The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Tin Cup Cafe, historic residence in Sandon razed by fire

by Jan McMurray

A tragic fire on March 20 destroyed two historic buildings in Sandon.

The Tin Cup Café building caught fire in the early afternoon and was very quickly consumed. The flames spread to the historic 'Dr. Gomm's house' next door, igniting a power pole along the way. A third building across the street, the garage at Eugene Peterson's old house, caught ablaze but was saved.

Sandon does not have fire protection service. When the fire spread to the second house, New Denver Acting Mayor Ann Bunka authorized the use of one portable water pump and some hoses belonging to the New Denver and Area Fire Department. Leonard Casley, New Denver's fire chief, and four other fire department members went to fight the fire as volunteer civilians.

When they arrived, the Tin Cup was gone and Dr. Gomm's was mostly gone, reports Casley. Smoke was billowing out from the roof of the garage at the house across the street. They got the pump and hoses set up and were able to save the garage. "If we'd been any longer, the garage would have been gone, and all the houses on that side of the street," said Casley.

There were no injuries or loss of life. Dan Pasemko and Christine Meerman owned and lived in the Tin Cup building. Meerman was on the upper floor of the house when she smelled smoke. She ran downstairs, saw the flames and went straight outside. The couple lost everything, including an important collection of Sandon artifacts. Ruth and Murray Stewart of Calgary own 'Dr. Gomm's house.' Euguene Peterson's place is now occupied by his great niece, Karen Dodds, who was out of town at the time of the fire.

Power was temporarily interrupted to some Sandon residents.

According to Constable Todd Bowden, the RCMP do not suspect any foul play. The investigation is continuing, but they believe the fire was accidental. The provincial Fire Commissioner's office has been advised and is expected to conduct a parallel investigation.

The Tin Cup Café building in Sandon went up in flames on March 20, and took the historic 'Dr. Gomm's house' next door with it.

Slocan council holds special meeting to prepare for court case

by Jan McMurray

At a special meeting of Slocan council on March 19, council went into closed session (*in camera*) and then back into open session to adopt three resolutions. The resolutions relate to the Supreme Court case scheduled for March 27 in Nelson that will deal with alleged violations of the Local Government Act (LGA) during the recent byelection.

The first was to retain Lidstone, Young, Anderson as legal counsel for the Village in the part of the case that relates to the validity of the election and the conduct of the election by the Village and its employees.

The second was that the three councillors named in the petition regarding alleged election offences not be represented by legal counsel retained by the Village. Rather, they are to obtain their own legal counsel or not, as they see fit, and at their own expense.

Third, Councillor Perriere was given the authority to instruct the lawyers on behalf of the Village. Perriere is the only councillor not named as a respondent in the petition and with no interest in the validity of the election or in the outcome of any other claims in the petition.

Ray Caouette, Slocan resident and a candidate in the byelection, has petitioned the Supreme Court to declare the byelection invalid, to order that two members of council be disqualified from holding public office, and to order that one of the Village office employees, who was an electoral officer in the byelection, be dismissed from her position. He is also asking that seven of the respondents named on the petition be responsible for all costs of conducting the byelection and all court costs.

Caouette clarified in an interview that he did not find fault on the part of the Village of Slocan with the election proceedings. Rather, he feels that the behaviour of certain individuals has made the election invalid.

Caouette is seeking the court order under the Local Government Act, Part 3, Divisions 15 and 17.

Section 15 states that an election may be declared invalid if Sections 151, 152 or 153 (2) (a) were contravened. Caouette believes that Sections 151 and 152 were contravened.

Sections 151 and 152 talk about influencing people's votes through "inducement," and "intimidation."

In the petition, Caouette also relies on sections of the LGA that have to do with election advertising, specifically opposing a candidate by attempting to influence people's votes or by displaying or distributing material regarding a candidate within 100 metres of a polling station.

Penalties for contravening Sections 151 or 152 (influencing votes through inducement or intimidation) include: a fine of up to $10,000; imprisonment for up to two years; a prohibition from holding an elected local government office for up to six years; a prohibition from voting in local government elections for up to six years.

Penalties for contravening Sections 152.1 or 153 (election advertising) include: a fine of up to $5,000; imprisonment for up to one year; a prohibition from holding an elected local government office for up to six years; a prohibition from voting in local government elections for up to six years.

Village of Slocan's administrator resigns

by Jan McMurray

The Village of Slocan's Chief Administrative Officer, Eunice Ludlow, resigned at a special meeting of council on March 19.

"After two years of unconscionable behaviour by members of council, I've finally decided to resign," she said in an interview.

Ludlow says she was asked to attend a special council meeting that was scheduled to go *in camera* on the evening of March 19, but was "very rudely told to leave" by Mayor John Van Bynen.

"After voicing concerns as to the legalities of this meeting and being subjected to further extremely inappropriate behaviour, I tendered my letter of resignation to the mayor and council," she recounts.

Ludlow says one member of council told the mayor that the removal of the CAO was "highly irregular." The mayor's response was that this was the way the meeting was going to happen, whether it was irregular or not.

At this point, Ludlow left, and returned to council chambers immediately to deliver her letter of resignation.

"CAOs are supposed to be at all meetings except, possibly, those where the actual discussion of their salaries takes place," she explained.

The Valley Voice contacted Mayor Van Bynen by phone. He said he asked Ludlow to leave the meeting because council was going into an *in camera* session. He declined to comment further "because of the situation I'm in."

Ludlow's letter of resignation states that she has been "...subjected to an inordinate amount of stress and feel that both my physical and emotional health would be even more adversely affected if I continued to work under the existing conditions." She goes on to say that "...the continuing lack of professionalism and quite extraordinary behaviour exhibited by Council, including nepotism, abasement and attempts at intimidation, harassment, inappropriate accusations and innuendo directed at me, have far exceeded what I am prepared to endure."

She concludes the letter by stating, "I would like to wish the residents of the Village the best of good fortune in the future and hope that any and all future elected officials will attend courses that will instruct them as to their proper function and the behaviour expected of them during the time that they occupy positions of trust as members of Council for the Corporation of the Village of Slocan. In my opinion and as a result of my experiences here, this should be made a condition that all candidates agree to before they can stand for office."

Ludlow says the matter will not rest here and is in consultation with her attorneys.

Ludlow was Slocan's CAO for three and a half years, from September 2004 to March 2008.

Kids of all ages attended the Easter Bunny Hop at Passmore Lodge March 15 to participate in activities organized by the Mt. Sentinel grad class. Although he is in disguise here, *Valley Voice* investigative reporters have discovered his identity to be Craig the Rec Guy.

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Seniors housing consultant Alice Sundberg holds workshop

by Art Joyce

Alice Sundberg, a consultant with Lumina Services, was in New Denver March 11 and 12 for a series of workshops on seniors housing. She was contracted by BC Housing to do a feasibility study on seniors housing development in the village. Sundberg has 27 years of experience in non-profit, co-op and seniors housing, and as a former New Denver resident, feels she has a good sense of the community's needs.

"I need to bring back a message to BC Housing from this community about what housing the community will accept," Sundberg said. "But there's probably going to be a difference between what you see as ideal and what the government is prepared to offer."

Although at present the population has been declining in the region, a 'bulge' in demographics caused by baby boomers reaching retirement age will double the population of people over 75 in the next 25 years. Statistics suggest that most people need assisted housing starting about age 75. According to 2006 census data, the population of Area H was 4,320, with 205 over age 75. There were 55 people age 75-84 and 105 people age 55-64 in New Denver. Although the general trend is migration toward urban centres, seniors tend to be migrating toward rural areas.

Sundberg noted the previous studies that have been done in the area on seniors housing, including a study of assisted living co-ordinated by Bill Roberts in 2003-04, the Healthy Housing Society housing needs survey in 2006, and the 2007 land use survey done by the Village of New Denver. Sundberg then explained the current spectrum of seniors housing options. Housing for independent seniors, for example New Denver's Dr. Brouse Lodge, provides no services but offers a rent subsidy. Residents pay 30% of their income on rent with the provincial government covering the balance of costs.

Supportive housing offers residents meals, housekeeping, laundry, activities, and emergency response. The number of meals provided varies with the facility and some offer housekeeping and laundry only as a paid service. A sliding scale is used so that those on minimum pensions aren't required to pay for extra services. An example would be Abbeyfield in Armstrong, built like a large house with small bedroom/sitting suites and common areas. These complexes average 10-12 units, provide three meals a day with a cook/housekeeper who may or may not live on-site but doesn't clean individual suites, only common areas. Laundry facilities are available but there is no government subsidy. This is one of the models BC Housing would consider funding for New Denver.

Assisted living complexes are for those needing a minimal level of care. Under current regulations they can offer only two personal care services on a scheduled or unscheduled basis, for example reminders to take medication but not administering it. Residents must be mentally capable of caring for themselves. Anyone can choose to move into private assisted living projects if they can afford it but these range between $3,000-$5,000 a month.

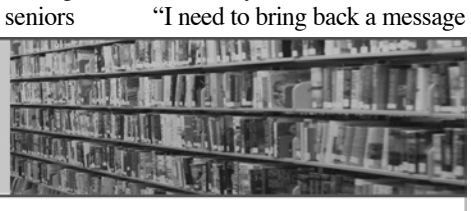
Subsidized assisted living facilities are for those who are referred by a health care professional due to a medical condition, and approved by Interior Health Authority (IHA) case managers. The cost to residents for housing, hospitality and care is 70% of their income. The closest such facility is Halcyon in Nakusp. ILBC has developed about 3,500 units during the past 5 years but has no new funding except to maintain existing facilities.

Licensed care facilities are reserved for people who require 24-hour professional medical care, though only about 30% of the aging population will require this option. There are both private and government funded licensed care facilities.

BC Housing sees a huge gap between the Pavilion and Brouse Lodge that is generally reflected across the province – the gap between independent living and living in care. The solution being proposed for New Denver is to build a small-scale supportive housing unit on the site next to the Pavilion. BC Housing would provide capital funding and the IHA would provide delivery of services. This unit would include six bed-sitting rooms with three-piece bathrooms and furniture supplied, a common living room, dining room, and kitchen. Three meals per day would be provided, with staff present during daytime hours but no personal care available. An emergency response system would be linked to family or friends. Rent would be geared to income, on a sliding scale of 30-70%, and BC Housing is open to negotiation on the figures. The land is owned by the IHA and they have given permission for a project of this type. Bill Roberts noted that the 2003-04 study envisioned exactly what is being proposed.

Sundberg is waiting for surveys to be returned and tallied before concluding whether the unit proposed by BC Housing has broad support in the community. Sam Rainboth, Manager of Public Affairs for BC Housing, says it's too early to say whether the project will get the go-ahead, but an architect has been contracted to produce drawings. BC Housing is also working with Interior Health property officers to do subdivision and rezoning on the Pavilion site, and will be meeting with Sundberg next week to go over the results of her survey.

"If the community says they don't want this option, they will either walk away or sit down at the table and discuss other options," Sundberg concluded.



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The Columbia Basin Trust (CBT), in partnership with local colleges, is offering $2,000 each for up to twenty two mature students attending Selkirk College, College of the Rockies, the Revelstoke Centre of the Okanagan College, or the Valemount Campus of the College of New Caledonia.

The College Community Service Award is based on active and significant volunteer service, not on academic achievement. The award is designed to acknowledge students who volunteer in their communities.

Applications and guidelines are available from each college's website, at www.cbt.org, and at any CBT office.

The deadline for Selkirk College, College of the Rockies and College of New Caledonia applications is May 16, 2008.

The deadline for the Revelstoke Centre of the Okanagan College applications is September 18, 2008.

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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
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Slow start-up and downsizing at Interfor

by Jan McMurray

Ric Slaco, Vice-President of Interfor, met with Mayor Karen Hamling and Councillor Ulli Mueller on March 13 to hear about the community's concerns and update them on the status of the sale and the company's plans.

Slaco says Interfor plans to keep an office in Nakusp, but is looking for a smaller, more economical location. He said that when Interfor takes over, "we will let staff know whether there is a position available for them."

As for harvesting plans, Slaco said they were in breakup right now, so there is no immediate plan for harvesting. "We have not yet decided that the conditions are suitable for starting the mills right away, due to a combination of many factors, but it appears unlikely they'd be starting up right away," he said.

Slaco said that they won't know what kind of work will be available for contractors until they know whether the mills are going to run. "Interfor will need contractors to do the work, and there are many contractors in the area, and we expect they will be taking on the contract work. It's a matter of making sure there is a market in terms of demand from the mills. With the two mills running, and the two parties reaching an agreement, we'll get logging started up again."

He confirmed that the contracts local logging firms had with P&T ended with the bankruptcy and did not transfer to Interfor, "so it's like starting all over again for the two parties." He said company representatives had talked with the contractors to get to know them and their equipment capabilities, "so we can look and see what the best fit is for our needs."

Slaco says the company's first priority is to get a restructuring plan in place for the business. "The business went bankrupt so our first priority is to get a restructuring plan in place that would represent a better operating environment. As a consequence, there will be jobs that won't be retained. These are not easy decisions, but I think people understand that the business is not going to last under the same conditions that got it into bankruptcy. I can't comment on the number of jobs, but there will be some job loss, yes."

Slaco recognizes that the most difficult thing for people in this transition time is not knowing, and the anxiety that creates. "Once people know, they can get on with their lives. Our intention is to let people know as soon as we can. But we have to get to the end point before we can make a significant announcement like that. We continue toward completing the transaction."

Interfor hopes that the transaction will be completed at the beginning of April. "That timeline is dependent on the two companies completing the transaction as well as the government completing the tenure transfer. We continue to make progress on that and will update people as we go," he said.

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Koch Creek microhydro meeting draws angry capacity crowd

by Art Joyce

Well over 100 Slocan Valley residents packed the Slocan Park Hall the evening of March 11, angry that a local independent power producer plans a microhydro project for Koch Creek watershed. A panel of guest speakers made presentations, including MLA Corky Evans, biologist Brian Ferguson of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Marilyn Burgoon of Perry Ridge Water Users Association, Gary Diers of the Purcell Wilderness Alliance, Grant Trower of the Friends of Lardeau River, and former Nelson city councillor Michelle Mungall.

Diers opened with a slide presentation showing the Glacier and Howser creek watersheds, explaining the impacts the Axor Corporation's hydro project will have there. The project will require 25 new road segments, 16 kilometres of tunnels 4.5 by 4.5 metres in diameter, and five dams on five different creeks. Many tons of waste rock from the tunnel drilling will be deposited along the creeks, impacting the riparian zones. Transmission lines will create clearcut swaths through the forest. Diers said there are three different park proposals being drafted for the area, which borders on the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy and critical grizzly habitat. He questioned the government's claim that BC needs the additional power due to being a "net importer" of electricity.

"We are now generally a net exporter of electricity. What government neglects to tell us is how much we export. The reason is because they are earning profits from trading power."

Corky Evans declared that the fight against the current 'gold rush' of water licenses and private power projects is one of his top priorities in the lead-up to the next provincial election. He reminded the audience that the Liberal government's Energy Plan has removed BC Hydro's ability to create new generating facilities. Instead, Evans said, its policy seems to be that "we the people can't generate power but we must buy power from private power producers." He noted the case of Christina Lake, where the community said no to a private power project but were trumped by legislation passed by the Liberals in Bill 30. Evans concluded by saying he hoped people across the province would unite into an association to advocate for publicly owned power.

Someone in the audience asked, "What are we doing here if the government's already passed Bill 30?" Michelle Mungall answered by supporting Evans' call to take the fight across BC. She explained that the Bill "simplifies" the IPP process by having only one decision-maker, the BC Utilities Commission, stripping local government of its authority. When asked if that was legal, she said the provincial government does have the right to remove local authority at any time. Mungall warned that hydro rates under a private, for-profit system often result in industry collusion to keep prices artificially high. As an example she cited Alberta, where the cost of electricity after deregulation went from five cents per kilowatt-hour to 25 cents.

"To mitigate this increase, the government gave us all these nice cheques, but it was still taxpayer's money and the corporation got to keep the profit," she said.

Marilyn Burgoon spoke on behalf of Sinixt spokesperson Marilyn James, who was unable to be present. Burgoon said Sinixt lawyer David Aaron has given the BC Attorney General's office notice that even without official status, the Sinixt have a right to be consulted in matters pertaining to their traditional territory, including water issues. She added that there is already a struggling bull trout population in Koch Creek, and an endangered species, the small-headed sculpin, in the Slocan River. The sculpin is considered a medicine fish by the Sinixt.

"Maude Barlow was talking about a worldwide water crisis. The last thing we want to do is to be contributing to this crisis. There are alternatives to hydro; there are other ways of getting energy."

Grant Trower spoke of the massive impacts of the Duncan reservoir built in 1967, including the loss of 93% of the Duncan River's downstream habitat. About $4 million is spent annually by Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife to offset impacts on Gerrard rainbow trout, a unique species biologists have been unable to successfully introduce elsewhere. Friends of the Lardeau are proposing park protection for the Lardeau River connector that joins Goat Range Provincial Park with Duncan Lake, a vital part of the spawning network. Trower believes a turbine should be installed on the Duncan reservoir instead of handing out more water licenses to IPPs in the area.

"We're saying the residents of the Basin have given enough to power generation in BC."

A panel discussion followed the presentations, with ideas for citizen activism that ranged from writing letters to government, circulating petitions, organizing a general strike, supporting electoral reform, legal action, and working to enshrine the personal right to water in the Charter of Rights.

Ainsworth Community Association decides to proceed with wharf repair

by Art Joyce

The Ainsworth wharf will get a new lease on life thanks to a combination of funding sources. At a public meeting in the Ainsworth Community Hall March 12, residents met with Area D Director Andy Shadrack to discuss funding options.

Shadrack had hoped originally to borrow $58,000 from the RDCK through the alternate approval process, but received a petition from over 1,700 residents opposed to borrowing the money. The regional district is in the process of amending its bylaws to allow for the creation of a regional park that would include the wharf. When the alternate approval process failed, Shadrack approached mechanical engineer Dave Russell and Ainsworth Community Association Vice President Joe Hawes to see if the wharf could still be saved. Russell estimated that total repairs would cost about $100,000. Hawes agreed to manage the project, help get volunteers and contribute his own heavy equipment.

"I think you have a lot of support," said Shadrack. "I've had people from the East Shore phone me, I've had people from Kaslo phone me and say they'll bring volunteers."

The federal government is eager to offload responsibility for the wharf and has offered $54,000 toward the repairs. Shadrack contacted Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Community Liaison Lynda Lafleur, who said the CBT could offer about $20,000. He has also investigated grants from the BC Heritage Legacy Fund, which could provide another $25,000. Other possible funding sources include Teck Cominco, Fortis, a Direct Access grant from the BC Lottery Corporation and the Canadian Heritage Commission.

"I was hoping we could start this work this spring, and the feds said no, we want you to have all the land titles in place first," explained Shadrack.

The wharf property is jointly owned by the federal and provincial governments. The Regional District must first secure title from the provincial and then the federal government. A permit is also required from the Ministry of Transportation for a licence of encroachment on Spragge Street. Liability will fall on the RDCK under its regional parks bylaws. According to Shadrack, that means there will be no overnight camping allowed, with vehicle access to the top of the wharf only, except for the fire department.

Russell has done an assessment of wharf damages to prioritize repairs in a way that would allow the project to proceed in stages as funding comes in. He estimated the total bill for must-do repairs at $85,000. The rest can be done over time, such as the cement slab on top of the wharf. Park infrastructure, including fencing, parking, and washrooms, will cost roughly $35,000-40,000. Shadrack said at the RDCK budget meeting February 18, $5,000 was allocated this year for the park.

Residents at the meeting were unimpressed with the maze of bureaucracy that had to be negotiated before a drop of concrete could be poured. One man said there's a narrow window of opportunity for work to be done during low water, roughly early March to the end of April. That means work likely couldn't start until next year. Shadrack said his hands were tied until the land titles were resolved. He will report to the RDCK board at its next meeting on March 29 that the Community Association will support the project, after which he will proceed with land title clearances.

Shadrack also reported that he has applied to the BC Green Fund for $40,000 to do a terrain stability study on the Ainsworth slope. A further $20,000 in-kind from the RDCK and $35,000 in-kind from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is available. Residents pointed out that terrain stability studies have already been done, several times, and that the slide zones are well known. "If we just fixed the problem it wouldn't cost that much," said one man. Shadrack sympathized, saying he's often been frustrated by meetings with the Ministry of Transportation but said he is bound to follow protocol.

"It's just throwing good money after bad," commented one woman. "Ainsworth is the oldest community on this lake, and by what you're saying, we're going to be the last to have any work done."

Legislature to expand to 85 seats in May 2009

by Jan McMurray

BC will have 85 electoral districts in the May 2009 provincial election.

On March 13, the Legislative Assembly accepted the final report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, except for the proposals for the North and Cariboo-Thompson regions. In the final report, each of these regions would have lost one district. The Legislative Assembly decided to give the two districts back, as outlined in Appendix P of the final report.

The commission explains in the report why Appendix P was included: "In the event that the Legislature determines to accept our proposals for all of the other regions but decides to alter our proposals by restoring the number of current electoral districts in the north and Cariboo-Thompson regions, for a total of 85 electoral districts, then these scenarios may provide assistance to the Legislature when drawing the boundaries for these two regions."

This is exactly what the Legislature decided to do.

The Columbia-Kootenay region will still have four electoral districts, but with different boundaries than today's. The four districts are Nelson-Creston, Kootenay West, Kootenay East and Columbia River-Revelstoke.

Currently, there are 79 electoral districts in the province. The commission's final report proposed 83 districts.

Chip truck traffic sees dramatic increase

by Jan McMurray

The Ministry of Highways recognizes that there is an issue with increased chip truck traffic in the area.

In a story we ran in our last issue, DCT Chambers Operations Manager Jamie Skinner said the maximum number of chip trucks travelling the Slocan Valley per day was only 50. The ministry has recently reported very different numbers.

According to the ministry, there are 60 trucks on the Galena/Shelter ferry every day and 25-30 trucks on the Needles ferry. There are also 15 loaded logging trucks daily on the ferry.

The ministry says the place that will be most impacted by the increase in chip truck traffic in the region is Playmor Junction.

The Celgar pulp mill in Castlegar continues to operate while the Pope & Talbot sawmills in Castlegar and Grand Forks, the main suppliers of chips to Celgar, are shut down. The sale of the two mills to Interfor is expected to be finalized in April.

Ric Slaco, Vice-President of Interfor, said it seemed unlikely that the mills would start up again right away, given the very difficult market conditions. He also indicated that the company will inform people about its operation plans as soon as the sale is finalized.

APOLOGY and RETRACTION

We apologize for printing Nancy Anderson's obituary with an error in our last edition. John Anderson is in fact Nancy's first and only husband. We regret any confusion caused by this error. The corrected obituary is on page 16.

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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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Prestige Mountain Resort
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April 25-27, 2008
The Columbia Basin Trust, in partnership with Nelson & District Youth Centre (NDYC), is working to address common issues to build a strong youth centre community within the Columbia Basin. Workshops will enhance human resource management and administration skills.
For more information, a complete agenda, or to register, contact the NYDC at 250.352.5656 or ndycco@netidea.com by March 28, 2008.
1.800.505.8998 cbtyouth@cbt.org

Voices from the Valleys

What's with the letters pages in the *Voice*?

People often ask me about the criteria for letters to the editor, here at the *Voice*. To be honest, it's a bit of a juggling act. We'd like to publish every letter (that isn't libellous or slanderous) we receive. Most of them we'd like to publish unedited. Unfortunately, that's a quick road to financial ruin. Most weeks we only have room for a couple pages of letters.

So we edit the long ones, and omit the *really* long ones entirely. Somehow we make room for most of them. From time to time we can actually run three pages of letters, because there's enough advertising to run 20 pages of news. Occasionally I have a little space where I can put an opinion or two.

We try to avoid running letters that should really be paid advertising.

We like a robust letters section, full of differing opinion on a variety of local issues. It wouldn't be much fun if Jan and I only published opinions that we agreed with. It also wouldn't be fair to the readers that disagree with us.

Dan Nicholson, publisher

Americanada, eh?

I feel like I'm becoming a citizen of Americanada, and I want to be a Canadian again. I was proud to be a Canadian and proud of Mr. Chretien for refusing to join the Americans in the War of Lies in Iraq, but I am nervous about Canada's New Conservatives and NATO for participating in Mr. Bush's remaking of Afghanistan. The leader of the Taliban and many of his financiers come from Saudi Arabia, but you'll notice that no one is talking about attacking Saudi Arabia, even though there is substantial evidence that America's oil colleague tolerates Taliban sympathizers. Anyone who is gullible enough to believe that Osama bin Ladin is the only Saudi who supports the Taliban is also likely to be gullible enough to believe that Saddam Hussein had anything at all to do with either the Taliban or the 9/11 attacks. Apparently many Americans still believe just that, in spite of all the factual evidence to the contrary.

The Taliban finds safe haven in Pakistan, but again, no one is talking about invading Pakistan. Apparently the USA likes things just as they are. I seriously doubt that they ever really wanted to catch Osama – he's much more valuable to them as he is. He's the Boogie Man, the reason for ongoing fear and war. I smell manipulation, money, and power at the core of all this. The Afghanistan NarcoLords were driven out of the opium business by the Taliban, and then put right back into it by the Americans and the NATO troops who were roped into joining them.

Afghanistan is once more the richest and strongest NarcoState in the world, right next door to oil-rich Iraq; both of which are now in the political clutches of the USA and their covert and underground 'connections.' Already the 'War on Terror' has been a multi-trillion dollar event for the Military Industrial Complex, and they are still milking it for all it's worth. Americans for generations to come are supposed to be stuck with the endless debt for this seemingly endless, yet ironically profitable 'War on Terror.' It's the perfect war, because if you control it, it never ends. It is the raison d'etre for the Military Industrial Complex Eisenhower warned us about, and that man was no fool – he knew the ropes.

Apparently our new and revised Canada supports this sort of thing. I don't trust Americanada, and I really miss good old Canada. I wonder if we can ever get it back. Control of a nation is a surprisingly easy thing to give up, and once lost, it can be very difficult to get back. We should be extremely careful and vigilant. Canada should be Canada only, not Americanada, and we shouldn't support warmongering adventurism by the United States. We should decide for ourselves. Our wars should be our own wars, fought for our own reasons and in our own way. We naïvely believed and blindly followed Washington as though they were the cool kids on the block. We shouldn't let it happen again.

Oh, Canada, we stand on guard for THEE, and NOT Americanada. They are two different entities. Right?

John White
New Denver

Don't litter

When will you stop throwing all that litter in the ditch, on the ground, basically everywhere? You are hurting the earth. I feel annoyed and sad. I picked cans up out of the ditch and out of the forest when I was going for a walk to New Denver. There were more than two suckers' worth of cans to give to the store. They filled two bags. Would you please stop littering because it's hurting the earth.

Ezra Barker, age 6,
New Denver

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*.

Against cellphones

I got wind of the cellphone banishment issue in New Denver, and wanted to add my voice to those who reject them. Please google the name George Carlo for shocking data on the harm done by them to the body. Dr Carlo is a highly qualified researcher who regularly gives talks in BC and elsewhere warning all who will listen, [which is, to our folly, few] of how destructive these devices and the industry around them are.

George McFetridge,
Burnaby

Slocan City bullies

The children in Slocan City are at it again. No, not the real children – the children at village council. First of all I thought bullying was not allowed at the schools, but it seems to be allowed at council meetings. There seems to be one person at council that if he not get his way, he tells everybody that he is going home. Well, maybe he should stay at home forever and not attend the meetings at all. How come that there seems to be not one meeting possible without any problems? I think the only way to get rid of the bully is with the next municipal elections. The people of Slocan City should take that opportunity to collect some money and send the bully on a long, long trip so that he cannot interfere with council meetings in the future.

Albert Boers
Hills

Responding to Globe & Mail article on New Denver cellphones

The article about New Denver's opposition to a cell phone tower is factually inaccurate and misses the point. The antenna would be in our village, not outside it. Dr. Magda Havas of Trent University has surveyed the literature and concluded that "people who live near cell phone antennas have a higher risk of developing leukemia… Biological effects have been documented and range from cancers to cognitive disorders and sleeping dysfunction." Dr. George Carlo, one the world's leading experts in the field, says "A number of prominent, peer-reviewed studies indicat[e] that cell phone radiation can cause genetic damage, brain and blood cell dysfunction and a host of health problems including cancer."

The government of New Zealand, the Vancouver school board and others won't allow cell phone antennae on school grounds because of this risk. The French and German governments have warned their citizens about the health dangers from cell phone radiation and Wi-Fi, which is a similar frequency. Are French, German and New Zealand officials suddenly now hicks and Luddites too, because they see a potential health danger?

What media fail to acknowledge is that this is a very serious HEALTH issue. Not some joke about country hicks resisting progress.

Anne Champagne
New Denver

Open letter to Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry

I write today to bring to your attention concerns that have been expressed by the Mayor of New Denver, Mr. Gary Wright.

As you can see by the attached letter, Mayor Wright and his Council are very concerned about the inability of local governments to have a final say in regard to the telecommunications industry. According to the Mayor, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has similar concerns.

Minister, something is not right when Telus is able to disregard the results of an official village residents' property poll in which a majority of voters opposed the installation of cell phone transmission equipment within New Denver's municipal boundaries.

The New Denver Council is asking Industry Canada to intercede on its behalf, and feels frustrated that this is all they can do under current legislation. Surely some mechanism should be in place that would allow municipal councils, such as in New Denver, to have the ultimate say as to what type of service they wish to have in their community.

It is simply not fair when major corporations with the blessing of the Federal Government make decisions that may be contrary to the wishes of local residents.

I would be very happy to discuss this concern with you at your convenience.

Alex Atamanenko, MP
BC Southern Interior

Veteran supports right to protest

As a 24-year veteran of the Canadian Forces, my attitude towards the antiwar movement is, in fact, quite positive. This may sound counter intuitive to some people, but think about it. As a soldier, one of the things I was sworn to defend, with my life if necessary, was the right of my fellow citizens to protest and demonstrate against anything they wished. Therefore, seeing so many of them actively and openly exercising that right is bound to give me a certain amount of what could be called job satisfaction.

A country's decision to go to war is, by nature, controversial. It should be controversial. I would be far more concerned if there was no controversy surrounding the mission in Afghanistan. That would lead me to believe that protest was somehow being suppressed and I wouldn't be very happy about that. There are cogent, legitimate arguments on both sides of this debate and ultimately, the democratic process, as imperfect as it may be, must be allowed to prevail. If opposition to the mission is as widespread as some people claim, the NDP can expect a landslide victory in the next federal election. Maybe, maybe not. I rather suspect that most Canadians are as conflicted on the issue as I am, uncertain about what would be the best way to proceed. All I can say is that I'm glad that the responsibility for making that decision does not rest directly on my shoulders and I do not envy those who have that responsibility.

John Banta
Fauquier

Open letter to Minister Neufeld

I am very dismayed with the prospect of your Independent Power Producer call for proposals to give away licences on our remaining free-flowing rivers. Aside from enormous environmental impacts, the International Energy Agency predicts a permanent supply demand mismatch in petroleum by 2010 or 2011. The price for energy of any kind is likely to rise exponentially. Furthermore peer-reviewed published climate change research suggests declining growing season precipitation along with more precipitation in the winter falling as rain, declining snowpack, earlier run-off and disappearing glaciers. I understand that the provisions of NAFTA will leave us not only without local control of water flows and our electricity but not even provincial control, in perpetuity.

Furthermore the globalized food system is also at risk given that the USDA calculates 80% of food costs are in fuel and growing season water flows are predicted to be insufficient in many jurisdictions including our own. The BC Ministry of Agriculture's own reports suggest a 50% shortfall in irrigation capacity.

At a time when other jurisdictions are planning strategies for their declining water and energy regimes BC appears to be planning a marathon give-a-way to save some up-front capital costs. This seems at best like a dismal business decision and at worst, suicidal. Please let us have a big picture and longer-term view of this issue.

The courtesy of a reply specifically dealing with my concerns would be very appreciated.

Andre C. Piver, MD
Nelson

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Voices from the Valleys

Join KDCFS

As recently reported in your paper, Kaslo and District Community Forest Society (KDCFS) was awarded a new provisional Community Forest Agreement which expands the licence by 250%, and allows members of the Society an increased say over a larger area of the provincial forest that surrounds our communities in North Kootenay Lake.

The KDCFS will be holding its AGM at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 16, and as the Director for Area D, I want to encourage all residents to come out and listen to the reports of the current Board and management team, including the financial statement prepared by Manon Van Tuyl.

Come and judge for yourselves, become an active member in the Society and help set a positive direction for our community in environmental, economic and social forest policy. Over the last year members Sean Kubara, Bill Wells, Ann MacNab, Suzan Hewat and myself have been reviewing the bylaws and we will be proposing an overhauled set for adoption at the AGM.

At the last Board meeting it was agreed that KDCFS will again 50/50 cost share S-100 firefighter training with the Regional District for residents of the Lardeau Valley. Just before that I met with two members of the management team to discuss accessing a Regional District report on fire interface planning and how we could move towards initiating implementation around Kaslo and in the fire service contract portion of Area D.

So please plan to attend on April 16 and learn about the positive accomplishments of KDCFS since the last AGM, so that together we can find some creative and positive local solutions to some of the problems that face the forest industry in general.

Andy Shadrack
Director Area D

Concerned about private hydro

I have been watching some current TV programs, on the developing of private hydro projects on many of the rivers in BC. and I have deep concerns about the impact of this, on the citizens of BC and Canada.

This past Thursday, March 6/08, I attended a water conference in Kaslo and with the detailed information that was so capably presented, my concerns and alarm, at what is happening on our rivers, escalated.

Privatization of our essential natural resources is not the way to go. There is room for some partnership with private independent power producers, but the rules under which they must adhere, need be ecologically sound, prove to be a benefit to the citizens of BC and with the water resource remaining in the ownership of this country, and the citizens of it.

There needs to be a moratorium called on this whole process of selling water licences, no new licences issued, and BC Hydro return to generating power on behalf of the citizens of BC.

Water is life, our most important resource, and we cannot afford to squander it, or lose it.

The public is not so gullible, and so uninformed, as in the past. Secrets, and hidden agendas are exposed with all the technology of emails and the internet. The people of the Kootenays live in a paradise of mountains, trees, and rivers, and they know the value of our province's resources, but are also informed citizens.

I respectfully ask that you look at the water/power policy now in place, and do what you can to make the changes that are of benefit to the environment and all the citizens of BC.

Mary Stickel,
Kaslo

Stop light pollution

Some nights it's hard to believe we live in the mountains, the sky is so aglow with streetlights here in Kaslo. This is called "light pollution." The words glare, light trespass (when roadway lighting invades your house) and sky glow (what happened to the stars?) describe our situation. Take a look outside at night and you will see yellow/orange glarey globs.

More lighting does not mean safety. More lighting is a degradation of your living environment. We could have more dark sky in parts of Calgary, a city adopting sensible, lower-cost, environmentally friendly lighting than we have here.

I've realized, at last, that Fortis doesn't own our village. Fortis is hired by the Village to provide a service.

Who runs the Village? The Council.

It's time to drop notes off at the Village office or send letters to the Mayor and Council, P.O. Box 576, V0G 1M0, expressing the need for them to pass a resolution to deal with overlighting issues. Be specific. Those of you who have sent me email describing where the offending light is, direct that information to the Village Council. Ask them to direct Fortis to turn that light off or take it down from the telephone pole it's attached to, or lower it on the pole so that it doesn't light up your bedroom with that sickening colour.

The Village owns 153 streetlights —! These are vapour lights that are adjusted to glow between 100 watts & 250 watts. In the last bill, the Village paid — we paid — $2,576.68 to Fortis for a two-month period to keep these lights going. Some are on 24-7.

Fortis will not voluntarily upgrade us to the provincial standard. For any new development, however, you will see FCOs (Full-Cut-Off) shielding, which means the light is completely covered so that it shines only on the roadway—and the equivalent of 70 watts. For now you are on your own in dealing with the existing vapour lights. You aren't living in the country because you're helpless. Get writing.

Many communities in North America have adopted a Lights Out policy and there are Dark Sky organizations around the world. So this problem is not ours alone. You can find out more about light pollution by going to http://www.darksky.org.

Holley Rubinsky,
Kaslo

Why do Conservative MPs send me hate mail?

You know I was annoyed when I received the first flyer from Kelowna-Lakes MP Ron Cannan in the mail. It read "the Liberals want to take away the $1,200 Universal Child Care Subsidy. The Conservatives want to keep it." It asked me to check a box with Yes or No to keeping the Child Care Subsidy. I thought "is this a trick question?" So I promptly drew devil horns on both the Liberal and the Conservative politicians heads. Wrote "give us Universal Child Care that actually has meaning. $100 a month doesn't even cover 5% of child care costs for a working family. Thanks for nothing Stephen." And sent it through the mail slot.

But then came the second flyer. Should we send vandals and thieves to jail and end the house arrest program? What the hell are these people thinking? If you cut social services more people have to steal to make it through the day. A large percentage of people who steal are addicted to drugs and trying to keep from getting dope sick. Now you want to send them to jail where there are no needle exchanges, no treatment and nothing to come out of the joint to. 20% of people who use drugs began using in prison. 21% of all HIV infections among Vancouver injection drug users have been acquired in prison.

Wow, this sounds really expensive. I thought conservatives were into fiscal responsibility? Lets look at the costs to our society. For every prisoner, it costs $250 a day to keep them in prison, that's around $90,000 a year. If they become infected with HIV or Hepatitis C in prison then there's the $3,000-$6,000 a month in costs for medical expenses. If it costs this much money to end the house arrest program then why would people want to do it? Hmm, someone has to be profiting from sending these so called "serious criminals" to prison. Could it be that we are moving towards a profit-driven Private Industrial Prison System like the States. Personally I'd rather see, as Ron Cannan states, "thieves, arsonists and vandals serve their sentences watching TV, playing video games, and surfing "websites" on the internet."

Chloe Sage
Nelson

Standardized tests have merit

These are excerpts from a letter our grade 7 granddaughter sent last week. It is an indicator of low standards in the teaching profession. This is why they are resisting BC-wide testing.

This is her e-mail to me ----

Today in math a text book assignment. There were two questions, Is - 3 + [+ 7] the same as + 7 + [-3] the answer is yes.

Is + 3 + [-7] the same as -3 + [+ 7] the answer is no. I gave back the answer correctly, but my teacher marked them wrong. We opened the textbook and the teacher had to agree I was right. This happens a lot. Isn't she supposed to be teaching me?

The union never demands better performance, only MORE for LESS. A teacher under a union is not a professional because a professional does what it takes to do the job and cannot tolerate limiting their freedom to perform at one's absolute best. Their professional days are obviously a joke, or the improved knowledge and skills would be reflected in the classroom. This is not happening. The incentive for a teacher to perform to their very best capabilities at a true professional level has been drastically diminished under the protective umbrella of the union contracts.

It is generally thought that teachers enter the field because they do not qualify or want to work toward more difficult disciplines when most of them can get a degree in subjective courses.

Many parents express the same views but are afraid to express their opinions worried that the children may suffer the consequence. Principals seem powerless and school boards apparently have no powers to monitor teachers' performance either, unless it is a morality issue. Our children deserve better even if it means disbanding the union as they did in the USA, especially when the Teacher's Union leader, during the last illegal strike, flagrantly broke the law. A bad example for young minds.

I have a friend teaching fast-track nursing. She is quite dismayed to find her students cannot compute in their heads. Teck Cominco is also concerned that newly graduated engineers have very little understanding of "thermo chemistry" crucial to Teck Cominco smelting. The low standards and expectations create mediocrity.

If the teachers are worried that funding will be rescinded the solution is very simple. MAKE SURE THE STUDENTS DO WELL FOR THE NEXT FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT.

The general public has lost faith in the education system.

Gail Toop
New Denver

Offensive Conservative propaganda

I recently found a piece of offensive propaganda from the federal Conservatives in my mailbox. It features a large photo of an unkempt, thin young man slouched on a couch, beer bottle in one hand and cigarette in the other. There is an empty beer bottle in the background, and the actor has his head cocked to one side as he stares straight at you in a go-to-hell sort of way. We are told by the accompanying tirade that he cruises "websites," the quotation marks on a word that doesn't need them implying the websites he likes are suspect in some way — at a guess, pornographic. The question the letter asks us is, should he go to jail? Well, one look at this photo and the gut reaction is, yes, of course, lock him up and throw away the key. Significantly, this reaction occurs without knowing anything about the subject matter. This is because, like all efficient propaganda, it is designed to engage our base emotions of anger, fear, disgust etc., not our intelligence. Indeed, no facts or wisdom are offered, just an authoritarian rant. Are the crimes mentioned (theft, vandalism, arson) becoming more common and something needs to be done? No mention of that. If so, what might be the cause of the problem? No mention of that either.

Hasn't the US, with the world's highest percentage of its citizens in jail, proved that longer and longer sentences for more and more offenses don't work? Definitely no mention of that. What sort of success do rehabilitation and other social programs have, and do we need to put more money into them? You've guessed it.

In short, we are being sent hate literature carefully crafted for the Conservatives by some PR firm handsomely paid by your tax dollars. In place of reasoned, informed discussion we are being abused by propaganda techniques designed to get us angry, contemptuous and vindictive.

Thus aroused, we will satisfy these feelings by ticking the box asking for harsher treatment of offenders. Not a trace of knowledge, wisdom or insight is involved in this process, from us or from the government. Is this how you want your federal government to ask your opinion on important matters?

In my case, and I'm sure in many others, the dirty tricks rebounded in that I feel disgust not for the intended victims of this malicious propaganda, but for those who created it and sent it to me. I want intelligent and informed debate, not subjection to the amoral mind-games of PR companies who will happily market toothpaste, wars or prison sentences with the same mercenary indifference to the consequences for others or the truth.

Keith Newberry
Slocan

Kaslo Community Forest to Break Even

I would like to correct an error in a letter by Ken Wapple, published by the *Valley Voice* in the last issue. He implies that the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society will have a loss of approx. $358,000 in 2007, because that is what he saw on a P&L statement. That statement was presented to the board with many caveats. Unfortunately, the statement was later posted in a public place **without** any qualifying notes, and so one could come to the conclusion that Mr. Wapple did. I am happy to say that I expect us to come very close to breaking even in 2007, which is quite a feat, considering the state of the forest industry in BC these days.

I would also like to respond to Greg Lay's letter about a 'secret gathering,' since I was the board member who suggested that the KDCFS board hold an informal meeting without members of the public (or members of the society) present.

Firstly, it was not a "secret meeting." We notified those we wanted at the meeting, and we didn't notify anyone else. When you have a party, do you phone up the people you're not inviting, just to let them know that you're having a party to which they're not invited? Does that make it a "secret party"? We didn't go to any lengths to keep the gathering secret.

Secondly, the gathering was not an official board meeting. No decisions were made; no motions passed. The public is welcome at our regular board meetings.

Thirdly, I think it is a very good idea for the board to occasionally meet informally, to brainstorm ideas and talk about future directions, etc. Such meetings are not served by having members of the public, pens and notebooks at the ready, listening to every word that gets said. I quote from Wikipedia: "During the brainstorming session the attendance of managers and superiors is strongly discouraged, as it may inhibit …." Such a gathering needs an atmosphere where all can speak their minds freely, without having to worry about some comment being quoted in a letter to the *Valley Voice*.

Fourth, there were no '*in camera*' items discussed, so all participants are free to talk about what went on. If anyone wants to know what was discussed at the meeting, they just have to ask any board member who was there. Furthermore, Rob Mitchell, the board chair, emailed Mr. Lay, saying "….You expressed a desire to know, understand what the board was meeting about last night. I'd like to bring you up to speed. Call when you've got time…." So it's a bit disingenuous for Mr. Lay to suggest that we are hiding something.

I think the important thing is to elect board members you trust. Then let them do their job – give them a little elbow room.

Stephen Fawcett
KDCFS Treasurer
Kaslo

Slocan council, March 12: Women's Institute wants hall repaired

by Jan McMurray

•Mabel Bone appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Women's Institute to ask council to make funds available to have the hall renovated to a usable state in 2008, and to continue to pay the liability insurance on the building. She said the foundation and floor needed to be fixed to make the building safe, "and the rest can be done in time."

She outlined the history of the organization, which was established in 1929 and has 19 active members. She said over $2,300 had been donated to local groups, noting that the Children's Hospital is the only non-local donation the group makes. She said they are "very protective" of the building and call it the 'WI Hall' because they have occupied and maintained it since 1971. She said when they first moved in, they poured the cement floor, installed the carpet, painted, put in a new wood stove, etc. at their own expense. Some of the activities of the group include making quilts for people who have been burned out, organizing the Halloween Hoot, serving luncheons for funerals, donating fencing and peat moss to the garden at the preschool, and doing Christmas baking for those who live alone. She said the Village had always paid the liability insurance because the WI was the caretaker of the building. She said she understood the insurance was now an issue with some councillors, and reminded council that the WI had never asked the Village for a grant-in-aid.

CAO Ludlow clarified that two building inspectors had been through the building and had told the Village what needed to be done. Only one had provided a cost estimate, and this was approximately $150,000. Council decided to ask the building inspector to provide a written report for the next meeting, including an itemized list of necessary repairs.

•CAO Eunice Ludlow reported on the new accounting requirements. As of January 1, 2009, all levels of government in Canada will be using the same reporting model for their finances. In order to comply, all Village assets, including equipment, buildings, roads, bridges, lands, etc., have to be valued, and depreciated on an annual basis. Ludlow has attending ongoing training sessions with other BC administrators to learn how to set up this new system. She said the Village may need to temporarily hire accounting professionals to help with the set-up, and asked for everyone's patience while going through this process.

Public Works Foreman Jerry Simmons is retiring as of June 6, but with his vacation time, March 20 will be his last day at work. Tim Hill will take over as foreman. Ludlow thanked Simmons for all the work he has done over the years, including snowplowing, grass cutting, designing the RV park, updating the kiddie park, watching over the boat ramp and breakwater project, and taking the lead on the water plant, his "crowning achievement."

Ludlow also reported that the grant the Village has received for renovations to the Village office cannot be transferred to another project. She said the Village has been provided with an approximate cost of $150,000 to renovate the old fire hall (Women's Institute building).

Regarding the challenge to the byelection, Ludlow said the matter was before the Supreme Court so "we may not discuss it. Any pertinent information that can be made public will be posted on the Village notice board."

Finally, she said the draft budget for 2008 was almost ready to be presented to the public.

•Councillor Perriere had some questions about accounts payable and disbursements.

She noted that there were three payments listed for the Commissionaires for the bylaw enforcement officer, but that council had suspended the contract at a December 13 meeting. With the required 30 days notice, no payments should be made after January 12. The CAO asked that the item be tabled until the next meeting so she could bring forward all the pertinent paperwork. She said cheques had not yet been issued for the three invoices listed, and that she would hold off on the cheques until council knew what periods the invoices covered. She also said she felt this should go to a public meeting, and that the commissionaires had made it clear that "we can't have them back – they told us that when they went to great lengths to get him here."

Perriere also asked about the $1,680 in wages for the byelection, and asked if there was a Village policy on this. The CAO said there was a policy, and she would provide council members with a copy.

•Councillor Gates reported on RDCK meetings he had attended. He said that BC Hydro grants-in-lieu funding was now going into a fund called the Community Development fund, and Slocan would have access to $8,000 per year from this fund.

Also, the board received notification from the Ministry of Environment that grey water from vessels cannot be discharged into the lake.

Gates reported that he is now chair of the Recreation Commission, which has a $17,000 deficit because the co-ordinator's wages were brought up to the going rate. He said this means that taxation will increase about 20 cents per household over two years for the recreation service. He also said that Joanne Ellis should resign from the commission so that Hillary Elliot could take her place.

•Marc Septav reported that the Community Forest group had received its probationary licence and had held an open house with "one of the best presentations I've ever seen." He described it as a "video screen where you could fly down the valley and see the areas" where the community forest will operate. He says the group wants people from the public to tell them where they traditionally snowmobile, etc. "The more information about the use, history, and resources the better," he said. Septav will make himself available during the evenings to meet with people and mark information on a map.

•The amended Financial Plan for 2007-2011 (bylaw 569) was read three times. Councillor Perriere said that "everyone should be concerned because the numbers ballooned" since the 2007 budget was set. For example, she said general administration had increased from $141,630 to $254,950 – a $113,300 increase. The CAO said they would discuss those numbers in detail at a budget meeting.

•CAO Ludlow reported that the Province had brought in changes to election procedures and was holding workshops around the province for municipal staff. She said she would have to attend one of these, and that staff person Ella Amstutz had attended one in Kelowna, as she has family there.

The mayor said it was "nice that she can go and learn, but Joe Public don't know nothing about elections and what is proper and improper so I would like something out there to explain it."

Ludlow told the mayor that Amstutz would be learning how to run an election, and that rules governing the behaviour of the public are all in the Local Government Act. She said they had decided it would be a good idea to have a public meeting before the fall elections to explain the 'do's and don'ts.'

Mayor Van Bynen agreed that getting information out to the public before November would be a good idea, "even if it means relocating the voting office."

•Municipal Ticketing Bylaw No. 565 will be presented at the next public meeting. Council has decided to include the following bylaws in the ticketing bylaw: dog, zoning, building, business, garbage and water.

•Tim Hill gave the foreman's report. The old elementary school has been cleaned out; the railings have been built for the stage; a reconditioned engine has been ordered for the sweeper; both main pumps at the water plant have been rebuilt and two membranes reconditioned.

•Council received a letter from Gene and Delaine Hird in opposition to changing minimum lot sizes. The Hirds also expressed concern about a pipe off the Village's water line leading to a property outside Village boundaries. The Village will send a letter back informing them there is no intention of changing minimum lot sizes at this time, and that this would be part of an OCP review. The letter will also inform the Hirds that the water to the property they mentioned is taken out of the creek before it gets to the Village water plant.

•Council approved a $250 donation to WE Graham's 'Project Save the Turtles.'

•A request from the Women's Institute to hold its annual garage/plant sale on May 10 on the grounds of the old elementary school was approved.

•Councillors Gates and Elliot were authorized to attend the upcoming AKBLG (Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments) convention in Nelson. It was noted that Elliot may not be able to go, depending on the results of the court case.

•In efforts to set a policy to create a respectful work environment at the Village office, council directed staff to contact other municipalities for information. When the mayor asked, "Don't we have a respectful work environment?" the CAO replied, "No, we don't, and this was recommended in the report by the lawyers."

•Council discussed whether or not it wanted to allow tape recordings of its meetings. The item was tabled to the next meeting to give councillors more time to consider it.

•A letter from the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society asks council to consider adopting a bylaw "regarding commercial use along the Slocan Lake consistent with that of the Village of New Denver Bylaw #611…" Council will ask for a copy of New Denver's bylaw and bring this forward at the next meeting.

SMOKEY CREEK SALVAGE
24 HR TOWING
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ELECTORAL AREA H
Columbia Basin Trust
Community Initiatives Funding Program

Electoral Area H is holding a public meeting to review proposals submitted for funding consideration from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Program. The meeting will be held as follows:

Sunday April 6, 1 - 4 pm
Appledale Hall
6841 Highway 6, Appledale BC

For more information, please contact Trish Gerald at:
1-800-268-7325 tgerald@rdck.bc.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.

Popular Kid's Zone Buy and Sell returns to Slocan Valley

submitted

The Kid's Zone Buy and Sell returns to the Slocan Valley on Saturday, April 5. This popular event, which is hosted by the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission, is being held at the Slocan Park Hall and runs from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and it's the perfect place to find all things kiddish!

Just what is the Kid's Zone Buy and Sell? It's a swap meet where nothing but kid's stuff can be found. Clothes, games, toys, books and sporting goods are just some of the items which show up on the tables. Kids are asked to run the tables and make the sales. Parents can assist at the tables if they wish and all ages are invited to come out and look for some great deals. It's a great excuse for kids to get out there and clean their closets over the spring break and maybe be rewarded with some money for their efforts.

This year, organizers are asking for a non-perishable food bank item donation as an admission fee for this year's event. Proceeds will be going to the Slocan Food Bank. Table space at this event sells out every year, so call Slocan Valley Recreation today at 226-0008 to reserve your table by April 2.

Jimmy Bowskill set to rock Silverton

submitted

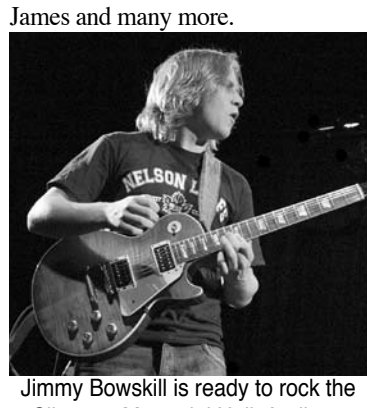
He's been compared to Stevie Ray Vaughn, was discovered by the late Jeff Healey, has three well-respected blues albums under his belt, has knocked their socks off on stages from Japan to the Netherlands to the Salmon Arm Roots & Blues Festival, and is the ripe old age of 17.

On Saturday, April 19 Jimmy Bowskill returns to the Kootenays and is bringing his own special blend of Blues and Rock to the Silverton Memorial Hall for what promises to be one hot evening. Tickets for the show are available at the Apple Tree in New Denver, Silverton Building Supplies, Slocan Valley Station in Slocan and at the Winlaw Mini Mart. Sorry, no minors at this performance.

Last year, Jimmy played a sold-out show in Nelson at the Capitol that still has them gasping. This year he'll be playing another show on Friday, April 18 at the Civic Theatre and tickets for this show will be available only at Eddy Music. This is an all ages event.

Both shows are being opened by local favourites Holly & Jon.

In his brief career, Jimmy Bowskill has been nominated for a Juno, awarded the Maple Blues Award for Best New Blues Talent, and won the Canadian Indie Award for Best Blues Talent – twice. He's shared the stage with an ever-increasing circle of blues superstars, including Dickey Betts, ZZ Top, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Johnny Winters, Colin James and many more.



Jimmy Bowskill is ready to rock the Silverton Memorial Hall, April 19.

Silverton Council, February 26, March 11: Office hours reduced

by Dan Nicholson

Silverton Council has met twice since the *Valley Voice* has reported on their activities.

February 26, 2008

• Silverton Village Council will support a New Denver application for funding under the *CBT: Changing Climate, Changing Basin Planning and Action Initiative Program*. This followed a delegation of New Denver Mayor Gary Wright attending the meeting.

• There was a discussion about a resident that pruned branches on village property. Councillor Wiseman left due to a perceived conflict-of-interest. The matter was tabled to the next meeting of council.

• Deb Hicks was chosen as Silverton's Photographer for the Picture BC project.

• The issue of hiring a summer student was raised again by Councillor Bell. She wanted to go on the record as opposing the decision to not hire a student this year.

• Council approved a Grant In Aid for the Winter Blues Boogie in the amount of the rental fee for the Hall setup on Friday afternoon, February 1.

• Office hours are to be reduced under a proposal of the Staffing Committee. Under the new hours, the Village Office will be open Tuesday - Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm.

March 11, 2008

• There was a general discussion of the village campground, and whether it would be advantageous to delineate campsites with raised logs. It was agreed that this would be discussed further with the campground contractors.

• A new campground policy was adopted, which includes no refunds for prepaid block reservation of campsites, if cancelled late.

• Council also passed a motion to rescind allowing tenting in the Day Park if the village campgrounds are full.

• Council received complaints from a number of residents about the OCP process, and what they saw as substandard work by the contractors - Smart Growth BC.

Complaints included the expense of the exercise, the utility of the document and its perceived complexity.

According to a letter from Heather Huether, Smart Growth BC is being paid $63,000 to produce a report that is substandard and inaccurate. She says that New Denver's OCP is thoughtful, concise and easy to read – and cost about $7,400.

The letter reads, "(Smart Growth BC) has not done their homework on our Village - wrong information, horrible pictures, maps not properly marked to match document, and definitely not clear and concise."

Bert and Cheryl Butchart sent a letter saying, "There are many errors (in the OCP), the wording is not clear and not accurate, the pictures undesirable, the buildings, parks, campsite is not defined correctly, heritage designation is not defined and the overall content is unnecessarily too long and involved."

Said Councillor Wiseman, "The draft OCP doesn't reflect our village. At least not the way that I see it."

Mayor Everett urged caution. "I intend to get to the bottom of this, but let's not jump to conclusions. We've got to give them a chance to make this right."

Council approved a variance for Mr. Gerry Gale and Ms. Maureen Thompson to reduce the rear setback of their property at 207 Fifth Street from 13 feet to five feet.

New Denver council, March 11: Council considers RDCK invitation to discuss water systems

by Leah Main

•Council received an invitation from RDCK to participate in a discussion regarding the feasibility of amalgamating the New Denver water system and the Denver Siding water system, with a copy of correspondence from IHA stating support for such amalgamation.

This was explored in the early 1990s, and at that time, Denver Siding residents were not able to reach the consensus necessary for the amalgamation of the two systems to go ahead.

Council deliberated the amalgamation proposal in depth, and raised several questions regarding both the process and the projected outcomes, including: requiring full disclosure of all costs to be borne by Denver Siding residents; discussion of the differences between expansion of the New Denver water system and true amalgamation of Denver Siding into the Village; determination of potential upgrades needed to the New Denver water system to enable it to service additional properties (possibly a new well and additional pumping station; additional generator for second well; extension of water mains; decommissioning of existing Denver Siding Water System); determination of potential upgrades needed to the existing Denver Siding water system to ready it for inclusion in the New Denver water system (particularly distribution mains); planning for subdivision servicing bylaws and development cost charges that would be required when adding land that could be subdivided; determination of who would bear the cost of the necessary boundary restructure and engineering studies; could or would Regional District agree to pay for these studies while ensuring that the Village retains authority over the parameters and effects of this initiative.

The mayor will draft a reply to RDCK's communication, to be approved at the next council meeting.

•Ray Nikkel appeared as a delegation on behalf of the Slocan Lake Garden Society (SLUGS) to update council on its activities during the past year, and to ask for support for new projects to build a berm in the area behind the birch grove, to beautify the compost, to install an irrigation system, and to replace old Christmas lights with LED light strings.

They are investigating several avenues of funding, including the BC Hydro Community Investment Fund and CBT, and have asked the Village to contribute equipment time and a financial contribution. Council agreed to have CAO Carol Gordon assist with the society's efforts to find funding, and will refer the item to the budget process. The society has committed 40 hours of volunteer labour and up to $2,500 of its fundraising for the irrigation system initiative, which it predicts will provide a significant water conservation advantage as well as eliminating unsightly hoses and sprinklers from this beautiful facility.

•Councillor Greensword reported that the Galena/Shelter Bay ferry schedule was discussed at the last Stakeholders meeting, with recognition that the schedule provides inadequate early morning service. A pilot project is planned for this spring that will implement an additional early morning run to accommodate commercial traffic, but the last run of the evening will be dropped. This can create a new problem for late evening commercial traffic, leaving some of them on the "wrong" side of the run at the end of the day. However, the current contract requires that if the last run of the day has overflow, it must be transported; this will perhaps mitigate the "wrong side" problem. Additionally, a second ferry will be put on this run from May through the Thanksgiving weekend.

•Greensword also attended the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital Board meeting, where a large part of the discussion focused around a proposal to implement a new medical practitioners communications system, replacing one installed only a few years ago that has proven cumbersome and difficult for practitioners to use. The board tabled this proposal pending further information on costs.

•Councillor Bunka was appointed Councillor in charge of Heritage Sites, in addition to her seat on the Heritage Advisory Committee, with terms of reference for the appointment to be developed. This appointment acknowledges the extensive work Bunka does with both the Kyowakai Society and the Silvery Slocan Historical Society to help take care of their respective sites in partnership with the Village.

•Councillor Greensword will now chair the Public Works Committee; and Mayor Wright has joined the Public Affairs Committee, which will continue working on the Centennial Park Plan with input from Councillor Bunka, who was instrumental in development of that plan.

•Council amended the Radon Detector rental fees. The detector will still be available at no cost to Village residents; non-residents can now rent it for a fee of $15 for 10 days, with a returnable $50 deposit.

•Bill and Jill Roberts advised council that they wish to proceed with the purchase of the portion of 10th Ave. adjoining their residential property, as outlined in previous correspondence. Staff was directed to proceed with the sale, including drafting the restrictive covenant, advertising in the newspaper, and issuing correspondence requiring the Roberts' to pay for the legal survey.

•Staff will continue updating the appraisal values of Village-owned buildings and properties prior to the May 21 insurance policy renewal date and in preparation for the Tangible Capital Asset Inventory now required by the province.

Ephrem Holgate demonstrates Wii tennis, part of the fitness equipment project at the Passmore Lodge.

Free seniors' fitness programs and a new look at housing in the Valley

submitted

At the Passmore Lodge annual meeting, seniors said they needed convenient seniors-focused fitness opportunities. The Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society (SVSHS) worked with the regional district to successfully secure a Union of BC Municipalities grant for the RDCK to run a pilot seniors' fitness project.

The project provides free fitness programs, fitness equipment, personalized fitness instruction and transportation to the programs which are held at Passmore Lodge. These services are free to any Slocan Valley senior. Partners in this project include the RDCK, Passmore Lodge, and the Slocan Valley Recreation Commission.

All the equipment has now arrived and seniors can attend group classes (which will continue through spring and summer) or can get personalized fitness instruction from a certified trainer and then exercise on their own. For more details call the recreation office at 226-0008.

At their recent planning session, the SVSHS Board of Directors also launched a new committee to review housing needs in the valley with a view to increasing the availability of affordable housing for all. "The times they are a'changin" is what we all hear and it's time to look at what is needed now, building on the commitment of the community to provide housing so people can continue to live in the Valley.

For more information, or to help out with these initiatives, please call the Slocan Valley Seniors Housing Society office at 226-7136 and one of the board members will return your call.

West Kootenay Camera Club calls for submissions to contest

submitted

It's that time of year again for you to take those photos for West Kootenay Camera Club's 18th Annual Photo Show. If you want to challenge yourself and love to take photos, enter our competition and enjoy professional opinions on your works of art.

The special category this year is Boats, in addition to Nature, Human Interest, Photojournalism, Creative Images, Flowers, Portraits, Architecture and Open categories. Also this year, we have a Youth section for entries from children aged Kindergarten to Grade 7.

Entries can be picked up at Doell Photo, Vogue Studios in Castlegar and Nelson. The deadline is May 9. For more information call Nel at 365-6072.

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Local government day at Lucerne school teaches council workings

by Art Joyce

Students from grades 10-12 at Lucerne Secondary got a chance to learn how local government works on March 12 thanks to Rumi Nakabayashi and New Denver council. Nakabayashi hosted the event as part of the lead-up to the Future World Leaders Summit she will be attending in Washington, DC from March 30-April 5.

Under the direction of teacher Gary Parkstrom, students watched while Mayor Gary Wright and Councillors Ann Bunka, Katrine Campbell and Bonnie Greensword demonstrated how a motion is proposed, debated and adopted. Two groups of students were then given a chance to sit as a mock council and carry out a brief meeting agenda. New Denver's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Carol Gordon was present to help advise both the regular and mock councils.

Parkstrom had prepared students in earlier classes by explaining some of the differences between local, provincial and federal government authority. Mayor Wright explained that local government is primarily responsible for maintenance of streets, community parks, garbage collection, planning, water services and fire protection. The public elects five councilors and the mayor who are responsible for carrying out the wishes of the electors. The CAO is an unelected position and therefore acts strictly in an advisory capacity and follows the direction of council to implement policy.

Students had some difficulty with using formal titles before their names and were reminded by Mayor Wright that this is done to keep a separation between public and private business. Delicate matters such as discussions of employee contracts are kept confidential by the use of '*in camera*' council meetings that are closed to the public.

The first mock council of students had on its agenda a resolution to allow commercial vending machines in the school, provided 10% of gross sales were given to the school district for use in enhancing curriculum. After some discussion students proposed an amendment that vending machines be subject to provincial regulations and another student proposed that more than 10% of revenue be given the district. The motion passed with the amendments.

The second mock council had on its agenda a resolution to create a community skatepark in New Denver. Mayor Wright urged the students to engage in debate, since "the object of speaking is to convince other councillors to vote your way." Teacher Gary Parkstrom asked students to at least state whether they were for or against the resolution and why. The resolution passed with little discussion. The student council were then asked to remain sitting to allow for the 'public' to ask questions, as is the case in regular council during the public and press time portion of the meeting agenda.

Mayor Wright thanked students for participating and Nakabayashi for arranging the event. He noted that "it shows how nerve-wracking it can be to sit up in front of the village."

Rumi Nakabayashi hosted a local government day at Lucerne Scool, March 12.

Kaslo group forms to oppose private power

submitted

The new trend toward private power production in BC has inspired the formation of Public Power Now!, a group of Kaslo and area citizens who are devoted to raising public awareness about the issue.

Although the group is primarily concerned about the Glacier/Howser project proposed by Axor Corporation and currently awaiting approval from the Ministry of Environment, it is concerned about the issue of private power in general. "We're calling for a referendum on this issue and will be circulating petitions to that effect," says Rick Korens, a member of the group.

Korens says independent power projects bring a new environmental threat to BC. "Independent power companies are buying rights to hundreds of our streams and rivers, will drill huge tunnels through the mountains, and build transmission lines and roads to each power site, destroying more of our wilderness and disrupting wildlife corridors. They will make millions of dollars, with little monetary return to the BC government, while our power rates increase," he said.

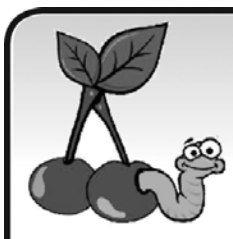
He points to a 2007 BC Hydro study called 'Conservation Potential Review,' which states that BC can meet all its electricity needs until 2027 through conservation measures alone.

"So where is this extra power going? It will be exported out of the province, bringing huge profits to private corporations at our expense, both ecologically and financially," says Korens.

The group can be contacted by email at publicpowernow@yahoo.ca or by phone at 250-505-3878.

PHOTO CREDIT: KIMBERLY MACAULAY

Kaslo's new RCMP corporal, Chris Backus, and wife Tamara recently moved to Kaslo from Comox Valley. Backus and Kaslo Constable Mark Macaulay worked together at the Comox Valley detachment. Backus says he applied for the position when he heard Kaslo was such a beautiful place to live.



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Access local Kootenay energy efficiency and green advice for your home or business and qualify for regional, provincial and federal grants and incentives. Contact (non-profit) City Green Solutions at 1 866 381 9995 or on the web at www.citygreen.ca for more info and scheduling.

Research/Consulting
We can assist with the greener aspects of buildings, properties & communities including energy and water efficiency, healthy environments, & climate change - info@greenerhomes.ca

Design & Construction
Green, integrated design & construction services for homes, buildings, and property are available in the Kootenays. Contact our green team to work with local green and LEED accredited professionals such architects, building designers, engineers, site planners, etc. to design and construct your green project - large or small, light to dark green - info@greenerhomes.ca or 250 226 7829

Site Development
For low impact site development, road building, environmental assessments, renewable energy systems and landscape remediation services including locally grown native plants contact our team at 250 226 7829 or info@greenerhomes.ca

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The Greener Homes & Properties Collective can provide for your green prefab home and building needs including affordable 'dark green' wall and building systems - email for the latest news on this exciting project: info@greenerhomes.ca

* Dexter Associates Realty, 2094 W43rd Ave Vancouver BC V6M 2C9, 604 263 1144 - This communication is not intended to solicit business from those already under contract with a REALTOR®.

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD ALLIN

A few moose have been spending recent winters along Bonanza Creek and are occasionally spotted by cross-country skiers. This youngster was seen in the creek in early March. Young moose generally spend their first year with their mothers. She chases them off to be on their own when she is about to give birth to her new young, usually in late spring.

Here they are lined up for 6-8-year-old skier cross event at the annual carnival held at the Summit Lake ski hill, held March 21.

'Songwriters in the Round,' Ian Sherwood, Coco Love Alcorn and Christa Couture, performed at Silverton Gallery March 16.

A ski bunny (Nicole Nicholson) was seen playing with a pile of snowballs (Quade Nicholson-Chodat) at the Summit Lake carnival.

The snow didn't keep the kids away from the annual Easter Egg Hunt this year. Claire Yaremchuk climbs a snowbank in search of goodies. This was the earliest Easter since 1882.

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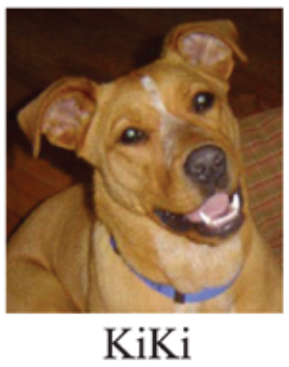


KiKi
This pretty girl is waiting for the right family to come along. KiKi is a spayed Lab/Heeler cross. She is good with other dogs, cats, and kids. More information is at: 250-354-7800, or visit:
www.homes4animals.com
www.homes4animals.com

Notification of Application for a Waterpower Project

FrontCounter BC, Cranbrook, has accepted applications made by Purcell Green Power Inc. of Vancouver, BC, on behalf of the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) for License of Occupations for the purpose of waterpower projects situated on Provincial Crown land in the vicinity of Cooper Creek and Tenise Creek.

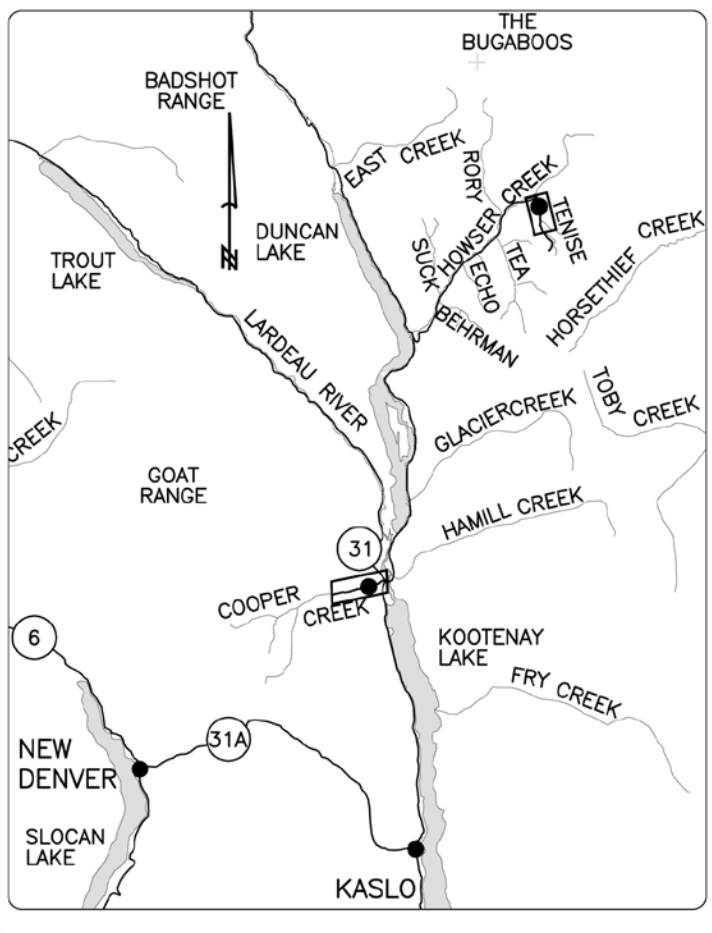
The ILMB File Numbers that have been established for these Applications are 4404767 for Cooper Creek, and 4404766 for Tenise Creeks.

These applications are at a preliminary stage and a future advertisement will request specific input regarding the development plan for these projects. Additional information on the water power project application process is available at the following website:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/waterpower/index.html

Any questions concerning this notification should be directed to Murray McPhail, Senior Land Officer, Integrated Land Management Bureau, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook B.C., V1C 7G1 or email to: Murray.Mcphail@gov.bc.ca.

Please refer to our website www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/ and follow the link to Crown Land Applications — Applications and Reason for Decision Database for more information.



Nakusp council, March 11: Ferry changes in the wind

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Hamling reported on the ferry stakeholders meeting held March 4. The ministry is working with the union to change the Galena/Shelter ferry schedule so that the first sailing is one hour earlier, at 5:30 am. This would mean that the last sailing would be one hour earlier as well. Statistics show low ridership on the last run, while logging trucks start lining up very early in the morning. By August, when the budget is set, Hamling said they hoped to have the last ferry sailing re-instated.

She said they were looking at opening a second lane for traffic, so ferry staff can more accurately see how many vehicles are waiting in line. Speakers may be used to move traffic. They are trying to get cell service in the area so they can install webcams.

The reason the washrooms are not open in the winter is that the water comes from a creek that freezes. The group would like a well to be drilled so that washrooms can be open year-round. This year, portapotties will be placed from May to October, as there are only two stalls in the washrooms.

•As recommended by the hot springs committee, Gina Nymeyer was appointed to sit as a director on the committee. Three resumes were received in response to the advertised position, from Nymeyer, Rosemarie Parent and Albert Boers of Hills. "The committee felt that her [Nymeyer's] background in finance would be a good addition to the board," states Councillor Mueller in her written report to council.

Council also authorized Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering to apply for funding from Energy Canada. The funding is for an upgrade to the heating system that would use hot springs water for the in-floor heating system. Currently, water heated by the oil-fired boiler is used in the in-floor system. With an approximately $15,000 oil bill per year at the hot springs, council would like to save as much oil as possible. Shephard has estimated the cost of the upgrade to be in the range of $23,000-$38,000. The Energy Canada grant would cover 50%. Council referred Shephard's proposal to budget discussions.

•Mayor Hamling reported on RDCK meetings. She said all municipalities and electoral areas except Nelson and Castlegar will pool their BC Hydro grant-in-lieu funding into the Community Development Fund. Nakusp's $14,755 grant will go into a service that the Village shares with Area K, such as the library or arena, thereby decreasing taxes for that service for both Village and Area K ratepayers. She asked staff to work with RDCK staff to determine which service would be best to contribute the $14,755 to. Council will also have access to $20,000 from the Community Development Fund to go towards economic, social or environmental programs.

•Councillor Switzer reported on the Nakusp and Area Community Forest. The corporation has advertised for a manager with a closing date of March 20. He says the management proposals will probably be reviewed at the April 14 board meeting and the successful applicant announced shortly afterwards.

•Mayor Hamling reported on the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital Board meeting of March 5. The Arrow Lakes Hospital will receive $30,000 to resurface or relocate the helipad. Both the Arrow Lakes Hospital and Slocan Community Health Centre will get new radiographic equipment and fire alarm system upgrades.

•Council approved the proposal for the archaeological impact assessment in the municipal campground, in the area next to the seniors' centre parking lot, as presented by Horizon Heritage Consulting and the Nakusp and District Museum Society. In a letter to council, Sharon Montgomery of the museum society says the two-day project is planned for April. The archaeologist, Chris Burk of Horizon in Kaslo, feels there is good potential for the site to contain subsurface archaeological materials. He and a crew will excavate small shovel tests and will leave the area as they found it. Montgomery's letter states, "We would be pleased to provide assurances through Horizon Heritage Consulting regarding insurance and WCB coverage prior to commencing work and look forward to reviewing the contract."

•Councillor Mueller reported on an RDCK West Waste committee meeting, where there was a PowerPoint presentation on the Nakusp landfill. It is estimated that the landfill will be able to operate for another 50 years, until 2048. She said hydrological engineers have determined, with test wells, that contamination is minor and that it runs towards the lake, not the Kuskanax. Because it takes five years to get to the lake, it is clean by the time it gets there.

•CAO Bob Lafleur updated council members on the BC Hydro revegetation program after he spoke with BCH representative Jennifer Walker-Larsen. The program will start in 2009, and only willow and sedges will be planted at higher elevations. All area residents will receive a mailer with information and maps before summer, and Walker-Larsen said she would facilitate a meeting after the mail-out if required. She told Lafleur that fall rye is intended to be planted only at very low levels for dust control.

•CAO Lafleur provided an update from Harry Brownlow of BC Hydro on the wharf repairs. Divers were to start underwater repairs as soon as liability issues had been resolved. The floating wharf was to arrive March 10. The feasibility study had a tentative start date of March 25.

•The new logo for the Village will be officially unveiled on April 2 in the arena auditorium at 7 pm. Bluebeetle Creative, the consultant that designed the logo, will do the presentation. There will be refreshments and entertainment by the jazz band.

•Council agreed to send a letter of approval in principle to Arrow & Slocan Lakes Community Services for a 10-15-unit affordable housing project.

•The Fauquier and District Golf Club's request to use the hot springs display kiosk at a golf show in Calgary was granted. The Village will provide brochures and hot springs passes to be given out at the show.

•An open house was scheduled for March 27 and 28 in council chambers for people to view the final draft of the OCP maps.

•Prompted by an email to Mayor Hamling outlining concerns of the Pulp Paper and Woodworkers of Canada, Local #1, Castlegar, council decided to write a letter expressing concern about BC's forest ecosystem and the need for an integrated long-term forest ecosystem management plan. The letter will be sent to the Minister of Forests and the premier.

•Accounts payable for the month of February in the amount of $360,923.63 were approved.

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
311 7th Ave NW • Nakusp • 265-4633
Rear Alley Entrance

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
TO VIEW THE FINAL DRAFT
OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN MAPS
Date: March 27 & 28, 2008
Place: Council Chambers, 91 1st Street NW
Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

VILLAGE OF NAKUSP

EARTH HOUR
TURN IT OFF CHALLENGE

The Council of the Village of Nakusp encourages its residents to participate in the Earth Hours- Turn It Off Challenge, by turning off unnecessary lights and plug loads at 8 pm on Saturday, March 29th.

For more information on the Earth Hour program and ways to participate, please go to the website: www.earthhour.org

April 2 • 7 pm - 8 pm
Wednesday
Arena Auditorium

The Village of Nakusp & The Nakusp & Area Development Board invite you to the unveiling of Nakusp's new logo and new brand.

Come see the new logo, tag lines and image that will represent Nakusp.

The Nakusp Jazz Band will perform part of the evening.

A special memento will be given to those who attend.

Nakusp arena budget left up to RDCK board

by Jan McMurray

With Nakusp and Area K unable to agree on taxation for the arena, it will be up to the RDCK board to make the decision at its March 29 meeting, when the Regional District budget will be finalized.

The total tax requisition for the arena has remained at $166,307 since 2000. Residents of Nakusp, and residents of Area K north to Halcyon, south towards Summit Lake, and south to just past Bayview all contribute.

For the past two years, this amount has not been enough to cover the facility's operating costs, and the Village has had to make up the $52,000 shortfall each year.

To avoid this from happening again, the Village of Nakusp is proposing to increase the total tax requisition by $52,000 this year, to $218,307.

"After all, if this is a shared service, the costs should be shared," says Mayor Hamling.

Area K Director Paul Peterson, however, says he will not increase taxation without a referendum, or until he gets a say in how the arena is run.

"Area K is paying 47% of the total arena budget this year, but I don't get a say in how that budget is spent," Peterson points out. He says many other areas deal with managing the budgets of shared services by establishing a service commission, made up of the area's elected officials. He would like to see a service commission for the services Area K shares with Nakusp – the arena, the fire department, the library and the cemetery.

Mayor Hamling says Peterson brought up the idea of a service commission for the first time at the March 10 Area K/Nakusp budget meeting. She says council is "more than willing to sit down with Peterson" and discuss the idea.

Hamling says council has been working hard with staff over the past two years to identify areas where they can be more efficient at the arena. "Unfortunately, costs of fuel, hydro, wages all impact the running of the facility."

Last year, the tax rate was .623 per $1,000 of assessed value. If the tax requisition remains at $166,307, the tax rate will be .392 this year.

Mayor Hamling says the Village would look at contributing its BC Hydro grants-in-lieu funding of $14,755 to the arena service if Peterson would agree to raising the requisition. In this case, the tax rate would be .479 per $1,000 of assessed value.

The bylaw allows the tax rate to be increased to $1.01.

The Nakusp Secondary School received $10,000 for Next Step for Change – a three-day experiential retreat for 60 people that will address issues that cause teasing, bullying, stereotyping and alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse.

Gavin the Glass Man ready to offer stained glass work to customers

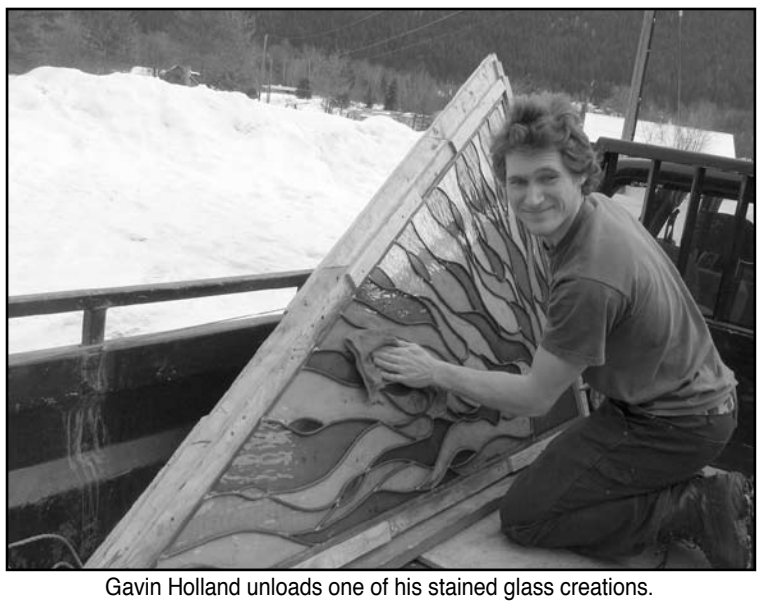
by Art Joyce

Carrying on a Kootenay tradition, Gavin Holland is a second generation glassworker ready to offer clients custom-made glasswork. Gavin's father Moss Holland is owner of well-known family firm Moss Glassworks, a fixture in the local craft community.

Gavin offers custom-made art glass, including design, building and installation of each piece, stained glass repair, and a fused glass jewelry line available at the Craft Connection in Nelson. Exterior windows, door windows, transoms, and free-hanging windows are all among the items he is capable of crafting. Pricing varies according to the size of window and complexity of the design, and he is willing to work to suit the client's budget.

"I just enjoy the fact that there's so much to learn with glass-making techniques and endless possibilities. Glasswork really astonishes people."

An example of the Holland family's skill can be seen in the recently repaired stained glass in Nelson's historic Bank of Montreal, a job Gavin worked on with his father. Moss Holland has been in the business of stained glass and fused glass artwork for the past 20 years as a cottage industry based at the family home in Sproule Creek.



Gavin Holland unloads one of his stained glass creations.

"I got into the whole craft fair thing with my parents when I was really young. It was never really a serious thing until a year or two ago."

Stained glass is an ancient art that traditionally emphasizes geometric forms, a craft Gavin considers "artwork full of light." He incorporates fusion glass techniques into his stained glass as well as glass painting and sandblasting, to create what he calls 'art glass,' a hybrid of modern and ancient techniques. Clients can bring ideas from windows they've seen elsewhere or have Gavin create a wholly original design. His work graces homes in New Denver, the Slocan Valley and the Nelson area.

Gavin apprenticed with his father and has taken glassworking courses over the years to expand his knowledge, including a painting on glass course at the Kootenay School of Art. Much of his knowledge has been from hands-on experience in construction, masonry and building his own cabin at Sproule Creek. He is completing the Community Futures program where he received training in business and marketing. Gavin will have a booth at this year's Hills Garlic Festival with samples of his art glass and fused glass jewelry.

Examples of Gavin's work can be seen on his website at www.gavintheglassman.ca and he can be contacted at 352-0909 or gavintheglassman@telus.net.

Slocan Valley Arts Council celebrates 20 years with gala dinner

submitted

On Sunday, April 20, the Slocan Valley Arts Council is celebrating 20 years of existence in the valley with a dinner at Arica Gardens in Winlaw.

This event, being held on the eve of the April full moon, will bring together representatives of the arts, cultural and educational groups that share the goal of building a strong community. The dinner will be an occasion to honour those who have given long years of outstanding service to the arts council. It will also be an opportunity for people to meet with their neighbours, new and old.

This gala evening begins promptly at 5 pm with introductions at a short reception, followed by a sit-down dinner. After dinner, entertainment will showcase some of the recipients of Slocan Valley Arts Council support and will reflect the variety and excellence of arts and culture in our area.

Call ahead, as space is limited. Special priority will be given to representatives of Slocan Valley Arts Council member groups, community organizations, and arts-related businesses.

Newcomers: If you have recently moved to the valley and would like to attend, please call Barbara at 226-0021 or Donna at 226-7554 or Lesley at 226-7479 or email svartscouncil@columbiawireless.ca.

School District 10 consults with literacy partners

by Jan McMurray

If you are involved in literacy in any way in School District 10 (Arrow Lakes), you were probably at a meeting March 13 at the seniors' centre in Nakusp. All school districts in BC have been mandated to develop a District Literacy Plan by July 15 this year. The goal of the plan must be to increase literacy among preschoolers, school age children, adults and aboriginal people. These four groups are referred to as 'the four pillars' of the literacy plans.

About 25 people attended the Nakusp meeting, which was facilitated by Ev Surgeoner and Denny Kemprud of SK Associates. There were representatives from the schools, Selkirk College, Nakusp Public Library, the New Denver Reading Centre, and the Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy.

The meeting got underway with presentations that gave an overview of the many literacy initiatives already underway in the district. Presenters included Jennifer Cliff-Marks of Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy; Terry Taylor, Lucerne School teacher; Sally McLean, Early Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator for SD10; and George Harding, principal of Nakusp Elementary and the southern zone schools.

At the end of the presentations, Surgeoner commented, "I think you should be proud of yourselves. That was a tremendous overview – there is a lot going on."

The meeting then broke into small groups to take a good look at a literacy plan completed in 2004 by the Nakusp Literacy Advisory Committee. Each group wrote out comments about the plan and handed over their comment sheets to Surgeoner and Kemprud, who said they would have a draft literacy plan in a week or two.

NOTICE

PROPERTY OWNERS AND BUILDERS

Central Kootenay Regional District

Please take note that a **building permit** is required prior to commencing any building construction, addition or alteration project. This includes placing manufactured homes and swimming pools, as well as modifying or adding to plumbing systems.

Applications for building permit will be reviewed for all safety and health related design details as regulated by the British Columbia Building Code, as well as land use issues arising out of Agricultural Land Use and Floodplain Management regulations, and the Regional Districts Land Use Bylaws.

There are Provincial regulations you should know about when building new houses and when building, adding onto or altering any building. Building without a permit can create problems selling a property and will result in extra costs and penalties.

Applications for permits can be obtained at the Regional District of Central Kootenay Building Inspection office nearest you, or online at www.rdck.bc.ca . For further information, please contact:

Building Inspection Services
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive
NELSON, BC V1L 5R4
Phone: (250) 352-8155 Toll Free: 1-800-268-7325
Fax: (250) 352-9300

Spring Grants

Non-profit groups in the Village of Nakusp and Defined Area K

may apply for a grant to

REC COMMISSION #4, BOX 613
NAKUSP, BC, V0G 1R0
Pick up applications at:
Village of Nakusp office or get applications and more information from:
sandrawatt@telus.net
Applications close April 11, 2007
Grant co-ordinator
S. Watt, 265-3438

Nakusp Music Fest

Saddle Mountain High !

Volunteers - APPLY NOW!

"Early Bird" Contest

Volunteer Application Forms that are processed and approved by May 15/08 will be entered to WIN:

1. Digital camcorder (est. value $500)

2. iPod plus Boombox with iPod dock (est. value $250)

3. Digital camera (est. value $150)

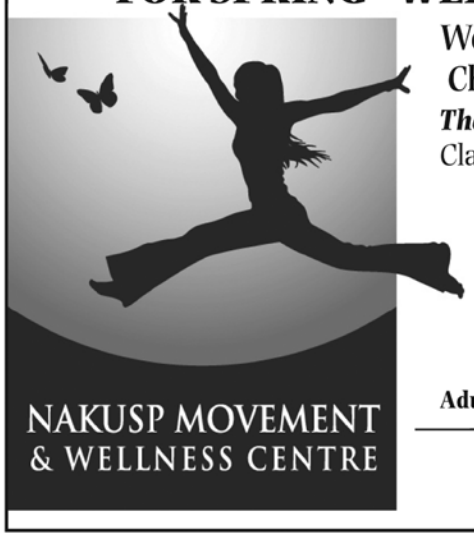
Draw on Sunday (after completed shifts)

Check our website *www.nakuspmusicfest.ca* for details about this contest and many more prizes for volunteers!!!

NAKUSP MOVEMENT & WELLNESS CENTRE

DANCE CLASSES & REGISTRATION

FOR SPRING - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2 - 6:30 pm



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The Season will Start APRIL 14 for 10 Weeks
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Baby Ballet	**4yrs - 5yrs**
Junior Jazz/Pop	**6yrs - 9yrs**
Hip Hop	**9yrs - 12yrs**
Old Skool Hip Hop	**13+ Co-ed**
Hip Hop Divas	**15+**

Adult Dance medley 12wks Hip Hop, Bollywood, Dance Hall

90 5th Street in Nakusp
265-1984 | nmwc@telus.net

Community groups discuss multi-use community centre

by Andrea Dupuis

On January 29, many of Kaslo's community groups met to discuss the potential for a multi-use community centre. Some of the attendees were representatives from Periwinkle Children's Centre, the Family Centre, Kaslo and Area Youth Centre (KAYC), North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (NKLCSS), and Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition (KECC).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of building a community centre to house community groups whose current locations are either leased, require attention, or are impermanent.

Although the idea of the multi-use community centre is still in the early stages and there are still many unknowns, Anne Heard, co-ordinator of the KECC, says, "We see needs in the community."

Currently, the Family Centre doesn't have a permanent home and is leasing store-front property. Sixty people who regularly use the family centre have signed a petition to find the centre a permanent home that provides optimal space for families.

There was also discussion at the meeting about the lack of licenced childcare in Kaslo. The proposed community centre would potentially house a licenced daycare. The KECC sent out a survey last month entitled 'The Story of Childcare in the West Kootenay.' They expect the results next month.

Heard says that while the KECC will not spearhead the project, they are interested in collecting support from community members and hope to form a committee that will become a non-profit society.

The preferred location for the centre was identified at the meeting as the Village-owned land near the playground in Vimy Park.

Various community organizations have already shown interest in utilizing space in a multi-use community centre. Periwinkle Children's Centre, the Family Centre, the Youth Centre and the Food Security Project are all interested in being housed in the proposed new centre.

Other community groups pledged support by sending letters to council in favour of the idea, including KAYC, the Seniors Association, the Kaslo Chamber of Commerce and Selkirk College.

"There will be ongoing appeals to the community to show their support," says Heard.

She says that each letter received from the community shows that Kaslo supports the project and strengthens any grant applications the group may make. One possible route for funding is the provincial government Towns for Tomorrow grant, which provides 80 per cent of funds for projects up to $500, 000 to groups in BC communities with a population under 5,000.

Although the KECC was unable to meet the Towns for Tomorrow deadline this year, Heard is optimistic they will apply for it next year. In the meantime, they are searching for funds to put together a business plan and are looking for alternate funding.

Kaslo JazzFest named among top 10 outdoor music festivals in North America

submitted

Kaslo Jazz Etc. Festival has been named "One of the top 10 outdoor music festivals in North America," according to *USA Today*. The festival this year runs August 1-3.

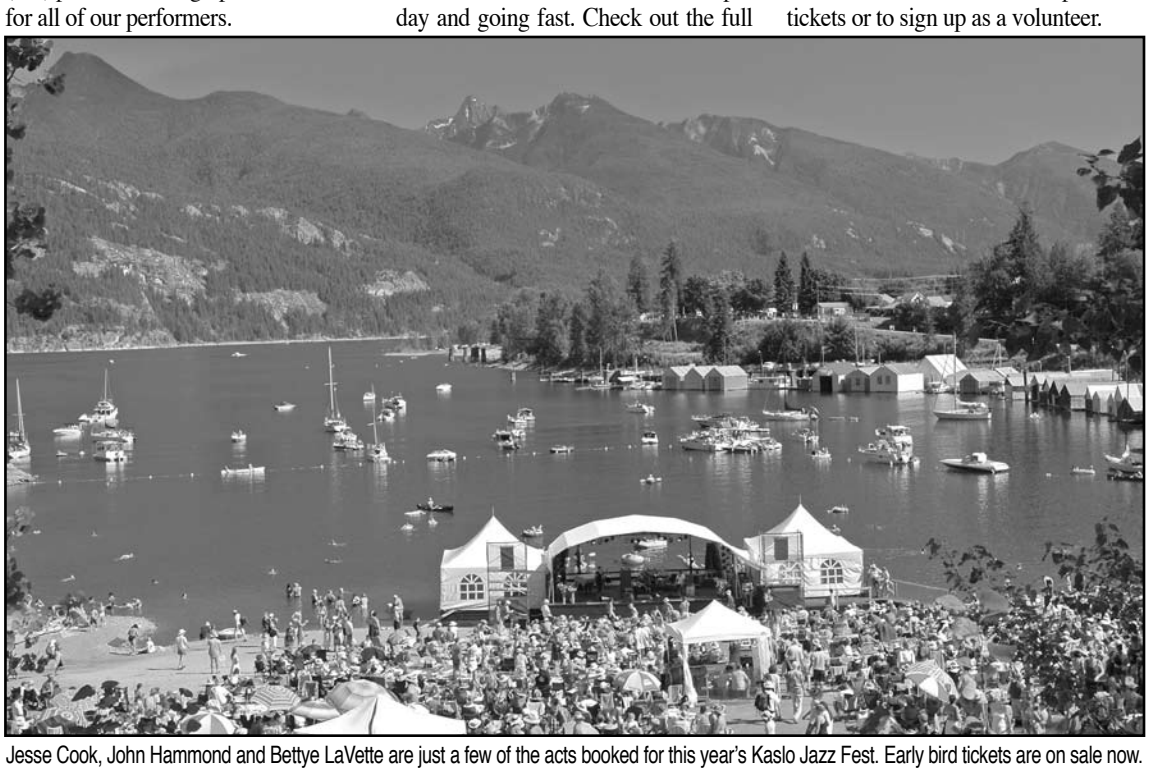
The festival is reconnecting with its origins in traditional music by hosting the first Kaslo Country Etc. Concert in Kaslo Bay Park on Friday August 1. Headlining this year will be the very talented Abigail Washburn and the Sparrow Quartet featuring Bela Fleck with Casey Driessen and Ben Sollee. Fleck, widely regarded as the premier banjo player in the world, is known for his genre-bending virtuosity. The Sparrow Quartet unites Fleck's mastery with Washburn's virtuoso banjo, Sollee's cello and classically trained Driessen's bluegrass fiddle for a sound no music fan can resist. This is a separately ticketed event and a limited number of Early Bird tickets are on sale now at $20/$25.

Juno Award winner Jesse Cook, a favourite of any Latin music lover, makes his return to the Kaslo Jazz Festival stage Saturday night. Also joining Saturday's schedule will be Grammy award-winning John Hammond, with a career that spans three decades. Hammond will be performing his intense solo-acoustic blues. Brooklyn-based guitarist, vocalist and songwriter Chris Bergson and his band will create their own blend of rootsy blues and soul.

Sunday's schedule brings to the stage 'The Great Lady of Soul' herself, Bettye LaVette. LaVette possesses an incredibly expressive voice that one moment exudes formidable strength and intensity and the next is vulnerable and reflective. To keep your feet moving, Wil Campa and his 13-piece Cuban group La Gran Union will play the sounds from the '40s and '70s, mixing the rhythms of the two eras with his own unique Cuban flavour.

But that's not everyone – also joining us to celebrate are a number of performers who are visiting from near and far such as Cuartoelemento (Argentina), the Hilario Duran Trio (Cuba), Kristin Sevaldsen (Norway), Emily Braden (BC) plus more. Biographies are online for all of our performers.

A limited number of Early Bird tickets are on sale now at $50/$60 per day and going fast. Check out the full schedule at www.kaslojazzfest.com for the latest information, to purchase tickets or to sign up as a volunteer.



Jesse Cook, John Hammond and Bettye LaVette are just a few of the acts booked for this year's Kaslo Jazz Fest. Early bird tickets are on sale now.

Kaslo residents asked for input in Business Case Study for provincial building

by Andrea Dupuis

At a public meeting March 13, Am Naqvi presented an outline of his draft business case study for the provincial building and asked for public input. He said he would present the final study to council the following week.

Naqvi said the business case answers the question: "Does this purchase have economic merit?" He outlined the four key areas explored in the business case: acquisition, renovation and restoration, tenant requirements, and operating costs.

Mayor Holland says the business case study is a "firm foundation to move forward." Once it is received and reviewed by council, the Village will know if it is getting good economic value for its investment.

However, the purchase of the provincial building does not depend solely on the business case, according to Holland. There are many other factors council must consider, including the heritage value of the building and the value of the land surrounding the building.

Many citizens voiced their concern about what other costs will be incurred, such as costs related to WCB standards for tenants. They asked if the building will have to be remodeled to meet WCB guidelines. Naqvi responded that in the case study he has no choice but to factor these guidelines in to the overall cost.

Another concern voiced by citizens is the insurability of the building. Mayor Holland said that the insurance situation is "a mess" they are trying to sort out. Council has been given a preliminary estimate of $5,600 per year in insurance costs on a building worth $2.5 million. Currently, the Village's lawyer is negotiating insurance in the take-back lease. Since the beginning of the negotiations, the Province has agreed to pay an additional $1 per square foot to cover insurance costs for the space occupied by the government agent in the take-back lease.

Kaslo council, March 11: Draft City Hall Conservation Plan received

by Andrea Dupuis

•Council received a draft of the City Hall Conservation Plan from Mark Mackenzie, and a letter from the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts granting an extension to the original March 31 deadline for completing the plan. The ministry, which provided the funding for the project, proposed that most of the project be billed out by March 31, with the remainder to be billed on an agreed upon date before June 30. Mackenzie's contract will be extended until June 30 to allow for components of the plan to be finalized.

•The Kaslo and District Public Library wrote to ask for some additions to the draft City Hall Conservation Plan. The library board would like to see a description of the future use for the second floor (the old courtroom), and asked that a 'library program centre' be considered for potential use of the space. The board also suggested specifics pertaining to the basement, including preservation and restoration of the dark cell and northwest staircase.

•Bryan MacMillan, Grounds Chairman of the Kaslo Golf Club, wrote to request a meeting with council to discuss plans for changes to the golf course layout and the removal of trees. He said the club would provide a report from a registered forester and would like to retain all logging revenues. His request was referred to the Development Services Committee.

•Erika Bird's letter regarding integrating environmental sustainability into the OCP was referred to the Citizens Advisory Committee. She suggested council form a group to create a list of strategies to achieve green goals and to evaluate the achievement of the goals.

•Council will send a letter of support to the Kaslo Trailblazer Society for its $32,000 project to extend the trail for approximately 3.7 kms west along the Kaslo River, and to add a suspension bridge to allow pedestrians to cross to the north side of the river. The Village will send a letter of support, but advised that municipal funding is not available for the project.

•The Kaslo Housing Society has abandoned its original plan to build a supported living facility for seniors, and has decided instead to support expanding Abbey Manor. The high cost of developing a new facility on raw land to house seniors is the reason for the society's change in plans.

Some time ago, the Village promised the Kaslo Housing Society a piece of land, located behind the Village works yard, for its seniors housing project. The society has now written to ask council if it would consider turning over the land, or in some way conveying the value of the land, to the Kaslo and District Senior Citizens Shelter Society, which owns Abbey Manor. The senior citizens shelter society does not need the land itself for the project. The request was referred to Development Services for recommendation to council.

The Abbey Manor expansion plans are to add a new wing with six double units and four single units, to enlarge the common room, and to add a space for a commercial kitchen. The senior citizens shelter society has received a grant from BC Housing to do a feasibility study for the project. If BC Housing approves the construction phase, the Kaslo Housing Society has committed to making a donation from their assets to the Kaslo and District Senior Citizens Shelter Society for the project.

•A link will be added onto the Village of Kaslo website concerning cougar behaviour, in response to concerns about residents attracting cougars to the area by feeding deer in their backyards.

•Mayor Holland reported on an RDCK Rural Affairs Committee meeting, where it was agreed that the RDCK and the Village would jointly share in an application for a master water plan study. Council referred the matter to budget deliberations.

•Mayor Holland was authorized to attend the AKBLG conference in Nelson April 17-19.

•A letter of resignation from Deputy Clerk Van Zandt was received with regret.

•Accounts Payable of $31,796 were approved.

Kaslo Concert Society presents Nelson's Corazon choir

submitted

The final concert in the Kaslo Concert Society's 2007-2008 season presents Corazon, Nelson's stunningly talented choir of young people directed by Allison Girvan. The concert takes place in the Lighthouse Theatre at JV Humphries School on Friday, April 11 at 7:30 pm.

Corazon engages their audiences with an obvious love of singing and a wide-ranging repertoire. Over the past few years, their dynamic director, Allison Girvan, has developed this choir into one of the finest youth ensembles in the country. They sing music from around the world and their simple, yet effective choreography adds a visual accent to their performances.

Admission to the Corazon concert is by season subscription or single tickets at the door. Adults $20, Seniors $18, Students $10. School-age children are admitted free when accompanied by an adult patron. For more information contact Karen Pidcock 353-7539 or David Stewart 354-5368.

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Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

Exploring 'BOB's' neighbourhood

For most of us living in the Slocan Valley and down Kootenay Lake, the city of Nelson serves as a common focal point for shopping, culture and professional services. Though many of my travels are to rural communities and obscure scenic places, like most folks I get to Nelson fairly often and usually with a full list of stuff to get done.

The other week I was there and had a bicycle along for a planned ride out the North Shore to Kokanee Park. I kept bumping into people I know and getting distracted by all the things to see, taste, check out and maybe purchase. Like most of us I ended up at the Chahko-Mika mall and it was late by the time I was set to ride. I drove over to the adjacent soccer field parking area to decide what to do next.

Now anyone living in Nelson likely knows everything I'm about to say, but this is for those of us who may not get many chances to snoop around the less well known high points of Nelson. After I pulled out my hybrid bike, stuck on the wheels and seat and got all dressed for the part, I set off toward BOB, which is the common name for the Big Orange Bridge. Like me, BOB was born in the 1950s. The bridge replaced the ferry that landed at that same spot for some decades prior. Anytime people mention how simple it would be to do a bridge at Fauquier, I tell them to walk across BOB to get some idea of the engineering involved.

Riding the path through Lakeside Park to BOB is very pleasant and there's tons to see. You can find your way under this immense bridge onto Gordon Street and then drop down Beatty and into John's Walk, which is a rapidly developing luxury home area between BOB and the old Kootenay Plywood mill site. You can ride the newer boulevards past the new too-tall condo then drop down to a good gravel trail headed out along the shore to the east.

If you stay low by the water you can get out past the mill site to where a dirt road becomes a path that crosses the CPR tracks and deposits you on Bealby Point Road. This narrow road is very quiet and leads only a bit further to private properties with some great beachfronts. This area is popular for dog walkers and cyclists and passing cars seem to keep slow enough not to be a danger.

Riding back to the car via some other streets, this only adds up to four or five kilometers so the other half of this tiny tour is to ride west through the mall lots to the Prestige Inn and ride the walkway (slowly) to see the boat docks and large public wharf. From this point there is another very popular gravel walking route out alongside the Norman Stibbs airfield, with good views of the North Shore and more aging boathouses, dog beaches, rest areas and some bird habitat. This good trail leads right around the end of the airport runway, across Cottonwood Creek and ends up on Lakeside Drive.

This fairly busy road gets you past a lot of light commercial buildings, the RDCK offices, some shopping stores and dealerships back to the Prestige Inn. This rather urban bicycle route is really enjoyable in that there's a great deal to see in just an hour or two and can be done by any cyclist, with only a couple of hills out in Fairview just east of BOB.

Nelson's waterfront strip is under tremendous pressure to develop and it will do just that in the next several years, for better or worse. This is a good area to see from a bicycle because you can stop to look without impeding traffic, and get around barricades that would stop you in the car. Take some time out next time you pay a visit to the Queen City – the walk or ride will do you good. Say "hi" to BOB. He won't be changing any time soon.

Peter Roulston owns the Bicycle Hospital in New Denver and likes to visit Nelson but maybe not live there. 358-2133

Want to contribute to the *Valley Voice*?

Why not consider a voluntary subscription?
$10-$30 per year

Financial forum

with Tim Affolter

When to Invest In Volatile Markets

Well, if you doubted whether this bull market is getting tired, just look at a graph of the Toronto Stock Exchange index (TSX). It looks like a child's drawing of the Kootenays: peaks and valleys, up and down. You'd like to invest in the market, but when?

Some say to wait for the bottom. But how do you know where the bottom is? Is a 10% drop enough? Should you wait for a 15% drop? How about waiting for a true bear market – 20%? Then you hear the other adages: "Never try to catch a falling knife," and, "Sell by May and go away." Maybe you should wait? "No – you might miss the rebound!"

You have to invest in stocks to get anywhere. According to the *Globe and Mail* financial website, the TSX has averaged 17.3% per year over the five years ending February 28, 2008. Compare that to a meager 3% on the 5-year GIC index over the same time period. Seems pretty clear what the smart money should be doing.

The last five years in the markets have been so good. "But wait," you say. "What about that gut-churning bear market in 2000-2002: Tech bubbles bursting! Terrorist attacks on US soil! CEOs lying to their shareholders with their auditor's help! Looming war in Iraq! That was a horrible time in the markets! Don't forget that!"

True. You should factor in stuff like that. So, over the 10 years ending at the same time, including the worst bear market since the Great Depression, the TSX 'only' returned 8.9%. A good old, reliable GIC gave you a solid 3.8%. What idiot would risk their hard-earned money in the stock market?

If you'd invested $10,000 in the TSX index on March 1, 1998, you'd have $23,450 today. The same $10,000 invested in a group of five-year GICs would be worth $14,520. Add to that the advantage that an investment in a stock portfolio is liquid – you can cash in a little or all of your chips, any day you like. Try doing that with a bunch of GICs, or rental properties, for that matter.

"Oh bother," as Pooh would say, "what's a bear to do?" The answer is amazingly simple: Average in. Put a little money in every month. When stocks are up, your money buys fewer stocks. When they're down, your money buys you more. So you automatically get more stocks at the lows than the highs. You obtain the lowest *average* cost over any given time period. It's called Dollar Cost Averaging, and it's a well-proven fact. This strategy actually makes you *more* money when the markets are volatile, like they are now.

"I'm too close to retirement," you say, "I can't afford the risk. I need to draw on my money in a few years, and I don't have time to let it recover if it goes down." This traditional thinking may need a sober second look. Let's say you want to draw 5% every year from your money when you retire. Would you rather draw it from a pool earning 8% or 9%, or from one earning 3% or 4%?

What about inflation? Lately it's been running 2% per year. If you want your capital to grow enough to increase your income every year, your draw on your GICs drops to 1%-2%. So you go broke *safely*. If you don't care that your money will go away eventually, or if you don't really *want* more disposable income, stay in GICs. Otherwise, you need to become an investor, not just a saver.

Someone once asked legendary investor, Sir John Templeton, when was the right time to invest. He answered, "When you have the money." He didn't worry about timing the markets. He was concerned with *time in* the markets. He knew that, over the long term, his money was just as safe (and maybe more so if you count inflation as a risk) in a portfolio of well-managed corporations as in the bank.

"But stocks are so complex," you say. "How would I ever manage it?" Again, the answer is simple: *Don't even try*. Use a professional money manager. There are only about 1,000 of them listed in the mutual fund pages. Pick one. Better yet, talk to an advisor who can recommend one … or even a few.

"Wait a minute," you wryly respond, sensing a sales job. "Those guys cost money! Your returns will be lowered by their fees." Again, true. A good manager should beat the index, but let's suppose you pick a lousy one and only get 5% or 6% – are you further ahead in GICs?

Even a rollercoaster can be fun once you realize you aren't going to die. Don't be fooled by the ups and downs. Invest some money every month, good months and *especially* bad months. Use a professional. And then sit back and enjoy the ride!

Tim Affolter CFP FDS CLU ChFC is the co-owner of The Affolter Financial Group, in Castlegar.

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Teaching students to change a tire

I wonder how many drivers out there know how to change a tire on their vehicle?

A few decades ago, I think that there was a real expectation that this was a skill that all competent drivers should know. Maybe it was because tire technology was such that flat tires were a more common roadside experience. Maybe it was that we were just expected to have a larger toolbox of practical, fix-it skills.

The issue surfaced in my cognizance recently when I was designing a shop program for junior students. My informal research indicated that very few young students had even watched someone change a tire. Most of them were slightly intimidated with the procedure and didn't feel they were prepared to use the skill.

Well, it isn't a very difficult thing to talk about and then demonstrate, but experience has taught me that this is a very inefficient way to teach any tactile, problem-solving skill. For one thing, things never go the way you think they should. For another, people don't seem to remember tactile skills unless they have actually carried them out themselves. A lot of learning actually occurs through mistakes. When the car falls off the jack and crushes the back plate to the brake drum, you usually learn to check the stability of the jacked-up car before actually removing the wheel. Similarly, it is easy to learn the importance of loosening the lug bolts before the vehicle is jacked-up, rather than trying to loosen them when the tire is off the ground and noticing that the wheel just rotates as you struggle to undo them.

I found the best way to teach this was to give them no instruction at all. I simply took them in small groups out to my car and told them to change a tire on it. They had to figure out where the spare tire was stored, how the tire changing tools worked, how the jack operated and what direction to turn a bolt to have it come off. It was only when they came up against an insurmountable problem that I led them through a series of possible solutions. Mostly, I just let them brainstorm between themselves and let them make mistakes. Of course I had to point out safety issues and tried to encourage them to seek answers to the problems they encountered within the toolboxes of their own experiences. It was only after they had successfully changed the tire that I pointed out shortcuts and efficiencies in the procedure. It's not that I was trying to make the learning process cumbersome. I was trying to give them practical experience in problem solving using an example from real life.

This teaching process isn't uncommon among shop teachers where the learning process most accurately reflects real world learning, but is quite different to most formal learning that uses dialectical, lecture-based approaches. It is expected that the learner will simply remember the information imparted without any real experiences of his or her own. The learner is simply a vessel to be filled with facts and figures. The individual with the best rote memory wins. While this strategy may allow your students to do well on their provincial exams, it really doesn't work to impart problem-solving or tactile skills. It is within the experience itself that the learning actually occurs.

It's interesting to look at the learning experience, but I had to give top marks to the young girl who stated that the best way to change a tire was to simply stand beside your car with a forlorn look and wait until some young mechanic stopped to help you out. In real life, there is always more than one way to solve a problem.

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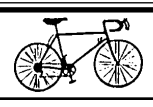

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10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY 55TH ANNIVERSARY MOM & DAD

We would like to wish our parents, Ken and Nonie, a very happy 55th anniversary.

All our love,
Ken (Carol), Ed, Tanya & Bob
Kerry (Mario) Judd
Julie (Lee), Kerry, Jesse, Brett & Logan
Tannice (Sean), Brad & Keira
Jacqueline, Jason

Eric and Aline Winje of Slocan are delighted to announce the recent marriage of their daughter Alana to Kris McKinnon. The wedding took place in Cuba on February 28, 2008. The happy couple resides in Vancouver.

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

This parent would like to thank all the generous people of Slocan, the excellent artists and contributors, all the helpers, and Big Bad Blu's great music, for making the Spring Boogie fundraiser a success. Thanks to everyone else who has donated time and money, and heartfelt appreciation to Chris Berger and Andre Derias, for all the incredible effort making it possible for the Alternate Ed class of W.E. Graham to assist in the conservation efforts of Project Save the Turtle. Have a wonderful time in Mexico!

With much Gratitude.

THE PASSMORE FIREHALL wishes to thank the family and friends of **MOLLY POZNIKOFF** for their donations to its First Responder Unit. These donations will be used for training and equipment for First Responders to further serve their community.

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 7:30 pm, Dancing 8 pm - 11 pm. Everyone Welcome! Cost $5.00. For more info www.dancingbeat.org

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.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Slocan River Streamkeepers Society will be held at Vallican Heritage Hall on Tuesday, 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.

YOGA AT THE DOMES - Times have changed to Monday mornings 9-10:30 (intermediate flow), Thursday afternoons 4-5:30 (foundation & flow) and Saturday afternoons 1:00-2:30 (foundation & flow). Yoga keeps the body resilient! Come and experience your vitality in movement. For any questions call Madeleine 2475.

BOOK DISCUSSION AT THE LIBRARY: Join in Nakusp's Answer to CBC Radio's Canada Reads on Friday April 4th at 10 a.m. at the Nakusp Public Library. Everyone is invited to share his or her favourite Canadian fiction book. Refreshments.

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. Come and celebrate.

DROP-IN BINGO for Nakusp Auditorium Revitalization project by Cultural Community, Sunday March 30, 6:30 pm, Nakusp Legion Hall. Please support our efforts to upgrade the Auditorium!

COMMUNITY / SCHOOL "CLEAN OUR VILLAGES" – Silverton to Golf Course Hwy 6. Volunteers needed to help with clean-up. Wednesday, April 9, 1-3 pm. Meet at Lucerne School at 12:45 pm. Everyone bring your gloves. Contact Margaretha 358-2729 or Lucerne School 358-7222.

HILLS COMMUNITY DOUKHOBOR SOCIETY Annual Meeting Sunday April 13, 2008. 1:00 p.m. Hills Community Hall.

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YOGA, FELDENKRAIS and THAI MASSAGE in Nakusp. Available for workshops in the West Kootenay. Nakusp Movement & Wellness Centre. Tyson Bartel 265-3827.

HELP WANTED

CARE AIDE (support worker) required for compromised individual. Understanding of independence, empowerment, positive relationships and skills development is required. Also a requirement for lifting. Physical strength is a must. References are required. Resume to: Box 55, Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0.

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.

HOME SUPPORT WORKER WANTED. Personal care and household management for mature disabled man 4 hrs/day Mon.-Sun. Require first aid certificate plus Care Aide course equivalent. Submit application to Box 127, Silverton, BC V0G 2B0.

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

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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.

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WOMAN LIVING IN NELSON would like to spend the summer in Silverton/ New Denver area, preferably month of July. Could house sit, rent, or do a house exchange. Please contact Brenda: 352-6249.

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SLOCAN VALLEY THREADS GUILD needs donations: Clean your closet of fabric, notions, and yarn for its annual spring fundraiser. To donate call: Nelson area 352-7152 Jasmine; Valley area 226-7703 Sharon; Slocan area 355-2459 Brenda; Junction area 551-9852 Terry.

The FDPA, a Canadian national not-for-profit organization, is looking for volunteers from the Nelson area to form a Nelson citizen evaluation committee. In April, the Nelson committee will determine whether or not democratic countries should boycott the Beijing Olympics. The Nelson committee will work alongside an East Kootenay citizen evaluation committee. A final report will be produced and released to relevant media and government sectors. Anyone interested in participating on the Nelson committee should contact fdpa@telus.net.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

SLOCAN VALLEY SOCCER LEAGUE - Registration is currently underway. Pre-school through Grade 6.

T-BALL FOR TYKES - Ages 4 & 5 years. Sign up today.

KID ZONE BUY & SELL- Nothing but kids' stuff sold. Some tables still available. Sat. April 5th. Slocan Park Hall. 10:00-12 noon.

NEW YOGA IN SLOCAN - Join Malin every Tuesday evening at WE Graham School. 6:30-8:00 p.m.

INDOOR GARDENING & SPROUTS - With Jeannie McLaughlin. Saturday, April 5th. Sign up today.

POSSESSION & ACQUISTION LICENSE- Winlaw School. April 5th & 6th. Instr. Ivan Hawley.

RAKU POTTERY WITH LANCE HALL- Still Point Pottery, Slocan Park. starts April 12th.

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Weather Network and MeteoMedia provide highway conditions online

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The Weather Network and MeteoMedia, Canada's leading providers of weather information, are bringing consumers integrated highway maps of the latest road conditions, in conjunction with Microsoft Virtual Earth mapping software.

Available in both official languages on theweathernetwork.com and meteomedia.com, consumers can now view the latest and most up-to-date highway road conditions on an interactive map, on a satellite image or a combination of both. Total coverage will include 69,000 kilometres of Canadian highways in all provinces and territories. Within the new platform, consumers can 'zoom in' to street level or 'zoom out' to view conditions across the entire country. Users can continue to access visibility data which has been integrated into the new Virtual Earth-based mapping system.

The Weather Network and MeteoMedia have been providing Highway Conditions to Canadians for over 15 years. The next enhancement for highway conditions will include traffic flow and cameras to increase interactivity and provide consumers with the most comprehensive road travel information.

Power outage affects New Denver and Nakusp areas

by Jan McMurray

The power outage in the Nakusp and New Denver/Silverton areas on March 10 was caused by a failed insulator on a power pole on the highway near Summit Lake, reports BC Hydro spokesperson Jennifer Walker-Larsen.

The power went out at about 2 pm and was restored in Nakusp at about 3:20 pm and in the New Denver area about 6:45 pm.

"We flew in staff from Vernon by helicopter to help make sure the power was restored as quickly and safely as possible," she said.

Crews replaced the insulator, which controls and directs the electrical current and prevents the current from going into the ground. They were able to restore power to Nakusp before doing the repair work by isolating the affected segment of line.

The outage affected 930 customers in the New Denver area and 1,320 in the Nakusp area.

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 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 Alzheimer Society or to any animal welfare organization would be appreciated.

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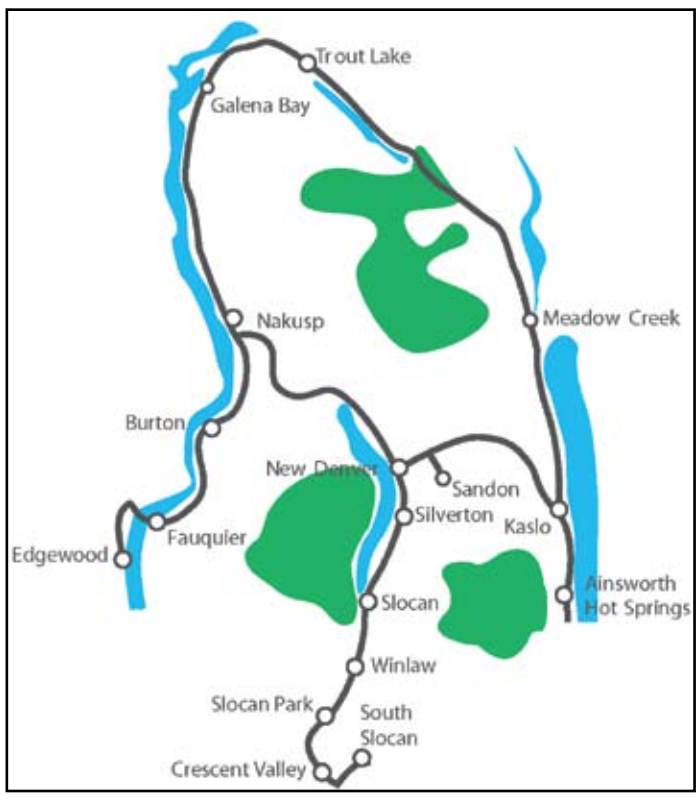

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