The Valley VOICE

Free!

Volume 16, Number 22 November 7, 2007 **Delivered to every home between Edgewood, Kaslo & South Slocan. Published bi-weekly.**

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

Pope & Talbot: people asked to put pressure on government

by Jan McMurray

More than 130 people who attended a meeting in Nakusp Sunday night were urged by MLA Corky Evans and Mayor Karen Hamling to tell the government that they feel they are being ripped off in the whole Pope & Talbot mess.

Most of the people at the meeting were local logging contractors who are owed money by Pope & Talbot. Mayor Karen Hamling has estimated that P&T owes somewhere in the realm of $4 million-$5 million locally. General Manager of the Interior Logging Association Wayne Lintott said the company owed individual contractors in BC anywhere from $6,000 to more than $1 million.

At the moment, it doesn't look good for these people to get paid.

Pope & Talbot filed for creditor protection under the Companies Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) on October 29. The CCAA court order prohibits the company from paying contractors' bills that are dated before October 29. Employees, on the other hand, are being paid as usual according to the company's media contact Mark Rossolo.

Essentially, the CCAA filing is a last-ditch attempt to avoid bankruptcy. It lets the company off the hook from its creditors for an initial 'stay period' of 30 days while it prepares a 'restructuring plan.' The stay period for P&T ends November 23, but can be extended.

The restructuring plan details how the company will pay its creditors, and the plan must be approved by both the creditors and the court.

However, local lawyer Ulrike Zobel has been researching this and says the plan may propose that the company pay only so many cents on the dollar.

Furthermore, ILA President Lintott has found out it is quite possible that only the secured creditors will get to vote on the plan.

"Our understanding through our lawyer is that unsecured creditors, which would apply to 99.9% of the people in this room, will not have a vote." He assured that the association was "working on this daily with our lawyer. We are working on what we can do for the contractors who are owed money from P&T."

He urged the crowd not to extend credit to P&T "because the same thing could happen again." He advised them to make sure they have some form of security from the company, suggesting a $50,000 deposit, before doing any more work for them. Anything owed from before October 29 should remain on their books as monies owing, he said.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) has been appointed as P&T's 'monitor' during the proceedings. PWC will assist with the company's operations and restructuring plan, and will report on the company's progress to the court.

According to an affidavit filed in the court proceedings by the company's Vice President, CEO and Secretary, R. Neil Stuart, the company received binding offers during the week of October 8 in its efforts to sell its sawmill and pulp mill businesses.

"P&T expects to be returning to the Court within a few days to seek approval of a purchase agreement for a substantial portion of its business," states the affidavit, which goes on to say that this would repay a substantial portion of the debt. "It is expected that the proposed purchase agreement would serve as a 'stalking horse' for a short Court-supervised auction process."

MLA Evans appealed to the people at the Nakusp meeting to ask for public consultation before any such transaction takes place. He reminded that in 1992, when Westar went broke and applied to sell out to P&T for $22 million, the minister at the time sent four MLAs out to hold public meetings in their communities. There was consultation with the people, and issues discussed at the meetings became terms of the sale.

He wants people to demand this same type of public process in this deal "because we live in a democracy and you live here and the Minister doesn't." Evans says he has just recently found out that the laws were changed in 2006, giving the Minister of Forests a lot of authority without having to consult with the people.

This is where the private land sales come in. Evans says he was outraged when he found out that the private components of Tree Farm Licences, so licencees can sell off the private land and continue working the public land. He added that the P&T land advertised for sale includes property that was expropriated by BC Hydro during the flooding of the Arrow Lakes in the 1960s and not sold back to the people, "so my outrage was on several levels."

"P&T is selling private land to reduce their debt to Wells Fargo Bank in the US and other registered creditors, and there is no requirement for them to pay the people in Nakusp, Edgewood – the people where the land is," he said.

Evans explained that P&T was advertising to sell about 16,000 acres of land, 27% of which is not in the TFL. The land that is in the TFL cannot be sold until approved by the Minister of Forests. Evans says that although the Minister claims he has not signed off on the approval, the affidavit filed in court by P&T's CEO says the sale of many of the properties have closed or are being finalized.

In other words, Evans says, P&T is not only going to stiff local contractors, but also they are going "to change the nature of how you live without talking to you" by selling the land to developers who will create communities for people who have a very different lifestyle.

Mayor Hamling added that the Nakusp and Area K OCP processes identified keeping the small town character of the area as the number one priority, "and this will not happen if the land is sold."

A man who has an accepted offer on one of the pieces of land cautioned people against objecting to the land sales. He said it was the best hope for P&T to raise the money to pay the people.

Evans pointed out that "the people in this room are the last on the list. First on the list is the banks." However, he agreed that if the minister approves the removal of the land from the TFL, he should put a condition on it that the revenue from the sales go towards paying the local people first.

People at the meeting came up with many suggestions for the minister on how they could get paid – through the sale of the private land, the transfer of the TFL, the high stumpage bill that P&T must owe the government. It was even pointed out that there were enough logs in the lake to pay everyone in the room.

As at June 30, P&T had a total debt of $354.9 million. It had $682 million in assets and $265.4 million in long-term debt at the time of its last financial filings. The 'senior secured lenders' are owed $242 million.

The company employs 1,700 workers in Canada and 600 in the US.

The three sawmills in Canada that were closed October 15 reopened November 5, but with limited production to one shift. The pulp mill near Nanaimo is only running two of its three production lines. Over the last few months, P&T has temporarily shut down the Castlegar, Grand Forks and Fort St. James sawmills to reduce costs.

P&T entered into an agreement with its senior secured lenders on July 31 to continue to have access to its credit while it tried to sell its assets. That agreement was extended twice, to October 26. On October 29, the company filed for creditor protection.

Reasons for P&T's poor position include depressed lumber market conditions, the strong Canadian dollar, higher pulp raw material and manufacturing costs, housing slow down in the US, low lumber prices, the softwood lumber dispute, and high debt load.

Contact the Ministers about P&T

Minister of Forests Rich Coleman: 250-387-6240 (phone); 250-387-1040 (fax).

Minister of Economic Development Colin Hansen: 250-356-7411 (phone); 250-356-6376 (fax).

Call 1-800-663-7867 (Enquiry BC) to have your phone calls and faxes put through at no charge.

Creatures of all kinds had their Tarot cards read at New Denver's Halloween event at Bosun Hall.

P & T Land Sales unfolding

by Jan McMurray

The affidavit filed in the Pope & Talbot CCAA court proceedings for creditor protection reveals that the sale of many of the properties advertised for sale in the Arrow Lakes and Grand Forks areas "have closed or are in the process of being finalized."

However, the Colliers International real estate agent who is handling the portfolio, Mark Lester, says nothing has been finalized, as everything is subject to an approval process that is part of the CCAA proceedings. "The sales process can still occur but there are rules and terms of how that's done with respect to the CCAA process."

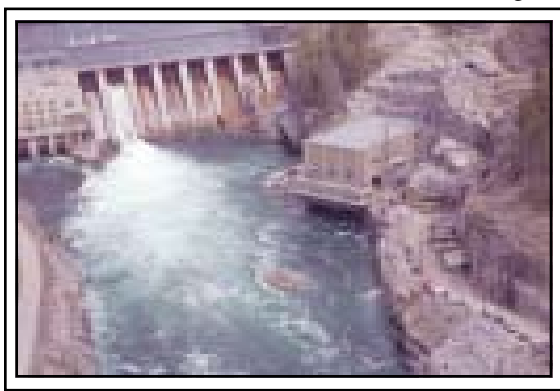
According to the affidavit, the bulk of the Arrow Lakes properties have been sold to Chou Associates Management Inc., an investment company out of Toronto, for $4.8 million. The contract includes the properties in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Blanket Creek, Beaton Complex, Beaton Schedule A, Galena Bay Thumb, Arrowhead (Henry's Creek, Galena Bay), as well as Taite Creek near Edgewood, and Tuzo Junction and Kettle River Park North in the Kootenay Boundary.

The largest piece of property, the 5,533-acre piece near Shelter Bay, is in the works to be sold to Ilkay Development Corporation for $11.3 million. The property was advertised for $9,995,000. Ilkay has purchased land on Vancouver Island that Minister Coleman recently consented to removal from a Western Forest Products TFL.

The Burton property has also apparently been spoken for, but the contract has not been signed and there is no name for the buyer in the affidavit. The purchase price is $795,000, as listed.

All three of the properties near Castlegar (Shields Creek, Beaverdell South and Deer Park) were also in the works at the time of the affidavit, as were two pieces in the Kootenay Boundary, north of Midway.

The total of the properties listed in the affidavit as sold or in the process of being sold comes to $20,046,000.



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Welcoming Guide to the North Slocan coming soon

submitted

The north part of the Slocan Valley is a unique place. It is natural and beautiful, and there is a special sense of connection to community and landscape. Many of us have chosen to live here because we value the small town, rural character, and its wild, abundant backyard.

There is, however, a growing concern about maintaining that wonderful community character and protecting the ecological integrity of our region. There are too many examples of small communities in the Pacific Northwest that have been hit by the 'wave' of development. While most of us would like to see some economic development here, our community planning does not indicate we hope to become like Canmore or Kelowna.

Our local and regional Official Community Planning (OCP) documents are one way to articulate the vision we have for our communities and for the region of North Slocan. The Healthy Housing Society, a local non-profit, is expanding on these processes and leading the creation of a 'Welcoming Guide' to the region. The Welcoming Guide will be a professionally produced brochure, designed specifically for visitors and prospective homebuyers, and will express and share the results of our community and regional planning.

The Healthy Housing Society has invited input on the brochure's content from local governments, and is now seeking input from local businesses, real estate agents, groups, and individuals.

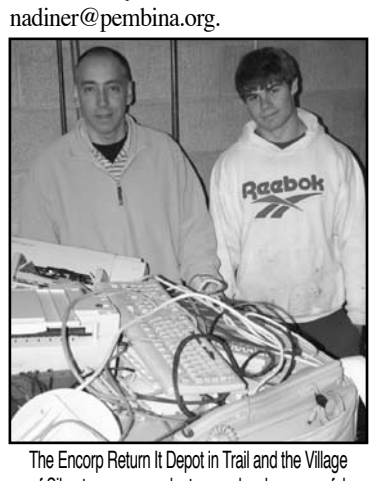
As the brochure is intended to express the collective views and values of this region, the society is asking you to contribute your thoughts by completing the green sheet inserted into this week's *Valley Voice*. Local artists and photographers are invited to submit images to be used in the brochure.

The form can be returned to the *Valley Voice* office or via mail to the address on the bottom of the form.

The Welcoming Guide will be produced by local professional writers and designers (watch for a call for proposals soon), and distributed through local real estate agents, businesses, community groups and individuals starting in May 2008. There will be an opportunity to review a draft Welcoming Guide in March.

The society has secured some funding from a BC Healthy Communities grant, and is actively fundraising to cover all costs of developing the Welcoming Guide.

For more information, contact Nadine Raynolds at 358-2164 or nadiner@pembina.org.



The Encorp Return It Depot in Trail and the Village of Silverton sponsored a tremendously successful electronic recycling day. It is estimated over two tons of old computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and TVs were saved from the landfill. Pictured are Tom Geddes from Encorp, Trail and Mark McLeod, Silverton.

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CBTYMP07
Delivery Partner – Youth Media "Scratch Magazine"
Columbia Basin Trust is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to produce and distribute Scratch Magazine. Scratch Magazine is part of CBT's Youth Initiatives and highlights Basin youth art and writing.
Closing date for the Request is 3:00 PM PST on December 7, 2007. Full proposal information packages may be obtained by contacting:
Megan Catalano
Columbia Basin Trust
Suite 300, 445-13 Avenue
Castlegar, BC V1N 1G1
Phone: 1-800-505-8998
Email: mcatalano@cbt.org
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Slocan Lake Stewardship Society begins lakeshore study

by Art Joyce

The Slocan Lake Stewardship Society has begun its first project – phase one of a baseline scientific study of the lake. To do the study, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) provided a GPS technician and equipment, a boat, and staff biologists.

SLSS director Hilary Elliot says the reason for the study is that there is currently no database of scientific information on Slocan Lake. "Right now we don't have any information, so we can't work from anything. This study at least gives us a place to start."

There are three phases to the baseline study: the initial SHIM mapping, a review of existing and past scientific surveys, and the identification of sensitive habitat areas.

Phase one of the study, known as Shoreline Inventory mapping (SHIM), uses GPS technology and video recording to segment and map the shoreline. This involved a physical survey of the lake as part of the initial data collection, thanks to the in-kind donation of DFO equipment and technicians. A later part of this phase, scheduled for next summer, will gather more detailed information, especially on fish and wildlife habitat, pending funding approvals. Other information documented will include types of shoreline, foreshore modifications such as docks, retaining walls, roads, and rail beds, human population, points of interest, current and historical land uses, and tributaries.

The baseline mapping will identify sensitive areas where building, marinas or other development would not be recommended, due to habitat issues related to the presence of endangered or 'threatened' species. Bonanza Creek has been identified as a top priority sensitive habitat area.

The study's final report will make a number of recommendations to the RDCK, as well as to SLSS fundraising partners. Decisions based on this information will be guided by the various OCP bylaws for each affected municipality and regional area. Elliot stresses that the SLSS can make recommendations to the APC (Advisory Planning Committee) of the Area H North OCP process, but cannot make decisions on lakeshore use or development. SLSS director Barb Yeomans adds that "we welcome all perspectives, we have no political intent, and our mission is to educate and create awareness."

SLSS will be holding a fundraising event, a Lake Lovers Film/Discussion night on November 23, 7 pm, at the Hidden Garden Gallery. The film component will be short clips of freshwater lakes to help stimulate discussion on lake stewardship issues, with society members present to answer questions and take suggestions.

Landslide mitigation work done on Hwy 31A

by Jan McMurray

Travellers between Kaslo and New Denver on Highway 31A will be happy to know that efforts have recently been made to prevent a predicted landslide at Whitewater Creek.

A drainage ditch has been dug so that water will be conveyed away from the failure zone, which is located on private property above the highway.

Although the ditch does not guarantee long-term stability at the site, four qualified registered professionals agreed that this was an appropriate action to take to reduce the hazard, given the history of the slide area.

After a slide at the site in 2002, a drainage ditch was put in. With drainage in place, the site was stable until May this year, when water was inadvertently directed onto the failure area and another slide came down.

The new drainage ditch connects with the existing one, and re-establishes the drainage away from the failure zone.

There was concern that without the drainage work, there could be a bigger slide during spring freshet 2008. A bigger slide could block the creek and result in a significant debris flow, likely impacting the small bridge on the highway over Whitewater Creek.

The bridge is not the only infrastructure at risk, however. The Village of Kaslo's secondary water supply, Kaslo River, could also be affected. The river ran turbid for two to three months after the 2002 and 2007 slides, and there has been turbidity this fall during rain events. Retallack Lodge's microhydro system on Whitewater Creek is also at risk.

In an unprecedented arrangement, the Village of Kaslo and Retallack Resort have agreed to contribute to the cost of the drainage ditch. Retallack has further agreed to monitor the site during spring freshet and after major rain events.

Because the original failure is on private property and occurred naturally, responsibility for mitigation of the hazard is not clear. The Ministry of Environment took the lead on the project, and approached all stakeholders to share the cost.

Kaslo agreed to contribute $500. Although council members did not see this to be the Village's responsibility, they were very concerned about the potential long-term negative effects on the municipality.

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Area H North OCP meeting discusses issues, strategies

by Art Joyce

While there may be a few for whom community planning is a dirty word, that isn't the case for 88% of those who responded to the RDCK's planning survey a few months ago. Concerned by issues such as declining school enrolment, aging population, and an unprecedented high in non-resident property ownership, residents in Area H, North Slocan Valley, turned out October 25 at Lucerne School in New Denver to discuss priorities and possible solutions.

RDCK planner Meeri Durand presented the highlights from that survey before launching the audience into discussion groups. Members of the Advisory Planning Committee (APC) were present to participate and listen to the concerns presented. Durand said the regional district hopes to have a draft version of the Area H OCP ready for the public by November, with a final draft for review prepared for January 2008.

"Obviously no process will please everybody, but we're hoping to make decisions on a consensus basis," said Durand.

Area H Director Don Munro was on hand to answer questions about the OCP process. He explained that one of the advantages of creating a community plan is that residents can identify areas of use. These typically fall into residential, commercial and industrial. By so doing, one can prevent the scenario of building a home and then having a pig farm move in next door.

"It's not set in stone, it's an overall plan, a snapshot of the community's wishes at that particular time," Munro said. "There are mechanisms to deal with exceptions to the plan."

Durand presented pertinent facts from 2006 Canada Census data showing that population within Area H had declined by 3.4% since the previous census in 2001. At the same time, non-resident property ownership increased to an average of 41%. The median age of the area is 44, with the 50-59 age group representing the greatest numbers. The values identified on the planning survey as most important to the community were (in order of importance) clean air and water, scenic beauty, peace and quiet, privacy, country living and employment. Survey respondents identified the following as top priority issues needing to be addressed in the region: availability of medical services, visual and watershed impacts of logging, ecologically sustainable development, environmental protection, and planned control of shoreline development, among other concerns.

Although the protection of view corridors and the area's scenic beauty were deemed important by 94% of respondents, there was uncertainty about how to reach this goal. Only 58% indicated support for acquisition of additional park space in their communities, although 77% supported the expansion of Summit Lake Provincial Park. Some at the meeting October 25 were concerned that any such park expansion takes into account their land use needs.

Another critical issue identified in the RDCK survey for Slocan Lake North was shoreline development management. A clear majority of 87% expressed the desire to preserve multiple public access points to the lake, and 83% supported the idea of a comprehensive lakeshore management plan. Durand said this support has translated into the creation of the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society (SLSS), which will act in an advisory role to the regional district through local, citizen-based groups like the APC that are open to input from anyone.

The Slocan Valley's historic role in agricultural production was another issue that arose in survey respondents wanting to ensure future food security and sustainability. Some at the meeting who operate family farms were concerned about threats to the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from increasing development. Building permits in the regional district are at a 5-year high, soaring from 32,349 in 2002 to 73,471 in 2006, although Durand said much of that construction is in expansion of existing buildings. She explained that the ALR is governed provincially but that the Area H OCP could define what are appropriate uses of land within agricultural zones.

Discussion groups at the meeting were asked to choose one of five broad categories identified in the survey: water, land use, community, economic and services, and prioritize the issues within each category needing an action strategy. Durand said an example of how to deal with water concerns could be to set a bylaw requiring housing development no closer than 30 metres from a shoreline and 15 metres from creeks. In response to concerns about noise pollution from industry, she said noise bylaws can be implemented at any time based on a vote. The issue of affordable housing was identified as a priority in the area. Incentives can be created, Durand said, for vacation home owners to keep their properties in the rental market, or institute byaws such as on Saltspring Island, where non-BC residents are not allowed to own more than one property.

Durand said she will be conducting draft OCP workshops in the smaller villages of Slocan Lake North to ensure that results aren't skewed by the wishes of larger communities.

Munro added that mailouts of the draft OCP will be done to all households to ensure that everyone has a chance to comment.

GO FOR THE GOLD!!

The Province's 2010 Olympic Committee is developing space at Vancouver's Robson Square to promote British Columbia and its communities to the world. The space will feature a unique ceiling that uses a variety of WOOD PLANKS representing individual communities from all parts of the Province.

If you are aware of any suitable wood that represents Nakusp & Area and perhaps has a unique story to tell, contact Ulli Mueller (umueller@nakusp.com). A design drawing of the proposed ceiling is available at the Nakusp Village Office. Planks required by November 30.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CBTACH07

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROGRAM

Columbia Basin Trust is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to conduct an evaluation of its Arts, Culture and Heritage Programs delivered on behalf of CBT by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Program evaluation will review and assess the impacts, the administration and the effectiveness of the program.

Closing date for the Request is 3:00 PM PST on December 7, 2007. Full proposal information packages may be obtained by contacting:

Megan Catalano
Columbia Basin Trust
Suite 300, 445-13 Avenue
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Notice of Community Meeting *(Trout Lake)*

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District, with assistance from the Trout Lake and Rural Revelstoke Advisory Committees, has prepared a new **Official Community Plan (OCP)** for Electoral Area B.

The new OCP has been developed over the last 18 months through a consultative public process. We appreciate the input that has been submitted through the Advisory Committees, surveys, letters, emails, and attendance at public meetings.

At the Trout Lake public consultation meeting in October, participants made a number of suggestions for changes to the OCP. The CSRD has reviewed these requests and will discuss them at this final community meeting.

The draft OCP is posted on the CSRD website (www.csrd.bc.ca, 'Development Services' tab, 'Area 'B' OCP Review'). This draft does not include the proposed changes that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. The CSRD plans to update the entire OCP, including changes for Trout Lake, once the public has been consulted.

The meeting is scheduled as follows:

Trout Lake Community Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Location:	Trout Lake Community Hall
Time:	4:30pm – 5:30pm – Open House 5:30pm – 6:00pm – Presentation 6:00pm – 7:00pm – Questions & Answers

Voices from the Valleys

Correction

Gary Diers' letter regarding the Glacier/Howser independent power project entitled 'Jobs?' in our Oct. 24 issue was sent to us saying: "Possibly some locals could get short-term jobs building the thing, but AXOR corporation only expects a total of 3-4 longer term jobs from this $240 million project."

We published "...4-6 longer-term full time jobs..."

Please note that Gary Diers' original letter stated 3-4 jobs, not 4-6.

Start with the facts

Health Canada has published a brochure called 'Safety of Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields – Frequently Asked Questions.' Here is one of the questions and its answer:

"How does Safety Code 6 compare with the standards in other countries?"

"The exposure limits set by Safety Code 6 are similar to other national and international standards. All countries use the same biomedical data and the same general approach to setting safety guidelines. Differences in interpreting the biological effects under certain exposure conditions sometimes result in small differences in the exposure limits that are recommended. These minor differences will not affect a person's health. Canada's exposure limits are among the safest guidelines in the world."

Prior to reading this statement in the Health Canada brochure I had been informed that the difference in allowable exposure guidelines between Canada and some other countries was considerable. Canada's exposure allowance is 580 W/sq. m. (watts per square metre) while that of the European Union is 10 W/sq. m., and many individual European countries have even tighter standards. Austria allows 0.1 W/sq. m. Germany announced earlier this year that they are not at all comfortable even with their own stringent standard.

So who's lying?

Actually no one! Read the Health Canada answer again, and again and again if you have to. It was only upon reading the answer in the brochure carefully several times that I understood that there was no claim in this answer that all countries had similar guidelines or that there weren't some countries that had very different guidelines. This question was not answered in the brochure.

I believe, when a person asks: "How does Safety Code 6 compare with the standards in other countries?" he/she really means to ask, "Do some other countries have standards that are significantly different to those of Health Canada, and if this is the case, does Health Canada have an explanation for this difference?" Isn't that the real question? Otherwise why would one want to ask such a question?

Are we getting weak on facts? Do we shrug our shoulders when we have the wool pulled over our eyes, content that we have been made to feel better? If you want to feel good, read the government brochure. I expect better from my elected representatives.

This cell tower issue has created a lot of division in our community. Our mistake is our failure to identify our common enemies – those who pull the wool over our eyes.

When I discover that the experts and elected representatives are deceiving me on one point, I automatically ask, where else are they deceiving me? Then I'm stuck with my own resources to get at the truth. That's not an easy job for a layman.

Let's start looking at facts, then make the decisions. My step-daughter's tumour where she held the cell phone is a fact. My personal investigation has to begin there.

Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

Too many bears

In the city – Vancouver for example – they occasionally have 'take back the night' marches. These are events where some people get together and march around at night in an attempt to force city and or provincial authorities to make their darkened streets safer for women, kids and the elderly.

In 'small town' BC we should have 'give back the night' marches. These would be events where people get together and sit in a house, too fearful of going outside to march because of the number of bears in the damn town.

The other morning there was a large pile about three feet from my front door. Two days later, at 10 am, there was another one in the lane that hadn't been there at 8 am.

Last spring one Kaslo resident wrote to the *Valley Voice* to report "a disturbing scene" – she was referring to a pile of dog poop. Well, I gotta tell ya folks, it take a big dog to crap a ton. I was thinking of suggesting the 'bear aware lady' take on the job of pooper scoopin' but I realized she'd need another grant and I'm sure Andy and Jim 'anything for a vote' Shadrack / Holland would be all over that and it would just cost us all a lot more money.

Recently a kid was chased on her bicycle going to school and a jogger was stalked along the highway. Women and the elderly are afraid to walk at night and some won't go out in the day if it means walking through even a short piece of 'bush,' like say, 'Dead Bear Park.' And all this in a society so completely obsessed with safety it can barely function.

In the meantime Kaslo has enacted such a draconian dog bylaw that there are few, if any, dogs around to harass these bears. Pretty soon, the bear that unloaded by my front door will be sleeping on the porch or in the living room.

But there is good news!! Here's a way around the stupid dog bylaw – just dress your dog in a bear suit. Then instead of a fine you'll get a nice yellow sign. Now, won't that be special.

One lady from Toronto just wrote the VV to chastise the Conservation Officer for shooting a bear. Why isn't she more proactive? Why not think outside the box? She could lobby the City of Toronto to import our problem bears where they could feed on the psychos she's so afraid of or the homeless, junkies, etc. or even the sick (that's entirely "natural"), think of the saving to the "social safety net"!!

No joke, the number of bears in Kaslo has just about reached critical mass as near as I can tell. These animals are top predators. To the extent they have a 'natural fear' of humans they learned it the hard way. They will eventually unlearn the lesson and someone, probably a child, is quite likely to pay the price.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo

Warning against products claiming protection from EMFs

Whenever there is a health concern, entrepreneurial zeal aiming to profit from it seems to be unstoppable. Just as recognition grows internationally connected with cell phone usage hazards, products countering them are being advertised, especially on the internet. For instance, a current internet advertisement states:

"RF3 HEADSET VIRTUALLY ELIMINATES RF LEVELS!" Claiming "patented" technology, the advertisement assures that "You can talk with ease knowing that Radio Frequency waves have been virtually eliminated."

As another example, *Prevention Magazine* carried an ad with a statement by Ken Black, MD, director of Neurosurgical Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He states: "I always use an earpiece to lower my risk of developing brain cancers." The advertisers concede cell phone usage may raise brain tumour risk by 39% over a ten-year period and concludes as follows: "Play it safe and purchase a headset; reliable ones can be found for as little as $10.00. Using an earpiece keeps the microwaves that your phone emits far away from your head."

It seems inconceivable that the good doctor has not recognized that the headset is connected to a cell phone hanging somewhere on his body and that the cell phone, wherever it is placed, is transmitting dangerous frequencies. If worn on the hip it can generate testicular cancer.

The Executive Assistant of the SafeWireless Initiative in the US writes us that "as far as the research we have seen, only the air-tube headset is able to disperse Electro-magnetic Radiation before it enters the brain. But you are correct that, while the head is somewhat protected, wherever the antenna is close to will be receiving the surge of 'near field' radiation that extends up to 8" in a flat radius. Therefore, this is going directly into the pelvic bone, genital and reproductive areas, or back, heart or lung if carried in a backpack."

What is important as well is that bystanders are also endangered by the radiation, as are non-users living within the 400-metre plume from the transmission towers.

In addition, new Gauss meters said to allow each person to gauge how much radiation is in the house or outdoor field in which the person is standing are unreliable. Dr. George Carlos, (who wrote the definitive book on wireless phones from his experiences as the commissioned chief researcher in the US on wireless technology) states that electrosmog detectors, effective at roughly one mile from emissions, do not pick up all electromagnetic transmissions. He states that the only piece of equipment he knows which registers all EMF transmissions costs about $2,700.

Lastly, the 610-page BioInitiative Report in which the whole of this subject is treated at great length, concludes: "No assertion of safety *at any level of wireless exposure* can be made at this time."

The entrepreneurial intent to immediately profit on the public's concern about health hazards or danger has to be factored in when assessing the efficacy of all such shielding products. It can be like the equivalent of cigarette manufacturers telling people (for years) that using filtered cigarettes made smoking safe. The public should recognize how misleading such safety claims about cell phones can be.

Richard Caniell, Chairperson
Valhalla Committee
for Environmental Health

Compelled to respond

I feel compelled to respond to the two letters about the "pro-development" blockade that were written by Gary Diers and Rowena Eloise. The two letters seem to come from a delusional bubble. They are critical of those folks who live in the real world – people who actually contribute to society by producing goods that can be marketed – goods which produce the taxes that sustain the social services that benefit all of us, some people more than others. Real goods almost always create greater economic value than is produced by service industries such as tourism. Yes, tourists are important to our economy, but what happens after a significant rise in fuel prices, or the next major terrorist attack? Then what? Eco-tourism in the Kootenays, the so-called "expanding opportunity," will be a definite oxymoron given the "carbon footprint" of just getting to this area from other parts of the world. What strikes me as ironic is that the access into the backcountry is all provided by roads built by loggers and miners for your free use. Maybe the eco-tourism businesses should be paying a royalty to the province or to local industry.

Let's remember that the car you may be driving is made of materials mined from big open pits, and extracted precious metals requiring toxic processing, and tremendous energy consumption. Then there are the oil products that move your vehicle around.

Also your home is most likely made from lumber and other wood products that were once trees growing in the forests you so much want to save from those mean loggers. If you have cedar shakes/shingles then you have been partly responsible for the downing of old growth timber.

Yes, I most certainly support industry and the jobs that come with it and if a small hydro project offers 5 or 6 jobs here, great! The remark about 90 km of power line clearing reducing potential jobs along with the comment about how the Duncan Dam eliminated jobs from logging ignores the fact of just how much area has recently been removed by all the parks and reserves initiatives, thus causing more impact on the smaller existing areas to which we hear screams of disgust that we are raping the place!

The word "extinction" was used in reference to the grizzly bears' fate because of construction. I will tell you that I witnessed road building

continued on page 5

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*.

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Voices from the Valleys

continued from page 4

that involved extensive drilling and blasting and during part of that time a grizzly was directly across the creek face in a slide chute and kept feeding as several blasts took place. It stayed much of the morning.

Rowena's letter implied that all of the creek flows in both Glacier and Howser were to be funnelled into a power turbine and all of the valley's watersheds were to be reworked. That is complete nonsense. And Gary Diers' comments on the loss of jobs in the valley due to the dam is more crap! The dam provides several full-time jobs and the building of the dam got several locals up on their feet to become the successful contractors they are today, employing many workers.

I am speaking my mind and I know that there are a great many more who feel the same and get frustrated with the conspicuous hypocrisy that is flaunted in our face!

Unless it is your intention to mislead others, then it's time to educate yourselves as to what makes the world go around, and if you don't like it, please feel free to get off!

Randy Simpson
Kaslo

To the citizens of the Slocan Valley

It is truly with mixed feelings that I contemplate my last clinic day at New Denver Medical Clinic after over 14 years of service to the Slocan community. On the one hand, an overwhelming longing to be with my family (my children are all now living in Vancouver to attend UBC) and on the other, an overwhelming longing to stay in 'God's country'– simply the most beautiful place I have ever lived.

I am incredibly grateful to the Creator for this wonderful community. It is truly home to our family. It has reminded me of all the great things of growing up in a small, rural community: the sharing, the heartfelt caring and concern, the warm friendships, the struggles and the joys of living together and honing out a place for everyone. "The country is the world of the soul, the city is the world of the bodies," is written in Baha'i scripture, and I absolutely believe it. It will be very hard for the Skrenes in the city, be sure.

In leaving, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my patients for their trust in me and for sharing with me their struggles, their joys and their gifts of love. I hope and pray I have been of service to each of you. Please forgive me if I have failed you in any way, I am certainly not perfect.

I would like to thank all the wonderful souls who serve us all, protecting us, planning for our comfort and helping us when we are in need. I speak of the members of the RCMP, volunteer fire departments, PEP, Search and Rescue, volunteers, home care support workers, librarians, village staff, neighbours, friends and family and so many others. You are all so great and seldom appreciated. Rest assured, this soul has spent many hours thinking of all you do and appreciating the fact that you have always been there.

I would like to thank all the staff over the years of the Slocan Community Hospital and Health Care Centre and now Slocan Community Health Centre, the home care nursing staff, the public health staff and the ambulance volunteers. Without all of you, what would I or Dr. Burkholder and Dr. Hughes ever have been able to do? You are sterling souls with such selfless dedication and caring – examples to us all. I will truly miss each and every one of you.

I would especially like to thank the wonderful, outstanding staff of the New Denver Medical Clinic: Joan Switzer, Anne Cavanagh, Vanessa Hepperle, Janice Pound, Tana McPhee, Tanya Wolchuk, and others who have filled in over the years. Without all your help I think I would have lost my mind long ago. You are really the best and will be very much missed. I love you all. Joan, thank you for all your patience with me and for being my guardian to let me get all my work done. I know it was very hard for you, especially when I was under a lot of pressure, and I am eternally grateful.

Finally, I would like to thank my partners, Dr. Charles Burkholder and Dr. Miranda Hughes, for all your patience and support. I think we made a great team and I hope you will continue to enjoy your lives and work here in this marvelous place.

Please welcome Dr. Michael Magier and his family with the same warmth that you have shown my family and I. I am sure there will be a few hiccups getting used to each other, but already, I see the same concern and caring I know will lead to a great relationship, given time. I believe I am leaving you all in good hands, and I hope I will be welcomed back from time to time to do a few locums, as work allows.

On behalf of my wife Laleh and my children Arsham, Darya, Asaly, and Sanjar, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your love, hospitality and friendship. It is my sincere hope that we will meet again and that perhaps you will have a Dr. Skrenes once again practicing in your midst in the not too distant future. Warmest love and prayers to you all,

Dr. Bryan D. Skrenes, MBBCh
New Denver

Stop free advertising in letters

Just as I did when Rob Zandee wrote a letter praising the Conservative Party back in February, I would now like to express my disgruntlement at Eric Faulks' recent letter, which like Zandee's before it, is little more than a free advertisement for a political party. Your paper should be charging for the space used by political parties to promote their partisan politics.

The real problem in Canadian governance is the partisan politics, and the only way to resolve that problem is for the Canadian voter to reject the parties. Perhaps then we'll see some real change in our national and provincial political scene.

As for Mr. Faulks' letter, I found it quite articulate and moving, until I realized it was just another ploy to get people to vote for another political party. I've looked at the Green's policies. Yes they are strong on the environment, but their environmental policies are not far off from where the NDP's are. I've also looked at their economic policy. In the last election they were suggesting 50 per cent tax cuts, which would be disastrous to our social safety net if it were ever instituted. I've also looked at their social policies, which are somewhere right of the Harper Conservative's. Yes, I said "right" of Harper!

It is time for real change in Canadian politics, and I don't believe voting for any party is going to achieve that. The parties are the problem! If Canadians really want change, then it is incumbent upon us to bust up the party!

My suggestion is that we all seriously consider voting Independent. Lets find the independent candidate who we feel best represents the riding, and who has a decent reputation in the riding for caring about the people and place. If such a candidate can't be found, then I suggest we vote for the independent candidate who is most likely to cause a kerfuffle in Ottawa, or Victoria, whichever the case may be. If we can't find a viable non-partisan person to elect, then let's send a loonie to the loonie bin, and really stir things up.

That aside, the one thing that could change the way politics is done in this country is to get all those folks who don't vote to finally vote, especially those people who are so disenfranchised they don't believe their vote matters. If we can just get the people who don't vote to vote, then we will at least have governance by the people, instead of governance by the wealthy, which is our current situation, because it is mostly the wealthy who vote.

Finally, anyone who believes one party or the other is going to save our country is living in a dream world. History shows that parties are partisan. Once they are in power, their greatest preoccupation is self promotion, not service. Parties serve the parties, not the people.

An example of this is the Green Party leader's deal with the federal Liberals to run in Peter McKay's riding. Another is Stephen Harper's recent kowtow to Quebec. Stephane Dion is unwilling to cause an election, despite the Conservative's inaction on the Kyoto Accord and a national debate on Afghanistan, because his party can't afford to run a national campaign. Then there's the NDP, who when they came to power in BC, promptly cut funding and services to hospitals and welfare. And let's not forget the fat MLA raise the provincial parties granted themselves this past year. We can fatten MLA pensions but we won't build houses for the province's homeless.

I hope the *Valley Voice* will soon stop this practice of giving political parties free advertising. Make them pay! They are after all, making you and me pay!

I also hope we voters will soon give the parties what they really deserve, which is a good swift boot!

Will Webster
Kaslo

Write to Environment Canada about cuts

Friends, there has been some quiet but devastating budget cutting at Environment Canada. This was one of the last agencies left with any funding at all to do anything remotely effective for the environment, and now it has been decimated.

I am outraged at the decision to cut funding to the following programs: The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network, which observes changes in ecosystems, has lost 80% of its budget. The Migratory Bird program, which monitors the health of bird populations, has seen its budget cut by 50%. The budget for National Wildlife Areas, a program that protects nationally significant habitats for wildlife and birds, has been slashed from $1.9 million to zero.

Lorna Visser, Hills

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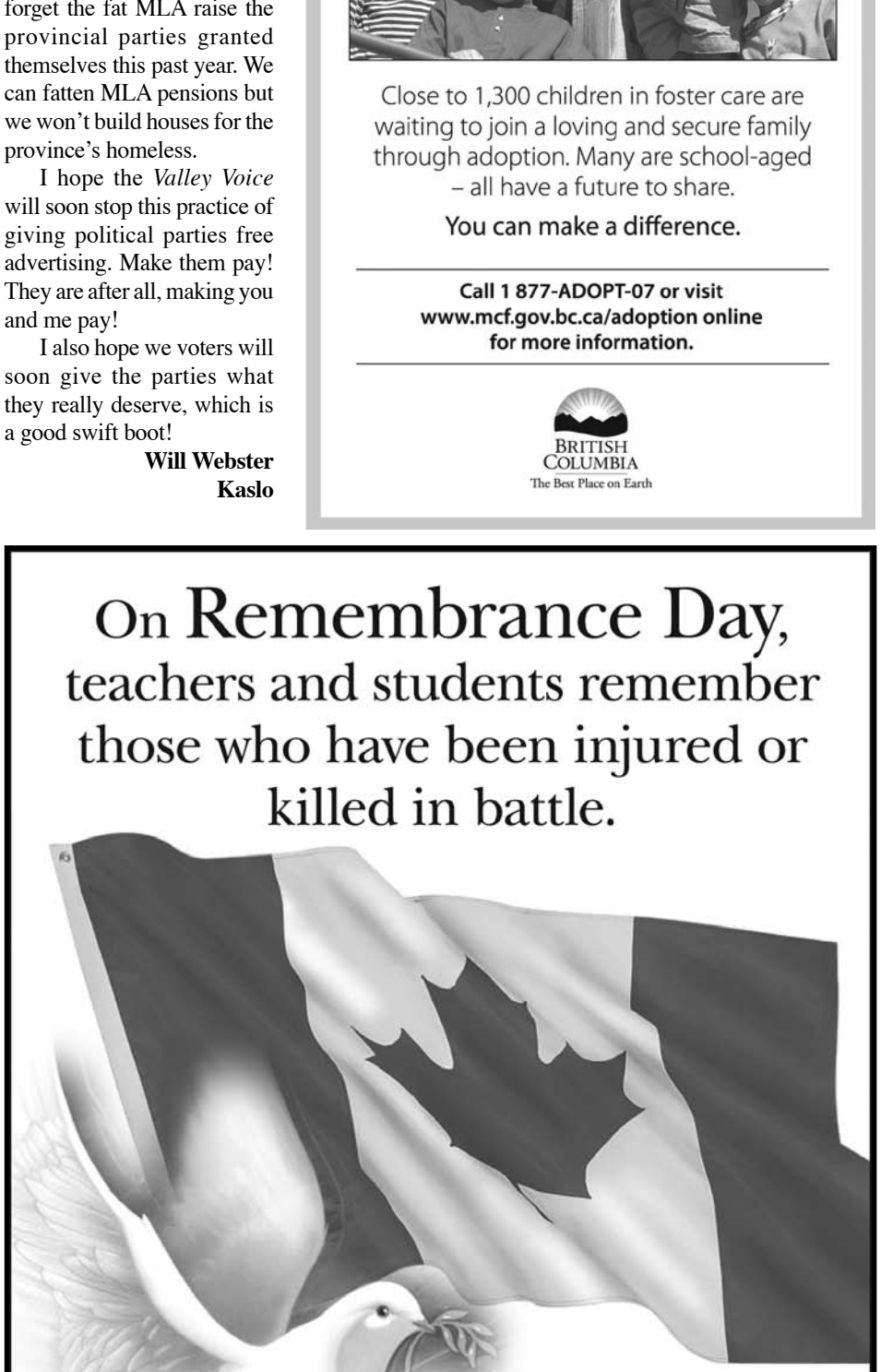

Imagining peace *in the* future

A message from the
Arrow Lakes Teachers' Association, the Principals and Vice Principals,
and the Board of Education for the Arrow Lakes

New Denver council, October 23: Bunka reports on probable avalanche activity at Enterprise / Slocan bluffs

by Leah Main

•Councillor Bunka reported that avalanche impacts at the Slocan bluffs and Enterprise Creek areas were discussed at the local emergency response group meeting October 15. The agencies monitoring this agree that it is a matter of "when, not if" there will be avalanche activity. Councillor Greensword noted that RDCK is involved in hazard mitigation activities following last summer's wildfires, which includes hazard assessment (funded by the Province), mulching and fast reseeding in Springer Creek by Ministry of Forests, consultation with (federal) Department of Fisheries regarding Sitkum Creek debris flow areas and debris basin, and ongoing mitigation efforts over the next 10 years.

•Greensword and Mayor Wright both reported on the YRB stakeholders meeting, where highway maintenance and ferry issues were discussed. The Village will log calls regarding highways problems, and pass the results along to YRB and Ministry of Transportation. MoT has assured the Village that they will pay special attention to our area this year to make sure that standards are being met.

•Nadine Raynolds, representing the Healthy Housing Society, appeared before council asking for a letter of support for the society's project to produce a 'Welcoming Guide' for visitors and prospective homebuyers. The brochure, which will reflect community values while presenting a spectrum of 'where to find it' information, will be distributed through businesses, tourism operators and real estate agents. Content will be developed through some form of community participation and feedback. Council voted to provide a letter of support.

•Village administrative staff was directed to prepare amendments to the garbage rates bylaw to assure full cost recovery for the service by initiating a label program. Each household will receive 52 marked labels per year, to be used on garbage bags at the householder's discretion, replacing the current 'one bag per week' quota. Additional tags will be available for purchase through the Village office at a cost to be determined.

•The water rates bylaw will also be reviewed to assure full cost recovery of the service.

•New Denver will participate with Silverton's electronics recycling initiative on November 3, and will assist with the associated staffing costs.

•The Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 611and Zoning Bylaw No. 612 both received third reading.

•The Cemetery Bylaw No. 618 and Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 619 both received final adoption.

•Councillor Bunka will purchase a standard emergency supplies reception centre kit, with JEPP (provincial Joint Emergency Preparedness Program) paying half the cost, subject to confirmation that there is no existing kit in the Village.

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For information leading to the conviction of the person(s) responsible for wantonly shooting and leaving a grizzly bear at Mosquito Creek across the Arrow Park Ferry on or about September 12th.

Contact:Wayne McCrory or Daniel Sherrod. 250-358-2333.

Or: Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277.

The identity of anyone who provides information will be kept confidential, or anonymous if desired.

Note: BCWF also provides a reward of up to $2,000.

Exciting times for Sandon Historical Society

submitted

The Sandon Historical Society held its annual general meeting October 30 at Knox Hall in New Denver.

Society President Lorna Obermayr noted in her report that the summer season at the museum was one of the very best, with over 4,000 visitors from all over the world. Besides many generous donations, book sales in the gift shop were brisk and ore samples donated by Klondike Silver were a steady seller. Thanks to the efforts of hosts Judy Maltz and Andy Rhodes, the trip through the museum was amusing and informative. The society has received a number of fan letters commenting on the museum.

There are some very creative and worthwhile plans in the offing for the future of Sandon and the museum. The plan for making all Crown land in the Sandon townsite into a regional park is almost finalized. It has the wholehearted support of the society and most Sandon residents. It is the first positive effort in many years to set a stable and consistent direction for this historic treasure. It is especially valuable to the society because with the cooperation of the RDCK, it will be able to establish its Heritage Centre Project. This will consist of a footbridge across Carpenter Creek in front of the museum, and the renovation of the Burns and Atherton buildings into an annex to the museum and a combined hostel and performance centre.

If your membership has lapsed, make a point of re-joining the society during this exciting time. Individual and family memberships are available and entitle you to free museum admission and 10% off any gift shop purchase. The society will have a table at the St. Anthony Christmas Sale with excellent history books for sale.

Contact Lorna Obermayr at 358-7965 for more information or to become a member.

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Park in Slocan Park created in memory of Vincent Christian

submitted

Louise and Bill Christian had a dream – to create a picnic area to provide a fun stopping/resting place along the Rails to Trails trail by the green bridge in Slocan Park. A small 'park' where people can rest in the shade, enjoy lunch or a treat from a local store, or just play around. The bigger dream is that this park will beautify the community of Slocan Park and encourage others to develop the stretch of trail south.

As the park was being built, curiosity rose – "What's that guy doing digging up those rocks? What are they building?" community members wondered.

"Our community is so wonderful – without fundraising or asking for donations, the gifts started pouring in," relates Bill.

"We love the community of Slocan Park and this project gave us an opportunity to express that love and to honour our son Vince. We want it to be a fun and beautiful place to remember and to reflect for those who knew Vince; and a place for all to enjoy," said Louise.

The Christians extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped, the Slocan Valley Rails to Trails Society board members and Tourism BC.

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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

Silverton council, October 23 Memorial Hall washroom renovation to move ahead

by Art Joyce

•Werner Mengler attended as a delegation to discuss his proposal for including his subdivision in a Village boundary expansion. Mayor Everett reminded Mengler that the Village has been waiting for a formal written proposal with an assessment of slope stability done by an engineer. Councillor Wiseman said the Village needs a "com-plete package" of information in order to assess whether the financial costs will make it viable. Council agreed to look into the costs of upgrading the street access to Mengler's subdivision, and reiterated their request for an engineer's assessment.

•Councillor Bell reported on a meeting with YRB supervisor Bill Cowan to discuss the problem of traffic speed on the main street. Bell said the idea of a double line had been discussed, as well as making the street into more of a boulevard with plants that might motivate drivers to slow down.

•Councillor Wiseman reported on the Memorial Hall select committee, which now has the majority of its estimates for the renovation. The committee is still waiting to hear from the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) regarding its grant application. Wiseman said the committee would like to move ahead with the washroom renovation at least. In a worst case scenario, even if the MRIF funding is turned down, the Village has $88,000 from Olympic 2010 Live Sites. That would mean having to kick in an additional $22,000 to cover the $110,000 cost of the washroom renovation. This amount could be borrowed from the Municipal Finance Authority if necessary, Wiseman said, although he didn't think the committee would have to do so. He said one way to save money would be to postpone moving the water line access to the building. Council unanimously passed a motion to move ahead with the washroom renovation using available funds.

Councillor Wiseman proposed a second motion that the select committee be given authority to manage the renovation within the boundaries of council oversight, and regular reports to council. The mayor asked what the scope of this authority would be. Wiseman said it would relate mostly to on-the-ground decision making at the renovation site. This would speed up the process if such basic decisions didn't require micro-management by council. After some discussion, council passed the motion.

•Administrator Ida reported on attendance at a Provincial Emergency Preparedness (PEP) meeting. Program coordinators are very concerned about the possibility of slides at Enterprise Creek and are preparing for this.

•Under unfinished business, Mayor Everett reported that a number of letters from Silverton residents have been received regarding the recycling bins, and that all seem to favour keeping them at their current location. Some mentioned the value of the location to elderly residents and worried about the loss of the service. During public and press time, Ty Capelle submitted a photo of the site taken during the Thanksgiving weekend, saying "this is my last thousand words on the subject." The photo showed cardboard scattered outside the bins. Councillor Wiseman said he didn't personally like the location but that council was obliged to abide by the wishes of the residents.

•Council approved a request from the Friends of Silverton Memorial Hall for the hall rental fee to be waived for their first annual Halloween dance. The dance is a fundraiser for the hall.

•A closer examination of the Village's Statement of Municipal Objectives for 2007/08 was tabled pending discussion in a budget meeting.

•Mayor Everett brought forward a motion to hold a municipal electronic recycling day November 3. He said Silverton Building Supplies has offered to donate both a truck and a driver to take the electronics to the Trail recycling depot. There will be no cost to the Village because the program is funded by the BC government. New Denver has offered to cover the cost of flyers to advertise the event and pay half the cost of making a public works staffer available for the day. Council passed the motion.

•Brought forward from in camera was a decision to create a part-time position one day per week in public works. During public and press time it was noted that the Village has an on-call system for emergencies.

CORRECTION

In the October 24 issue, in the article regarding the Alignments physiotherapy clinic, the mistaken impression was given that clinic owner Darlene Burrell only works two days per week. In fact Burrell works with clients from Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Also the clinic regretfully announces that physiotherapist Alex Ward will not be joining the staff at this time.

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The Village of New Denver is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of (1) 1976 580 Case Rubber Tired Loader Backhoe on an "As Is – Where Is" basis.
Interested parties can view the machine at the Village of New Denver Public Works yard at 115 Slocan Avenue or phone the village office at 250-358-2316 to make arrangements.
All sealed bids should be dropped off at the Village of New Denver Municipal Office located at 115 Slocan Avenue, New Denver, BC, by 4:00 p.m., Friday, November 23, 2007.
The Village of New Denver reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Raven's Nest
Open 10:30 to 4:00
Note: Closed from Nov 4th to Nov 12th
10 % Off Christmas Sale
From Nov. 13th. To Dec. 24th
Specials!!
Tiffany Lamps 25% Off
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New Denver, BC
Phone 358-2178

SPRINGER CREEK FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.
Tree Farm Licence No. 3 – Little Slocan
Public Announcement
Information Package for the upcoming Timber Supply Analysis
Springer Creek Forest Products would like to announce the availability for review of the Information Package for the upcoming Timber Supply Analysis for Tree Farm Licence (TFL) No. 3 – Little Slocan. TFL 3 is located west of the Slocan River between Passmore & Slocan City.
The timber supply analysis is a strategic review and analysis of the resource information currently available to support the provincial Chief Forester's determination of allowable annual cut (AAC). The purpose of the Information Package is to provide a detailed account of the factors related to timber supply that the Chief Forester must consider under the Forest Act when determining the AAC and how these will be applied in the timber supply analysis.
Springer Creek Forest Products invites comments regarding the Information Package. This document will be available as of October 30, 2007 on the web at www.springercreek.com/forestmanagement.htm or at Springer's office in Slocan City – 705 Delany Ave during office hours (8 am to 4 pm). Please contact Ed Hadikin at (250) 355-2119 to arrange an appointment.
Comments must be provided in writing to Springer Creek Forest Products, 705 Delany Ave, Slocan, BC V0G 2G0 Attention: Kathy Howard by December 13, 2007.

Columbia Basin Trust symposium inspires Columbia Basin culture

by Jan McMurray

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Symposium held October 19-20 in Castlegar focused on change and sustainability in the Columbia Basin.

During the Friday evening session, the great good fortune of having the CBT in this region during this time of change was truly brought home, and the significance of the Columbia River Treaty was a common theme.

In his opening remarks, Garry Merckel, chair of the CBT board, pointed out that the Columbia River Treaty was the reason we were all there.

He thanked everyone for their commitment to the "crazy idea" that became the CBT.

The trust is investing $7 million into the Basin this year "and it might be tens of millions in the next few years." However, Merckel said the money was just a tool to help build a stronger, more deeply rooted community.

"This was just a crazy, crazy idea and here we are doing it – we are building the idea of a Basin culture and it's starting to form."

Ruth and Lloyd Sharpe, who were directly impacted by the treaty, told the story of how they lost their property to Libby Dam and how difficult it was to get anything back.

"The Columbia River Treaty did not come without its costs, as we've heard from the Sharpes," said Bill Bennett, MLA for East Kootenay.

Bennett pointed out that the treaty was negotiated for flood control and to optimize electricity production, not for recreation, social, cultural and environmental reasons. "Maybe now we will have the opportunity to put these in," he said, referring to the opportunity to re-negotiate the treaty in 2024 as long as notice is given in 2014.

Bennett also announced that the Province had invited the CBT to sit at the table where preliminary discussions were underway regarding the treaty.

Kindy Gosal, manager of water initiatives at CBT, noted that Basin residents were not included in the treaty negotiations in the '60s, and that was a big mistake. He sees educating and involving the people as 2014 advances as a very important role for the CBT.

Mike Harcourt, BC premier at the time of the creation of the CBT, was keynote speaker for the evening. He spoke about a report called *From Restless Communities to Resilient Places: Building a Stronger Future for all Canadians*. Harcourt was on the committee that wrote the report for the federal government. The report discusses building resilient communities with long-term vision around four pillars: environmental, economic, social and cultural.

"The CBT, in my opinion, is a great success as a model of the fourth pillar of sustainability – culture," he said, encouraging us to celebrate our successes before delving into what we want re-negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty to look like.

Columbia Power Corp to consolidate

by Jan McMurray

Columbia Power Corporation will move its Victoria offices to Castlegar by the end of the year.

Barry Chuddy, CEO of the local power corporation since June 1, said it became obvious to him in a short time that the company needed to consolidate.

"It was necessary for many reasons, including the overall efficiency of the company," he said.

Although Chuddy expressed regret for the people in "a difficult spot in Victoria" because of the move, he said the corporation was excited about the growth and opportunities the consolidation would bring to our region.

Chuddy says consolidation was discussed within the organization for quite a while, and the board asked him "to look at it with a clean page" when he came in as CEO.

He says the Victoria office evolved because the company started largely "as a result of the vision by people in government."

However, he says it is not necessary to have an office close to government to do business with government. He also points out that although the company is consistent with government direction, it operates independently from government.

He says he looks forward to building the company "from the ground up" in Castlegar.

Future of Food in the Kootenays Conference

Food Security in a Changing World

Nov. 13 $10/$8 7:00 - 9:30
Nov. 14 $65/$45 8:00 - 4:00
Prestige Inn, Nelson
Tickets: Otter Books, www.selkirk.ca/events

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Weekly/monthly email reports complete with digital photos
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Nakusp Music Fest
Saddle Mountain High !
JULY 18-20, 2008
New Address – 619 Broadway
265-2141 or 1-877-265-5565
www.nakuspmusicfest.ca
Christmas Special – 750 tickets only

3 day Adult	$125.00	Sat & Sun Adult	$ 99.00
Fri Kick-Off	$ 35.00	Sat or Sun	$ 70.00
VIP Pass	$115.00	3 Day Youth	$ 70.00
1 Day Youth	$ 45.00	Child	$ 10.00

7 & Under - $ Free

Tickets go on sale Nov 13, 2007

Christmas by the Lake Event
November 30th Dec 1st and 2nd

- **Christmas by the Lake event** will be held in front of the Silverton Gallery starting 4:00 pm Friday evening and ending Sunday, 4:00 pm. This event will start with the lighting and decorating of the trees along with the choir singing.
- The 10 Old European Christmas Market style **lighted booths** will be selling many enjoyable local **hand-made** holiday and non-holiday items from **Baskets** to **Wreaths**, along with entertainment and food.
- Starting Saturday, the Silverton Gallery will be open with **vendors** selling their hand-made wares.
- **Santa** too will be there to share and have his picture taken with one and all.
- **Watch** for a program, booth scheduling and specific event times. This will allow for personal and family planning.

Find the stockings!

Remembrance Day – A Tale of Two Poppies

by Art Joyce

War, like all the great issues in life, calls up powerful emotions, especially in its aftermath, when thousands are grieving the loss of loved ones. Whatever our feelings about war, these families deserve compassion and support. Yet "Lest we forget" can mean different things to different people.

Officially, it is designed to help Canadians remember the war dead of the First and Second world wars and other conflicts. But in the public mind, the meaning often blurs. Military spending worldwide has reached $1 trillion for the first time since the Cold War, with Canada's annual military budget at $18 billion – the highest since World War II. Many thus wonder if they are participating in an act of remembrance or of support for war as a means of resolving conflicts.

And while the red poppy has become firmly entrenched for millions as the symbol of Remembrance Day, for many peace activists the white poppy has become their symbol of choice.

The red poppy was inspired by Lt.-Colonel John McCrae's famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, with its graphic image of fields of poppies growing "between the crosses, row on row." Moina Michael, an American War Secretary with the YMCA, was moved by McCrae's poem to buy poppies with money collected from her colleagues, and sold them to friends to raise funds for ex-servicemen. Poppies grew in profusion on some of the worst battlefields of World War I and their blood-red colour was seen as an appropriate symbol of lives lost in the horrific carnage of trench warfare. However, the poppy association may go as far back as the Napoleonic Wars of the 19th century, which also soaked the fields of Flanders with blood.

Michael's French colleague, Madame E. Guérin, took the poppy campaign a step further. She organized war widows and orphans in northern France to handcraft artificial poppies for sale through veterans organizations to raise money for destitute families. Since 1921 the Royal Canadian Legion and other Commonwealth branches of the Legion (Australia, New Zealand) have used the red poppy as their official symbol for fundraising and memorial. According to the Canadian Legion website, the red poppy, which was copyrighted by the organization in 1948, stands as "our visual pledge to never forget all those Canadians who have fallen in war and military operations."

The white poppy has a history almost as old. In 1926, the UK-based No More War Movement put forth the idea of imprinting the black centre of the British Legion's red poppy with 'no more war'. Nothing came of this until 1933, when Britain's Women's Co-operative Guild introduced the concept of the white poppy as a means of both remembering war dead and holding out the hope of no more war. The British Legion refused to be associated with the manufacture of white poppies, which was taken up by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. In 1934 the recently formed Peace Pledge Union joined in and eventually took over production. The annual White Poppy campaign is still run by the UK-based PPU.

In Canada the campaign is supported by the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice. The message, as Victoria's Marya Nyland explains, is that "remembering is not enough – we must actively work for peace." Nyland was born in Holland during WWII, which was liberated by Canadian troops, but she has a problem with what she sees as the ongoing glorification of war.

As the UK White Poppy website points out, "89 years after the 'war to end all wars' we still have a long way to go to put an end to a social institution which in the last decade alone killed 10 million children."

But the white poppy has generated its fair share of controversy. Last year the Canadian Legion threatened white poppy campaigners in Edmonton with legal action for infringing copyright. Veterans joined in support of the Legion by excoriating what they perceived as an attack upon their sacred symbol. Some went so far as to suggest that the white poppy be banned, missing an obvious irony.

Yet Tim Goddard, father of Captain Nicola Goddard, Canada's first female casualty in Afghanistan, spoke in support of peoples' right to wear white poppies. Relatives in the Goddard family have fought in battles as far back as the Somme in WWI, and he recalled seeing people wearing white poppies while growing up in Britain. Goddard said it's important to remember all who die in war zones.

"In Afghanistan, in many other conflict zones it's not just soldiers who are killed, not just Canadians who are killed," he told Canadian TV.

Teresa's

If you wish for peace, understand war.
~B. H. Liddell Hart

400 Front St. Kaslo 353-2115

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 276
Slocan Valley
Remembrance Day
Memorial Service
Sunday, November 11
Slocan City

10:30 ..... Assembly at Legion Hall
10:50 ..... Parade to Cenotaph
11:00.....Ceremony

Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be served at the Hall following the Ceremony

"Let us never forget their valour and sacrifice."

Meritxell Books

In troubled times such as these we are reminded even more strongly of what we owe to our brave veterans and our current soldiers and peacekeepers. They are in our hearts.

314 Broadway, Nakusp 265-4450

HUB International Barton Insurance Brokers

But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, Is their monument today, and for always.
~Thomas Dunn English

265-3631 1-800-665-6010

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We come, not to mourn our dead soldiers, but to praise them.
~Francis A. Walker

Hwy 6 New Denver 358-2445

FALKINS -INSURANCE GROUP- Est. 1897

Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead!
There's none of these so lonely and poor of old,
But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold.
~Rupert Brooke

405 Front St. Kaslo 353-7633

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If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.
~Thomas Paine

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Lest We Forget...

In honour of the men and women who made their greatest sacrifice to serve our country.

Alex Atamanenko, Member of Parliament
BC Southern Interior
337 Columbia Ave. Castlegar, BC V1N 1G6
1-800-667-2393 www.atamanenko.ca

Front Street Market

All we have of freedom,
all we use or know -
This our fathers bought for us
long and long ago.
~Rudyard Kipling

Kaslo 353-2331

North Kootenay Veterinary Services

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.
~Edmund Burke

9580 Cowan, Kaslo 353-7125

Home hardware

If you love your freedom...
Thank a Veteran!

New Denver 358-2422 Slocan 355-2272

The Village of New Denver

The value of the price they paid is evident in the faces of our children.
We thank all our veterans!

ANDERSON INSURANCE
We Serve You First

We must all do our part to ensure that our children are taught the sacrifices that were made for us all.

Main St. New Denver 358-2617

Our veterans are awesome!

Paul Peterson,
RDCK Area K Director

Mark Adams
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

May our children never have to face such horrors.
Or their children, either.
We must not forget!

Main St. New Denver 358-2411

MARVIN'S SMALL MOTOR REPAIR

Green sods are all their monuments; and yet it tells
A nobler history than pillared piles,
Or the eternal pyramids.
~James Gates Percival

98-1st Street, Nakusp 265-4911

Smokey Creek Salvage

With the tears a Land hath shed
Their graves should ever be green.
~Thomas Bailey Aldrich

359-7815 1-877-6539

KASLO PUMP

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.
~Patton

6410 Hwy. 31 Kaslo 353-2533

KS Kootenay Savings

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Lest we Forget.

REMEMBRANCE DAY
IN HONOUR OF THOSE WHO SERVED
MEMORIAL SERVICE

10 AM
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION HALL
NAKUSP, B.C.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

LEGION PADRE WARREN FULLMORE OFFICIATING

A parade to the cenotaph will follow with a short service and the laying of the wreaths.

All members of the Community are cordially invited to attend. There will be tea and coffee for the adults and hot chocolate for the children served in the Hall following the Parade.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them"

Stop and take time to Remember!

408 Helicopter Squadron members are visiting our Branch on this weekend.

Fern's Flowers
LEST WE FORGET

The sacrifice and commitment of those who serve their country and the world, that we may live in peace.

415 Front St. Kaslo 353-7474

Cornucopia
"The Natural Choice"

I can no other answer make, but thanks, and thanks. ~William Shakespeare

422 Front St. Kaslo 353-2594

Nakusp council, October 23: Public meeting to be held on state of the arena

by Jan McMurray

•Council decided to hold a public meeting to inform people about the state of the arena building. Both the floor and the roof need replacing, and the Cultural Community group is working towards upgrades for the auditorium. Area K Director Paul Peterson and Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering will be invited.

•Council will send a response to Area K Director Paul Peterson's letter, in which he expressed dismay that he was not consulted in the decision to request an increase in taxes for the sports complex. People in the Village and Area K have been paying .62 per $1,000, and the Village has now proposed that they pay $1.01 in 2008. This will raise the maximum amount of taxation for the service allowed under the existing bylaw. Peterson is not in favour of increasing the taxation this significantly without a public process. Council's response will inform Peterson that the Village was simply following the instructions of the RDCK treasurer to send in the request to raise the tax rate. Council members noted that at a budget meeting last year, with Peterson present, the increase was discussed. Also, the arena is operating with a $350,000 shortfall, and Area K residents should be helping with that cost. Mayor Hamling said council did not mean to slight Peterson. "We were just doing as instructed and there is no need for a public process because the bylaw is established," she said.

•Council decided to lend the Nakusp and Area Community Forest (NACFOR) $12,400 for land rent, incorporation fees, licence deposit, and fire preparedness. The loan will be interest-free and repaid from Community Forest revenue. Treasurer Richard Mahoney explained that since NACFOR will be set up as a corporation with the Village as the sole shareholder, its finances will be consolidated with the Village's and this loan will be treated as an interdepartmental loan.

Councillor Switzer explained that the Ministry has not yet granted the licence. If it is not granted, all but $2,000 of the $12,400 loan is refundable. He said the CBT grant that has been promised cannot be accessed until the Ministry awards the licence. He also reported that Area K Director Paul Peterson was working with the group on finding funds to cover additional costs that may be incurred prior to Ministry approval.

Council approved the appointment of the interim board of directors.

•CAO Lafleur reported that BC Hydro had confirmed it would pay for the urgent repairs to the wharf. He will contact a local contractor to do the work.

•The Chamber of Commerce sent in the results of a survey of its members, showing that 85% were not in favour of one-way lanes adjacent to Broadway. Councillor Heppner said he wanted to know why the majority of businesses polled were not in favour, as this was a safety issue. He said he had looked into this in the past and "got 25 signatures on a petition in 10 minutes." At that time, Public Works was also in favour, he said, "but the Chamber shut it down." Council decided to ask Public Works for a report, and Councillor Mueller said she would ask about it at a Chamber meeting.

•Cliff Head's request to take down seven trees at the base of his property that are blocking his view was tabled until the next meeting.

•As a follow-up to the CAO's proposal to close the road right-of-way near Stevie's Hill and to create three lots there, most council members had visited the site and were surprised to see many trees down on the right-of-way. Staff confirmed that no one had asked permission to cut down these trees. Councillor Heppner said this had destabilized the bank and that this was not the only incidence of people cutting down trees on Village property without permission. Council asked staff to try to find out who had taken them down, and to come back with a report on the requirements to close the road.

•Councillor Mueller reported that the hot springs was showing a loss of $9,000 this year to date. She said that without the debt servicing, the facility would have made a profit of $18,000.

•Councillor Heppner reported that the Energy Cabin was being installed at Nakusp Secondary and would use wood pellets to heat the school.

•The bylaw authorizing exemption from taxation for the Legion, Community Services, the Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, the Launch Club, Halcyon House and the Arrow Lakes Historical Society was given three readings. The approximate amount of taxes to be exempted is $24,731.

The Nakusp Roots Music Society wrote to inquire about permissive tax exemptions. Council voted not to consider exempting NRMS this year, as the query came too late. The bylaw must be adopted by October 31 and the exempted properties must be advertised.

Staff will prepare a Permissive Tax Exemption policy for council's consideration prior to the 2008 budget process.

•Councillor Switzer reported that the Community Consultative Committee was "floundering a bit in the absence of a corporal." He said they wanted to sit down with the new corporal when he arrived to discuss whether or not the committee was necessary.

He also reported on the BC Hydro meetings regarding the sequencing of upgrades to the Mica and Revelstoke dams. He said the two Mica projects would probably be done first, as Revelstoke would have the greatest impacts. He also mentioned that some committee members want to see the Water Use Plan recommendations implemented first.

•The road closure bylaw for the lane west of Loma Lumber was given two readings. The CAO will request an appraisal of the newly created lot.

•Council asked staff to amend Development Permit Fees and bring them back for consideration at the next meeting. Lafleur explained that the fees were excessive considering council has introduced water and sewer connection fees and is preparing a Development Cost Charge bylaw. He said the intent of the Development Permit is to ensure the OCP is followed and the fees should reflect administrative costs only, not deter development.

•Council approved free ice time for a hockey game with the 408 helicopter squadron and some local people on November 10.

•The Mayor and council will write a letter of thanks to staff during this time of extreme staff shortages and heavy workload.

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LELAND HOTEL
NAKUSP B C

The Leland Hotel is celebrating it's 115th birthday!

Fri., Sat., Sun. Nov. 9th, 10th & 11th.
We will be giving prizes away each day between 1 & 9 PM

"The Bone"plays Fri & Sat. @ 9 PM
Sunday is our Jam Session hosted by
"TheRippin Rattlers"
6-10 PM

Don't forget our designated drivers service. Don't drink and drive!

In the restaurant we will be serving up good old-fashioned meals.

Come check out our birthday menu specials!

4th Ave. Nakusp **265-4221**

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
INVITATION TO TENDER

VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS

The Village of Nakusp invites qualified firms to submit a tender to construct a handicapped accessible washroom in the Nakusp Arena.

A copy of the construction drawings (A-100) and specifications can be obtained from the Village of Nakusp Office at 91 1st Street NW, during normal office hours.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 4:30 PM November 30, 2007.

Tenders must be accompanied with a 10% refundable deposit.

Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope clearly marked "HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM".

Hand deliver to the Village Office at 91 1st Street NW, or mail to Box 280, Nakusp, BC, V0G 1R0. Facsimile or email tenders will not be accepted.

The Village of Nakusp reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders and may accept a higher tender if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Village.

Bob Lafleur
CAO, Village of Nakusp

Sale of Nakusp Village property questioned

by Jan McMurray

At the October 23 Nakusp council meeting, several concerns were brought forward about the Village property that has been advertised for sale. As a result, council has asked staff to research the issues more thoroughly and report back.

In September, council decided to sell this lakefront property with a deeded island in efforts to raise money for arena and hot springs repairs. The Village has advertised that it will receive closed bids of no less than $1.5 million for the property, located just north of Pope & Talbot, until November 23. The ad also states that council will be rezoning the property to Resort/Residential.

Councillor Dahlen had several concerns about land use and zoning, while Mayor Hamling spoke to the unfavourable public opinion she had encountered.

Dahlen explained that the waterfront piece and the island were two separate parcels. Referring to the original sales agreement, she showed that the island was sold to the Village by BC Hydro in 2004 and can only be a wildlife refuge unless permission is obtained from Hydro to use the land for another purpose.

The CAO informed that this was never registered on title, so it is not binding. He said council has the authority to rezone and dispose of the island; however, he said this was a "sticky issue" and "perhaps it would be wise for council to pull back on it."

Dahlen also noted that the waterfront piece is split zoned, with one section zoned RU2 and the other section zoned parkland. She said that under section 27 of the Community Charter, the Village cannot sell parkland without the approval of the electors.

Lafleur said he had spoken to Ramona Mattix of the RDCK, who said the island could be rezoned to get around this. "But it is an issue and it needs to be resolved," he reiterated.

Dahlen also mentioned that the creek and the BC Hydro right-of-way for the transmission line that runs through the RU2 zoned section could hamper development of the property.

Mayor Hamling stated she thought council should reassess, as resident Gary Davidson had approached her with a letter objecting to the sale and there was a rumour of a local petition circulating against the sale. She also pointed out that the island is under water quite a bit of the time and is sloughing away.

Davidson's letter states that the property "is probably the most environmentally sensitive piece of habitat within the village boundaries" and "It seems completely inappropriate for the Village to be embarking on a proposal that will destroy one of the last vestiges of a habitat that was almost completely lost to the dam."

Councillor Switzer pointed out that the piece zoned RU2 could be sold, and suggested the Village contact BC Hydro about the island. He said council "should not drop it or it will come up again. Let's get everything clear." He said there were other options, such as a land conservation group purchasing the lands.

Lafleur reported that although the Village had had some inquiries about the property, no bids had been received. "Developers' concerns are that there are a lot of unknowns – they don't know how many units per acre they can put in," said Lafleur. He added that he would disclose all this new information to anyone who inquired about the property in future.

It was decided that staff would further investigate all these issues by contacting the Ministry of Community Services, BC Hydro lands branch, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Transportation.

Nakusp's OCP in the fine-tuning stage

by Jan McMurray

Council held a special meeting October 29 to review the feedback received at the OCP open house held October 22.

Council was pleased to note that attendance at the open house was excellent and public response was generally positive.

However, there were many objections to the rezoning and sale of Village waterfront land, including an island, north of the Pope & Talbot yard. Council discussed this at length at its October 23 meeting and will re-visit the issue at its November 13 meeting.

Boundary expansion was also unpopular among residents. Council recognized the need to make it clearer in the OCP that the four areas identified may be studied for potential boundary expansion only. There is no proposed expansion at the moment, and there will be full community consultation as part of any study. The study areas include those that are currently served by Village infrastructure but not within Village limits, and the North Road area. The OCP makes a general statement "that boundary expansion ultimately is consistent with the fire service area of the Village."

There were also concerns about the new residential/resort area on the Kuskanax fan conflicting with existing light industrial operations and the sewage lagoons there. Council points out that the new sewer treatment plant will significantly improve the odour in the area. Also, the OCP requires buffers in new development areas and a new industrial area surrounding Airport Road has been created. It was clarified that no one will have to move because of re-zoning – everything that exists is grandfathered.

There was also some concern expressed about the highway commercial development permit area designated for the Carson's Corner corridor. Council notes that the intent of the OCP is to concentrate business in the downtown core and to avoid sprawl by preventing commercial development along major roadways. However, a volunteer community committee has looked at this long and hard and has determined there is a need for additional commercial space. Since there is already commercial activity along this corridor, it makes sense to allow for "additional, yet still limited commercial use."

Council will review one more draft of the OCP before it is presented for first and second reading. There will be a public hearing before third reading, ministry approval and final adoption.

CORRECTION

In the Nakusp council notes, October 24, we reported that Cliff Head had proposed closing the road right-of-way at Stevie's Hill and creating three more lots there. In fact, CAO Bob Lafleur, not Mr. Head, suggested this be done. Mr. Head's proposal was to take down seven trees on the right-of-way.

Planning review initiated in Area K, communities respond

by Geordie Rice

Representatives from the RDCK held a series of meetings throughout Area K recently to gather community input on a new Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw to replace Zoning Bylaw 1248, in effect since 1997.

The meetings were all prefaced by a short presentation by Area K Director Paul Peterson and RDCK planner Bruce Gunn, but the majority of each meeting was focused on interaction with the community.

"We're not here to tell you what we're going to do. We're here to hear what you want us to do," said Gunn, at the start of the Nakusp meeting.

The presentation that began each meeting outlined the process involved in creating a new OCP, as well as summarizing the pertinent results of the survey conducted among Area K residents in early June.

Of the 1,440 surveys distributed, 541 (35.7%) were returned. Using the input from the surveys, the RDCK has determined that its priorities for Area K should be preservation of the natural beauty of the area; preservation, promotion, and maintenance of the rural lifestyle and character of the area; and encouragement of growth and development in Area K while keeping with the first two priorities.

The RDCK hopes to have a new OCP and zoning bylaw in place by June 2008. The next step will be to create a draft OCP based on the survey results and this round of community input. There will be another round of public consultation when the draft is ready.

At the meetings, RDCK reps noted the issues raised by residents and provided comment sheets for people's written input.

The first meeting, held in Burton, saw a heavy emphasis on noise-related complaints.

A helipad that began operation near Burton drew noticeable criticism, both in the way it was established and its current operations.

Residents complained about the lack of notification when the helipad was being proposed. Furthermore, the helipad was originally proposed to host two weekly flights, but currently sees the arrival of as may as eight flights a day for three days a week.

Between the annoyance of repeated flyovers by the helicopters, and the lowered property values inherent to noisy properties, many residents expressed support for any effort that would see the helipad relocated.

Another noise problem brought up was the now-infamous Easter weekend event, when a large group of ATV riders descends upon the Burton flats and parties all night.

The residents and RCMP were unable to intervene this year, as the sheer number of the group, along with fears they were armed, prevented any immediate action. Unfortunately, Area K Director Paul Peterson said that noise bylaws are hard to enforce, as the only bylaw officer in the area is located in Nelson. To hire another, more local, officer would likely be financially prohibitive.

The Nakusp meeting had a focus on land-based issues, as well as a noticeable hostility towards both the RDCK and provincial government.

One issue that raised a lot of hackles was the Agricultural Land Reserve, which was felt by some of the rural Nakusp attendees to be a way for the government to supersede control of rural properties from the owners of the properties.

Several people at the meeting also raised issue with the rumoured expansion of Nakusp's town boundaries, concerned that increasing the area of Nakusp would leave the decreased rural area with increased costs.

Another trend noted at most of the meetings was that no young people were in attendance. This fits with Census Canada's 2006 results, reporting Area K's median age to be 50.9, significantly older than the BC median age of 40.8.

At the meeting in Fauquier, there was much discussion of unsightly premises. Gunn confirmed that there is no unsightly premises bylaw in place in Area K.

Particular attention was paid to a property which many feel is not only an eyesore, but also poses a health risk. This property is littered with, among other things, old vehicles, gasoline canisters, damaged or broken automotive batteries, and several kinds of hazardous fluids.

Peterson explained that this sort of situation had given strength to bringing in the municipal ticketing program.

The Fauquier meeting also raised several concerns relating to highways and roads in the area.

Residents agreed that they would like to see the smaller access roads limited to one-lane dirt, as expansion to two or more lanes would ruin the rural feel of the area. However, all agreed that the highway was in serious need of repair and maintenance, with special concern raised over one section that was described as "eroding."

Overall, attendees of the Fauquier meeting felt that road improvements and the clean-up of unsightly premises would go a long way to attracting new people, hopefully with high disposable incomes, to the area.

The final meeting of the series was held in Edgewood, and although it was sparsely attended, there were nevertheless several important issues raised.

Of concern to many was the lack of development potential for Edgewood, given that it currently only has two lots zoned for commercial operations, and expansion opportunities are limited by Edgewood's proximity both to ALR land and a crown-owned park.

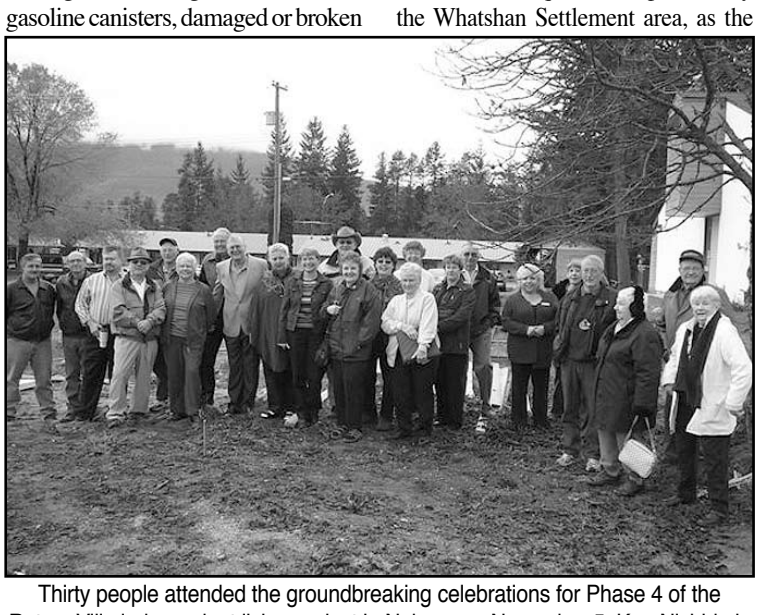
The fate of land owned by Pope & Talbot was also questioned, particularly the Whatshan Settlement area, as the land contains both oft-used horse-riding trails and a Mennonite grave site.

Users of this land hoped that any buyer of the land would still allow use of the trails, and others suggested marking the graves more clearly, in the hopes that any potential development to the land would leave the graves undisturbed.

Peterson pointed out that the P&T land, once sold, would be subject to Area K zoning and that most of it is zoned Open Space. No residences are allowed in the Open Space zone, so the landowner would have to go through a rezoning process, which includes a public hearing.

"If you come out and say you don't want it, the RDCK will not allow the rezoning," Peterson assured more than once.

He added that Gunn had received several calls from interested buyers, who were discouraged after hearing about the zoning of the P&T lands in Area K.



Thirty people attended the groundbreaking celebrations for Phase 4 of the Rotary Villa independent living project in Nakusp on November 5. Ken Nishida is doing the initial work and will continue as long as the weather holds out. A two-month winter shutdown is planned, with construction re-commencing in spring. Randy Warke, the project manager, is scheduling the other tradespeople and expects the project to be substantially complete by this time next year. There are 35 applicants on the waiting list for the 12-unit project. CIBC representatives attended and took the opportunity to donate $5,000 towards the project.

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* 7 years of age and up

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services

JOB POSTING

Manager of Operations 0.8 FTE (Maternity Leave)

Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services holds contracts with various federal, provincial and regional funding bodies to provide a wide range of community services throughout the West Kootenays. The Manager of Operations is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organisation. This position is based in Nakusp, BC.

We invite applications from leaders, managers and supervisors with proven skills in strategic and creative thinking. The ideal applicant(s) will have experience in human resource management, program development, service delivery and have knowledge of budget development and administration.

This position offers a competitive salary and benefits package. The successful candidate(s) will be required to sign an Oath of Confidentiality and complete a Criminal Record Check.

Preferred Qualifications:

A degree in Business Administration or related discipline, with 3-5 years experience in a supervisory/management role or equivalent combination. The applicant should be well organized with demonstrated computer, writing, presentation and communication skills. A valid Driver's License and current First Aid certificate are required.

Contract Term:

1st December 2007 to 11th January 2009 (Maternity Leave cover)

Closing Date: November 9, 2007

To apply for this position please email resume, including 3 references to Doug Switzer, Executive Director at dswitzer@aslcs.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ASLCS Board is seeking an Executive Director for our not-for-profit agency who will be an innovative, collaborative, motivational leader for our accomplished team of employees. This is a challenging and rewarding position with responsibility for a wide variety of clientele and programs. The agency provides a satisfying work environment with good administrative support, negotiable hours of work and a competitive salary and benefits package.

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Qualifications:

The successful applicant will meet the following qualifications and expertise:

- An undergraduate degree in a related field.
- 5 years of management experience in a social service or health setting.
- Strong professional interpersonal and human resource management skills and experience in a unionized setting.
- Competence in financial planning and management of budgets, especially in the not-for-profit environment.
- Experience collaborating with a Board of Directors

Application deadline: November 23, 2007

Please send resumes c/o:

Executive Search
Box 803
Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0

Telephone enquiries:
Doug Switzer, Executive Director. Phone: (250) 265-3674

Kaslo council, October 23: Bluebelle Bistro seeks support for live music

by Jan McMurray

•Council adopted the minutes of the 2006 annual report meeting held October 9. At that meeting, auditor Am Naqvi reported the municipality had surpluses in General Operating of $4,221, Waterworks of $17,039 and a deficit in Sewer of $474.

•Owner of the Bluebelle Bistro & Beanery, Christa Sheldrick, attended as a delegation to speak to her application to change her liquor licence to include live music. Sheldrick stated that there would not be music every night or large bands.

In a letter to council and the RCMP, Sheldrick assures that noise will not be an issue, as the bistro is "a professional, well-managed business that respects the laws and rules that are presented to us…" Attached to the letter is a petition in support of her application, signed by ten local businesspeople.

Council referred the issue to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council.

Last fall, after many complaints about the establishment under the former ownership, council wrote a letter to the liquor control and licencing officer stating that the Village does not endorse amplified or live music at the building which now houses the Bluebelle.

•Council received a post-wildfire risk analysis on the Kemp Creek fire from the Ministry of Forests. Generally, the risk is considered to be quite low. However, Kemp Creek is the community watershed for the Village, so it is recommended that water quality on the creek be monitored for several years. The report was referred to the P&D committee for recommendation to council.

•The lease with the library will be signed for a five-year term, beginning in 2008, for $808 in the first year and then increasing by 1% each year.

•Anne Malik emailed the Village to ask when a three-way stop sign would be installed at the intersection of Front Street and 3rd Avenue, as resolved by council at its July 24 meeting. The letter will be referred to the Public Works committee for recommendation to council.

•In a written submission on a meeting of the Local Government Managers Association, CAO Rae Sawyer reports that future water infrastructure grants will depend on having universal water metering in place. She suggests that council may want to pursue this through the gas tax grants. This issue was referred to the P&D committee for recommendation to council.

She also reports that there was an excellent presentation on the future implications of tangible capital assets for local government and says the first step is to develop a policy and plan, identify resources and prepare an inventory. This was referred to the Administration & Finance committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received a report of an inspection and appraisal of all its properties by Suncorp Valuations. The report puts the total insurable cost of the properties at $12,579,970.

•For information, the RDCK sent a copy of the bylaw that brings Fletcher Creek into the fire service. Council passed a motion that the A&F committee review the provision of fire protection service outside municipal boundaries.

•Council referred the Trotter subdivision Preliminary Layout Approval to the P&D committee for information, and for consideration of the sale and transfer of the property known as the 'Back Road' for the purpose of right-of-way dedication.

•A fire inspection report for the Kaslo Curling Club requests upgrades to fire doors and exits. In a letter copied to the Village, the club asks the RDCK and the Kaslo Arena Association to help with the costs associated with these upgrades.

•Donna Bertrand of the BC Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Secretariat emailed to say she was looking forward to visiting Kaslo to discuss opportunities surrounding 2010. The Village will reply, welcoming the opportunity to meet with her in Kaslo.

•The Village will contribute $50 to the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund and Mayor Holland will attend the ceremonies.

•A request for Saturday Market lease renewal by the North Kootenay Lake Arts & Heritage Council was referred to the P&D committee for recommendation to council.

•Changes will be made to the water rates, as follows: ¾" service connection fees - $1,300; 1" plus service connection fees - $1,500 (both plus infrastructure repair); turn off/turn on (regular hours) - $50 each; turn off/turn on (outside regular hours) - $200 each.

•A check valve will be installed on the Arena Avenue water main to stabilize water pressure at that location.

•Council adopted a policy that property owners be contacted in advance of paving adjacent to rights-of-way. If they wish to tie private property paving into municipal paving on the right-of-way, they will be responsible for the cost of the pavement tie-in connecting a driveway to the right-of-way.

•Larch Drive will be surveyed by the Public Works crew with a view to future paving.

•A playground certification course will be planned in Kaslo, with other municipalities invited to register as participants.

•Tax Exemption Bylaw 2008 was adopted.

•Bylaw 1052, Beer Garden Licencing Bylaw, was read three times. It allows for a maximum of ten beer garden licences per year.

•Budget meetings will be held every alternating Tuesday beginning November 20.

•Council agreed to hire Gordon McIntosh to conduct a service capacity review for the Village on November 20-21.

•Accounts payable of $32,401.03 were approved.

Provincial building negotiations hinging on operating costs

by Jan McMurray

The deadline for Kaslo provincial building negotiations has been extended once again, to November 15.

The ball is now back in the Province's court, after Kaslo council held a special meeting October 24 to review the latest version of the take-back lease.

There seems to be just one issue left. Council wants the Province to pay 25% of the actual operating costs of the building. The Province has insisted on paying a fixed price for the operating costs of the building for the duration of the lease, which is ten years with an option to renew for another five.

The Province is insistent on the fixed cost because in their view, $225,000 is the lowest justifiable sale price for the building. This sale price includes the $120,000 the Village has agreed to pay, plus the 10-year rent-free period for the space occupied by the government agent. This rent-free period, detailed in the lease, must be worth $105,000 in order to make up the minimum sale price of $225,000.

After much discussion and a recess at the October 24 meeting, council resolved to have lawyer Lori Staples let the Province know that council will not compromise on the 25%.

The Village's auditor advised council to have the Province pay 50% of the operating costs. The Province has proposed to pay $5.29 per square foot for the 1,430 square feet (or 16.1%) of the building they occupy. This comes to $7,564.70 per year.

Councillor Jones was the first to voice his objections to the Province paying a fixed price for operating costs, saying there is no guarantee that prices of propane, electricity, etc. will stay the same over the next 10-15 years. Mayor Holland agreed, and pointed out that when those operating costs soared, the other tenants in the building would end up subsidizing the Province. "And if we lose tenants, the Village will be left holding the bag," he added.

He recommended that council suspend negotiations with the Province and proceed quickly with a bylaw to protect the old courthouse as a heritage building. Councillor Jones made that motion, but there was no seconder.

Councillor Leathwood made the motion to direct the lawyer to go back to the Province asking them to agree to the 25%.

But the mayor had a problem with calling the question on that motion – Councillor Vass was not at the meeting.

Holland told council he was against the purchase and "if Councillor Vass were here, I could have my free vote. Without him, I would feel obliged to vote against my personal position."

Council agreed to a recess so that Vass could be contacted. He came right away, and the vote passed 3-2, with the mayor and Councillor Jones opposed.

In an interview after the meeting, when asked why he did not take the opportunity to let the motion fail, Holland explained that it was just too important an issue. "I did not feel comfortable letting it die by default instead of having a full, functioning council there. No matter what my personal feelings are, it's more important that council functions."

Trailblazers invite one and all to 'Bridge over Kaslo River' event

submitted

The Kaslo Trailblazers have announced that the new pedestrian bridge is scheduled to be installed over Kaslo River on November 10, as long as everything goes smoothly. Don't miss this exciting spectacle – the best and safest viewing spot will be from the north side, at the pull-out at the entrance to Kaslo on the New Denver highway. The Trailblazers plan to provide coffee and treats and will gratefully accept donations.

The bridge is unique in itself – a covered arched bridge with a steel superstructure weighing about 39,000 pounds and a wooden post and beam upper structure made from local cedar. It is 113 feet (34.44 metres) long with a 99-foot (30.18 metre) span.

"You won't find another – it will be a Kaslo original," says Silvio Lettrari of the Trailblazers.

The trail on the north and south sides of the river and the connector trail to the airport were all built over the past two years. It is finally time to connect the north and the south trails together to make the Kaslo River Trail Loop.

The new bridge was constructed and assembled over the summer on the south side of the river. The concrete abutments were built in spring and early summer. For final installation over the river, the wooden upper-structure will be disassembled and only the steel understructure will be pulled, via a piece of logging equipment called a yarder, across the river. The wooden upper structure will subsequently be rebuilt over about four weeks with volunteer labour. The bridge should be open to the public before the end of the year.

Funding for this project has been provided through private donations, the Regional District of Central Kootenay, Columbia Basin Trust, Kaslo & District Community Forest Society, the Village of Kaslo, and lots of volunteer labour. Many local contractors have liberally donated machinery time and labour. Site survey and abutment engineering by Pennco Engineering Ltd, Nelson; steel superstructure engineered and fabricated by Rapid Span, Armstrong; overall bridge design by Silvio Lettrari.

Plaques will be installed on the bridge to commemorate these supporters. "This has been a real community project and effort that brings everyone together in a common cause, to make Kaslo a nicer place to live," says Lettrari.

Upcoming projects of the Kaslo Trailblazers are to finish both approaches to the bridge, rebuild the old gate house used for the dam with an interpretive site, and showcase a piece of the old flume. There are also plans to extend the trail further out of town along the Kaslo River and to initiate fundraising for a second bridge on Fifth Street. The Trailblazers are also planning a cable car crossing or suspension bridge further up-river for another loop.

Community Fund issues grants

submitted

Since its incorporation in 2005 the Community Fund of North Kootenay Lake Society, affectionately known as CFNKLS (pronounced C-funkles), has distinguished itself as an important granting organization in Kaslo and Area D of the RDCK.

CFNKLS was established through the generous co-operation of the Osprey Community Foundation, whose past president Bruce Morrison facilitated matching grants from the Columbia Basin Trust and the Vancouver Foundation. These grants, along with local contributions, guaranteed that we began with a community endowment of $150,000.

CFNKLS operates under the wing of the Osprey Community Foundation in Nelson, and our endowment funds are held by the Vancouver Foundation. The interest earned from the CFNKLS endowments is for the exclusive benefit of the citizens of North Kootenay Lake, and in the past two years we have granted nearly $20,000 to registered charities in Kaslo and Area D. Grant recipients include North Kootenay Lake Community Services, The Langham Cultural Society, OPTions for Sexual Health, Kaslo & Area Hospice Society, the Kaslo Concert Society, Kaslo Skate Park, Kaslo Historical Society, the Lardeau Valley Historical Society and the Kootenay Kids Society (Kaslo Branch).

In addition to the general endowment fund, we have recently established a Seniors' Fund and a Child, Youth, and Family Fund. Grants from those two endowments are anticipated for the spring of 2008. CFNKLS administers the McKinnon Family Fund which makes grants to the Kaslo Victorian Hospital and the Kalso Public Library, and provides a bursary to a student who wishes to pursue post-secondary vocational training. Total endowments are presently within a stone's throw of $300,000 and we invite interested citizens to help us reach that goal within the next few months.

But CFNKLS is more than endowment-building and grant-making. We have also presented grant-writing and grant-making workshops and our Partners in Philanthropy program has brought together representatives from the Village, the RDCK, Columbia Basin Trust, the Community Forest, and Community Services to discuss ways in which we might streamline the myriad grant application processes that local organizations have to deal with throughout the year. We have also established an advisory committee of seven community members who give the Board feedback and direction from the community at large.

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Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

Enterprise Creek after the fire

Enterprise Creek is midway between New Denver and Slocan City and drains into the east side of Slocan Lake from its headwaters in Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park. I've written about this area in the past in regard to cross-country skiing but haven't regarded it as a bicycle ride of any great appeal.

Locals here will recall last summer's Springer Creek wildfire, which raged for so many days at the southern end of the lake. Severe daytime heat and strong overnight winds pushed this blaze northward, closing Highway 6 and forcing the evacuation of folks along the highway south of Red Mountain Road. I remember standing down at Centennial Park in New Denver watching in awe as the smoky skies flickered in shades of red and orange and pockets of open flame flared viciously.

A couple of weeks back I took a bicycle ride up the Enterprise Creek valley with a friend to see if there was anything at all left of the place after the fires. Even from Highway 6 the casual driver can see how the slopes above the road are cooked brown in places and the fire even reached the roadside for some distance.

There's a large and well-signed turnoff beside the highway at Enterprise Creek to offer access to Kokanee Glacier Park and after a short steep climb from that point, the road ascends the north side of the valley at a fairly steady rate, with frequent overviews. One hundred years ago there was a busy wagon road and horse trail from Enterprise Landing at the lakeshore to the Slocan Chief and Smuggler's Ridge mine sites, and the present-day road follows this corridor in the higher reaches.

I'm pleased to say that the trip up Enterprise Creek to the park boundary at 12 kilometres is generally intact and the valuable creekside forest remains unburned. Only at the five-kilometre mark is the burned area evident at the roadside where a debris flow has been cleared off the road and scorched ground is visible among the green trees. Farther upslope the fire damage is spectacular and stark, with blackened tree trunks and bare rock faces. Many trees have suffered extensive ground-level fire, which may have killed off the many trees that remain standing but with scorched needles and limbs.

We rode on up to the Timber Creek drainage where there is a bridge crossing the main stream and the Kokanee Park boundary is modestly signed. At this point there is an area for parking and a map/registry for park users and the good road carries on up Timber Creek to the south of the main valley. There was a small car parked there and another one passed us earlier in the day, so it seems people are as curious as we were about the fire's aftermath.

This time of year the sun doesn't get all that high and valleys like this are plunged into cold shade for much of the day. After a rest break and a thermos of tea we got all zipped and layered up for the long and furious descent back to the truck, already deep in shade at the highway pullout. Enterprise Creek road is generally in nice condition without a lot of brush or washouts so you can ride from walking to warp speed.

This ride (or ski) is a great workout and is demanding without being at all technical. Novice riders and skiers can venture as far upstream as they choose, and be rewarded with a delightful and expedient return run. The elevation and aspect here assure fine snow quality for skiing and cyclists can choose to explore farther up Timber Creek or into Kokanee Park.

Hot summers come and go, giving way to those long, cold damp winters that are getting harder to forget. Even the coldest, most miserable springtime can give way to another hot, windy summer that we manage to get through 'cause it's way bigger than we are. The best thing may be to adapt, observe and simply experience what we all live in the midst of.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and remains impressed every single day.

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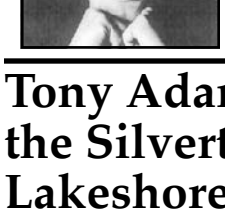

with Jamie Barber

My past experience has shown me that it takes some time to understand the complex social realities of foreign countries when you are a tourist. It takes a keen eye for detail and a sympathetic understanding of the culture. Both of these qualities are hampered by my limited understanding of Bahasia Indonesia, (the Lingua Franca of the polyglot nation of Indonesia), and the sensory overload that is a prime reality of a newcomer.

My previous travels here, in conjunction with the five weeks that I have now been traveling through this country, is opening windows that allow glimpses of important differences between life here and British Columbia. My trip to the post office in Surakarta may be illustrative.

In order to mail a parcel, it is first necessary to engage the services of a 'packer'. This is a man outside the post office that takes all your goods, packs them in a cardboard box and then sews the box into a tight-fitting cloth wrapping. Once this is accomplished, you have to push your way through a crowd, (no queuing here), and get to the postal wicket where the postal employee weighs the parcel and gives you a custom form that must be stamped in another office. Once this is done, you can then take your parcel back to the original wicket and have it posted. In my instance, this process only took about one hour as the crowds were thin at that time.

Now in itself, this process is not unusual in Asia –what was unusual was the man playing piano behind the postal counter and the fact that all the employees were taking a break from their duties to sing solos on the amplified music system. They seemed to enjoy themselves immensely and there seemed to be little self-consciousness in the activity.

Later that same evening, while walking down the main avenue, I stopped to watch two young boys showing off on their bicycles. They were able to get their bikes in motion, stand on the front wheel axle pegs, lift the back wheel off the ground by grabbing the seat and then balance on one leg while using the other foot to rotate the front wheel so they could perform pirouettes on the pavement.

Sitting beside them on the same stretch of road was one of the many motorcycle clubs that one sees here. It was a Saturday night and these young boys had grouped together their custom bikes to show them off. Now this is an area with which I am entirely familiar and I can attest that the Vespa scooters and 125 cc motorcycles have a custom look that is world class by anyone's standards. They were even displaying their club banner near the tea stand that was their 'hangout'.

While in themselves, these activities were interesting, what struck an old cynic like myself was the entire lack of cynicism displayed. These young people were fully engaged in pleasure pursuits that interested themselves. In our culture, their activities might even be construed as naive and unself-conscious. They had little inhabition in displaying their skills and interests and I had to reflect on how my own cynicism, (perhaps passing as a veneer of sophistication), inhibits the unself-conscious pursuit of activities that interest us. I had to contrast the engagement these young people had in their pleasure activities with many of the young people I know back home where major activities seem only to revolve around passive activities such as watching videos and hanging around the streets and malls.

There is an 'aliveness' here among the young where unsupervised play is the norm even among very young children. Teenagers seem to have developed pleasurable activities to a degree not seen in our own country for many generations – they are cool, they are skilled, and most of all, they know how to have fun. My 14-year-old daughter is jealous.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Slocan Lake Golf Club

November 19, 2007
7:00 PM
Lucerne School Library
in New Denver.

• • • • •

All Members are encouraged to attend

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Tony Adamo & the Silverton Lakeshore Inn

Hello out there all you fabulous food fans. You know what?

In 1972, the Canadian Hockey team was busy defeating the Russian team, while the famous and flamboyant pianist, Liberace, was dining at the high-end Oliver Bailey restaurant in Winnipeg. Liberace ordered rack of lamb, and when he was done dining he sent his compliments to the chef. Now here's a skill testing question: Who was the chef? Anybody know? I know! I've researched it. The chef was none other than our own TONY ADAMO who is now the head chef at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn. Lucky us!

Tony's family moved from Italy to Canada when Tony was 14. He started out as a bus boy and has worked his way up to being a certified chef with a long impressive resume. His dad was in the food business for forty years as well.

Tony took over as the head honcho at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn a couple of months ago, and let me tell you, he has the place hopping. The menu? You food fans know I don't like menu stress, but I'll touch on the menu, and then move on to the fantastic four days a week specials. Ok? Escargot has been added to the appies. Salads include Caesar, Italian, Greek and Tossed. Lunch choices include five burgers and four sandwiches. For dinner: all kinds of pasta, chicken or Veal Parmesan and if you like, Filet Mignon! The pizzas include choices like The Flaming Moe (Hot Hot Hot), The Paradise, and The Silverton Lake Shore Special. There are about 20 toppings to choose from. Assorted pies and ice cream are for dessert.

BUT YOU AINT HEARD NOTHIN' YET!!!

Know what? You don't even have to LOOK at the menu. All you need to do is show up in the pub or the restaurant on Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening, and there will be one of Tony Adamo's 'specials' waiting for you. Thursday night is Pasta Night. Tony whips up Fettuccine, Spaghetti or Rigatoni with one of his own 'special' sauces. My friend Nick, who is himself a pasta genius, loves Tony's pasta...he told me so himself. Then we move on to Friday Night. Friday Night is the well known and very well attended Two For One Steak Night. I was there last week for this event with my fearless publisher Dan and his daughter Tera. We started out with one of Tony's special appetizers; a seafood medley featuring scallops, mussels and shrimp in a wonderfully rich, tangy tomato sauce. Perfect with red wine. Tera, who is mostly a vegetarian, tried the scallops and liked them. When it came time to order the steaks she asked for a veggie burger. "No problem" says Tony.

I asked Tony for a steak cooked between rare and medium-rare leaning towards rare, and that is exactly how Tony brought it to me along with baked potato and steamed veggies. The steak was simply excellent. First rate. I complimented Tony and he replied "I like to make people happy." By the way, the place was packed. I saw local luminary Graham Greensword there. He said, and I quote: "That was the best steak I've ever had in this hotel. I'm coming back." Our friend Tana McPhee was there too. Her appraisal? "Best damn steak dinner I've had in a very long time...cut perfectly, cooked perfectly. It melted in my mouth." Publisher Dan was also thoroughly delighted.

What about Saturday Dinner? Tony out-does himself preparing big Prime Rib Dinners for his customers. Here's another testimonial, this one from Pin Hicks: "I'll tell you something, that Prime Rib was just great. It was excellent, and I got the exact cut I asked for." Once again, Tony Adamo makes it all happen.

But how 'bout Sunday night? This Sunday Tony is making Ribs. He says he's got a real special sauce for them, and I'm sure he does.

If I were you I'd high-tail it to the Silverton Lakeshore Inn soon.

I saw Tony Adamo yesterday and asked him how he managed to put together four specials in four nights. He replied "Like I said Andrew, I like to make people happy!"

REMEMBRANCE WORK BEE...

Got a couple of spare hours on Saturday morning, November 10? Bring a lawn rake, dress warm, and come help tidy up the Cenotaph site in New Denver for the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday. If weather and time allows, we'll also rake the leaves and litter off the Mori waterfront trail through to the north end on Belleview Street.

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-Jamie Rice

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

ATTENTION CRAFTERS: "Christmas in the Valley" CRAFT FAIRE in the Slocan Legion Hall, Nov. 25th, 2007, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For table reservations phone 355-2672 evenings.

WINLAW HALL'S X-MAS CRAFT FAIR Dec. 15/07 9:00 am-3:00pm. Tables $12.00 Bring a friend and taste the goodies the Hall will be serving for Breakfast/Lunch - lots to choose from. Call Carey for table rentals 226-7702. Call early to book your table.

KASLO FOOD SECURITY POTLUCK Speaker Series November 15th features Farmer and Food Producer Advocate: Merv Sloss. United Church, Kaslo 5:30. Borsht and potatoes provided. You bring a side dish or just bring yourself. Donation to local food projects appreciated. To reserve call Aimee, 353-7691 or e-mail: eemiamay@yahoo.ca. Seating is limited.

SOCIAL/BALLROOM DANCE - Saturday, Nov.10, 2007, 8pm-11pm. Note change of location: Brent Kennedy Elementary School, South Slocan. Everyone Welcome! www.dancingbeat.org.

ARGENTA ARTIST ROWENA ELOISE launches her beautiful Goose Family Nursery Rhymes book. Nov. 17, 2:00 Nelson Library; Nov. 24, 1:30 Kaslo Library; Dec. 7, 2:00 Argenta Library. Great children's gift!

CRYSTAL HEALING WORKSHOP in Silverton November 24, 25 with Swiss-trained Crystal Healer Karin. For nore information, phone 358-2362.

FUTURE OF FOOD CONFERENCE: World-class speakers and workshops on regional food self-reliance. Nov. 13, 14 Tickets Otter Books, and www.selkirk.ca

BOSUN HALL BENEFIT: A dramatic reading of "A Christmas Carol" Bosun Hall, New Denver, Saturday, December 1st 7pm. Admission $10 at the door. Supported by CBC Radio. Info: 358 2162.

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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.

Read the *Valley Voice* online! www.valleyvoice.ca

OBITUARY

JENNINGS: On Saturday, November 3, 2007 Vivienne Helen Jennings of Kaslo, BC, passed away at the age of 82. Funeral Services will be held on Monday, November 12, 2007 at 10:00am from the Kaslo Legion Hall with Pastor Olaf Sorenson officiating. Interment will follow in the Kaslo Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy family and friends may make donations to the Victorian Community Health Centre of Kaslo Equipment Fund, Kaslo, BC. V0G 1M0. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Valley Funeral Home Ltd.

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WANTED

WANTED: STRONG PERSON to do a couple of hours of digging in New Denver within the next week or two. Call Art or Anne 358-2666.

PHOTOCOPIER wanted. Call 358-7218.

Future of food in the Kootenays the subject of Nelson conference

submitted

One hundred years ago, the Kootenay region was a net exporter of food. Today, 52% of the food consumed in BC is imported – higher in our region. The Future of Food in the Kootenays Conference being held November 13 and 14 at the Prestige Lakeside Resort Conference Centre in Nelson will educate delegates about ways of adapting to future pressures on food transport and production.

Petroleum shortages, increasing fuel costs, and climate change leading to water shortages are projected by experts to have a major impact on our future food supply. With our tremendous seasonal water resources, the West Kootenay has great potential to recapture the ability to produce more of our own food if we start planning now. This will be even more crucial as an influx of population fleeing drought conditions may occur.

Keynote presentations will take place on the evening of November 13, with speakers to include Herb Barbolet, director of the Simon Fraser University Centre for Studies in Sustainability and Founding Director of Farm Folk/City Folk Society, Abra Brynne, long time food activist and founding coordinator BC Food Network, and George Penfold, Innovation Chair for Rural Economic Development Selkirk College, among others. Concurrent workshops led by expert/stakeholder groups will be held on November 14. The workshop streams planned are: regulatory, agriculture, economic and community development.

Tickets for evening keynote speakers are $10 or $8 students (with ID), or $65/$45 student for the full event – this includes two nutrition breaks and full lunch as well as qualifying as a Selkirk Continuing Education credit.

Registration for the full conference is available through www.selkirk.ca/events or call 250-352-6601. Tickets for Tuesday evening keynote speakers only available through Selkirk College or Otter Books, Baker Street, Nelson.

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Annual Slocan Valley Recreation winter sports swap day coming up, November 17

submitted

New to the area and want to find out more about what's happening with winter recreation? Looking for some good quality winter sports gear at good prices? Well, here's an event that combines these opportunities.

Slocan Valley Recreation will be hosting our annual Winter Sports Swap and Winter Sport Info Day at the Slocan Park Hall on Saturday, November 17 from 10 am to 1 pm. This year the event will again feature winter recreation user groups representing cross-country, downhill and backcountry skiing, snowmobile clubs, curling, and the Slocan Valley Rail Trail. Dale Arsenault from Boomtown Sports Emporium will be on site this year to offer technical advice to those looking for used sporting goods and promote Boomtown's new line of Nirvana Snowboards and Valhalla Skis.

"We find a lot of new people are coming to our area and looking for connections," explains Slocan Valley Recreation Coordinator Craig Lawrence. "Having a winter swap meet puts all these connections under one roof at one time, and has one of the longest-running sports swaps in the region attached to it."

Anyone wanting to sell any type of winter recreation equipment (skis, boards, skates, clothing, sports gear, etc.) should drop it off at the Slocan Park Hall between 9 and 10 am the day of the event. Ten percent of the selling price (to a max. of $20 per item) goes to the SVRC. Payouts and unsold equipment can be picked up between 1:00-1:30 pm. A nominal fee will be charged for unsold equipment.

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MAX molybdenum mine in early stages of ore production

by Art Joyce

Roca Mines of Vancouver has announced that its molybdenum mine at Trout Lake is entering the first stages of ore production. The mine is now able to begin with ore extraction and basic crushing in the mill, but could take up to 30 days to reach full capacity. A concentrate is being produced that is saleable and very shortly there will be enough marketable ore for buyers, says Roca spokesperson Doug Fosbrooke.

"Essentially what we've been doing is testing all the equipment and we've started running material through. We basically dig it out of the ground and concentrate it, we don't do any smelting or refining."

Typical mines can take from 30 to 90 days to reach full capacity. The rated capacity of this mill will be 1,000 tonnes per day, which is considered small. Most commercial production mills operate between 10 and 30,000 tonnes daily. Fosbrooke says the smaller scale of the Trout Lake mill means it will probably take closer to 30 than 90 days to reach full production.

The tailings pond or starter dams, designed to contain waste material for up to five years, cover an area of 300-400 metres. The containment walls will continue to be heightened as time goes on. Optimally a mine needs to recover up to 90% of the material. However, in order to do this some of the ore may be held in a smaller recycling pond within the larger dam. From there it can be taken again through the mill for crushing to fully extract the mineral.

"We wouldn't be able to start production unless we've met a certain quality standard for containment," says Fosbrooke.

Molybdenum is currently trading at $32-$33 US per pound.

Traditional barbershop opens in Nakusp

by Geordie Rice

Guys in Nakusp looking to get a haircut in a traditional barbershop have a new resource – the Red Hammer Barbershop.

Red Hammer was opened by area resident Leah Claire, who says she noticed the need for a male-oriented barbershop in the area while living in Edgewood.

While anyone can get a haircut at Red Hammer, it was designed as a place where men could feel comfortable while being groomed.

Claire offers haircuts, shaves, shampoos, and male facials, but she doesn't perform chemical-based treatments such as perms.

Another thing that makes Red Hammer unique is the no-appointment policy. Red Hammer is strictly walk-in.

On a special note for aspiring barbers in the area, Claire is also looking to train someone as an apprentice.

Claire says her ideal apprentice is someone who's sociable, has an eye for detail, is good with their hands, enjoys working with the public, and has high standards both in their craft and in customer service.

Red Hammer is located at 206 Broadway in Nakusp, and is currently open Wednesday to Saturday from 10-5:30.

An overwhelming number of aprons were brought to the Apron Project's introductory 'show and tell' event at the Hidden Garden Gallery. Here, Lorna Obermayr illustrates the valuable advertising potential of the apron.

Coco Love Alcorn brings her extraordinary voice to Silverton Gallery

submitted

If you don't know Coco, you don't know love. Coco Love Alcorn is returning to the Silverton Gallery November 11 to warm the hearts of fans both old and new. Slocan Valley music lovers will recall the personable, intense soulfulness of Alcorn's most recent performance here.

Part soul diva, part folk troubadour, part jazz improviser, part revolutionary, part visual artist, Coco Love Alcorn is a "multifaceted gem reflecting back the world as she experiences it." The *Vancouver Province* calls her voice 'extraordinary'; The *Star Phoenix* calls it 'stunning'. More than anything, it's her love of improvising and her willingness to engage warmly with the audience that have won the hearts of fans across Canada.

Doors open at 7:30 pm, show at 8 pm. Tickets are $10 advance at Prima Materia in Nakusp or Ann's Natural Foods in New Denver, or $12 at the door.

Notes from the RCMP

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE BASED ON PRESS RELEASES AND MAY HAVE BEEN EDITED

•Chance McGregor Ingram of Slocan has plead guilty to two counts of robbery under Section 344(b) of the Criminal Code as well as pleading guilty under Section 351(2) to having his face masked. Ingram was charged in connection with the robbery that occurred at the Kootenay Savings Credit Union at Playmor Junction on July 26 last year. A vehicle and several thousand dollars were stolen but recovered within hours. Sentencing will take place at a later date.

•Kaslo RCMP are investigating two break and enters hat occurred at Meadow Creek Cedar and the Lardeau Community Centre at the beginning of October. Stolen from Meadow Creek Cedar were tools worth $5,000 and two desktop computers. From the Lardeau Community Centre, stolen were two new flat screen Compaq computers, a Lexmark printer and a large amount of alcohol. Anyone with information is asked to call 353-2225 or 1-800-222-8477.

•A theft of about $20,000 worth of helicopter equipment occurred at Woodbury during the night of October 21. Kaslo RCMP is investigating.

OBITUARY

Helen Marie (Andersen) Woolgar passed away at age 66 years, in an auto accident near Balfour, B.C. on Oct 5th, 2007. She was married on September 15, 1961 to Paul William Woolgar of Collingwood, Ontario Canada, an electro mechanical technician & construction electrician for the Boeing company of Seattle Way.

Helen was born to Ray and Ella Andersen, August 4, 1941 in Santa Anna County, California. Helen was an accomplished organist, piano, viola and accordion performer and worked for many years as a computer data entry accountant.

She is survived by her husband Paul Woolgar of Kaslo, B.C. A sister-in-law, Joan Kabel of East Aurora, N.Y., a brother-in-law Richard Woolgar of Blasdell, N.Y., 6 step-children, David, Christopher, Richard, Jamie, Faye Ellen Wickwire, of Potsdam, N.Y., and Laurel Beth Studley of Hornell, N.Y.

There are also a number of grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

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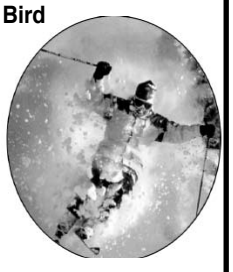
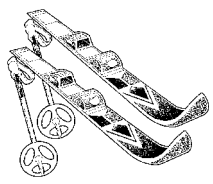
		Early Bird
Adult (19 yrs & up)	regular price $250	$210
Student (13 - 18)	regular price $205	$170
Child (6 - 12 yrs.)	regular price $135	$120
Senior (60 yrs & up)	regular price $135	$120



FAMILY RATES (includes 1 adult)		
One Adult	regular price $250	$210
Two Adults	regular price $440	$375
Student	regular price $165	$140
Child	regular price $120	$100

Early Bird Rates until December 15, 2007



PUNCH PASSES		
Adult (19 yrs & up)	3 Days $46	5 Days $80
Students (13 - 18)	3 Days $31	5 Days $60
Child (6-12 years)	3 Days $28	5 Days $40
Senior (60 yrs & up)	3 Days $28	5 Days $40

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Wednesday to Sunday 10 am - 3:30 pm
Night Skiing - Wednesday & Friday 6 pm - 9 pm
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Energy Star Windows	$30	50 cents per sq foot
Air Source Heat Pump	$400	$250 or more
Ground Source Heat Pump	$3500	$700-$1500
Insulation	~$2500	varies per home
		$50 assessment rebate

*Fortis BC grants are for electrically heated homes only and are equal to 5¢ per kilowatt hour saved annually. The federal ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes grants are for all heating types. ecoENERGY is an official trademark of Natural Resources Canada. Used under license.

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Let us start Friday by the lighting of the trees and more. Then hang a star while singing outdoor.
Christmas by the Lake • Silverton, BC