The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Mock accident an excellent training exercise for local emergency responders

by Jan McMurray

About 100 people participated in a mock disaster in Nakusp on September 30.

Susan Gustafson and Lisa Hulshof, organizers, were very pleased with the outcome of the training exercise. "They will be so much more efficient and lives will be saved in real life because of this," said Gustafson.

In the mock scenario, the accident was caused by a drunk driver, who crashed into a school bus on Hwy 6 just south of Nakusp on the way to Burton. The bus and car rolled down the embankment onto the Crescent Bay Construction property, beside Pope & Talbot. There were 19 casualties.

Emergency people participating in the exercise knew only that it would take place in the morning that day. The agencies involved were the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department, Search and Rescue, BC Ambulance Service, the RCMP, Emergency Social Services, and the Arrow Lakes Hospital. The mock incident gave emergency responders the opportunity to practise rope rescue and auto extrication (Jaws of Life).

"I think it's amazing that all these people gave up their Sunday for this," said Gustafson.

During the debriefing after the incident, communication was identified as the biggest problem. Cell phones did not work at the accident site or at the hospital. Also, there were problems with the radios because of the power outage that morning. People saw a need for some way to identify the leaders of each organization. Reg Gustafson, incident commander and fire department member, suggested that leaders get together twice a year to become familiar with one another. Terry Warren, Emergency Co-ordinator, suggested that each agency be given one radio that would be linked to incident command.

Brandon Buliziuk of the RCMP thought the emergency response was "well done for what we have. The scene was secured within 30 minutes and within three hours, it was a done deal. We are a small village and we have extremely limited resources to deal with a situation like this. With the number of volunteers we had, that scene was handled fine."

Jesper Nielsen played the part of the drunk driver who caused the accident in a mock multi-casualty incident, set up as a training exercise for local emergency responders.

Local effort to build slaughterhouse an exercise in frustration

by Jan McMurray

This past Thanksgiving in the West Kootenay was the first where it was illegal to buy your turkey from your neighbour. The provincial Meat Inspection Regulation came into effect province-wide on September 30. Under the regulation, animals must be inspected and slaughtered in licenced abattoirs before the meat is sold for human consumption.

"This law is making it exceedingly difficult for people to raise animals for a living and exceedingly difficult for consumers who want to buy their meat from people they trust rather than from corporate entities," commented MLA Corky Evans. Evans has been working with Slocan council "and wonderful people like Dave Anderson and Michael Mills" for more than a year to establish an abattoir in the Slocan area to serve the West Kootenay.

Slocan councillor John Gates reports that the government has set aside $150,000 in grant money to be released once the local facility is built. He says the Province has also verbally confirmed that a $10,000 planning grant has been approved for the Slocan project. The Village of Slocan is looking into purchasing a four-acre piece of property just south of the Fortis substation as a possible location for the slaughterhouse.

"The Village is trying to be supportive to the group of local farmers and animal raisers who are having their livelihood completely destroyed with the regulation," said Eunice Ludlow, Chief Administrative Officer at the Village of Slocan. "We're really trying to get something happening here, because what are these guys going to be left to do if they can't raise animals?"

However, Evans, Gates and Ludlow all expressed frustration with the process. "They keep changing the rules on us," complained Gates.

The latest hurdle is the disposal of the brain and spinal cord of cows, referred to as 'SRMs.' Under federal laws, SRMs must be disposed of in authorized facilities. The closest authorized facilities are in Alberta. Gates points out that this makes things cost prohibitive.

Evans says the government or business should have built legal facilities for SRM disposal around the province. "But they brought in the meat inspection regulation without the slightest idea of how to get rid of the SRMs without shipping it to Alberta."

Evans says, "I think it's a very poorly thought out piece of legislation and, even worse, the implementation is atrocious because the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health don't talk to each other and everyone has different rules, and then the federal government gets involved and that changes everything, so it's hard for the entrepreneur to invest money and not lose it as the rules change."

So, Evans says, to avoid engaging in "a boondoggle," the Slocan group will have a business plan done with the $10,000 planning grant before they put a shovel in the ground. The business plan will include, among other things, looking into legal ways of disposing of SRMs. "It's a big job but we're engaged in it because we don't want to make farmers into outlaws. We want them to have the legal right to sell to their neighbours," says Evans.

He also pointed out that the new law is overseen by the Ministry of Health, "so it is presumably a health initiative. However, civil servants acknowledge that nobody has ever been made sick by buying their neighbour's product."

He says he believes the law is really in response to Japan, the European Common market and the US demanding only regulated and inspected meat because of BSE (Mad Cow Disease). "So although this law was imposed by the Campbell government, it was really imposed upon them by federal trade negotiators," he said.

Evans said he had never heard of any local farmers' products making anyone sick in his 20 years of public life. "And most consumers think it's cleaner and purer than what's available through the grocery chain."

Ludlow has more to add to the health issue. "They want to force us all to eat meat that's been mass produced. What they should be looking at is their slaughtering processes and examining the band saw as the cause of spreading preons, which cause BSE. Band saws move everything near the spinal cord right through the animal. It would be much better if they went back to de-boning."

She says preons are destroyed only by incineration at a very high temperature, and the government should be putting money into incineration plants. "Any suggestion that SRMs can be containerized or stored temporarily is completely irresponsible in relation to the coming generations," she says.

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Conservation officers set trap for Grizzly bear in Nakusp

by Jan McMurray

A grizzly bear has been hanging around the Village of Nakusp since the end of September.

"It's a bad year for the bears. There's no berries up top, so they're making their way down into the villages," said Constable Brandon Buliziuk.

Resident Bill Cowan first sighted the bear, which he says is a 3-year-old male, in the wooded area behind his 10th Avenue residence. "He's getting around a bit – he was out in front of the Leland Hotel on Friday [October 5] night," he reported. Cowan also said the bear had wandered into the area of the community park and skatepark.

Conservation Officers came up from Castlegar on October 1 and set a trap just above the trail behind the residences on 10th Avenue.

"He's been around the trap but not into it," reported Cowan. "He's clever enough to stay out of it."

Cowan says the Village posted signs and closed off the trail behind 10th Avenue, but the school teachers moved the barricades out of the way for the Terry Fox run.

"The bush back there is thick so it would be easy to startle the bear," warned Cowan. "It's nice to have the trees, but they must be maintained so it's safe. And we must let people know not to go there right now."

Cowan speculates that officials are hoping the bear will disappear about mid October, when they generally start hibernation. "I wouldn't want to be an RCMP or Conservation Officer because no matter what they do, they lose. I have to give them credit – the RCMP was here right away, and the Conservation Officers were here as soon as they could manage."

Cowan says he figures the bear found its way into Nakusp as he was following the redfish down the Kuskanax. "When they finished, he started getting into fruit. He's found a smorgasbord of fruit in the area and he's not in any big hurry to leave right now."

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Open Fire Restrictions Lifted
in parts of the Southeast Fire Centre

Effective noon Friday, Sept. 28, 2007 and until further notice, Category 1, 2 and 3 open fires, burning barrels and fireworks are no longer prohibited and are permitted at all elevations throughout PORTIONS of the Southeast Fire Centre.

The restrictions are lifted for the Columbia, Kootenay Lake, Rocky Mountain and for the Arrow Fire Zone portion of the Arrow Boundary Forest District.

The ban on open burning of category 1, 2 and 3 materials remains in effect in the Boundary Fire Zone portion of the Arrow Forest District. The ban on the use of fireworks and burning barrels remains in effect in the Boundary Fire Zone portion of the Arrow/Boundary Forest District. The Boundary Fire Zone is bounded by the Okanagan Highland Range of the Monashee Mountains to the west, the Christina Range to the east and the Canada-U.S. border to the south. It encompasses most of the Kettle and Granby river valleys.

Open fire is defined in three categories. A Category 1 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than one metre high and one metre wide. This Category 1 open fire ban does not prohibit the use of campfires.

A Category 2 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than two metres high and three metres wide, or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.

A Category 3 open fire means an open fire that burns material in piles larger than two metres high and three metres wide, windrows, or grass over an larger than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.

Open burning is governed by the *Wildfire Act*, which applies to all lands outside of municipal boundaries and Regional Districts that have open fire bylaws. Please check with your local authorities before lighting a fire within municipal boundaries.

The Southeast Fire Centre encompasses the area extending from the U.S. border in the south to Mica Dam in the north and from the Okanagan Highlands or Monashee Mountains in the west to the B.C./Alberta border in the east. This includes all of the Arrow-Boundary, Kootenay Lake, Rocky Mountain and Columbia Forest Districts.

To report a wildfire or unattended campfire call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on most cellular networks. For more information on open fire restrictions or for updates on current wildfire activity, visit www.bcfireinfo.com

BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Heritage Officers come to Silverton

by Jan McMurray

Two Community Heritage Officers from the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts gave a presentation to about 20 people at the Memorial Hall in Silverton on October 1. The Heritage Branch has funding to help communities plan heritage conservation programs. There are four different types of plans that the branch can fund.

A 'community heritage context plan' explains the major factors that influenced a community's evolution, and would identify the community's 'historic places.' The officers explained that 'historic places' could be just about anything that the community valued and wanted preserved. There is no age requirement. In Maple Ridge, they pointed out, a row of maple trees have been designated an 'historic place' because of their association with the early settlement of pioneering families.

A 'strategic plan' is a five to seven year strategy that would plan, develop, implement and evaluate a community heritage program. An 'implementation plan' would give guidance on how to achieve selected priorities identified in the strategic plan.

Finally, a 'community heritage register' is a list of properties considered by the local government to have heritage value. Each historic place on the register would have a 'statement of significance' defining its heritage value. This is a way for local government to recognize its historic places. To protect them, the officers explained, they can be given a special designation.

A Silverton resident asked if a person's house could get designated and what the implications of that would be. The officers explained that local governments can designate houses without the permission of the property owner, but "that doesn't happen. Friendly designations are what we want. Councils are not going to create bad blood." They said local governments usually designated publicly owned buildings first and raised awareness throughout the community so that members got comfortable with the idea of a register.

Owners of designated houses would have to go to the local government for a special permit before altering the building, they said. "The statement of significance sets out guidelines about what the property owner can do. You can put on a brand new addition because it doesn't affect the heritage part. A good heritage plan will list everything that can be done."

Lynda Lafleur from the Columbia Basin Trust office in Nakusp also let people know that the Trust has funding through its Community Development program that could complement these provincial heritage programs. Also, $110,000 of CBT money has been set aside for projects related to Heritage Week, "but hopefully that will grow to $250,000 for next year," she said.

Sara Wearmouth performs classical compositions on flute at the Voices for Hospice concert held October 5 at the Silverton Memorial Hall .

Passport Clinics
Hosted by Alex Atamanenko, MP

Come and drop off your passport application with Passport Canada officials.

Princeton:	Tues., Oct. 9	Princeton Legion, 170 Bridge St.
Oliver:	Wed., Oct. 10	Oliver Legion, 36217 97th St.
Grand Forks:	Thurs., 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.

Passport Canada officials will answer questions about the application process, review passport applications, and accept completed applications for processing.

Benefits of the Passport Clinic:

20 working day processing time,
You get to keep your ID after showing it to Passport Canada officials.

Please come to the Passport Clinic with your completed Passport application form. These forms are available on Passport Canada's website or at any participating Canada Post outlets and Service Canada centres.

www.passportcanada.gc.ca

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

IPPs in BC part 3 – micro hydro carbon neutral but environmentally uncertain

A special report by Art Joyce

The BC government's 2007 Energy Plan gets high marks in many subjects. It pursues a policy of zero greenhouse gas emissions from all new power sources. "Clean or renewable electricity generation will continue to account for at least 90 per cent of total generation," with a sensible decision to avoid nuclear power. A $25 million Innovative Clean Energy Fund will be established based on a utilities surcharge to help in the development of clean energy technologies. Compared to the policies of just a few years ago in this province, this is a quantum leap in addressing climate change.

The Campbell government sees micro hydro, or 'run of river' electricity generating projects, as an integral part of their climate change initiatives. But while the image is being painted of small-scale micro hydro operators creating 'green' energy, many of the projects being considered by the government are hardly 'micro' in scale.

According to microhydropower.net, most countries define 'micro hydro' as projects that generate less than 100 kilowatts, or as much as 300 kW. In the US, the scale goes upward from there, with 'mini' hydro defined as from 100-1000 kW, and 'small' ranging between 1-30 megawatts. By this standard, almost none of what the BC government is calling 'micro' hydro fits the definition. Indeed, its 'standing offer' program expedites the application process for any IPP micro hydro project of up to 10 megawatts.

The Glacier/Howser project in the Lardeau Valley has a potential generating capacity of 125 megawatts. The other two projects proposed for our area are the Fosthall Creek project near Nakusp, which has an estimated capacity to produce 17.4 megawatts, and the Koch Creek project near Passmore, with an estimated capacity to produce 8.3 megawatts of power.

The larger the project, the larger its environmental impact is likely to be. The question of cumulative environmental impact becomes critical in an equation that could see up to 500 BC rivers and streams impacted by micro hydro projects. About 125 of the water licenses issued have been in the Kootenays. Watershed Watch Salmon Society points out that BC currently has no strategic planning process to manage cumulative impacts. "While run of the river projects can be environmentally sustainable," they concede, "their green status becomes questionable when entire landscapes are affected by multiple power lines, roads and water diversions." In June this year, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs called for a moratorium "on all private power facility development on rivers and streams until there is an assurance for transparent consultation on any private power agreement," citing concerns that cumulative environmental issues have not been addressed.

Independent Power Producers of BC (IPPBC) President Steve Davis points out that micro hydro projects are subject to an intense gauntlet of regulatory processes before they can generate their first kilowatt of electricity.

"We feel it's important to illuminate that run of the river projects require 50 permits, licenses, approvals and reviews from 13 different government agencies. If the 50 hoops and hurdles can't be met, the project dies."

But environmental groups say they have yet to hear of a single micro hydro project being turned down by government. Davis cites the Rainy River project, which has had to be abandoned by its proponent, Plutonic Power, due to concerns about the difficulty of mitigating impact on fish habitat.

The endangered bull trout is present in the Glacier and Howser Creek drainages. **B**iologist James Bergdahl, in his 1998 study of bull trout in southeastern BC, concluded that a scientifically sound approach would be to "entirely protect" its remaining habitat. Some research shows a 2-3% increase in water temperatures from micro hydro systems, which can use up to 80% of the available water from a creek at peak flow periods. Bergdahl warns that "any activity that results in significant modification of stream channel stability, substrate composition, instream or streamside cover, water temperature (etc.)…should be considered a threat." Glacier/Howser spokesman Neil Murphy counters that micro hydro producers are responsible to send monthly reports to the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on flow data for any impacted fish populations.

BC Hydro's website on micro hydro notes that it uses Environment Canada's EcoLogo guidelines for its 'green' standards. Watershed Watch Salmon Society says BC Hydro accepts some proposals as 'green' prior to completion of the environmental review. "Because … the audit happens after a project is already constructed, it is not particularly meaningful during the project approval phase." The society has available a useful summary of the convoluted process of inter-agency environmental reviews. Many consider the 'public comment' period held by the BC Environmental Assessment Office as little more than a public relations exercise, especially since the passage of Bill 30, which removed municipal or regional government authority for micro hydro project approvals.

NDP MLA Corky Evans says the issue of regulation by provincial and federal agencies is a moot point. "I don't care about the certifying agencies, or whether there's any inter-agency coordination. The idea of a 40 year lease is like saying, someday we might take this back, but in the meantime you have the right to change the ecosystem forever, and all the decisions are made by the private owner. We've abandoned all pretense of the public good."

Ultimately, where you come down on the issue of IPPs and micro hydro will probably depend on where your vested interests lie. Perhaps the last word should go to the late Colleen McCrory.

"Let's recognize that protecting the last remaining creek drainages for fisheries and wildlife and future generations, wild and free, is the most important legacy we can leave for our children."

MP Atamanenko hosts passport clinics across BC interior

submitted

Alex Atamanenko, Member of Parliament for BC Southern Interior, is hosting passport clinics across the riding to help his constituents get their passports.

"Any Canadian wishing to travel needs to get their passport," said Atamanenko. "Since the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative came into effect last January, making it mandatory to have a passport to travel to and from the United States by plane, Canadians have found it difficult to get a passport because of the huge backlog. Rural Canadians have found it especially difficult because they are hours away from the nearest Passport Canada office."

Atamanenko has been pushing the Minister responsible for passports to improve the access to passport services for rural Canadians. These clinics are a great first step. Passport Canada officials will be present at the clinics to answer questions about the application process, review passport applications, and accept completed applications for processing.

Passport Canada has indicated that the processing time for the applications submitted at these clinics will be 20 working days. In addition to the quick processing time, another benefit of these clinics is that the applicant can keep their identification after showing it to the Passport Canada officials.

"These passport clinics are a temporary fix to the growing passport problem. Although they will help many residents of the BC Southern Interior get their passport in a timely manner, I hope the clinics are a start to improving the Passport Canada services in this area permanently," concluded Atamanenko.

The passport clinics will be held from 9 am – 6 pm at the following locations: Tuesday, October 9, Princeton Legion, 170 Bridge Street, Princeton; Wednesday, October 10, Oliver Legion, 36217 97th Street, Oliver; Thursday, October 11, Senior's Centre (City Park), 565 71 Ave., Grand Forks; Friday, October 12, Trail Labour Centre, 910 Portland Ave., Trail; Saturday, October 13, Nelson United Church, 602 Silica Street, Nelson.

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

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
REPORT TO RESIDENTS 2007
The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) recently mailed a Report to Residents to all homes and businesses in the Columbia Basin.
The Report to Residents is an annual update that includes:
- information on upcoming events
- messages from the Chair of the Board and CEO
- a listing of Board and advisory committee members
- contact information for the Community Liaison in your area
- highlights on Delivery of Benefits projects and programs supported by CBT
- a map of the Columbia Basin region
- a listing of CBT programs and initiatives
- CBT investment and financial highlights
- other upcoming events and information

If you did not receive a copy of the Report to Residents and would like an update from CBT please call 1-800-505-8998 or email cbtnews@cbt.org. Be sure to fill out the feedback card in the Report to Residents for your chance to win a digital camera!
For more information on the Columbia Basin Trust or to sign up for **BasinLink**, our email newsletter, visit www.cbt.org or call 1-800-505-8998.
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Voices from the Valleys

(Hopefully) the last word on teapot signs

I have always been of the opinion that advertising belongs in the pages of privately-held publications, not cluttering up our public highways, or our public airwaves. Some will accuse me of arguing this topic from a vested interest. That's fine. I make a living by selling advertising. I would never criticize someone for choosing a different medium for getting their message across, though – that would be tacky.

I was expecting a vigorous debate when I accepted Richard Caniell's initial letter for publication on what I see as a legitimate public policy argument. Do we want signs for commercial enterprises cluttering up the views from our public highways? If so, do we want to put any restrictions on them?

I wasn't prepared for the specious arguments put forward on both sides of the question. What if everyone wanted to put up signs on the highway? Obviously, not everyone wants to do that. Richard's work with the Valhalla Wilderness Society, or his career as a landscape artist are irrelevant to this debate, as well.

Some folks on the other side of the debate have accused Richard of trying to hurt Kaitlin's business. Hmmm, it strikes me that there would be better ways to do that than to publish a letter in the most widely read publication in the Arrow Lakes, Slocan and North Kootenay Lake Valleys, drawing attention to the fact that there's a struggling young potter trying to make a go of it in Silverton.

Bonnie Greensword had a rule about ongoing debates in the pages of the *Valley Voice* – two issues, no more. I've always been more tolerant, having been caught on the losing end of this equation in the past. I'm putting my foot down on this one though. Kaitlin Murphy (bless her, she's a wonderful person and turns out lovely pottery) has received enough free advertising in this paper.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Cell-phone-free valley

What if we fast-forward 25 years and the Valley is one of the last populated places on earth that is free of cell phone transmissions. What are the health, social and economic benefits of that in 2032?

Isn't that how we should be thinking about this issue?

Bryce Duffy
Silverton

Bad experience in Kaslo restaurant

Re: Denise Fournier being "turned away" from a restaurant in Kaslo. She does not mention the name of the restaurant, but I can easily guess which one it was because I had a similar experience. I DID make a reservation...it was written on a chalkboard with my home phone number and name. This was done several days before the event. I reserved for 20 people for a Sunday afternoon. When the 20 people showed up, the manager almost asked us to leave because we had not specified a time we would be arriving! There were only four other people in the restaurant! If she needed to know the time she could easily have called and asked. This manager is unbelievably rude. It is my sincere hope she will not be managing this restaurant in the future.

Nancy Hansell
Kaslo

Supports 'Friends of Development'

Good on Roger Leroux and other 'Friends of Development'!! I applaud their recent pro development statement at Glacier Creek.

Over the last 10 to 15 years we have seen vast sections of BC excluded from development. Many large new parks have been set aside, including the huge Purcell Conservancy stretching from Jumbo Pass for over 50 km to the south. Still not content, 'Friends of No Development' continue to agitate against employment creating development. The protests range from vandalism and blockades to lighthearted "bearing."

Many of the protesters probably do not realize that they, like all of us, depend on resource development and commercial recreational activities. These enterprises and their employees pay the taxes that provide the benefits of our social system. The dependency is particularly strong for those of us that require more government services. It may come as surprise to some to realize that governments do not generate cash; they depend on taxes.

With a 44 year involvement in Kootenay mining exploration, I am encouraged to see that ordinary people, fed up with No Development, are being heard.

Don Graham
Kaslo

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*.

Glacier/Howser project is ruin of the river

In reference to the misunderstanding, as written in the *Valley Voice* (26-09-07) and the *Nelson Daily News* (24-09-07), by some locals as to AXOR's (Glacier/Howser Project) real intentions. Heads Up!

AXOR's contract allows them to take 14 cubic metres of water per minute from Glacier Creek. Look at the amount of water there now. Legally they would take it all. This is not RUN-OF-THE-RIVER. This is ruin of the river. They take it all, never to be returned to the river! How can you have a public forum when the public meetings are by written invitation only, as was the case of the last meeting? It's obvious that they are attempting to create an outcome which will be to their benefit.

Question AXOR fans: is AXOR obliged to contribute to the Columbia Basin Compensation Program which benefits this valley a lot? The Duncan Dam doesn't produce power. The land under the reservoir is 7,000 acres of prime fishing, hunting and farming land. People chained themselves to their homes as BC Hydro flooded the Duncan Valley in the early 1960s.

I could never support AXOR's plan even if the Duncan Dam produced power, because right now our hydro rates are 0.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. If the proposed Independent Power Producers, AXOR and all others, go through, our rates are already set to rise to 7.4 – 8.7 cents per Kilowatt-hour.

P.S. Nelsonites, check your mountaintops. They have been leased for wind power.

Robert Lang
Argenta

Let's get together in the Lardeau

Although I'm still pretty new to the Lardeau Valley, I thought I'd take the opportunity to add my two- cents worth regarding all the recent blockades at Glacier Creek.

How about the Friends of Development get together with the Friends of the Environment and have a rally? Everyone could grab a beer, take off all their clothes, hop on their ATVs, and head up to Monica Meadows. When we get there we could build a nice warm fire, and then have a friendly community dialogue about whether the IPP is a good idea or not.

Should a private company be permitted to use our public resource, potentially making millions of dollars, while at the same time forever altering our beautiful back yard?

If the community decides that the power truly is needed, and that damming Glacier Creek is the best way to generate it, wouldn't it be better for us to receive the profit? Maybe we could use the money to upgrade Highway 31 north of Kaslo, or for some other local benefit.

Or, perhaps we'd decide as a group there is a better way to produce power. We could conserve more, use solar or wind-generated power, or maybe even use the Duncan Dam. The important thing is that the decision-making ought to be kept in the hands of the locals.

I think it's sad to see 'neighbour wars' going on over this issue. It seems to me that a community divided against itself cannot stand, for Glacier Creek – or much else for that matter. Let's get together!

Caroline McConnel
Meadow Creek

Gordon Campbell – magician

Let me get this straight.

First Gordon Campbell becomes the darling of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD, by going for a drunken joyride in Hawaii.

Then he becomes the champion of social conscience by endowing a $50 a month raise upon persons on provincial disability, a raise the previous government had already legislated, and the Campbell government had repealed when it first came to office, for a group of people the Campbell government had earlier tried to strip of their benefits with his now forgotten 24-page review.

Now, just last week, Mr. Campbell became the champion of the environmental movement by producing a plan for the Port Mann Bridge, which will allow tens of thousands more cars to cross the Fraser River everyday!

I'm left with one conclusion after all this. Either Gordon Campbell is the reincarnation of Merlin the Magician, or we, the electorate and the media, are as gullible, stupid, and forgetful as he actually believes we are!

Will Webster
Kaslo

Put Vass back on committees

You know those winter mornings when you wake up to six inches of snow? They seem mostly to happen when you've got something important to do or a massive hangover! The ones where you get out there with your shovel and your philosophy and then by noon you have to do it again and then by nine (pm) it's the third or fourth time? Those ones!

Well that's the way the bullshit blizzard has been, around Kaslo, for quite a while now. You quite literally don't know where to turn or start or what to do about it.

I'm going to start with the mayor and council's treatment of Pete Vass. Pete is one of the few people I know that whenever I talk to him I always get plain talk. I know that what Pete did to piss off the mayor was impolitic and downright politically incorrect. It may even have been scandalous or just plain wrong or mean-spirited. But Pete admitted (publicly) he was in the wrong and he apologized. What more can you ask of a man? He did not commit a crime. To make mistakes or be wrong is human, nothing more or less.

Compare that to the mayor's behaviour, on more than one occasion. "I never opposed the skate park" quoth he. Or from his election campaign, words to the effect that "Oh no, the Community Forest is doing well, I may review the appointment but I don't have any plans to replace the current appointee."

I sat on the CF board with someone who, on several occasions, intentionally undermined the board, stabbed fellow directors in the back (figuratively), divulged in camera proceedings and then lied about it until it was dragged out of him, kicking and screaming and that turkey got to be some kind of cult hero to the likes of the mayor.

No, folks, give me a man that is enough of a man to say when he's wrong and apologize over someone who simply denies what he did, for that is no man at all but a politician.

And so Mr. Mayor put Pete back on his committees, you're not punishing him but depriving the Village of representation.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo

Encourages dialogue on IPPs in Lardeau Valley

Re: *Valley Voice* story "Friends of Development," Sept. 26/07

As one of the citizens involved in the assembly on Glacier Creek that is concerned with the ecological, economic and democratic implications of the proposed dams and transmission lines on Glacier/Howser, I felt it important to respond to the valid concerns raised by Mr. Leroux and the citizens of North Kootenai Lake that prevented the West Kootenai folk from joining the Jumbo Pass protest hike.

Our assembly is not trying to take jobs from Mr. Leroux's grandchildren; we believe that in the near future wilderness adventure tourism and other economic activities related to ecological well-being will in fact create many more local jobs. The dams and the political maneuvering by the BC provincial government to quickly privatize BC's free running waterways are not in the best interest of our commons.

We invite Mr. Leroux and his friends to discuss these very important issues, and encourage our local MLA / MP and regional representative to facilitate this dialogue. There is a long history of ideological differences in the north end of Kootenai Lake that becomes more acute as natural resources are depleted and costs of extraction rise.

Mr. Leroux and company conducted a civil, peaceful demonstration to bring forward their concerns – power to them, that is their constituted right. The important thing to keep in mind is we all deserve that same right to assemble peacefully/civilly and not be threatened with acts of violence.

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Voices from the Valleys

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Our assembly is not preventing people from hiking, biking or horseback riding into the Glacier Valley. We are preventing vehicle access for a number of reasons: primarily to create community dialogue around the destructive political/ecological direction that the "Independent Power Project" (IPP) and Bill 30 which effectively prevents local governments from zoning against them no matter what number of local citizens oppose.

As well, we hope to bring awareness to the damage caused by increasing recreational vehicle traffic in the Glacier Creek Valley. We are NOT opposed to the guy with an ATV out to hunt. We understand that most hunters are responsible citizens out to put some healthy meat on the family table. However, Glacier Creek has become an ATV race track for some and game species have been mostly pushed out. The steady stream of well-meaning folk out to hike the Jumbo or Monica Meadows is also seriously disturbing wildlife. No agency monitors the accumulative effects of this increased vehicle traffic.

Our assembly has been chastised by some "Jumbo Wild" folk and Mr. Leroux's group; we apologize to the folks that wanted to hike the Jumbo but could not because of the blockade Mr. Leroux organized against us. It may turn out to be better press for keeping Jumbo "Wild" than the actual hike itself. In the meantime I encourage both factions to educate themselves on the ramifications of privatizing our waterways. See "YouTube" video "Howser in Peril."

Tom Prior
Nelson

Open letter to Health Canada

Re: installation of a cell phone antenna in the Village of New Denver

The following quote comes from a report from the BioInitiative Working Group, University of Albany, NY, September 12, 2007.

Brain tumour specialist Dr. Lennart Hardell, MD, PhD and Professor at University Hospital in Orebro, Sweden, is a member of the BioInitiative Working Group. His work on cell phones, cordless phones and brain tumours is widely recognized to be pivotal in the debate about the safety of wireless radiofrequency and microwave radiation.

"The evidence for risks from prolonged cell phone and cordless phone use is quite strong when you look at people who have used these devices for 10 years or longer, and when they are used mainly on one side of the head. Brain tumours normally take a long time to develop, on the order of 15 to 20 years. Use of a cell or cordless phone is linked to brain tumours and acoustic neuromas (tumours of the auditory nerve in the brain), which begin showing up after only 10 years (a shorter time period than for most other known carcinogens). This indicates we need research on more long-term users to understand the full risks," says Dr. Hardell.

Dr. Hardell's work has been confirmed in other studies on long-term users. A summary estimate of all studies on brain tumours shows overall a 20% increased risk of brain tumour (malignant glioma) with ten years of use. But the risk increases to 200% (a doubling of risk) for tumours on the same side of the brain as mainly used during cell phone calls. "Recent studies that do not report increased risk of brain tumours and acoustic neuromas have not looked at heavy users, use over ten years or longer, and do not look at the part of the brain which would reasonably have exposure to produce a tumour.'"

The BioInitiative Report is available at www.bioinitiative.org

I have read Mr. Gajda's letter of September 28 to the Valhalla Society here in New Denver and learned from it that the Health Canada position is to dismiss the credibility of the above mentioned report from the University of Albany.

Since my step-daughter developed a tumour on the side of the head where she used her mobile phone, you must appreciate that this matter of tumors alleged to be caused by microwave radiation is of particular interest to me. I have a son who uses a mobile phone and two young children who in time will be of the age when they must decide for themselves how to relate to this technology. I have to know how to advise them.

I presume that you have reviewed the research that has lead to the conclusions given in the above-mentioned report. Could you provide me with your interpretation of this research and your statistical calculations that invalidate the conclusions of the authors of this research?

Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

Signs don't belong in our scenery

I would like to answer a number of comments made in response to my letter of concern about businesses using our roadsides and scenery for their commercial signs. One arose when I was asked by telephone, what my "motivation was in interfering with the pottery shop owner's business?" I replied that I thought my letter made that clear. Not to this caller.

Afterwards, I thought about that and recognized that there is an unstated background that is quite simple. Since my arrival 40 years ago, I have been very involved in actions that sought to protect and preserve our way of life and the beautiful scenery in which it takes place. It was not only my work for the park and my landscape paintings. Coming from the city, I found in this valley a mixture of rural life and wilderness that inspired me towards some ideal of humans living in harmony with nature.

My sense of this ideal was at work in 1978 when I was a lookout man at Mount Idaho, and later a Fire Protection officer in the bush when it was closed due to fires. During the struggle for Valhalla Park, I brought together a multi-media presentation about Valhalla Park that really was about the ideal of people living amidst nature. It especially expressed my deep feelings about how people in this valley had preserved, to a considerable extent, the 'old ways' of a life close to the Earth.

Some of the feelings I gained from living amidst the naturalness of this valley were expressed in a book entitled *What the Road Passes By* that contained photographs from this valley. I also put together a photo book about high school kids in New Denver. I believed that the naturalness of our lifestyles here, which was especially an absence of the artificialities of commercialism that dominate city life, had produced a wholesomeness in our children that I had not seen in many a year living in the city. It is out of this background that I sought to speak to the pottery shop owner and write my letter of concern.

In the last *Valley Voice*, the pottery shop owner said that her seven signs are on private property. I believe she is incorrect, notwithstanding what these property owners may believe. The highway right-of-way, varying most often between 60 and 150 feet from the center line, extends beyond the roadside into the bush and often up private driveways. Not one of her signs appear outside this right-of-way so far as I can determine. The actual question, since the roadsides are being used, is broader than that. I believed the art community, so-called, would try to enhance our life, protect what is beautiful, not use nature or trees as a canvas across which their commercials are scrawled. The whole planet is being exploited by business believing it is their right to do it.

There has been a proliferation of highway signs, with more coming, and it's led by the precise sentiment the pottery owner stated to me – it made money for her. The assessment that they are pretty or colourful or most are small has no relevance. Shall we make a separate class of allowable signs for pottery? Shall we tell other advertisers it's OK to use our scenery as long as their signs are round, colourful and shaped like a teapot?

As for the claim that I berated Kaitlan as a 'sell-out' and 'greedy capitalist,' such words were never uttered by me nor inferred. I did point out to Kaitlan the contradiction when she said she hated highway signs but would not remove hers. Her mother's words may reflect what Kaitlan felt inside, but it is not at all what I said.

Lastly, where I come from in all this is as simple as a conversation I had with old Mrs. Nelson when I went to live on their farm in September 1967. I recall it as if it were yesterday, her white hair glowing in the lovely dusk. She said, "You can't go down the road here, Richard, but that you'll see something important." That's just what I felt then and I still feel now.

Richard Caniell
New Denver

For the record

The Nakusp Roots Music Society would like to take this opportunity to inform the readers in detail about the efforts our society has made since October 2006 to inform the Nakusp general public and their municipal representation about the Nakusp Community Park project.

Here is a chronology.

1) November 23, 2006 – A first presentation of the project was made to council. A 13-page project description was handed to all councillors and staff. Approval in principle by council.

2) January 2007 – A second (updated) project presentation was made to council. Again, a 13-page project description with illustrations and costing details was handed to all councillors.

3) January 18, 2007 – NRMS letter sent to Village concerning two funding opportunities.

4) February 13, 2007 – A model was built to scale 1:250 and presented to council. Approval in principle was granted subject to public support. Motion: Dahlen/Heppner.

5) February 28, 2007 – *Valley Voice* article: 'Music Festival calls for input on park proposal.' Council advised staff to prepare a questionnaire to gauge public support for the park proposal.

6) March 8, 2007 – NRMS invited the public to a PowerPoint presentation and showing of our model. Besides the presentation we asked the public to participate in a Q&A period concerning the park proposal. About 125 people attended.

7) March 13, 2007 – Council discussed changes to the questionnaire. Councillor Dahlen's motion to not send the revised questionnaire died for lack of a seconder. Questionnaire moved: Heppner/Hamling.

8) March 15, 2007 – Village mailed out questionnaire to all VOG 1R0 residents.

9) April 3, 2007 – Environmental Impact Study requested by HRDC-Service Canada.

10) April 11, 2007 – Village survey was reviewed by Village staff and council. Depending on the question asked, between 73% and 77% were in favour of the project. NRMS requested again council's approval for the park project before committing to the expense of an Environmental Study as requested by Service Canada. Council made a motion to approve the complete construction of 20 RV sites in phase 1. Motion: Heppner/Dahlen.

11) April 17, 2007 – Environmental Impact Study completed by True North and submitted by NRMS to HRDC-Service Canada as requested for JCP (Job Creation Project) approval.

12) April 23, 2007 – Village representative appointed. Council made motion to appoint Jason Chernoff as the Village representative on the design team. Motion: Dahlen/Heppner. Motion of April 11 which approved the construction of 20 RV sites was confirmed. Motion: Heppner/Dahlen. NRMS added that infrastructure for all sites need to be installed at the same time.

13) May 6, 2007 – Community Initiative Funding in the amount of $20,000 was awarded to the park project by public vote.

14) May 17, 2007 – First meeting with Design Team including Jason Chernoff for Village (7 members in attendance).

15) May 22, 2007 – Village appoints Councillor Heppner and Mayor Hamling as alternates for park project for meetings Jason Chernoff could not attend.

16.) June 10, 2007 – Updated 13-page project description presented to the Village and all councillors.

17) June 10, 2007 - HRDC-Service Canada approved JCP application and advised of the positive report concerning the Environmental Impact study.

18) June 14, 2007 – Landscape Architect Eric Clough selected as the successful bidder on the park project.

19) June 14 &15 – Gene Nagy did on-site land surveying.

20) June 18, 2007 – Start-up of JCP project. Six workers, fully funded by Service Canada until November 30, 2007.

21) June 26, 2007 – Council made motion to provide letter of approval in principle to support NRMS application to CBT funding re. band shell. Motion: Dahlen/Heppner.

22.) July 3, 2007 – Village letter re. band shell support was received.

23) July 7, 2007 – Gene Nagy completed initial land survey.

24) July 29, 2007 – Siegy Hepperly surveyed road layout of RV park.

25) July 30, 2007 – Second meeting with Design Team including Len Heppner.

26) August 14, 2007 – Meeting with 10th Ave. residents was held at the Nakusp Senior's Hall. Eric Clough, our landscape architect was on site and explained his plans and answered many questions and concerns. Although council was invited, Mayor Hamling was the only participant for the Village. Based on the residents' recommendations and concerns, Eric Clough revised his plans which were later distributed to 10th Ave. residents for review.

27) August 23, 2007— NRMS asked for council's approval to clear trees off the road and install services. Motion delayed, pending more input by other stakeholders. Motion: Dahlen/Heppner.

28) August 24, 2007 – A letter by Lynda Lafleur, our CBT community liaison, was written to NRMS in which she stated: "The stage is proposed to be built on land owned by the Village. As a result, we could not process the application without knowing that the Village supported the proposal."

29) August 28, 2007 – NRMS asked council again to approve the clearing of the road and install services. Councillor Dahlen walked out and advised the rest of council that they no longer have a quorum for a motion.

30) August 31, 2007 – First meeting with Slo-pitch representatives. All issues were discussed and a second meeting was scheduled for Sept. 2 on the grounds.

31) September 2, 2007 – NRMS met with Slo-pitch on the grounds. We quickly resolved all remaining issues and scheduled a meeting on September 4 with the understanding that the two presidents would sign a declaration which then would be handed to council for their Sept. 4 meeting. Same day Rod Morrison and Gene Nagy of Nakusp Soccer joined the meeting on site. We discussed a long-term maintenance program for the fields.

32) September 4, 2007 – Third meeting between Slo-pitch and NRMS. Both presidents signed a declaration in which they confirmed that all issues were resolved. Letter was submitted for council meeting the next day.

Rod Morrison from Soccer joined and we continued our discussion concerning a field maintenance program which would benefit all three users. We agreed to prepare a mutually acceptable maintenance proposal before presenting it to the Village.

33) September 5, 2007 – By council motion: Dahlen/Heppner, Village staff was asked to prepare a list of questions and present to NRMS for answers. Council deferred NRMS's third request to approve the tree clearance for road construction in the park.

34) September 6, 2007 – Willi Jahnke met with Village CAO Bob Lafleur and answered the 8 questions Councillor Dahlen had submitted. Jahnke pointed out that all answers had been given before on several occasions verbally and in print. At that time the Village representatives were advised that submitting the answers back to council may become a moot point as NRMS had scheduled an extraordinary meeting for the same evening during which the society discussed their further involvement in the project.

35) September 7, 2007 – The Village was advised by email of NRMS's decision to withdraw from the park project.

NRMS has tried its best over a long period of time but it became clear that we would not be successful in getting council's support, which would have allowed us to proceed and complete the park project. The society feels that we have done everything required of us. The fact that council continued delaying a decision which would have moved the project forward already resulted in schedule delays which would have not allowed us to complete phase 1 as scheduled by November 30, 2007.

We answered over and over the same questions, we met with all stakeholders and came to satisfactory compromises with all. The solutions we provided to all issues did not seem to matter. Instead, we expected that more obstacles would be placed in our way.

The society's decision to cancel the project did not come easily. The loss of the park project is most unfortunate for the Village and Nakusp Music Fest and our supporters.

Nakusp Roots Music Society

Trout Lake residents want changes to Official Community Plan

by Jan McMurray

About 50 people came out to an Official Community Plan (OCP) meeting in Trout Lake on October 3. Although Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) representatives indicated that this would be the last round of community meetings in the process, by the end of the meeting they had promised to come back for one more.

It became obvious that the document was confusing to many people, and a resolution from Trout Lake property owners was presented that resolved "that we reject all portions of the plan which reference the Trout Lake townsite" unless the six concerns listed were addressed.

Keith Thomas read out the resolution, prefacing it with: "We are not happy about what is in that plan. The submissions of the Trout Lake committee have been ignored; smaller lots were asked for..."

A lot of people expressed the sentiment of the first concern in the resolution – that the grandfathering of existing development be clarified in the document. "The plan does not address, in any way, the status of the existing townsite properties, which will literally all become non conforming under the new plan guidelines," states the resolution.

The plan sets minimum lot sizes at 2,000 square metres (0.2 ha or a half acre) in the Trout Lake townsite. This, it has been explained, satisfies the Interior Health Authority's (IHA) septic regulations. The Trout Lake resolution suggests the minimum lot size be 100' x 110', claiming that this was adequate to meet the septic standards. CSRD Director Loni Parker questioned this, indicating it was not what IHA had informed her.

Director Parker, Jane Mastin of True Consulting and author of the document, and CSRD staff members explained that the grandfathering of existing properties was a given and would be in the zoning bylaw. Still, Mastin agreed to include a statement in the OCP such as was proposed in the resolution, i.e.: "All existing privately owned properties and developments within the townsite are designated as 'existing legal non conforming.'"

For the Arrow Lakes (Galena Bay, Beaton, Shelter Bay, Halcyon North, Arrowhead), minimum parcel sizes are 4 hectares (almost 10 acres) except along the lakeshore, where they are 1 hectare (about 2.5 acres). Some Galena Bay residents objected to these sizes, saying they had been planning to subdivide their properties into smaller than 10-acre lots for their children. Or they had been planning to subdivide their 2-3 acre lakeshore lots into smaller parcels, but would be designated a "cluster development" under this OCP and would have to build a community water system.

CSRD staff assured that the OCP was not "set in concrete" and could be amended. Development Variance Permits, allowing for an exception to the OCP or zoning bylaw, are possible through an application process, they pointed out. The benefit of the OCP, they explained, was that "neighbours get a say" because there is a public process.

Mastin explained that the OCP was a broad document, outlining general guidelines, that does not pretend "to deal with every little situation. We are not saying no – we are setting up a process." She admitted that studies would be required and there would be costs. "Right now, you can deal with it minimally. This will make it more complicated. But it will also deal with situations like Pope & Talbot." (A resident had just pointed out that P&T was "about to sell off the only decent land in Galena Bay.")

Another asked what would happen if someone had only two lots and a house, and the house burned down. CSRD staff said they would definitely be able to re-build, as the minimum lot size issue is taken care of through grandfathering, but other new regulations such as setbacks would apply and "you might have to move your footprint." On the other hand, you could apply to amend the OCP or zoning bylaws "to suit what you want."

CSRD Manager of Development Services, Jay Simons, explained, "We're trying to set the stage so property owners have an opportunity to have a say because you don't right now. We're not trying to cram this down your throat." He said Shuswap rejected planning years ago, but now are asking CSRD to "do something and do it quickly." Director Parker added, "Everything we want to do to make your lives better we have to do under the OCP or they won't get done. I think this is the start of something good for this community."

Trout Lake residents also had issues with the references to a flood plain and to the town's water system.

The plan states: "The Regional District does not support new subdivisions creating new lots at the elevation of the existing townsite due to concerns about flooding."

While introducing the people's resolution, Keith Thomas said, "The whole townsite is on a floodplain in this plan, and there is no evidence it has ever flooded." He said if flooding was a problem, the OCP should address remedial action to prevent it. The written resolution points out that remedial actions are currently underway at the outflow of the lake. "Uncertainties with the OCP are preventing people from buying here already," he added.

The resolution calls for all references to a 'flood plain' and 'areas prone to flooding' to be removed "until all remedial actions have been undertaken and final high water lines officially established."

Mastin informed that flood plain references cannot be removed, as this was documented in maps put out by the Province. "The Ministry of Environment has frozen development on the whole alluvial fan. This is a public safety concern that we can't ignore," she said. However, she said she could re-work it to say something like: "Flooding has happened; remediation has taken place; CSRD will encourage research on flood plain setbacks."

On the Trout Lake water system, all are in agreement with the need for upgrades. However, the resolution demands that the CSRD come up with a "definitive proposal" for the acquisition of the system, outlining the "economic consequences to the ratepayers for infrastructure and future maintenance costs."

Parker responded by saying she had been working with Trout Lake on the water system for the 14 years she had been their elected representative, "and it has been very difficult." She said there is an "impasse" between the community and the CSRD, because "you still want to be your own improvement district." She said the CSRD was eligible for funding that the improvement district is not eligible for. "You can keep it and be on the hook for the capital costs, or you can see if we can take it over and you operate it as a society or whatever." She said if the CSRD took it over, the capital costs would be paid for through grant funding and the operation and maintenance costs would be paid for through taxation. "There will probably be a solution in the next year," she said.

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Silverton council debates moving or removing recycling bins

by Art Joyce

•Ty and Cynthia Capelle sent a letter again requesting that council consider moving the recycling bins. The request was submitted with a petition signed by a small number of Silverton residents in support.

CAO Ida said that if the bins were to be moved again, it would likely be out of town. West Waste Management has said it's rare for a community to have its own bins so close to another recycling dropoff (New Denver).

"I see this as an unfortunate case of NIMBY syndrome," said Mayor Everett. "The bins have worked better where they are now than they ever have." He noted that when the bins were out of sight there were problems with people leaving behind garbage, which was the reason for moving them in the first place. Public works has begun landscaping around the bins with trees and bark mulch to improve the esthetics.

Councillor Wiseman proposed a motion that council look into removal of the bins, which was passed.

•The Kootenay Columbia Seniors' Housing Co-operative submitted a letter notifying council that it is beginning construction of Grandview Heights, a seniors' housing project in south Castlegar. It noted "there is a shortage of affordable seniors' housing in our area at all levels of care," and asked for a letter of support for more seniors' housing. Council voted to send a letter of support.

•A letter was received from the Slocan Lake RCMP detachment thanking the fire department for its efforts during the Springer Creek fire.

•A letter from Correctional Service Canada requested that council proclaim November 18-25 Restorative Justice Week as part of an international initiative. Council voted to make the proclamation.

•Public works has requested that council consider selling its current Ford tractor and purchase a new John Deere unit with front-mounted blade, rotary broom, and mower attachments, at a total cost of $42,640.71 plus taxes. The rationale for the purchase is that the public has asked that sidewalks be cleared in winter and the existing tractor is too large. The request was tabled pending a budget review at the suggestion of Councillor Provan.

•A quote was received from Ennis Fence of Castlegar for fencing to protect the Village pump station and generator ('genset'), estimating the cost at $9,209.30. Chief Financial Officer Elaine Rogers has recommended covering this cost from gas tax revenues, an allowable use of these funds. Councillor Wiseman questioned how much was in the fund. Mayor Everett said its current balance was about $36,000. Councillor Provan wanted to see a second estimate. The mayor argued that this is a priority issue – the Village has invested $30,000 in the genset and needs to protect its investment from vandalism. In addition, there is a potential public health hazard from moving parts and the 600-volt capacity of the generator. It was moved and seconded that the purchase proceed, but the motion was defeated. Councillor Wiseman said the mayor could bring back the motion for reconsideration within 30 days. A motion was passed to table the purchase pending a budget review.

•Mayor Everett proposed a motion that council present the Hand and Soul Healing Centre with a certificate of appreciation at its grand opening October 13 for the Zaleskis' efforts restoring the building after the fire. Much discussion ensued. Councillors felt that since other buildings such as Horsefeathers and Silverton Building Supplies weren't similarly recognized, the new Phoenix block shouldn't be singled out for commendation.

School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) welcomes six new teachers this year. L to R: Erika Momeyer (Edgewood Elementary School K-3), Susan Lindsay (Burton and Edgewood Elementary Schools - Learning Assistance), Patty Stensrud (Nakusp Secondary School - Home Economics), Marsha Roberts (Nakusp Elementary School - Kindergarten), Tessa Holden (NSS - Art, Drama, Dance, English) and Scott Kipke (Lucerne Elementary/Secondary School - Facilitated Learning Centre, PE, Science, Math, Infotech).

Hand and Soul celebrates Grand Opening of re-built building

The Phoenix has risen at 202 Lake Ave. in Silverton.

Sue Mistretta and Larry Zaleski have successfully resurrected the burnt remains from the 2004 fire. Once upon a time this building was a gas station, followed by Jose's woodworking shop and gallery. Now it is the home of the Hand & Soul Healing Centre, a two-bedroom apartment, a studio/loft retreat space and commercial storefront or retail shop rental.

All are invited to the Grand Opening on Saturday, October 13. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 11 am. An open house for the Hand & Soul Healing Centre happens from 10 am to noon – visit, tour and enjoy refreshments. The Healing & Wellness afternoon is from noon to 5 pm. Simply make one donation and enjoy mini-sessions and lectures from various practitioners.

"Our intention is to offer people alternative approaches for their health issues and healing concerns," says Mistretta. "We serve our clients by assisting them in removing obstacles and interferences to experiencing health and well-being. We also support people in making healthy life-enhancing choices and in taking greater responsibility for their own health and well-being."

Dr. Larry Zaleski is a Licensed Chiropractor and he offers chiropractic adjustments and educational lectures on health and healing. Sue Mistretta, M.A. Canadian Certified Counsellor, offers counselling sessions as well as facilitates healing and self-awareness processes using tools from Transpersonal Psychology, Bonny Method of Guided Imagery & Music (GIM) and Expressive Arts. Other practitioners and workshop facilitators work through the centre providing services such as massage therapy (traditional, chair, hot stone, and aromatherapy), Cranial sacral therapy, Reiki energy sessions, Pre-Perinatal Psychology, Hellinger-Family Constellations, Chanting, Astrology, Esoteric energy practices such as Munkay Ki and more.

For more information call 358-2177.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN & ZONING BYLAW

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 890 of the Local Government Act, a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Knox Hall, 521 6th Avenue, New Denver, B.C. to receive representation regarding "Village of New Denver Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 611, 2007" and "Village of New Denver Zoning Bylaw No. 612, 2007."

The bylaws having been given two readings by Council, shall be presented to the public and those persons who believe that their interest in property is affected by the proposed bylaws shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard or to present written submissions respecting matters contained in the bylaws that are the subject of the Public Hearing.

Copies of the aforementioned bylaws may be inspected at:

Village of New Denver, Municipal Office, New Denver, BC between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, except Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, from the 10th day of October, 2007.

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Electoral Area H – Slocan Valley North
Land Use Survey Results
PUBLIC MEETING

The Regional District of Central Kootenay initiated an Official Community Plan process beginning in the fall of 2006 for Electoral Area H – Slocan Valley North. In the summer of 2007, a land use survey was distributed to residents for their response. The results of the survey have now been compiled for public inspection and comment. Copies of the survey results can be viewed at the following locations: The Apple Tree, Ann's Natural Foods, Nuru, Mountain Berry, Gaze & Chat and the New Denver and Silverton Village offices. Copies can also be obtained at the RDCK website: www.rdck.bc.ca

OPEN HOUSE: 6:30 PM.
MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

Date	Location
October 25, 2007	Lucerne School Gymnasium 604 - 7th Avenue, New Denver

All residents and property owners are invited to attend

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Meeri Durand, Planner
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
phone: 250-352-8162 or 1-800-268-7325
fax: 250-352-9300 email: mdurand@rdck.bc.ca

Don Munro, RDCK Director, Area H – The Slocan Valley
Phone: 250-226-7090 Fax: 250-226-7076

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

2008 PERMISSIVE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Section 224 of the Community Charter allows Council to exempt from taxation property:

(f) in relation to property that is exempt under section 220(1)(h) [buildings for public worship],

(i) an area of land surrounding the exempt building

The following properties are proposed for exemption:

1. That portion of Lot 6, Block 14, Plan 9501, District Lot 542, Kootenay District (Turner Memorial United Church) commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 6, Block 14, thence north fifty feet, thence east thirty feet, thence south fifty feet, thence west thirty feet to the point of commencement;

2. Lots 7 & 8, Block 35, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay Land District (St. Anthony's Catholic Church);

3. That portion of Lot 23, Block 45, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District & (1) Lot 26 (2) Pcl A (KM82543) (St. Stephen's Anglican Church), commencing at the southwest corner of Lot 26, Block 45, thence north fifty-five feet, thence east one hundred feet, thence south fifty-five feet to the southeast corner of Lot 23, Block 45, thence west one hundred feet to the point of commencement;

4. Lots 1-3, Block 48, Plan 557, District Lot 549, Kootenay District (Pentecostal Church);

For the year 2008

Carol Gordon, CMC
Administrator

Cannes Film Festival award winner *Ten Canoes* screened by FLIKS

submitted

FLIKS brings the Cannes Film Festival Special Jury Prize winner *Ten Canoes* to the Vallican Whole Friday, October 12, 7:30 pm and to Nakusp's Bonnington Arts Centre on Monday, October 29, 7 pm. The first feature film to be shot entirely in the Aboriginal language – with the humour of *The Gods Must Be Crazy* plus the character development and landscape of *Atanarjuat the Fast Runner* – this is an important film to see.

Set in tribal times, *Ten Canoes* is a truly fascinating and entertaining encounter with traditional Australian Aboriginal culture. It tells the cautionary tale of a young man who covets his older brother's wife. To teach him the proper way, an elder tells him a story from the mythical past – a story of love, kidnapping, sorcery, bungling and revenge gone wrong – overlaid with a narrative of brotherhood and community.

The cast is entirely from the Ramingining community in Australia, and had never acted before. They create characters that are untainted, authentic and humorous, including the frog-bellied elder Birrinbirrin, who craves sweets, and a sorcerer who protects the village from bad spirits.

The overpowering landscape is a major character as the glorious cinematography shifts between luminous black and white, and rich colour, capturing the unforgettable Australian Outback like no other film.

92 minutes. Rated PG . For more information go to www.FLIKS.ca or call toll-free 1-866-FLIKSca.

Correction

In an article about the post wildfire assessment of the Springer Creek fire in the September 26 issue, it is mentioned that two homes were destroyed after the 2003 Firestorm near Nelson. In fact, the lost homes were north of Creston at Kuskanook Creek.

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling gets audience with Minister of Health

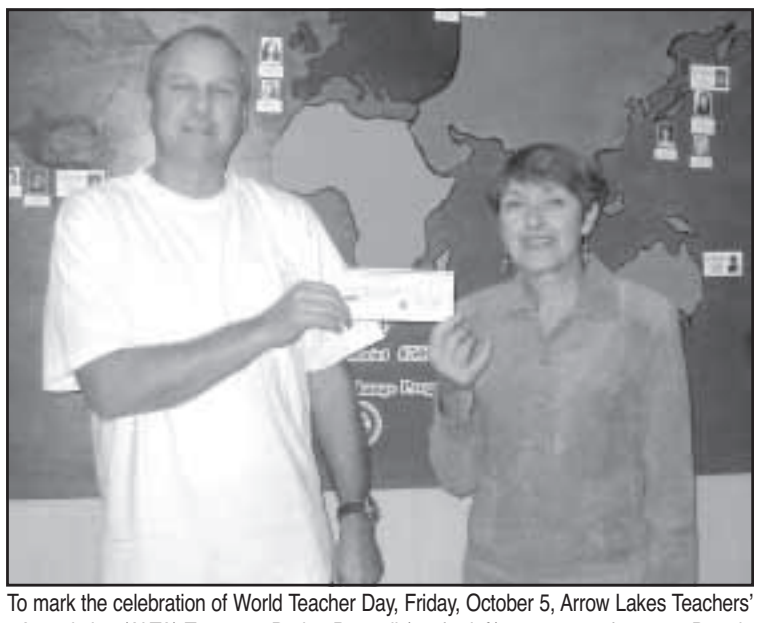
by Jan McMurray

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling met with the Minister of Health at the UBCM convention at the end of September.

She says she lobbied for the Arrow Lakes Hospital's proposal for a chronic disease management nurse to service both ALH and the Slocan Community Health Centre. ALH applied for funding for this before, but was unsuccessful. Hamling says Deb Austin, site manager at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, feels there is a real need for this position. Austin points out that most people in the Nakusp area do not have a physician, but get their care in the emergency room. It is difficult to attract doctors to the community and there is no other health care practitioner to pick up some of this additional work.

Hamling reported that Minister Abbott "seemed to think it was a good idea and was open to it." She said they also spoke about physician recruitment and ambulance issues.

"We discussed the need for Fox Trot to be reinstated in the next contract with BC Ambulance," she said. Fox Trot is when ambulance workers are on call, but are at the station. The rate of pay is $10 per hour. Currently, for $3 per hour, many workers simply carry the pager.



To mark the celebration of World Teacher Day, Friday, October 5, Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association (ALTA) Treasurer Dorian Boswell (on the left) presents a cheque to Darryl Smolik, ALTA's Social Justice Representative to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to assist with the building of schools in Africa. The foundation funds over 100 projects in 14 sub-Saharan African countries, including payment of school fees and supplies, school gardens and feeding programs and funding for vocational and life skills training.

Kokanee returns higher than expected at Hill Creek

submitted

Biologists with the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) are very pleased with the fall returns of adult spawners to Hill Creek Spawning Channel near Galena Bay. While no records have been broken, the target of 10 million eggs deposited in the channel has been met.

Kokanee salmon have a life cycle of between three and four years so low spawning returns were predicted this year because relatively few kokanee fry left the channel three years ago. This was as a result of unexpectedly poor egg-to-fry survival rates in 2004, at less than 10%. This means for every 100 eggs deposited in the channel during spawning season, fewer than 10 fry left the channel the following spring. Ordinarily in spawning channels these survival rates are above 30% and in 2007 it was more than 50%.

The returns of spawning kokanee did not conform to the predictions however.

"We recorded just under 100,000 adults returning to the spawning channel this fall," said Steve Arndt, Fisheries Biologist with the FWCP, which funds the channel operations. "While this is a lower return than last year, we are extremely happy with the numbers."

Arndt added that the relatively high returns may be due to a number of reasons. "First, there may be some adults from the 2003 fry emigration that have held back in the reservoir and have been late maturing. Second, because of the very dry summer and the subsequent low creek levels at spawning time, some kokanee may have been unable to enter their 'own' creek and 'strayed' into Hill Creek. Another possible factor is that with fewer fry emigrating three years ago, there has been less competition for food and – proportionally – more of them have survived."

Extensive work and closer monitoring have been carried out at Hill Creek Spawning Channel over the last couple of years. Whatever the reason for the strong adult returns, the forecast is promising for the fry that will emerge from the gravel next spring.

The FWCP acts on behalf of its program partners, BC Hydro, Ministry of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams.

PHOTO CREDIT: FWCP

The strong kokanee returns to Hill Creek Spawning Channel enabled over 40 grade 7 students from Nakusp Elementary to gain some real hands-on experience about the biology of kokanee. After hearing about kokanee life history and behaviour from Brian Barney (centre) who oversees the day-to-day operations at the channel, the students got the chance to dissect the carcasses of some spawned-out fish.

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REQUEST FOR QUOTES
SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES
The Regional District of Central Kootenay is seeking quotes for snow removal services for the next three winter seasons at the
ROSEBERY TRANSFER STATION
SLOCAN TRANSFER STATION
Quotes may be submitted for an individual site or for all sites.
For Quote Information contact:
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Attention: Jon Isfeld
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
Phone: (250) 352-8178
Fax: (250) 352-9300
Email: jisfeld@rdck.bc.ca
Quotes will be accepted until 2:00 pm
Tuesday, October 30, 2007

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TV Society removes board members for alleged misconduct

by Art Joyce

An extraordinary general meeting of the Slocan Valley TV Society the evening of October 3 was held in the Winlaw Community Hall, with about 75 people attending. On the agenda was the removal of board members for misconduct, filling vacant board positions, and an update of the society's operational/financial affairs. Board members Doug Adair and Mickey Kwasnicki were removed, replaced by Val Mayes and Peter Kabel.

Adair and Kwasnicki had a small group of supporters who were the only ones opposing the agenda. Kwasnicki rose at the start of the meeting, demanding to speak, but was asked by chairman Craig Sapriken to abide by rules of orderly conduct. Kwasnicki shouted that "this matter is going to a court of law – there seem to be two TV societies here." Kwasnicki's group was about to leave and was asked if he was giving up the right to address the membership later in the meeting, to which he said yes and then left.

In response to audience questions about the confusion surrounding what constitutes a membership application, secretary Derek Murphy briefly described events since the society's March AGM. Kwasnicki had at that meeting and at four subsequent board meetings insisted that membership was contingent merely upon payment of taxes on property in the past year and attendance at a meeting. When Kwasnicki showed up at the August 20 meeting, he and Doug Adair claimed that the current board was invalid, using as justification the argument that the current membership application procedure was inadequate. The current board, in reviewing the society's bylaws with a lawyer, considers this a "legally untenable" position. Kwasnicki has never provided "any written, legal or formal notice of his decision or actions."

When asked by the membership about the basis of the board's charges of misconduct, Murphy said the grounds were that Kwasnicki attempted to remove $58,000 from the society's credit union account; and the signing of a partnership agreement with Columbia Wireless that was not authorized by the board and which allows use of the society's publicly owned radio/TV towers. There are basically two options available to the society for action, Murphy said: supreme court, or an investigation by the provincial registrar of companies.

During the question period preceding the vote, Jim Ross challenged the validity of Chris Born's membership as well as one other board member he refused to name. Chairman Sapriken said he was probably the other person implicated and had brought a notarized copy of his most recent tax receipt.

RDCK Area H Director Don Munro was present to provide the regional district's position. "As far as we're concerned, based on the minutes we received from the March AGM, we consider this to be the board." Peter Kabel and other members were concerned that taxpayers' funds were not being misspent or misdirected by the society. Munro said funds had been withheld by the RDCK because financial statements filed by the society had too broad a category of expenditures. Once these were clarified, a cheque for $28,000 was released to the society. During the past seven years the society had recorded a 50% surplus, hence the decision to reduce funding from a total possible annual allocation of $50,000 to an average of $30,000. This year's allocation is in the society's credit union account, which has been frozen temporarily due to the unauthorized attempt to remove funds.

Nominated to replace outgoing board members were Val Mayes, Peter Kabel, and Jim Ross. Each were asked to give a brief statement before the balloting. Ross said he didn't want to see the society's money spent in supreme court. When asked which board he supported, he said both. Mayes, who moved to the valley recently from Edmonton, said she has extensive experience working with non-profit societies and co-authored a book on directors' liabilities. Kabel, a 19-year valley resident, said he was one of the founders of the Rail to Trails initiative and wanted to see that public assets weren't mismanaged. Kabel said he had heard that the society had received $7200 from Columbia Wireless for the use of the towers and asked where that money was. Murphy said, "We wish we knew. Right now we have no control over the towers. Mickey has the keys and we've had no communications from Columbia Wireless." Gary Burns urged the directors to contact the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) immediately to see whether permits had been granted to Columbia Wireless.

Some of those present were upset that they were unable to vote at the meeting because they aren't property owners. "I'm furious that I've been disenfranchised," said Moe Lyons. "I've been a volunteer in this valley for 25 years. I can run to become a regional director yet I can't vote here." Murphy agreed that this was an issue that could warrant a revision of the society's bylaws. Munro explained that when a referendum was held to determine whether taxes should be collected by the regional district to support the TV society, anyone eligible to vote could vote, not just property owners.

Calling all scarecrows

submitted

This year Slocan Valley Recreation will be running the fifth annual Slocan Valley Scarecrow Festival from October 21 to October 31. It's a free-form type of event as only the Slocan Valley can produce. But in order for that to happen, we need some scarecrows. They don't have to be pretty, they don't have to make a fashion statement and they definitely don't have to be politically correct.

"Scarecrows are an art form that's hard to define," says Craig Lawrence, coordinator of the event. "There's no set starting or finishing point, just a few tips on how to hold them together and then we all admire what happens after that. The creativity that we've seen displayed always amazes me."

Wherever they came from, Slocan Valley Recreation is inviting everyone to let their creative juices flow and put the results on display for all to enjoy. They can be made around any theme the artist wishes – a favourite character or a not so favourite 'friend' perhaps. Group themes work as well. Make your own, put together a family display – there are no restrictions other than straw has to be involved somewhere in the final product. Building tips are available from the Rec office if you need some.

Folks can display their scarecrows at their residence, or contact the Rec Office for a location. If interested in putting up a scarecrow, contact the Recreation Office at 226-0008 by October 18 so they can let everyone know where to go and admire them. Entry is free and there'll be prizes awarded at the end of the event, based on folks calling in their favourites.

For more information, call 226-0008 or email slocanvalleyrec@netidea.com.

The fifth annual Slocan Valley Scarecrow Festival runs from October 21 to October 31.

YRB yellowhead road & bridge

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.

Please send/fax your resume along with a recent BC driver's abstract and your preference of area to YRB (Kootenay) Ltd. 110 Cedar Street, Nelson, BC V1L 6H2

FAX # 1-250-352-2172

Aprons Arise!!

Sunday, Oct 21, 2007 1:00 - 4:00 pm 6th and Kildare, in New Denver

The Apron Project* and Hidden Garden Gallery invite you to join us for a humorous and thought-provoking afternoon with special guests and lively demonstrations of and about the subject.

Funded in part by Columbia Basin Trust

Contact: 250.358.2180
gretchenperk@yahoo.ca

Bring an apron for show & tell.
Refreshments will be served.

The Apron Project is a multimedia exploration for group installation proposed for 2008.
OPEN CALL to artists working in any dicipline. DEADLINE is DECEMBER 31, 2007

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Highways maintenance and ferry issues discussed at UBCM

by Jan McMurray

About 20 local politicians formed a delegation to meet with Ministry of Transportation representatives regarding highways maintenance and ferry service at the recent Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Vancouver.

Representatives from the Villages of New Denver, Nakusp, Slocan and Kaslo were part of the delegation, as was MLA Corky Evans.

New Denver Mayor Gary Wright spoke on behalf of the delegation. He asked that local governments be consulted regarding road maintenance scheduling. He also asked that local governments be consulted in the review of the contractor's performance that determines whether or not bonuses are awarded.

By all accounts, Assistant Deputy Dave Byng agreed to these requests.

Ferry issues, particularly the long lineups and lack of services at the Revelstoke crossing at Galena/Shelter Bays, were also discussed at this meeting at UBCM.

Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling commented in a telephone interview: "When the ferry broke down recently, there were six-hour waits, but then they got it going and there are three-hour waits. I feel it's totally unacceptable, especially because there is no food service there."

In a call to the ministry to follow up on these ferry issues, we spoke with Hadyn Thomas, public affairs officer. He informed that the ministry was currently working on an 'asset management plan,' and that replacement vessels for the Upper Arrow route were being considered as part of the plan.

"The Galena Bay ferry was built in 1968, and can take 50 vehicles and 150 passengers. The Shelter Bay ferry was built in 1969 and can take 29 vehicles. Are these inadequate? That's what's being assessed in this plan," he explained.

He said the current contract, with Western Pacific Marine, is up in June 2008 and described the period leading up to the signing of the new contract as "key."

"An important period is coming after the new year where we work on the asset management plan and what should be included in the next contract," he said.

Thomas explained that there is not much opportunity to adjust the contract once it has been signed. "When they put in their bid, they staff and budget accordingly, so there is hardly any wriggle room."

Thomas explained that the government brought in the contractors and the reduced service at Galena/Shelter in 2003, and part of the process leading up to that change was a study of the numbers. "At that time, it was determined that overall, the number of sailings could go down without great impact."

He went on to say that in fact, from 2005 to 2006, traffic decreased by 4%.

"There are peaks and valleys, and while the peaks seem brutal at times, the valleys are actually widening a bit," he said. "So it's always a balancing act – how to best handle the peak periods and not blow the budget."

Thomas also noted that the ministry had tendered food services at the Galena rest area, but received no bids at all. "We haven't given up," he said. "We will continue to tender and hopefully it will happen."

He also said that "one of the several things the ministry and contractor are trying to do is alert people" and spoke of automated 'congestion ahead' signs, the Drive BC website, the road report telephone line and the traveller's information centre in Revelstoke.

Premier outlines steps to tackle climate change

At the Union of BC Municipalities convention, on September 28, Premier Gordon Campbell outlined actions the government will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33% below current levels by 2020.

•Greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies and targets will be legally required in all official community plans and regional growth strategies.

•Municipalities will be given the power to waive development cost charges as a way to encourage green developments, small unit housing and small lot subdivisions.

•All new government buildings or facilities shall be built to a minimum LEED Gold or equivalent certification.

•Legislation will be introduced next spring to require the adoption of California tailpipe emission standards to be phased in from 2009 to 2016.

•BC will be the first province in Canada to legally adopt California's low carbon fuel content standards, a requirement that will reduce carbon intensity of all passenger vehicles by a further 10 per cent by 2020.

•BC will implement a five per cent average renewable fuel standard for diesel by 2010 and support the federal government's plan to increase the ethanol content of gasoline to five per cent by 2010.

•The Province will provide an additional $50 million this year for BC Transit to purchase new, clean buses and expand public transit service across BC.

•In the coming weeks, government will lay out a vision for transit. It will be on a scale and scope aimed at making BC a global leader in public transit.

•All Province of British Columbia entities, including Crown agencies, will be required to be carbon neutral by 2010. All public sector organizations, including school boards and health authorities, will be required by law to produce annual public reports on their progress.

•All government travel will be required to be carbon neutral starting this year. Emissions from government travel will be tracked, calculated, peer reviewed and audited. Measures to reduce unnecessary travel, such as video-conferencing capabilities, will be extended.

•Starting this fiscal year, for every tonne of GHGs associated with official government travel, the Province will invest $25 in a new BC Carbon Trust. The trust will be launched early next year. Projects funded by the trust may include enhanced energy efficiency, produce clean, renewable energy or sequester carbon through incremental afforestation measures.

Mayor Hamling of Nakusp and Mayor Wright of New Denver signed the BC Climate Action Charter at the recent UBCM convention in Vancouver, joining other local governments from across BC in committing to a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2012. At the convention, local governments also pledged to measure and report on their community's greenhouse gas emissions profile and work to create compact, more energy efficient communties.

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Get prepared for the first 72 hours of an emergency

Basic items needed to survive for 72 hours:

•Water - at least two litres of water per person per day (including small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order)

•Food - that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (remember to replace the food and water once a year)

•Manual can opener

•Flashlight and batteries

•Candles and matches or lighter (remember to place candles in sturdy containers and to put them out before going to sleep)

•Battery-powered or wind-up radio (and extra batteries)

•First Aid Kit

•Special items such as prescription medications, infant formula and equipment for people with disabilities

•Extra keys for your car and house

•Some cash in smaller bills, such as $10 bills (travellers cheques are also useful) and change for pay phones

•A copy of your emergency plan including contact information

Recommended additional kit supplies:

•A change of clothing and footwear for each household member

•Sleeping bag or warm (foil) blanket for each household member

•A whistle (in case you need to attract attention)

•Garbage bags for personal sanitation

•Toilet paper and other personal care supplies

•Safety gloves

•Basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, fasteners, work gloves)

•Small fuel-driven stove and fuel (follow manufacturer's directions and store properly)

•Two additional litres of water per person per day for cooking and cleaning

TIP: Make copies of important documents, such as birth and marriage certificates, passports, licences, wills, land deeds and insurance. Keep them in a safe place outside your home. You might want to put them in a safety deposit box or give them to friends and family who live out of town.

New Firefighting Training Centre at Selkirk College

The grand opening of the new Firefighting Training Centre at the Silver King campus of Selkirk College in Nelson took place September 29.

The live fire training centre is a significant resource for the volunteer firefighters in the region. The initiative has produced a college certificate program for volunteer firefighters that is recognized by the Fire & Safety Division of Justice Institute of British Columbia, and a live fire training centre in Nelson that is operated by the Kootenay Firefighter Training Society.

The project was guided by the Fire Fighter Training Advisory Committee, which was comprised of members of the Kootenay Firefighter Training Society and Selkirk College. Selkirk College gave the society access to the land, and the society is responsible for developing and operating the centre.

Twelve rural and eight municipal fire departments in the West Kootenay region worked together to create a simple, efficient training curriculum to meet provincial firefighting training requirements.

The initiative was initially funded through a grant from the Office of the Fire Commissioner and was subsequently matched by the Regional District of the Central Kootenay to a total of $55,000.

Other donations totaling $5,000 were provided by local municipalities, and several community groups and local businesses donated time and materials.

New Denver and Area Volunteer Fire Department

L- R: Darren McCoy, Wilf Wilson, Keith Macauly, Doug Fischer, Joe Trozzo, Rick Bardati, Nigel Thomas, Fire Chief Leonard Casley. MISSING: Alvie Bouillet, Jamie Grierson, Kieth Steenhoff, Dave Hodsall, Dylan Sanowski, Ryan Butler, Norbert Maucher, Darrell Steenhoff, Richard Friedenberger, Patrick Leontowicz, Sanjar Skrenes, Brian Magnuson, Derek Hicks, Randy Duncan.

Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department

Back row, L-R: Daniel Zayac, Tyler Niminikin, Cecil Postnikoff, Brent Sherbinin, Mark Kooznetsoff, Sam Caron. Front row, L-R: Frank Kootnikoff, Glenn Leidloff, Chris Jmaiff, Odin Lewis, Chris Carlson, Ken Postnikoff, Tammy Straus. Missing: Carl Nord, Rob Postnikoff

The Village of Silverton
would like to acknowledge the dedication of our local volunteer fire department for their continuing community spirit and efforts in protecting our municipality.

Congratulations on a job well done!
from
The Village of New Denver
358-2316

Our Volunteer Firefighters deserve our heartfelt thanks for all they do for us. Keep up the great job!
SILVERTON BUILDING SUPPLIES
216 Lake Avenue, Silverton
358-2293 True Value Hardware

Thank you to our volunteer firefighters!
Anderson Insurance Ltd.
(250) 358-2617
New Denver
We Serve You First

Our volunteer firefighters are the best!
MOUNTAINBERRY
(250) 358-7717
Highway 6, New Denver, BC

Thank you to our Volunteer Firefighters for protecting our community.
We appreciate it!
Slocan Lake Hardware
New Denver
358-2422

Thank you to all of our volunteer firefighters!
Now on New Denver's Main Street, at the traffic light

KOOTENAY LAKE COMPUTERS
supports and appreciates our local firefighters

We salute the volunteer fire fighters in our community! Your dedication is inspiring.
Kaslo Drugs
403 Front Street • 353-2224

Our firefighters are the best!
Ladies Fun & Fitness
311 4th Street • Kaslo • 353-2020

Your volunteer efforts make this a great community!
Front Street Market
Front Street • Kaslo • 353-2331

Thank you for all the hard work and dedication on the part of all of our volunteer firefighters.
HCT Wood Products
Hamill Creek Timber homes
Box 151, Meadow Creek, B.C. Phone (250) 366-4320
Email: sales@hamillcreek.com

Thank you to the brave men and women of our local volunteer fire departments
Kootenay Savings
Where You Belong
• Nakusp 265-3605
• Kaslo 353-2217
• New Denver 358-2217

Thank you for your dedication to protecting our community!
Figments Fine Canadian Gifts
408 Front St, Kaslo 353-2566

Fern's Flowers &...
A Big Bouquet of Thanks to you all
From all of us at Fern's
415 Front 353-7474

Thank you for your dedication and effort!
Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"
Box 765 • Kaslo • 353 - 2594

Congratulations on a job well done!
Falkins Insurance Kaslo

We celebrate your constant good health, safety and true spirit of community... with our thanks.
The Village of Kaslo

KASLO AUTOMOTIVE
would like to THANK YOU for your commitment to our community.
400 - 4th Street Kaslo

We help build the community — you keep it safe!
Kaslo Building Supplies
353-7628
www.kaslobuilding.com
DIY Building Centre
True Value Hardware

Thank you to both the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department and to volunteer firefighters in Area D for continuing to protect us and our communities.
Andy Shadrack, Director Area D

We recognize the value of our firefighters!
THE KASLO PUMP
6410 - Hwy 31

Thank you to our wonderful firefighters!
419 Front Street Kaslo 353-2955
The Treehouse Restaurant

Thank you to the brave men and women of our local volunteer fire departments!
YOUR ARTS DESIRE
Fine quality art and crafts
423 Front Street, Kaslo, BC

We salute...
our Volunteer Fire Department for protecting heritage buildings in Kaslo for over 110 years!
Teresa's Coffee Shop

Congratulations on a job well done!
from The Harold Street Cafe
355-2663

Your friends and neighbours salute your hard work and dedication
Lemon Creek Lodge and Restaurant
355-2403

Kaslo and Area Volunteer Fire Department

Back Row, L-R: Gordon Moore, Richard DeCruyenaere (Fire Chief), Marc Duchesne, Bryan MacMillan, Ken Hart, Angus Collier, Patrick Guy, Larry Badry, Bernie Eckstein. Front Row, L-R: Tracy Tait, Amanda Badry, George McCuaig, Forrest Collier, Roy Plummer. Missing: Julie Wade, Pete Tardiff, Orion Cooper, Jim Crombie, Bud Garrett, Tammy Hill, Kim Larson, Daryl Laybourne, Cory Laybourne, Mark McKenzie.

Winlaw and Area Volunteer Fire Department

Front row, L-R: Joe, Tony, Rob, Francine, Jason, Alan; Back row, L-R: Wolfgang, Tom, Jon, Ryan, Dave, Steve, Stephanie, Peggy, Nina. Missing: Fred, Jim, Guy, Dale, Ruth.

Slocan and Area Volunteer Fire Department

L-R: Tim Hill, Yves Lemelin, Peter Leach, Kevin Marr, Clayton Marr, Craig Roussain, Greg Price, Angus McLellan, Nick Stelmacher. Missing: Wayne Hackley, John Gates, Don Steen, Rick Bergmann, Yvon Couture.

Fire won't wait – plan your escape

Fire Prevention Week is October 7 to 13 and British Columbians are being encouraged to be ready in case a fire starts in their home. Planning is essential because fire can grow and spread quickly, and there may only be a few minutes to get out safely. The Office of the Fire Commissioner recommends that every home have smoke alarms and sprinklers, and that families have a fire escape plan in place.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Practise Your Escape Plan." Fire departments across Canada will promote public awareness of the dangers of fire and the ways we can protect ourselves.

BC Fire Facts

•There were 6,595 residential fires reported in B. between 2004 and 2007, resulting in 53 fatalities.

•Someone is injured by fire every day in British Columbia.

•47 per cent of burn injuries in British Columbia are caused by fires.

•The majority of fire injuries occur in private dwellings.

For more information on fire safety tips, visit www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/index.htm.

THANK YOU for your superb volunteer effort!
NICK'S PLACE
93 5th Avenue
Nakusp
265-4880

Nakusp and Area Volunteer Fire Department

L-R: Bob Cann, Len Gustafson, Tim Fox, Will Jewell, Art Olson, James Peterson, Arnie Herridge, Lawrence Crowe, Tom Zeleznik, Greg Bobicki. Missing: Terry Warren, Reg Gustafson, Jason Pozniak, Bill Regner, Brandon Buliziuk, Richard Cann, Karolina Moskal, Didace Wilcott, Harry Anderson, Gordy Matchett, Helmut Klughammer, Brian Coates, Daryl Katchen, Dean Zanier, Dave Wight.

Fauquier Volunteer Fire Brigade

Back row, L-R: Dobby Bissell (Admin. Officer), Denise Douglas, Leslie McDonald, Gloria Scott. Front row, L-R: John Banta (chief), Laurence Charles-Lundaahl, Al Devlin, Don Hallam, Ed McGinnis (deputy chief), Shirley Adams. Missing: Roy Pedersen.

Passmore Volunteer Fire Department

Front row, L-R: Craig Sapriken, Deputy Chief Tracy Skeen, Paul Muntak, Chief Gord Ihlen, Nathan Mikkelson, Lance Hall, Bill Hillary, Krista Nenn; Middle row: Michael Jones, Peter Kinakin, Dave Anderson, Alex Kinakin, Warren Ludwar, Colin Ludwar, Denise Lemoyne Demartigny, Dorothy Spear, Heather Spear; Back row: (right behind M. Jones) Mike Spear, Dave Halliday, Kris Irish, Derek Murphy. Missing: Gerry Shaw, Rob Levesque, John Ludwar, Gail Ludwar & Nate Orasuk.

Congratulations on a job well done!
VILLAGE OF Nakusp
HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

Our firefighters are the finest!
North Nakusp Towing
Nakusp • 265-4406

Your dedication and community service is greatly appreciated.
HUB INTERNATIONAL BARTON INSURANCE BROKERS
For all your INSURANCE needs
265-3631
1-800-665-6010

We Salute all our volunteer firefighters and what they do for our community!
MARVIN'S SMALL MOTOR REPAIR
98-1st St. Nakusp 265-4911

Thank you for your superb volunteer effort!
Bon Marché
Dollar $ Dollar
Broadway St.
Nakusp 265-3644

To our firefighters:
Congratulations on a job well done!
Saddle Mtn. Dental Clinic
86 Broadway
Nakusp 265-9993

On behalf of the citizens of Area "H", thank you for your time, energy and commitment for a safer community.
Don Munro
Director, Area "H"

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteer firefighters. Keep up the good work!
from
VILLAGE OF SLOCAN

Thank you to all the brave volunteers of our local fire departments
Paul Peterson, director
Area K, RDCK

Thank you to the members of our Volunteer Fire Department—you're showing true community spirit.
WinLaw Brew-Op
5972 Cedar Creek Road, Winlaw
226-7328

Mountain Valley Station
We wish to salute the bravery and hard work of our local volunteer Fire Departments
Arlington Corner • Slocan City
355-2245

We appreciate all you do to keep our communities safe!
SMOKEY CREEK SALVAGE
359-7815 ; 1-877-376-6539
3453 YEATMAN RD, SOUTH SLOCAN

Terror by Gaslight descends on local communities this Halloween

submitted

"Two days ago we buried him…Yesterday he was gone. Only the coffin half-buried… Gravediggers, ghouls, night crawlers."

Brought to you by Mirage Drama Group this Halloween season, Tim Kelly's *Terror by Gaslight* is a spine-tingling foray into the dark and dangerous underside of medical science in the 1800s, a world where anything can happen – and will, starting at the Silverton Gallery on October 19. Doors open at 6:30 pm, performance at 7 pm. Tickets $8 at the door, family rate $22. Warning: some violence and blood. Parental guidance recommended for younger children.

It's the early 1800s. Medicine is in its infancy, anesthetic, as we know it, non-existent. Patients perish as much from surgery as from their ailments. For surgery to advance, surgeons must have cadavers. Yet the only bodies allowed them must come from the public gallows. And grave robbery is punishable by death. Small wonder surgeons are sometimes driven to desperate measures – considered evil, sadists to be avoided at all cost.

For Dr. Cyrus Norton, a brilliant surgeon albeit a cold and vain human being, nothing must be allowed to stand in the way. But to further that goal means walking a murky line, filled with unpleasant surprises. As the law closes in on one side, a web of blackmail, murder and betrayal threatens to enmesh him from the other.

On October 26, Legion Branch 203 hosts the second performance of *Terror by Gaslight* at Edgewood Legion Hall. There will be a potluck supper at 5:30 pm. Performance begins at 7 pm. Come in Halloween costume! Tickets $8 at the door, adults only.

The Needles-Fauquier Women's Institute hosts the final performance of *Terror by Gaslight* at Fauquier Community Hall on October 30, featuring a Halloween costume competition. Supper at 5 pm, performance 6:30 pm. Tickets $8 at the door, family rate $22, supper $5.

Gin Hester (Jenny Konkin) and Leonard Scrubbs (Emerson Coatsworth) announce their latest grisly find to the cold but brilliant surgeon Dr. Cyrus Norton (John Banta) in a scene from Mirage Drama Group's stage thriller Terror by Gaslight.

Learn about Brain Food at Selkirk College

submitted

Concerned about your child's mental development? Selkirk College in Nakusp is sponsoring a course that will provide answers to many questions and concerns.

Beverley Darnell, RHN, CH, a Registered Holistic Nutritionist and a Chartered Herbalist, who has recently moved to the area from the lower mainland, will be teaching the course.

With years of experience in the field of nutrition, Darnell will be presenting vital information on optimum nutrition to help nourish your child's brain and mental processes. This in turn can result in more stable behaviours, higher self-esteem and better performance at school and in decision making.

The course, 'Brain Food for Kids (Adults Too!)' will be held Thursday, November 8, 9 am-11 am or Wednesday, November 14, 7-9 pm at Selkirk College in Nakusp. For more information, contact Selkirk College at 250-265-4077.

Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents a Mirror Theatre production

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting Mirror Theatre's production of *Wyrd Sisters* for the second concert of this year's concert series. They are performing Friday, October 19 in the Bonnington Arts Centre, starting at 8 pm. Doors will open to the public at 7:30 pm.

Wyrd Sisters is a play written by Stephen Briggs. The book, written by Terry Pratchett from the Isle of Man, is a comedy based on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. This is a planned Halloween spectacle, with many actors of all ages, directed by Mick Royko.

Mirror Theatre is truly an Arrow Lakes Valley community enterprise, performing in the communities of Fauquier, Edgewood, Burton, Nakusp, and Silverton, and drawing on talent and support from various communities. There are many enthusiastic amateur thespians and youngsters who are included in the productions.

Mirror Theatre was formed in 1999 around the production of *The Golden Grotto*, or *Bracko the Prince Frog*. Other previous performances include: Shakespeare productions of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and *The Tempest*; *Feel Good*, a British political satire; *The Good Doctor* and *Salt Water Moon*, which both received awards at Theatre BC's Kootenay Zone Festivals; and *Wynn Fairly* and *Peril on the High Seas*, Rotary Dinner Theatre Productions.

This young but dynamic group, new members of Theatre BC, are producing a greater number of plays each year. They are partners with the Rotary Club of Nakusp for dinner theatre, along with the Arrow Lakes Community Theatre Society.

Wood Fire Pizza will be staying open late on concert nights so that the artists and audience have a place to go and eat and relax after the concert.

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door, the evening of the performance.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council
presents

In performance at the

BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

Mirror Theatre in "Wyrd Sisters"

A Halloween Play Based on Shakespeare's "Macbeth"

Friday, October 19th at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $20 Adults and $15 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under) Members of Drama class $10.00 with coupon

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TO VIEW THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Council invites all interested residents to come and learn about land use plans for Nakusp and offer your comments. Council will use your comments as a guide for making further amendments to the draft Official Community Plan.

Date: Monday, October 22, 2007
Place: Nakusp Auditorium
Time: 5 to 8 PM

Format: OCP highlights and maps will be on display. Council and committee members will be available to answer questions and receive comments. Comment forms will be provided. The draft OCP is available for viewing at the Village office prior to the open house.

Non-profit groups in the village of Nakusp and Defined Area K may apply for a grant to

REC COMMISSION #4, BOX 613
NAKUSP, BC, V0G 1R0

Pick up applications at:
Village of Nakusp office
Applications close November 2, 2007

Grant co-ordinator
Sandra Watt, 265-3438
email: sandrawatt@telus.net

Electoral Area K - The Arrow Lakes Land Use Planning Review Open Houses / Meetings

The Regional District of Central Kootenay has initiated a land use planning review for Electoral Area K. In July/07, a Questionnaire was distributed to Area K households. The RDCK is hosting four public meetings to present the Survey Results and to get your comments and ideas concerning land use and the future development of Electoral Area K. PLEASE NOTE for all those who may be interested, prior to each meeting, Electoral Area K Director Paul Peterson will present information about the 2008 Community Grant Program funded through the Columbia Basin Trust.

Dates, Times & Locations as follows:

Date & Time	Location
Tuesday, October 23, 2007 Open House 6:30 – 7:00 pm Meeting 7:00 pm	Burton Community Hall 125 Burton Main Road BURTON
Thursday, October 25, 2007 Open House 6:30 - 7:00 pm Meeting 7:00 pm	Nakusp (Senior Citizens) Hall 210 – 8th Avenue NW NAKUSP
Monday, October 29, 2007 Open House 6:30 - 7:00 pm Meeting 7:00 pm	Fauquier Communication Centre 344 Spruce Street FAUQUIER
Tuesday, October 30, 2007 Open House 6:30 - 7:00 pm Meeting 7:00 pm	Edgewood Legion Hall Granby Drive EDGEWOOD

All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Bruce Gunn, Planner, Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4
phone: 250-352-8157 or 1-800-268-7325 (Toll free in BC)
Fax: 250-352-9300 email: bgunn@rdck.bc.ca
Web: www.rdck.bc.ca Project webpage:
http://rdck.bc.ca/development/planning/projects/electoral_area_k_planning_review.html

Red Hammer Barbershop

206 Broadway St., Nakusp, BC
265-4700

Tuesday - Saturday • 10 am - 5:30 pm

Drop-in Service!

Re-Awakening Health Centre

10th Anniversary Celebration!!

Mon. Oct 15 – Sat. Oct 20

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FOOD SAMPLES • IN STORE DRAWS

ALSO launching our new
"Backroom Lovers Sextion"

Includes Kama Sutra Products, Stag/Staguette Party Favours and devices to enhance your sexual pleasures
confidential • discrete

320 BROADWAY ST. NAKUSP 265-3188

Harvest Rescue program helps locals with garden gleaning volunteers

submitted

Prune plums are turning their deepest blue, the gutters are filling with walnuts, apples are sweetening, and Harvest Rescue volunteers are busy picking, preserving and distributing the last of summer's edible growth to community groups and individuals who need it.

Since July 2007, Harvest Rescue has salvaged excess produce from backyard gardens and neglected fruit and nut trees in the Nelson area. Pickers took home a third of what they harvested, left a portion for the tree or garden owner, and delivered the rest to one of 11 social service agencies in and around Nelson. In this way, fresh, locally grown food was not wasted, and bears were not attracted to urban spaces. The project, a joint effort of the Nelson Food Cupboard Society and Earth Matters, was made possible by funding from the Columbia Basin Trust and the support of 80 volunteers.

To date, approximately 40 trees have been picked of hundreds of pounds of fruit. Canning workshops were held at the United Church, where some of this fruit was preserved for the Food Cupboard's Holiday Hamper program. Work days took place at area farms in exchange for weekly produce boxes and market donations to the Food Cupboard this summer.

To help Harvest Rescue prepare for next year's harvest gleaning project, on October 16, World Food Day, the Kootenay Country Store Cooperative will donate 1% of its sales to Harvest Rescue. If you do your co-op shopping on World Food Day, you will be contributing to the sustainability of Harvest Rescue.

Tree and garden owners who don't plan to harvest all of their produce, and volunteers interested in picking, are encouraged to phone project co-ordinator Sara Gillespie at 551-1564. Harvest Rescue will continue running this year until November 1.

An overview of BC co-operatives

British Columbia has one of the most vibrant cooperative movements in Canada. One in five British Columbians are members of a co-op or credit union.

Co-ops in BC are active in a broad cross-section of sectors including financial services, insurance, health services, housing, transportation, social services, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, post secondary education, and retail.

BC co-operatives hold over $12 billion in assets and employ over 13,000 people.

What makes co-ops unique is that they are operated for the benefit of their members with each member having a say in decisions that affect the co-op.

All co-operatives around the world are guided by the same seven principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Member economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Co-operation among co-operatives
7. Concern for community

For more info, visit www.bcca.coop.

October 14-20 is Co-op Week

Co-op Week is the opportunity for Canadian cooperatives and credit unions to celebrate and bring awareness to the value of co-ops.

Cooperatives and credit unions employ over 155,000 Canadians. Cooperatives and credit unions in Canada give approximately $60 million annually to their communities through donations and sponsorships. Join us. Live the co-op experience!

Go to www.kootenay.coop for information about the Kootenay Co-op's extensive Community Outreach Programs

The Kootenay Co-op

Natural, organic foods & products since 1975

295 Baker Street, Nelson Ph: 250-354-4077
www.kootenay.coop

Come celebrate Credit Union Day

Thursday October 18

Join us in branch for fun, information and refreshments.

437 Front Street, Kaslo
502 Broadway Street, Nakusp
411–6th Avenue, New Denver

KS Kootenay Savings

Celebrating 50 years of community ownership

SLOCAN VALLEY CO-OP
Celebrating 50 years

Grocery • Hardware • Garden • Feed
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Liquor Agency • Post Office • Sears

Open 6 am - 9 pm every day
Main store opens 9 am • Cardlock 24/7

3024 Hwy. 6 • Slocan Park, BC • 226-7433

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ONLINE | WWW.HERITAGECU.CA

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CASTLEGAR, B.C. V1N 4G7
PHONE: 250.365.7232
FAX: 250.365.2913

SLOCAN VALLEY
3014 HIGHWAY 6, P.O. BOX 39
SLOCAN PARK, B.C. V0G 2E0
PHONE: 250.226.7212
FAX: 250.226.7351

WEST BOUNDARY
256 S. COPPER, P.O. BOX 76
GREENWOOD, B.C. V0H 1J0
PHONE: 250.445.9900
FAX: 250.445.9902

Cork Province Mine site to have tailings pond remediation work

by Art Joyce

The Province of BC has called for bids on the remediation of a tailings pond at the Cork Province Mine site at the confluence of Keen Creek and the Kaslo River.

Morrow Environmental Consultants have discovered evidence of "ongoing erosion and mass slumping of tailings into the creek. A risk exists of complete failure of the wooden cribbing that is retaining a six to eight metre depth of tailings above the creek." Contaminants found in the greatest concentrations are arsenic, cadmium, lead and zinc, but so far no acid rock drainage into the creek has been observed.

The Province has posted a call for bids on its BC Bid website, calling for the remediation of the site by relocating the tailings from the banks of Keen Creek to a "physically stable" location on nearby Crown land. A new, stable containment facility must be constructed to eliminate the risk of 'metal loading' or leaching into the creek. The mine site comprises an 85 hectare parcel on Crown land. The affected area for remediation is five hectares and includes the main tailings pond, waste rock deposit, former mill area and cyanide drum disposal site. Work will include post-remedial stabilization of the riparian area to prevent erosion and water turbidity. Interim erosion control measures for the winter are also required. Closing date for the bids was October 5.

Morrow will be the project supervisor on behalf of the Crown Contaminated Sites Branch (CCSB) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and has been contracted to do further environmental investigation during October. The CCSB is responsible for the management of high-risk contaminated sites on provincial land as part of its mandate to protect human health and the environment. The branch is currently assessing and remediating contaminated historic sites across the province. Projects being managed by CCSB include the Yankee Girl tailings, Britannia mine, and the Pacific Place remediation.

Mineral claims at Cork Province Mine were first staked in 1900, with ore extraction and processing for silver, lead and zinc continuing until the mid-1960s, and some cadmium and gold recovery. The original mill was constructed adjacent to Keen Creek in 1905 and operated until 1931. After an eight-year hiatus, a new mill was constructed at the same location and operated intermittently until 1966. A total of 191,000 tonnes of ore was mined, with 172,593 tonnes of that ore milled on-site. Tailings were deposited on the banks of Keen Creek and in several other ponds northwest (downstream) of the mill.

Kayakers join opposition to Glacier/Howser hydro project

submitted

A combined team of West Kootenay whitewater kayakers and adventure sport athletes have organized an 'Endangered Creek Expedition / Protest Paddle' to raise awareness about the contentious Glacier/Howser hydro project located near Meadow Creek.

"The proposed Glacier/Howser project stands to create a substantial amount of irreversible, environmental damage that deserves greater public attention," said expedition coordinator Carl Jacks. "By adding our strong opposition to this endangering project, we hope to be adding a further amount of effort needed to interrupt the approval process of this project."

Jacks says whitewater kayakers experience the natural beauty of these remote areas in a unique way, and often work towards protecting them. "Due to the BC government's increased support of private hydro power developments, many paddlers now feel an even greater need to protect our remaining free flowing waterways. The watercourses of our province belong to the BC public and should not be allowed to be given away to these private and non-local interests."

Jacks says the organizers of this Endangered Creek Expedition / Protest Paddle' are hoping to avoid any resistance by local protesters in favour of the employment opportunities offered by the Glacier/Howser project.

Members of this upcoming event have conducted a number of similar trips to the Duncan Reservoir region and have documented what they call the "highly endangered waterways" in the area. They plan to document this trip as well, and to produce a multi-media presentation for public viewing.

Charlie Decker of Libby, Montana (left) won first prize in Woodbury Resort's Rainbow Derby on the Thanksgiving weekend. The winning fish was a 31", 13.5-lb. female. Bob Brown of Creston won second prize with a 31", 12-lb. 12-oz. male. These were the only two fish that made the minimum 30" derby requirement. Third place was decided by draw, and went to Zachary Taylor of Sandpoint, Idaho.

Kaslo Concert Society hosts classical pianist Arne Sahlen

submitted

The first concert in Kaslo Concert Society's 34th season features the extraordinary pianist Arne Sahlen at St. Andrew's United Church in Kaslo on Friday, October 26 at 7:30 pm. One reviewer promises a "...superb classical performance graced with personal warmth and humour."

A University of Victoria graduate with Distinction in Performance, Sahlen also studied at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and the Banff School of Fine Arts. Among his many awards are the BC Senior Piano Championship, two Royal Conservatory of Music Silver Medals and a Gold Medal.

Sahlen performs internationally, sometimes appearing in character as composer Johannes Brahms. A teacher of many award-winning students, he also lectures for music teachers' associations and has adjudicated in both piano and composition since 1982. He is co-director of Canada's Victoria Piano Summer School and his compositions include classical, ragtime, and other styles for piano and various ensembles.

Committed to humanitarian and arts aid through the BC-based Cambodia Support Group, Sahlen has served as Visiting Professor at the Royal University of Fine Arts in Cambodia since 1992. In 2000 he received the Caring Canadian Award from Canada's Governor General, for decades of cultural and humanitarian service. He makes his home in Kimberley, BC.

Tickets for the event are $20 adults, $18 seniors, $5 students. Season's passes are available at Figments in Kaslo or at the door on the night of the concert, adults $60, seniors $50, students $30. School-age children admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron.

For more information call 353-7539.

Langham Gallery opening features the artwork of Murray Kimber

submitted

Join us at the Langham Gallery Friday, October 12 from 7-9 pm for the opening of the Murray Kimber exhibition.

Murray has been an artist all his life. He began drawing when he was three and never stopped, filling stacks of drawing pads with comic book characters, custom designed houses, race cars, rocket ships or posters for movies featuring Boris Karloff as Frankenstein or Christopher Lee as Dracula.

A graduate of the Alberta College of Art and Design in 1988, he chose to pursue illustration over graphic design and worked to establish himself as a sought-after illustrator in Canada and the United States, creating original art for projects ranging from billboards to postage stamps, from children's books to packaging.

Langham Gallery hours are Thursday to Sunday, 1-4 pm. For more information see www.thelangham.ca.

Car accident claims Kaslo woman

by Jan McMurray

Helen Marie Woolgar was killed in a single vehicle roll over accident on October 5 at 12:30 pm on Hwy 3A just west of Balfour.

Woolgar, 66 years old, was driving with her husband, who was the only passenger. He was taken to Kootenay Lake Hospital with non life threatening injuries.

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• Fresh & Smoked Sausage
• Smoked Salmon
• Custom Cutting of Pork & Beef
• Awesome Beef Jerky
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Ph/Fax: (250) 353-2436

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with Peter Roulston

Putting away the summertime toys

By the time you read this article I'll be in Toronto visiting the kinfolk and likely wishing I was back in the Kootenays in the garden, on the lake or up some trail. Timing is everything and I generally resist the trip east until November, when the weather tends to be pretty rude here, the days short and activity choices few.

Yes, timing is indeed everything and as I type this on my clunky manual typewriter, the rain is just rippin' down outside and across the lake I see the foggy haze of heavy snowfall on the ridges of Valhalla Park. At midday the temperature is only 8 degrees and this is one of those umbrella PLUS warm hat kinda days. Yesterday was only cloudy and cool and I figured I'd squeeze in one last motorboat tour down the lake to Slocan City....

Although I keep my canoe and kayak mobile through the winter period, the fact is that things get too cool to enjoy faster travel in an open craft. I guess I could get a canopy and some heat on the new boat but most of my water time is spent sightseeing and beachcombing, so I'm generally only out there on the days that aren't too cold. I make the run to Slocan city several times each season for breakfast at the café, then enjoy the day slowly meandering back north again with lots of stops and attempts at photography.

As the building boom continues in our villages and rural areas, so does the further 'colonization' of the Slocan Lake shoreline. Besides the three villages and communities at Rosebery and at the Hills end of the lake, there are noticeable renovations, rebuilds and entirely new construction at various points south along the shores. Repairs may show up at the cabins across from Silverton and at Nemo Creek but the main feature has to be the development at Enterprise Creek known as Kokanee Landing. From the west side of the lake you can clearly see some structures popping up on the bluffs and the network of driveways and lanes that have been carved from the hillside.

Then just north of Slocan bluffs are several cottages on the bay by Memphis Creek that have been there for some years. Some additions and a dock or two seem new and this area offers the only beach to speak of between Slocan City and Silverton. The one other colony of note would be the former teepee camp between Evans Creek and Slocan on the west side, another parcel of land that was built up before the park was established. Although these places seem to interrupt the wildness of the lake, they do seem pretty minor in scale and most folks would wish they had the same.

But again it all comes down to timing. Slocan Lake is busier for the summer months than it was in the '80s and '90s when people weren't moving here and the economy was flat and most people were pretty broke. Everyone everywhere seems busy these days and some of that wealth and influence does creep into the Kootenays. After the Labour Day weekend it all drops off and indeed I saw only one other boat near Slocan doing some trolling. The autumn days out on the water can be really pleasant and the risk of those wild storms and winds of summer fades out for another year.

On the roadways there's less traffic and fewer people on two-wheelers, mainly due to damp, dark and plain cold. Cycling the trails for now is really nice, with all the dust settled and the hot riding temperatures long gone. Road rides sure are fresher and I don't expect to make any more rides on the motorcycle, though the bicycling is still not bad.

November seems to be the one pretty much lost month because of the cold and dark and usual lack of snowpack to safely ski on. One year I spent a fine month in California and thought how easy they have it down there. But they've got the crowds, which we'll likely never have. And we have such a rich range of climate and seasons to enjoy and plan ahead for as the year cycles by.

Anyhow, I sure will look forward to being back from the busy city to get outta town once again.

Peter Roulston grew up in Toronto but has grown better in the Kootenays. 358-2133

with Jamie Barber

Exploring Indonesia by motorcycle

Visiting Indonesia has certainly given respite to the normalcy of living in the Slocan Valley. I've visited this fascinating country on a number of occasions, but it has been two decades since I've last been here and I am struck by both the changes and constancies. For one thing, it seems like everyone owns a scooter or small motorbike. They vastly outnumber all other types of vehicles and as I am quietly sitting on the corner observing, I note a constant stream of them buzzing by. Most are driven by young men and their companions, but a number are piloted by young girls (itself a remarkable fact in this Muslim-dominated country).

It seems helmet use is voluntary but they obviously don't sit well over head scarves, so are seldom seen on the young girls. It is not unusual to see whole families on one motorbike – the father driving – a young boy enjoying the uninterrupted view afforded by sitting on the gas tank – an older sibling tightly held by the mother who sits sidesaddle on the back.

One of the constancies, of course, is the poverty that has plagued the island of Sumatra where I am now stationed. The many young people have little prospect of gainful employment and many simply "hang out" through the day, trying whatever they can to earn a few Rupees. It's not that they lack formal education and skills. Most students finish high school and even moderate sized towns such as Bukattingi (population 150,000) have at least three universities. Private schools seem to teach all manner of skills and I even noted a "School of Topography." No… it's not the education that is lacking but the poorly developed infrastructure prohibits economic development, while the greedy hand of corruption makes inequality a sad fact of life here.

My conversation with the locals indicates that things are improving though. Criticizing the government is no longer as dangerous as it once was and streets and roads are being repaired. Power outages have decreased and cell phone use is as common here as in Europe. This itself is a great improvement as land line telephone infrastructure is decrepit at best and now almost everyone can afford a phone. This allows all kinds of unexpected advantages such as the small trishaw drivers being able to keep in touch with their regular customers or young courting couples arranging a rendezvous by text message.

Tourism hasn't really rebounded since the Bali bombings in 2002 and 2005 and we are often the only tourists staying in a once full hotel. Although this may have an advantage, it also seems that the entire army of touts and swindlers converge on us as we walk down the street.

I have noted the rise of religious conservatism among the populous. The head scarves are very much in vogue – particularly among the young girls. This probably has much to do with the freedom males seem to take in giving leering comments and suggestive stares to any unaccompanied females.

The country is now engaged in Ramadan, the thirty days of fasting and abstinence that is common throughout the Muslim world. Theoretically, the faithful don't eat between sunrise and sunset and most pray the requisite five times per day. The amplified calls to prayer from the Mosques can be hard to sleep through, competing as they do with the blare of horns and din of unmuffled traffic.

Tomorrow, I've arranged to hire a 125 cc motorcycle to take a tour through the mountains here. It will be a bit of a change from my old Harley Electroglide, but I'm looking forward to having my knees in the breeze again and exploring this fascinating part of the world.

Slocan Valley director shares UBCM highlights

by Jan McMurray

Area H (Slocan Valley) Director Don Munro reported on the highlights of the UBCM conference.

He attended BC Transit meetings, where the $400,000+ in available funding for busing in the RDCK was discussed.

Munro said that the RDCK service is one of BC Transit's more successful ones, and reported the ridership on the Slocan south route increased by 11% last year.

He informed that Jo Brown, who manages the local service, is looking at producing a questionnaire to send out to residents for suggestions on how to improve the service.

Munro was surprised that a resolution calling for local government approval before any permits are issued on mineral exploration and forestry activities in watersheds received such favourable support – almost a unanimous vote.

"I gave the advisory planning commission members a copy of that to consider for the OCP," he said.

Director Munro also felt there was a show of solidarity from all the rural directors of the province, with meetings and a reception set up just for them. "Concerns about government support in recognition of rural directors are province-wide," he said. He was quick to point out that the RDCK is "probably ahead of the majority of other regional district electoral areas in terms of support from the board. We get good support from our municipalities, but we also have a majority of votes, which is unusual."

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CARD OF THANKS

WE WOULD LIKE to express our deep appreciation to everyone who took the time to help on September 15 when a fire started in our cabin. To the forestry crew who were passing by and saw smoke and stayed and helped and supplied hoses and bottles of water, you were amazing. To Lawrence Schiavon for bringing the fire truck so fast. To Rachelle Champagne for phoning people. To Pat McCrory for falling some trees that were too close. To all the community members who worked so hard to try and put it out and keep it from spreading. To people who brought buckets and used their trucks to carry water. To everybody that came and helped, THANK YOU SO MUCH! It was overwhelming to have such support. We live in an amazing community.

-The Fitchetts

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK everyone who helped to ease the loss of my wife, mother, grandmother and friend KARNA FRANCHE. A little easier with your cards, flowers and kind words and food. Thanks to the Legion ladies for their support. A special thanks to Mabel Bone for her support at the service, and also the nurses at the New Denver pavilion for their kind care. It would be hard to mention everyone by name, so thanks to all who helped ease the pain.

-Yours sincerely, Roy Franche

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for all the kind words, cards, flowers and food. Words cannot express our feelings for all your help. As others have said, it is great to live in a tight knit community like ours.

A special Thank You to the Catholic Ladies for organizing the tea and also to the Doctors and Staff of the Pavilion for the great care Mom received over the years.

-The White Family

TO OUR FINE CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS - Our combined donations allowed us to send $400 to the Earthquake Relief Fund in Peru. Deb and Rob at Prima Materia thank you on behalf of all Peruvians.

COMING EVENTS

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.

YOGA AT THE DOMES - Monday, Thursday and Saturday 9 to 10:30 am. All levels, all ages. Affordable.

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.

N.R.M.S. (MUSICFEST) will be holding their AGM Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 7 pm. 619 Broadway Street (old government agent office).

GRAND OPENING EVENT: Saturday, Oct. 13th. Open House (10-12) and Wellness afternoon (12-5). Ribbon Cutting at 11 am. Hand & Soul Healing Centre 202 Lake Ave. Silverton. 358-2177.

MOTHERGOOSE IN NEW DENVER. Songs, Rhymes and Stories for parents and babies up to and including age 2. FREE. Wednesdays at 9:30 am at Knox Hall. Call Natasha 358-7778 or Julia 358-2745 for more info.

SEXUAL HEALTH SESSIONS will be held in the following areas:

Sat. Oct. 27th - Slocan City, W.E. Graham School Library; 10:30 am to 12:00 pm - A Parent Session for parents/guardians of preschoolers and primary children. 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm - A Teen Session - Media Influences & Decision Making. 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm - A Teen Session - Healthy Relationships & Contraceptive Methods.

Sun. Oct. 28th - New Denver, the Knox Hall - 10:30 am to 12:00 pm - A Parent Session for parents/ guardians of preschoolers and primary children. 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm - A Parent Session for parents/guardians of adolescents. 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm - A Teen Session - Media Influences & Decision Making.

Sat. Nov. 3rd - Mt. Sentinel School - 10:30 am to 12:00 pm - A Parent Session for parents/ guardians of adolescents. 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm - Adults re-entering the Dating Scene.

Tues. Nov.6th - Winlaw School Library - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - A Parent Session based on the Askable Parent Program.

Wed. Nov.7th - Crescent Valley Youth Centre - 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm - A Teen Session - Media Influences & Decision Making. Contact Sheryl Mair, Certified Sexual Health Educator at 226-6877. Pre-registration is preferred although drop in is OK. All above sessions are free to participants thanks to the Village of Slocan and a CBT Grant which was granted to Area H.

ADHAM SHAIKH with guests Pure Blend. All Ages Halloween Shaker, Sat. Oct. 27th Vallican Whole. Youth (12-17) $10.00, 18 and over $15.00. Tix @ the door. Doors open 7:30. Costume prizes. Fun-raiser for The Whole School.

INTRODUCTORY TALK TO CRANIAL SACRAL THERAPY with Darlene, RCST. Saturday, October 20, 10:00-11:00 am. Sessions 12:00-4:00 pm. Hand and Soul, Silverton.

SLELS (NEW DENVER NURSERY SCHOOL) AGM - October 25, 7 pm, Lucerne School Library.

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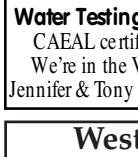

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NOTICES

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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OBITUARY

KARNA LOU FRANCHE passed on peacefully after her battle with cancer on September 1, 2007 at the New Denver Pavilion. She was 69 years old.

Karna is survived by her husband Roy, daughter Joanne Elmes, sister Aloria Moore, brothers Richard, Aubbie, Eric Winje, nieces Alana, Minette, Sheri, Lorianne. Nephews Blaine, Sheldon, Shaun Jason, Rick and Brent. Step-daughters Bonnie, Melody, Christine and Brenda. Also many grandchildren.

Karna was very kind-hearted and always thought of others' needs before her own. She loved shopping and yard sales and it gave her delight to find a bargain. Karna served in the Royal Canadian Air Force for 7 years ranking as a corporal. She also served in the Ladies Auxiliary and Royal Canadian Legion #276 for many years in Slocan. She will be greatly missed as a mother, sibling and best friend. You will always be in our hearts. Karna was also against cruelty to animals. Any donations you would like to make can be made to the Nelson SPCA in memory of Karna Franche.

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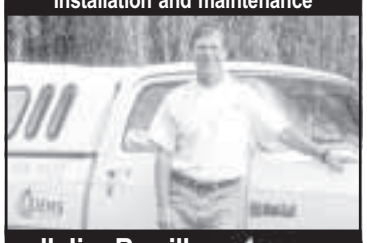

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Pope & Talbot puts prime real estate in the Arrow Lakes and Boundary regions on the market

by Jan McMurray

Pope & Talbot is selling off 35 properties totalling 15,863 acres in the Arrow Lakes and Grand Forks areas.

"...the Pope & Talbot portfolio includes significant lake frontage and some development potential. In addition, the portfolio retains significant timber value, with over 600,000 cubic metres of timber, of which a significant portion is high value Cedar," states the promotional material on the website at www.uniqueproperties.ca.

Twenty of the properties are in the upper Arrow Lakes and Edgewood region. These 20 properties add up to 11,552 acres and represent the bulk of the P&T land for sale. The three largest upper Arrow Lakes properties – a 5,533-acre piece at Shelter Bay, a 2,448-acre piece at Eagle Bay and a 773-acre piece at Mosquito Creek – are not yet priced. The total value of the 20 upper Arrow Lakes properties minus these three comes to about $10.2 million.

The 15 properties in the Grand Forks and Castlegar areas cover 4,311 acres and are valued at about $12 million.

The total of all properties minus the three yet to be priced is about $22 million.

Upper Arrow Lakes properties with price tags attached range from a 536-acre piece in Nakusp at $1,950,000 to a 16-acre piece at Arrow Park (Hampton) at $295,000. The piece with the lowest value is at Arrow Head (Henry's Creek) – 203 acres for $99,500.

The website advertises that many of the properties "would be ideal for recreational estates, timber properties, agricultural uses or residential homesteads."

It explains that the land is "surplus to the company's core forestry operations and will provide greater value for other uses rather than purely forestry lands."

This raises questions about taking private lands out of a tree farm licence area. The Forest Act allows this as long as the company obtains prior written consent from the Minister. In 1994, the NDP government established the Forest Land Reserve Act, which required the licencee to make application to a commission to remove private land from the TFL. Permission could be given if the commission was satisfied that the removal was in the public interest. The current government repealed the Forest Land Reseve Act in 2004.

Offers to purchase the P&T lands are being considered after October 15, and preference will be given to offers on multiple properties.

Mark Lester at Colliers International, Vancouver office, is handling the portfolio.

The financially troubled company has also announced a two-week shutdown for three of its four Canadian sawmills beginning October 15. The Castlegar, Grand Forks and Fort St. James mills will shut down temporarily "to ensure the company's profitability during these difficult times" brought on by "the falling prices of softwood lumber products and the continued strengthening of the Canadian dollar," according to CEO Harold Stanton.

The Castlegar and Grand Forks mills were shut down from August 20 to September 3 for the same reason. In the spring, the Grand Forks and Fort St. James mills were shut down for one week. The company's fourth Canadian sawmill is in Midway.

Pope & Talbot's agreement with its lenders has been extended, allowing the company access to its $67 million worth of credit until October 15. Since the original agreement was struck on July 31 after the company reported a net loss of $42 million for the second quarter of 2007, all of the company's assets have been up for sale.

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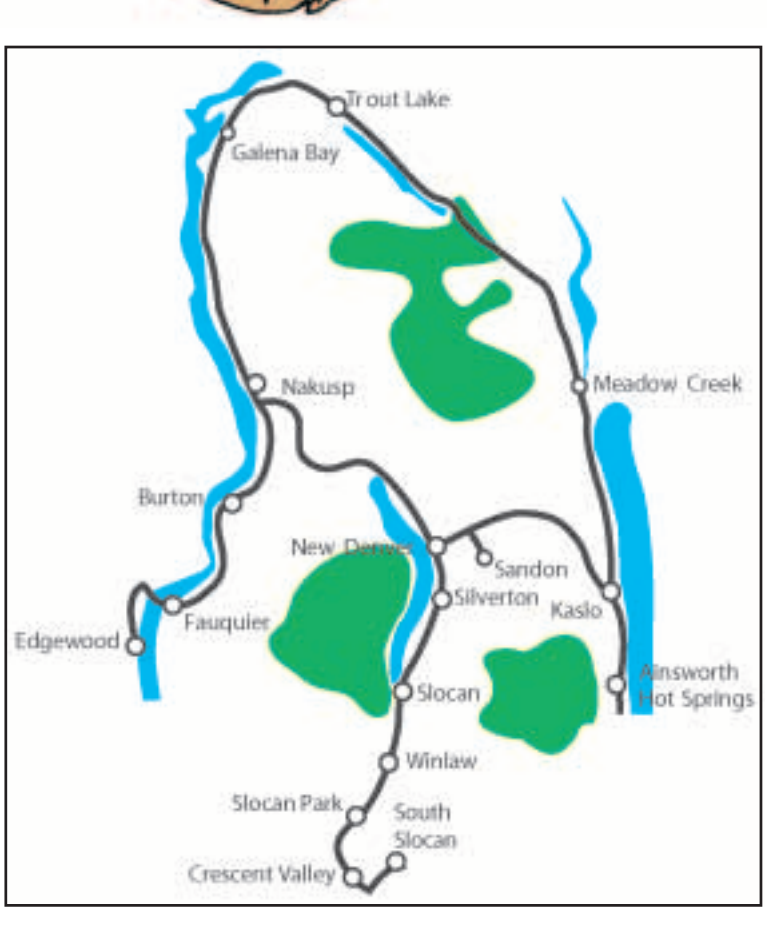

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