyone has noticed people in possession of unusual amounts of cash, or has any information whatsoever that could help in this investigation, please call the Kaslo detachment at 353-2225 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8744.

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Get Outta Town!

with Peter Roulston

Through Tunnels and Over Trestles

Some bicycle rides are worth repeating from time to time and worth writing about more than once. With autumn in the air and cooler, damper days here, bicycling remains a fine way to play, and rail trails at lower elevations are always good choices. Some rail trails get tedious if too long, level and open, but the rail grade going west from Castlegar offers plenty of scenery, curves, tunnels and trestles.

The Columbia and Western rail line was laid in 1898 from Castlegar to Midway and was extended further west as freight business grew. This route ties into the famous Kettle Valley line but is distinct from it and gets less recognition due to its remote setting. Although people can be driven to the Paulson Summit to permit a one-way return ride down to Castlegar, the simpler plan is to park at the trailhead near the Keenleyside Dam and make this an out-and-back trip.

The trailhead is at the end of the large gravel area by the dam, upriver north of Castlegar and past the big pulp mill. There's a helpful little map available at the museum train station downtown and the train tracks are still used from here up to the mill. This segment of the trail climbs slightly for over 20 kilometres to where it swings inland away from the Arrow Lakes valley. The grade ascends at a rate of 2% all the way, even on the wooden trestles and through the short tunnels.

This is a multi-use trail and much of the efforts of reclamation are thanks to the dedicated local ATV guys who have cleared, dug, grubbed and filled places along the grade to make it navigable for them, which in turn makes it nice for all other folks. I've always felt that rail grades tend to cover such large areas that all types of recreationalists should share the enjoyment and upkeep of such corridors. A couple spots where massive rockfalls have happened have been opened up with great effort. Thanks!

I feel that the best segment is this first 20 odd kilometers, because you remain in sight of Arrow Lake as you gain elevation and improved views. There are four wooden trestles and three or four short tunnels and several massive stone walls supporting the grade along here. Much beyond that, the grade pulls away from the lake and goes on into the forest, though if you push on and persist, you'll reach the 900 metre long Bulldog Tunnel, where you'll need headlamps and warmer clothing.

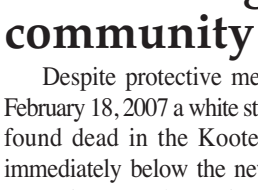
Anyhow, that's just my take, so for the purposes of keeping a daytrip to a riding time of maybe four hours, stick to this game plan, stop lots and take tons of pictures. The tour to Christina Lake is all really fine, believe me, but the first part is the best. Touring through to Christina Lake on the rail grade may take eight or nine hours and after staying overnight there it would be a different and more direct return on Highway 3 via Paulson Summit.

On a clear fall day this could be a great ride but expect to be in cold shade by early afternoon. So even a dull cloudy day might be a good choice because you'd have nice uniform daylight everywhere and even if the distant vistas are less stellar, the trailside features would all be just perfect to spend time scoping out.

The return ride to the dam parking area is quite fun and fast as you skim along the grade several gears higher than you used on the outbound leg. Even though loop rides are the best way to see the most, I always seem to see a bunch of stuff on any return ride, walk or ride. Something no one gets to see is a section of the rail grade that is now apparently under water in the Arrow Reservoir.

These various rail grades of the West Kootenay tend to be the last 'off-road' rides of the season as winter creeps down the mountain slopes. Plan to sample some of these marvels of surveying and construction soon. Dress warm, wear a little pack, bring a light source, and as always, look both ways.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital and has now lived in New Denver exactly five years. 358-2133.



with Jamie Barber

Restoring old vehicles is a labour of love

I was talking to my friend Sheila at the Reading Centre this evening. She has just bought a brand new car, and was telling me how much she enjoys it. I thought it a great vehicle for her and I am sure it will give her lots of driving pleasure.

I had to contrast this thought with one that struck me that same afternoon, when I was reflecting to myself how much enjoyment I get from owning a 15-year-old pickup. Now it could be that I will be showing my proclivities, but I think there is a lesson here.

My last three trucks have all been bought new, (or nearly new). To me, they were nothing more than transportation – I was not remotely emotionally attached to any of them. This may sound a bit anathema coming from a confirmed gear-head, but I spend most of my free time rebuilding old motorcycles, and somehow, cars and trucks have just become transportation.

This hasn't always been the case with me. In years past, I tinkered with cars just like I now do with motorcycles. I have great memories of my Series II Land Rover, my old Triumph TR3, and the Ford Model A I painstakingly restored. I recall my old 1952 Chevy truck, the early Datsun pickup, my old Datsun 510, and many others. At one time they were my pride and joy – now cars and trucks have mostly become transportation.

It took a bit of a change of attitude to realize how this alteration of perspective came about, and I think it worth reporting as it underlines a basic philosophical principle that affects all our lives.

Let me give you a bit of background information. Wade and Sarah had their worn out Toyota pick up for sale. I was looking for something to make a bush truck out of and it seemed like a good candidate. The body was rusted out and the differential was blown, so I got it for a friendly price. After the purchase, I got to thinking that I could actually restore this truck to some semblance of roadworthiness. I replaced all the rusted body panels, rebuilt the differential, put in new shocks, new brake components, rust-proofed the underside and then had my friend Tim Thickett spray on some paint to make it all one colour.

When it was all done, I thought it looked pretty sharp and I was starting to feel that a new love affair was starting with this vehicle – something I hadn't felt in a while. As a matter of fact, I sold my new Chevy pickup without any hesitation and now just drive the 15-year-old Toyota. There are wrinkles in this plan of course, and they soon became apparent when the clutch went out and I had to pull out the transmission and transfer case in the dirt, as my shop was plugged up with motorcycles. This is when the epiphany occurred.

I never had to work on my new trucks. I never got to put my wrenches to them – they were just used for transportation and took up little of my time, (or thoughts). When they got a few years old, I just passed them on and got another. I didn't even really care about the colour. I have a stake in this old Toyota, however. I am starting to become familiar with all its moans and groans. In a way, I feel like I have rescued it from an ignoble death and given it a new lease on life. Somehow, this resonates with what I hold as an important life philosophy.

I know that not everyone is as fixed on vehicles as I am, but that's not the point. The point is that we all care about something, and that something is what generates quality in our life. If we try to bypass this love affair by seeking convenience as I did with my plethora of new trucks, we don't get to experience the essence that gives our individual lives meaning and pleasure. When it gets right down to the nitty-gritty, it is this passion that defines the quality of all our lives – something that shouldn't be traded for convenience.

In my case, I get pleasure and satisfaction from restoring old vehicles. To spend my time on this pursuit adds quality to my life. Others are much more interested in outdoor pursuits, or fine cabinet building to name just a couple. I am sure these individuals find the same satisfaction in channelling their energy into these passions and find the same pitfalls when they trade this passion for convenience.

White Sturgeon loss prompts community legacy, funding

Despite protective measures, on February 18, 2007 a white sturgeon was found dead in the Kootenay River immediately below the new Brilliant Expansion powerhouse, in an area that was separated from the river by a rock berm. Although not killed due to blasting activity, it was impossible to conclude how the injuries were sustained. White sturgeon, an endangered species under the federal government's *Species at Risk Act,* were recognized as a key concern during the environmental assessment process for the Brilliant Expansion Project.

"Finding the dead sturgeon was a shock to all involved in the project, considering the extensive planning and monitoring that had been done to prevent this from occurring," said Audrey Repin, Director of Communications and Community Relations for Columbia Power Corporation. "The enclosed area where excavation occurred had been surveyed for the presence of sturgeon and divers had spent many hours working in the enclosed area without seeing the sturgeon," said Repin.

An agreement has been reached with community representatives to make up for the loss. Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO), realizing that litigation would not result in the best outcome, opted for a Restorative Justice process, as it would involve the community. In a meeting organized by DFO, representatives from Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation (a subsidiary of Columbia Power Corporation and Columbia Basin Trust) and the Project's major contractors and consultants voluntarily met with four community members representing the sturgeon's interests to determine appropriate reparation. The four community representatives were an elementary school teacher involved in white sturgeon education, a member of the First Nations community, and two members representing the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (UCWSRI) Technical and Community working groups.

The reparation agreement includes contributing $5,000 to the UCWSRI Community Working Group to be used in the professional development of teachers in the use of 'sturgeon kits,' developed specifically for elementary school students. A further $12,000 will be contributed to the Working Group to organize a Pow Wow to recognize the cultural significance of white sturgeon. The UCWSRI Technical Working Group will receive $8,000 for sturgeon research.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Garlic Quickie

Here's a quickie for all you garlic lovers.

Peel 15 garlic cloves and cut them into thick slabs. Melt 2 or 3 tablespoons of butter in a frying pan. Simmer the garlic on low to medium heat for 15 or 20 minutes, turning occasionally until they are golden brown all over. Spread feta cheese on your fave crackers or toast. Squash some of the garlic atop the feta. Eat this combo till the garlic is gone. Serves 1-15 depending on taste. This combo goes well with anything. Enjoy.

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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;
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- 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that the winner of the Pavilion Residents' handmade quilt raffle is LISA TRACEY of WINLAW. Special thank you to the Nakusp Quilters for their donation and to Ms. Ann Mott for all her ticket sales.

-SCHC Pavilion Residents

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

CARD OF THANKS

BRIGHID BOWMAN AND THE B/W PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS at LESS would like to thank all the people who generously donated their cameras to us during the Fall into Learning session. We learned a lot and had tons of fun! Come see the results in the halls of Lucerne! If your camera has not been returned to you yet, please pick it up from the office at LESS at your convenience. Once again, thank you!

COMING EVENTS

DANCE IN THANKS OF SLOCAN & AREA FIREFIGHTERS – September 29 at the Silvery Slocan Hall in Slocan, with 'No Excuses.' 9 pm - 2 am. No minors. By donation at the door.

"EXPRESSIONS OF THE HEART & SOUL": Intuitive Painting Workshop on Thursday Oct 4th (6:30-9:30) which will focus will on our creativity, imagination, and authentic expression. No artistic experience necessary just bring an open mind and a willingness to explore. Please register with Sue at 358-2177.

MOTHER GOOSE in NEW DENVER - Oral Rhymnes, Songs and Stories. Birth through age 2. Starting in October. Call Natasha 358-7778 or Julia 358-2745 to register.

BALLROOM/LATIN DANCE WORKSHOP - Sunday, October 7, New Denver: Latin Mix 10 - 12; Swing Plus 12 - 2. $18 per person per workshop. Preregister at 358-2448.

HEALTHY HOUSING SOCIETY AGM - Thursday, October 18, 7 pm, Lucerne School library. Everyone welcome! Please come out and hear about our proposed new project – a Welcoming Guide to the community for tourists and newcomers.

OKTOBERFEST IN SLOCAN CITY Oct. 6th starting at 12:00 noon. Live music with Alf n' John joined at the Evening Dance by Christine & Steve. Food, Vendors 12-4 (phone 355-2487 for space). Everyone Welcome.

1st ANNUAL HALLOWEEN DANCE, Sat. Oct. 27 at Silverton Memorial Hall. Big "CASH" Prize for best costume plus many, many door prizes too. Doors open at 8 pm - Dancin' 8:30 pm - 1 am. Best music and DJ around. Tickets only $10, includes a lite lunch. ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY at Ann's Natural Foods, Mountainberry, Silverton Building Supplies and Gaze n Chat. Sponsored by Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall. All proceeds to upgrades in the hall.

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2 RENTALS IN SILVERTON: (1) Furnished Studio-apt avail Oct 1-May 31, 2008. ($425 + part util) (2) Prime office or retail space ($350 + part util). Hi Speed Internet extra. Call Sue or Larry 358-2177.

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FREE-RANGE TURKEYS!! All natural birds - Whole School Fall Fundraiser. ORDER NOW - AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 29th. Pre-paid orders $2.55/lb (before September 28th) OR $2.75/lb afterwards. Call Rachel 226-7737 or Jane 226-7336 for details.

PROPANE FURNACE - Never used. With pipe assembly. $1,000 obo. Metal screen door - $100. 250-355-0020.

FOUND

FOUND - SET OF KEYS on the dyke in New Denver after Garlic Fest. Anyone missing a set of keys can call 358-7707.

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE/MOVING SALE – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm both days. 1104 Columbia Street. Corner of 9th Avenue & Columbia Street, New Denver. Lots of interesting goods, small appliances, barbeque, very old bone china teacups & dishes, lawn mower, weed wacker, wheel barrow, gas stove & propane tank, dining room chairs, shop tools & tables. Neighbours joining in. Rain or Shine - come and check it out. Earlybirds not too early please.

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HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO READ! Parent and community volunteers are needed to support Lucerne School students in grades one to six. The commitment is one-and-a-half hours one afternoon per week. All tutoring is done at the school during regular school hours. A training session in basic reading strategies will be provided and the completion of a criminal record check is required. To sign on as a tutor, or for further information, please call our One to One facilitator, Virginia Boyd, 358-2655.

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NOTICES

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

ANY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid from Slocan Lake Recreation Commission #6 should submit the proper applications to Box 293, New Denver, B.C. V0G 1S0. Application forms are available at: Village of New Denver, Village of Silverton, Lucerne School and My Aunt's Place. Please note that the appropriate application form must be used or the application will not be considered. The deadline to receive the application is November 12th, 2007.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO THE COMPTROLLER OF WATER RIGHTS UNDER THE WATER UTILITY ACT & UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT Notice is hereby given by Rosebery Highlands Water Company Ltd., that an application has been made to the Comptroller of Water Rights for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the proposed construction and operation of a waterworks distribution system to serve the residents of Rosebery B.C., D.L. 4874 except (1) Parcel A, & 2 parts Plans R131, 9676, NEP2086, NEP21124, NEP23566 & NEP75432.

Any person wishing further information in connection with this application should apply directly to: Rosebery Highlands Water Company Ltd., c/o George Bergevin, R.R.#1 Site 2 C-52, New Denver, B.C. VOG 1SO. Any objections to this application are to be forwarded to: The Comptroller of Water Rights, Water Utility Act, PO Box 9340 Stn. Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C., V8W 9M1, to be received by the Comptroller on or before Oct. 27, 2007. For Rosebery Highlands Water Company Ltd., by George Bergevin.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

UPCOMING KIDS PROGRAMS: Tot's Plus Playgroup-Oct.2nd; Tiny Talents Art Classes - Oct. 15th; Rhythmic Gymnastics - Oct. 3rd; Babysitter Training - Oct. 19th; Pro-D Day Artists - Oct. 19th.
UPCOMING ADULT WELL BEING: Hatha Yoga - Sept 27th; Pilates - Oct. 17th; Yoga For Young Women - Sept. 27th; Tai Chi - Oct. 2nd; Feldenkrais Back Talk - Oct. 20th.
ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS: Legs,Bums & Tums - Mondays at 3:30; Body Conditioning - Mon./Wed. at 6:30; Weight Training - Tuesdays at 6:30; Pilates Fusion - Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
INDOOR REC' PROGRAMS: Volleyball - Mon./Thurs. in Winlaw, Tues./Thurs. in Mt. Sentinel; Basketball - Tuesdays at Brent Kennedy School
UPCOMING ADULT PROGRAMS: Making Blender Soap - Oct. 13th; Elemental Artist - Oct. 14th; Pottery Level 1 - Oct. 10th; Figure Studies - Oct. 10th; Spanish For Travellers - Oct. 15th; Computers For Adults - Oct. 10th; Women's Drum Circle Oct. 20th

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Vallican Whole School unveils new pavilion mural

For the Whole School in Vallican, the beginning of this school year saw the unveiling of a beautiful new wall mural as an addition to the outdoor pavilion parents erected eight years ago.

This cooperative art project matched the talents of local artist Ron Mulvey with the creativity and vision of Whole School children to create an Impressionist style painting of the school's wilderness environment, highlighting Frog Peak. Mulvey guided the process, but it was the school children – from kindergarten age and up – who transformed their individual artistic visions of the landscape into a communal painting.

The Whole School would like to gratefully acknowledge funding from the Artists in Education residency grant from the ArtStarts Foundation. This fund contributed to Mr. Mulvey receiving an equitable wage and supplemented school funds spent on the project. The school would also like to acknowledge the heartfelt dedication of school parents Tara Harvey and Suzanne Nedham, who spearheaded the mural project, in keeping with the school's mutual passions for the arts and our environment.

This new school year includes the addition of two new teachers who share these passions. Lisa Backus joins the community from Victoria BC, having spent the past six years following her passion for teaching music and French. Kari Bergerson spent her last four years teaching fine arts, choir and theatre in an alternative school in Toronto, Ontario. They have joined with Shauna McKeating, the returning kinder/primary teacher who continues to share her love for alternative, child-centred learning. All three teachers have begun with great enthusiasm for the school's regulated small class sizes and focus on individual child development.

In addition, the outdoor component of the school program has grown, with new, highly trained parents taking on the integration of Wilderness Leadership Training in the classrooms and further development of experiential field trips appropriate to all age levels.

Upcoming events in the Whole School community will lead off with a Terry Fox National School Run Day in conjunction with a school penny drive fundraiser for cancer research on Friday, September 28. Anyone interested in participating should meet 10 am on the school grounds (3762 Little Slocan River Road). Bring your runners and your pennies.

You can also order your Thanksgiving turkey with the school's annual free range turkey fundraiser coming up Saturday, September 29. These free range turkeys are raised outdoors on a farm in Keremeos, BC, where they are fed an all vegetable feed with no hormones or antibiotics. Orders can be phoned in to the school.

For more information call Whole School Coordinator Rachel at 226-7737.

Vallican Whole School students pose after completing a new mural featuring the distinctive landscape of Frog Peak under the direction of artist Ron Mulvey.

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Thank you—

The Hills Recreation Society would like to extend a hardy and heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make the Hills Garlic Festival a success on September 9. In particular we would like to thank the following:

- the mayor, council, and people of the Village of New Denver, especially the residents of the Orchard, for welcoming the Garlic Festival into Centennial Park again
- co-ordinator Liza Ireland for organizing vendors, entertainment, and generally leading the way
- all the volunteers from Hills and elsewhere who cheerfully contributed their time and energy
- Centennial Park campground attendant Carl for his generous and supportive assistance throughout the weekend
- Lucerne Grad Class of 2008 for welcoming over 5500 people to the Festival and helping cheerfully with other tasks
- Katrina Sumrall and all the New Denver Early Learning Society Green Team volunteers for managing waste and recylables
- Kootenay Grass Company and Brisas del Palmar for fantastic music, Flydini the Magician for mystifying magic, Bubbles the Clown, and Marilyn James for Sinixt First Nation stories
- all the growers, craftspeople, entertainers, and vendors who brought their produce, wares, and talents to the Garlic Festival and who contributed to the Hills Rec Society raffle baskets
- the community at large for supporting the Garlic Festival as a fun event and a fundraiser for the Hills community.

Did you lose something at the Festival?
Email ekinsel@netidea.com to claim lost items.

Thank you one and all!!
See you next year!!

Langham plays host to Cat Jahnke concert

submitted

Cat Jahnke plays the Langham on Friday, October 12.

Jahnke is 2006 winner of Hollywood's 168 Hour Film Festival for Best Original Score for the film *Free Of Charge*. "With vocals as rich as triple-chocolate mousse, Jahnke presents a beautiful sound, and a beautiful look into her intricate life," says Martha Alphonso in Swerve Magazine. Cat is equally comfortable composing a biographical song for the next album or scoring a short film for a Hollywood director. She may be performing for a crowd sipping champagne or a mob tossing beer bottles. Cat can confidently bond a hopeful outlook with a gloomy muse. And the juxtaposition is proof of a flexible and fearless talent. Cat is worth a visit.

With two albums sitting tight in her pocket, accolades from a Hollywood film festival tucked beneath her cap and nothing less than a finalist ranking in two separate international songwriting competitions stowed up her sleeve, Cat Jahnke's capacity for musical evolution has been clear since day one, and her horizons have never looked brighter.

Mix of photography and clay at the Langham

submitted

"Pots in Their Natural Habitat," works by Kaslo artists Sarah Lawless and A. Kendrick Mauser, will show at the Langham through to October 28.

This exhibition features both digital photography and clay. Ambient macro digital photos, depicting minutiae of the natural world, serve as a backdrop for a series of ceramic pots – suggesting a harmony between domesticity and wilderness, tradition and modernity.

Grizzly bear found shot

by Jan McMurray

A grizzly bear was found shot right underneath the Mosquito Creek bridge on Stevens Road, across the Arrow Park ferry, on September 13.

Constable Brandon Buliziuk of the Nakusp RCMP detachment and a Conservation Officer out of Castlegar attended after RCMP received a call from a member of the public.

Buliziuk says their preliminary investigation suggests that the grizzly was eating redfish out of the creek when "someone came up on the bridge and decided for some reason that it would be fun to shoot a grizzly and used either a high powered rifle or a one-ounce slug and shot it and left it there." They estimate that the carcass had been there for about two or three days.

Buliziuk said this act of poaching was punishable under the Wildlife Act by a fine of up to $50,000 and six months in jail.

Anyone with any information is asked to call the Nakusp detachment at 265-3677 or CrimeStoppers (1-800-222-8477).

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OBITUARY

WHITE: Mary Alice – It is with sadness that the family of Mary White announce her death on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at the New Denver and Area Home Health Care, at the age of 83.

She is survived by her seven loving children Peter (Suzanne), Marilyn (Werner Mengler), Bob (Liz), Pat, Barbara (Sean Butler), Chris, and Diane (Harvey Shkuratoff) and her 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Mary also leaves behind her brothers Ross, Peter, Roy, sister Joan and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Tony and two grandchildren Andrea and Ethan.

A Graveside Service and Tea will take place at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Blaine Krist of Personal Alternative Funeral Services of Trail and Castlegar.

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