The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Generous donation from Nakusp Roots Music Society allows Visitor Centre to continue operating

by Jan McMurray

The Nakusp Roots Music Society (NRMS) handed over a $10,000 cheque to the Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce on March 9.

"We are just thrilled!" exclaimed Ulrike Zobel, president of the Chamber. "This funding gives us an amazing amount of breathing room. It allows us to operate the Visitor Centre at its current level for another year while we try to find core funding so we're not in a crisis position year after year."

When the Chamber's bid for the campground contract with the Village was unsuccessful this year, Zobel says the Chamber was put in a position where it had to look at closing or reducing the hours of the Visitor Information Centre. The Chamber has held the campground contract for the past three years, and the revenue generated from the contract has gone into operating the Visitor Centre.

The Chamber is funded through membership fees, a $6,000 annual contribution from the Village, and a $10,000 contribution from TourismBC. However, this is not enough to operate the Visitor Infocentre year round.

An NRMS press release says the society is "happy to be able to collaborate with the Chamber to better promote all of the wonderful things that are happening in the Arrow Lakes region. This is a great opportunity for both organizations to share their common goal of enhancing life in the region and provides a continued opportunity to showcase the Arrow Lakes region as one of the best place to live and work."

The $10,000 comes from a fund that NRMS created by charging a special levy on beer garden prices at last year's festival. The fund was originally intended to support the community park project, which the society has since abandoned.

"Music Fest has done so much for this area economically, and this is another example of their efforts to contribute to this community. It is gratifying for the Chamber to be recognized and appreciated for the contribution we make to the area with the operation of the InfoCentre," commented Zobel.

Zobel points out that tourism is an important part of the area's economy, especially with the downturn in forestry. "While we don't want the area to become a 'tourist trap,' the importance of tourism to our economic viability cannot be ignored. And vital to that is a well functioning Visitor Centre," she says. In fact, the Chamber executive has recognized that it would be beneficial to extend the hours of the operation of the centre, she says. "Numbers are up, and surprisingly, they're up in the winter as well." Executive members feel the centre should be open into the evening in the summer and at least on Saturdays in the winter.

"Operating the Visitor Centre takes the bulk of our financial resources," says Zobel. "Other than summer students, the Chamber manager is the only paid position we have, and she puts most of her time into the centre. Everything else we do is done by volunteers." Summer students' wages are paid mostly through the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs program.

Some of the Chamber's volunteer efforts include the July 1 and Christmas parades, trade fairs, and visitor signage.

A cheque for $10,000 changed hands in Nakusp on March 9, Nakusp Roots Music Society president Greg Craine presented the cheque to Nakusp and District Chamber of Commerce representatives Beth McLeod, Ulrike Zobel and Valerie Hill.

Maude Barlow warns of global water crisis at Brilliant Cultural Centre

by Art Joyce

We may not be aware of it in the water-rich Columbia Basin, but the world is already deep into a battle for control of water. According to Maude Barlow, author, activist and chairperson with the Council of Canadians, water shortages are the first symptom of global climate change. Barlow spoke to a full house at the Brilliant Cultural Centre the evening of March 5 as part of a tour for her new book *Blue Covenant – The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water*.

"This is the first and most devastating face of climate change. There are close to two billion people living without adequate water," Barlow said.

Most people think of third world countries in Africa or Asia when water shortages are mentioned. However, Barlow noted that 36 American states are expected to have severe water crises in the next 7 years or so. The Colorado River is considered to be in catastrophic decline and aquifers are dangerously depleted across the US. In Canada, the Great Lakes are declining, with Lake Superior almost two feet below its normal levels. Although Canada is commonly said to have 20% of the world's fresh water, Barlow said the actual figure of what is readily available is closer to 6.5%. A recent climate change report from the Columbia Basin Trust is forecasting snowpack losses in the Basin of 21% by the 2020s, with serious impacts on water supply.

Yet governmental and corporate response to this looming crisis has been the opposite of what is needed, Barlow said. Arizona is preparing to build a water theme park in the desert with waves so high you can surf them, while water-intensive golf courses and condominium complexes have experienced a boom in recent years. Most new homes reflect little or no planning for water conservation.

"It's like the comic with the dogs on a life raft and one saying, okay who's for eating all the food right now? We need laws that say, if you commit a water crime, you've committed a crime against the future."

In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 130 million people do not have access to safe drinking water. Of the 25 countries in the world whose people have the least access to safe, clean water, 19 are in Africa. In Europe, only one of 55 rivers can be considered 'pristine' and 20% of its surface water is "seriously threatened." Poorer countries also often lack the infrastructure to properly treat wastewater and this leads to massive outbreaks of easily preventable disease.

Barlow said the problem is complicated by the fact that industrial activity has polluted much of the available water and has actually altered the Earth's hydrologic cycle. This cycle is producing less water due to deforestation and desertification at a time when increasing population will require more. Almost a quarter of the world's water is exported in the 'virtual water trade', or water embedded in cash crops, further depleting regional watersheds.

The increasing pressure on this vital resource has set off a global battle by corporations for control of water rights through deregulation and privatization. This has established a global water cartel that sells expensive bottled water and controls water for industrial farming, mining, manufacturing and other energy-intensive industries. Private companies also provide municipal water systems and wastewater recycling, usually at usurious rates. Barlow spoke of black townships in South Africa where women walk many miles to collect water from cholera-contaminated rivers because they cannot afford to pay for the water brought in by private company pipelines. The Chicago water authority a couple of years ago shut off water to 42,000 people.

"Privatization of water is theft of water that does not belong to them," Barlow said. "Market-based capitalism is fundamentally wrong. It has caused us to exceed the limits of Earth's carrying capacity."

Water has become a huge national security issue in the US, with a consortium of intelligence agencies, Coca Cola, Lockheed Martin, and other corporations developing a national strategy. Yet Canada still has no national water policy.

Barlow is calling for a 'blue covenant,' an international water system based on justice and solidarity, something she has been working with the UN to achieve. She had little hope that politicians would be much help and urged activists to keep up the fight for water rights. Barlow added that the knowledge is available to deal with the water crisis but the political will has so far been missing. She has worked with First Nations and indigenous communities around the world and sees encouraging developments in Latin American countries that have expelled water corporations.

"Everyone in the world has a fundamental right to water and no one has the right to deny it just because someone can't pay," Barlow said. "It's a part of our global commons."

After speaking about the global water crisis to a full house at the Brilliant Culture Centre on March 5, Maude Barlow was available to autograph copies of her new book, *Blue Covenant*.

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Kaslo water conference renounces privatization of power

by Jan McMurray

'For love of water' was the name of a conference about the privatization of power held March 6 at the Kaslo United Church.

Tables were set up with information from the Wilderness Committee, Purcell Alliance for Wilderness, West Kootenay EcoSociety and the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union (COPE), Local 378 out of Burnaby.

At the conference, Sage Aaron of COPE, which represents workers at BC Hydro, Accenture, FortisBC, BC Transmission Corporation, Terasen Gas and others, spoke about the union's 'Take back the Power' campaign. The goals of the campaign are to halt privatization, slow down the rush to build more power generating facilities, re-instate public oversight, re-instate accountability to the public, promote community control, and promote energy conservation.

Aaron said that when the Liberal government gained power in 2001, they signaled that they were going to privatize parts of BC Hydro. By 2003, BC Hydro had a 10-year agreement worth $1.45 billion with Accenture, affecting 1,500 employees. Accenture, an outsourcing company, has taken on the financial and business management services.

BC Hydro also severed off the power transmission part of the company in 2003 by creating a new crown corporation, the BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC), to maintain, operate and plan BC Hydro's transmission assets. Part of BCTC's role is to ensure open access to the transmission system to private producers.

"Privatization is putting our rivers at risk environmentally, and handing them over to the private sector to produce energy that BC doesn't even need," said Aaron.

She says there is no immediate energy crisis and explained that BC Hydro buys electricity when it is cheaper to buy than to produce, and sells BC electricity when prices are at a premium. This is done through Powerex, a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, which markets energy in western Canada and the western US on a trading floor much like the stock exchange.

"We are not a power importer out of need. So, if we're producing more power than we need, it has to go somewhere. This rush to build IPPs (independent power projects) is about selling power to the US," she claimed.

Although she admits that we have to plan for our future energy needs, she says we have time to "do it right."

Aaron said BC Hydro has signed $28.4 billion in private contracts, and that number is expected to grow to $60 billion. She points out that consumers end up paying this through their hydro bill. Hydro rates increased 11% in 2007 and will be going up 7%-20% every year. By 2011, there is expected to be a 24% increase. Meanwhile, she says big industry was just given a 2.6% decrease in their rates.

"We're signing contracts that will cost us billions of dollars and we will be on hook for that. Privatization is not the answer."

Aaron claimed that taxpayers are also footing the bill for subsidies that will help these private power companies build their projects and be successful. For example, we are paying millions for transmission and inter transmission studies, she says. "There were 79 of these studies last year and only 14 the year before – it's all about private power."

Aaron also spoke to the fact that IPPs have been around for decades. For example, Teck Cominco powers its industry with its own generating facility and sells its excess electricity to BC Hydro. "We don't have a problem with that – it creates jobs and is done within the regulatory framework."

However, the government's 2002 Energy Plan has created "a massive give-away," she says. "Water licences are being acquired at an alarming rate."

Over 500 water licences for power generation have been applied for in BC; around 40 of them are in the Kootenays. About 80 licences have been issued province-wide, and many of these licencees are big business.

Plutonic, for example, with proposals for 34 IPPs on the Sunshine Coast, is 49% owned by GE. In our own backyard here in the Kootenays is Axor, out of Quebec, which is applying for licences under the name Purcell Greenpower (Glacier/Howser project) and Burton Green Power Inc, which has very recently applied for six licences in the Burton area.

Many of the projects are "megaprojects, not small mom-and-pop operations," she says. The proposed Upper Pitt River project northeast of Vancouver is proposing that its transmission line be built through Pinecone Burke Provincial Park. The Ashlu Creek project near Squamish has resulted in a huge diversion tunnel drilled into the mountain. The proposed Glacier/Howser project in the Duncan would do the same, diverting up to 80% of the mean annual flow from Glacier, Howser, Birnman, Behrman and Suck Creeks into several kilometres of tunnels, 4.5 metres by 4.5 metres in diameter, drilled through the mountains.

Lee-Ann Unger from the West Kootenay EcoSociety spoke in detail about the Glacier/Howser project. She said the diversion weir at the top of Glacier Creek would flood more than half an acre of land. The project involves a significant amount of road building, and will create 243,000 cubic metres of waste rock muck. To give a visual of that volume, she said the muck would fill the entire length of Baker Street and six storeys high. The muck will be used for roads, but will also be disposed of in dumps within three metres of the creek bed.

The transmission line will be 91.5 kms long, through old growth management areas and critical grizzly habitat, to a BC Hydro substation in Invermere. The project is on the borders of the Purcell Conservancy.

She pointed out that if both the Jumbo Glacier Resort and this hydro project go ahead, this wilderness area will be hugely impacted.

"There are some areas that we just need to leave alone and this is one of them," she said Unger.

New Tobacco Laws Take Effect March 31, 2008

As of March 31, 2008, improvements to B.C.'s tobacco control laws will reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and place important limits on how tobacco is sold and promoted in B.C. This protects the health of all British Columbians and their communities.

Smoke-free changes mean:

- All indoor public places and work places in B.C. will be smoke-free. Bars, restaurants, pubs, clubs and casinos will no longer allow indoor smoking or have designated smoking rooms.
- Common areas in apartment buildings, such as hallways and laundry rooms, must be smoke-free. Smoking is also banned in the common area of hotels. While smoking is permitted inside the private accommodation rooms, hotel proprietors are free to designate rooms as non-smoking.
- There will be a 3 metre smoke-free zone around most public and workplace doorways, opening windows and air intakes, and smoking is permitted on un-enclosed hospitality patios. (Proprietors and local governments can set more restrictive requirements.)
- All transit shelters must be smoke-free.

Tobacco sales, display and promotion changes mean:

- Tobacco retailers cannot display or promote tobacco products if minors are allowed in their store.
- Retailers cannot display or promote tobacco in such a way that anyone can see it easily from outside their store.
- New limits apply to retail signs that describe the tobacco products for sale.
- Tobacco products will not be sold in hospitals, public post- secondary institutions, provincial government buildings and local government recreational facilities.

Provincial tobacco laws will continue to be enforced by local health authorities.

For more information of the *Tobacco Control Act* and Regulations or for the telephone number of your health authority, please visit: www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobacco

BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

CUPE and Steelworkers union tour BC to raise alarm on P3s, raw log exports

by Art Joyce

Private-public partnerships (P3s) and forestry corporations have failed in their promises to communities, and what is needed now is more local investment, say union leaders touring BC. CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill and United Steelworkers District 3 Director Steve Hunt spoke to an audience at the Best Western in Nelson February 26 as part of a 28-day tour of the province.

Hunt spoke of the failure of forestry corporations and the BC Liberal government in the current industry downturn. Despite a statement from BC Premier Gordon Campbell that "We don't want to export logs and export jobs with them," that's exactly what's happened, Hunt said. Since the forestry revitalization plan was introduced in 2003, 47 BC mills have shut down permanently. Hunt cited the example of a mill in Squamish which was recently purchased by a Chinese firm that is dismantling it bolt by bolt for removal to China. Interfor, which recently purchased the Pope & Talbot mill in Castlegar, will likely ship raw logs to Washington and Oregon, where it has seven mills formerly owned by US corporation Crown Pacific. The northern BC community of Mackenzie is currently experiencing a 70% unemployment rate, and the mills in Kamloops have been shut down with an annual loss to the local tax base of $1 million.

"Forty-three forest workers died on the job last year for the same industry that just sold them out," Hunt said. "Is this investing in our communities?"

Barry O'Neill said the buzzwords 'global economy' have a hollow ring in light of recent corporate behaviour. It's time to start talking local economy and local investment. He cited the 100 Mile Diet as an initiative worth supporting and urged the audience to try spending at least 20% of its budget locally.

"Why do we have to get apples from Chile? The soil is good enough to grow apples right here in BC. Go to your grocer and ask for BC apples," O'Neill urged.

Local governments are most responsive to local needs and are the best example of democracy at work, he added. Yet municipalities receive only 8% of total tax revenue as federal and provincial governments get the rest, while downloading more responsibilities on local government. Meanwhile, small communities are in desperate need of investment to attract young working families, including adequate childcare.

P3s have resulted in the selloff of billions of dollars worth of civic infrastructure paid for by Canadian taxpayers, O'Neill said. Many of these partnerships have ended up costing governments much more than promised and some P3s have failed, requiring government bailouts.

"We continue to talk about youth being our future and supporting them. When you sign a 35 year agreement on private schools or healthcare or railways, you have taken out the input from a whole generation."

CUPE BC has supported municipal governments' fight against TILMA (Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement). The premise for this 'interprovincial free trade' deal falsely asserts that municipal and provincial standards represent 'trade barriers' to businesses. Small businesses will be the first to suffer under TILMA since the agreement will penalize governments who favour local contractors over those bidding from outside the region or province. Yet in the US, 16 of their largest cities routinely give local contractors a 10-15% subsidy on government contracts.

"Why is it a government can't give a discount or other benefit to business that has been faithful to the community? We've got to exercise our ability to take our rights back."

Taking the BC government to court over TILMA is an option that is under consideration, but O'Neill feels the strong opposition to the deal expressed through the UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) will be hard to ignore.

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Local logging contractors fare poorly by P&T's insolvency

by Jan McMurray

Things have not come out favourably for logging contractors in Pope & Talbot's bankruptcy court proceedings.

Chief Justice Brenner has ruled that Interfor does not have to honour Bill 13 contracts held between Pope & Talbot and the local companies. The federal CCAA legislation overrides the provincial legislation that governed the Bill 13 contracts.

Wayne Lintott, general manager for the Interior Logging Association, says P&T's insolvency has affected about 350 workers in the Kootenays and $12-15 million has been lost. He estimates that about half of the 350 workers are from the Nakusp area.

Contractors have lost out three ways, Lintott explains in an article he wrote for the Interior Trucker and Logger Magazine. They lost revenue when P&T did not pay them for four to six weeks before filing for CCAA credit protection on October 29 last year. They lost their surety bond deposits they paid P&T as part of their contracts. And most recently, they have lost their contracts altogether.

Lintott says it could be two years or more before Interfor hires some of the contractors back, and contracts will likely not offer the security of Bill 13 contracts.

The Forestry Revitalization Plan of 2003 put an end to any further issuing of Bill 13 contracts, which guaranteed contractors a certain amount of volume. The contracts provided stability, as well as borrowing power at the bank.

The government's rationale for eliminating these was to allow for competitive bidding. What it has done on the coast is "break the backs of the more experienced logging contractors who know what it costs, because less experienced loggers bid lower," explained NDP forestry critic Bob Simpson.

"Bill 13 gave us better safety and forest management because the work was being done by longer term contractors who knew what they were doing," he added.

P&T court documents from the end of February indicate that a claims procedure is underway for creditors. Proof of claims must be filed by April 4. "Should the Company close the Agreements approved by this Court and the US Court, as well as realize on its other assets in a timely manner, it is anticipated that there may be a surplus available for unsecured creditors," states the Monitor's tenth report to the court. This document also puts the total net proceeds to P&T from the various sales processes at $271.5 million.

The Monitor's tenth report gives an update on the surplus land sales. The sale of 12 more properties are pending: Cambourne (#2), Tuzo (#26), Saunier Lake (#25), Arrow Park (Hampton) (#15), Arrow Park (Stobo) (#16), Arrow Park (#14), Burton (#17), Mennonite Flats (#19), Nakusp (#12), Shelter Bay (#9). This leaves 12 properties available. A map showing the properties and their numbers is at www.uniqueproperties.ca.

In January, 13 of the properties sold. Some of these are in TFL#23 and the minister's approval to remove them from the tree farm licence is pending. Simpson said he understands the proceeds from the sale of the TFL lands are in escrow accounts until the minister makes his decision.

Columbia River Treaty presentation by CBT's Gosal plays to packed house

by Art Joyce

"Water in all its forms is the hallmark of the Canadian past and will surely be a hallmark of its future." This quote by Douglas Coupland was used by the CBT's Kindy Gosal to introduce his presentation on the Columbia River Treaty to an audience at Knox Hall the evening of February 27.

The presentation opened with an unexpected treat – a slideshow of aerial photographs taken in 1962 prior to the construction of the current dam system on the Columbia River. The slides were taken by TA Arvene Weaver, who did an independent photo survey of some 500 images when he realized the 2000 kilometre river system would soon be changed forever.

The Columbia River Treaty was signed in 1961 and ratified in 1964 as an agreement for cooperative development of power and flood control, and is considered worldwide to be one of the best examples of international cooperation. There is no expiry date but after 60 years (2024), provided 10 years' notice is given (2014), the treaty can be terminated. Gosal said that within five years one of the biggest issues in the Basin will be discussions on the future of the treaty. This was the missing component in the original treaty – lack of public awareness or participation.

"Now there is a recognition of the need to include First Nations and residents in these types of decisions," Gosal said. "One of the core priorities for the CBT is that the views and values of the people of this region are incorporated in any decisions made on the future of the treaty."

Gosal believes an understanding of the issues will be critical to the discussion, particularly how the Columbia River links communities in both the Canadian and American parts of the system. The Columbia Basin includes a large portion of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon and even includes parts of Nevada. Although only 15% of total Basin area is in Canada, our mountain ranges act as storage basins for water, providing 40% of total annual flow and 50% of total hydro-electric power produced in BC.

Treaty benefits include optimizing electrical generation capacity and flood control in Canada and the US due to the storage of 15.5 million acres of water in Mica, Keenleyside and Duncan dams. This storage creates more generation in the US part of the Basin and BC gets 50% of these downstream benefits, amounting to about $300 million annually. Other benefits have included very low cost electricity, especially compared with world and US rates.

However, the impacts to the people and ecology of the Basin have been massive. Some 2300 people lost their land, 500 square kilometres of valley bottoms were flooded, and there was no consultation or compensation for First Nations losses. In Nakusp the reservoir level can fluctuate as much as 88 feet, causing shoreline erosion and damaging docks and boats. Many fish species were impacted and some populations nearly eliminated. There were impacts to shoreline species as well.

"These are impacts and opportunities lost," said Gosal. "Right now the reservoirs are not a recreational paradise, they are industrial reservoirs."

Emerging complexities are complicating the management situation due to climate change affecting snowpack levels. By April 2020 a decrease of -3.5% is expected in the Canadian range and -21.4% in the US range. That will increase to -11.5%/-34.8% by 2040. Communities in the Basin will have to discuss trade-offs. For example, if the Arrow Lakes reservoir is to be kept higher to allow more recreation, it affects Golden because Kinbasket reservoir has to let out more flow.

During discussion with the audience, one man was concerned that BC Hydro wants to plant fall rye in drawdown basins to control dust. He said this produces ergot, a poison to wildlife, and he has tried to communicate this to BC Hydro without success. Gosal offered to facilitate a dialogue with people who have expertise in this area. He also noted that a software called 'damaguchi' is available from BC Hydro that demonstrates how managing for one value in a reservoir impacts the entire system. Another person asked if the CBT would financially support groups using legal means to prevent IPPs setting up run-of-river microhydro systems in the Basin. Gosal said the CBT has not taken a stand on IPPs but would support groups working on water awareness issues. Another person suggested a citizen to citizen conversation with US residents of the Basin, a process Gosal said the CBT is willing to support.

When asked whether there's any will to restore salmon to Columbia River Basin, Gosal said it's technologically possible but very expensive. First Nations in Canada and the US have been advancing the issue and sponsoring scientific studies. Someone else commented regarding Treaty negotiations that "We need to hear what the possibilities for change could look like. Let's not waste our time talking about absolutes that aren't likely to budge." Gosal offered to return to the community to provide some more information on this issue within a year to 18 months.

"We're going to have to figure out how to live with a changed climate and more people living in the Basin. We want to achieve a dialogue with local governments and the residents. Open and honest communication will play a vital role."

School District 8 appoints Pat Dooley Superintendent

by Art Joyce

School District 8 has announced that Pat Dooley will be taking over as Superintendent when Bill Reid leaves that position this summer. Reid is one of three senior management officials who are retiring this year, including the Director of Student Services, Director of Human Resources and the Superintendent.

"Pat has offered to stay with us for one to two years to see us through the change," says School District 8 Board Chair Bob Wright. "She comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience and I think we're fortunate to have her."

Dooley has been the district's Director of Student Achievement for the past three years and prior to that was Regional Coordinator of programs in the East and West Kootenays and Boundary. She also has nine years' experience as Superintendent of schools in Trail and Coordinator of Curriculum in School District 7 (Nelson, prior to amalgamation in 1996). The district strategy under Dooley has been to place the major emphasis on skills that help students learn to assess their own work and become highly successful independent learners. Fifteen schools out of the district's 26 are trying out these new assessment practices.

"We've had a very strong focus around student learning, assessment practices that support learners and supporting our vulnerable students, so we've had a lot of support for teachers working in those areas," says Dooley.

A management team recently affirmed that the district's current focus is on track, and has produced a report that Dooley anticipates will provide support at the board level for the current direction as well as providing some new related goals.

"Really where the direction is going is finding what works for each learner, putting a face on each learner."

Dooley believes it's also important to create pathways for kids who don't work well within the regular school system. There are trades programs starting up and the Central Education Centre offers multi-age class groupings as well as other alternative learning methods.

Wright said Reid's position was filled by appointment of the board. There is no set hiring policy for the Superintendent's position. Fourteen of 16 superintendents throughout the province have been filled from within their districts during the past year. Brian DiBiasio, currently Principal of Trafalgar middle school, will assume the Director of Human Resources position starting this summer.

Archers' Society forms in the Slocan

submitted

The Slocan Valley Archers Society is a new club that became a registered Society in December of 2007with a goal to promote archery to the youth and families of the Slocan Valley, to foster community spirit through the organizing of community archery sporting events and to educate the community by providing a better understanding of all aspects of the archery sport.

The club has started a shooting night at the Winlaw School gym on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 pm. The cost is $2/person, $5/family for members, or $3/person, $6/family for non-members. Memberships are available so the group can raise operating capital. The cost of membership is $30/family, $25/adult and $10/youth (under 18) per year.

The club is looking to acquire some land for its competitions. This year, they hope to hold one or two fun shoots (one day events) on club members' private land, and one two-day shoot which will be co-hosted with Rock Creek Rod & Gun Club, Archery division, to be held in Rock Creek.

The group is looking for donations to purchase 3D targets (3 dimensional life size animal shaped targets), and prizes to raffle off at upcoming functions.

For more information, contact Dorothy and Michael Spear 226-7852; Ken and Dianne Leslie 226-7499; Teresa and David Hardy 359-2264.

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BIG TIME BIKE RACE

The Intermountain International Bicycle Racing Association (Nelson, BC) invites expressions of interest from independent agents willing to provide contracted services on a for-fee basis in support of a Union Cycliste Internationale Continental Circuit (Americas) International Race 2.2 ME (men elite) planned for our region May 23-25, 2009. The Association will pay independent agents in the following categories: COURSE DIRECTOR, RACE SERVICES DIRECTOR, MARKETING DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, LOGISTICS DIRECTOR, and FINANCIAL DIRECTOR. For more information contact: tlss2026@shaw.ca

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COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) is offering **$2,000** for up to 20 graduating students in the Columbia Basin.

This award is based on community volunteer service, not on academic achievement, and is designed to assist with post-secondary education or training.

Applications can be picked up at local high schools or downloaded from CBT's website. For more detailed information about the award, visit **www.cbt.org** or call 1-800-505-8998.

Mail or drop off the completed application at your local high school. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 11, 2008** to be considered.

1.800.505.8998 *info@cbt.org* *www.cbt.org*

Voices from the Valleys

Why I get paid the big bucks...

I'm in charge of the letters this week. Normally, Jan edits them all before I lay them out. I've noticed, however, when she does that, I get very little space for an editorial of my own. So it was with a fair bit of glee that I set out to pare them down. I rejected a few that were from out of our area. I rejected some others because they didn't speak to local issues. There were a couple of letters that were over a thousand words long (with strict admonitions not to edit). These I didn't even read. I set to work editing down the remaining submissions that came in at 500-800 words. It wasn't too bad, although I expect a few complaints. Then I went to do layout. Look at all the room I've got.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Regarding the purchase of the Provincial Building

A presentation to Kaslo Village Council

Kaslo is indeed "Jewel of the Kootenays.'' It is rightfully designated heritage. It is OUR HOME TOWN.

The nucleus of the village is formed along the uncomplicated and straightforward letter T. The centre of the village is reached directly via 4th Street with its two main buildings situated on it, the heritage Village Hall on the left and the imposing stone Provincial Building on the right. On the north end, 4th Street is met by Front Street, Kaslo's commercial centre. Front and 4th Streets therefore comprise the main section of our village.

In the coming years, Kaslo will continue to grow with hundreds of expensive houses strung along the lake and up the mountainsides. But will it be a settlement only, just a collection of houses — with no heart — no cohesive centre to glue it together as an entity which we can hold to our hearts with pride, love, respect, and wonderful memories?

An opportunity is presented to us now to build a town with a centre, its very heart, in an ideal location, visible, convenient and accessible. It can't be missed. It provides us an opportunity to build a town with a heart that will continue to beat strongly into the future.

I can see the centralization of all the "workings" of the village — the organizations that comprise the operation of the village in one location, under one roof—e.g., administration (Mayor's office, Council chambers, etc.), the Historical Society, the Board of Trade, Search and Rescue, archives, museum, general information centre, tourist bureau, visitors' centre, etc.

The part that forms our emotional connection with our hometown is the devotion, the love and loyalty that we feel toward it. I can see the majestic entrance and the inviting green lawns. I can envision an arbour or a beautiful shade tree on the lawn with a bench under it where a child may sit with her grandmother while waiting for her mother to return from shopping, or a place where out-of-town visitors can rest and wait for each other in a convenient and pleasant setting. I can see children waiting there for their parents to pick them up. I can see people making arrangements to meet there. I can see little children with their leader in this safe and pretty place, giggling happily, playing heritage games — London Bridge, Here We Go Looby-Loo, perhaps even Leap Frog. I can envision garden tea parties, perhaps celebrating Kaslo Day or a senior's 90th birthday party. Some Sunday on a lovely summer's day, there may be a programme on the steps (an ideal stage) with the citizens ranged on the lawn on their folding chairs or cushions enjoying the Singing Grannies in their colourful period gowns and hats, a rousing band, the madrigal singers, a magician, and drum majorettes. I can see a wedding there, and people having their pictures taken for many reasons and many occasions.

The Provincial Building must be ours. Let it be our legacy to posterity.

Aya Higashi
Kaslo

Slaughterhouse video online

As the debate on a slaughterhouse pingpongs across the valley i would like to direct you to a free movie on this subject . Not for the squeamish. www.moviesfoundonline.com/earthlings.php.

Marcel Tindal
Slocan

The Best Place on Earth?

The BC government has adopted the slogan "British Columbia: The Best Place on Earth" and is publicizing it in newspapers, on TV and even on the 2007 tax forms.

The same government purportedly allows some investors to develop resorts, lodges and back country skiing and hiking operations with minimal requirements for ecological preservation.

Why promote the tourist trade at the expense of the environment, the very thing making BC "The Best Place on Earth"?

Ty Klassen
Vallican, BC

Only in Canada, eh?

Once again a brave young Canadian loses his life. My heart and sorrow go out to his parents, but in their heartbreak and tears they know they raised a real man. Like those around him it can always be said: you all do what you can to do the right thing to help others, when there are those who didn't and still don't.

The real obscenity here is we have our young people coming home under the flag they fought for while others hide here and our politicians allow them to stay. So let's not listen to the likes of Taliban Jack Layton or the Greens. These parties are of no consequence to his country whatsoever, federally or provincially. Show care for our troops. We raise our families well in this country and it shows all over the world.

Jamie Rice
Rosebery

Supports the Whole School

I am writing in support of the Vallican Whole School. I am one of many hundreds of parents who saw my children bloom there. I think that the Whole represents everything good about Kootenay culture; independent, alternative, and self-sufficient. I am upset with things I have seen printed in your newspaper, because they are false. Moe Lyons claims "We (RARTS) own a building we have no access to." In fact the school occupies the building about 160 days per year, leaving over 200 days, plus all evenings, for the public to use the facility. Both Ms. Lyons and Marcia Braundy claim that RARTS has maintained the building, this is also misleading since Whole School parents have volunteered thousands of hours of time into maintaining the place and when RARTS paid for maintenance, they did so with the school's rent money. Finally, there is the issue of the tens of thousands of dollars in improvements that the school has made to that property. Will that money be reimbursed to the school to help them relocate? If not, why not? It seems spineless for RARTS to kill a beautiful institution without even negotiation or dialogue.

Michael Edwards
New Denver

Chamber needs new funding avenues

The Chamber was disappointed to hear we had not been awarded the new campground contract. However we wish the new contractor and the Village success in their new venture.

In light of this development the Chamber will be reassessing its financial situation - looking for new funding avenues and in particular looking at whether we can continue to operate the Visitor's Centre. The Visitor's Centre is operated for the benefit of, and on behalf of Nakusp and the surrounding area, and the funding the Chamber gets for it does not in any way cover the Centre's operating costs. The Visitor's Centre plays a crucial role in bringing tourist dollars to this area and we will do everything we can to keep it open.

We want to thank all those people who have supported the Chamber's operation of the campground in the past and hope that we can continue to count on your support for our future ventures.

Ulrike Zobel
President, Nakusp Chamber of Commerce

Open Letter to the Members of the KDCFS

On the evening of Wednesday 27th February the Directors of the KDCFS held what appeared to be a secret "gathering" of the Directors and the Forest Management consultants (currently working without a signed contract).

Jane Lynch learned of this meeting at the Tuesday Community Forest open house sponsored by the Forest Management consultants. I went to the KDCFS office on Wednesday afternoon and asked the personnel of the Forest Management consultant about the time and place of this meeting. The Forest Management consultants denied any knowledge of a meeting. I then phoned Director Pat Mackle and he informed me there would be a meeting at the KDCFS office in the evening at 7 pm.

I attended at the office at 7 p.m. Present were Jane Lynch, the Forest Management consultants and directors of the Society. A Director told me 1) Members of the Society were not welcome and could not participate or observe the proceedings of the gathering.

2) That Directors could not effectively discuss with the Forest Management consultants matters concerning the operations of the community forest when either a camera was recording the proceedings or members of the Society were present to observe or take notes.

It makes me wonder; WHAT are the Forest Management consultants and the Directors of the KDCFS hiding from the membership and general public?

Greg Lay
Kaslo

Dogs left out to roam free & kill wildlife in Kaslo

During the past 4 weeks there have been two very disturbing instances in Kaslo, as a result of neglectful dog owners, who continue to allow their dogs to roam free during the day and night to harass, injure and kill our wildlife.

Two dogs were seen chasing a male yearling deer in Kaslo Bay Park, killing the creature and coming back the next day to feed on the remains. I am sure this was a very traumatic experience for this young deer, basically being run to its death. How about the sickening sight for our citizens, especially young children to witness pieces of deer carcass & blood stained snow while out for a nice walk through our public park?

Next, two dogs were seen chasing a doe at night, across the Kaslo wooden bridge, which is one of the main entrances to Kaslo. Coming along is a YRB snowplow. I think we can all picture the outcome…the doe is now severely traumatized and runs straight into the snowplow, which cuts the animal in two pieces.

To the dog owners who are responsible for these situations – shame on you!

Let's be responsible - stop your dog from roaming free and killing our wildlife.

Jill Braley
Kaslo

Cellphones carcinogenic

In your last issue Mr. Stuchlik claims that the carcinogenic effect of cell phone radiation could be discerned by exposing people to high doses of radiation for "many weeks." Does he mean more or less than 520 weeks (10 years)? The debate in the scientific community is whether a suspected cancer-causing agent can be reliably tested in less than 10 years. Other effects can be tested more quickly. For example, it has recently been discovered that the use of a cell phone in the evening will affect sleep patterns that same night. Even more recently a finding that cell phone use is associated with sperm damage was published in a medical journal called "Fertility and

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EDITORIAL / LETTERS POLICY

The Valley Voice welcomes letters to the editor and community news articles from our readers.

Letters and articles should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited. We reserve the right to reject any submitted material.

Please mark your letter "LETTER TO THE EDITOR." Include your address and daytime phone number for verification purposes.

We will not knowingly publish any letter that is defamatory or libelous. We will not publish anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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

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Voices from the Valleys

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Sterility."

Cancer causing effects are not as quickly discovered. There appears to be very little research in which the exposure to cell phone radiation was over 10 years and where the control group was truly free from microwave radiation—cell phones, cell towers, wireless internet installations, cordless phones, baby monitors, radar, and so forth. The research that has come to my attention so far that has been done in this rigorous manner has demonstrated a clear carcinogenic effect in cell phone radiation.

If the experimental group gets radiation and the control group gets radiation, how can you expect any significant results? In the notorious Danish study (Johansen et. al. 2001), which seems to be one of the favorite ones cited by industry, some of the most frequent cell phone users mysteriously ended up in the control group.

If anyone could direct me to any impartial research that has not demonstrated a carcinogenic effect in cell phone radiation, I would be most grateful. I haven't found any so far.

Norbert Duerichen
New Denver

Thinking about the Whole

This is about the notice of eviction the Vallican Whole School has gotten from RARTS (regional alternative research and training society?-what ever that means). As far as I'm concerned there has always been a cloud of questionable beginnings hanging around in the air of the Vallican Whole. I have heard many times the story from many different perspectives and none of them have ever really added up. Even with questionable beginnings there was something redeeming about the building being opened to community who wished an alternative approach to education for their children. This spoke to me about a community dynamic being recognized and diversity being embraced. I really believed that to be pretty commendable to care about the community, by being in touch with the future, the children. Indeed I have met many adults who spent a stint of their early educational years at the Vallican Whole. Many of those folks now being productive members of our community and of course some are community members with eclectic diverse souls. The levels of diversity that exist here in the Slocan Valley is the very reason we need an educational program as unique as the Vallican Whole School.

Now I understand that RARTS has given an eviction notice to the Vallican Whole School and I have asked but no one that I have spoken to date really knows why RARTS wants the school out. I have heard all of the rumours from wanting the building for movies, a takeover by the RDCK, a theatre, a seniors complex, more personal profiteering have been a few of the widely talked about reasons. So far I have not heard one good solid reason for this eviction.

I haven't heard of anything more productive than educating children, embracing diversity, approaches to alternative education. This leads me to ask WHY? I can only codger up a tie to the beginnings of the Vallican Whole…are bad apples thrown into the barrel of beginnings destined to rot the whole barrel?...I hope not. I also hope that if you read this letter and you have similar questions that you take this opportunity to speak about your concerns and support the educational rights of the children in our community to have access to this building as a community building, sign a petition.

Marilyn James,
appointed spokesperson
Sinixt Nation

River Rafting a Done Deal?

As a follow-up to my previous letter respecting an application for tenure on the Slocan and Salmo Rivers by the Nelson Whitewater Rafting Company, a small group met informally with the Adventure Tourism Manager of the Integrated Land Management Bureau on March 5th at the Slocan Park bridge site.

Perhaps somewhat naïve on my part, I had assumed there would have been at least the appearance of fairness. While the purpose of the visit was simply for the official to view the proposed site, it was clear from comments made that the proposal was a done deal 'given the current government', and we could read the results in the Applications and Reasons for Decisions section of their website in a couple of months!. It was also made clear there would be no public meeting to hear local input into the proposal, and although subsequently obtained from other sources, myself and others are still awaiting responses from FrontCounter BC to our requests for copies of the Company's Commercial Recreation Plan and other detailed information.

There was a commitment to accept public responses past the advertised March 1st deadline and I would encourage anyone to submit their thoughts to harry.mitchell@gov.bc.ca or Kootenay Service Centre, 1902 Theatre Rd., Cranbrook, BC, V1C 7G1, referencing their file # 4404717. However, the government is basically saying through its official 'we don't care what you say, we will make our own decision irrespective of what you think'. From my perspective the meeting was an insult. My usual saying at times like this is 'through a fair and democratic process, we are led to a foregone conclusion'…. However, in

this case it appears through a not-so-fair and not-so-democratic process, we have been led to a foregone conclusion!

The sole consolation is that the portable toilet will likely be canned in favour of a chemical one on the company's vehicle – likely more out of practicality than public input.

In the past couple of weeks I have heard considerable opposition to the river rafting proposal as well as several other current proposals in the West Kootenays. Different yet similar, they all involve opposition to commercial activities which come with a price to local communities – they collect the money and we pay the price. As a political novice, what I have seemingly learned, or at least re-learned from this experience is opposition at a bureaucratic level while perhaps a first necessary step, falls on deaf ears. More than simply opposing local events on an individual basis, perhaps the necessary next step is to encourage our local politicians to promote local decision-making and values. Perhaps its not necessarily what you say, but how you say it and who says it. As one who has three older brothers who were all arrogant at least I became their equal in time, perhaps the time has come to be seen as equals by our elected representatives.

Michael McMillin
Slocan Park

Courtesy versus the truth

Don Scarlett, secretary of Kaslo Community Forest, has finally broken his year-long silence with some selected pieces of information. He also came swinging at Erika Bird for suggesting that all is not cozy and sweet on the Board, but I noticed he didn't refute any other fact she wrote in her advertorial "What's going on with the Kaslo Community Forest?"

In his letter to Erika (*Valley Voice* Jan 31), he writes like a crusading Miss Manners ("When I was elected to the Board 16 months ago, I was determined to restore civility and respect") but half the letter describes his outrage in 2004 when Erika wasn't even on the Board. That's not respectful or civil or even appropriate. And Scarlett's response to fellow director Pat Mackle at the last KDCFS regular meeting was anything but respectful or civil - to Pat or the membership.

It seems to me that the first step in good manners is telling the truth. Scarlett, in the recent KDCFS "Update" states that the "financial position of the Community Forest has improved." Since when? The most recent 2007 year-end Profit and Loss statement provided by the KDCFS treasurer states a net loss of $357,957.90 for the calendar year. You'll read that here, but you can bet you won't read it in any "updates" written by Scarlett.

How about admitting that the CF finances had gotten so scary that the Board called a special meeting (Rob Mitchell, president, dubbed it the "Doomsday Meeting" - such a great sense of humour) to see if the Society could even survive 2008?

How about admitting the Board's failure to sign a contract with the Management team after almost a year? You really have to wonder why, at the last Board meeting, Scarlett was so upset by the motion (made by Pat Mackle) that the Board release the "Letter of Intent" that has served as the interim management contract for 10 months (and $100,000 of community money). What is the secretary so determined to hide?

Then there is that bizarre attempt to control free speech (Miss Manners is all for polite listening) when Scarlett deems it "unacceptable" for the Residents' Advisory Committee to discuss and review the Terms of Reference the KDCFS Board has written to limit what RAC can do. Scarlett actually put "unacceptable" in an ad. I'd like to know if his fellow directors support telling RAC what they can and can't discuss.

What Scarlett believes the directors can and can't discuss is another matter. Doesn't he know that he is bound by the Society Act to fully disclose to his fellow directors all correspondence and discussions between himself and the Society's lawyer? Pat Mackle has been asking for months to see the paperwork from the litigation launched by Barry Rempel (the former manager whose contract was terminated in another brilliant example of Board courtesy).

I'd rather see effective business practices (and transparency and accountability) than a one-man crusade for courtesy.

Ken Wapple
Kaslo

Gomer Gullible overrules a point of personal privilege

Gomer Gullible spat angrily into the snow bank as the scoop led him around the driveway. It wasn't the snow that had him riled it was something he'd read in the early February *Valley Voice*.

Someone had written a piece about Kaslo's Forest License and being too dumb to understand it, made him mad.

The fella said, "don't worry about any old litigation" and that must be right because he knew this fella was mighty smart. But still he thought, back in the olden times, you didn't have to spill the beans about D-Day to let folks know how the war was going, did ya?

He said the management agreement was "in camera" too, just like the lawsuit. "Man", he thought, "I can't remember the name of that plain-talking guy that used to be on the Board but I sure wish he was back! No 'in camera' bullshit for him, why, if you wanted in camera info, pretty much all ya had to do was go to the coffee shop!"

He wondered, too, why the fella had stressed the point about "a new web master being local"? He knew the web-page was the most important part of the community's forest license but still, he thought, at thirteen to sixteen grand a month, wouldn't it have been better to get locals to manage the license? He was well aware that one firm, with local employees and a killer track record, had offered to manage the license for a "net to the Society" of about $125K a year, more than enough for the Ainsworth wharf and a roof on City Hall and it hurt GG to realize he was just too thick to understand why that was such a bad deal. "Better to give than receive", I guess.

This fella also seemed to be crowin' pretty loud about putting an end to all the controversy and "incivility" and "failed meetings" surrounding the Community's Forest License. Lordy, I'm plumb goofy, thought Gomer, but that sounds to me like leading a marching band through the hospital and then running back to take credit for the peace and quiet after they've left the building!

And what about this RAC thing? He knew the 2004 board had put that in the new license application and they had told him it was so regular people could have a say in the forest license but they were probably just as dumb as him (that made him feel better) because this fella, the one that was writing, was telling people what they could and could not talk about at those RAC meetings.

"Well, there's the last scoop", thought Gomer and as his mind cleared, he realized there was a racket, just on the edge of hearing, that was trying to get his attention, a small, shrill sound, kind of like a fly trapped in a plastic pop bottle. And then he saw something, two tiny little men, jumping up and down in the snow-bank calling out "I rise on a point of privilege" and "Robert's Rules, Robert's Rules" over and over again. "Damn," said GG, "I need a drink" and dumping the last of the snow on the little men he went for the beer fridge but not before marking the spot, come spring, he'd grow some nice flowers with that pile.

Gary Cockrell
Kaslo

KDCFS Board needs to allow dissent

The Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) held a meeting on February 27 and the public was asked to leave. The items on the agenda up for discussion were not sensitive, the board felt that there needed to be a frank and informal discussion amongst themselves on community forestry issues.

As the public were leaving, one asked that as a society member could they contact any board member and ask them how the meeting went. All the directors agreed and so did I, as I think the public should know how some of our meetings are conducted.

It was not on the agenda, but it started with Don Scarlett making a lengthy and veiled accusation about someone leaking information to the public so they can show up at a closed-door meeting. Finally he asked me how the public could be alerted to a meeting when an email circulated to all board members stated that the public wasn't allowed.

I stated and it was confirmed that I did not receive the email. I said that I heard about the meeting by accident the previous day at the KDCFS open house and a member of the public was also there.

The next item up for discussion, that was not on the agenda, was raised by Rob Mitchell. It centered on how all board members must work as a team and although disagreement was encouraged, once a decision was made no repudiation is allowed. It was obvious the discussion centered on my clarification in the February 14 *Valley Voice* concerning a January 31 KDCFS advertisement but no-one would state it. To his credit, Stan Baker finally said: "We're talking about you Pat".

I pointed out that my clarification alleged this board was inflaming the situation by blaming previous boards for some of our current problems and I had simply asked the board leave my name off the advertisement. I added that I had support of some of the other board members.

In an outburst, Scarlett stated that I had no right to ask for my name to be left off the advertisement and that was why he took the action. I maintained that all I asked for was for the board to not play the blame game and only include the names of the directors who supported the advertorial.

I enjoy being on such an open and transparent board.

Patrick Mackle
Kaslo

Slocan council, March 4: Mayor asks resident to leave meeting

by Don Currie

•Mayor John Van Bynen ordered a Slocan resident to leave council chambers before convening a special meeting of Slocan council on Monday March 4. The Mayor, addressing all persons present, said that he had talked to the RCMP and been advised that as far as they were concerned the "investigation was over." The reference was to an RCMP investigation relating to alleged irregularities during the February 2 byelection. The Mayor then turned to resident Ray Caouette, who was seated with the public, and said he would not convene the meeting "until you leave."

Caouette replied that he had not said anything, and could not be asked to leave since the meeting was not convened. He called upon the Mayor to go on with the meeting. Mayor Van Bynen then told those present that he would remove himself from the chair and would just go home unless Caouette left the council chamber. Councillor Septav said that he would depart if the Mayor did.

Councillor Hillary Elliot pointed out that the meeting had not been convened. Councillor Gates said that he and Councillor Elliot had asked for the meeting to report on their attendance at a training session for councilors, as recommended in the Integrity Group Report. That report recommended that mayor and council members attend the Local Government Leadership Academy to improve their effectiveness as councillors. Elliot and Gates were the first to attend.

Councillors then asked for the opinion of CAO Eunice Ludlow. Ludlow pointed out that until the meeting was convened a member of the public could not be asked to leave. Once the meeting is called to order a person can be asked to leave if there are grounds and correct procedure is followed.

At this point Councillor Perriere, who arrived late and was not present when Mayor Van Bynen ordered Ray Caouette to leave, appealed to Councillor Septav and the mayor not to leave and to convene the meeting "or remove the public" and then convene the meeting. CAO Eunice Ludlow again pointed out that the public could not be asked to leave a regular meeting of council, especially since the meeting had not even been convened.

Councillor Perriere then called for the meeting to be convened and gave a stern warning to those present that they were not to say one word or even make a gesture or they would be removed.

Mayor Van Bynen then suggested that the meeting be convened as an in camera meeting. CAO Ludlow reminded Council there were rules governing the convening of an in camera meeting and they did not apply in this case.

Mayor Van Bynen then convened the meeting with the statement that he would leave if he felt he was "placed under pressure." The five point agenda was adopted.

•The first point on the agenda was to establish a 'council priorities list.' Councilor Elliot led off the discussion listing Village office renovations, the gymnasium and Wellness Centre and progress on the work of establishing the tangible capital assets depreciation as required by the Provincial Government as her priorities.

Councilor John Gates supported moving forward with office renovations and inquired about grant money applied for by CAO Ludlow and received by the Village. CAO Ludlow explained a grant application had gone forward and been approved for renovation of the office and council chambers in the municipal building. She said it was a three-part grant amounting to $209,000 divided between federal, provincial and municipal levels of government. An initial payment of $136,000 has been allocated to the Village. Slocan will contribute $73,000 as its share. The project is slated for completion in 2010.

Councillor Perriere said council hadn't struck the budget and office renovation was not the priority. She said a power plant was the priority as it would provide financial security with income year after year. She asked if the grant money for renovating the municipal building could be transferred to the hydro project. CAO Ludlow repeated that the grant was targeted for municipal building renovations.

Councillor Septav said getting the Wellness Centre functioning and the needs of seniors was his number one priority. He said the Village needed assets that would attract retirees to Slocan and prevent the exodus of resident seniors. Septav proposed that someone from the community with nursing credentials be encouraged and assisted to take nurse practitioner training to serve the local community. The councillors reviewed all of the steps that had been taken to appeal to Minister Abbott and the IHA for a doctor and nurse-practitioner to serve Slocan. Nurse practitioners are in high demand in the IHA and graduates tend to seek permanent employment in well established areas. Councillor Septav proposed partnerships with other areas. CAO Ludlow said she had spoken to Salmo and Creston without success.

Councillor Gates listed the power plant, the medical centre and renovations to the municipal building as his priorities. The Mayor listed the medical centre, the upgrading of the Legion Hall and to "put an end to all legal bills," adding he didn't know how that could be done. CAO Ludlow said she favoured the power plant, the medical centre, municipal office renovations and the PSAB 1350, the Provincial Government requirement for assessing the depreciation of tangible capital assets, which she described as "a major project on its own." She reported that staff was one-third of the way through the estimate of capital assets. The CAO also reported that the gas transfer tax could be used to pay for replacement of water pipes on Main and Nelson Streets, and that a $29,000 grant had been received for a gymnasium and there would be a requirement to train someone to manage the facility.

Council considered the work to be done on the Women's Institute Hall. CAO Ludlow reported that a safety inspection had been received and renovations to bring the building up to standard would be extensive. She said grant applications had gone forward for both the WI Hall and the renovations on the municipal building but only the latter was approved. She said there may be some funding available through Heritage BC and Columbia Basin Trust for the WI Hall and it will be the next grant applied for.

•Council then turned to sub-committee appointments and Councillor Elliot volunteered for the recreational committee and was also appointed to several other standing committees of council.

•CAO Ludlow reported that the status of the recent byelection was still under investigation and that the outcome was not council's decision, as it is before the Supreme Court of British Columbia. She said the process was governed by timelines set by legislation and it would have to take its course.

•Councillor Elliot suggested council set a protocol for receiving and dealing with correspondence. Council decided to acknowledge all correspondence in a list and to select items from the list for discussion and decision. She also called for the adoption of a policy guideline on bullying in the workplace, pointing out that most municipalities had such laws and recommended that staff investigate and propose a suitable bylaw for Slocan.

•CAO Ludlow reminded Council of the need to commence readings of the Amended Financial Plan 2007, By-Law #569. Council will hold its first budget meeting on March 7 with the Village auditor present. Councillor Gates called for the convening of a public meeting on budget.

•Councillors Elliot and Gates reported on attending the training session for municipal councillors in Richmond and both said it was worthwhile. They tabled a report and the documents of the proceedings. Councillor Elliot recommended council consider adopting the committee of the whole method of reviewing issues before a regular meeting of council to make meetings more productive.

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Village of Silverton

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Effective March 10, 2008

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CLOSED	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	CLOSED

The Corporation of the Village of Silverton
PO Box 14, 421 Lake Avenue
Silverton, British Columbia V0G 2B0
Phone: 358-2472 Fax: 359-2321 Email: adminstration@silverton.ca

Rosebery Provincial Park - Visitor Attendant Position

West Kootenay Park Management Inc. operates 12 provincial parks in the West Kootenay region. We are looking for an individual who is dynamic, outgoing, and self motivated to join our company as the ***Park Visitor Attendant*** for **Rosebery Provincial Park.** Job tasks and responsibilities include:

- Offer Provincial Park and tourism information
- Collect campground fees, provide visitor & security services, maintenance tasks
- Maintain accurate records
- $12.00/hr, 4 days/week, variable hours, up to 32 hrs/wk mid summer, May 01–Oct 1
- Transportation to and from the workplace is required
- Position requires excellent physical capabilities and organizational skills

If you have suitable qualifications to fulfill this position, we invite you to submit a resume and cover letter to the address below. Deadline for applications is ***April 11***, 2008. Only those applicants accepted for an interview will be contacted.

West Kootenay Park Management Inc.
P.O. Box 2569
Revelstoke, BC, V0E 2S0
Ph 250-837-5734, Fx 250-837-5764
Email: information@westkkotenayparks.com
www.westkootenayparks.com

WKPMI

West Kootenay Park Management Inc.

We can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks."
(William Shakespeare [1564-1616])

The Silverton Community Club extends a warm and heartfelt THANK YOU to all those of you, far and wide, who volunteered your time, energy and assistance in making all of our community events in 2007 such a smashing success.

To all who participated in the spectacular first annual Christmas-by-the-Lake event, feel proud of your accomplishment. Even the wildest expectations were exceeded.

Well Done and Congratulations Everyone!!

Chip truck traffic in the valley affected by lumber industry slowdown

by Art Joyce

Slocan Valley residents have been wondering if the new yellow DCT Chambers chip trucks are evidence the trucking company is increasing its traffic volume. The answer, according to Operations Manager Jamie Skinner, is yes and no. Although the current lumber industry downturn is expected to reduce volume, a new chipper at Lumby is picking up some of the slack.

"It's hard to say how it will go the next few months. The mills are running week to week right now, most of them are running at a loss. The lumber prices are well below break-even," says Skinner.

He estimates the overall volume will be the same or slightly increased. Daily traffic in the Slocan Valley averages between 30-40 loads, although at peak production it could be as high as 50. The Ministry of Transportation does not keep statistics on chip truck traffic. The new yellow spoilers (wind deflectors) on trucks are from Arrow Transportation contractors who have joined the DCT fleet due to the temporary shutdown of four mills in Williams Lake. They are transporting chips from the Lumby and Eagle River mills. Nakusp Village council has raised concerns about potentially unsafe loading practices on the ferry at Galena Bay to handle the extra truck traffic.

"There's an absolute limit to what can be shipped through the Slocan Valley due to the traffic limitations of the ferries," says Skinner. "There should be a second ferry put on at Shelter Bay or a bridge built."

A new chipper began production about three weeks ago in Lumby and has been producing 8-15 loads per day. Skinner says it's not a brand new machine so there will be breakdown days and spring breakup could make access an issue. Celgar is hoping it will help replace lost volume from recent mill closures. There are about 10 less loads a day coming to Celgar from Cranbrook, but more coming out of the Eagle River mill (between Revelstoke and Sicamous), averaging 12-15 chip truck loads daily. The volume from Eagle River will be a few more loads per day than what had been coming from Golden, but only for about three months this year. This traffic will be offset by a redirection of chip trucks from Golden over the Salmo-Creston. Revelstoke's Downy Street mill has been producing about 10-12 loads a day. DCT Chambers also hauls about 8 loads a day out of the Springer Creek mill in Slocan.

The current recession in the US housing industry is combining with a high Canadian dollar to depress Canadian lumber markets. Former Pope and Talbot mills in Castlegar and Grand Forks will soon be shut down until new owner InterFor starts production. The Celgar pulp mill will shut down for 10-12 days toward the end of March for maintenance but will continue receiving chips to boost low inventory. The US is the BC lumber industry's biggest customer and Skinner is watching the situation nervously. Americans who got into sub-prime mortgages are walking away from their homes by the tens of thousands.

"The market situation isn't expected to be a short-term thing. Longer term solutions need to be found, and that could be Interfor starting up the P&T mills," says Skinner.

New Denver council, February 26: Council supports Lucerne student in school Local Government Day

by Leah Main

•Lucerne Secondary student Rumi Nakabayashi attended the meeting to observe procedures in preparation for a March 10 Local Government Day she is arranging for her Civics class. Nakabayashi will receive an honorarium from the Village for this undertaking, which will be used to help fund her March 30-April 5 attendance at the Future World Leaders Summit in Washington, DC.

•Under the new RDCK hydro grants-in-lieu distribution of funds, New Denver will receive approximately $8,000. The Village has a number of options for the use of this money (ie - apply it against property taxes; use it for community development; use it for some other local program). Council will decide how to disburse it during its ongoing budget deliberations.

•Three councillors were authorized to attend the April 17-19 Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government Conference in Nelson. Councillors Campbell and Greensword will attend, and Councillor Brookfield will also be afforded this opportunity. Mayor Wright will attend as an RDCK representative.

•Public Works is outlining a backflow prevention program to be implemented over three years, and will be included in the Towns for Tomorrow program.

•The Community Projector Committee asked council to assist with storage, booking and rental administration for the new projector purchased for community use. Council decided this would not be appropriately within their jurisdiction, and denied the request.

•Council approved a resolution declaring its interest in providing a venue for the May 2009 International Bike Race being organized by Bob Hennessy. The resolution included a request for discussion of all issues surrounding this (such as billeting, camping, highway closure, etc.) before final approval is given.

•Mayor Wright asked for and received a resolution for staff to review the issue of 'green' building construction and to make recommendations to encourage green design and/or construction practices within the municipality.

Council also approved the sample Building Permit Expiry Notice recommended by staff.

Children invited to Easter Bunny Hop at Passmore Lodge

submitted

Kids are invited to a special pre-Easter event coming up in the Slocan Valley. On Saturday, March 15, at 1 pm Slocan Valley Recreation and the Grade 12 class from Mt. Sentinel School will be hosting the 6th Annual Easter Bunny Hop at the Passmore Senior's Lodge. There'll be a variety of Easter bunnies leading in games, Easter crafts, a bunny snack and of course, the Easter Egg hunt.

The Mt. Sentinel students will be running all the activities during the afternoon with the help of a senior of two. Kids of all ages are welcome to come join in the fun, so parents bring the young ones and grandparents grab the grandkids, because we want you all there.

Admission for the event is $5 per child with proceeds going to the Grade 12 grad class. The Passmore Lodge is located on the Old Passmore Road which runs parallel to Highway 6. Watch for the colourful signs.

To help event organizers, pre-registration by March 13 is mandatory. Contact Slocan Valley Recreation at 226-0008 if you're planning to attend.

Valhalla Fine Arts 2008 spring concert series

A Grand Piano Regional Showcase kicks off the exciting 2008 Spring Concert Series presented by the Valhalla Summer School of Fine Arts Society (aka Valhalla Fine Arts). A collection of excellent piano students from Grand Forks, Castlegar, Nelson, Silverton and Nakusp will gather at the Silverton Memorial Hall to perform on Sunday, March 30th at 3:00 pm.

These young performers will showcase the new Yamaha C7 Concert Grand Piano, and all admission donations will be dedicated to the Holly Wiseman Memorial Piano Fund.

Valhalla Fine Arts is pleased to announce that only 25% of the purchase price for this piano, financed by VFA for community use, remains to be paid. The Society acknowledges the great community support shown for this asset to local music programs and performances. The Regional Showcase concert is another opportunity to hear its beauty.

Three other concerts are included in the 2008 Series. For dates and times, please see the advertisement in this issue, watch for posters and articles in the community, and pick up a 'fridge reminder' card at local businesses.

New Denver Quilt Guild moves to new home

submitted

After six productive years at the Hidden Garden Gallery/ Spider's Web location, the New Denver Quilt Guild has moved to the basement of St. Stephen's Anglican Church. We quilters are learners and sharers, and always welcome new members. We meet Monday and Wednesday afternoon, at 1 pm.

Guild members want to thank Ann Bunka for renting her space to us so cheerfully and we wish Donna Jean Wright much success with her new venture. Watch for the opening of Garden Graces, in the Spider's Web location.

For more information please contact Diane Andrews at 358-7284.

Viktors Vilks had a wagon ride with another kid in New Denver, Sunday.

CORRECTION

In the last issue, our report on New Denver's February 12 council meeting was inaccurate regarding the installation of the cell phone transmitter. If the installation goes ahead, the transmitter will be mounted onto the CBC tower, located just north of the marina and close to the lake. It will not go on either of the nearby TV Society towers.

CORRECTION

An article in our February 14 issue entitled 'Carpenter Creek Last Wishes Group offers free planning handbook' incorrectly indicates that the group formed to deal with the issue of wills. Although the group sponsors workshops about wills, its main focus is to help people articulate and record their wishes on what will happen to their own remains. The group has written a handbook on this subject, available at www.slocanlake.com/who/community.html.

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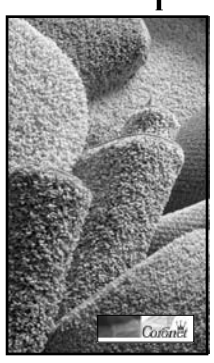

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NSS students get a taste of winter French Canadian culture

submitted

Nakusp Secondary School grades 8 and 9 students participated in a 'mini-festival des neiges' on February 28.

The French 9 class helped their teacher, Mme Beliveau, with the organizing. The day started with an official opening in the French room. Everyone was asked to adhere to a dress code, to help eliminate the winter blues: une tuque, une ceinture flechee ou une chemise a carreaux. Also present in his attire was Bonhomme de Neige.

Most of the students participated in a broomball tournament at the Nakusp arena, with the exception of a few involved in the snow sculpture competition.

A 'repas de cabane a sucre' was available for lunch. Mme Beliveau planned a traditional fusion style sugar shack meal and was helped by members of the Association Francophone des Kootenays Ouest and our Nakusp 'Madame la Mairesse' Karen Hamling.

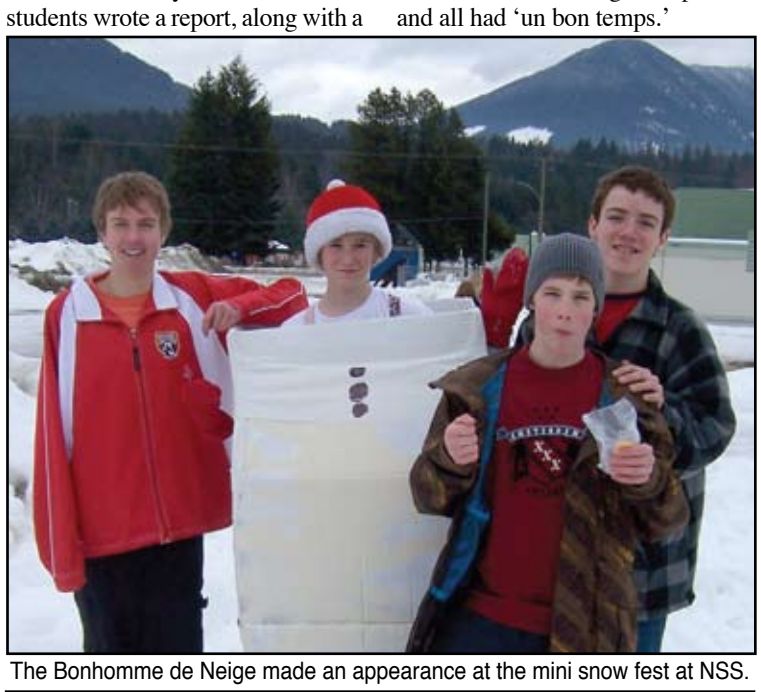
Beautiful new red picnic tables were on loan from the Hut and during the meal, French 11 student Avery Bremner played some 'rigodons' tunes on her faithful fiddle.

After lunch, people participated in a 'danse folklorique' to the new rap sound of Gilles Vigneault's Danse a St-Dilon.

Later on, some students participated in a snowshoe race and an unforgettable kayak race on the snow.

To close the day, students played 'Reach for the Top,' en anglais, on French Canadian culture. Winners of the different events received organic maple syrup from Studio Connexion.

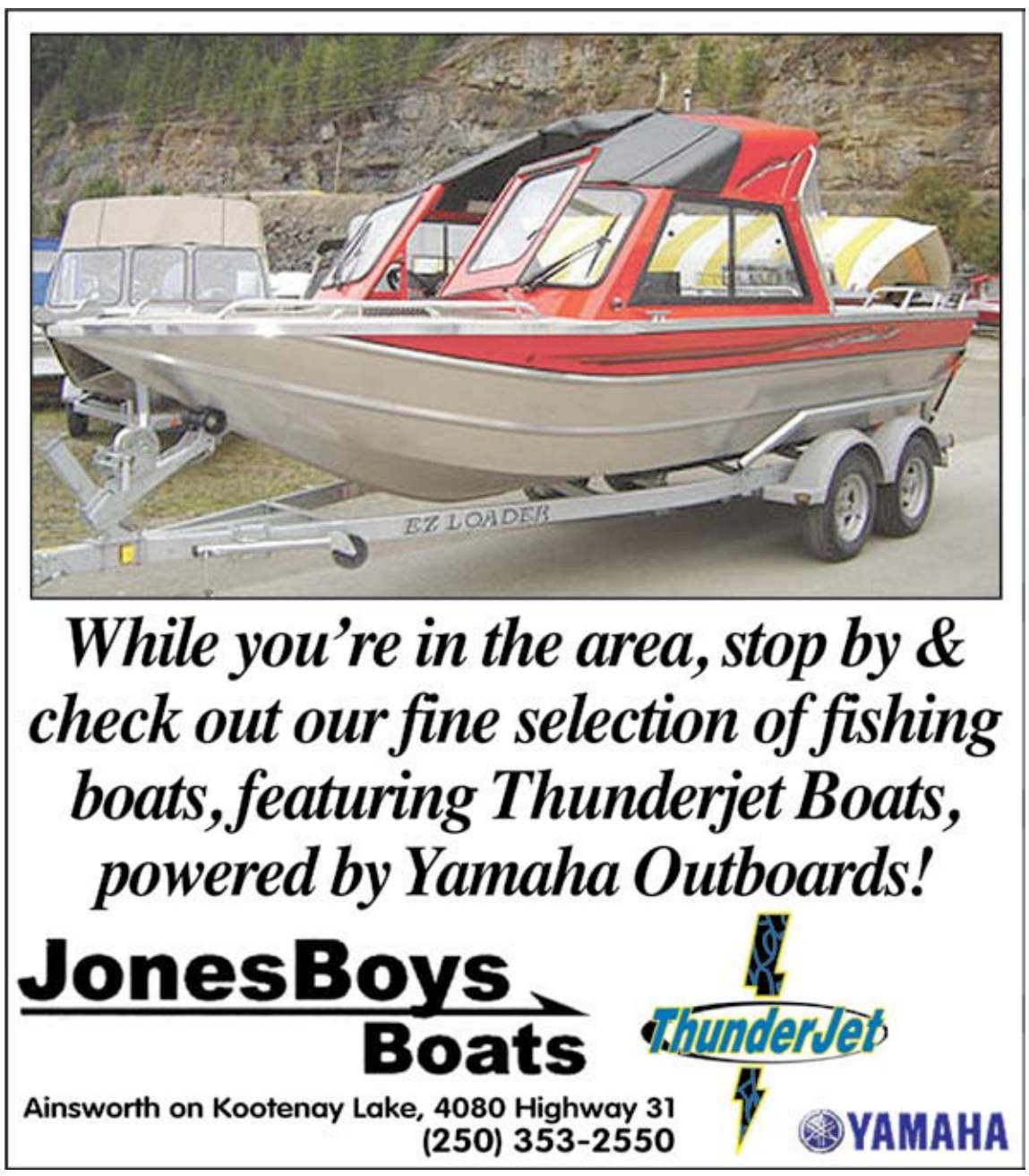
The next day, French 8 and 9 students wrote a report, along with a self-evaluation on their participation. Comments were really positive. "It is important for students to live the activities instead of always just reading about them," said Mme. Beliveau. The timing was perfect and all had 'un bon temps.'



The Bonhomme de Neige made an appearance at the mini snow fest at NSS.

NSS ski and snowboard teams in Smithers, with coaches, Doug McQuair, Matt McKee, Brenda McQuair and Alistar Skey (missing).

NSS girls ski team - L to R: Ali Spavor, Nadine Douglas, Kory-Lynn Crosby, Tayari Skey.



Kootenay Covers an alternative to pesticide sprays in gardening

submitted

A new invention from the Kootenays now allows organic cherries to be grown without any poison or spray. Kootenay Covers are very large, specially designed nets that go over your tree and tie around the base, protecting your fruit from the flies that lay eggs which hatch into worms. Birds and wasps are also unable to get to your fruit, so you can harvest all your cherries. If you dry them, there is no poison to concentrate on the surface.

Kootenay Covers are made of special UV resistant netting which should last for many years if stored properly when not in use. Covers are applied just before the fly emerges in late spring and stay on 'til the cherries are harvested. The design makes them easy to put on if the tree is pruned so no stray branches poke out of the foliage for trees up to 18 feet in diameter. A limited supply will be available at stores in BC this spring.

Kootenay Covers are available locally at Kaslo Building Supplies, Nelson Farmers Supply, Columbia Valley Greenhouses in Trail, and Swan Lake Fruit and Garden in Vernon.

For more information, go to www.kootenaycovers.com or call 353-2264. You can also write to Marilyn Roberts, Box 989, Kaslo BC V0G 1M0.

Summit Lake Racers wind up ski and snowboard season

submitted by Elaine Tupper

The 2008 Summit Lake Ski Club Hill Races were held on February 9 with the following results. Snowboarders who placed first in their age and gender categories were Jamie Godtmark, Kathleen Fox, Chelsey Groffen, Nicole Nicholson, Denyse Marshall, Yoan Shandro-Gosselin, Greg Markholm, Dylan Homis, Alex Thorp, Steve Cain, and Dave Jackson. Skiers who placed first in their categories were Kennedy Pazurik, Saxon Bowick, Jeremy Bone, Jamie Horning, Taylor Aeichele, Tayari Skey, Nadine Douglas, Nicole Nicholson, Frances Swan, Solomon Tupper, Angus Jackson, Tyler Hascarl, Dane Olsen, Guy Mowbray, and Doug McQuair. Snowboarders who placed second in their categories were Amy Surina, Angela Carson, Quade Nicholson-Chodat, Colten Petterson, Dalton Godtmark, Cameron Carruthers, Chris Chodat, and Matt McKee. Skiers who placed second in their categories were Dawson Bone, Roger Waterfield, Jude Nicholson-Chodat, Claire Jackson, Kori-Lynn Crosby, Ali Spavor, Allison Alder, Garrett Waterfield, Jesse Katchen, Kody Marks, Bryar McQuair, Dean Zanier, and Matt McKee. Snowboarders who placed third were Margaret Andrews, Adam Fox, Gareth Douglas, Justin Detta, Graeme Orr, and Sandy Marshall. Skiers who placed third were Beth McLeod, Kylie Waterfield, Katelyn Horning, Danielle Aeichele, Brenda McQuair, Quade Nicholson-Chodat, Sabastian Gouin, Connor McQuair, Cameron Carruthers, Coleman Macintosh, and Eric Waterfield. Telemark results were Mike Bowick, followed by Erica Konrad and Mike Webster. Snowbiker, Alistair Skey, was alone in his category.

Special congratulations go to the Nicholson-Chodat family for their amazing results, and to Cameron Carruthers, Nicole Nicholson, and Matt McKee for placing in more than one category. The Teanne Jones Memorial Trophy was shared by snowboarder Dalton Godtmark, and skier Taylor Aeichele. The Tim Markholm Memorial Trophy was awarded to snowboarder Alex Thorp, while the John Gleboff Memorial Trophy was won by Dane Olsen.

The ANGSL Zone Finals were held at Phoenix Mountain outside of Grand Forks on Sunday, March 9th. It was about zero degrees, with a thin overcast that cleared in the afternoon. The well-groomed hard snow softened as the day progressed, creating amazing skiing for the 90 competitors, their coaches, and families. Summit Lake Team 1, comprised of Larissa Kessler, Indigo "it was nice" Bowick, Mikala "red course" Lewis-Morrison, Jude "terrain park fun" Nicholson-Chodat, Jade "more terrain park" Kessler, Denver Skey, Taylor "that was a great run!" Aeichele, and Adam "Smithers jetlagged" McQuair shared the Bronze medal with Summit Lake Team 2, comprised of Jerobi "loved the Lizzard" Dahlberg, Jordan "big grin" Katchen, Garret "fast blue gates" Waterfield, Kiley "try your best" Waterfield, Solomon "big air off the lip" Tupper, Jesse "cool" Katchen, Cailan "fun" McQuair, and Connor "K1" McQuair. Taylor Aeichele was on the podium once again, this time receiving the gold medal for fastest female skier.

The High School Ski and Snowboard Team and their coaches drove to the March 3-5 Provincials in Smithers. The NSS snowboard team came away with bronze medals on day one – Alex Thorp placed second, and skier, Dane Olsen, placed fifth. Nadine Douglas also performed extremely well. Congratulations to boarders Alex Thorp, Cameron Carruthers, Connor McKee, Dylan Homis, Justin Detta, and Sam Switzer, and skiers Ali Spavor, Bryar McQuair, Dane Olsen, Kody Marks, Kori-Lynn Crosby, Mitchell Zorn, Nadine Douglas, Rob Crosby, Tayari Skey, and Tyler Hascarl who waited for their runs in the bleak cold wind, sometimes finishing on a single ski, sometimes wiping out in the large piles of powder. The team and their coaches deserve Endurance and Sportsmanship Awards.

The ski hill will be open during Spring Break, as long as the snow holds out. Plan to attend the Summit Lake Carnival on Friday, March 21 wearing a costume, and ski for $5. Enter the now-famous Downhill Dummy Race, take your chances in the cakewalk, jello eating contest, and water relay, or display your artistic talents in the snow sculpture contest. The events will be followed by a potluck dinner, Summit Lake Racers' recognition awards, and will culminate in a torchlight parade.

Arrowtarians launch $1,000 Club to raise funds for Villa

submitted

The Arrowtarians are launching the $1,000 Club. The first group to join was the Rotary Interact Club, and five others have contributed since.

The Arrowtarians are asking at least 100 people or businesses to donate $1,000 to help with phase 4 of the Rotary Villa independent living seniors housing project. The names of those who donate this amount or more will be permanently displayed in the foyer of the new Phase 4 building. The Arrowtarian Senior Citizens' Society is a non-profit organization and contributors will get a tax receipt for their donation.

The Nakusp Rotary Interact Club presented a $1,000 cheque to the Arrowtarians on March 4. This money was raised from the spaghetti dinner on January 12 and from the Valentine's Day sing-o-gram. Desiree Sinclair and the nine other Interact members worked hard to organize this event. Generous donations from local businesses helped to make this a successful fundraiser.

As of the end of January, $549,000 had been donated towards the project. The cost of construction is estimated at $2.12 million. In order to obtain a reasonable mortgage, the Arrowtarians must raise another $250,000 this year. Some of which will come from in-kind donation of material, labour or equipment. The Arrowtarians are actively pursuing grants from dozens of charitable organizations and foundations.

Construction on the 14-unit complex started on October 31 last year and will continue when weather permits. Phase 4 will have 11 single and 3 double units, a common crafts room, kitchen and meeting room. Completion date is anticipated by early summer of 2009. Today there are 20 people confirmed on the waiting list. There are another 29 people on the waiting list for the existing Phases 1, 2 and 3.

Phase 4 will be open to seniors who require rental accommodation. Although it will not be low cost housing, rents will be reasonable and set as low as possible according to the Arrowtarian Society's mortgage rates.

To join the $1,000 Club or to make a donation of any amount, contact Dennis Moorhouse at 265-4036 or Trish Cannon, manager of the Arrowtarian complex, at 265-3370.

The Nakusp Rotary Interact Club becomes the first member of the Arrowtarians' $1,000 Club. Back row, L to R: Laura Beingessner, Dennis Moorhouse, Gene Nagy, Earl Frerichs, Stephanie Rupp, Kees van der Pol. Middle row: Tessa Holden (Interact sponsor), Tama Tamaki, Hazel Rossman, Melissa Koftinoff, Lindsay Schneider, Britney Currie. Front row: Brenna Leitch, Hannah Holden, Rory Case. Missing: Desiree Sinclair.

Community Services hires new administrator

by Art Joyce

There's a new face at the helm of Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services. Mark Brunton has been hired as executive director to replace Doug Switzer and brings an impressive track record in his work with social service agencies.

Brunton's last job was as CEO for a large charity in Calgary, the Simon House Recovery Centre, which recently won an award from Fraser Institute for the highest performing nonprofit in Canada. Simon House is the largest alcohol and drug recovery centre in Alberta, with 84 beds. Under Brunton's tenure, the centre increased its beds by about 20%. He has a particular interest and passion for affordable housing.

"I believe everyone has a fundamental right to shelter," he says.

In his role as executive director he will be coordinating an affordable housing project for Nakusp that will include 10-15 units. Brunton brings his knowledge of fundraising logistics to the agency and has helped find a location and get plans drawn up. The last project of this type Brunton spearheaded in Calgary took 20 months from start to finish, with funding from a variety of sources. The project resulted in 15 shared housing units, or 30 accommodation units.

"Probably more is needed but it's a step in the right direction. We hope to raise all the capital but if not we're prepared to finance some of it ourselves. There will also be a public campaign."

Brunton has a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Calgary and administrative training. Earlier in his career he worked with the CIBC from front line support to management. He was chair of the Calgary United Way steering committee, pulling together 120 agencies across the city as well as helping coordinate a strategic plan for addiction services in Calgary.

"I've been volunteering since I was 12 years old," says Brunton. "I just always seemed to get a lot of satisfaction from it, so I thought I might as well work for the charitable sector."

Brunton is joined in Nakusp by his wife Rosann and their 23 month old twin daughters Amy and Paige. He says his family were looking for a different lifestyle to raise their children in and thought the Kootenays would be a good choice.

Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services delivers programs for anyone from age 0 to seniors, including an early childhood development program, transit services, supported seniors housing, mental health housing, home support, a food bank, Meals on Wheels, employment services and other programs.

Mark Brunton, new Executive Director for Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, receives the 2007 William H. Donner Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services in Canada on behalf of Simon House Recovery Centre in Calgary.

CORRECTION

Our report on Terry Warren's presentation to Nakusp council at its February 12 meeting had two inaccuracies. First, it is the Arrow Fire Zone office that is moving into a new building near the junction of Hwys 6 and 3A, not the Southeast Fire Centre. Second, Richard Mahoney is the director of the Village's Emergency Operations Centre.

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Nakusp council, February 26: Area K director contributes to arena project

by Jan McMurray

•Paul Peterson, Area K Director, attended to announce that he would contribute $125,000 to the arena upgrade project. This would come out of his share of RDCK gas tax funding, so it would have to go towards a 'green' component of the project.

"The green side of the project will reduce your electrical costs up to 35%, so you'll have $35,000 per year saving to your day to day expenses. I am really honoured to do that," he said.

Delterra Engineering is completing a grant application on behalf of the Village to be submitted to the provincial Towns for Tomorrow funding program. The components of the project in the application are: a new ice plant ($300,000); a heat recovery system and insulation of piping ($150,000); a seniors and disabled washroom ($20,000); roof repair ($35,000); and a solar panel grid for the roof for emergency power.

The funding request is for $400,000, with the Village and Area K each contributing $125,000 on top of that. The Village portion will come out of arena reserves, which currently total $140,000 (with this year's contribution).

Peterson also made it clear that he would not entertain a tax increase for Area K residents for the arena service without a referendum. He said he would be asking for the same $166,000 tax requisition from Area K and Nakusp residents combined. With the increased assessments, this would mean that the rate of .62 per $1,000 would be adjusted downwards.

Mayor Hamling said she thought Area K should pay their fair share of the operating shortfall, which was about $50,000 last year. "It's not fair that Nakusp Village taxpayers pay for that."

Peterson said they would have to look at ways other than taxation to address the shortfall. Mayor Hamling said they would discuss this further during budget deliberations.

•Peterson also asked council members if they had any questions about the CBT Community Initiatives funding. Area K and Nakusp will not pool their funds this year, as has been done in the past. Peterson said that although Area K was having a separate vote this year, it was quite possible that a lot of the projects would be on both ballots. He said that according to new CBT rules, the total amount applied for by any one applicant cannot add up to more than the total project cost. He said he envisioned the vote for Area K and Nakusp happening at the same time and same place.

•Council decided to move the matter of the campground management contract into the in camera portion of the meeting. The decision, brought forward from in camera, was to award the contract to Columbia Aquatic and Technical Services Ltd. Councillor Mueller was recorded as opposed.

The Chamber of Commerce, which has held the contract for the last three years, also submitted a proposal and will be sent a thank-you letter.

Mayor Hamling explained in an interview that the Village had asked for a $24,000 share of campground revenue in their Request for Proposals. She said the successful bidder met these terms, whereas the Chamber did not. "We have only taken $7,000 in the past, and we realized we had to change the way we were doing things," said Hamling. "The campground washroom and shower facilities need upgrading, and we need more sites with power. So we checked around to see what other municipalities do and decided to ask for $24,000 – and the manager keeps the rest."

Hamling says she realizes this arrangement doesn't work well for the Chamber because they have to subcontract out to someone to look after the campground. "We support the Chamber and think they are valuable, but we have to look after the campground. The money for upgrades has to come from somewhere, and we have to look after the taxpayer."

•CAO Lafleur reported that the boat launch was open, with repairs ongoing. He asked council members what they wanted done with the old float. They decided to advertise it as available to anyone willing to remove it. If there is no interest, they will ask BC Hydro to remove it.

•Council approved a proposal from Moffat and Nichol to do the feasibility study for the Nakusp wharf. According to the timeline in the proposal, the final report will be submitted August 15, with a public input meeting on May 28. The report will examine two other potential sites for boat launches as well as the existing site and ramp. The consultants will look at the feasibility of: gradually upgrading the ramp using timber or steel or a combination of the two; immediately replacing the ramp with either a rock-fill ramp with an all weather surface or a reinforced concrete slab on grade ramp; and if required, constructing a new boat launch facility, including walkway floats and breakwater, at the two other potential sites.

The proposal also includes environmental and archaeological studies. Fees for the reports were estimated at $77,813, to be paid by BC Hydro.

•The meeting with Interfor, scheduled for February 18, was cancelled and re-scheduled for March 13.

•The unveiling of the new logo will be held April 2 at the arena auditorium.

•Councillor Switzer raised several concerns regarding the archaeology study in the park, including insurance, liability, and timing. He asked that a letter be written asking about these, and that a contract be drawn up between the Village and the archaeology firm, Horizon. Council agreed.

•The OCP bylaw was given second reading and an open house was scheduled for council chambers, March 27 and 28 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

•Council granted the Arrow Lakes Historical Society's request for a letter of support. The society is applying for grants in order to reprint another history book.

•The Middle Earth Café applied for a Development Variance Permit to reduce the number of required off-street parking spaces from 10 to 7. There are currently 7 spaces in the back.

Although Ministry of Transportation approval was not required for the variance, they were given an opportunity to comment and came out against it, as they would like to prevent parking on the highway in front of the café. Council decided to ask that the café install two additional parking spaces just north of the loading zone in the back, as recommended by Village staff. Also, the café will be asked to install signage at the front advising customers there is customer parking at the back.

Included with the café's application was a site plan showing future expansion areas, including a large patio. This will increase the number of parking spaces required, as per bylaw 436, which stipulates that there must be one parking space per three seats in a restaurant.

•Councillor Mueller reported that the marketing committee had chosen Rory McLeod to be Nakusp's photographer for the Picture BC website. After this selection is confirmed by UBCM, the marketing committee will work with him to decide on the themes of the six photographs for the website project.

•The Village will work on a joint funding application to the Southern Interior Development Initative Trust (SIDIT) with the Arrow Slocan Lakes Regional Development Council. The council formed as a result of the Community Connections program, where school districts were provided with funding to explore working with other community groups to gain efficiencies. The SIDIT application will be for asset mapping and the development of a web portal.

•Nakusp resident Bill Barrow provided council with copies of a letter he wrote to the premier regarding the Galena Bay ferry and the Nakusp wharf and the responses he received from the Ministers of Transportation and Agriculture and Lands. Council decided to submit a follow up letter to Minister Falcon and the MLA expressing concerns with the Galena Bay ferry service, lack of washrooms, line-ups and the effect on the forestry industry. The letter will also point out carbon issues, as trucks are running for hours waiting for service.

•Staff was asked to investigate the provincial Green City Awards further, to see if Nakusp's microhydro or treated sewer water reclamation projects would qualify.

•Nakusp will participate in Earth Hour on March 29 from 8-9 pm. This is a challenge to community members to turn off their lights for the hour.

•Council agreed to review the Village budget and three-year plan on March 18 at 6 pm.

•Council ratified the CUPE Collective Agreement proposal as presented.

The Nakusp Jazz Band was one of the many 'Community Artists in Concert' on March 9 at the arena auditorium. The Arrow Lakes Arts Council showcased an amazing array of local talent in celebration of its 30th anniversary and BC's 150th.

Earth Day Canada looking for Hometown Heroes for cash award

submitted

Earth Day Canada, in partnership with Cascades, has launched its search for the 2008 Hometown Heroes award winner. The Hometown Heroes award recognizes and encourages personal environmental achievement at the local level. This year's winner will receive a cash-prize of $10,000 – $5,000 to keep and $5,000 to donate to the environmental cause of their choice.

The most important environmental actions happen at the local level, whether it's the community garden movement, protection of natural spaces, or starting a local environmental organization. The environmental issue you focus on is really up to you. The Hometown Heroes award is looking for the environmental leaders who have shown commitment and achieved results in their community. This year's winner will be recognized as part of the 5th annual Earth Day Canada Gala in Toronto, on June 18. The deadline for applications is April 22, 2008.

For more information, or to nominate yourself, an individual or group from your community, visit www.earthday.ca/hometown.

Computer Acting Up?
Call Ron at the Old Grey Barn
250-265-2163

Honey Bear Bakery
Winter Hours:
Tues-Fri 9:00-4:00
Closed Sat, Sun, Mon
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Rear Alley Entrance

Selkirk College

Ranked as one of the top employers in the Kootenays, Selkirk College is seeking qualified and dynamic individuals to join its team of dedicated employees. For more information about Selkirk College and complete descriptions of exciting career opportunities, please visit our website.

Home Support Resident Care Attendant Instructor
As the Instructor of the Home Support Residence Care Attendant program, you will be required to teach 12 weeks of clinical practicum instruction at the Nakusp campus. You will be a licensed registered nurse, have a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, a backgound in long term care, and be familiar with the practice of home support resident care.
Short-term/full-time. Competition #19. Closes Saturday, March 22.

Selkirk College Human Resources, 301 Frank Beinder Way, Castlegar, BC V1N 3J1
250.365.1390 | postings@selkirk.ca selkirk.ca

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
TO VIEW THE FINAL DRAFT
OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN MAPS
Date: March 17 & 18, 2008
Place: Council Chambers, 91 1st Street NW
Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP
VILLAGE OF Nakusp HOME OF NAKUSP HOT SPRINGS
CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
The Village of Nakusp is seeking expressions of interest from persons interested in removing the existing floating wharf, in preparation for the installation of a new one.
Closing date for submissions is: March 14, 2008 at 4:30 pm
Inquiries may be directed to:
Bob Lafleur, CAO
Village of Nakusp
91 1st Street NW
250-265-3689
blafleur@nakusp.com

Koch Creek power project proponents to hold public meeting

by Jan McMurray

Another public meeting on the Koch Creek independent power project (IPP) near Passmore will be held on April 16 at 7 pm at Crescent Valley Hall.

Since the May 2007 open house on this project, the proponents report that they have been working on addressing public concerns.

"The time we have spent has been positive as we have re-examined the project and come up with better solutions in a number of areas. We look forward to presenting these at the meeting in April," says Darcy Fear, one of the proponents.

Fear says they have been "monitoring the community dialogue" and feel that a lot of the public's concern about IPPs is based on misinformation.

He says he has read several times that 500 creeks and rivers have been claimed by IPPs since the government's 2002 Energy Plan. He feels this is misleading. A February 2008 opinion editorial entitled 'The Facts on Independent Power Production in BC' by Minister Richard Neufeld (Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources) states that between 2001 and 2007, the government issued 80 water licences meant for power generation out of 396 applications.

"Just because you apply for a water licence does not mean that you will end up building a power project," said Fear. "A very small percentage of applicants will actually build."

A water licence application is just the beginning of a very long, involved process, he says. "We applied for our licence in 2001 and we're at Step 4 of 10. We're close to submitting our Water Power Development Plan, which will be referred out to many agencies – that takes three months. We will address any concerns coming out of that. Then we have to get 50 permits before we can start to build."

Another popular misconception, according to Fear, is that private power projects are to blame for our increasing hydro bills. "Right now, BC Hydro is paying exorbitant rates with public money to import power. Why pay the US when we can pay ourselves?"

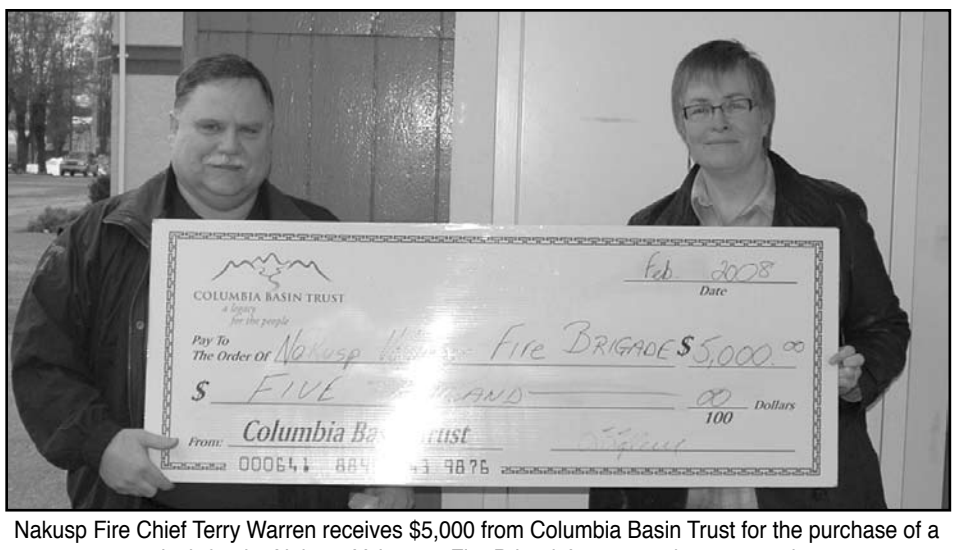
He says that 30% of the income from these projects go back to the government in taxes. "So when you factor that in, power from IPPs will cost less than what we're importing it for," he says.

Fear also points out that most of the contracts with BC Hydro are for 40 years, so Hydro will pay basically the same price per megawatt hour for the entire 40 years. "This protects consumers from hikes in their hydro bills," he says. Because the cost of energy is rising with no relief in sight, Fear says BC Hydro and consumers will do very well by these fixed price 40-year contracts. "It's the independent power company that makes the investment and takes all the risk."

As for BC Hydro's description of the IPPs as 'green power,' Fear says they are indeed green when compared to the electricity we purchase from coal-fired plants in the US and from thermal power plants right here in BC.

He admits, however, that some of the IPPs are much bigger and have much more environmental impact than he'd like to see. "The Koch Creek project is one of the projects with the least amount of environmental damage because the road and power line are already there," he says.

Fear and his partner Harold Kalke invite everyone out to the April 16 meeting at Crescent Valley Hall.



Nakusp Fire Chief Terry Warren receives $5,000 from Columbia Basin Trust for the purchase of a winch for the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Brigade's new road rescue truck.

Lucerne PAC announces three retirees

submitted

The Lucerne School Parent Advisory Council announces the retirement of three of its members this summer.

The three retirees say they envy the new recruits who will be taking over their "cherished positions."

"As the parents of graduating students, we will be sent out to pasture this summer as our children leave Lucerne School. It will be a very sad day for us," lamented one parent.

"How can I possibly turn my back on all the exciting future projects like 'the Secret Garden'?" asks another of the distraught retirees. "I'll miss the smiles of the children as I serve soup at the hot lunch program, and I haven't seen the new uniforms that the soccer team purchased with the help of our grant funding."

"It was wonderful to be able to get the student lounge couches reupholstered this year and provide some funding for the sports teams to travel safely this winter. The after school study hall was such a success," reminisces the third parent.

Parents or guardians of students attending Lucerne Elementary Secondary School, (or starting school this fall), are invited to come out to our next meeting on Thursday, April 3 at the school, 6:30 pm. Hey guys, this isn't just for women!

Meetings are informal, fun and only once a month. Child care may be provided. We promise you won't be burdened by bureaucratic details! We need to fill the shoes of our reluctant retirees. Bring your creative ideas and help us enhance our children's learning experience at Lucerne School. We'd love to find a parent who is interested in overseeing and keeping our new website fresh next fall. www.sd10.bc.ca/less

New Denver royalty holds fashion show

New Denver reigning royalty and candidates held a May Queen Heritage Tea and Fashion Show to kick off Heritage Week, February 17.

The girls were each assigned a decade between 1900 and 1960, and had to come up with three outfits: one career, one casual, and one evening. One had to be made from plastic bags; one had to be picked out at the Donation Store; and one had to be borrowed.

"The girls were very creative, and came up with some awesome outfits," said Lora Lee Brekke, who runs the May Queen program with Rhonda Bouillet.

May Queen candidates don their plastic bag creations while the two current princesses show their evening attire at the May Queen Heritage Tea and Fashion Show last month. L to R: Candidates Michelle Magnuson, Ashley Bernhof, Tisha Becker, Princesses Eva Wictorin-Shandro and Amy Schpakowski, and Candidate Hazen Donnet.

Midget Rep team earns berth at provincial championships

by Jan McMurray

The North Kootenay Falcons Midget Rep team, with players from Nakusp, Kaslo and New Denver, is off to the provincials March 15-20 in Beaver Valley.

Seven teams will face off at the tournament in the hopes of bringing home the banner and the title of Single A Midget Rep provincial champion.

The North Kootenay Falcons won the West Kootenay league banner after winning two games against Beaver Valley. Scores were 7-2 and 4-1.

The team was ecstatic to have such a huge crowd of about 300 people out to watch them play off in the league championship in February, and are hoping their fans will make the trek to the provincials in Beaver Valley.

The team plays March 16 at 4:30 pm against Windermere; March 17 at 2 pm against Prince Rupert; March 18 at 11 am against Revelstoke and at 8 pm against Tumbler Ridge; March 19 at 2 pm against Whistler; and March 20 at 2 pm against Beaver Valley. The championship game will be played at 8 pm on March 20.

The team hopes to see you there!

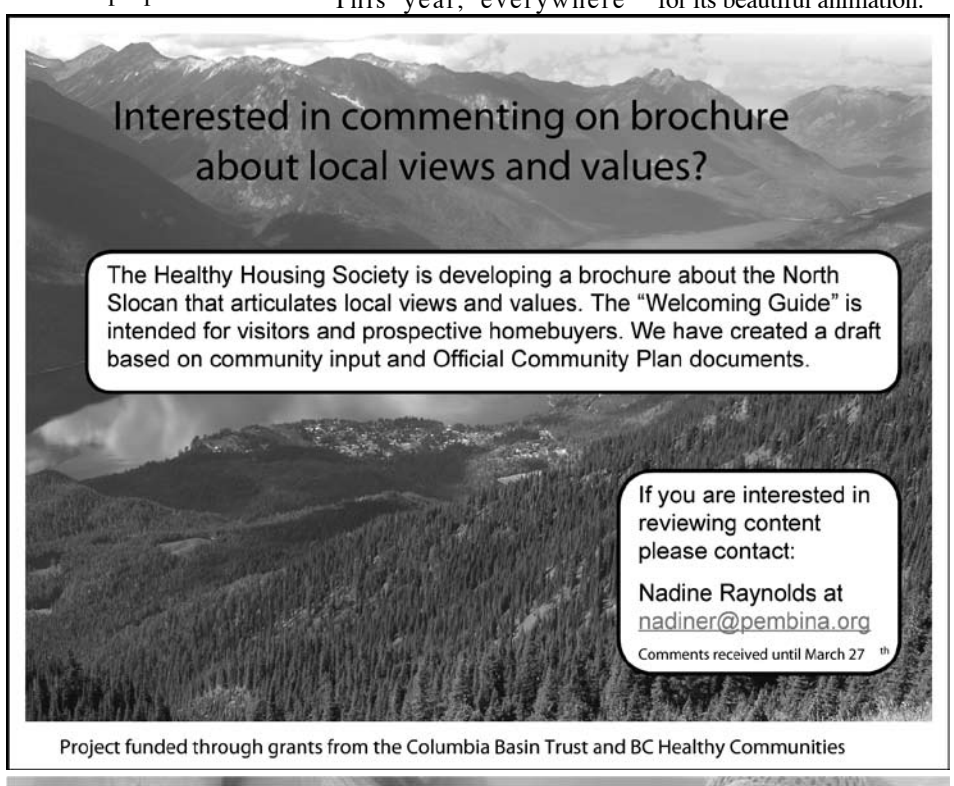
French NFB films to screen in Nakusp

submitted

The Bonnington Arts Centre will be the venue of National Film Board film screenings on Wednesday, March 12 from 1 to 3 pm.

Cinefil Cinema Club is proud to present *Isabelle au Bois Dormant*, *Tzaritza*, *Ici par Ici* and *Timine et Brossette*. This year, everywhere across Canada, from March 7 to March 23, the Office National du Film celebrates la Francophonie.

Admission is free. Come practice your official second language with the students of Nakusp Secondary School. The National Film Board is recognized around the world for its beautiful animation.



Kaslo council, February 26: Council asks to delay borrowing for provincial building purchase

by Jan McMurray

•Council authorized CAO Rae Sawyer to write to the Municipal Finance Authority, requesting that the loan to purchase the provincial building be delayed until fall.

Sawyer emailed council members with her concerns about borrowing the money before receiving the business case, successfully negotiating the takeback lease with the Province or signing off on the Offer to Purchase. If the borrowing went ahead now, the Village would be obligated to make the loan payments with interest for ten years whether it purchases the building or not. The loan would also limit the Village's borrowing power.

The delay does not affect the Village's ability to purchase the building, as interim borrowing is available until fall.

•Mayor Holland and CAO Sawyer were authorized to hire someone to complete the conservation plan for the City Hall building. The Village received funding from Heritage BC to complete the plan by March 31. The Village will apply for an extension to this deadline.

•The Kaslo and District Public Library will be advised that the 'dark cell' project is approved, as long as the heritage fabric of the City Hall building is protected. Permission was granted to decommission the washroom and Public Works will move the fixtures.

The 'dark cell' is part of the original jail in the basement of the City Hall building. The library plans to create a local history room in the cell. Currently, access to the dark cell is through the washroom.

•Anne Malik from the public library submitted historical information about the basement of City Hall and the dark cell in the hopes that it would be useful in the development of a Conservation Plan for the City Hall building. The correspondence was referred to the City Hall Conservation Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council agreed in principle to Mayor Holland discussing with the RDCK board the possibility of locating the proposed abattoir at the Kaslo airport industrial site.

•Council agreed to observe a communications policy as recommended by the Municipal Services Committee. The policy states that councillors will encourage the public to write to council with their concerns, requests and suggestions, and that any emails received on personal email be immediately forwarded to Village email. Councillors are to clearly act as individuals when outside council chambers or meetings.

•Mayor Holland reported that the RDCK board had created a Community Development Program to support the social, economic or environmental well-being of participants. Kaslo will have access to $20,000 per year under this program. Funding for the program comes from the hydro grants in lieu of taxes. Council agreed to set aside $5,000 of this annually for economic development.

Council will also send a letter of thanks to the RDCK board for creating this program, which allows Kaslo to share in hydro grant in lieu funding for the first time.

•A report from Elizabeth Scarlett of Kaslo Physiotherapy with suggested improvements to sidewalks in the village for people using electric scooters and wheelchairs was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

•Kaslo's application for funding to the provincial Flood Protection program for the water treatment plant was not successful.

•An email was received from Dale Unruh asking if the Village would consider applying to the Flood Protection program for an engineering study on flood protection for the old T&H sawmill site on the south side of the Kaslo River. He will be advised that Kaslo has no plans or resources to commit to such a study.

•A letter from the Community Consultative Group requesting that the speed limit along the entire length of Front Street be 25 kms per hour was referred to the CAO for discussion with the Ministry of Transportation. Another letter from the CCG asking council to consider signage indicating the location of the RCMP station and the business district was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

•Stan Baker wrote to council to suggest it reconsider the times when open burning is permitted in the bylaw (no. 1050). He says September 30 to November 15 would be better than April 15 to May 15. His letter was referred to the next special meeting of council.

•Rodney Arnold of Meadow Creek Cedar requested a meeting with council and Area D Director Andy Shadrack to inform them of the possible impact of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan on the community. Council decided not to invite Arnold to a regular meeting.

•All municipal grant applications, totaling $12,550, were referred to budget deliberations.

•Fire Chief Larry Badry was authorized to attend a wildland urban interface symposium March 17-20 in Penticton.

•Bernie Eckstein of the Kaslo Volunteer Fire Department was authorized to submit a funding request to the Department of Canadian Heritage for organizing activities to celebrate Canada Day.

•Staff will arrange a meeting with Ian Dyck, Project Manager – Resource Plan from FortisBC at the end of March.

•Councillor Jones suggested that the Community Consultative Group take on the Home Hardware tree grant program.

•Accounts payable of $23,757.83 were approved.

Water bottling one step closer - land tenure granted

by Jan McMurray

Silvio and Stefan Lettrari have come one step closer to their goal of bottling the pure spring water they use in their Kaslo Sourdough bread. Their application for land tenure was approved at the end of February, with some modifications.

The family plans to build a water bottling facility on their private land in South Fork. The water they will bottle comes from two springs up on Mount Holme. The Lettraris have already put in a waterline from the springs to Keen Creek forestry road, where they have a water filling station. The new land tenure grants them the right to put in a second waterline from the filling station down to their South Fork property, following the logging road. It also allows them to build a small parking area and turnaround near the water station.

Originally, they were also considering building a small water bottling plant at this same site near their water station. This would have allowed them to start small with their bottling business while they were building the larger bottling facility on their land at South Fork. However, the approved land tenure does not allow for the bottling facility on the Crown land.

Silvio says this season, they will start constructing the water bottling plant on their land in South Fork and will get the second pipeline in to the property.

"We're very happy with the tenure," says Silvio. "They gave us more space for the water station and parking area, and it gives more protection to the springs."

As part of their water licence to use the spring water in their Kaslo Sourdough bread, they obtained a Permit over Crown land (PCL) for the pipe they put in by hand from the spring on Mount Holme to Keen Creek forestry road. This new tenure, a Licence of Occupation over Crown land, replaces that permit. Silvio says it's a "much more solid arrangement" that provides more protection from activities such as logging around the water source.

The second waterline down to the Lettrari property will be 1.5 kms long and will be machine dug. When this is completed, the Lettraris will have a total of 2.3 kms of pipe from the source to their property.

Silvio says the government Lands Officer told him the office had received a lot of public input. "That amazed me because barely anyone contacted me," he said.

He says it will be a while yet before the plant is up and running. "I'm still dealing with red tape," he says. "I have to prove to the Ministry of Environment that the water is clean so I can get a permit to dispose of the rinse water."

He says he will also be working with the health inspector on treatment of the water. "If I have to, I only want to UV it, which is harmless and does not alter any characteristics of the water. I want to offer people unaltered, naturally pure water – no ozonation, reverse osmosis or any other tampering. This truly is a most unpolluted source of drinking water and our aim is to keep it that way for locals, since all municipal waters are compromised by chlorination, source location or some other contamination."

Keeping it natural is important to the Lettraris, for both their breads and their water. "We want to retain the life giving vitality of bread and water," says Silvio. "Historically, these are essential to a healthy diet. We want to contribute to the transformation of consciousness, returning back to our roots to realize what is important in life."

Meadow Creek Cedar mill shut down indefinitely

by Jan McMurray

The Meadow Creek Cedar mill ran one day last week and is now shut down indefinitely, reports the company's woodlands manager, Rodney Arnold.

"Nobody is buying fir, larch or peelers for plywood. Hemlock is down. There is only a demand for cedar," he says.

The company is doing a bit of logging, he said, and paying the contractor with wood. They hope to hire a second contractor under the same terms after spring break-up.

Arnold predicts that the downturn in the market will last another 4-5 years because of the mortgage fiasco in the US.

He says 28 sawmills have closed down in the province and "I think we're going to lose 25 sawmills and a couple of pulp mills yet."

The two recent budgets, federal and provincial, have nothing in them to help forestry, he says. "With 50% of the sawmill industry down and pulp mills hanging on by a thread, we need drastic action."

Arnold says the government could help on at least two fronts – stumpage and the caribou issue.

He says stumpage is up to more than $22 per metre and is based on 2004 figures. He also points out that companies are responsible for reforestation for 15 years. With rising fuel prices and the green tax introduced in the provincial budget, he feels too much money is going to the banks and government when working people are in need.

Arnold says the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan will take 45% of Meadow Creek Cedar's operating area and affect its Annual Allowable Cut by up to 23%. "So we're fighting that with government," he said. "The SARCO (Species at Risk Co-ordination Office) plan is top down, and should be bottom up. My argument is that the ungulates population has increased beyond reason, so the predator population is up, and the disturbance by recreationalists is astounding. Habitat is not the issue."

Brenda Herbison, Registered Professional Biologist, is completing landscape level field assessments for each area of Meadow Creek Cedar's tenure.

Museaus string quartet comes to Kaslo

submitted

Kaslo Concert Society presents Musaeus, a string quartet from Lethbridge, on Friday, March 28 at 7:30 pm in St. Andrew's United Church. The program includes music by Mozart, Turina, and Schumann as well as light classics, jazz and selections by Fritz Kreisler, George Gershwin and The Beatles.

Musaeus is the resident professional string quartet whose members are the four principal string players of the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra. Musaeus was founded in 1982 and has earned a reputation as one of Alberta's most versatile and accomplished classical performing groups. Musaeus is: violinists Norbert Boehm and Maria Geppert, violist Graham Tagg and cellist Mark Rodgers.

Tickets for the Musaeus concert available at the door. Adults $20, Seniors $18, Students $5. School-age children admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. Further information 353-7539, 354-5368, or 366-4623.

Peace Café on Canada's mission in Afghanistan

submitted

As part of the national day of action for peace, the Nelson Peace Coalition is hosting a Peace Café and Teach-In at the Nelson United Church, 602 Silica Street, lower level on Saturday, March 15 from 2-5 pm.

The Nelson Peace Coalition joins the Canadian Peace Alliance in calling for the Canadian government to "end it, don't extend it." Only seven percent of Canadians strongly support the Afghanistan mission, while 59 percent of Canadians oppose it, according to a July 2007 poll by the Strategic Counsel. This mission is costing taxpayers nearly $1.3 million per day. Annual military spending, at $13 billion and rising, could easily wipe out Canada's $10 billion infrastructure deficit.

Speakers at the Peace Café will include MP Alex Atamanenko, Francisco Juarez, the first Canadian soldier to resist deployment to Afghanistan, and members of the Nelson Peace Coalition. There will be a live broadcast of *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*, featuring testimony from US veterans. Singer Melanie Harper, poet Sean Arthur Joyce and the Raging Grannies will perform.

Free and open to the public. Food and refreshments will be available.

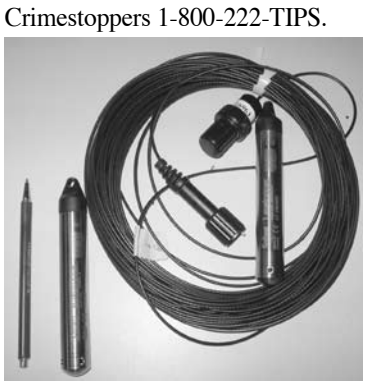
Reward offered for return of water devices

submitted by Kaslo RCMP

AXOR group is offering a reward for the return of two water measurement devices that were stolen from Glacier Creek Forest Service Road in the fall of 2007. AXOR will pay up to $2000.00 for the return of the working/functioning devices.

The devices collected a variety of information about the creek. The equipment is described as black plugs, wires and cylinders which are approximately six inches long and one inch in diameter, with Barologger and Levellogger printed on the sides.

Anyone with any information regarding the stolen items is requested to call Kaslo RCMP 353-2225 or Crimestoppers 1-800-222-TIPS.



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Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

Rolling into the new season

Whether March arrives like a lion or a lamb, I'm always happy to have it back, with the lengthening days, melting snow piles and smells of earth and water again. As well as all those outdoor projects we can get back to and those grand new schemes for the garden, there are lots more aspects of outdoor recreation to enjoy including bicycling.

There will always be diehards who stoically cycle right through the winter, but most of us dust off the bike sometime toward Easter. The spring school break tends to get most kids out rippin' around and as the roads and trails become clear and dry and firm enough you start to see two-wheelers everywhere.

Every year as I start to set up weekends for my Bicycle Hospital routine I see some patterns develop in both riders and their bikes that I generally mention to customers and these thoughts may be worth sharing now at the outset of the 2008 season.

Like how people dress for instance. Helmets are a legal requirement for all riders and although not really enforceable by the RCMP by sheer logistics, they're an awful good idea to adopt both to protect the rider and to make that rider more visible in traffic. Truthfully, we don't all wear the things all the time when wool caps are warmer, ball caps cooler, or the nature of the ride may seem to lessen the need for helmets.

Anyway, I wear mine mostly and most folks oughta too. First thing in the season you should clean the helmet and liner and check carefully for cracks, missing pads, straps that are goofed up and actual fit on your head if your hair is different now or if you've got kids who have grown over the winter period. Helmets are cheap enough – most of what I use or sell are in the $40 range but you can spend less or way more. Ear bands can keep you warmer in early rides and most new helmets are well vented for hot weather.

High visibility clothing is smart to wear and generally comfy too. Heavy layers of dark cold weather gear will be warm at the start of the ride but soon get too hot and may not be easy to see for drivers. When riding in shady spots you should assume that drivers can't see you unless you have some reflective feature on your outerwear. One other thing to keep in mind is that a coasting bicycle can blend into the background very easily so if you're coasting along approaching traffic or an intersection, at least rotate the pedals slowly and even weave around slightly to get noticed.

Bicycle tires lose air over time and I really don't know why. My truck doesn't, my boat trailer and motorcycle don't, but my bikes sure do, and so does yours. There must be some weird law of pneumatic physics involved 'cause even a new bike in a showroom will lose tire pressure over time. Road bikes are worse than mountain bikes and they all do it so feel no shame if your tires gradually get soft over the weeks. I inflate over 1000 bike tires per year in my shop for free, so no big deal.

Thankfully bicycles have no stupid electronic stuff on them to screw up and they still rely mainly on simple cables to execute shifting and braking duties. But these need some fussing and oiling to keep working well, or can be replaced cheaply if too far gone. Wheels still use wire spokes for strength and light weight, and need some consideration too. Nice thing with bicycles is that everything is pretty well out in the open and easy to assess if things aren't quite right.

I've gotten out for some road rides already on our valley highways as things get nicer and skiing becomes less dominant in the weekly routine. Things are dusty and splashy in spots for some time yet, but the sun and wind feel great. All those pleasant little experiences of riding come flooding back with these first rides and the child inside even the most jaded adult is awakened again.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and prefers daylight savings to standard time anytime. 358-2133

A Jumbo Grizzly Question -

Grizzly bears are an indicator species. As our largest carnivores their thriving presence indicates a complete ecosystem. BC has a Grizzly Bear Strategy and says it is dedicated to maintaining abundant biodiversity. So it is not without reason that the conservation community clings to the belief that the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort (JGR) development will eventually be acknowledged as totally unacceptable.

Without exception highly respected bear biologists continue to agree that the Jumbo Valley area is prime habitat for the Central Purcell grizzly bears and vitally important for migration connectivity. They continue to express the dire consequences that will visit the bears should the JGR be allowed to proceed.

Yet, in 2004 the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), in spite of all the obvious reasons for rejection, granted the JGR acceptance - but with conditions.

Conditions 101 - 109 pertain specifically to grizzly bears. Number 101 is "the proponent has committed to the Bear Smart program." Numbers 102 - 109 include, but with far less determination, these commitments: "to implement, at his own costs, all mitigation measures," "strive to achieve no net impact," "pursue arrangements," "monitor and adapt management" and finally "make every effort."

After the Conditional Approval my official contact was Psyche Brown, Manager of Major Ski Projects for the Kootenays, who operates under the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts.

While interviewing Psyche I have never failed to inquire about the current grizzly bear mitigation measures. And I have never failed to receive what I perceived as vague answers. As one season turns into the next we have witnessed the Resort Master Plan becoming accepted. Now the Master Development Agreement is about to be inked. After that the proponent will apply for Resort Municipality Status.

But what about the grizzly bears? Last month Psyche told me, "Now that the Funding Authority has approved dollar figures there will be some changes in the grizzly bear mitigation strategy, the specifics of which are as yet unknown".

This last ambiguous statement I could not let rest. We are now into the fourth year since the nine Commitments became the guide. Can it truly be that all that is being done is to follow those spineless requests? I decided to go to the top to see if anyone knows about, or cares about, the bears.

It was suggested that I contact Mike Badry, Senior Bear Biologist, MoE, Victoria. Mike has had nothing to do with the proposed JGR. He referred me to Garth Mowat, Senior Wildlife Carnivore Specialist, MoE, Nelson. His mandate is to make sure there is normal population density throughout the Central Purcell Region.

Hunting quotas have already been halved. He is currently reviewing access closures for hunters which will take one to two years to go in to effect. Garth has nothing to do with the JGR.

He referred me to Doug Martin, Senior Ecosystem Biologist for Fish and Wildlife, MoE, Cranbrook. He remembers that the proponent's responsibilities were to address the fact that the resort development would impact the habitat in a major way. He also remembers not agreeing with "government, who basically took the proponent's responsibilities and gave them to the EAO."

But he has nothing to do with the JGR and referred me to Mat Austin, Senior Ecosystem Biologist, MoE, Victoria. He hasn't been involved with the JGR proposal for many, many years. However, when he was, he did the best he could for the bears. He thanked me for remembering him as the author of the noteworthy study and published paper in 2000.

As an aside, he said, "The Victoria newspapers have recently been running stories about the JGR proponent wanting government to revisit what 'local decision' means when pertaining to his upcoming need for Resort and Municipality Status." This surely concurs with the 11-15-07 letter from Ida Chong, Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts, received by one of the Jumbo Wild people in the East Kootenay. That letter said very clearly, seven times by count, that the decision would be made by the Regional District of East Kootenay.

Mat referred me to Archie Riddel, the current Project Assessment Director at the EAO, Victoria. He said the EAO is not currently active with the JGR proposal. He did volunteer that, "Presently the proponent's biggest challenge is getting local government approval". I asked about Bill 11, Sections 14, 15 and 16 that was legislated last year. He told me, "The proponent must apply for this intervention but applying does not necessarily mean one will be successful in achieving that goal".

Archie referred me to Dave Dunbar, Section Head for Fish and Wildlife biology, Kootenay Region, MoE, Cranbrook. He manages populations and if there is any problem, Garth Mowat would be involved. I informed him that Garth had this situation under control.

Dave referred me back to Doug Martin, the third person I talked with. But now Doug had a few days to consider our first conversation. He remembered being involved with the CORE Table in 1991. He said, "The table decided the Jumbo Valley was a 'no urban development' designation. But by the time the KBLUP Implementation Strategy appeared, the 'no urban development' designation was deleted. Instead the Jumbo area fell into Special Management, so in the end, the proposed resort development could be considered." Doug referred me to Psyche Brown. So, I phoned Psyche for the very latest about grizzly bear mitigation. She assured me, "Everything that is required in the Commitments is being met."

Obviously my interpretations of her past comments being allusive and ambiguous are not what she intended since all the while her department and the proponent are being guided by, in my opinion, the most nonspecific bureaucratic doublespeak and bafflegab document to ever come down the pike. Does anyone official care about Jumbo Grizzly Bears? And more to the point, can anyone officially do anything to help them? That is the Grizzly Jumbo question.

Rowena Eloise lives in Argenta.

March Gardening 101

March! Well the sun is sure teasing us out of the winter slumber we've been under, but the snow is still piled high. For February we started our peppers, eggplants, and many greens for early spring planting. We all love to eat yummy greens throughout the summer, and mid March can be another time for planting greens indoors that will be ready a few weeks after your first planting in February.

You can also start, indoors of course, your onions, leeks, kale, cabbage, broccoli, fennel, and lettuce. Asparagus is good to start now, knowing you will have 2-3 years for these perennials to produce lovely lush long green stalks.

Most plants need no less than 15° C for germination. General growing conditions require adequate light, which in our westerly mountains can be a challenge. Consider buying a full spectrum light you can have above your plants for supplemental light. You want to make sure your seedlings (starts) will have 12 hours of light each day. With a little love, some water, and light your plants will take right off. Remember, certain veggies need bottom heat to germinate. Plants such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and basil all benefit from being atop a heat source such as a refrigerator, furnace, radiator, or hot-water heater, but sometimes these sources produce inconsistent heat, too much or too little. You can buy professional heat mats for your trays, or an easier less expensive way would be to provide general warmth, instead of bottom heat, with a common clip-on lamp (I would use a 75 watt Gro 'N'Show bulb, but any incandescent light will do).

A good seed starting mix should have several characteristics. It should be lightweight to provide needed air spaces for the seeds. It should absorb water very well as moisture is very important to seed growth. It should be sterile so no fungus or diseases are introduced to your garden, and finally it should not be high in nutrient value, since seeds draw only moisture, air and warmth from the soil and get their nutrients from the endosperm or cotyledons. The simplest way is to make your own using equal parts of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. When transplanting your plants into bigger pots, then you would want to use a nutrient-rich potting soil.

The Kaslo food security project will be hosting a 'Seedy Saturday' March 22 at the Seniors Hall. Come to swap, buy, learn, and hear about Kaslo's fabulous Lawns to Gardens contest! We will be officially launching the project that day and showing a fabulous movie featuring BC seed guru Dan Jason called *Gardens of Destiny*. The day starts at noon, Lawns to Gardens launch at 2 pm, and we show the movie at 3 pm. Any questions, contact Aimee, North Kootenay Lake's food security coordinator at 353-7691 or aimeewatson@nklcss.org

Feeling overwhelmed and want some help with your garden or seeds? Gardening consultation and maintenance is available to anyone in the North Kootenay Lake region. Contact Conscious Growth Gardening and Landscaping with any of your garden questions at 353-7337. Ask for Matt the gardener. Happy Gardening!

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ANNOUNCEMENT

ROTARY CLUB of Nakusp is looking for submissions to nominate the 2007 Citizens of the Year in Nakusp and area. Nominations seek a person of any age who has made an outstanding contribution to the community. This may include our youth, couples or individuals. Please include in your nomination as much supporting data as possible. Deadline Friday, March 21, 2008. Please mail nominations to: Citizen of the Year Award Committee, Rotary Club of Nakusp and area, PO Box 62, Nakusp, BC V0G 1R0. For more information, please call 265-3373.

THE HEALTHY HOUSING SOCIETY of New Denver is developing a brochure about the North Slocan that articulates local views and values. The "Welcoming Guide" is intended for visitors and prospective homebuyers. We have created a draft based on community input and Official Community Plan documents. If you are interested in reviewing the content please contact Nadine Raynolds at nadiner@pembina.org.

THE VALLICAN WHOLE Community Center and Whole School history can be found on Dr. Marcia Braundy's website at www.men-women-tools.ca/documents/History-Vallican_Whole_and_School.htm. An edited version of this appeared in the February 28 Valley Voice.

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 Marilyn Rivers at 265-3674, ext. 201 or email nakusp@futures.bc.ca.

THE SLOCAN LAKE GOLF CLUB is seeking interested individuals to lease the Clubhouse restaurant in the 2008 season. If you like the idea of operating your own business, then this opportunity is for you. All equipment supplied. Contract details to be determined. For more information, please call Dawn at 358-2305, email: dawne7@telus.net or Pat at 358-2441, email: muffinl@xplornet.com. Please send your expression of interest by March 28, 2008 to: Slocan Lake Golf Club, PO Box 297, New Denver BC V0G 1S0.

CARD OF THANKS

THANK YOU! Two weeks before I leave for Student Leadership in Washington DC I want to thank all of you who played at the Coffee House. I thank the local individuals who made donations and the following businesses: Ann's Natural Foods, William Hunter Cabins, Village of New Denver, The Arrow Lake Teachers Association, Lucerne School, and Lucerne PAC.

I will write of my experiences when I return.

Sincerely, Rumi Nakabayashi.

COMING EVENTS

THE KOOTENAY DANCEBEAT SOCIETY presents a Social Ballroom Dance at Brent Kennedy School, South Slocan on the second Saturday of every month until June. Mini Lesson 7:30pm, Dancing 8 pm - 11 pm. Everyone Welcome! Cost $5.00. For more info www.dancingbeat.org

ONE-STROKE PAINTING WORKSHOP – Sat. March 29th 10-3 in Silverton at the United Church annex. –This course is for the absolute beginner painter, or any artist who would like to add this unique technique to theirs. Cost $65 includes everything, just bring your own lunch, wear old clothes and show up by 9:45am. You must pre-register, and now only 5 spots left, you instructor is Karen Dubreuil 358-2828.

ADULT DROP-IN VOLLEYBALL. Sundays, 6:30 pm at the Lucerne School Gym.

BUSINESS & CAREER EXPO, April 26/08 at Nakusp Arena. Great opportunity to showcase your business and promote products and services you provide. Call the Chamber of Commerce to reserve your booth 265-4234.

BOTTLE DRIVE – Lucerne students, Friday-Saturday March 14 & 15. Support Destination Imagination trip to Vancouver. 358-7222.

CHAKRA (INTUITIVE) PAINTING WORKSHOP held on Saturday March 15 (1-4pm) $22 in Silverton. Call Sue of Soulgarden at 258-2177 to register.

VALHALLA FINE ARTS 2008 SPRING CONCERT SERIES: March 30, May 1, May 18, June 29. To support Grand Piano Fund and youth programming. See details in this and future issues.

MEMBERS OF THE SLOCAN VALLEY Community Presbyterian Church welcome everyone to a service at 10:00 am on Sunday at the Passmore Hall. Come and enjoy music and praise that will lift your spirits. Refreshments and good eats are provided after the service.

ST. PADDY'S BUFFET & CASINO NIGHT, March 15th Slocan Legion Hall, 5 pm Cocktails, 6 pm Casino, 7 pm Buffet, $12 till Mar.14th, $14 door, 8 pm more Casino! Tickets available Mt. Valley Station, Slocan & Legion members. No Minors.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Slocan River Streamkeepers Society will be held at Vallican Heritage Hall on Monday, April 1, 7:00 pm. If you would like to learn more about Streamkeepers, or possibly join us to work on aquatic habitat maintenance and restoration issues, please come out.

HILLS & AREA RESIDENTS: Mark your calendars: the Hills Recreation Society will hold a community meeting and Annual General Meeting on Sunday April 6, 2 pm, at the Hills Doukhobor Hall. Learn about plans and discuss: construction of the Hills fire hall, plans for the 2008 Hills Garlic Festival, repairs to the tennis court, and the Official Community Plan process as it applies to Hills and the north Slocan Lake area. Hills Rec. Society memberships ($5/person) will be available at the door. Everyone welcome.

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PRENATAL CLASSES, Mar. 28, Apr. 4, 11;

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DISCOVER THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS, accessing Selkirk College Library online, Apr. 2;

AIRBRAKES, Apr. 4,5,6;

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EMPLOYMENT

SO YOU WANT TO START A DAY HOME BUSINESS? Stay at home with your own child and get help to start your business. Information evening March 11, Thread's Guild from 7 to 8 pm, and March 18, Crescent Valley Hall, from 7 to 8 pm. Facilitated by Aanyta Fahrenbruch of Child Care Resource and Referral and Val Mayes. Call Laverne at 226-7879 to register. An initiative of the Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council.

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OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE - 16' x 24', next to Silverton Building Supplies on highway. $265.00/month. Call 250-358-2293.

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A limited supply will be available in the Kootenays at: Kaslo Building Supplies, Nelson Farmers Supply, Columbia Valley Greenhouses (Trail), Sunset Feeds (Creston).

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PART-TIME CHAIRSIDE DENTAL ASSISTANT required for the Saddle Mountain Dental Clinic in Nakusp. Some related experience or knowledge of dental instruments and procedures required. Willingness to learn and a sense of humour would be an asset. The position would be for 21 hours per week for an initial training period, then be about 10 hours per week. Please email resume to: dsandoli@telus.net

DISHWASHER & WAIT STAFF WANTED. Thursday-Sunday evenings. Must have restaurant experience and FoodSafe certificate. Wait staff must have Serving it Right. Call Lilliana at the Wild Rose 358-7744.

NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION ON AA MEETINGS contact Dave 358-7265; John 265-4924; Tonio 358-7158; Dave 353-2658; Joan 355-2805; Dan 359-7817; Bill 226-7705.

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! SLOCAN LAKE RECREATION COMMISSION #6 will be holding its Spring Grant-in-Aid session on Wednesday, April 16th, 2008. Any non-profit organization wanting to apply for a Grant-in-Aid should submit the proper application to Box 293, New Denver, B. C. V0G 1S0. Application forms are available from the Village of New Denver, the Village of Silverton and Lucerne School. Please note that the appropriate form must be used or the application will not be considered. The deadline for the application is April 15th, 2008.

Silverton Historical Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, March 28, 2008 - You are cordially invited to attend the Silverton Historical Society's Annual General Meeting to be held at 1 pm on Friday March 28, 2008 at the Interpretive Centre at the Silverton Gallery. Please join us and learn what your society has accomplished this past year and be a part of our exciting plans and opportunities for 2008. The AGM will feature election of officers, treasurer's report, president's report and an overview of plans for the future. The AGM will be followed by the regularly scheduled membership meeting. We will look forward to seeing everyone there.

OBITUARY

ALBERT WINJE
Nov 17, 1940 – Feb 25, 2008

Winje: On Monday morning, February 25, 2008 Albert (Abbie) Brian Winje passed away suddenly at home. Albert is survived by his loving family; Bonnie Winje his loving wife and partner of 42 years, Son Brent (Maureen) Winje, Daughter Lorianne (Shadow) Winje, Grandchildren Steven (Katelynn) Winje, Tyson Winje, Wade Winje, Jasmine Hamling, Brittney McKracken, Rachel McKracken, Brothers Eric (Aline) Winje, Richard (Nicole) Winje, and Sister Aloria (Ken) Moore. Albert was predeceased by his Father and Mother Albert Lien Winje and Agda Lusie Winje, Son Brian Lien Winje and Sister Karna Franche. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, February 29, 2008 at 1:00 PM from the Slocan Legion Hall. Interment will follow in the Slocan Cemetery. If so desired a donation can be made to the Slocan Community Health Care Aux. Society, New Denver Pavilion, Box 129, New Denver, BC. V0G 1S0. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Thompson Funeral Service Ltd.

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OBITUARY

NANCY JOAN ANDERSON (nee Harris), a well loved and respected member of our community, passed away with her husband, John, by her side on February 22 at the Pavilion.

Nancy was born on June 28, 1930 in New Denver, grew up on her grandfather's farm and returned to live there, at 'Harris Ranch,' for her last 30 years.

A biologist with a degree from UBC, Nancy became one of BC's best naturalists. She knew and loved the province, especially the alpine meadows in the Kootenays. She co-authored *Nature West Coast* and was a life member of the Vancouver Natural History Society, the BC Naturalists, and represented the Kootenays on the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Fund. She helped establish some of the province's ecological reserves, including the unique yellow cedar stand at the head of Nemo Creek on Slocan Lake. She worked particularly to save wetlands. Nancy conducted many field trips for school children, for elder hostellers out of Lemon Creek Lodge, and for the West Kootenay and Nakusp Naturalists.

While living in Whitehorse in the late 1950s with her first husband, she devoted much time to saving the rare and special Tahltan Indian Bear Dog from extinction. Although unsuccessful, she and her family were fortunate to have several as pets.

Also well known for her active role in our area's history, Nancy co-founded the Sandon Historical Society with her long-time family friend, Eugene Petersen. She followed in her father's footsteps as president of the Silverton Historical Society for many years. She helped arrange to have the award-winning book *Old Silverton* written and published, and assisted author John Norris.

Nancy was also active in the first stages of the Rails to Trails project and with the Silverton Gallery Society.

Nancy was a loyal and enthusiastic member of the 'Silverton Ladies Hiking Club,' with whom she took many happy and memorable camping and hiking trips.

Nancy will be greatly missed by her family and friends and also by the many wild and domestic animal friends she deeply cared about.

Cremation was arranged by Thompson Funeral Service Ltd. of Nelson. A celebration of Nancy's life will be held on Saturday, April 19 at 2 pm at the Bosun Hall, which was built by her grandfather, Joseph C. Harris. Tea to follow.

Donations in Nancy's name to the Slocan Community Health Centre, BC Alzhemier Society or to any animal welfare organization would be appreciated.

JACK ROSS died on December 23rd, 2007 in Nelson at Mt. St. Francis of Parkinson's Disease. He was buried in Argenta. A memorial will be held May 4 at Argenta Hall at 2 pm.

Jack was a Quaker, a professor of sociology, a lifelong activist for peace, social justice, and environmental issues, a nonviolence trainer, a poet and much more. He participated in campaigns for aboriginal rights, ran for office as a Green Party candidate, and fasted in prison for the protection of watersheds threatened by logging.

Here is one of his poems.

Changing

When in penitentiary I shall consider personal change:

1.Try to find something to be penitent about.

2. Embrace paradox: as a child I stepped on ants. Now I like to kneel and speak to them. Margaret Mead said that only small groups ever change anything. But everyone changes things. Start with self.

3.Celebrate successes, In 1988 I got a legal stay for a year on the use of pesticides on some Kootenay highways. I liked to point to the flowers by the road and say: "Me and God did that" And the rain. Try to get a competent coworker when you set out to change things.

My Argenta friends stopped the use of pesticides in the Lardeau Valley by persistent nonviolence.

4 Learn prayer. Prayer changes things. Attention is prayer. Silence is the first step to simplicity, simplicity is the first step toward wholeness, wholeness is peace. Celebrate silence, grow in it toward wholeness. Where does the Inner Light lead me?

Born of water, cleansing, powerful, healing, changing, we are.

PETS

MARTY NEEDS A LOVING HOME - We are moving and need to find a loving, country home for Marty. He is about 7 years old, neutered and a Sheltie cross. Loves to have his belly rubbed and play fetch with a tennis ball. He likes to play with other dogs and is a faithful friend. He is also a good watchdog. Marty comes with his own bed, bags of dog food and a good supply of tennis balls. If you can supply Marty a good home where he has room to sniff about, is kept warm and will be loved, please call Bruce or Sue. 352-9811.

SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SEPTIC TANK CLEANING: "Serving the Valley" 7 days/wk, 24-hr. All-Around Septic Services, Don Brown (250) 354-3644, emergency 352-5676.

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WANTED

FOOD AND CRAFT VENDORS WANTED for Kaslo's 116th annual May Day Celebrations, May 17th, 18 & 19. Download the application form www.kaslochamber.com or for more information please e-mail Heather at kaslomaydays@netidea.com or call (250) 353-7311.

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SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

SPRING BREAK ART CAMP - with Karla Pearce. March 17th to 20th. Slocan Park Hall

SLOCAN VALLEY SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE - Pre-school to Grade 6. Registration now underway.

KIDS ZONE BUY & SELL - Sat. April 5th. Reserve your table today!

INOOR GARDENING-WHEATGRASS & SPROUTS. With Jeannie McLaughlin. Sat. April 5th

POSSESSION AND ACQUISTION LICENSE(PAL) - April 5th & 6th. Winlaw School.

RAKU POTTERY - With Lance Hall. Starts April 12th.

CREATE A HANGING BASKET - April 19th at Four Seasons Greenhouses.

226-0008

Slocan writes

submitted

'Slocan Writes' brought together award-winning author Rita Moir, fellow storyteller Barry Gray, and media literacy educator Ruby L Brunelle from the Slocan Electronic Arts Centre to inspire the WE Graham Community School students during their five-week literacy project.

Time was well spent discussing writing processes such as proofreading, editing and sharing through storytelling. Participants experimented with their own writing styles and interests. Eventually, chosen work will be included in a community anthology of the Literacy Project. The completion of the anthology will also include a DVD created by the Alternate Education class and the Slocan Electronic Arts.

The school featured a Coffee House this past February 28, where selected students shared their writing and entertained their peers, parents and all who attended.

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