The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

People's efforts to pressure government over P&T pay off

by Jan McMurray

MLA Corky Evans says the pressure on government to act in the interests of the people in the Pope & Talbot case is working.

Pope & Talbot's court proceedings will be moved from Ontario to BC.

Also, the auditor general has agreed to review the Ministry of Forests' decision-making process when it allowed removal of private lands from tree farm licences held by Western Forest Products in January this year. The NDP is calling for the suspension of all removal of private lands from tree farm licences until the auditor general has completed his investigation.

Of particular interest to local contractors is the fact that two logging companies in Fort St. James placed liens on P&T logs on November 8. P&T spokesperson Mark Rossolo could not explain how the contractors could take such legal action against the company while it was under creditor protection, but said, "It was legal – they were able to do it." He said the company was going to keep the Fort St. James mill shut down until those issues were resolved.

The Ontario court ordered that P&T's proceedings be moved to BC on November 19, after the Province of BC applied to the court for the move and P&T consented to it.

This move was supported by the Village of Nakusp and the four other communities directly impacted by P&T's insolvency – Castlegar, Grand Forks, Revelstoke, and Fort St. James. The five communities were going to hire a lawyer so they could be represented at the hearing to have the court case moved to BC. As it turns out, this was not necessary, as P&T consented voluntarily.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Forests and Range states that the reasons the Province wanted the proceedings moved were "to ensure that communities, creditors, employees, First Nations and other stakeholders affected by the restructuring would have fair, convenient and timely access to the judicial and administrative decision-making processes affecting them."

P&T spokesperson Mark Rossolo said the company originally filed in Ontario because that is where its registered office is located. The Province's application to the court states that up until about a month before filing for creditor protection, P&T's registered office was located in Vancouver, at the office of its counsel. Then the company changed its registered office to the offices of Stikeman Elliott, Barristers and Solicitors, in Toronto. The company has no operations in Ontario.

At the recent Nakusp council meeting, Hamling said that community members have been doing a great job of having their voices heard. "Petitions and letters have been coming in steadily," she said, "but don't let up. We need to make an impression on [Minister of Forests] Coleman that it would be disastrous to lose land from the TFL."

She reported on a discussion she had with Coleman on November 6. He said the idea that came out of the community meeting in Nakusp November 4 – for the government to confiscate the P&T logs in Nakusp to pay local contractors monies owed them by the company – was not possible. Coleman also said he would be happy to meet with the community, but he is not available in the near future as he is on the treasury board and it is budget time.

In speaking with MLA Corky Evans, Hamling found out that if P&T declares bankruptcy, the company may lose their rights to the TFL. "I think we'll have some room to move at that point," she said.

In the legislature on November 6, under fire from MLA Evans, Coleman explained that under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), P&T's assets are frozen and he does not have the power to step in and confiscate them.

Evans disagreed, and read out a section of the tree farm licence agreement between P&T and the Province, which states that if P&T "commits an act of bankruptcy, makes a general assignment of its creditors or otherwise acknowledges its insolvency, the licensee is deemed to have failed to perform an obligation under this licence."

Evans said that now that P&T has done all three of those things, the Minister has the right to "take back the licence, take back the logs and auction them off."

Coleman said he could not yet do these things because the company is not in bankruptcy or receivership, but rather under creditor protection. "So they have not yet stepped over that line to where I could act under the act."

The Ministry of Forests said that under Section 76 of the Forest Act, the Minister can suspend a licence, but this would be considered on a case by case basis. In some cases, according to the Ministry, suspension and cancellation would not be appropriate. The Ministry also stated that under CCAA, P&T's tree farm licence cannot be cancelled without the consent of P&T, their monitor and the court.

On the removal of private lands from P&T's TFL #23 that are currently advertised for sale, Coleman told Mayor Hamling it would take a year and a half to make a decision on the application for their removal.

The Ministry has said that P&T's application to delete the land from the TFL, submitted in June, is currently under consultation with First Nations. Other issues that will be considered in the process include old growth management areas, ungulate winter ranges, and road access. Once this information has been gathered, staff prepares a briefing package for the Minister, which goes to the Ministry executive first. Finally, the Minister makes a decision.

NDP Forests Critic Bob Simpson asked Coleman in the legislature about the Minister's consent for removal of P&T lands from the TFL in Trout Lake in February. The Minister said this had nothing to do with P&T's current situation or its current application for removal of some of the lands.

The Ministry explained that in December 2005 and May 2006, the company requested the removal of 65 hectares from the tree farm licence so the land could be sold for use as a tailing pond for the molybdenum mine. The Minister consented to the removal in February 2007 after consulting with the Ministry of Environment and First Nations.

Interfor signs deal with P&T for sawmills and TFLs

by Jan McMurray

It looks like Nakusp's woodlands operation will be sold to International Forest Products (Interfor).

On November 19, Interfor announced that it had reached an agreement to purchase the Castlegar, Grand Forks and Spearfish (South Dakota) sawmill assets and related timber tenures, including TFL#23 in the Arrow Lakes and TFL#8 near Grand Forks, for a purchase price of US$69 million. The sale is subject to the court proceedings.

Ric Slaco, Interfor Vice President and Chief Forester, says the company is very excited about the possible acquisition. "It is an attractive opportunity for us to grow our business and hopefully to bring stability to the community as well." He added that the company has a strong balance sheet.

He explained that the signed agreement between P&T and Interfor was subject to the court process, and a competing bid could still come in. He says they will know in mid December if they are the successful bidders or not. If so, he says they hope to have the transfer complete in the first quarter of 2008.

Slaco said the outstanding monies owed by P&T and P&T's application to have lands removed from the tree farm licence do not enter into the agreement with Interfor at all. "As the deal gets closer, we'll want to know the status of that ourselves," he said.

Saco says the Southern Interior is an attractive area for Interfor because of the diversity in species, the proximity to markets and the US, and the lesser percentage of pine than in other parts of the interior.

The company owns a sawmill and woodlands in the Kamloops timber supply area, at Adams Lake. "We've been successfully running this small business in the Southern Interior for a number of years. We think the Southern Interior is a good place to operate a business from," said Saco.

Interfor is one of the Pacific Northwest's largest producers of quality wood products. It has operations in BC, Washington and Oregon, including three sawmills on the BC coast, the one at Adams Lake, one in Washington and two in Oregon. In addition, Interfor operates value-added remanufacturing and specialty products facilities in BC and Washington. More information is available at www.interfor.com or at www.sedar.com.

P&T files for bankruptcy protection

by Jan McMurray

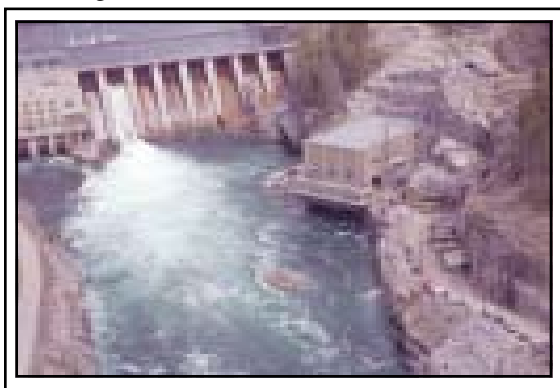
Pope & Talbot, Inc announced November 19 that it has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

This is the American equivalent of the company's Canadian filing for creditor protection under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA), obtained October 29.

The announcement says the protection under the laws of both countries will provide additional time for P&T to continue its restructuring efforts, "which include, but are not limited to, the sale of certain or all of the company's assets."

P&T has arranged "debtor-in-possession" financing of approximately $90 million. Subject to court approval in the US and Canada, the financing, together with cash generated from daily operations, will fund operating costs, including wages.

Jack Kelly sounds the bugle to mark the beginning of New Denver's Remembrance Day ceremonies.



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Unstable Perry Ridge put up for logging bids by BCTS

by Art Joyce

Homeowners in the Perry Ridge area have learned that BC Timber Sales (BCTS) has called for bids on logging there. Marilyn Burgoon, spokesperson for the Perry Ridge Water Users Association, says the government is ignoring a substantial body of scientific evidence proving that the area is unsafe to log. Burgoon sees it as irresponsible of BCTS to call for bids given the risks to both life and property.

"We know – and quite frankly the provincial government knows – the risks on Perry Ridge. We're just re-introducing the evidence for that."

The association is forwarding hydrology reports and risk assessment reports to the Springer Creek mill in Slocan and may do the same for other potential bidders. March 31, 2008 is the closing date for preliminary bids.

Stability studies done by the LRUP (Local Resource Use Planning table) in 1997 discovered a risk of slides into valley bottom due to high water flows. The Valhalla Wilderness Society hired hydrologist Dr. Tony Salway to do an assessment and his report raised risk from the government's 'low' rating to 'moderate to high' risk.

Burgoon said that at the time in 1997 there was only Alan Isaacson's report but since then some half a dozen studies have supported its conclusions of high risk on Perry Ridge. Some reports obtained by the Water Users Association suggest that the financial loss due to road-building complications and other factors related to slope instability could be as much as $2.25 million.

"It's not fair that BCTS is putting it up for bid, not only to us but also to bidders who aren't being told the risks."

The RDCK has begun the process of hazard mapping for landslides, and requires engineering studies prior to any land development in the area. Area H Director Don Munro is applying for funding for the hazard mapping through the Municipal Green Fund. Munro says the RDCK has passed the first hurdle for the application but won't know the result until February. He has met with District Forest Manager Al Skakun and asked if BCTS could hold off until then. Skakun told Munro that's not likely, as he has already delayed logging on the ridge for the past five years. Skakun would be willing to meet with the regional district board, which will be seeking input from both sides, but is not prepared to wait until hazard mapping studies are completed.

"Forestry and the regional district agreed to do hazard studies," explains Munro. "Forestry did their half on Crown land but the district couldn't agree on who was to do their study and so they didn't get their half done."

The government's own reports, Burgoon says, confirm the slope instability risks on Perry Ridge. A report prepared by Peter Jordan of the Ministry of Forests concluded an increase in landslide risk by a factor of six times. Judge Parrett in 1997 acknowledged that the $100,000 overnight loss of property suffered by Austin Greengrass when a slide decimated his home was highly significant in his decision to set aside the injunction against the Water Users Association. Yet the Attorney General ignored the risk to public safety in his decision to set aside Judge Parrett's ruling, explains Burgoon, a decision that was later reversed.

"Judge Parrett's legal decision makes clear that with or without intention, there was a suppression of material – Isaacson's report – indicating a risk to public safety."

Burgoon thinks that in retrospect it would have been wise to include Perry Ridge in the Valhalla Park boundaries to preserve ecosystem connectivity. There are 67 species that would be impacted, some of them red- (endangered) and blue- (threatened) listed. Climate change is another factor. She adds that it's reckless to damage watershed areas when we need to protect every water source possible to guarantee future food security. The association is proposing that the provincial government allow the area to be set aside as an ecological reserve managed by the regional district. Burgoon says there is a broad base of support for this idea amongst residents as far north as the northern drainage at Mulvey Creek.

"We think we're not just saving money and property but saving species."

The Water Users Association is hoping that by making the hazards known to bidders they'll be aware of the financial and ecological risks and be discouraged from pursuing their bids. Failing that, the group will consider legal action.

Still no deal on Provincial building

by Jan McMurray

In a tie vote, Kaslo council defeated a motion to accept the deal with the Province to purchase the provincial building.

Since the last round of negotiations, the Province has made it clear it will not budge on the issue of operating costs in the takeback lease.

Councillor Vass was absent from the November 13 council meeting. Councillor Leathwood made the motion to accept the deal, with Councillor Hewat as seconder. These two voted in favour of the motion, while Mayor Holland and Councillor Jones voted opposed.

But Councillor Jones says we haven't heard the end of it yet. "It will be interesting to see what the Province does next," he said.

In an email from Charles Chan of Accommodation and Real Estate Services on October 5, it is clear that the Province is willing only to pay a fixed rate for the space the Government Agent occupies in the building for the 10-year term of the takeback lease. This fixed rate is based on the Province paying 16.1% of current operating costs. Council would instead like the Province to pay 25% of the actual operating costs, taking inflation into account.

Jones says he has stuck to his position throughout the negotiations because "we've done a poor job over the years of maintaining the buildings we have, so are we going to do the same thing here – have the building crumbling down around us like the City Hall?"

Also, he objects to the Province paying a fixed rental rate when it is clear that costs will rise over the term of the lease. He points out that the building is heated with propane.

The Province's side of the story is that it cannot move on the fixed rate because it must get fair market value for the building. Chan states in the email: "All in all, in order for ARES to maintain the mandate to dispose of the property at fair market value and also assist the Village in acquiring the property at a reduced price, ARES will only pay either $5.29 per square foot operating costs if the Village provides all of the services checked in…the Lease…or we will pay $3.07 per square foot operating costs if the Village asks ARES to provide janitorial services to its Premises…"

The square footage occupied by the Province is 1,430. So monthly rent works out to be $630.39.

Chan also notes that the appraised value used in the deal with the Village was determined in 2003, and that this figure may be much higher today.

Later in the meeting, council voted to send a letter to Chan to advise that council does not accept the terms of the takeback lease. This motion passed unanimously.

More cuts for school districts

by Jan McMurray

The Ministry of Education announced a change to the funding formula for grades 10-12 students last month that may take about $40,000 out of School District No. 10's budget.

School districts used to get base funding for each grade 10-12 student, plus an amount for each course the student took. In the new formula, effective immediately, the base funding for these students has been eliminated.

SD10 board chair Pattie Adam says the board will be writing to the Minister. "We feel it's necessary to vocalize our opinion," she said.

The letter will highlight the need for consultation with school districts before making decisions such as this one and the timing of such decisions, said Adam.

"We feel we should be involved in discussions now for changes to be implemented in fall 2008," she said. "Instead, it's constant surprises from up above."

Adam says the change not only takes dollars away, but it also adds to the workload of administrative staff, who have to scramble to re-work the budget. "We're struggling as is in capacity – we've cut back, shared services with other districts, and now this."

Students with individual education plans and those in alternate programs continue to be funded under the old model.

Under the new formula, a student must take at least eight courses per year to be fully funded. Funding for distance education courses will go to the district that developed the course, not to the school that offers it.

On a more positive note, SD10's enrolment is quite a bit higher than predicted at the end of last year. There are about 610 students, 39 more than the forecasted 571.

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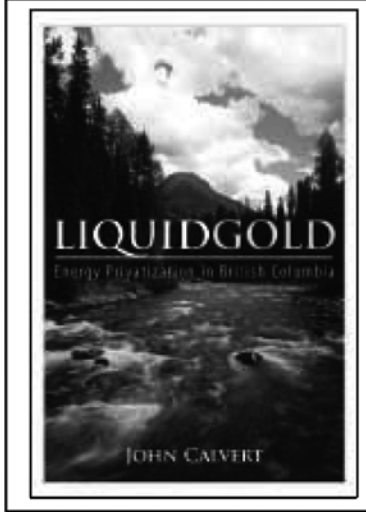

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Future of Food conference forecasts challenging future in the Kootenays

by Art Joyce

Supermarket culture has become so ingrained in Western culture that we take it for granted we'll always be able to buy our food in stores. Experts at the Future of Food in the Kootenays conference November 13-14 warned that with the looming economic impacts of peak oil, we could see the end of that era within a decade.

Held at the Prestige Inn Lakeside in Nelson, the sold-out conference attracted an audience of 250, including community planners, farmers, food bank volunteers, high school students and others looking for a glimpse of their future. They learned that drastic changes to our food infrastructure are needed if massive social upheaval is to be avoided.

Richard Balfour, an architect and urban planner, was one of the keynote speakers Tuesday evening. Balfour was responsible for unearthing a provincial government report with some alarming statistics that had been quietly 'buried.' BC imports more than half of its food supply, with BC farmers producing only about 48 percent of the meat, dairy, fruit and vegetables we consume. A report by scientists and planners, titled *BC's Food Self-Reliance*, released this spring, says the area of BC farmland with access to irrigation would have to increase by 50 percent by 2025 to provide a healthy diet for all British Columbians. Keynote speaker Ione Smith, a community planner with Smart Growth BC, spoke via conference call about the importance of protecting BC's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from further incursions by residential and industrial development.

All that imported food is dependent on the supply infrastructure powered by oil. Justin Roller, a researcher with the National Research Council, explained that the world uses 84.5 million barrels of oil per day, or 1,000 barrels per second. Peak production has passed, with current daily production flat since 2005 despite an increase in exploration. Alberta tar sands production is three times more expensive than conventional drilling. Gasoline prices have increased 400% since 2002, with oil hitting $92 per barrel this October. At this rate of increase, tar sands production will eventually represent a net loss after production costs. Figures for oil reserves vary wildly and are probably overestimated. Just do the math, Roller said: at current global consumption rates, with 30 billion barrels per day being produced, we have 42 years of supply left.

"From a risk management perspective it's irresponsible to put off doing something about this situation," Roller said.

Balfour explained that the current 'hub and spoke' system of multinational corporate food supply chains has no future under peak oil. Price shocks caused by declining oil supply will ripple out into the economy, causing economic downturns, loss of tax base, loss of personal and industrial mobility, loss of portability of capital, mass migration, and most importantly, loss of access to cheap food. Large cities and their suburbs will be hit hardest, but more isolated communities like Nelson will feel the impacts as migrants flood into the region searching for land to grow food on. At projected oil price hikes, Balfour predicts these impacts could occur in as little as 5-7 years.

Herb Barbolet, an adviser with Simon Fraser University's Centre for Sustainable Community Development, noted a recent Ipsos Reid survey which suggests Canadians have already intuited the solution: 74% said they were looking for more locally grown food. The commodification of food has led us to our current vulnerable position, and we need to return to seeing ourselves as part of a holistic system, Barbolet said. Food banks and charity relief are 'bandaids,' not solutions. Ensuring that even the poorest are fed is a way to reduce violence and social chaos in the coming years. At present, tax and business subsidies are designed primarily to benefit multinational agribusiness corporations, squeezing small producers out of the market. This trend needs to be reversed. Capacity building needs to happen to institute local food policy councils to coordinate resources. More regional distribution networks like Local Flavours, a cooperative established by Creston farmers, will need to be created and supported.

"What we have is not a real food system; a real food system is people living on the land producing their own food, as much of the world still does, at least in poorer countries," Barbolet concluded.

Few of the panelists – including MLA Corky Evans and MP Alex Atamanenko – held out much hope for senior government to take the lead in creating this new paradigm to meet the coming shocks. Atamanenko pointed out that since the implementation of NAFTA, the number of onion producers in BC dropped from 2,000 to 6. He added that the Conservative government's attempt to eliminate marketing boards will further erode support for farmers, whose produce returns only about ten cents on the dollar after costs. Meanwhile agribusiness corporations have posted record profits. A stronger local food network will also require support for a ban on terminator seeds and GMOs, which prevent farmers from saving seed stock from harvest to harvest. The Kootenays are ahead of the curve, with groups like Community Food Matters, the West Kootenay EcoSociety and Kootenay Co-op Radio sponsoring educational initiatives such as the Eat Local Challenge.

Workshops at the conference focused on key areas of food infrastructure: economics, regulations, technical aspects of farming, and community development. Common themes that emerged as working solutions included the need for intergenerational links with traditional farming knowledge, public education on food awareness, agricultural programs at Selkirk College, the need for broad community 'buy-in' to support local food networks, and regulatory reform on subsidies and trade agreements. The last word was given to Corky Evans.

"For the people flying the plane, your values are actually a problem. The people at your table are far more likely to make your dreams come true than the people in government."

Waneta expansion project approved

submitted

A provincial environmental assessment certificate has been issued for the Waneta Expansion Project.

The project, to construct a second powerhouse at Waneta Dam south of Trail, as well as a 10-kilometre long, 230 kilovolt transmission line, is a project of the Waneta Expansion Power Corporation, a company formed jointly by Columbia Power Corporation and the Columbia Basin Trust.

The new power plant, expected to be in service by 2011, will provide more than 700 gigawatt-hours per year of renewable energy, the equivalent energy for more than 70,000 households, without the need for new dam construction, new reservoir formation or additional flooding of existing reservoirs. The expansion project will share the dam's hydraulic head and generate power from flow that would otherwise be spilled. Reducing the amount spilled at the existing Waneta Dam will reduce total gas pressure downstream, improving Columbia River water quality to the benefit of aquatic species.

The project is consistent with the BC government's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while contributing to the Energy Plan's commitment to make British Columbia electricity self-sufficient by 2016.

In addition to the provincial environmental assessment, the proposal also triggered a federal environmental assessment, so the two levels of government harmonized the process and prepared a joint report. Based on this report, the EAO has concluded that effects from the project will be within acceptable levels, subject to implementation of mitigation measures and commitments agreed to by the proponent.

The provincial EA certificate contains 51 major commitments that the proponent must implement throughout the various phases of the project, including mitigating for the endangered white sturgeon population.

There are still various approvals required before the project can proceed. Capital costs for the project are estimated to be $400 million and would create approximately 680 person-years of employment over the 42-month construction period. Estimated annual revenues to the BC government from water rentals will be $5 million.

More information on the environmental assessment certificate can be found at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

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Voices from the Valleys

Shop locally at Christmas

Far too many of us take our Christmas shopping out of the communities in which we live. There's a certain allure to the big city with its convenient shopping malls – one stop shopping for the holidays. Many of us find ourselves ordering from catalogues, or from our computers. With the strength of the Canadian dollar against its American counterpart, I imagine that more than a few of us will be tempted to shop south of the line, as well.

There is a better way. Check out one of the Moonlight Madness sales, or better yet, take in one of the local craft fairs. Buy at least one gift that that was hand-crafted here in the Kootenays. Make a donation to a local charity. A certain amount of commercialism is inevitable, but let's make it count for something.

Christmas is a time of family, friends, and of community as well. It's a time to celebrate our local artisans and our local culture. It's a time to mix and mingle with our neighbours. Too often we get caught up in the urgency of shopping, and lose sight of the things that make the season important.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Too much poop…

Being that we are living in a free world and also have access to a paper such as *The Valley Voice*, I would like to take advantage of those things and write a letter in response to Gary Cockrell's letter in the Nov 7 issue.

First of all, I would like to thank him for the one positive aspect I could find – regarding the dog bylaw in Kaslo. You see, I am the Animal Control Officer for Kaslo. (Nope, we don't do bears, just dogs.) I consider it a compliment that there are so few dogs free at night that they cannot keep the bears away.

I think the bears have come every year to Kaslo in an attempt to feed and build fat for the winter. It's a matter of survival – if they don't build up enough fat, they will die in their den.

I would suggest Gary take up the challenge to keep the bears off his property. Fences have always made for "good neighbours" and if your neighbour is a bear then build a good one and guess what? It would keep your dogs in as well! And other dogs out – less poop. Is this really about the effort it takes to go and get a shovel and the inconvenience of having to?

There are a great many people pooper-scooping after bears this year but I wonder about the incidents of stalking and chasing. Really? Or are these just embellished stories?

Picking up poop isn't that big a deal. It's much easier than raking a whole lawn. And in Kaslo that's just how it is. More people die from bee stings than bear attacks. I have yet to hear of anyone being attacked by a bear in Kaslo at all. Does anyone know of a true incident? I certainly don't mean to pooh-pooh the fact that a bear can be a danger and we shouldn't let our guards down. But really, have they done a lot of damage?

In my area, we have had two young bears here for months. My neighbour has an apple tree. From there, the bears would walk on my roof and knock the apples around. They would then eat the fallen apples on the ground and – you guessed it – poop a lot. Gary is not alone on the shoveling.

Now when the bear got in my garbage the other day I wasn't pleased. I had put it out at 8:00 a.m., garbage truck came by at 10:00 a.m. and damage had been done. Again, not a huge discomfort to pick it up and bag it again. My neighbour has to watch her child more carefully this time of year, but really, what harm do the bears do? They seem to be losing their fear of man, but what to do about that?

So anyway Gary, your letter prompted me to get out my dictionary, so it was also educational. "Draconian Dog Bylaw"? Hmmm, did you use this word in the right context? Our bylaws are "extremely harsh and cruel"?? The only thing hurt by our bylaws are the owners' pocketbooks if they get a fine, which hopefully would give them the incentive to build that fence that might keep the bears out. (Run a little electric fence on the top of it and it should do the trick.)

I think wildlife is a "plus" for Kaslo. The German tourist especially would pay good money to have a bear in their backyard or to even just see one. Bears in town are simply a "seasonal" event and not an "all the time" occurrence.

So there you have it, my opinion, Gary (and whoever else cares to read this). In the words of a man we both know: "Ya gotta be smarter than the horse" – oops I mean "bear."

Joyce Davidson
Kaslo

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

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

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

Webster's letter hypocritical

In your last issue, Will Webster complains that letters which support political parties amount to free advertising and should not be printed. Then he urges us to vote independent. Hmmm. Could it be that Mr. Webster, who gets more space than the editor these days, is planning to run as an independent and his countless letters are free ads for himself?

For years, this man has used *The Valley Voice* as a free platform for his ideas. Now, with utmost hypocrisy, he suggests that it's fine for him to write letters slamming the Tories, Greens, and Liberals but letters which praise parties be banned. In other words, if you cannot say something bad, don't say anything at all. Since when is freedom of speech only for whiners?

One can only hope that Mr. Webster develops writer's cramp and turns his soapbox into something useful. A derby racer, perhaps?

Mike Edwards
New Denver

A protest against P&T and MoF

We are writing to protest the actions of the lumber corporation, Pope and Talbot Ltd. and the lack of responsibility of the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests, to protect our forests, our lumber economy and our people.

Pope and Talbot has filed for creditor protection. They have not paid monies owed to local contractors for wood already cut and passed through the scales. They plan to sell their private lands held under Tree Farm License #23 without consultation with local communities.

The expedient practice of selling land to real estate developers to raise money to settle accounts with foreign creditors will prevent our logging economy from recovering in the future. Provincial rules which should protect our interests have been quietly changed over recent years by this government to benefit big business.

Who is our government working for – soulless corporations or the citizens of this province? The resource based economy and the communities and workers who extract these riches are the heart of this province. We say to all BC citizens living in the north, in the interior and in the south: be afraid, be very afraid because our government is living only in the present, their buddies are big business and they have no interest in our future or the future of our children.

Barb and Carl Chwachka
Nakusp

Jumbo Wild Forever

TA-DA! Helmut Spiegl, Canada's National Men's Downhill Ski Team Coach for the last four Olympics, recently joined Scott Niedermayer, hockey icon and Becky Scott, Olympic cross-country gold medalist in speaking out in favour of Keeping Jumbo Wild Forever!

And – the count is in for the non-binding plebiscite recently conducted in the Regional District of East Kootenay, Area F, where the resort would be located. The question on the ballot was simple: "Are you in favour of the Jumbo Glacier Resort?"

78% said NO! That's nearly 8 out of 10 voters. That's a resounding NO! The results have gone to Victoria.

Now, we West Kootenay folk in favour of Keeping Jumbo Wild Forever need to show our solidarity with our East Kootenay allies by sending yet another quick note to Gord. One more time let him hear our voices. NO JUMBO RESORT! YES JUMBO WILD FOREVER! The sooner the better so they nearly appear in the same mail bag as the plebiscite results.

Write to: Premier Gordon Campbell, P.O. Box 9041, Stn. Prov. Gov't, Victoria, BC V8W 9E1 or email: premier@gov.bc.ca

Rowena Eloise
Argenta

Standing up for his beliefs

I thank you for having the courage and independence to print our Valleys' Voices.

My opinions are unsolicited and neither an obligation nor an official representation of any organization. I write about environmental issues, water, tourism, motorized recreational vehicles, cell phones, new paradigms for logging, corporate amorality (and how unchecked it will kill us), and other matters.

Why then would any reader suggest that you should suppress thoughts on the political aspects in society? Do we want that kind of censorship? Should legal membership in a group be grounds for denial of public expression?

My thoughts are the result of my upbringing, ability to read, ability to discuss and do research. How I understand information relates to my experiences, and so I might interpret things differently from another person.

When I place a thought in a public forum, I hope it encourages others to consider the issue. The desired result is additional thought, informed opinion and discussion so that we can come up with the most knowledgeable solution.

More simply put, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts." How can we direct or expect positive change if we don't talk about it?

I believe the Green Party is the best solution at this point in history, and so I support them. I stand up for what I believe is best!

Eric Faulks
Hills

Harper government fiscally irresponsible

The recent announcement by Prime Minister Harper in Castlegar that he has cut taxes by $200 billion over a period of five years underscores the continued fiscal irresponsibility of the current Canadian government. Over the last 21 years, since 1985/86, gross government debt has risen by 220% to $702.5 billion, of which $179.9 billion is in pension and other liabilities.

During the same time period various federal governments have handed over $829.9 billion to various creditors in interest. You can read this information for yourself on the Department of Finance website under Gross Public Debt, Outstanding Market Debt and Debt Charges (http://www.fin.gc.ca/dtman/2005-2006/dmr06_2e.html#I).

If instead the gross debt was reduced by $200 billion at current rates of interest the government of Canada could reduce interest payments from $33.8 billion to $24.1 billion a year. A further reduction in the gross debt of $200 billion over a subsequent five years would reduce the gross debt to below 1985/86 levels to $302.5 billion. This would reduce interest payments to $14.2 billion a net reduction of $19.6 billion annually from which taxpayers could be offered the same tax cuts or better funded health, education and social programs.

By undertaking tax cuts before reducing the debt and before taking care of outstanding pension liabilities the Harper government is placing millions of soon to retire taxpayers' CPP and OAS pensions in jeopardy and placing those entering the workforce and at mid-life in very real danger of facing future tax increases to cover the pension shortfall.

Given the vagaries of the current North American market due to the unfunded mortgage crisis in the US the Harper government is, in my opinion, simply trying to buy itself a majority government without explaining fully the fiscal risks it is taking. Since 2000/01 gross federal government debt has only been reduced by $11.1 billion, while during the same time period $224.6 billion in interest has been paid out.

Instead of political opportunism and smoke and mirrors Canadians need a government prepared to offer long-term reduction in fiscal, social and environmental risks. This is called a triple bottom line approach to accounting. A true conservative would embrace this method of handling

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Voices from the Valleys

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government finances, because it would help ensure future generations have one to look forward to.

Andy Shadrack,
Director Area D, RDCK
Kaslo

Bear troubles

Gary Cockrell makes some very good points about how the residents in Kaslo have become so scared of the bears that we won't leave our houses at night.

It's funny that the deer can eat in my yard all they like, all year round since they do not pose a threat. But the one time this year that I forgot to cover my garbage in the garage I knew that poor bear was a dead one. Even though I don't report them when I see them, I know that someone else will, since it is very likely my garbage was not the only one he's dined on this year.

Recently I wrote the lady in charge of the 'Bear Aware' program suggesting that, since this town sees a lot of logging in the area, why not plant some fruit trees in the cutblocks since they are going to be replanted with evergreens anyway. Going on the theory that if we keep the food in the forest, we will keep the bears in the forest.

Her response was that she had considered it, but that it would in turn increase the fertility of the female bears, and increase their population. She also informed me that last year in Kaslo alone 10 bears were killed because they came into town to eat.

I asked her what the bear population would be 5 years from now if we keep killing 10 bears every year.

And if we do plant fruit trees one year, they will take years before they produce any fruit. Are we going to wait until we have decimated their population before we try something new? She never wrote back to that. It seems to me like she's taking the easy way out, putting up a yellow sign and then calling up the conservation officers and letting them deal with the bears in the worst way possible, rather than to put in some extra time and effort to actually save the bears.

I was seriously blown away when I went out to Shutty Bench just north of Kaslo and saw a 'Bear in Area' sign. Where do you think we live?

Many of us choose to live here because we enjoy nature, so why are we so afraid of it? The bears are a part of nature. As Kaslo grows, we are slowly taking over their habitat.

Which brings me to another point. When I was a child, we were always taught what to do if you see a bear, because no doubt it is scary when you run into one. I wonder if our newer residents over-react because they have come here from the city and are not used to living with bears. These people call the conservation officers because of their fear, where locals who have lived here all their lives are very used to seeing bears and are not alarmed nearly as much.

I grew up in Ainsworth and have never seen a bear trap there even though bears often dine on the locals' fruit, berries, and yes sometimes their garbage, but the locals there know that they live WITH nature and would rather allow the bears to eat their fruit and berries than have an officer shoot them in their backyard.

We live in the Kootenays; if you don't like the bears, move to the city.

Trisha Clare
Kaslo

MoF report confirms slide potential for Perry Ridge

The RDCK has applied to the Municipal Green Fund for a grant to undertake a Terrain Stability Assessment and Hazard Mapping for Perry Ridge and Ainsworth.

BC Timber Sales (MoF) is not willing to wait for these assessments to be completed, even though their own study by Peter Jordan, MoF, has shown that slides are six times more likely to occur with road building and logging.

In *Landslide Frequencies and Terrain Attributes in Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts* by Peter Jordan, MoF, the introduction states: "In the Nelson Forest Region, landslides related to forest development are a significant issue, especially with respect to sediment introduced to streams used for community water supply, and potential risks from landslide debris flows that reach populated valley bottoms."

After a lot of technical data the report finishes with these conclusions: "In general, the results of statistical analysis for the two data sets show that slope, terrain category, and bedrock geology are significant terrain variables in explaining the density of development-related landslides. These results are consistent with field experience. The presence of forest development, as defined by the development polygons, is a very significant variable in the overall landslide density. In the southwest study area, landslide density was over 6 times greater in development polygons than in undeveloped areas. In the terrain map study area, the presence of roads was a significant variable, but the presence of cutblocks was less significant. This is consistent with field observations that many landslides occur some distance below roads and cutblocks, and that roads are a much more common cause of landslides than cutblocks."

If that sounds familiar, it is because that is exactly what the geologists and hydrologist stated in the 1997 court case that decided against the Ministry of Forests.

What is significant here is that the report from the Ministry of Forests finally agrees that road building causes landslides.

Does that mean they will stop endangering the residents on Perry Ridge? No!

BC Timber (MoF) still wants to build the main haul road from the north end of Perry Ridge for a planned cutblock in 2008.

Residents, defend your safety and water, write to the RDCK (fax 352-9300) and request that the board ask BC Timber to hold off with development until the RDCK has concluded the planned Terrain Stability Studies.

You can also write Al Skakun at BC Timber (fax 365-8568) and demand that logging plans are put on hold.

It makes no sense to have hazard mapping completed AFTER development has taken place, especially when MoF concedes in their own study that forest development causes significant increase in slides.

I strongly feel that a request from the RDCK to BC Timber carries some weight and might prevent a potential disaster for the residents on Perry Ridge.

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

Open letter to Minister of Forests Rich Coleman

We are residents of Nakusp, which is in the Arrow Lakes Valley of the Columbia River.

This is also the location of TFL 23, which is currently held by Pope and Talbot Ltd. P&T is in extreme financial difficulties as you have heard.

Pope and Talbot Ltd. had convinced the local contractors to continue working because they were assured financing was in place. It was not, as we have found out. There are three weeks of work that Pope and Talbot Ltd owe us, the local contractors and sub-contractors. We estimate a figure of $4 million that we are all out, as not only were we not paid for work done, but also we as employers have had to pay our employees and fuel bills, insurance, etc.

To alleviate some of their financial burdens they have applied to you to have their private holdings removed from TFL 23. We strongly oppose this removal of lands from the TFL. Some of these lands that were deeded to their predecessor, Westar, had been expropriated from local residents by BC Hydro. Now we are faced with another big corporation flexing their might and dictating to local residents. If the sales of these Arrow Lakes Valley lands goes through we understand that the monies go first to secured creditors – and it won't be used to pay Pope and Talbot's outstanding debts to the local contractors.

Removal and sale of these lands will greatly decrease the sustainability of the logging industry here as some of these parcels are old log dumps and have log booming rights adjacent to them. This prospect of losing the viability of our livelihood is dismal for this valley.

Pope and Talbot have sought financial relief through creditor protection, which leaves us personally with a huge debt. This, on top of the loss of work by cutbacks to the Annual Allowable Cuts and the low rates of pay over the last ten years, has put us in financial stress. Additionally, this year was extremely poor for work – we were shut down due to fire hazard or poor market. Then when were finally back at work we get stiffed on our pay.

The public had been involved when Pope and Talbot Ltd. bought out Westar and Tree Farm License 23 in 1992. The locals from Revelstoke down to Castlegar were given an opportunity to be heard. Now no one has asked us how the breakup of lands from the TFL will affect us now or in the future.

We are looking for solutions so we ask you to come as soon as possible to our community, Nakusp, to meet with us. There are so many questions and concerns that you could answer and address.

Betty and Richard Fahlman
Nakusp

Cellphone capital investment?

One aspect of the cell phone controversy has not been illuminated. I refer to the Telus position which holds that it must go ahead with New Denver installation to protect its capital investment at the CBC tower site.

We requested a contractor to estimate what the government expenditure by Telus might be (including a small cement pad, some trenching and extending the CBC fence). He estimated $5,000 or thereabouts. Consider, in the light of this, the following:

-Telus profits up 28%. Telus Corporation profits are $410 million in the third quarter of 2007.

-Telus profits for the first nine months of 2007 were $857.8 million.

-Telus will increase its dividends to shareholders in the fourth quarter.

-Telus wireless communication revenue leads in the third quarter, though Telus cuts its total revenue forecast to $9.13 billion, down from a previous target of $9.28 billion.

-Telus reports the addition of 134,500 cell phone subscribers in the quarter report (Rogers, the Telus competition, reported 243,100 new cell phone customers for the same period). (*Vancouver Sun*, November 3, 2007; *Globe and Mail* November 2, 2007).

Consider as well that in the 2007 fiscal year Telus wireless profits accounted for $4.3 billion, to which must be added wire-line revenues of $4.83 billion (*Vancouver Sun* November 10, 2007). This is what comprises the $9.13 billion quoted above. That amounts to about $3 million in profits DAILY. Now if Telus reasserts its concern for protecting its New Denver investment, we can laugh them out of town.

The ultimate letters we posted to Health Canada, Telus and the CBC, which restate the hard questions each entity has not answered, have expectedly been ignored. They can be read on our website www.vws.org.

Health Canada's tests for health hazards are devoted only to thermal or heat effects, while they insistently omit about one third of the medical and scientific reports which show substantial health hazards on non-thermal levels. One is led to conclude that Health Canada is gravely affected by influence from the mobile phone industry, an industry in Canada whose annual revenues increased 14% this year to a total of $14.5 billion, according to the *Vancouver Sun*.

The influence of industry on government health policies is not unthinkable. Remember the alarming increase in heart attacks suffered by users of VIOXX while Health Canada continued to assure the public of its safety? Consider an editorial in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* which castigated Health Canada for "failing miserably" to "sound the alarm" on VIOXX because of the agency's "current emphasis on partnership with industry." (Reported in *Alive*, October 2007.) Eventually, as a result of widely reported health hazards, Health Canada finally ordered VIOXX withdrawn, but after how many suffered or died? The one-sidedness we've encountered with Health Canada in the cell phone issue resonates with this same dismaying characteristic.

Richard Caniell, Chairperson
Valhalla Committee
for Environmental Health

Kayakers clarify their opposition to IPPs

An invitation was recently extended to the West Kootenay kayaking community to meet formally with representatives from AXOR regarding their proposed Duncan Lake area hydro-electric developments on Howser and Glacier Creeks. Representatives from the Borderline Boaters Kayak Club – a long-running West Kootenay paddling club of over 90 members annually, in addition to the members of the recently publicized Endangered Creeks Expedition (ECE) on Howser Creek – have chosen to decline this invitation. Instead we are presenting AXOR with a summary of our current position regarding these proposals. The group's interests are outlined as follows:

We are not in this dispute with AXOR solely as concerned Kayakers. The ECE and the Borderline Boaters Kayak Club consist of concerned public citizens who are seeing our environment being threatened by an unwarranted increase in hydro-electric development throughout this province.

In response to our invitation to meet with AXOR as kayakers, we strongly disagree that this project will actually benefit the interests of kayaking or be able to improve kayaking on Glacier and Howser Creeks.

As kayakers, we want to maintain our ability to experience paddling free-flowing creeks while impacting the ecosystem as little as possible. This is why we choose to paddle and to participate in a sport using a self-propelled device. Our expeditions intentionally leave a minimal footprint on the environment, as we want our children and grandchildren to have the same opportunity in these remote and extraordinary places.

Never has this kayaking community considered endorsing any human-motivated construction or diversions on our local rivers. We kayakers are therefore not interested in the construction of any type of 'kayaking-related' amenities on Glacier or Howser Creek, as suggested in attempts to dissuade our opposition.

We kayakers are concerned with more than simply the kayaking-related impacts created by these types of Independent Power Projects. This is why we kayakers have chosen to align our views with other local and province-wide organizations such as the BC Rivers Alliance, the Purcell Alliance for Wilderness, the West Kootenay EcoSociety, and the BC Creek Protection Society.

This letter is not an exhaustive list of our concerns but a refusal to support the development process and a formal notification that both the ECE and the Borderline Boaters Kayak Club continue to disapprove of Independent Power Projects being developed on Glacier and Howser Creeks.

In conclusion, we kayakers do not see any benefits for kayaking or the kayaking community at large should power projects on Glacier or Howser Creek ever be approved.

Chris Ryman, Marco Colella,
Carl Jacks – Endangered Creeks Expedition,
Carl Jacks – President,
Borderline Boaters Kayak Club

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ATTENTION
ELECTORAL AREA 'H' SOUTH RESIDENTS

The Regional District of Central Kootenay is conducting a survey of all property owners and residents of Electoral Area 'H' South as part of a consideration of an Official Community Plan for your Area to create a vision for the future. Area 'H' South communities include: South Slocan, Playmour Junction, Crescent Valley, Krestova, Slocan Park, Vallican/Passmore, Winlaw, Appledale, Perry's Siding, Lemon Creek and Rural Slocan Village.

The survey results and findings will be presented at public meetings shortly after the new year in Area 'H' South communities. All returned surveys are kept strictly confidential.

The survey was mailed out the week of November 5, 2007. If you have not yet received a copy of the survey, or have questions, please contact Monty Horton at 250-352-8159, toll free at 1-800-268-7325 or email: mhorton@rdck.bc.ca.

Your reply is essential so that the results of the survey accurately reflect the views and opinions of all property owners and residents.

Please return completed survey by NOVEMBER 30, 2007.

Thank you for your participation.

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KCDS Kootenay Career Development Society — Canada

Slocan Valley gardening book to be launched in Winlaw

submitted

Author Katherine Gordon will be launching her latest book, *The Garden That You Are*, published by Sono Nis Press, at Arica Gardens Bed and Breakfast on Sunday, December 2 from 1:30 pm - 4 pm. Located at 6307 Youngs Road, Appledale, Arica is the perfect location to introduce the book to fellow garden lovers.

"Our gardens and our lives are inextricably intertwined," says Gordon, herself an avid gardener. "Gardens, whether we choose them or they choose us, create us as much as we create them."

The Garden That You Are is part gardening how-to, part cookbook, and part garden literature/philosophy. With its glorious colour photographs, the book is also drop-dead gorgeous. As at home on the coffee table as it is in the potting shed, the nightstand, or the kitchen counter, the book is for "...anyone who is a gardener whether they know it yet or not."

The Garden That You Are soon became a reflection on culture through the exploration of the lives (and gardens) of eight gardeners who live within a square mile of each other in BC's bucolic Slocan Valley. All will be in attendance at the book launch.

Creating the book was an organic process for the author, who took the lessons she learned back to her own garden. As the world teeters on towards environmental disaster, the more people realize they can grow their own food so easily and live a gentler, more organic life, the better.

The book project began with Edda West and a moving family story she shared with Gordon about an Estonian relative drawing sustenance (both literal and figurative) from maltz (known here as lamb's quarters) while imprisoned in Siberia during WWII. Gordon has also told the story of Princess Peggy Abkhazi, herself an avid gardener, in the 2002 biography, *A Curious Life: The Biography of Princess Peggy Abkhazi.*

Slocan Valley Recreation hosts annual Christmas Tea for Seniors

On Saturday, December 1, seniors are invited to kick off the holiday season at the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission's annual Christmas Tea for Seniors. This relaxing afternoon event runs from 1 to 3 pm at the Slocan Park Hall free of charge and offers refreshments, entertainment, and draw prizes.

Entertainment this year includes the Crescent School of Music, Carey and Tracy and Olin McKay and friends. The 'Rec Guy' will have another batch of incredibly funny jokes to help get everyone in the holiday spirit. Seniors throughout the region are welcome to attend this popular event. It is being made possible with the support of many area businesses and lots of volunteer effort.

To make getting there a little easier, the Handi-Dart will be coming from the Castlegar area and seniors are invited to take advantage of this service, compliments of Slocan Valley Recreation Commission. There's limited space on the bus, so seniors should phone 365-3100 as soon as possible to reserve a space.

For more information contact 226-0008.

Slocan Lake Stewardship Society hosts film evening

submitted

The recent survey for RDCK Area H north revealed that 83% of survey respondents supported the development of a lakeshore management plan for Slocan Lake.

It wasn't until recently that residents even had to think about managing the lake due to its isolation. Now that our beautiful area has been discovered, it seems people are realizing that some guidelines need to be put into place to ensure the ongoing health and enjoyment of our precious resource.

This Friday, November 23 at 7 pm the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society presents an evening of film, information and discussion at New Denver's Hidden Garden Gallery. Everyone is invited to join us and learn about the society, the baseline study, and share their thoughts about a community vision for Slocan Lake.

Admission by donation.

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Village of New Denver

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One (1) 1976 580 Case Rubber Tired Loader Backhoe

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.

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Silverton council, November 13: Update to unsightly premises bylaw planned

by Art Joyce

•A draft of a revised nuisance and unsightly premises bylaw was presented to council for discussion at the next council meeting, on the suggestion of Mayor Everett to administration. This is merely an update and modernization of the current bylaw dating to 2003. The Village hopes to encourage residents to maintain clean and tidy premises and expects to have the revised bylaw in place by spring. In the draft, notices are served to property owners, giving them 30 days to clean up. Failure to do so results in public works doing the cleanup, with the cost added to the property owner's taxes. There is also provision for a $100 fine, the proceeds of which would be donated to a nonprofit society.

•A recommendation was brought forward by Village administration to identify property considered to be 'heritage property.' The rationale, explained CAO Ida, was to enable the Silverton Gallery Society to apply for a Community Heritage Planning Program Conservation and Feasibility study. This would be the basis for a community heritage registry. The idea of the registry is to create an inventory of sites for possible heritage designation. This is merely the first step toward heritage designation, which requires a majority vote of council for each property. It was made clear during the visit of officials from Heritage BC that not only buildings, but also parks, campsites or any other sites deemed of value to the community may be designated 'heritage' assets.

•Armand Lange attended as a delegation for the Christmas by the Lake celebration with a list of requests for electrical service. Council approved the request. Silverton Community Club director Ty Capelle also showed a diagram of the booth layout and offered an explanation of events.

•The Silverton Community Club again requested additional storage space to accommodate booths from Christmas by the Lake. Mayor Everett stated that he and public works have done a thorough review of public facilities and determined that there is no additional space left over. The portion of the former recycling building requested is needed to house water system equipment. Council denied the request.

•Nadine Raynolds appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Healthy Housing Society to request a letter of support for the society's project to produce a welcoming guide to the north Slocan Valley. In response to questions from Councillor Wiseman as to the purpose of the brochure, Raynolds assured the Village that the Village will be asked for its input. The letter was granted.

•Mayor Everett reported that the Village hosted a very successful electronics recycling day November 3. Over two tons and six pallets of computers, monitors, printers and fax machines were collected. The mayor requested that administration send thank you letters to Silverton Building Supplies and Ted Geddes of Encorp Recycling of Trail for their participation. There are plans to hold a more extensive electronics recycling day in the spring in conjunction with the general spring cleanup. This event would allow for recycling of additional items such as stereos and TVs and other electronics. The mayor requested a budget meeting for Tuesday, December 4 at 7 pm.

•Council voted to hold a metal recycling day on Friday, November 23 based on a recommendation from administration and public works.

Slocan council, November 14: Public meeting set for November 22

by Don Currie

•Council decided to call a public meeting for November 22 at the WE Graham School gymnasium at 7 pm to air a backlog of concerns. Council has received an Adjudicator Report on internal problems affecting council work. Administrator Eunice Ludlow revealed the report may cost as much as $40,000 in legal fees.

•Ludlow reported that a notice has been posted that the Village was disposing of 11 residential lots. The lots are selling for $20,000-$25,000 each.

During question period Slocan resident Ray Caouette asserted that it was illegal for the Village to sell single lots as residential lots, as the Village building bylaw requires a minimum of two lots in order to build a residence. He said no one would buy a single lot if it could not be used, and noted that health regulations allow building on single lots. He said he believed Slocan could become a desirable retirement community if the Village encouraged new construction, and he asked council to review its building bylaw to encourage the construction of residential properties, including a requirement of land purchasers to build within a defined timeline.

The mayor said he didn't have the information to answer the question of the legality of the sale and would ask administration to find out. Administrator Ludlow said the ad offering the lots for sale invited anyone interested to call the Village office. The multiple lot parcels were offered first to people with abutting properties without a requirement of building another residence. She said the Village was not obliged to accept any offers.

Councillor Perriere said she was not in favour of unloading assets and that if larger lots were sold it should be with a requirement to build within a prescribed time. Councillor Gates confirmed that the Interior Health Authority had changed the rules now permitting building on one lot. Councillor Septav said that even if the IHA rules had changed the Village didn't have to abide by those rules and could require a minimum of two lots for the building of residential properties.

Sylvia Currie, member of the Board of Variance, said that the board had not received the new building code from council but had made a ruling under the old code that permitted a setback variance on a two-lot corner parcel. She said that the board ruling could be used by others owning two-lot corner parcels to encourage them to build.

•Administrator Ludlow reported that the Village was $100,000 over budget, with $30,000 of this allocated to purchase land for an abattoir in anticipation of the Village entering into an agreement under provincial legislation.

•Council received a letter from Connie Myers questioning the environmental effects of an abattoir on the land acquired by the Village on the outskirts of Village boundaries adjacent to residential properties. Councillor Septav said he felt the same way as Myers until he visited a plant at Metchosin that he described as "cleaner than a meat counter at Safeway." Septav said the goal would be to provide organic meat to the local market. Councillor Perriere said she wanted to see a complete business plan that shows it is financially feasible, including the number of jobs it would provide. Gates said all that information was available. Septav proposed to invite the committee working on the project to meet with council. He also said there is nothing in the proposal that says the plant must be built on the property recently acquired by the Village, which he described as prime real estate for a business. Administrator Ludlow said the committee had received a $10,000 dollar planning grant and that an excellent business plan should be available soon.

•Council members continue to wrangle over accounts payable and disbursements. Councillor Perriere said that the Village was over budget on the Village bylaw control officer. Administrator Ludlow said that council could terminate the officer but would have to decide how to enforce bylaws. After a series of questions, Councillor Perriere voted against the disbursements.

•Councillor Septav reported that the Slocan Integrated Forestry Co-operative (SIFCo) had been granted a stable volume target of 16,000 cubic metres of timber and that funding was available for opening an office and proceeding with the Community Forest plan.

•Councillor Gates reported that Tourism BC wants to give up ownership of the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and turn over control of the trail to the RDCK. Gates said he was in favour of the Village controlling the portion of the trail inside of Village boundaries.

•Council continued its discussion on the rail trail in response to a letter from Rory Lindsay of the Slocan Valley Heritage Trail Society. The letter advises council that Village vehicles can no longer use the old spur line on the east side of the trail to the Valhalla Unit Crew Camp as it is being cut off with a berm. Access to the camp will now be confined to the old road on the west side of the trail from Gravel Pit Road. Ludlow advised council that the land comprising the trail from Arlington Street to the beach area was still owned by the CPR, which won't agree to a land transfer until all of the subdivision is complete. Mayor Van Bynen said he wanted to know who and what has jurisdiction over the trail. Councillor Perriere said when the Village gets the land from the CPR the issue will be resolved. Council agreed to thank Lindsay for his letter and to continue to discuss the matter.

•Works foreman Gerry Simmons reported that the ball field was top dressed with sand and reseeded, and was in better shape than before the fire camp moved in. The breakwater walkway handrail and signage has been installed. The slide in the sander for the plow truck has been rebuilt and a good deal was found on the purchase of bulk cross chain for the grader and loader. Simmons said the Halloween Hoot went smoothly and thanked council and RDCK for increased donations.

•Bernadette Robichaud wanted to know if there was a bylaw that could compel homeowners to clear up their properties. She said that warning should be given and then offenders should be fined if they did not comply. Ed Roshinsky agreed and said that the problem was not the lack of a bylaw but a lack of enforcement. Councillor Septav said there was a bylaw but it touched on private property rights that had resulted in problems in the past.

•Administrator Ludlow reported that all invoices had been submitted for the Springer Creek wildfire, that public work crews were back to normal levels, and that notices had been posted asking that vehicles impeding snow plowing and sanding be removed before snow falls. Ludlow said that several new bylaws dealing with the cemetery, municipal ticketing and council expenses were posted to the Village website.

•Council tabled a decision on a Municipal Ticketing bylaw until January 2008 to allow for a complete review of the schedule of fines.

•Council set the date for the byelection created by the resignation of Joanne Ellis for February 2, 2008. Nominations will take place from December 18-28.

Dramatic reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol in New Denver

submitted

A dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will be presented Saturday, December 1 at the Bosun Hall, New Denver. CBC Radio coordinates readings all across the country, which raise funds for local community groups – in this case the Bosun Hall and its restoration fund.

Local readers Carol Bell, Hank Hastings, Susie O'Donnell and Gretchen Perk, as well as a mystery CBC Radio reader, will animate such familiar characters as Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim in this funny and poignant story. Music will be provided by the New Denver Suzuki Strings Ensemble and the Ad Hoc Choir.

Refreshments will be served. Tickets are $10 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Dress warmly. For more information call 358 2162.

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Stroll by the fire pits aglow and you will know.

Christmas by the Lake • Silverton, BC

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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.

Nakusp's Light-Up this year will be a spectacular sight, not to be missed!

The two very tall evergreen trees in front of the courthouse will be lit up again, after several years' hiatus.

The tradition of lighting up these two trees had to stop when they grew so tall that the number of lights they needed drew too much power.

Now, with LED lights, the trees can be lit up again.

Beth McLeod, community events co-ordinator, said she had ordered 76 strings of LED lights from Home Hardware. Many local businesses and organizations are chipping in to pay the approximately $1,300 bill for the lights, and BC Hydro will hang them up and take them down again.

The project is a co-operative effort between the Chamber, Village and Development Board. McLeod sends out many thanks to the sponsors of the Christmas lights, and the owners and lessees of the property for allowing the trees to be used "for such a great community purpose."

Sponsors are: Nakusp Home Hardware, BC Hydro, Village of Nakusp, RDCK Area K, Kootenay Savings Credit Union, Kuskanax Lodge, Igloo Loma, Royal LePage Selkirk Realty, Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic, Christopher Johnston Law Corporation, Ken Watson Law Corporation, Ulrike Zobel, Lawyer, Touch of Fashion, What's Brewing on Broadway, Cheryl Black, Coldwell Banker, Nakusp Esso.

Moonlight Madness in Nakusp, November 30

Nakusp heralds in the Christmas season on November 30.

The parade begins at 7 pm, starting from Halcyon House. Floats will be judged and ribbons will be awarded to the top three. Call the Chamber to enter your float.

Light-up follows the parade, and is not to be missed this year, as the two large evergreen trees outside the courthouse will be lit up once again after many years. Santa Claus will be there to greet the children and Mayor Hamling will say a few words. There will also be a live nativity scene and carol singing at the courthouse.

Moonlight Madness is being billed as an all day event this year, so take the opportunity to support your local economy while getting some Christmas shopping done. Many of the shops will be open late. Stores will no doubt be wonderfully decorated, as the contest is on and windows and interiors will be judged the day before. Evening shoppers can take a break on the sidewalk outside the Broadway Deli, where the Pathfinders will be serving refreshments.

Other Christmas events in Nakusp

Merchant stocking: Draw will be Wednesday, December 21 at noon, at Lester's Hobbies.

Pictures with Santa: Saturday, December 1 at Home Hardware from 10 am to noon and 1-3 pm. Feeding the reindeer from noon to 1 pm.

Overwaitea Kids Free Christmas Movie: December 8, at 1 pm and 3 pm.

Lunch with Santa at Chumley's Restaurant: December 8 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. With a donation to the food bank, children will be given a free lunch from the children's menu. (Date tentative; please call 265-3331 to confirm.)

Children's Christmas Party: Nakusp Legion Hall on Friday, December 14, 10 am to noon. Games, snacks, craft tables. Funding provided by Variety Club – Angel Fund.

Fill the Bus for the Food Bank: The Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services bus will be parked outside Overwaitea all day Saturday, December 15.

Legion's Christmas Craft Fair: Saturday, December 1.

Creative Hands Craft Fair: PALS will have their craft fair on Saturday, November 24 at the Nakusp Arena Auditorium.

Nakusp Rotary Club: 21st annual Rotary Carol sign on Wednesday, December 5 at Nakusp Secondary School at 7 pm.

Friday, Nov. 30, 6-9 pm

OPEN HOUSE

Please drop in and visit our new office at 619 Broadway Street in Nakusp.

Join us for wine & cheese.

Many door prizes to be won by all visiting guests and members including a 3-day pass for our 2008 show.

Phone: 250.265.2141 or 1-877-265-5565

Email: info@nakuspmusicfest.ca

www.nakuspmusicfest.ca

NAKUSP ★ GENERAL ★ STORE

Be sure to check out Nakusp General Store on November 30!

OPEN LATE

Find the perfect gift!

302 Broadway • 265-3444

Watch for the M & M Meat Shop (Castlegar) Christmas flyer in our next issue!!

21st Annual Community Carol Sing

Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 pm
Nakusp Senior Secondary Gym
Free Admission

sponsored by the Nakusp Rotary Club

Community Futures Central Kootenay

Help us build the future

Nakusp/New Denver Business Counsellor

Community Futures Central Kootenay has a temporary part-time employment opportunity for an individual from the Nakusp/New Denver area. The employment term will commence in December 2007 and run until March 31, 2008. The position requires a maximum of 20 hours/month with some flexibility allowed in days or hours worked per week.

The successful applicant will:

- Promote an awareness of Community Futures and its services.
- Provide accurate information regarding program criteria.
- Offer basic business counselling, one on one consultations as well as group Orientation sessions.
- Liaise with other agents and community groups.
- Have small business experience and relevant business management skills or education.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit resumes and cover letters in confidence (via email only) no later than midnight November 26, 2007.

Barb Williams, Self Employment Program Coordinator
201—514 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4E7
bwilliams@futures.bc.ca

More information is available at **www.futures.bc.ca** or call **250 352 1933 ext. 103**

Funding is provided by:

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce presents

The annual Christmas Parade & Light-Up

Parade will start at Halcyon House
Friday, Nov.30 at 7 pm
Line-up at 6:30 pm for judging
RSVP by Nov.29 at 265-4234

Everyone welcome to enter a float - Christmas lights and music encouraged!
Children come and meet Santa at the Christmas tree after the parade!

Also, decorate your store front or interior
Judging will be Nov. 29 from 4:30-6:00 pm
You must register with the Chamber.

East Kootenay residents vote overwhelmingly against Jumbo

submitted

In survey results released by the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) on November 14, residents of Electoral Area F have voted overwhelmingly against the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort.

The RDEK reports 643 residents voted against Jumbo while 173 residents voted in favour. There were 1,084 total ballots received, with 268 invalid ballots. This equals nearly 79% of voting residents with valid ballots that have spoken out against the resort.

Kat Hartwig, spokesperson for environmental advocacy group Wildsight, says the results came as no surprise, despite resort developer's claims to the contrary.

"Where are all the resort supporters?" says Hartwig. "If democracy really works in our region, then we look forward to seeing this resort development halted."

In the RDEK's November 14 press release, Electoral Area F Director Lillian Rose reaffirmed the right of residents to have a say on this vital development issue. "This survey was the only forum currently available for Area F people to have a voice and register their opinion on this important development proposal."

Wildsight is urging that steps are taken to act upon the concerns of the clear majority of citizens. They also highlight a new report from grizzly expert Michael Proctor, which states that the grizzly population for the Central Purcells is only at 54% of its potential. This is a drastic change from previous estimates of 93%. Proctor has sent a letter to interested parties stating that mitigation measures are needed immediately for the grizzly population, even without the proposed development.

The report indicates that the 6,500-person capacity of the resort means that proposed mitigation measures by the developer such as road closures and hunting restrictions would be inadequate to protect the grizzlies.

Psyche Brown, project overseer for the Ministry of Tourism, has refused to speak with representatives from the Coalition for Jumbo Wild, prompting questions as to the provincial government's willingness to respect the wishes of the electorate.

'Nouveau folk' hits the Langham with House of Doc

submitted

Folk music has always been one of the most flexible genres around, and with a new generation of musicians it's constantly reinventing itself. For a taste of cutting edge 'nouveau folk', Canadian style, check out House of Doc at the Langham, November 30 at 8 pm.

This band demonstrates the close harmonies and uncanny unity that often occur in a family band. Composed of Dan Wiebe, sister Rebecca Harder, and husband Matthew Harder, the Wiebe family has been singing together since early childhood, when they began to hone their craft as Sunday morning vocalists in a Mennonite congregation. Matthew, already a professional musician, clearly saw the potential in this remarkable family of musicians, and has used his strength as a performer and composer to help drive the group. He plays guitars, bouzouki, piano, and sings.

Rebecca has extensive experience not only in flutes, whistles, accordion, and of course vocals, but is also a highly regarded music educator. She also plays banjo. Dan Wiebe, a gifted composer and arranger of classical and choral music, adds guitars, mandolins, vocals, and harp to this already versatile lineup of musicians. Jesse Krause is a multi-instrumentalist on bass and all things stringed.

House of Doc wants to revamp folk music. They offer up superb 4-part vocals, dazzling instrumental capabilities covering everything from drums to piccolo, with a few detours along the way to places such as bass recorder & bassoon. Their style infuses musical inspiration from Gordon Lightfoot, Simon and Garfunkel and Spirit of the West with intricate harmonies, sophisticated counterpoint and a rocking, down-home delivery.

Local nursery rhyme book launched

submitted

Rowena Eloise of Argenta announces the publication of *The Goose Family*, which she describes as "a peace focused, equalitarian, earth friendly, multicultural nursery rhyme book."

It is an anthology in two volumes of rhymes collected and illustrated by Eloise. "This is the fruition of a project that began over 40 years ago when my children were of an age to have nursery rhymes read to them," she says.

Eloise clearly recalls that when she picked up a volume of a typical Mother Goose book to read to her children, memories of her own childhood nursery rhyme experience would come flooding back to her. "I remember being very puzzled and concerned with the messages of violence, racism, sexism, elitism and the rude attitudes toward nature," she says. "I also recall thinking most of the pictures were strange. Even at that young age I figured I could find rhyming words that expressed better social sentiments. And, as I saw myself as an artist at that same tender age, I knew that one day I would be able to make better pictures."

It was about 42 years ago that Eloise put that typical Mother Goose book aside and began collecting socially and ecologically conscious rhymes suitable for young children, many of which were coming from the global community. "For many, many years I'd jot down what I heard and clip what I read. Then into the shoebox they went," she recollects.

The illustrations came along many years later. "In fact, some of you may recognize a few of our local folks herein."

Eloise laments that her children never did get the advantage of *The Goose Family* books. But, she says her grandchildren and great grandchildren are glad recipients.

As Lisa Bramson, MA, local Learning Enhancement Consultant, says, "If parents and caregivers could offer children one book in their early years, this would be the one!"

Eloise looks forward to sharing more about the book at the upcoming book launches at the Kaslo Library, Friday, November 23 at 10:30 am and the Argenta Hall, Sunday, December 2 at 2 pm. The presentations are for all children and the child in all of us. Books will be for sale at each event at $24.95 each.

THE GOOSE FAMILY
Peace Focused,
Equalitarian,
Earth Friendly,
MULTI-CULTURAL NURSERY RHYMES
This volume anthology collected and illustrated by Rowena Eloise
Waldorf Recommended
Now at Earth Spirit, Winlaw

Every Child Needs a Family

Close to 1,300 children in foster care are waiting to join a loving and secure family through adoption. Many are school-aged – all have a future to share.

You can make a difference.

Call 1 877-ADOPT-07 or visit www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/adoption online for more information.

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

Blackfish releases new live CD

by Art Joyce

If you like your music infused with crackling energy and youthful vocals, try the new CD by Blackfish, *Blackfish Live '07*. Not only is it a solid album of original tunes penned by Nakusp musician Stuart Hobson, it's green *and* socially conscious.

The album was conceived as a benefit to help keyboard player Richard Burton cover expenses incurred by the fire that nearly destroyed his home last fall.

Blackfish fans may be disappointed by the departure of Wren and her signature vocal style, but not for long. (Wren is pursuing a solo career.) Hobson's vocals are equally adept, reminding one at times of Sir Bob Geldof in his glory days with the Boomtown Rats.

A tight rhythm section is the engine of any strong rock band. In the driver's seat here is David Secor on drums and Charlie Maucher on bass, with Burton on keyboards, Hobson covering vocals and acoustic guitar, and guest appearances on guitar from Michael Dorsey and Sean Davies. Flash guitar solos are abandoned in favour of a propulsive rhythm that keeps the tone bright, with, as Rod Stewart once put it, "never a dull moment." Burton's tasteful piano riffs provide whatever instrumental flourishes are needed.

Blackfish had its moment in the spotlight opening for legendary Canadian rockers Chilliwack and on the mainstage at the Nakusp Music Festival. The band has been together about six years, releasing four previous albums: *Blackfish*, *Rich*, *Inhuman World*, and *Torch*. Hobson is the songwriter for all 15 cuts on the new album.

The new live CD was recorded by Sean Davies and is available at the Silverton Lakeshore Inn and Re-awakening Health store in Nakusp. Hobson says the band's website is no more but he is investigating making the music available through the indie music website CD Baby.

Christmas by the Lake

The First Old-Fashioned Traditional European Style Christmas Market in Canada
November 30, December 1 & 2
Silverton, BC

Old European Christmas Market style lighted booths will be selling many enjoyable local hand-made holiday and non-holiday items from Baskets to Swags, along with entertainment and Traditional European Food and Drink.

Starting Saturday, the Silverton Gallery will be open with Artisans selling their hand-made wares. Co-ordinated by Morgen Bardati

Welcome one and all. There will be much to share during this fun-filled gala affair.

Friday
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Traditional European Food & Drink
Many Artisans
Chestnuts
7:00 pm
Tree lighting and much more
Arrival of Santa
Story telling
Choir singing
Bannock

Saturday
10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Traditional European Food & Drink
Bannock
Many Artisans
Chestnuts
Making Christmas decorations
2:00 pm
Pictures with Santa
Story telling
Well known Ice & Snow Sculpture
Blacksmith
Glass Blower
Wooden Toys
Basket Weaving
Music

Sunday
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Traditional European Food & Drink
Many Artisans
Music
Chestnuts
Story telling
Bannock

EARLY BIRD - TICKET SPECIAL

July 18-20	Advanced # 751 - 4000	Regular # 4001 - sell-out
Adult (19+)		
3-Day Pass	$ 145.00	$ 185.00
Sat.& Sun	$ 115.00	$ 150.00
Fri. Kick-Off	$ 40.00	$ 45.00
Saturday	$ 80.00	$ 90.00
Sunday	$ 80.00	$ 90.00
+VIP Pass	+$ 125.00	+$ 150.00
Youth (13-18)		
3-Day Pass	$ 80.00	$ 90.00
1-Day Pass	$ 55.00	$ 65.00
Children (8-12)	$ 15.00	$ 20.00
(7&under)	FREE	FREE

Xmas Special now sold out!

Tickets are now available at the advanced rate for up to the 4,000th ticket

Still a major saving on the regular rate !!!

Nakusp Music Fest
July 18 - 20
2008

All prices incl. GST.

For more information or ticket orders call 250.265.2141 or 1-877-265-5565

or go online at www.nakuspmusicfest.ca or visit our office at 619 Broadway Street in downtown Nakusp.

RDCK, October 27: Efforts made to improve transit service

by Jan McMurray

•In efforts to develop the best rural bus service in Canada for Areas D, E, F and H, the RDCK will apply for funding to Columbia Basin Trust, the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, the BC Real Estate Foundation and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

•The board received correspondence from BC Transit regarding 2008/09 fiscal year operational funding requirements. Transit notes that while RDCK transit systems are not currently slated for service expansion, consideration may be given to those needs identified as critical.

The RDCK will inform BC Transit that the board is interested in a service review to address areas of critical need through possible expansion of the Slocan, Kootenay Lake West and North Shore (Nelson) Transit Services to be effective for the 2008/09 fiscal year.

•The RDCK's moratorium on acquisition of water systems was referred to staff, in consultation with Director Kettle. They will review the present 'request waiting list,' the status of the existing RDCK-owned water systems, and the status of negotiations with Interior Health Authority and Ministry of Health. They were also asked to recommend a course of action towards resolution, for consideration at the November committee meeting.

•The board received approval of three $5,000 provincial grants for point-of-entry feasibility studies for three water systems, including South Slocan.

•Chair Wright will send a letter to Minister of Health George Abbott, outlining discussions with the RDCK delegation during the UBCM convention, and requesting a follow-up meeting. During UBCM, the RDCK delegation spoke to Abbott about the need to meet with him, IHA and other Regional Districts to discuss ways to solve the issue of varying interpretations of legislation regarding water systems and drinking water standards. The Minister indicated that he might consider setting up a task force to look at this.

•The board supported Area K Director Peterson's motion to send a letter to the Ministry of Forests communicating concerns with Pope & Talbot removing lands from their Tree Farm Licence and requesting a public consultation process on the matter.

•The board adopted a policy to include in the referral process municipalities that are immediately adjacent to properties where there are development proposals requiring RDCK OCP and/or zoning amendments and proposals regarding subdivisions.

•The Regional District will investigate the feasibility of converting the heating systems in all RDCK fire halls to geothermal.

•The chair and secretary were authorized to sign three year agreements with the Nakusp, Slocan, Salmo, Balfour/Harrop and Canyon/Lister Fire Departments to provide emergency response services for Gate/Landfill Attendants at the waste handling facilities in accordance with the District's Safety Check In Program.

Area D – North Kootenay Lake

•The proposed amalgamation of the Kaslo and Area D Parks and Recreation Service will be discussed at a meeting with staff of both the RDCK and Village of Kaslo, Area D Director Andy Shadrack, and commission and society chairs for recommendation to the board prior to adoption of the 2008 budget.

•An application will be made for a JEPP grant for the Kaslo and Area D Emergency Service. The grant money will be used to set up the Emergency Operations Centre (Kaslo Village hall) with emergency generator power. This will involve moving the generator that is currently used for Kaslo's water system, as well as the building it is housed in, to the Village hall. Kaslo council is replacing the generator at the water treatment plant.

•The board chair will write to the Integrated Land Management Bureau regarding the proposed Bulmers Pointe Marina application in Argenta. He will request more time for the Argenta Community Association and the developer to negotiate an arrangement to develop the marina in a different location than originally proposed.

•The board nominated the Lardeau Valley Community Centre for a Sustainable Community Award under the FCM-CHW2M HILL program for converting from propane to geothermal heating in 2006 and for insulating the building and adding filtration and UV water treatment in 2007.

•Discretionary grants were approved as follows: the Historic Ainsworth Cemetery Board $1,000; N. Kootenay Lake Community Services Society $4,750; Kaslo Food Bank $1,000; Kaslo Fire Department $1,167; Paramedic Association of Kaslo $2,400; North Lake Film, Audio & Video Society $1,750; Argenta Emergency Preparedness Group $6,267.95; Kaslo Trailblazers Society $8,000; Jewett Elementary School $8,050.

Area H – the Slocan Valley

•A discretionary grant of $500 was issued to the Village of Slocan for the Halloween Hoot.

•A $10,000 loan was made to the Slocan TV Society (South). Area H Director Don Munro explained he loaned the money to the board that was democratically elected at the AGM so that they can carry out the business of the society while there continues to be a dispute. There are two groups claiming to be the board of directors of this society. As a result, the society's bank account is frozen.

Area K – the Arrow Lakes

•Discretionary grants were approved as follows: Options for Sexual Health Clinic $1,000; Alfa Guild Gallery $1,000; Bayview Residents Association $3,000; School District No. 10 (Arrow Lakes) $1,000; Edgewood Sports Grounds Trustees $1,000.

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents piano trio Triple Forte

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents Triple Forte, a piano trio performing chamber music in the Bonnington Arts Centre Thursday, November 22 starting at 8 pm. Doors open to the public at 7:30 pm. This is the third concert of this year's concert series.

Triple Forte brings together three of Canada's most prominent soloists: violinist Jasper Wood, cellist Yegor Dyachkov, and pianist David Jalbert. This sought-after piano trio has been capturing critics' and audiences' attention with their passion, intelligence and sensitivity, not to mention the sheer joy they bring to the stage. Separately, as soloists, these three stars have delighted audiences internationally for years; together, they now make up Canada's newest chamber music asset.

"Before the first bow is raised or the first note is played, there is already one notable difference in this classical trio; the musicians are very hip and very young," notes *The Tribune* of Welland, Ontario. "The performance was spellbinding....their energy could barely be contained."

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

Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door the evening of the performance. Students of piano, violin, and cello can obtain a coupon for this concert.

The Arrow Lakes Saddle Club's year-end banquet and awards was held November 17 at the Nakusp Legion. Congratulations to high point winner Kiara McLean, who won the Les Parkyn Memorial Trophy this year with 114 points. Honourable Mention went to Gina Volansky with 110 points.

Red Hammer Barbershop
206 Broadway St., Nakusp, BC
265-4700
Winter Hours – Wednesday - Saturday • 10 am - 5:30 pm
Feel good - get a haircut!

PALS
Creative Hands Fair
November 24
Arena Auditorium

CHRISTMAS PARTY TURKEY BUFFETS
STARTING FROM $19.50
Buffet dinners include (but are not limited to) organic baby greens with sun dried tomato vinaigrette, roasted turkey with giblet stuffing, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, cranberry sauce and gravy.
RESORT & SPA GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
KINGFISHER RESTAURANT & LOUNGE
... at Halycon Hot Springs
32KM NORTH OF NAKUSP
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Now Taking Orders
Products Made in Nakusp
• Pleasure Spa Soy Candles
• Bee Environmental products
• Pillows, tableclothes, etc.
• Christmas gift baskets
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Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.
Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Nakusp council, November 13: OCP receives first reading

by Jan McMurray

•The OCP bylaw was given first reading. It will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Community Services and the Agricultural Land Commission for review. When it comes back, it will receive second reading. Then there will be a public hearing, third reading, a legal review and final adoption.

Mayor Hamling announced that council's response to comments gathered at the OCP open house would be posted to the Village website.

•Council, with some reservation, approved up to $2,000 in legal fees in an attempt to move the Pope & Talbot court proceedings from Ontario to BC.

The plan was for Nakusp, Castlegar, Grand Forks, Revelstoke and Fort St. James to hire a lawyer to go to Toronto to represent the communities at the hearing regarding the move.

Since the council meeting, P&T has consented to moving the case to BC, so the communities did not have to hire legal representation for the hearing.

Councillors were reluctant to approve the funding because details of how the five communities would share the legal fees were not yet available. Hamling said it was understood that smaller communities would pay less. She said it might be calculated on a per capita basis or on the percentage of people owed money.

Councillor Mueller said she would like more information on the cost sharing and would also like to see the RDCK as one of the partners. Councillor Heppner felt the government's lawyer should be taking on the communities' issues as well.

On the CAO's suggestion, council also approved an application to CBT for funding of up to $50,000 for the legal fees. CAO Lafleur said he felt it was "worth a try" as there was CBT money in the 'Fighting Back Fund,' which was used for a court case to maintain free ferries and have the Needles bridge built.

•A resident of Cotswold Road, Edith Desjarlais, attended as a delegation with her concerns that the current use of the lot on the corner of Hwy 6 and Cotswold (formerly Hiway 6 Service and currently owned by R432 Enterprises Ltd. of Hills) does not conform to the C-4 (Rural Commercial) zoning. She said there was now heavy equipment within 10 feet of her property and a swinging boom could damage her house. She noted that public works yards, garages, outdoor storage yards and equipment repair facilities were not permitted in the C-4 zone. She said she had been into the Village office several times and the CAO had informed her that the current use conforms to the bylaw. "Unless you can tell me where the bylaw has changed, this is not OK," she said.

Desjarlais said other residents on the street had written letters and "nobody can understand why the property would be allowed to be used as industrial."

She pointed out that the fence did not completely encircle the property and that Village water was being used to wash the machines, estimating that it would take 4,000 gallons of water to wash just one machine.

Council referred this to administration to report back. Desjarlais asked if it could be dealt with in a timely manner because this had been a problem for her since May.

•The issue of the Village land for sale adjacent to Pope & Talbot was tabled until the next meeting. Since no bids have been received, Councillor Mueller pointed out that this "might take care of itself."

•A local contractor is doing interim repairs to the wharf – 200 wood planks will be replaced to ensure it is safe until BC Hydro can do more permanent repairs.

CAO Lafleur also reported that BC Hydro had awarded the contract for replacing the floating dock, and that the access agreement was ready for signatures.

•CAO Lafleur reported that the trees that were cut on 3rd Ave. north of 4th Street, near Stevie's Hill, belonged to adjacent property owners.

Council decided to formally close the road in this area, as there is a liability issue. Despite installing a 'Road closed' sign and taking down the light, people continue to use the hill for tobogganing because, as Mayor Hamling pointed out, they have been doing so for 70 years. However, the Village has been put on legal notice because of a tobogganing accident. The walkway there will remain. Council decided to review the creation of lots here as proposed earlier by the CAO.

Cliff Head told council he supported the idea of closing the road and keeping the walkway. He suggested the black top be kept there for those who have difficulty walking. He disagrees with creating lots for sale.

•Mayor Hamling reported that she had met with local physicians, hospital administrator Deb Austin and Kathie Stachin of IHA, who has been hired to work with small communities to recruit physicians. A $50,000 advertising campaign will be launched to entice doctors to rural areas, and residency programs will be targeted. The program also has funding to bring physicians to the communities for a visit. Hamling said the IHA is also considering recruiting 4-5 doctors who would serve the whole area.

Stachin would like to know from community groups if incentives such as membership in golf clubs and the ski hill could be provided to new physicians.

Hamling also reported that she has stepped down as president of Nakusp and Area Development board. Pattie Adam is the new president and Ron Nymeyer is vice president.

•Councillor Mueller reported that the hot springs board was looking for a new director.

The Chamber is working with Kootenay Rockies Tourism to advertise Nakusp in a 3-4 hour radius. Mueller said the Chamber was hoping to access 2010 funds already in the Village budget for the campaign.

•In asking some questions at a recent Chamber meeting about the recent poll regarding a one-way lane south of Broadway, Councillor Mueller discovered that the poll was done with incorrect information. She cleared this up, and the poll will be redone.

•Councillor Mueller reported on a West Waste meeting, where the Nakusp landfill was discussed. There has been a drastic increase in the number of people using the facility, so extending hours of operation is being looked at. The landfill serves a population of 2,800, from Edgewood to Silverton. She says Nakusp's landfill has the same number of users as Castlegar's, although the amount of waste is very different. Nakusp gets 3,000 tons annually where Castlegar gets 11,000 tons. Nakusp was commended for its recycling, and it was suggested that council look into backyard composting.

•Three readings were given to the bylaws that increase sewer and water rates by 2%.

The basic connection fee is set at $2,500 for each of the two services for newly created lots and for each unit of a new multi-family project. This fee was instituted as a 'stop gap measure' until a Development Cost Charge Bylaw is in effect.

Ben Bruneau told council after the meeting that he felt the connection fees should have been increased by small amounts every year over the past 14 instead of having such a huge increase all at once. He also feels that local builders and developers should have been informed of the change in advance.

The water rates bylaw also adds metered rates for the first time. Monthly water allowance is 20,000 litres under this new system. The bylaw sets out a charge of $2 for each 1,000 litres over the monthly allowance. Monthly rates vary between $17 and $126, depending on the size of the pipe.

•Council approved the requests of the Chamber to accommodate the parade and light-up event on November 30. The Village will purchase the Christmas lights for the trees.

•The Cultural Committee was given the green light to proceed with the purchases for Phase I of the arena auditorium upgrade. The Village will pay for the upgrade to the wiring in the building.

•A meeting will be set up with Area K Director Paul Peterson regarding the proposed increase in taxation for the arena in 2008.

•Council approved a request from PALS for a 50% fee waiver for the arena for its Creative Hands Fair.

•A 100% fee waiver for the arena auditorium was granted to Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services for the Holiday Hampers program, December 15-21.

•The month of November was proclaimed Adoptive Awareness Month.

•A letter will be forwarded to the owners of the shake mill, requesting they consider a general clean up considering the proposed new Resort/Residential zoning of this and the adjacent property.

That was our routine: get out, be seen,
enjoy Central Park in the afternoons;
till time changed that (think Egoyan's *Ararat*)
and fate judged me to labor for a song.

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VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

HOT SPRINGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Village of Nakusp has a vacancy on the Hot Springs Advisory Committee. We are looking for a person who is interested in being involved in directing the administration of the Hot Springs and its development. The Committee meets on the last Monday of each month and is comprised of members of Council, Village staff and two members of the public. Interested persons are invited to submit their names, before November 30th, to the Village Office, Box 280, Nakusp, B.C., V0G 1R0, telephone 265-3689, fax 265-3788 or e-mail at info@nakusp.com

Bob Lafleur
CAO

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5) computer literate with accounting and spreadsheet preparation experience
6) a working knowledge of building and ground maintenance
7) able to liaise with Community, Provincial and Federal governments and organizations as necessary.

For more info contact Peter Gunn at 265-4656. Submit resume to above address marked "Att: P. Gunn" before 12 noon on Monday, November 26th, 2007.

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See what's new for Christmas on Fourth and bring a Friend!

Kaslo council, November 13: Heritage designation for Provincial building in the works

by Jan McMurray

• Council voted to grant $500 towards the Christmas Light-Up event on December 7, and suggested that Dawn Lang of the Chamber attend the November 26 Public Works committee meeting to discuss details such as street closure and the wood-burning brazier.

•A motion to accept the terms of the Province's offer to purchase and leaseback agreement for the provincial building was defeated. Councillors Leathwood and Hewat were in favour; Mayor Holland and Councillor Jones were opposed. Councillor Vass was not present.

Later in the meeting, a motion carried unanimously that a letter be sent to Charles Chan of the Province's Accommodation and Real Estate Services advising that council does not accept the terms of the takeback lease as proposed by the Province.

•A bylaw to designate the Provincial building as a protected heritage property was given two readings. A public hearing will be held December 11 at 6 pm in council chambers. Third reading and final adoption will likely take place at the December 11 regular council meeting, following the public hearing. The municipality is empowered to give the building this heritage designation under the Local Government Act, section 967.

The Village also received a response from Olga Ilich, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, to its request for provincial heritage protection under the Heritage Protection Act, section 23. Ilich informs council that the request has been forwarded to the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts, which looks after provincial heritage designations.

•Council received a letter from Ian Fawcett, Deputy Executive Director of The Land Conservancy (TLC), following up on discussions regarding the Kaslo City Hall building at the recent UBCM convention.

Fawcett says in the letter that TLC is interested in working with the Village to protect the building, "one of the most significant heritage structures in the province." He says TLC cannot assume any significant liability or offer any money right away. However, some funding may be available to TLC as a non-profit society that is not available to the municipality. "Whether these opportunities could be enhanced by a transfer of title/leaseback arrangement or some other kind of involvement, it's too soon to say, but we remain open to exploring such opportunities with you as expeditiously as we can."

He asks for all documents the Village has about the restoration work that is needed. Council voted to send off the documents and to refer the correspondence to the P&D committee and the City Hall Conservation committee for information.

•The Mayor and CAO were authorized to sign the McDonald Creek Water Service agreement with the RDCK. Councillor Jones was opposed.

Jones feels the RDCK owes the Village about $42,000 in costs incurred by the Village related to the upgrade, which was supposed to be paid for 100% by the RDCK. He also objects to section 5.3 in the agreement, which states the RDCK does not have to cost-share for upgrades to the system to increase water supply capacity.

Under the agreement, the Village will collect user fees from all users of the system, and will operate and administer the system. Any future capital costs will be shared by the Village and RDCK residents on a proportionate basis. However, as per section 5.3, capital costs do not include water supply capacity upgrades. They only include upgrades to the equipment capacity.

The RDCK rationale is that the upgrade has increased the supply capacity of the system by 92 single family hook-ups for Area D residents. They don't want to help pay for increasing water supply capacity further, unless the number of connections in Area D exceeds 92.

In 2002, the McDonald Creek water system used by 55 households in the Allen subdivision in Upper Kaslo, in Area D of the RDCK, was destroyed in a landslide. The Village set up an emergency water supply through a fire hydrant to the McDonald Creek Water Users. The RDCK, through government grants and taxation of the McDonald Creek Water Users, paid for an upgrade to the Village water system so that residents could permanently be connected to the Village system. The upgrade was completed in 2006.

•Council received three pieces of correspondence regarding the efforts made to prevent a landslide at Whitewater Creek near Retallack. Two of these were letters of thanks to the Ministry of Environment, from the RDCK and the Village of Kaslo, for taking the lead on the project. The third was from Area D Emergency Co-ordinator Noreen Clayton, which states that Director Shadrack would like to apply for funds from the Flood Mitigation fund for this project. She also wonders if funding can be contributed through the Kaslo Area D emergency fund. Council voted to follow up on this possible funding.

The Village approved $500 toward the project at its special meeting of October 24.

•A letter from Don Finlay of Emergency Management BC informs council of Provincial funding of $10 million per year over 10 years for flood mitigation projects. Council directed administration to report back on guidelines for the program.

•The Village would like to lease a 2008 dump truck, with slide-in sander and underbelly plow, over a period of more than five years. The lease the Village is pursuing would cost $737 per month, whereas a five-year lease agreement would cost about $1,314 per month. In order to enter into a lease agreement of over five years, electoral approval must be obtained. Council agreed to an alternate approval process.

•Council received a letter from Minister of Community Services Ida Chong as a follow-up to a meeting at the UBCM convention regarding the high level of seasonal and absentee home ownership in Kaslo. As Kaslo council members have suggested this may be addressed by adjustments to property tax policy, Chong has referred the matter to the Minister of Small Business and Revenue Rick Thorpe. Council voted to forward all information gathered on the topic so far to Minister Thorpe.

•A letter from the Kaslo Riding Club Society in response to a letter from Roger and Mary DeNault, seasonal neighbours of the gymkhana, was referred to the Administration & Finance committee for recommendation to council. The DeNaults had written with suggested amendments to the lease between the Village and the club for the gymkhana grounds. The club addresses the issues raised in the DeNault letter and explains why it is opposed to the suggested amendments.

•A letter from lawyer Tom Humphries regarding the Radford development was referred to the Planning & Development committee for recommendation to council. Humphries says he is not aware that Radford is proposing to move the road on the Village property significantly, if at all, and states he believes there has been some miscommunication about the road route.

•Council received approval in principle for Community Health Promotion funding of $29,000 for a 'Community Gardens' project, to be managed by North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society. The letter was forwarded to NKLCSS.

•All Kootenay Boundary local governments received a letter from Interior Health about the steady increase in special events that draw large attendance in the area. The letter notifies that IH will take a higher profile around the planning of these events to ensure that regulations around food safety, potable water provision and liquid waste disposal are met. The letter mentions other issues that are not within IH's jurisdiction, such as emergency response planning, traffic flow and access, high levels of recreational use of drugs and alcohol, policing and site security. IH recommends that local governments consider developing bylaws to address these issues and to ask their lawyers and insurance providers about any liability issues around these events. The letter was referred to A&F, the Chamber and the Kaslo Jazz Etc. Society for information.

•A request from St. Andrews United Church for a grant towards its roof replacement project was regrettably turned down. St. Andrews is a designated heritage site. The Village will advise the church that the City Hall building also needs a new roof, and the municipality has no funding available.

•A motion "That the Kaslo skatepark facility be accepted as is by the municipality" was carried.

•An amendment to the liquor licence for the Bluebelle Bistro was discussed. The committee concluded that it would deal with the issue once the Liquor Control Board had received the application from the bistro and had forwarded it on to the Village for comment.

•The committee received an update on a number of Marina Ridge projects from Jim MacPherson. An application for further subdivision and rezoning of land in Kaslo Bay was referred to Ramona Mattix of the RDCK for assistance.

•The committee directed staff to research universal water metering in Kaslo, and amendment of the building bylaw to require water meters in new construction.

•The beer garden regulation bylaw was adopted. The waterworks bylaw was read three times. The park reserve amendment bylaw was read three times.

•Accounts payable – $70,295.01.

A Celebration of Angels alights on Kaslo this Christmas

submitted

This year, Kaslo's annual Christmas Light Up will be followed by a special event – 'A Celebration of Angels,' held Friday, December 7 at Saint Andrews Church Hall, from 7-9:30 pm. The event will feature a fashion show, sumptuous desserts, and a silent auction. All proceeds will go to the Guatemala/West Kootenay Stove Project to purchase energy efficient stoves for Mayan women.

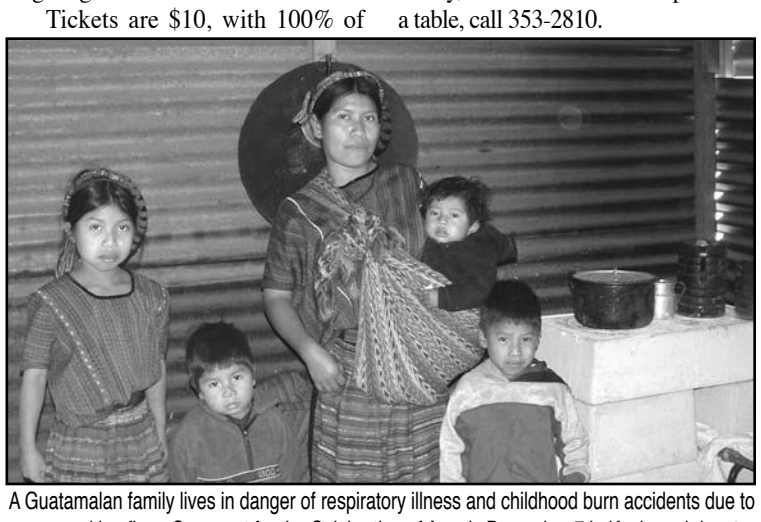
The project is headed by Jacqueline Mealing, a Kaslo resident and founder of Hand to Hand Women's Co-op in Guatemala. For the past 17 years, Jacqueline has helped Mayan villagers in Central America achieve better lives through educational, health, and environmental projects. This winter, Jacqueline and her team of local volunteers are once again headed to San Pablo la Laguna, Guatemala to install energy efficient stoves in village homes.

Why stoves? Three quarters of Guatemalan people are desperately poor, with an average income of less than $2 a day. For centuries Mayan people have cooked their food on indoor fire pits. Burns from cooking fires are the leading cause of death in Central American children under the age of 5. The open fires require a great deal of wood, resulting in Central American countries deforesting at 2% per year.

A new stove, the ONIL, brings the fire off the floor and is totally contained. The stove has virtually eliminated the risk of children being burned and produces less smoke and carbon dioxide in the home. The ONIL stove uses 70% less wood than open pit cooking fires, greatly benefiting the environment and the quality of life of the Mayan people.

There are still thousands of impoverished families in need of a stove and Kaslo's business community has come together through A Celebration of Angels to help buy the 100 stoves needed for this year's project. Dress up for Light-Up and extend the evening to include this celebration of the spirit of giving.

Tickets are $10, with 100% of sales going to the purchase of ONIL stoves. Tickets are available at the door or from Sunnyside Naturals, Shimmer Boutique, and The Clothes Hanger. Be a major supporter and purchase a table for $100 and fill it with your friends, family, staff or co-workers. To purchase a table, call 353-2810.



A Guatamalan family lives in danger of respiratory illness and childhood burn accidents due to open cooking fires. Come out for the Celebration of Angels December 7 in Kaslo and donate to help purchase a safe, energy-efficient woodstove for Guatamalan families like this one.

Kaslo Lite-Up has a 20-year history and still going strong

by Art Joyce

Joanne Riley and Colleen Hewat created Kaslo Lite-up in 1986 to encourage people to shop locally during Christmas. "Everyone loves a parade," as the saying goes, and it seemed the logical choice to bring shoppers downtown. Riley and Hewat were working with the Chamber of Commerce and used the agency to help promote the event.

The tree light-up was held in the vacant lot between the IGA and the drugstore, with hot chocolate ladled out and carol singing. The spot was picked for its central location and to make people walk past the stores on their way to the Christmas tree. Samples of flavoured coffee and other products were given out by merchants to give shoppers a taste of their stock.

"The idea was, as the parade went by, the Christmas lights in each store would light up on the way to the tree, which is what they still do," says Hewat.

It was also during the early years of the celebration that someone came up with the idea of handing out prizes to the store with the best Christmas decorations.

The 21st annual Kaslo Lite-up will be held this year on December 7 and will feature many of the events Kaslo residents have grown to love. Watch for a schedule of events in the next issue of the *Valley Voice*.

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Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

Kaslo Trailblazers are very ambitious

There's a very active middle-aged and largely motorized group of fellows in the Kaslo area who have successfully undertaken a lot of trail reclamation and construction efforts in the past few years. These folks are all volunteers who share the common goal of maintaining and enjoying some of that area's front country recreational features.

I know for sure that Val Koenig and his buddies have done vast amounts of work to the historic wagon road that extends west from Kaslo toward Retallack including the new wooden bridge beside the highway by Lyle Creek. Also Silvio Lettrari and his gang have put a whack of work into the popular Trailblazers Trail that goes up Kaslo River from the edge of the village, with a recent articles in both *Pennywise* and the *Valley Voice* updating their efforts.

The good people involved in these two projects likely overlap their time and resources and are a great asset to fostering the outdoor pursuits of locals and visitors alike. Last week I decided to cruise over to Kaslo for some late breakfast, early shopping, and to have a look at the progress on the large new footbridge being installed over Kaslo River.

The rainy, rude weather in New Denver got even less nice with wet snow blowing and fog at Fish Lake rest area. Things stayed pretty snowy right through to upper Kaslo but the plow trucks were active and attending to circumstances admirably.

About a kilometre west of Kaslo is a pullout area with information signs for tourist types. This is the location to park and walk over for a look into the canyon to see the bridge now neatly positioned in its spectacular setting. There was a big yellow Settle Contracting cable yarder perched on the bank right below the highway and three good fellows standing on the fresh bridge deck in the wet falling snow talking.

This bridge is a wonderful achievement for this loyal and steadfast group to be undertaking. Considering all the permits and precautions needed for this kinda thing, they've got a lot done in a very short period. I peered down past the safety fencing and also walked back up the highway a bit to see the operation better, and likely you can see it from the trail itself down below, though it may be closed for the moment.

This kind of front country trail development is great to see because not only does it work well for young family outings, the elderly and the less able, but it also can inspire casual walkers to get out more and perhaps dabble at some of the many other hikes and adventures available in the region. This calibre of trail development is most helpful and is augmented here with ample excellent signage, rest spots and quality trail beds.

There is trail work happening all over the place at any given time. You get the off-road cyclists carving out single track with wild stunts, the four-wheelers doing high elevation work on old mining accesses and skiers and sledders scoping out new lines. Many early horse trails became roads and railways, which now may be revived for our use.

Anyhow, this new bridge is 30 metres or so in length and has a wooden deck, which seems to bow up slightly in the centre, built on twin steel girders. There are plans for a protective roof and the whole thing is well anchored to massive concrete footings. Overall it's beautifully engineered and the whole thing is a class act. Anyone not living near Kaslo should really plan a visit there to check this out and stay to enjoy the other attractions along Kootenay Lake.

When completed, this fine bridge will facilitate the riverside trail in Kaslo by making a loop circuit that would likely take an hour or so to complete. Winter use may be more snowshoer than skier, but of course conditions dictate that. This multi-purpose, readily available trail will be the envy of neighbouring towns and an example for us all.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and likes exploring Kootenay locations. 358-2133

Financial Forum

with Debbie Pereversoff

Income Earnings – Where do you Rank?

Last week, I searched the internet looking for interesting data from the good folks at Statistics Canada regarding retirement savings. I wanted to find out a little bit about income earnings. Specifically, how much money people make out there, and where do we as individuals stack up? All the data here is for the 2004 calendar year, the most recent income data available.

Brace yourself: we'll start with 'median' total income. The median is the mid-point, where half the included population is higher and half is lower. 'Total income' in this case includes income from employment, investment, government transfers, private pensions, registered retirement savings plans and other income. What I found out was that the median total income for Canadians was…$24,400. If you made more than $24,400 in 2004 – congratulations – you were in the top half of income earners!

Now, before you calculate that fully half of Canadians work for less than $12.20 an hour, bear in mind that 'total income' will capture part-time employees, after-school student jobs, etc. Those people will pull down the average with a low income that may not be representative of hardship. That being said, the bottom half of total income earners is also populated by people who are out of the work force and living on low incomes provided by pensions and government benefits. Many of those people do have financial hardship.

The median employment income for Canadians in 2004 was $25,400 – that's just counting the working folks. The highest median employment income by province was the Northwest Territories by a wide margin ($35,400), followed by the Yukon ($28,300), Ontario ($27,900) and Alberta ($27,500). Newfoundland was the lowest at $17,000.

But let's move back to total income for Canadians, and climb further up the scale to see where the meat is. Let's move all the way up to where about two-thirds of individuals have lower incomes. In 2004, you were in *the top third* of income earners if you made more than…are you ready? – $35,000!

I know what you're saying. Let's go higher! Okay, let's move up to the top quintile line. At this level of income, 80 percent of people made less than you – the number? – 19.8 percent of Canadians with an income made $50,000 or more in 2004!

Now, although a bit over 12 percent of individuals had incomes between $50,000 and $75,000, the atmosphere thins out pretty quickly above that. Only 7.6 percent of people had incomes of $75,000 or more in 2004. Only 3.4 percent made $100,000 or more. And by the time we get to the $150,000 or more category, we're down to just 1.3 percent of income recipients.

People with 2004 incomes of $200,000 or more were a rounding error: only 0.7 percent made $200,000 or more. And you can be 99.5 percent sure that any randomly selected Canadian earned less than $250,000.

Okay, those are the stats for individuals. The nice folks at Stats Canada also track the incomes of various family groupings, so we can get an idea of where entire households compare by income. 'Couple families' are couples (married or common-law, including same-sex couples) living at the same address, with or without children. No singles or lone parents are included. The median total income from all sources for all members of such families in 2004 was $64,800. Less than a quarter of such households had total incomes of $100,000 or more and just over 8 percent had incomes of $150,000 or greater.

So, there are the stats, and that's what we make. Now, consider some of the implications of this information. If there were folks who made $50,000 a year and didn't feel like they were making enough to get by (and there are), it would be useful for them to consider that based on 2004 figures, 80 percent of Canadians with an income actually make less than that. If their individual income was close to $65,000 – it would be enough to push them into the top ten percent of incomes received by Canadians. Ninety percent of the 23.4 million people with an income in Canada made less. If they felt they weren't getting by at an income level that's higher than that of the vast majority of the people, in one of the richest countries in the history of the world, do they have an income problem or is it a problem related to something else, like choices or expectations?

Looking at the statistics of what we all make, it sure gives you something to think about, doesn't it?

Debbie Pereversoff CFP CSA is a Certified Financial Planner and a Certified Seniors Advisor with her company The Affolter Financial Group Inc. in Castlegar.

Cool Eateries of the West Kootenays

with Andrew Rhodes

Kaslo's Landmark Bakery

Hello out there all you fabulous food fans. Looks like winter might arrive soon, and that means lots of tasty hot food and treats are in store. So let's settle something once and for all. Rob Abbey at the LANDMARK BAKERY in Kaslo makes what just may be the best cinnamon buns in the world. This is probably why a certain woman makes a yearly trip from Alaska to Kaslo to buy Rob's cinnamon buns. This is also the reason why a guy from Winnipeg makes the trip to Kaslo twice a year so he can ship back a few boxes of Rob's whole-wheat cinnamon buns. If you've never tried them, do so soon and let me know what you think.

The LANDMARK BAKERY (formerly Rudolf's Bakery) has been sitting in the middle of downtown Kaslo for 25 years. Rob Abbey has been running the bakery for the last 12, and he keeps the place hoppin'. I was there yesterday staring at the big chalkboard. It assured me that the breads on offer were the result of German-style baking using organic flour and scratch recipes. There are over 40 breads to choose from. There is London butter, 100% whole wheat, French baguette, German rye, caraway rye (my all-time fave), Vienna and organic spelt just to name a few. Alongside these is a whole raft of crusty rolls, rolls with sesame or poppy seeds, various buns and French rolls too. If you are a little hungrier try a 6" sub or a foot long. How 'bout a bunwich or a sausage roll or a good old ham & cheese sand.

Here come the confections! There are more than I can name so here are a few: calizone, butter-pecan tarts, Kootenay biscotti (chocolate covered), gingerbread people, Exile Island bar (the kind of thing you'd dream about if you were marooned in the South Pacific), fruit-nut squares, pineapple-apple danish, cheese danish, and blueberry-cheese danish. There are butter horns, and of course, Nanaimo bars.

Coffee? It would be really difficult to out-do what Rob Abbey has for you in the way of coffee. The espresso line of Kicking Horse coffee is all organic and fair-trade. Some other coffees from Kicking Horse are: Kootenay Crossing, Z-Wrangler, Kick-ass Dark, Grizzly Paw and 454 Horse Power. Also available are some "high-end" coffees from Torrefazione: Sardegna Blend, Napoli Blend, and Montecantini Decaf.

Besides coffee, there is a wall of fruit juices and sodas to choose from, and about 20 flavour syrups.

As some of you know, I can't handle "menu-stress" so I asked Rob to decide for me while I sipped regular old decaf. I noticed a sign by the counter that read: "Unattended children will be given an espresso and a free puppy." There were lots of families coming and going constantly.

By the way, you can bring your own cup, and you'll get a discount. If you're a regular, every ninth java is free, and you might win TWO free ones in the weekly draw.

PIZZA!!! Pizzas range in size from Small to X-Large (16"), featuring homemade crusts from scratch and over 30 toppings to choose from. Everything from Veggie Pesto to Spicy Meat Lovers to Gourmet Pizzas. Why not try one with pesto, sun-dried toms, red onion, shrimp, asiago cheese and artichoke? If you ask, your crust will be made with organic stone-ground spelt. If you want a special cheese, Rob Abbey will run across the street to Eric's Meat Market and find it. I assure you, the pizzas at the LANDMARK are substantial.

So! What did Rob Abbey bring me? First came the potato-bacon soup. Wow! Then three huge pieces of pizza. I ate them all. Then apple goulette (a personal apple pie), then a decaf latte and a Kootenay biscotti, which I was urged to dip into my coffee. I can't believe I ate it all! But I DID!

No doubt about it, when in Kaslo, stop at the LANDMARK BAKERY and say hi to Rob Abbey. He loves it when you walk in the door.

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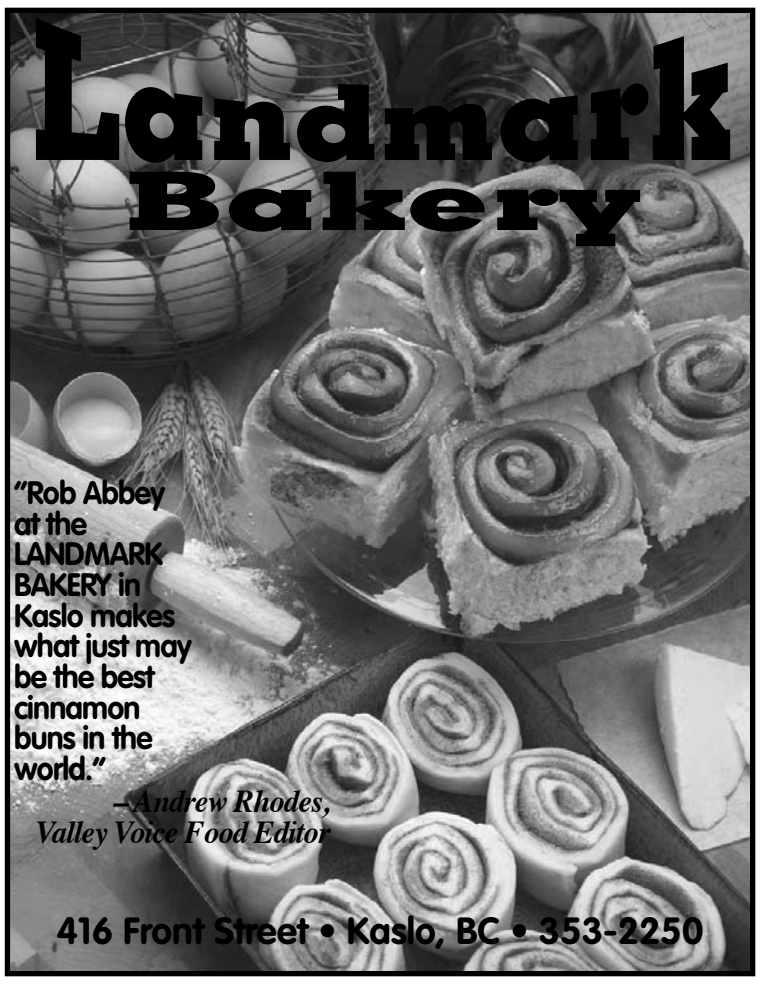

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW USER FEES FOR BONNINGTON RANGE CABINS - For over 20 years, the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, in cooperation with the Ministry of Forests, has been maintaining four cabins in the Bonnington Range south of Nelson. These cabins are the Grassy, Copper, Steed and Huckleberry Cabins. Due to increasing use, we are instituting a reservation and fee payment system. This means you can book your accommodation at the cabins in advance. The fee for an overnight stay is $10 per person per night. Bookings and fee payment is available on-line at www.kootenaymountaineering.bc.ca. If you arrive at one of the cabins and you have not made a reservation you should be prepared to vacate the cabin should people with a reservation arrive.

CALLING ALL SHEEP PRODUCERS to join the BC Sheep Federation! Now is the time to be counted when meat regulations are threatening our existence as safe producers of home grown lamb. bcsheepfed.com.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - The Healthy Housing Society seeks to hire a design and editing team for the development of the local Welcoming Guide. Draft content provided. Submit proposals by Dec 10, 2007. Contact Nadine at 358-2164 or nadiner@pembina.org.

CARD OF THANKS

The parents, staff and students of **THE WHOLE SCHOOL** would like to extend our appreciations to the following businesses for supporting our fun-raising efforts. Lemon Creek Lodge, Oso Negro, Safeway & Save-on Foods Nelson, Cowan's Office Supply, Ripping Giraffe, Phat Angel, Pixie's Candy Shop, Hemp & Co, Frog Peak Café, Nomad's Hemp Wear, Whitewater Ski Hill, Kutenai Clothing Co., Kootenay Co-op, Evergreen Foods.

HIDDEN GARDEN GALLERY gives thanks!! Brighid Bowman, Patti Sebben, Bruce Charlton, Carol Weiss, Burgin Jacobs, Gretchen Perk, Daniel Hellyer, Maureen Hodsall, Katherine Chomiak, Linnie Lamarche, Julie Betschen, Linda Mennie, Judy Wapp, Iko Jackson, Hazen, Zahira, Virginia Boyd, Sally and Barry Lamare, Lorna Obermayr, Ken Clatterbaugh, Sandy Nichols, Daphne Hughes, Betty Daniel, Anne Champagne, Evelyn Goodell, Martha Nichols, Susie Bolivar, Eleanor Spangler, Teri Freeman and Wendy Harlock and the Best Friends.

CHRISTMAS TREATS

SLK TRUFFLE CHOCOLATES reminds you that they are available at these fine locations: Fat Kat's Sweets, New Denver; Middle Earth Café, Nakusp; Gaia Tree, Winlaw. Place your larger orders early!

CHRISTMAS FREE-RANGE TURKEYS!! All natural birds - Vallican Whole School Fundraiser. ORDER NOW - AVAILABLE DECEMBER 11th. Pre-paid orders $2.55/lb (before December 10th) OR $2.75/lb afterwards. Call Rachel @ 226-7737 or Jane 226-7336 for details.

COMING EVENTS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY CRAFT FAIRE, Nov. 25th, 2007, 10:00 am-3:00 pm at the Slocan Legion Hall. Everyone Welcome.

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.

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.

THE NELSON CRESTON GREEN PARTY Constituency Assn. Annual General Meeting is on Nov. 24 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm at the Senior Citizen's Branch, 719 Vernon Street, Nelson. Angela Reid, Provincial Green deputy leader, will be attending. The board has been energized with its work on the Future of Food Conference, and invites members to become conveners who meet monthly.

HABONDIA WOMEN'S LENDING CIRCLE AGM, Wednesday November 28, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, Nelson Library Basement, supper provided with natural building slide show.

COFFEE HOUSE-CALL FOR PERFORMERS: The Whole School's 10th annual Blue Moon Coffee House takes place Saturday, December 15th from 6:00 to 11:00 pm at the Vallican Whole. Musicians interested in performing call Bevan at 359-6654. More info 226-7737.

SLOCAN LAKE visions for sustainability. This Friday, Nov. 23rd @ Hidden Garden Gallery, 7pm. Admission by donation, please. Gallery courtesy HGG Society.

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PLEASE JOIN GRANNY ANN MOTT for her Colorful & Expressive Art Show & reception with live music and refreshments held at the Pavilion in New Denver on Wednesday, Nov 28th (1-4pm).

SOULGARDEN is offering: "INTUITIVE PAINTING" workshop on Sunday- Dec 2nd (1-4pm). Discover creativity, imagination & authentic expression. Also, OPEN EXPRESSIVE ART STUDIO FOR TEENS on Wed- Nov 28th (6:30-8:30) Call Sue @ 358-2177.

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NOTICES

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

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RECREATION

TOTS PLUS PLAYGROUP: Free fun for parents & toddlers every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to noon at the Slocan Park Hall. Circle time, crafts, activities. Upcoming visits: Nov. 20th Marcia Werner, KinderMusik; Nov.27 Public Health and Dental Hygiene; Dec. 11th Parenting Workshop wth Liz Amerol. More visits to follow!

CHRISTMAS TEA FOR SENIORS - Saturday, December 1st from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Slocan Park Hall. A free afternoon of entertainment, refreshments, draw prizes and the company of friends.

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Saturday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Christmas by the Lake • Silverton, BC

MP Atamanenko to host more passport clinics with RDCK

submitted

Alex Atamanenko, MP for BC Southern Interior, will host five days of Passport Clinics at the Castlegar Community Complex from November 28 to December 2 from 9 am to 5 pm. The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) and Castlegar Mayor Lawrence Chernoff are contributing the use of the Castlegar Community Complex Centre to assist citizens in the region with their passport applications. The Castlegar Community Complex is located at 2101 6th Avenue.

There will be two types of clinics. One day is for seniors 65 years and older, and people with disabilities who require help to apply. This will be by appointment only. The other days are for the general public, lining up on a first come-first served basis, where appointments can be made on-site. People may wish to bring a lawn chair for these clinics.

"The benefits of the clinics are people don't have to send away their birth certificates, citizenship or other ID cards, and the processing rate is much faster than by regular mail," said Atamanenko.

Passport Canada officials will review and accept completed passport applications for processing. People are urged to have their application fully completed, and bring the required ID, photos and payment. The following are the only acceptable methods of payment for passports at this clinic: certified cheque, money order (postal or bank) made payable to the Receiver General for Canada, VISA, MasterCard and American Express. Payment by cash or debit will NOT be accepted. People may submit applications for immediate family members living at their same address, with ID proof of address from those absent.

Passport Canada recently launched two new initiatives. One is a Simplified Passport Renewal Process allowing Canadians who currently hold a valid passport, and who meet eligibility criteria, to be able to renew it without submitting proof of citizenship, a birth certificate or a guarantor declaration. The other is a New Guarantor Policy allowing most Canadian adult passport holders to act as guarantors for first-time applicants or expired passport holders. Passport application forms can be obtained at any Canada Post office or from Passport Canada's website.

For more information please visit www.passportcanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-567-6868 or 1-819-994-3500. Check out www.atamanenko.ca for helpful tips.

OBITUARY

Jun Takenaka of Kamloops, B.C. passed away November 13, 2007 at the age of 63. Born in Kaslo, B.C. on April 24, 1944. He was survived by his wife, Marilyn Cutting; step children Tammie (Mike) Leslie and David (Elysia) Thompson; mother Kuri Takenaka; brothers Tamotsu (Jolene) Takenaka and Mamoru (Gayle) Takenaka, nieces Lisa (Blair), Shanna (Stuart), L. Kim (Grant), Melanie and Pamela.

He was predeceased by his father Nisaburo Takenaka.

Jun had a kind and generous soul. He found joy and love in his family and friends and passion and peace in fishing with his dog, Enu.

The family thanks all the staff in the ICU and Stepdown Units at Royal Inland Hospital for their care and consideration towards Jun and his family and thank you to Dr. Montgomery for his years of support and care for Jun.

A Celebration of Jun's life will be held on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Schoening Funeral Chapel, 513 Seymour Street.

Should friends desire, donations to the S.P.C.A., 1211 8th Street, Kamloops, B.C. V2B 2Y3 in memory of Jun would be appreciated.

On-line condolences may be expressed at www.schoenings.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Schoening Funeral Service, Kamloops, B.C. telephone 250-374-1454.

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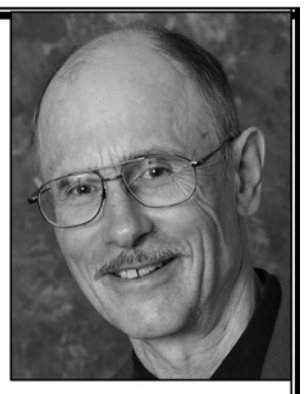
THEY ARE BACK!
Passport Clinics
Castlegar Community Complex
2101-6th Avenue - A block towards the river from Canadian Tire
Hosted by Alex Atamanenko, MP
& Regional District of Central Kootenay
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Passport officials will review and accept completed applications with required ID & photos for processing. Payment by certified cheque, money order , Visa, Mastercard or American Express ONLY. Keep your ID after showing it to officials! Passports must be sent with Renewal applications, however.
You may submit applications for immediate family members living at your same address, with ID proof of address from those absent.
For more info: www.passportcanada.gc.ca Go to www.atamanenko.ca for helpful tips.
Forms available on-line & at Canada Post offices. Passport Clinic processing time: Approx.4-6 weeks.
Wed. NOV 28 - For Disabled who require help or Seniors 65+:
By appointment ONLY Call: 1-800-667-2393 or 365-2792
Thurs. NOV 29 - Sun. DEC 2 - For the General Public
First Come, First Served. Come early to line up, and be prepared to wait. Bring a lawn chair. You will have your name taken to come back at a time later that day or the next for processing.
Thursday NOV 29 - Spilling over to Friday
Names will be taken at the clinic all day until Thursday and Friday are fully booked.
(If Friday is not fully booked, any people lining up Friday will receive remaining times left for Friday on a first come basis. There is no guarantee there will be spaces left on Friday.)
Building will open at 6:00 AM. There will be no carry over to Saturday or Sunday.
Saturday DEC 1 – Spilling over to Sunday
Names will be taken at the clinic all day until Saturday and Sunday are fully booked.
(If Sunday is not fully booked, any people lining up Sunday will receive remaining times left for Sunday on a first come basis. There is no guarantee there will be spaces left on Sunday.) Building will open at 7:00 AM.
Passports required for flights to the U.S.
Central Kootenay Regional District



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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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