The Valley VOICE

Free!

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

Kevin Steele, David and Wally Fulkco banned from BC's capital markets

by Jan McMurray

On April 7, the BC Securities Commission (BCSC) released the results of its investigation into the fraudulent investment scheme that involved New Denver resident Wally Fulkco, his son, David, and Kevin Steele, a friend of David's at the time.

In settlement agreements with the BCSC, the three men admitted to violating securities laws when they solicited investors for the fraudulent scheme that landed Steele a six-year jail sentence at a June 19, 2006 court hearing in Nakusp. Investors, many from the New Denver area, lost approximately US$7 million as a result of Steele's trading losses and his misuse of their funds.

All three men are prohibited from buying or selling securities, except in limited circumstances; from acting as directors or officers of any issuer; and engaging in investor relations. The duration of this prohibition is forever for Steele, 15 years for David Fulkco and 10 years for Wally Fulkco.

Violations of the Act by all three include trading in securities without registering, distributing securities without having filed a prospectus, and making statements that they ought to have known were misrepresentations. An additional violation on the part of Steele was that he participated in a series of transactions that he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, perpetrated a fraud.

Between October 2002 and May 2005, Steele, David Fulkco and his father, Wally Fulkco, solicited investors to enter into investment contracts with Steele's trading business that promised 8 per cent per month returns. As part of the scheme, Steele misrepresented to investors and to the Fulkcos that he was a successful commodity futures contract trader who would use their money for trading. He created fictitious account statements that showed false trading profits for commodity futures contracts.

Relying on false information from Steele, the Fulkcos made misrepresentations to potential investors to convince them to invest. Both Fulkco settlement agreements state that they made these misrepresentations carelessly and without taking the proper care to determine if they were true. They also state that the two men misrepresented to investors that they had conducted, and would continue to conduct, thorough due diligence inquiries on Steele and his trading.

In total, 226 investors paid about US$8.4 million to Steele. Of these, 174 were BC residents who invested about US$6.8 million.

The Fulkcos solicited 214 of the investors, who paid approximately US$7.6 million into the scheme. British Columbians solicited by the Fulkcos numbered 162, who paid approximately US$6 million into the fraudulent investment pool.

Steele misappropriated about US$1.9 million of investors' money for his own use. He also used approximately US$1.8 million to pay commissions and supposed profits on the investments.

Wally Fulkco's settlement states that he and David jointly invested approximately US$212,000 with Steele, most of which was Wally's money. It says they were told by Steele that they had earned approximately US$302,000 in purported commission on profits for soliciting investors, but Wally never received any of these purported commissions and none of his principal investment was ever returned to him.

David Fulkco's settlement, on the other hand, states that they did receive US$302,000 in purported commissions.

BCSC representative Ken Gracey explained this seeming contradiction by saying that the settlement agreements were negotiated separately.

In any case, neither have any prospect of paying the fines that otherwise would have been assessed in the public interest – $100,000 for Wally and $125,000 for David. David has declared bankruptcy. According to Wally's settlement agreement, he receives only a small monthly income from the Canada Pension Plan. The settlement goes on to say: "He sold assets and borrowed money to fund his investments with Steele and suffered a loss from those investments. He also sold or transferred most of his assets to pay substantial personal guarantees to other investors, who have taken proceedings against him. He has provided satisfactory evidence that his liabilities exceed his assets."

Steele would have been fined $250,000 by BSCS, but has no prospect of paying this or the US$13.6 million US court judgement made against him in November 2005.

PHOTO CREDIT: PETER BRITTANY

The Passmore Seniors Fashion Show was held on April 6. Joan Warner in a "print" dress-our local newspaper reporter who looks like a headliner herself.

Improper paperwork delays Slocan byelection court case

by Don Currie

The March 27 Supreme Court hearing concerning the recent Village of Slocan byelection did not go very far, but Slocan resident Ray Caouette is not giving up.

"I've hired a lawyer and we're going to re-submit the petition," reported Caouette in an interview.

Caouette, a candidate in the byelection, petitioned the Supreme Court on his own behalf to have the byelection declared invalid and to seek remedies for alleged irregularities on and before the February 2 election day. His petition named the Corporation of the Village of Slocan plus ten individuals as respondents.

At the hearing in Nelson, Justice Mark McEwan upheld preliminary objections by lawyers Raymond Young, Kenyon McGee and Tim Pearkes, acting for respondents named in Caouette's petition, and ruled the petition would have to be "repaired" to conform to court rules with properly sworn affidavits and documents before it could be considered. The judge recommended that Caouette retain a lawyer to ensure his petition conformed to all of the court rules before proceeding.

The justice ruled that only one of seven paragraphs in Caouette's petition could be considered by the Supreme Court – the one alleging the election was invalid. Caouette was advised that the other six paragraphs outlining remedies he was seeking should be addressed to the Provincial Courts rather than to the Supreme Court.

The judge explained to Caouette that the Corporation of the Village of Slocan should be the only respondent named on the petition. He also said Caouette should consider serving Jamie Ingram and Hillary Elliott, the other two candidates in the byelection, as they may have a material interest in the outcome. Elliott won the election, and she and Ingram would be affected by any petition to declare the election invalid. The judge said they must be advised of their rights so they can appear on their own behalf or with counsel.

After giving his direction, the judge recessed the hearing for 15 minutes and directed the lawyers and Caouette to consider his findings and come back with a proposal.

On reconvening, the parties declared they understood what the judge had said and agreed that the petition should be re-written as recommended and presented to the court for consideration. The judge ruled that Caouette award costs to the respondents he subpoenaed for the March 27 hearing. The Judge adjourned the court to April 7. He informed the parties that the week of April 14 could be considered to hear the case.

CBT launches Communities Adapting to Climate Change program

by Jan McMurray

Although the Columbia Basin Trust has chosen the City of Kimberley and the District of Elkford for the first year of its 'Communities Adapting to Climate Change' initiative, communities such as New Denver that made application to the program will not be left behind, assures Kindy Gosal, CBT Manager of Water Initiatives.

Gosal says CBT received proposals from nine communities and chose Kimberley and Elkford because their proposals were "outstanding" and showed a "huge commitment of resources, and time and energy to share with other communities."

A press release issued by CBT states: "This leading-edge initiative will focus on the two communities; however, CBT will be taking steps to create opportunities for other Basin communities to participate by learning and sharing in the knowledge gained."

Gosal is coming to New Denver on April 15 and will spend two hours in the afternoon meeting with Village council and local groups that were identified as partners in New Denver's proposal for the Communities Adapting to Climate Change program. "We'll discuss how New Denver can participate," said Gosal.

That evening at Bosun Hall at 7 pm, there will be a public presentation on climate change hosted by CBT and Slocan Lake Stewardship Society, and featuring some of North America's leading climate change experts.

Nakusp Rotary Citizen of the Year Awards for 2007

The Rotary Club of Nakusp announces the Citizens of the Year Awards for 2007. The banquet to honour these recipients will be held on April 1 at the Nakusp Sports Complex in the auditorium.
Tickets available at Barton Insurance Brokers.

The Citizen of the Year is Beth McLeod.

Dorie Cowan was chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The recipient of the Youth Citizen of the Year Award is Melissa Koftinoff.

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Summit Lake Provincial Park expansion under discussion

by Jan McMurray

The Province is seeking RDCK support for a proposal to expand Summit Lake Provincial Park.

The Summit Lake proposal comes out of the Kootenay Boundary Land Use Plan of 1995, which set aside over 11% of the land in the region in large protected areas. The plan also stated that a local planning process would identify a total of 10,500 hectares of small sites for protection. The Province is currently consulting with local government and First Nations on 23 such small sites, and Summit Lake is one of them.

The park boundaries are now limited to the campground only. The proposed expansion would add 486 hectares to the park and would take in all of the lakeshore and the toad habitat on the other (west) side of the highway.

Management for the expanded park, including any new facilities, would be determined through a management plan that will be developed with the local community.

Ministry of Environment representative Greg Chin, Area H Director Don Munro and Area K Director Paul Peterson met with Summit Lake residents on March 27 to address a list of the residents' concerns about the proposed expansion.

Munro reported that residents feel strongly about keeping the rails to trails corridor accessible to motorized vehicles, and said Chin supported removing the trail from the proposed boundary expansion if that is what the RDCK wants.

Munro also reported that a number of residents were surprised to find out that areas identified as toad habitat were only temporarily protected. He said Chin told the meeting that no tenures can be issued nor mineral claims staked in these areas now, but if the park expansion does not go through, these restrictions would be removed.

Community members were also concerned about maintaining their historic hunting grounds. Chin informed them that hunting is allowed in most provincial parks, except in areas such as campgrounds, where safety is an issue.

In response to the residents' wish to keep some local control, Director Peterson told them about a local group that holds a permit to manage the provincial park in Burton. As long as the group follows the Park Act, they have quite a bit of latitude on how they manage the facility.

Munro said he was not in favour of suggestions by residents that the Regional District take over the park, as this would result in a major tax increase. He proposed instead that the rail to trails corridor be considered for a regional park, which would be managed by a local commission with minimal tax dollars, as is the Galena Trail. The rest could be provincial park.

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RCMP want help solving home invasion

A home invasion took place on Avis Rd. in Appledale in the early morning of March 26. RCMP is asking for the public's help in identifying the men responsible.

A friend of the homeowner was housesitting at the time and awoke to find three males dressed in camouflage gear, each pointing a handgun at him. They announced they were RCMP officers and ordered the victim to get down.

The males seemed to believe there was a marijuana grow operation at the residence and demanded to know where it was. The victim told them he knew nothing of a grow operation.

The males placed a pillow case over the victim's head and bound his hands. They searched the residence and stole a quantity of cash from the victim's briefcase.

The victim was not physically injured. He managed to free himself after the suspects left. As they had disabled the phone, the victim went to a neighbour's house, where he called a friend to pick him up. The neighbour called the police. No vehicles were seen when the victim escaped.

The three male suspects were described as between 5'10" and 6' tall with stocky builds (190-200 lbs) and wearing dark long-sleeved turtlenecks, army style boots and camouflage pants.

Police searched the home and did not find any indication of a marijuana grow operation.

This incident is not believed to be random. However, police are continuing to determine why this specific residence was targeted.

The RCMP press release states: "This incident is of grave concern to the police especially when the suspects are portraying themselves as police officers. It is another example of the dangers posed by organized crime and criminal activities on innocent citizens in our communities."

Anyone who has information about this incident or who witnessed any suspicious activities in the area that night is asked to contact their local police department or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-669-TIPS (8477).

Regional council forms with a view to co-operation

by Jan McMurray

The Arrow/Slocan Lakes Regional Development Council was officially formed on January 23 this year.

"I can't tell you how exciting and important this council is to our region," said co-chair Pattie Adam. "Members of the council want to co-operate with one another to share resources and to find solutions to regional problems like poverty, affordable housing and reduced social services."

Members of the council include representatives from School District 10, Selkirk College, Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services, the Villages of Nakusp, New Denver and Silverton, the RDCK, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, KSCU, the IHA, the Columbia Basin Trust, the community clubs in Edgewood, Fauquier and Burton, the Nakusp and Slocan District Chambers of Commerce, and MLA Corky Evans.

These groups first got together last year with funding from the provincial School Community Connections Program to discuss how they could share services and resources. Since that first meeting, their goals have grown to include social planning and economic development.

The council is now busy applying for grants. It has asked Columbia Basin Trust to provide some operational funding for a three-year period. Office space and equipment is being provided by School District 10 and Selkirk College.

Grant applications are also going in to the Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust and the Vancouver Foundation for community training programs, asset mapping, and the creation of an Integrated Services model involving the school district, health, social services and literacy.

A very successful Integrated Services model is in place in the Boundary region, and the council feels a similar model would also be successful here. This project would entail compiling an inventory of all available space within the district and exploring the potential utilization of the spaces by public and community agencies. It would also create an asset map for the region that would inventory equipment, resources and expertise. The council would like to explore ways to enhance links between Selkirk College and grades 11/12 and post secondary programs, and to develop trades programs to develop employability. Another of the council's ideas is to investigate opportunities to develop or share common telecommunications networks among the members of the council.

CBT brings climate change experts to Nakusp and New Denver

The Columbia Basin Trust is bringing its presentation on the impacts of climate change in the Basin to Nakusp and New Denver on April 14 and 15. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session featuring some of North America's foremost climate change research scientists, including: Robert Sandford, UN Water For Life Decade; Michael Demuth, Glacier Specialist, Geological Survey of Canada; Alan Hamlet, Hydrologist, University of Washington; and Hans Schreier, Watershed Specialist, University of British Columbia.

"The presentations are part of our ongoing dialogue with Basin residents to bring awareness about climate change issues. We want to help residents learn about what we have seen in the past, what we can expect in the future, and what steps communities may want to consider taking in helping to reduce long term impacts and adapt to the anticipated changes," says Kindy Gosal, CBT Manager of Water Initiatives.

The Nakusp session takes place April 14 at 7 pm at Selkirk College. New Denver's takes place April 15 at 7 pm at Bosun Hall.

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CLARIFICATION

An article in our March 27 issue entitled "Community groups discuss multi-use community centre" may have left an incorrect impression about the level of commitment of the various community groups to a multi-use community centre. None of the participating groups made any commitment or said they would be a part of the community centre. Periwinkle Children's Centre, the Youth Centre and the Food Security Project may be interested in discussing how their interests could be served in such a facility. Others sent letters of support in principle only to the Kaslo Early Childhood Coalition to present to council.

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Mountain caribou plan to assess economic impact of proposed protected areas

by Jan McMurray

Habitat protection for the mountain caribou will be drafted into legal orders this summer if all goes smoothly, reports Mark Zacharias of the Species at Risk Co-ordination Office (SARCO).

Although there are indications that things are not going 100% smoothly, Zacharias says the project "is not far off where we thought we would be" at this point. Maps showing the areas to be protected in each planning unit have been completed. The next step, to happen sometime this month, is to run the maps through an economic impact assessment, designed by the economic and trade branch of the Ministry of Forests.

The mapping exercise "posed some issues," said Zacharias, because larger areas had to come out of the timber harvesting land base (THLB) for protection in the southern part of the province than in the north, based on the science team's model. "In the northern areas, we're already moving forward with legal protection," reported Zacharias, "but the more complicated [southern] areas are taking a bit longer. We need to run them through the economic test and then more discussion may be needed – these areas may be affected disproportionately."

Zacharias says the economic impact assessment will look at how taking land out of the THLB will affect wood flow and supply in the planning units, and will determine whether the fibre flow will be reduced below anything they've seen in the past seven years.

The process so far has elicited some grumblings from the forestry sector, and New Denver based Valhalla Wilderness Watch (VWW) has recently issued a press release with strong words about the mapping process for the Central Selkirk herd.

The VWW press releases states: "…there are so many problems with the planning that there should be an immediate moratorium on logging in the area and a new Mountain Caribou Herd Expert brought in."

The planning unit for the Central Selkirk herd was assigned 20,000 hectares of THLB land to be protected, the second highest amount next to the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

The map for the Central Selkirks was done, and was distributed to stakeholders – environmental groups, logging organizations and licencees – for comment.

The map only showed 60% of the 20,000 hectares allocated for protection. The reason for this seems to stem from confusion as to whether the 20,000 hectares was a target or a cap – did 20,000 hectares have to be mapped or did up to 20,000 hectares have to be mapped? The herd expert, Dennis Hamilton, was asked to re-do the map to show all of the 20,000 hectares.

A second map was completed, and was passed on to stakeholders with a deadline of the end of March to make comments.

The new map has identified 12,000 hectares of young forest, and Craig Pettitt of VWW calls protecting young forest "an extinction plan for mountain caribou."

Pettitt notes that the government's own local habitat team recognized the problem in its review of the mapping. The team's draft report states: "It is well known that early seral forest does not benefit caribou significantly; instead early seral stands are more often a detriment to caribou."

Pettitt also points out other "industry-biased problems with the plan," such as Hamilton's advocacy for the same mountain caribou planning done by Pope & Talbot and the government under the old Kootenay-Boundary Higher Level Plan and their 'District Level Agreement.' This planning was 'aspatial,' meaning that logging companies would be obligated to leave behind a certain percentage of forest in an area, whereas 'spatial' mapping draws a hard line around protected areas on a map.

Zacharias assures that the Central Selkirks map has been fully spatialized.

Foresty companies have also expressed concern about negative impacts the caribou plan may have on an already ailing industry.

"We are still trying to understand the impacts and we are trying to make it work," says Jim Hackett from the Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association. "We are looking at ways to offset the loss of the timber harvesting land base. That's part of the issue right now."

Peter Jacobsen from the Ministry of Forests, who has been working on the economic impact assessment, explained that the analysis will not assess the viability of each mill or logging company. Rather, it will be up to the operators to come forward to their District Managers if the analysis shows they are at high risk of being affected economically.

"We're trying to provide a risk measure in this analysis," explained Jacobsen. "We've covered the 2001-2007 business cycle, and examined the fibre requirements of the mills in the areas of Timber Supply Areas and Tree Farm Licences that are going to be impacted. We've looked at volume and species, and the minimum harvest level in the seven-year cycle, and we've come up with critical thresholds. If an operator breaks through our critical thresholds, there is a very high risk to that operator."

Jacobsen said that based on input from the upcoming April meeting, the ministry would do additional analyses.

Zacharias says everything will be made public on the website after the April meeting with all stakeholders.

Local Nakusp group buys acreage from P&T

by Jan McMurray

A recently formed Nakusp corporation has purchased a 535-acre piece of land at the end of Alexander Road just northeast of Nakusp.

The parcel was one of Pope & Talbot's private holdings that was for sale through Collier's International. It was not part of the Tree Farm Licence.

The sale was approved at P&T's court proceedings on March 31.

Last October, a group of seven investors, five from Nakusp, put in an offer to purchase the five-lot parcel in the P&T portfolio.

"At this point, our plans are vague at best," reported company president Willi Jahnke. "There is no definite plan for development yet. All options will be reviewed and considered, but we have all agreed that priority will be given to sustainable development. The entire group also feels strongly about local involvement and wants the development to be a win-win for the developer and the community."

Jahnke, also the man behind the Nakusp Music Fest, says that the group has never considered moving the festival to the land. "I don't think anybody is thinking about moving Music Fest there. Nobody has ever brought it up, and I would say it is very unlikely. However, we still do not know what will happen on the parcel."

Access to the historic hot springs trail is on the property, and Jahnke says the group has agreed that any development will retain the trail. He says they've also agreed not to log on the land unless absolutely necessary for road building.

About 20-25% of the land is forested, he says, and there are road easements through the property so that working forest lands abutting the parcel can be accessed.

Jahnke says the group was motivated to make an offer on the parcel because they saw an investment opportunity. He added, "There is often good that comes out of bad. It's a terrible situation for the community with P&T, but I think we're all thrilled that a local group has picked up that piece. We have to make sure things are done right. It's much better than an anonymous group from outside the area."

Corporation directors include Karen Anderson, Jesper Nielsen, Ulli Mueller, Doug Switzer and Jahnke from Nakusp, Ron Ozsust of Golden, and Peter Thaler of Richmond. "Besides substantial expertise in land development, forestry and business administration, the investor's group includes an architect from Vancouver who is known as one of North America's leading 'green building' experts, and an engineer specializing in site remediation who received a 'Top 40 Under 40' business award in 2003," says Jahnke.

Jahnke reports that once the sale is finalized and titles transferred, the land will be zoned Forest Reserve within the RDCK.

The purchase price was $2,000,002.

Also approved at the March 31 P&T court hearing was the sale of the Shelter Bay property to Ilkay Development Corporation for $11,300,000. This property is in the TFL, so depends on ministerial approval.

CORRECTION

In "Koch Creek microhydro meeting draws angry capacity crowd" in our March 27 issue, Grant Trower points out three inaccuracies.

1) The impacts of constructing the Duncan Dam included a loss of 93% of the historic wetland/floodplain habitat behind the dam, not 93% of the Duncan River downstream habitat.

2) $ 4 million is spent annually by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program to offset impacts by hydro dams on the fish and wildlife populations and habitat within the Columbia Basin, not just on the Gerrard rainbow trout.

3) The Friends of the Lardeau are proposing park protection for the Lardeau River corridor that joins Goat Range Provincial Park with Kootenay Lake and the Purcell Wildlife Conservancy, not with Duncan reservoir.

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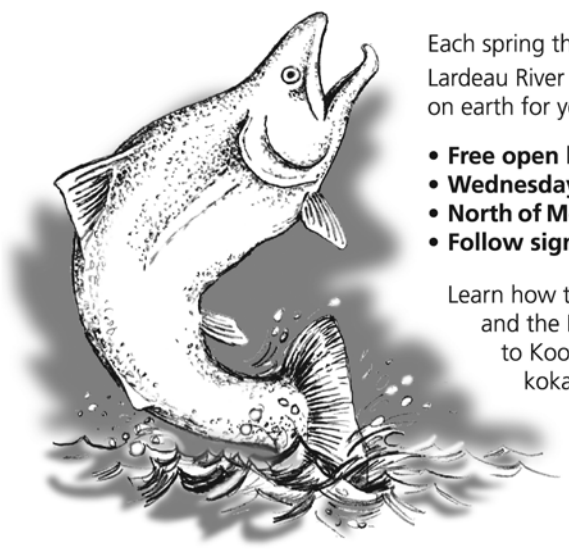

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Voices from the Valleys

Stop run of river IPPs

The recent efforts in rallying public opinion to question IPP proposals were supported beyond all expectation. The Slocan Park Hall meeting of March 11 was attended by a standing-room only crowd. The Upper Pitt meeting had such large involvement that the planned project was scrapped. And now, folks are readying themselves for the next meeting which will be held at Crescent Valley hall on April 16 at 7:00. The meeting is being organized by Vancouver land developer Harold Kalke and local resident Darcy Fear. These men have an application in to install a power plant on Koch Creek, which is up the Little Slocan Valley.

Here is some more information on the IPPs that we all need to consider. Joy Foy of WCWC has said that a study published on the BC Hydro website has stated this with committed, determined. conservation efforts, BC power needs in 2027 would be the same as in 2007. The study was done by Marbeck Resource Consultants. This group was hired by BC hydro. The Liberals signed contracts in 2006 to pay IPPs 8.8 cents per kwh. But BC hydro sells to residential users for about 7 cents per kwh. Check out your Fortis bill. And more astonishing, Industrial users buy at about half that! The Liberals should take a look at the BC Hydro website and read that study. So… who is it that will be bringing in the big bucks? Currently, BC buys cheap power at low times and sells at peak times. And lets not forget that BC is a substantial producer of its own power. The buying and selling piece is, apparently, the cheapest way to maintain the steady supply needed when we are NOT practicing committed power conservation.

And there is the well-documented data published in the Marvin Schaffer study regarding overall inpacts. Run of the river projects produce less greenhouse gases, but there are serious environmental considerations, primarily the number of hectares impacted by construction, maintenance and water manipulation for a very lon time. What if the flows are reduced naturally by a significant amount?

So, through reviewing available documentation, any person can see that Run of River source of power is a pretty expensive option and that the environmental impact makes the whole idea questionable. And lets not forget who would be making the money off of these installations.

In our opinion, the only place where IPPs should be considered applications is in areas where power is supplied by diesel generators.

Kuris and Lorraine Raits
Slocan Park

David Thompson Cultural Society needs you

The David Thompson Cultural Society (DTCS) is all that is left of the David Thompson University Center (DTUC) and Notre Dame University (NDU) student unions. For over 40 years, this society has played a role in the education and arts community of the West Kootenays.

This Sunday, April 13, 7 pm, at the Nelson Public Library Meeting Room, there will be an Extraordinary General Meeting of the DTCS membership. A majority of the current board have decided to post a "resolution of dissolution" to the membership. The majority is also seeking to place the balance of the remaining society funds, into a "small venue" performance space to commemorate the society.

The remaining funds, roughly $55,000, are all that is left of a legacy once valued at over one quarter million bucks. It came from the sale of buildings and lands which former students worked many years to preserve. Most of the money was lost when the society, for whatever reason, sank the funds into the old Queens Hotel and were unable to make a go of it.

For my part, I would like to see the society find a way to rebuild, start over. It would be a terrible thing to see what's left of so much hard work, by so many students, for so many years, be lost. If anything, what's left should somehow benefit the idea of post secondary education in the Kootenays, perhaps a scholarship. The primary purpose of the society, and of those who initially preserved it, was to benefit post secondary education in the Nelson region. That goal should be its lasting legacy.

If you ever were a student at NDU or DTUC. If you were a teacher there, or attended classes on the campus, I would urge you to turn up at the EGM, buy a membership for a buck, and make sure this important part of our heritage is preserved.

Will Webster
Kaslo BC

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*.

Private power a crime

It's a crime the BC government's 2002 Energy Plan and Bill 30 mean higher hydro rates with every new 'ruin of the river' private power project.

Isn't it?

Let's join together and ask the premier and his government to please abrogate Bill 30 and the 2002 Energy Plan so we can have BC Hydro back and retain our water rights.

Ty Klassen
Burton

"Party Hearty" Houseboats In Our Future?

Regarding the controversy over houseboat rentals on Slocan Lake, here is a portion of a houseboat business opportunity advertised recently in the Nelson Daily News: "The Funseeker is very well equipped featuring twin engines, a 9,000 watt gen set, 10 person hot tub, and a Class A Liquor License for 40 persons."

Imagine a couple of these babies tethered together in Bigelow Bay, each bearing 40 drunks partying hearty to tunes blasted out louder than the noise of the 9,000 watt generator. If this is NOT what you want to see on Slocan Lake, get your letters in to the RDCK and Front Counter BC today.

Lorna Visser
Hills

KDCFS treasurer responsible for figures

Re: Letter to editor, *Valley Voice*, March 27, by Steve Fawcett, Treasurer, Kaslo and District Community Forest Society.

Mr. Fawcett writes to "correct an error" in a letter by Ken Wapple published in the *Valley Voice*. Mr. Fawcett says that Mr. Wapple "implies that the Kaslo and District Community Forest Society will have a loss of approximately $358,000 in 2007."

Mr. Wapple has not made an error. He simply reported, correctly, an amount of $357,957.90, shown as the loss in a profit and loss statement for 2007. This statement was presented to KDCFS directors at their meeting, February 13.

As treasurer, Mr. Fawcett is responsible for all the figures in financial reports to the board. If there is an error in the figure of $357,957.90, it is Mr. Fawcett's error and he has a duty to make a correction and supply the correct figure.

If, as he says, the financial statement was presented with many caveats (warnings and provisos), then these caveats should have been recorded as notes on the financial statement.

Jane Lynch
Shutty Bench

Telus needs to inform customers

There have been numerous media articles in which Telus, by way of their media representative Shawn Hall, refers to local opponents to the installation of cell service as being "misinformed." This has been stated very clearly in not only this newspaper but the Globe and Mail and an online paper called the Tyee.

Mr. Hall keeps saying the same thing over and over without giving any details on what this misinformation actually is. For many of us here in the New Denver area this is not good enough. We want to hear from Telus what evidence it has that will convince us that this technology is safe over the long term. Is there a study that they rely on for this information or should we just take their word for it.

C'mon Telus, you are starting to sound like a broken record. Put a little effort into keeping your customers informed.

Bob Varaleau
Silverton

The Chips are on the table

After the disturbing head count of 22 chip trucks on my drive from Nakusp to Nelson on Monday, it confirmed the feared' Invasion of the Chip Trucks' was now upon us. The quick transformation of our beautiful safe backcountry roads into the corporate industrial freeway of chip fuel transportation to the Celgar plant in Castlegar is the preview of our future nightmare unfolding for this coming summer's tourist season.

As a merchant running two businesses on Broadway Street in Nakusp, my alarms have been going off since I first heard the news of the back ups and delays at the two Arrow Lakes ferry crossings beginning in March. I can't stress enough to all the merchants or self-employed individuals who make their livings in the surrounding towns from Revelstoke to Castlegar that "your livelihood is under attack."

The corporate decision to send and allow this incredible glut of industrial traffic will undoubtedly sever and cut off the only access for our much needed tourist business that we have been developing and financially benefiting from for the last four years. The ferries will not be able to accommodate all the visitors to our valley on any sort of regular schedule and before we know it our prospering tourist business will slump and then disappear. Our roads will break down from the constant overloading, our quiet valleys and villages will become congested with noise pollution, and very dangerous driving conditions will become the norm all year on our once safe highways.

What will the cost be of the huge loss of tourist dollars, the inevitable tax dollar cost of the repairs and maintenance of this new thoroughfare and the uncalled for loss of our own valued lifestyle that will be snatched from us for the corporate profits. First they flood our valley, then they mismanage and take away our forest industry, next they plan to buy up all our rivers, and now they kick us down with this! You could say I have a bit of a "chip on my shoulder!"

Rod Bremner
Crescent Bay / Nakusp

Applauds European Union for adopting environmental policy

The first sign of hope for the future of mankind has been revealed in a report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The European Union, which now exports more than the US and Japan combined, has adopted a policy that "sustainable and environmentally sound principles" would have to be as important for all industry as "competitiveness."

Cosmetics, pesticides, GMOs, antibiotics in food-producing animals, animal feed containing slaughterhouse waste, various plasticizers are all no longer acceptable for production by, or import to, the European Union. Anything science has shown to be or reasonably suspected to be cancer-causing, hormone-disrupting, birth defect-promoting, fertility compromising, toxic to aquatic life, or damaging to the environment is banned.

Electronics containing toxic ingredients like mercury, cadmium, lead, chromium and two types of fire retardants will not be imported. Cars are no longer allowed to use any toxicants either. A General Motors spokesperson said: "We have been hit by a tsunami!"

The toys made in Asia found to be toxic are banned from Europe, but are getting dumped into Canadian and US markets. We can expect many other products to find good dumping grounds here.

Recently a French court dealt with farmers who had destroyed vast tracts of Monsanto's test fields growing genetically engineered corn: they were all acquitted on grounds of "self-defence." What a welcome change from what Canadian courts did.

A nationwide action has begun. A petition is to be put before Parliament by NDP MP Paul Dewar, which basically demands that we accept the European Union principles. If anything is going to be done, people will have to get involved and demand it. It will not just fall into our laps. It is also obvious that Liberal/Conservative Free Trade Agreements will have to be amended to provide full environmental protection. Otherwise the US will be able to insist that we accept their toxic products.

Vera Kristiansen

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Voices from the Valleys

Stop the eviction

I've been asking the same question a lot of people have been asking: "Why is the Vallican Whole School being evicted?" There doesn't seem to be a simple answer. It's the decision of the RARTS board based on the belief that having a full time "tenant", even if they only use the building part time, is somehow preventing them from fulfilling their mandate to the community. A new vision is to be pursued and the Whole school needs to go in order for this to be possible.

It hurts me to read, and to hear, that small miracle that is the Whole School referred to as "the tenant." It just hurts, and "eviction" is a nasty word where I come from. So is "homeless," and that's what the school is facing. Thirty-five years in a place that was built, at least in part, by this community for them, and now they are legally disempowered of any say in its future. No way to fight for their place and their right to be there. Just renters under notice and the heart will go out of that building if they are forced to leave.

There never really has been a Vallican Whole Community Center without the school. RARTS is guessing that this has caused them some kind of arrested development and they need the school to go so the VW can reinvent itself. Where halls abound in this valley and stand empty night after night there will be one more available. No schoolwork on the walls and a fine big kitchen.

Meanwhile the school has nowhere to go and time is short. Teachers who love the school and want to work need to know if they will have jobs next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage and implore the RARTS board to rethink its decision and withdraw the eviction. Work out your differences. ***It is NOT too late!***

We have a wonderful, functional, real, alternative school in this valley. An integral part of that which we call community. Don't risk the loss of that to future generations.

Gerard Rodden
Winlaw

Continuous water nightmares

It really is depressing and disgusting how streams and creeks are being abused for commercial interests with very little opposition.

On top of the devastation of watersheds by the MoF, we now have the latest moneymaker: Independent Power Projects (IPP) sold as beneficial "Green Power." Hundreds of water licenses have been rubber-stamped across BC.

The Slocan River, full of silt, cans, bottles and other garbage has a laughable fish-restocking program. Excessive siltation washing down from clearcuts like Lemon Creek and other creeks cover the gravel beds, preventing trout eggs from hatching. With the trees gone, the snow on clearcut areas melts faster, so the run-off into the Slocan River has a higher temperature – bad for a trout.

Houseboats, fishing charters and jet-skis on Slocan Lake are another attempt to make money for a few, with major negative impacts of noise and pollution for the majority.

Next is the proposal of a smelly slaughterhouse that needs a lot of water for processing meat. Feces and urine from pigs and cattle in holding pens seep into the groundwater tables – not good. The proponents are pretty quiet about these issues.

No matter where you turn, water is not protected or respected either by private ventures or government. All kinds of commercial interests are invited to exploit water.

Politicians talk "green" because it is fashionable these days but there isn't a long-term vision for water or any non-timber values.

After some lobbying by the PRWUA, the RDCK passed a resolution and asked BC Timber (MoF) to wait with logging and road building on Perry Ridge until the planned Hazard Mapping can be completed. As expected, BC Timber (MoF) will not co-operate and refuses to wait even a few short months for the Terrain Stability Studies to be completed.

What are you, the reader, doing to defend this precious resource or demand legislated protection for water?

Gunter Retterath
Winlaw

Scarlett won't seek re-election to KDCFS board

Politics has in the past done the Kaslo & District Community Forest Society a great deal of harm. Personal attacks in 2004 caused talented people to withdraw. Society business was disrupted and meetings failed during 2004 to 2006. Society members became polarized and alienated. Understandably it became hard to find willing director candidates, so that last year only two candidates could be found to fill three vacancies on the KDCFS Board.

Things have improved greatly since then. The KDCFS Board has hired a competent and professional woodlands management team, weathered a financial deficit, secured its expanded area-based forest license and – perhaps most important – restored normal and civil relations between board members and with the society membership. A sign of success is the full complement of candidates that has been found to fill the five director seats open to election this year.

This year there will be an election of directors at the KDCFS AGM on Wednesday, April 16. KDCFS members will have a clear choice: if they wish to place the Community Forest back into the hands of the group that dominated the board from 2004 to 2006, they can vote for Gary Cockrell, Ken Wapple, Erika Bird and Greg Lay. If they want the KDCFS board to maintain good relations with the membership and be free of political baggage, they can vote for Stan Baker, Tom Duchastel, Bruce Freeman, Rick Korens and Steve Anderson. The all-candidates' meeting on Thursday, April 10 provides an opportunity to see and question every candidate.

In 2006 I sought election to the KDCFS board with the hope of restoring good relations between the board and the society membership and reducing the negative effects of politics. Although I can claim some success, I recognize that I have personally attracted angry criticism, particularly from the four director candidates who represent the 2004 to 2006 board. These attacks threaten to re-ignite the ugly politics of the past. Upon reflection, I decided not to seek re-election, so that the Community Forest Society would not be injured by critics targeting me. I believe the KDCFS will thrive and serve the whole community better if the board stays politics-free.

I'd like to commend the outgoing board for its hard work and attention to the interests of the North Kootenay Lake communities and encourage all members and the public to come to the April 16 AGM. Any resident of Kaslo or RDCK Area D may become a KDCFS member and be eligible to vote by signing up at the door and paying $5.

Donald Scarlett
Kaslo

Electric boating on Slocan lake

The leaflet entitled "What's on the Horizon for Slocan Lake," distributed by the Valhalla Committee for Environmental Health and other organizations provides a good starting point for a discussion of the impacts of boating. It correctly identifies probable or certain hazards: risk of accident, greenhouse gas (and other) emissions, noise pollution, accidental discharge of fuel, an intentional dumping of waste.

The proposed ban on personal watercraft and houseboats would certainly reduce these five hazards but would not eliminate them. It doesn't address two key issues: recreation based on carbon consumption and social irresponsibility.

Banning these boats while leaving current boating practices unchallenged is an inelegant attempt to influence growth patterns. Without addressing the two underlying structural flaws in our society it cannot stop the kinds of destructive growth seen in other areas of the Province, only slow it.

A better strategy would be a transitional period (of say five years) leading to the eventual ban of all gas and diesel boats from Slocan Lake.

Electric boating is surprisingly well developed at present, for technical reasons much more than electric vehicles. There are numerous boats and conversion kits available to provide boating recreation which is quiet, emission free, and with no risk of fuel contamination.

I realize that electric-only boating would impose an economic burden on current users of the lake, hence the need for a transitional period. The establishment of electric recreation clubs, which might also address similar issues around power sleds and ATVs could also provide support. These groups can foster bulk buying, which has been a tremendous boost to the development of electric vehicles. Organizations such as the Columbia Basin Trust might help in forming these groups.

While it's true that neither the Province nor the Feds seem to see electric replacement and conversion (of vehicles, let alone boats!) as a practical measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, there is no reason in principle why regional authorities cannot show leadership in this regard by promoting electric recreation.

The promotion of electric-only boating on Slocan Lake is particularly appropriate. When Valhalla Park was being considered, the proponents stated that the protection of a watershed from alpine peaks to lakeshore was extremely rare. Let's expand that protection to the lake itself. Rather than ban personal watercraft and houseboats, which will only slow and not prevent destructive boating practice, let's electrify recreation on the lake. This bold ecological move, marketed internationally, would create a tourism and recreation destination of such huge economic value as to belittle the puny contribution proposed by entrepreneurs who want to rent jet-skis and party boats.

Abram Davis
Slocan

Gomer Gullible on land use planning survey

Relax? Christ, how can I relax? "Okay, LG", said Gomer, "but this is bad for your ticker." Lester was Gomer's older brother and it wasn't that easy to pull the wool over his eyes, "unlike me," Gomer thought ruefully. "...if you don't believe that damn thing can be manipulated, let's phone sis, and we'll put a case of beer on it" said Lester, flipping his cell phone at Gomer "and put her on speaker. "No way, GG protested, I had enough of 'name that baby' when she was here over Christmas but he picked up the phone and dialed.

"Hey sis, how's it goin', got any names for the kid yet?" He thought he'd get this out of the way since he knew he couldn't dodge it. "Yes", she said unexpectedly, "if it's a girl her name will be Morely, just like Mom and me and if it's a boy, Lester, after Grampaw and Brother". "Great", said Gomer, "Mor or Les Gullible, probly be RDCK Director or Mayor of Kaslo someday."

"So, how are things out there in Olsak, Alberta?" "Oh they're wonderful," Morely gushed, "the Government gave us an oil lease! So we formed a Society called the Olsak Oil Party Society and we've bought some oil from a nice man named Junior Jihad and his partner, a Seenyore (that's spanish) Sues but we all just call him Hay, his father was a famous Doctor or something, anyway, we bought all this oil for a steal and we're going to put it back in the ground cuz oil is bad."

"Christ", said Les, "what did I tell you?" "Ask her about the survey." "Hey, Mor" said GG, "do you know anything about a Land Use Planning survey that's going around the Kaslo area?" "Oh, sure," Morely replied, "I found a bunch in the trash at the post office when I was there over the holidays and it said they were real important and might affect my life and stuff, so I filled 'em all out and mailed 'em in, it didn't cost anything either cuz they were already stamped and everything." "They had some real good questions, too, the one I liked the best was; 'is a country lifestyle important to me?' so I answered yes, cuz it made me think of Grampaw and how he used to like to shoot stray cats off his porch out in the country and how Granny would get so mad she'd whang him upside the head with an iron skillet and how, on Saturday night, all Grampaw's buddies would come around and they'd all drink moonshine and have cock fights down in the barn and...oh, gosh Gomer it was so much fun back then, wasn't it? That's the kind of country lifestyle I'd like for little Mor or Les."

"Damn", said GG, looking over at his brother, "what kind of beer ya want, Bro?"

Gary Cockrel
Kaslo

Sandon needs fire protection

It was with deep sadness and shock that I heard (and soon saw) the fate of the Tin Cup Café (nee Neil Tattrie's house) and Doctor Gomm's house in Sandon's Upper Gulch. I was part of the crew that, under Dan Pasemko's tutelage, repaired and renovated the Tattrie house in 1997/98, and I know what a beautiful restoration job Dan did.

To my knowledge, this was the first major fire in Sandon since the original K&S train station was destroyed in the 1980s, but it underscores what has long been a concern of mine – lack of fire protection for one of BC's premier historic sites. Sandon is not covered by New Denver fire department, but thanks to Acting Mayor Ann Bunka, New Denver sent a handful of "volunteer civilians" from their fire department with a pumper and hoses, and they were able to prevent Gene Peterson's buildings – including an original 1898 fire shed – and Dr. Gomm's office from burning down as well. While their effort (and the mine crew's) is appreciated, this continuing lack of fire coverage is an unacceptable risk to the dozen or so remaining original structures in town.

I have argued for several years that Sandon needs to have a series of pumper motors and hoses that can draw water from Carpenter Creek and provide at least rudimentary fire protection for three areas – the Upper Gulch and 'Capitol Hill' (where Silversmith Powerhouse sits); the downtown core, where the museum sits; and the north end of town, where the city hall, policeman's residence, brothels and mill buildings sit. As this latest fire has demonstrated, time is of the essence in such cases, not only to try to save historic structures but to avoid losing neighbouring buildings.

The historic "ghost city" of Sandon helps attract thousands of visitors a year to this area of the Kootenays and, along with Fort Steele and Barkerville, is a gem of BC's historic attractions. I repeat, with no small amount of pride, what one tourist told me – that the work Dan Nicholson and I did in the Sandon Museum made it "one of the best small museums I've ever seen." And this was a woman taking a group of eight Ontario history teachers on a tour of the Kootenays, a group that unanimously echoed her sentiment.

New Denver, Silverton, Kaslo and surrounding areas all benefit from the draw that Sandon provides, and we need to protect it, as best as we are able. I would like to see a fundraising effort begun to purchase the necessary pumper motors and hoses to do this, and I particularly call on our regional reps – RDCK's Don Munro, MLA Corky Evans, MP Alex Atamanenko and Minister of Heritage Jim Abbott to step up to the plate and provide some leadership on this important issue.

R.N. Riley
Rosebery

A Tribute to Jack Ross

J jubilant, judicious, just & jovial Jack

A adept activist & acclaimed author

C caring co-worker & capital G.P. candidate

K kudos for knowledge, kind kin keeper

R radiant, resolute, rare ~ the real rendition

O old growth observer & optimistic octogenarian

S smiley, sociologist & social justice specialist

S I solute this Senior Sage

~ Rowena Eloise

New Denver council, March 25: Council happy with Healthy Housing welcoming guide

by Leah Main

•Nadine Raynolds appeared as a delegation to discuss with council the draft *Welcoming Guide* produced by the Healthy Housing Society. The guide is intended to be an orientation brochure for newcomers to the northern Slocan Valley, and will be available through Village offices, realtors, and other outlets. Council's reception was positive, and they agreed to make the brochure available at the Village Office.

•New Denver's stance against placement of cell phone equipment on the existing broadcast tower has had national coverage, with Councillor Campbell being interviewed on CKNW Radio, and Councillor Bunka being interviewed on CHQR (Calgary). Both councillors emphasized in the interviews that the proposed location will provide only limited coverage, and cell phones would not be helpful in a backcountry emergency.

•Further to the RDCK invitation to participate in discussion regarding the feasibility of amalgamating the New Denver Water System and the Denver Siding Water System, council will inform RDCK that this proposal is not in the Village's best interest, so they will decline the invitation.

•New Denver was not awarded the CBT *Changing Climate/Changing Basin* program funding they applied for, to work with surrounding municipalities on strategies to cope with climate change. However, they agreed to meet with CBT representatives when they are in the Village on April 15, to discuss the possibility of undertaking an adaptation planning project next year.

•Councillor Bunka was acting mayor at the time of the Sandon fire, and gave permission to the fire chief for fire department members to respond to the fire as civilians, and for them to use the forestry pumps and hoses. She also initiated and Emergency Social Services response in case of need.

•Mayor Wright informed council that there is a gazebo in place on the Lucerne School grounds, built by a local supplier. He recommended that council view this gazebo and consider this supplier for the proposed gazebo in Centennial Park.

•Kevin and Jane Murphy have asked to purchase the lane in Block 54, which is contiguous with their property. In fact, their garage sits on this lane, and is grandfathered; and they are the sole contiguous property owners. Council directed that the Fire Chief will inspect the land in question to assure access, and that Administration will contact other property owners within 100 metres for comment.

•An invitation to apply for Community Heritage Planning Program funding was referred to the next meeting, pending receipt of more information.

•Arbour Day was set for April 14.

•Canada Post offered the Village the snow plowing contract for the New Denver post office property for 2008/2009. Council referred the matter to Public Works and Administration for their recommendation.

•The West Kootenay Model Club requested use of Centennial Park on May 10-11 and September 13-14, 2008. Permission was granted, provided the September dates do not conflict with Garlic Fest.

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The long awaited skatepark is coming to Slocan thanks to matching funds from the BC Gaming Commission. A public meeting will be held in the library at WE Graham Community School on April 15 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome, and anyone who may be able to contribute their time, expertise or use of equipment for this project is encouraged to come. Congratulations to the original youth group who started the ball rolling. They are seen here at a workshop with Jim Spectrum, the designer, in the spring of 2004.

Justine Bennett and Larry Bagby play Silverton Memorial Hall

submitted

Two Not One Tour 2008"

The dynamic duo, Justine Bennett and Larry Bagby, will perform for the first time for a West Kootenay audience at the Silverton Memorial Hall Sunday, April 20. This newly formed musical duo have recently made it through to the finals of Nashville Star (country music equivalent of Canadian Idol) and are heading out on a 15-concert "Two Not One Tour " from Denver, Colorado to Silverton.

Justine Bennett is a singer/songwriter living and playing weekly in San Francisco. Born and raised in Silverton, she's looking forward to returning to Silverton's Memorial Hall to perform for a hometown crowd. Her vocal stylings reminiscent of Sarah Mclachlan, Joni Mitchell and Natalie Merchant have already graced numerous venues across the US and Canada, including featured performances this year at North America's largest musical showcase festival – famed SouthBySouthwest in Austin.

Larry Bagby is an actor/musician known to many as Marshall Grant, Johnny Cash's best friend in the acclaimed film 'Walk the Line' in which he performed alongside Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, or as 'Ice' from Hocus Pocus starring alongside Bette Midler and Sarah Jessica Parker or as football hero 'Larry Blaisdell' on Buffy the Vampire Slayer performing with Sarah Michelle Gellar. Larry has also had several guest appearances on shows such as CSI, Jag, and Malcolm in the Middle. He may be most recognized for these acting roles, but Larry's true passion in life is music.

Having both built strong solo careers over the past decade, they have found powerfully complementary musical links singing, writing and performing together. Their debut duo CD will be available at the Silverton concert. Be sure to catch Silverton's "Two Not One" show, sponsored & concession by Friends of the Memorial Hall, Sunday April 20, with doors opening 7 pm (see ad).

2008
Forest Stewardship Plan
Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative
Arrow Boundary Forest District
SIFCo

The Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative (SIFCo) is making available for public viewing -- for a period of 60 days from April 10, 2008 to June 9, 2008 -- its proposed Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for operations within the Arrow Boundary Forest District. The geographic areas covered by the FSP include the Pedro Creek, Winlaw Creek, Trozzo Creek, Elliott Creek, Ringrose Creek drainages, parts of the Lemon Creek and Springer Creek drainages, and the Hasty Creek, Vevey Creek and Brahms Creek drainages.

The FSP provides strategies and results for conserving and protecting timber and non-timber resources. The draft FSP has been prepared under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) and identifies Forest Development Units (FDU) in which harvesting and road building may occur over the five-year term.

The FSP will be available for public review and comments at the SIFCo office in the Spicer Center (5686 Hwy. 6) in Winlaw, B.C. every Thursday from noon till 4:30 PM during the above-mentioned 60-day period, when a SIFCo representative will be on site to answer any questions. Viewing of the FSP can also be arranged by appointment between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM from Monday to Friday from April 10, 2008 to June 9, 2008. To arrange for a review appointment, call the SIFCo office at 250-226-7012.

The FSP does not address specific operational plans for individual cutting permits. These elements will be addressed in future planning and ongoing community involvement processes. All comments on the FSP are welcome and must be provided in writing by June 9, 2008 to: Slocan Integral Forestry Cooperative, Box 189, Winlaw, B.C. V0G 2J0

Please note that SIFCo will also be hosting two public meetings during this 60-day review period to present the FSP and to answer any questions related to it. One will be in Silverton at the Silverton Gallery on Monday April 28, 2008 at 7pm, and the second one will be in Winlaw on Tuesday April 29, 2008 at the Winlaw Hall at 7 pm. See you then!

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Hills girl to attend UN children's conference in Norway

by Jan McMurray

A very active 11-year-old from Hills has been selected to go to an international children's conference in Stavanger, Norway in June this year.

Annie Collins says she is very excited about the conference, and hopes she will be able to make a presentation to the 700 10- to 14-year-olds from over 100 different countries who will be in attendance. There will be 35 presentations scheduled.

The presentation she hopes to make will show how youth can be involved in helping design an environmentally sustainable future. This is a subject Annie is very familiar with.

Both the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society and the Advisory Planning Commission of the Area H North Official Community Planning process have accepted her offer to sit at the table as youth representative.

Annie has conducted a survey of the youth from Slocan to Hills, and has done a very professional job of compiling the results so they can be considered in the OCP process.

11-year-old Annie Collins from Hills will attend an international children's conference in Stavanger, Norway.

The six-day conference is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Young Agenda 21 Foundation of Norway. It is the 7th UNEP conference for children since world leaders ratified Agenda 21, which states that children's views should be incorporated in decisions regarding the environment, at the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil.

Annie is fundraising to cover the $3,100 she will need to attend the conference. She can be contacted at RR#1, S2, C49, New Denver, BC V0G 1S0; 358-2303; or amazons4ever@netidea.com.

Youth survey results

Here are some of the results of the youth survey conducted by Annie Collins, 11-year-old from Hills and youth representative on the Advisory Planning Commission of the Area H North OCP process.

Annie made a presentation about the OCP process to grades 5-10 students at WE Graham School in Slocan and at Lucerne School in New Denver. She also made her presentation to the homeschooling community in the New Denver area. After the presentation, she had the students fill out her survey. There were 67 surveys completed.

Where youth live

Hills - 5.97%; Rosebery - 7.46%; New Denver - 25.37%; Rural New Denver – 14.93%; Silverton – 13.43%; Sandon – 1.49%; Red Mountain Road – 2.99%; Slocan City - 19.40%; Rural Slocan - 8.96%; Area H South – 19.49%.

How long they have lived in area

Less than one year – 4.48%; 1-5 years – 35.82%; 5-10 years – 29.90%; More than 10 years – 52.24%.

Age breakdown

5-10 – 5.97%; 10-12 – 44.78%; 13-15 – 52.23%; 16-18 – 7.46%.

What things are important to youth

Clean air and water – 91.05%; Wildlife – 85.07%; Snow – 82.09%; Safe swimming – 71.64%; Biking trails – 70.15%; Downhill skiing – 62.69%; Scenic beauty – 61.19%; Hiking – 59.70%; Peace and quiet – 59.70%; Sports fields – 58.21%; Educational opportunities – 43.28%; Cross-country skiing – 25.37%.

How important is it to protect our local water supplies?

Very important – 73.13%; Important – 34.33%; Slightly important – 2.99%.

How important is it to grow our food locally?

Important – 52.24%; slightly important – 29.85%; very important – 26.87%.

How important is it to create and protect a variety of access points to the lake?

Important – 37.31%; Very important – 35.82%; Slightly important – 28.36%; Not important – 7.46%.

What do you think are the important issues in your community?

Protect the lake from pollution – 80.6%; Protect the natural environment – 80.6%; Living with wildlife – 59.7%; Availability of medical services – 59.7%; Availability of jobs – 58.21%; Protection of historical sites – 50.75%; Noise pollution – 28.36%; Availability of public transit – 25.37%.

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Sharing land: housing dialogue

"When we asked people for their ideal picture in local housing, a surprisingly similar vision emerged," says Laverne Booth, coordinator of the Habondia Habitat feasibility study that facilitated kitchen table meetings in the region. "Garden space, shared facilities and private, smaller living spaces, work close to home, multi-generational, energy efficient and local, natural building materials, are some of the common elements that the women and men who we talked to want in rural housing."

Participants in the kitchen table meetings and others interested in affordable, sustainable housing are invited to a public process to hear the results and envision together housing potentials. "It is people, even more than good ideas and money, that make things happen," comments Robert Agnew of Community and Cooperative Development Services, consultant for the project.

Join the dialogue in Slocan at WE Graham Community School on Monday, April 14 from 3 to 5 pm. Or come to Nelson on Monday, April 21, 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Community First Health Co-op Education room, Second floor, 518 Lake Street.

For more information, call 250-226-7879.

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

Top animators and films at Valhalla Film School and Festival

submitted

New Denver's second annual Valhalla Film School and Film Festival is shaping up to be the premier animation event of the Kootenays.

Carrying on the tradition of other accomplished Valhalla Fine Arts programs, the Valhalla Film School runs May 5-9 for youth in grades 7-12 and is led this year by Academy Award nominated animation instructors David Fine and Alison Snowden of 'Bob's Birthday' fame. Students can expect to learn about and create solid narrative works in various animation techniques such as claymation, pixilation, cut out animation and drawing animation. Admission is $125 and there are only a few spots left.

The Valhalla Film Festival opens Thursday May 8 with the popular coffeehouse showcasing students' short animated works, student writings, the work of the instructors and other lauded animated filmmakers. Friday, May 9, the festival screens the Kootenay premiere of the academy award nominated animated feature film *Persopolis* - a poignant story of a young girl who comes of age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution.

For more information about the Film School or Festival, visit www.valhallafinearts.org.

Dandelion Energy is holding a second

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Crescent Valley Hall
April 16 • 7 pm
regarding the Koch Creek independent power project

NOTICE
VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

ARBOUR DAY

The Village of New Denver is holding an Arbour Day on **Monday, April 14, 2008**. We will pick up all yard and pruning waste that is placed at the curb by 8 a.m. Please ensure that all branches are bundled and tied and all garden refuse (leaves, etc.) is bagged. Absolutely no household garbage or construction material will be picked up. Thank you for your cooperation.

VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

CAMPSITE ATTENDANT

May 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008

The Corporation of the Village of New Denver requires a Resident Park Manager for the municipal campground. The Village of New Denver will supply campsite and radio telephone with the Resident Manager supplying firewood. Remuneration to be a 35% Manager and 65% Village split. Applicant must be bondable.

Please submit applications to the Village of New Denver, in person at 115 Slocan Avenue, by mail at PO Box 40, New Denver, BC, V0G 1S0, by fax at 250-358-7251, or by email at newdenver@netidea.com. Closing date for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday April 17, 2008. For particulars please contact the Village of New Denver Municipal Office at 358-2316, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Duties:

- Ensure campers use designated campsites
- Collect camping fees (cash or traveler's cheques only) twice daily
- Cut, split and stack wood in firewood shed, and clean up woodshed area
- Keep campsites clean and tidy (including cutting grass and weeds in campsites)
- Collect money from showers
- Collect garbage from campsite and park twice daily
- Clean washrooms and showers twice daily
- Maintain supplies in washrooms
- Provide basic tourist information
- Remit all funds collected to the Village Office every Monday morning

Supplied by Attendant

- Chain saw
- Axe
- Lawn mower
- Fuel and oil for chain saw and mower
- Clippers (weed trimmer)
- Firewood

Supplied by Village

- Garbage bags
- Receipt books
- Cleaning supplies
- Washroom supplies

North Kootenay Falcons grab bronze at provincial championships

submitted by Brandon Buliziuk, Head Coach

The North Kootenay Falcons Midget 'A' Hockey club finished off the season with a 13 wins-1 loss record, which ranked them the #1 team in the Province going into the provincial championships.

The tournament was hosted by the Beaver Valley Hawks in Fruitvale, and consisted of seven teams (North Kootenay, Beaver Valley, Whistler, Tumbler Ridge, Windermere, Prince Rupert and Revelstoke).

Competition was good for the Falcons right from the start. The Falcons faced off against Windermere in their first game and handled them quite easily, cruising to an 8-2 win.

The second game was a major challenge for the Falcons. Game 2 featured your boys in red against a hard working Prince Rupert team. The Falcons fell to Rupert 9-6 in a hard fought battle. Prince Rupert simply wanted it more and worked harder.

Game 3 was a tilt against the rivals from the North, Revelstoke Titans. The boys came out a little flat in this game and trailed by a goal for the majority of the game. They soon realized that this was a must win game and picked it up in the 3rd period, scoring the necessary goals to get the win. The final score was 5-4 for the good guys!

Game 4 was played this same evening against a determined team from Tumbler Ridge. The Falcons appeared the stronger team right from the first drop of the puck, but unfortunately struggled to capitalize on their opportunities. Tumbler went ahead going into the 3rd period and again the boys had to come out flying in the 3rd in order to play 'catch up' and then get the go ahead goal. The final score of this game was 4-3 for the Falcons. The score did not reflect the game, as the Falcons absolutely dominated the play, but just couldn't bury their chances.

Game 5 had the boys playing Whistler, who was thought to be the toughest team to beat. The Falcons came out ready to play in this one, absolutely controlling the play from the first minute, right to the very last second on the clock. The final score was 8-2 for the Falcons. This set up a three-way tie at this point: North Kootenay, Beaver Valley and Prince Rupert all sat with only one loss.

The remaining game of the round robin was scheduled to be the Falcons against Beaver Valley. Prince Rupert automatically got a spot in the final due to head-to-head results. This left the winner of North Kootenay and Beaver Valley with the 2nd spot in the final game.

The Falcons went into the Beaver Valley game with a positive and bright attitude. They were sure, but not over confident. They played with Beaver Valley's pace and stepped it up even higher. The way the game started, a Falcons victory was in the making, like it had happened five times earlier in the season against this team.

However, a referee from Beaver Valley seemed determined to help out his hometown boys. A series of terrible penalty calls resulted in a Beaver Valley goal. Going into the 3rd period of play, the score was 2-1 for Beaver Valley. Only a few minutes into the period, a Beaver Valley player was about to be given a penalty for illegal equipment (neck guard fell off). As the referee was indicating the penalty, Beaver Valley gained possession of the puck and fired it into the Falcons net. According to the rule book, in this case, the play is to be whistled down immediately and the penalty handed down. The ref, however, indicated that the goal was going to count, and then he handed down the penalty. The Falcons coach was confused with this call, yet furious over it. After a brief conversation, the ref kicked the Falcons coach out of the game. Shortly after that, the Falcons fired a hard shot, which went into the net underneath the goalie, and bounced back out. The Falcons knew they had scored, as did the rest of the arena, but not the referee. He apparently didn't see it go in and therefore didn't allow the goal. Another rash of penalties was delivered to the Falcons, which led to a fourth goal for the Hawks and a 4-1 final for Beaver Valley.

Prince Rupert went on to beat Beaver Valley in the gold medal game, which left the Hawks with silver and the Falcons with the bronze.

The Falcons were obviously heartbroken, but soon realized that they played their hardest and did everything in their control to try and win that game. They left the Beaver Valley arena that day as brothers. They had just topped off an amazing season, learned life lessons, developed a group of friends and will never forget the things they accomplished together. It is pretty amazing to see the little communities of the North Kootenay come together and build a hockey club that could be #3 in the entire province. A season to remember and a season to proud of!

West Kootenay Midget 'AA' League Champions

West Kootenay Midget 'A' Play Off Champions

BC Provincial Bronze Medalists

Great job boys!

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35% More Heat with Matching Fuel Savings
Refined and matured technology. Completely assembled, factory tested furnace, for heating or combination heating/cooling application.
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INTERburner oil burner with exclusive "Turbo Reversed Air" insures smooth, positive ignition and uniform high temperature for maximum performance and whisper quiet operation, or optional Beckett NX burner.

Available at:
Kootenay Furnace Slocan City, BC
(250) 355-0088
www.kootenayfurnace.com

ELIZABETH
This super friendly girl is looking for a home with her almost identical bro' Boots. Perfect for kids, dogs, and cats. Neutered, 1 1/2 years old. Come and meet them!
250-354-7800 or visit:
www.homes4animals.com
www.homes4animals.com

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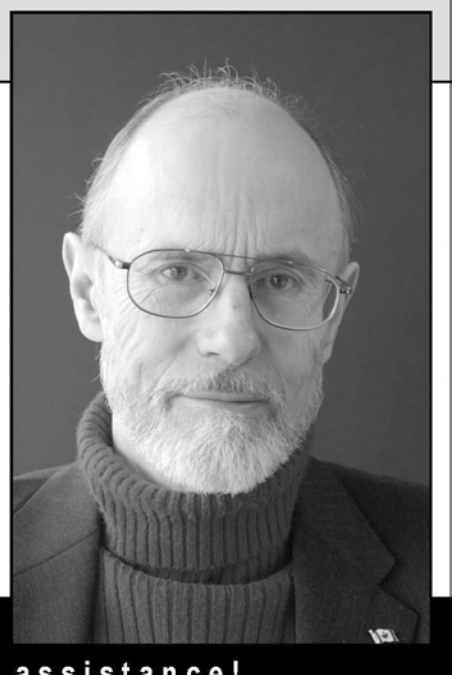
737 Baker Street, Nelson, B.C.
Ph: (250) 352-6928
Locally owned & operated.
Visit us for a free consultation.
A SHORT DISCUSSION ON SEX.
And Your Health
With Dr. David S. Hersh, EdD, FAACS
Date & Time: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 @ 6:30 PM
Place: Remedy's Rx. 737 Baker St.
Phone: 352-6928 for details.
Tea and refreshments will be available.

M.P. & STAFF OPEN HOUSE FOR KASLO AREA RESIDENTS!
Do you need help with a passport?
Do you have problems with a federal government service or issue?
Meet with Alex Atamanenko, MP and his Local & Ottawa Staff
(or just drop by to visit!)
Thurs. April 24th 2 to 4 PM
Kaslo Seniors' Hall on 4th St

Or call 1-800-667-2393 or email atamaa1@parl.gc.ca for assistance!

Kaslo may have to wait another year for Spirit Square

by Andrea Dupuis

Although Kaslo was not successful in the first round of Spirit Square funding, the committee is moving forward and hopes to see the project come to life by the spring of 2009.

"We think the idea is great, and we want to keep moving forward… the committee members are still fine tuning the vision for the space," says Lynn van Deursen from the committee.

There are many ideas for the Village-designated 'green space' located beside the hotel on Front Street and home to the Kaslo Saturday Market. They hope to build public washrooms, add indigenous plants, benches, pathways and outdoor lighting, and build a shelter that could host live music or be a refuge on rainy days.

van Deursen says the proposed project has received lots of community support, including $1,000 from fundraising efforts. She says the committee will continue to seek community support and input for the project during the Kaslo Saturday Market throughout this coming summer.

The provincial Spirit Square program provides 50/50 funding to assist communities in creating or improving outdoor public meeting and celebration spaces. van Deursen says the government representative has encouraged Kaslo to keep them notified of any progress on their project as there is still phase one funding available to applicants who are already in the system.

Offer to purchase provincial building signed

by Andrea Dupuis

Kaslo council agreed to sign the Offer to Purchase the provincial building at a special meeting on March 27.

Although the insurance issue in the takeback lease is not yet resolved, council agreed to sign the offer, as it is subject to the Village being satisfied with the terms and conditions of the sale by April 21.

At the meeting, council received correspondence between Village lawyer Lori Staples and provincial representative Charles Chan. In the email exchange, Staples tells Chan that council would be prepared to accept the takeback lease if it were amended to require the tenant (government agent) to purchase its own fire and general liability insurance. This requirement is found in the lease between the City of Nelson and the Province for the Nelson Courthouse building. Kaslo's takeback lease currently holds the landlord (the Village) responsible for insurance costs.

Chan indicates that Staples should hear back about the requested amendement to the lease from Andy Schimmel, leasing manager at the ministry, during the first week of April.

Catch Lorne Elliot April 14

submitted

"Catch Him Before He Croaks" is the name of Lorne Elliot's new show.

He's back after his heart attack and he's funnier than ever. This fuzzy-haired comedian, who combines dry humour with musical parodies, skits in which he plays all the parts plus brilliant monologues, can hold his own against any of the big names in the business, and he's coming back to Kaslo.

He performs Monday, April 14 at 7 pm at the Kaslo High School Lighthouse Theatre.

Tickets at Sunnyside Naturals.

Nakusp's new logo and brand unveiled to the public on April 2

by Jan McMurray

Nakusp's new logo and brand was unveiled to the public on April 2. Mike Hepher of Bluebeetle Creative out of Cranbrook, the marketing firm that facilitated the branding exercise, had the crowd on the edge of their seats waiting to see the new logo as he went through a presentation about the six-month-long process.

"We're hoping that everybody will buy into this together. It's really important to branding that everybody identifies with it," he said.

Hepher explained that branding promotes community pride, and presents a strong message of shared values to potential new residents and tourists. "It's more than just a logo – it's a way of looking at your whole community."

He said the working group of more than 20 people, including community minded residents and representatives from council, the Nakusp and Area Development Board, and the Chamber of Commerce, came up with the key messages Nakusp wanted to convey and who they wanted to convey them to. Key messages are that Nakusp is community oriented, affordable, and has a lot to offer, and the people of Nakusp are passionate about their community and live a balanced lifestyle. The target audience is young families, self-employed businesspeople, and people in Information Technology and computers.

After meeting with the working group and going 'in cognito' into the community to ask people things like why they like Nakusp and why people might want to move here, Bluebeetle brought two logo designs to the committee. One was strongly favoured.

The end product is not just a logo, however. Hepher explained that the brand was a "three pillar system," consisting of the logo, a series of three-word 'tag lines' that describe Nakusp, and a choice of photographs – some stock photos and some by local photographers.

The five tag lines are: Beauty. Passion. Balance; Connect. Work. Live; Visit. Discover. Stay; Relax. Refresh. Return; Family. Community. Future.

The final concept was approved by the working group and then by council at its January 22 meeting.

The new brand is being tested for the first time in a mass mail-out of 20,000 postcards to people who live within a three- to four-hour drive. Beth McLeod, community projects co-ordinator, spoke to the crowd about the marketing campaign, designed to promote the Celebration of Wellness in particular. The postcard lists all of Nakusp's events on the back, highlighting the wellness festival and the new website: www.nakuspevents.com. This website is one page, with links to the hot springs, Village, chamber, NADB, Celebration of Wellness, and Nakusp Music Fest websites. The postcard is also a 20% off coupon for a swim at the hot springs. McLeod says the effectiveness of the campaign will be tracked by the number of coupons received and the number of website visits.

The postcard campaign was done in co-operation with Kootenay Rockies Tourism, which covered half the cost of the project.

Pattie Adam, NADB chair, thanked UBCM and its Community Tourism funding program, Columbia Basin Trust, Village of Nakusp, mayor and council, Bluebeetle Creative, the working group, the NSS senior jazz band for providing entertainment at the event, Jeff Pilsner on sound, and Beth McLeod, Community Projects Co-ordinator – "without her, a lot of this wouldn't get done."

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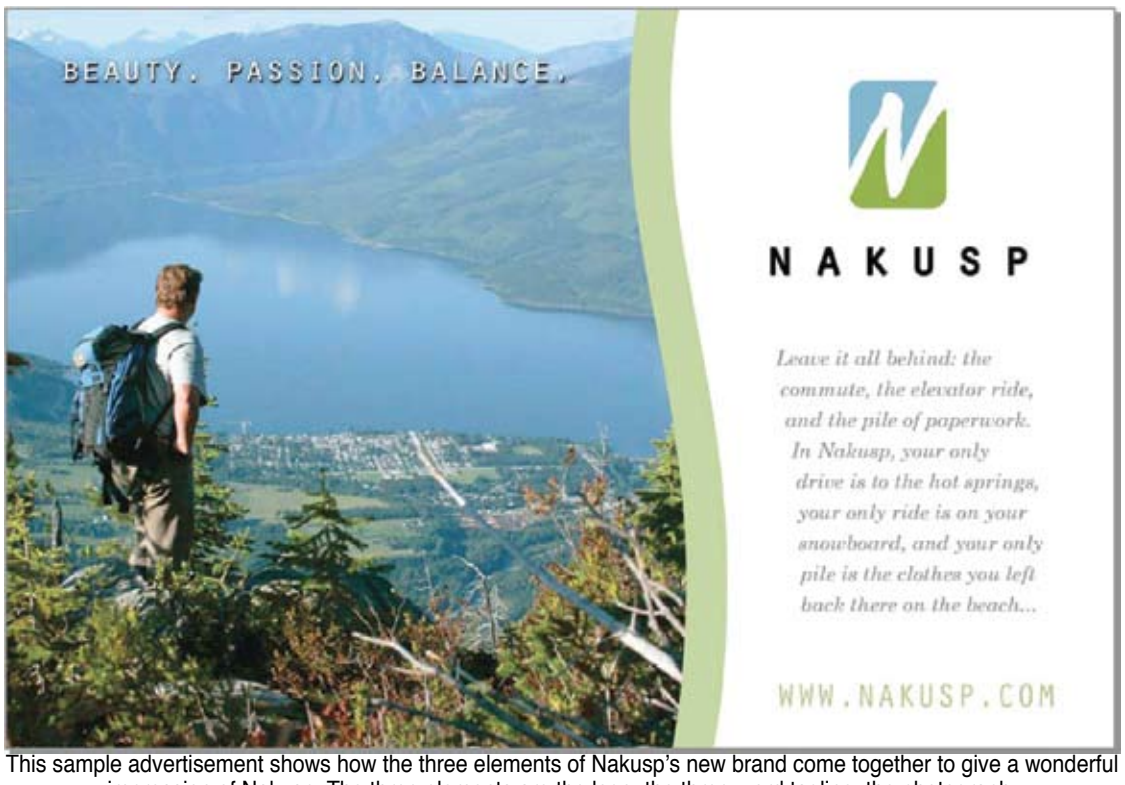
Only $10-$30



This sample advertisement shows how the three elements of Nakusp's new brand come together to give a wonderful impression of Nakusp. The three elements are the logo, the three-word tagline, the photograph.

Live entertainment at Kaslo's Bluebelle Bistro discussed

by Andrea Dupuis

A special council meeting was held on April 3 to consider owner of the Bluebelle Bistro Christa Sheldrick's request for an endorsement of her application to the liquor control board for 'patron participation live entertainment' on her liquor licence. Council is expected to bring forward a resolution to support the endorsement to the April 8 or 22 council meetings.

Anne Malik from the Silver Spoon Bakery Cafe and Enrico Lettrari from Mountain King attended the special meeting as a delegation, as residents of Front Street. They urged council to come to a resolution regarding the BlueBelle Bistro's application that suits the needs of all parties.

Malik and Lettrari asked council to consider supporting the endorsement, provided that the music is kept indoors, happens only 4-6 times per month, ends at 10 pm, and is acoustic and at a volume where people can carry on a conversation. Other conditions they requested were that there be no change to the 10 pm closing time of the patio, and that 'no amplification of recorded music and/or sound' be added to the patio endorsement.

Malik and Lettrari also urged council to take its time formulating the resolution. "The wording of any council resolution must be clear, specific and tight," they warned.

During a question period, council asked Sheldrick if live music 4-6 times per month would be reasonable. She agreed it would be, but said she would like to have some flexibility in the future and for special occasions such as Jazz Fest.

Also present at the meeting was Jim Booth from Liquor Control and Licensing. Council asked Booth for clarification on licensing. Booth said that since the Bluebelle Bistro currently has a food primary license, it is not to be confused with a pub – food must be the focus. The Bistro is required to serve a full menu while serving alcohol.

Council recommended to Sheldrick that she speak with the neighbours on nights when live music would be played, and to keep communication between neighbours open.

Slocan Valley Threads Guild members show off "Indigo Connections" a new fundraising raffle quilt. Tickets available at "Yard & Yardage" Sunday, April 20, 10 am – 2 pm, at the Threads Guild on Hwy 6 beside the Rail-Trail and local stores. L to R: Susan Mackintosh, Lesley Mayfield, Jane Armstrong, Brenda Elder.

MP and staff to host Kaslo drop-in, April 24

submitted

Alex Atamanenko, MP for BC Southern Interior and all his staff will be visiting the community of Kaslo Thursday, April 24 for a special Open House Drop-In for constituents from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Seniors' Hall on 4th Street.

"It's great, with a once-a-year staff meeting in the riding, that staff from my riding offices and my Ottawa office, especially, can visit a part of the riding to meet with constituents and get to know a community and its people a bit better," said Atamanenko.

The public is invited to drop by to just visit and have refreshments, or bring any passport or other federal government service issue or concern to discuss with Atamanenko and staff.

Winlaw PAC hosts Spring Fling fundraiser

On Saturday, April 12 from 9 am until noon at Winlaw School, there will be a Spring Fling fundraiser with plants, baked goods, garage sale items and a concession featuring hot dogs, goodies and refreshments. A big pick-up truck full of horse manure will be raffled off at noon. Tables are available to rent for only $15. The Winlaw PAC is accepting donations of baked goods, house and garden plants. The Spring Fling will take place rain or shine with thanks to Big Event Tent Rentals. For more information, to book your table or donate items please contact Shannon at 226-7708.

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318 Broadway St. Nakusp, BC 265-3288

40 isn't old.
For a pirate.

NEW DENVER May 5-9
Animation
Love it, learn it, watch it!
Valhalla Film School
May 5-9
With Oscar winning Animators & Instructors
David Fine & Alison Snowden
BOB'S BIRTHDAY
Youth grades 7-12 ($125)
Very limited registration
sign up now!
&
Valhalla Film Fest
May 8-9
With the Kootenay Premiere of Oscar nominated
PERSEPOLIS
A FILM BY MARJANE SATRAPI AND VINCENT PARONNAUD
VFS Another world class Valhalla Fine Arts Society program
supported by UBCM Community Tourism Fund, Lucerne School, FLIKS, NFB Pacific Yukon Centre
www.valhallafinearts.org

Nakusp council, March 25: Mayor reports on Interfor meeting

by Jan McMurray

•Mayor Hamling reported on a meeting she and Councillor Mueller had with Interfor Vice-President Ric Slaco on March 13.

In her written report, she says Slaco assured them that the company wants to bring some stability to the community. He said the company would use local contractors, and that there were enough in the area that they would not have to look outside the community. He said they had met with almost all the contractors in the area to find out what equipment they have and what they do. However, he said the local employment situation was an unknown until the company had completed a business plan for the operation.

He also warned that the transition would be a tough one.

Interfor is looking for a smaller office in Nakusp. The woodlands office will be in Grand Forks. Current staffing will change and there will be a smaller number employed. Staff will be offered like-to-like packages if possible, or a different job. There will be a small group of redundant positions.

Interfor is hoping for an early April closing date. The transfer does not include the private lands that P&T has up for sale.

Hamling said the three senior people council would be dealing with are CEO Duncan Davies, COO Sandy Fulton and CFO John Horning.

•A letter from a Nakusp family concerned about unleashed dogs within the village sparked discussion about the contract with the Animal Control Officer, arranged through the RDCK. The CAO reported that he had received several complaints about dogs, including from the RCMP. He said the contract with the RDCK Animal Control Officer expired on July 31 and that the contract was for 20 patrols per month. Council decided to send a copy of the letter from the family to the Animal Control Officer along with a letter of concern from the Village. The letter will state that the Village wishes to discuss the renewal of the agreement for dog control, and ask that the contractor include waterfront patrols from the public beach to the marina.

•When a final building inspection was done at a residential building in Nakusp at the end of February, it was discovered that the former owners had converted the residence into a duplex and had not addressed all health and safety issues under the building code. Duplexes are not allowed in the R1 zone where the residence is located. Since secondary suites will be permitted in all residential areas upon adoption of the OCP bylaw, council directed staff to contact the owners to ask them to apply for a building permit to convert one of the duplexes into a secondary suite.

•CAO Lafleur will proceed with a grant application under the UBCM Healthy Food & Beverage Sales in Recreation Facilities & Local Government Buildings Program – Phase 1, provided Facility Managers, Gerry Little (arena) and Kelly Toering (hot springs) are in agreement. Under the program, grants of up to $12,500 are available to help local governments implement healthy food and beverage sales in recreation facilities and local government buildings.

•Staff will apply for a grant from the Heritage Legacy Fund for the rehabilitation of the Village cemeteries.

•The Village will apply for funding under the provincial Community Heritage Planning program for a Community Heritage Register. From the Ministry of Tourism, Sports and the Arts website: "A Community Heritage Register (CHR) is an official list of historic places, specific to a community, which have been identified by the local government as having heritage value or heritage character. Among other things, a CHR enables a local government to understand and identify the significance of a community's historic places, to monitor heritage properties for proposed changes, and to integrate heritage conservation activities into other local government land use planning processes."

•The request for a fee waiver for the arena auditorium on June 6 and the ice surface on June 7 for the Nakusp Secondary School graduation was approved. The value of the fee waivers is $225.

Council asked that the CAO include the cost of the requested fee waivers on the agenda in the future.

•A request for a fee waiver for the rink area of the arena from the Chamber of Commerce for the Business and Career Expo on April 26 was granted. The value of this waiver is $275 (Saturday, local non-profit rate). The Village and hot springs will have a display at the expo.

•The Terra Pondera Clubhouse co-ordinator wrote to ask if the clubhouse could purchase 60 hot spring swims for $240 to make the hot springs more accessible to clubhouse members. Council decided to provide the passes at the group pass rate of $4.50/swim pass.

•The CAO was authorized to proceed with signing an agreement with the Integrated Cadastral Information Society (ICIS). This will give Nakusp access to a database with information about properties in the area, such as land titles and utility information.

•Mayor Hamling reported that a meeting had been held on March 17 with Mayor Hamling and Councillors Heppner and Dahlen, and Greg Craine, Donna Rehman and Sandy Scott representing the Roots Music Society. The agreement regarding the Nakusp Music Festival between the Village and the society will be brought to a council meeting when it is ready for ratification.

•Council gave Trevor Shephard of Delterra Engineering approval to apply for funding under the Gas Tax Innovations Funding Program for the conversion of the hot springs heating system from oil to natural hot water. Shephard was going to apply for funding for this project under an Energy Canada program, but decided that this funding program was more appropriate.

•CAO Lafleur reported that the ministry has acknowledged receipt of the Towns for Tomorrow grant application for arena improvements.

•Mayor Hamling reported that wharf repairs are progressing. The new floating wharf has been installed. Underwater repairs are completed and the planking is mostly completed.

•A representative from the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee will be invited to make a 10-minute presentation at a regular council meeting.

•A letter from a resident proposing a sidewalk from the RCMP office or Esso station to join the sidewalk at Hwy 23 and 4th St. NW was referred to budget discussions.

•The bylaw authorizing the closure and sale of the laneway near Loma Lumber was adopted.

•In response to a letter from a Kimberley resident, the Village will write a letter to the Province expressing concern about the 911 service in the East Kootenays and requesting a re-evaluation of the service.

•May 18-24 was proclaimed 'National Public Works Week' in Nakusp.

•The Village proclaimed May 'Hemochromatosis Awareness Month' as requested by the Canadian Hemochromatosis Society.

•Council received reports from the hot springs, parks and recreation, public works and the treasurer. The fire chief's annual report was also received, and a letter of thanks will be sent to the Nakusp Volunteer Fire Department for their volunteer work and hours spent training.

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

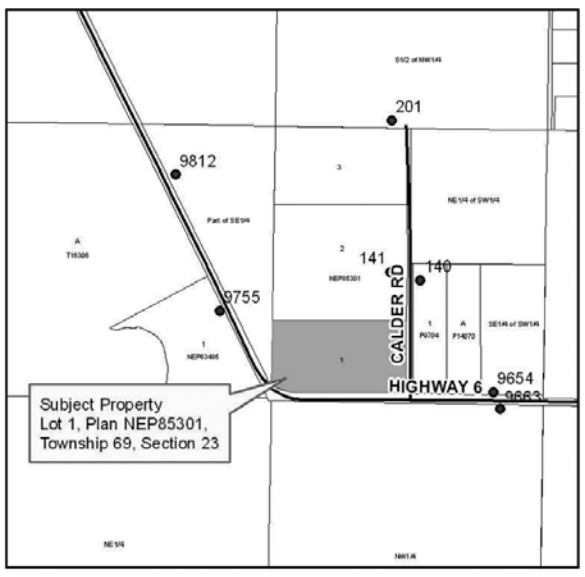
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2:00 p.m., APRIL 21, 2008
Edgewood Legion Hall
234 Granby Drive, Edgewood

NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held at the date and location as noted above to receive representations from all persons who deem it in their interest to make representations regarding the following:

Legal Description & General Location: Lot 1, Township 69, Section 23, Plan NEP85301 PID 027-292-223 - Calder Road and Highway 6, Edgewood, BC *(see map below)*

Bylaw 1959: proposal to amend Arrow Lakes Rural Land Use Bylaw 1248, 1997 by: amending the zone designation of the subject property from Rural Residential (R3) to Tourist Commercial (C2).

The proposed amendment to be heard at the Public Hearing will facilitate a campsite, motel, restaurant and pub being proposed for this property, and will also permit a range of uses permitted under the proposed designation.



The Public Hearing on Bylaw No. 1959 is to be held by Director Paul Peterson, Electoral Area K as a delegate of the Board. A copy of the Board resolution making the delegation is available for public inspection along with a copy of Bylaw No. 1959 as set out in this notice.

Written submissions for or against the proposed amendment can be read, or verbal submissions made, at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend the Hearing, written submissions must be delivered to the Regional District of Central Kootenay, prior to 4:00 pm on the day before the Hearing. Submissions may be delivered by:

mail – Monty Horton, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Box 590, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4; fax – (250) 352-9300; e-mail – plandept@rdck.bc.ca; or by hand to the Nelson address below. Please direct enquiries to Monty Horton at (250) 352-8159 or toll-free 1-800-268-7325.

The aforementioned proposed bylaw may be inspected from April 4th to April 21st, 2008 both inclusive, on the web: www.rdck.bc.ca and at the locations and times as follows:

Planning Department Office, Regional District of Central Kootenay, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, B.C., between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays, and

RDCK Nakusp Building Office, 204 - 6th Ave., W, Nakusp, BC, between the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday to Friday, closed statutory holidays.

DATED at Nelson, B.C. this 31st day of March, 2008.

Dawn Attorp
Manager, Corporate Administration

"Creating New Threads from Old Ideas" sample collection of traditionally handcrafted textiles, Nakusp Public Library display case during Arts and Culture Week (April 20-26)

Project sponsored by Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

COLUMBIA KOOTENAY Cultural ALLIANCE

AREA K – THE ARROW LAKES

PLANNING OFFICE HOURS

Commencing in April, 2008 the Regional District of Central Kootenay's Planning Department will hold office hours on the Second Thursday of each month *(except April which will be April 17th)* at the Building Inspection Office located next to the Nakusp Government Agent's Office. Planning staff will be available to answer questions relating to zoning, subdivision, Land Reserve Commission Regulations and other planning related issues. Please book an appointment with the Nakusp Building Office at: 250-265-4111.

Second Thursday of each month
(April through October)
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Nakusp Building Inspection Office
204 – 6th Avenue, Nakusp

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council presents

In performance at the

BONNINGTON ARTS CENTRE

Lorne Elliott

In "The Collected Mistakes"

an evening of comedy & music

Tuesday, April 15th at 8:00 pm

Tickets are $20 Adults and $15 Seniors/Children (60 and over) (12 and under)

Tickets available at the Broadway Deli or at the door.

Doors open at 7:30 pm.

Area K Director Peterson offers $20,000 towards arena shortfall

by Jan McMurray

The total number of tax dollars collected for the Nakusp arena facility will not go up this year, after Area K Director Paul Peterson and Nakusp Mayor Karen Hamling "came to terms" just in the nick of time.

The Village of Nakusp had wanted the total tax requisition to increase by $52,000, as the Village has been picking up this shortfall for the last two years. Peterson was adamantly opposed to a tax increase for the facility. A decision had to be made by March 29, when the RDCK budget was passed.

At the RDCK meeting, Peterson told the board that he and Hamling had "come to terms" at 8:55 that morning, five minutes before the meeting was scheduled to begin.

Peterson explained that he would contribute $20,000 of his grant-in-aid funds towards the shortfall "on the condition the Village does the same."

He said his offer was also conditional on a satisfactory governance model for the service. Peterson would like a say in how the facility is operated.

"If all the conditions are met, I will turn over the $20,000 on or before August," said Peterson.

The Village also has the option of contributing its $14,755 in BC Hydro grants-in-lieu funding to the arena service.

The issue will be discussed at the April 8 Nakusp council meeting.

Lorne Elliot returns to Nakusp, April 15

submitted

The Arrow Lakes Arts Council is presenting Lorne Elliott, Canada's own comedian, in the fourth concert of this year's Concert Series. He is returning for his third performance in Nakusp on Tuesday, April 15th, in the Bonnington Arts Centre, starting at 8 pm. Doors will open to the public at 7:30 pm.

Humourist, storyteller, comedian and musician, Lorne Elliott has performed all across Canada, USA and Australia. His current performance titled "The Collected Mistakes 2007" is a one-man performance of humour, storytelling and music. The script is a work of thought-provoking contemporary satire, clever and fast-paced.

Lorne Elliott's stage persona, a contrast of crazed intellectual and extravagant jester is both outlandish and charming. The performance is a blend of comedic mayhem and superbly silly performance art.

Starting as a writer and folk musician, he went on writing comedic material and staged it as one-man shows. The result of such training is a well-crafted show of comedy and music theatre – totally original, entertaining and uplifting.

"Madly Off In All Directions" is Lorne Elliott's own weekly CBC Radio Comedy Series. Taped in concerts across Canada, it started in January 1996 and has been airing for over ten seasons.

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

Come and join us on Tuesday, April 15 at the Bonnington Arts Centre, part of the Nakusp Elementary School, for an evening of comedy and music. Tickets are available at the Broadway Deli or at the door, the evening of the performance. Buy your tickets early, as this show sells out!! Doors are open at 7:30 pm and the concert starts at 8 pm.

Central Kootenay Regional District

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Effective May 1, 2008 roll-off containers or dump trucks comprised of metal, clean wood or construction & demolition waste generated from domestic, commercial or institutional sources will not be accepted at RDCK waste transfer stations. This material must be disposed of at designated landfills located near Castlegar, Creston, Nakusp or Salmo.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the RDCK.

Jon Isfeld
Site Operations Technician
PH: (250) 352-8178 / 1-800-268-7325 (ext. 8178)
FX: (250) 352-9300 / Email: jisfeld@rdck.bc.ca

ARTS AND CULTURE WEEK IN BC

April 20-26

- Annual ArtWalk commences, honouring the talents of local multi-media artists and sculptors, maps available thru' Nakusp area merchants
- "Creating New Threads from Old Ideas" a sample collection of traditionally handcrafted textiles, Nakusp Public Library showcase

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Please submit resume by April 16 2008 to:
lbender@cmhakootenays.org
or by faxing: 250.426.2134 or

Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays
Employment Hiring Committee
39 13th Avenue South Cranbrook BC V1C 2V4
Only those short-listed will be contacted.

Nakusp & District Chamber of Commerce presents...

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Saturday, April 26 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Nakusp & District Sports Complex, 200 - 8th Avenue NW

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Representatives from ROCA Mines Inc will be on hand to discuss opportunities at their MAX Molybdenum mine project in nearby Trout Lake.

Kaslo council, March 25: Subdivision fees increased

by Andrea Dupuis

•Bylaw No. 1062, a bylaw to amend subdivision servicing, was adopted. This bylaw increases application fees, inspection fees, administration fees and Preliminary Layout Review fees. Application fees will now be $500 for the first parcel and $250 for each additional parcel, up from $50 for the first parcel and $20 for each additional parcel. The minimum inspection fee has been raised from $500 to $1500, as has the minimum administration fee. The fee for a Preliminary Layout Review has gone up from $100 to $1,000.

•Following up on the suggestion of a delegation, including Greg Lay and Rob Lang, at a previous meeting that a community group manage the provincial building once it is purchased, council suggested that the interested group form an independent society.

•Fire Chief Larry Badry wrote to council to suggest that the Village establish a reserve fund for fire department equipment. The Kaslo Fire Department's engine #2 recently had a motor failure. Badry recommended the Village set aside $10,000 annually in the reserve. Council referred the request to budget deliberations.

•The Municipal Services Committee recommended to council that $10,000 from available Community Works funding be applied to a joint Village of Kaslo and RDCK strategy to identify alternate water sources. Council advised the CAO to seek the necessary approvals.

•Anne Malik wrote a letter suggesting council consider a Towns for Tomorrow grant application for City Hall. Council will advise that the municipality's first priority is funding for water reservoir rehabilitation.

•Terry Geche, Candace Begg and Laura Watt sent a letter to council requesting support for a youth program entitled 'Transformational Skills for Teen Wellness.' The program would run for five weeks, three mornings a week, in July. Council will send a letter of support for the program.

•Mayor Holland and Councillor Jones were appointed as council liaisons to the Kaslo Early Childhood Education Coalition.

•CAO Sawyer suggested the Village run a 'Business License Regulations' advertisement again this year to reduce the number of unlicensed vendors on village streets during May Days and Jazz Fest. Council referred this to the Municipal Services Committee for recommendation to council.

•Council received an environmental assessment report from Golder Associates for the proposed Marina Ridge Larch Street subdivision. The report notes that a primary environmental concern is a stockpile of soil located in proposed lot 6 that is contaminated with shallow elevated metal concentrations of arsenic, cadmium and zinc, most likely related to historical mineral processing which took place on the land. The report recommended the stockpile be removed during the development stage. The report was referred to the Development Services Committee for recommendation to council.

Council also received correspondence from Interior Health stating it has denied approval for the Larch Street subdivision pending clarification and corrections to the application for a construction permit.

•Bylaw 1061, a bylaw to set administrative costs, and Bylaw 1060, a bylaw to regulate outdoor burning in Kaslo, were given third reading.

•A public meeting will be held between April 28 and May 2 to present the draft Official Community Plan.

•Accounts payable of $42,010.99 were approved for payment.

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Kaslo and RDCK work toward water study

by Jan McMurray

Village of Kaslo and RDCK staff will work together to have a water study done for the Village and the Area D communities immediately south of municipal boundaries.

Mayor Jim Holland sees the co-operative project as an efficient way to address a number of water issues. "The Village water supply is tenuous at best. The golf course is using treated water for irrigation. Most people on the Back Road have very poor quality well water. The owner of a 30-acre parcel south of Kaslo wants to develop and will build a water system to meet provincial and RDCK standards."

Holland reasons that a master water study for the whole area will be cheaper and more efficient than a number of smaller ones for the developer, the Village and the RDCK. He says the study also falls in line with RDCK policy, which encourages municipalities and rural directors to co-ordinate activities when any development occurs near their boundaries.

Village of Kaslo water is threatened because of landslide potential at both the Kemp Creek primary supply and the Kaslo River back-up supply. The Kemp Creek wildfire last summer left the primary supply vulnerable to landslide activity, and the Kaslo River supply is threatened by potential slide activity at Whitewater Creek.

At the March 25 Kaslo council meeting, it was agreed to seek approval to have $10,000 of Community Works funding (gas tax money) released to the Village for the study. At the March 29 RDCK meeting, staff was directed to work with the Village to apply for funding for the project under two other programs.

Kaslo Golf Club plans layout changes

by Andrea Dupuis

The Kaslo Golf Club is planning some changes to the golf course layout over the next five years. Plans include expanding the course and eventually removing the old clubhouse.

Bryan MacMillan, grounds liaison for the golf club, says the club's board of directors would like to expand the course to include a piece of land situated along the highway. The land is part of the golf course lease and will eventually be part of the green.

MacMillan says they also see the trees on the north slope being removed to expand the viewscape. The old clubhouse will be donated to the Kaslo Fire Department for live-burning practice. The date for the removal of the building is still unknown, but MacMillan says it may happen next fall at the same time the trees are removed.

"Building greens is very expensive," says MacMillan, "and without funding from KDCFS this year, the golf course has to fund the project on their own. Most of the work will be done on a volunteer basis as time and money permits."

Kaslo & District Community Forest Quarterly Update

• During the winter, harvesting was completed on cutblock 10-15 above the airport and cutblock 13-36 at Shutty Bench. We are grateful to the contractors, Settle Holdings and Sunshine Logging, who did a tremendous job for the Community Forest despite very difficult conditions caused by the heavy snow conditions this year.

• Final approval of our Probationary Community Forest Agreement (PCFA) was received in time to permit our application for Forest Investment Account funding for forestry research projects.

• The new Residents' Advisory Committee (RAC) held its first meeting on February 7 and covered many topics: detailed mapping of springs and water intakes, recreational trails, information policy, education projects, visual appearance of cutblocks, fire interface planning and long term road planning. Participants judged it a very successful process and the KDCFS Board received valuable input.

• The KDCFS Management Team held an open house on February 26 to allow interested area residents to express their concerns and wishes for harvesting in the expanded license area. Our new Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) requires public input prior to – rather than after – specific cutblock plans are developed. KDCFS intends to use this approach to shape harvest planning at the earliest stages, allowing sensitive and innovative forestry that reflects the interests of local residents. Our FSP will be reviewed by Ministry of Forests over the next two months before being submitted for approval.

The 2008 Winter in the Forest Festival took place on February 17 at Kaslo Golf Club, which offered its new clubhouse, cozy washroom facilities, and the toboggan hill. Capably organized by Jen Sibley, it was a great success. Traditional events included the woodsman competition, horse sleigh rides with Herb Thompson and a casual hockey game. New activities included the chili cook-off (raising funds for the Kaslo Family Centre), a ski swap (raising funds for the Kaslo City Hall Conservation Committee) and snow-bowling.

• The negotiation of the KDCFS contract with the Management Team has been concluded. It took many meetings over several months to ensure the interests of the KDCFS would be protected. An interim agreement with the Management Team ensured that the final contract terms would apply from the beginning, so this lengthy process did not result in extra costs to the Society. All parties exhibited thoroughness and patience in securing this important contract.

• Although discretionary funds are still limited, the KDCFS Board is working to provide benefits to the community. KDCFS is splitting the costs of the 2008 S-100 course with the RDCK, donating funds for infrastructure to the Kaslo Loggers' Sports, and arranging to share its detailed maps with Kaslo Search & Rescue. $60,000 in funding – which was committed to Kaslo Housing Society in 2006 – has been made available for the expansion of Abbey Manor when that project goes ahead. With assistance of Area D Director Andy Shadrack, the RDCK Fire Interface Report has been made available to the Management Team to aid in fire interface planning around our communities.

• The KDCFS Policy Committee has been working on two important issues: distribution of information and community disbursement procedure. The issue of public access to KDCFS information was raised at the RAC meeting, and the disbursement procedure follows a membership resolution from the 2007 AGM as well as the Board's intent to set up an "arm's length" procedure for community disbursements.

• The KDCFS website is being thoroughly revamped. It will contain more information in more forms than before and will be used as an important means of communication with the community, fulfilling commitments made in the PCFA application and recommendations from the RAC. It is expected to be up and running in time for the April 16 AGM.

• KDCFS is considering innovative ways to reduce the impact of last summer's wildfire in Kaslo's Kemp Creek watershed. About 2% of the fire-killed trees may be removed by helicopter – keeping roads out of sensitive areas – and organic debris put in place to filter runoff. This could reduce the risk of siltation in Kaslo's water supply from the burned hillside.

The KDCFS Annual General Meeting takes place on Wednesday, April 16 at JV Humphries School at 7 PM.

Five Directors will be elected from a pool of nine candidates:

Steve Anderson • Stan Baker • Erika Bird • Gary Cockrell • Tom Duchastel • Bruce Freeman • Rick Korens • Greg Lay • Ken Wapple

Resolutions to update the bylaws, set up a reading room and continue the work of the Bylaw Committee are also on the AGM agenda. All Kaslo and RDCK Area D residents are invited and memberships (required for voting) may be purchased at the door for $5.00.

There will also be an all-candidates' meeting at JVH School on Thursday, April 10 at 7 PM.

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Get Outta Town

with Peter Roulston

From forest to desert

As a rule, these columns that I do relate to outings and tours in the West Kootenays, most often near my home in New Denver. I actually do travel a bit further afield at times and set aside a few days last week for a car trip to the Okanagan. I'm eager for winter to end now, and for the sake of an easy day's drive, you can pay a visit to 'Canada's California' in the vicinity of the south end of the Okanagan Valley. After several months of snow and cloudiness the contrast of that area is very refreshing.

For this car trip I actually took my truck with a kayak and bicycle onboard for either seeing some backroads or getting out on the several valley bottom lakes. Osoyoos is a large enough town to have any services you need, but without a large ski hill nearby, it remains pretty quiet through the winter season, and there's good deals on accommodation. The national border lies just a few kilometres south of here, and the semi-desert climate of interior Washington State extends well into this latitude.

The Kootenays fade out near Christina Lake along Hwy 3 and continuing west gets you into the drier farmlands of the Boundary districts. I pressed on west beyond my more familiar haunts and through Grand Forks, Midway, Greenwood and Rock Creek, where the highway finally pulls out of the Kettle River Valley and climbs steadily up to Anarchist Pass. At this stage of the trip, you're still less than four hours from home, and it's time to get the camera and binoculars out and stop lots, 'cause there's so much to take in…

The highway heads uphill for some time, through sweeping vistas of range and ranch lands, with herds of cattle and knots of horses out along the fenceline. Real cowboy dudes repair gates, set up cattle guards, cuss over water lines and drive real muddied-up trucks. These rolling highlands remind me of trips to the foothills of the Rockies near Crowsnest Pass, with that light wind always teasing and ranch homes built out on high bluffs. From Anarchist Pass the lands tilt to the west and the Cascade Mountains march the horizon.

Getting closer to the main valley there's some warning signs and the route begins the demanding and relentless descent into Osoyoos and the junction of Hwy 97. From a viewpoint you can see far, far down into the dry floor of the south Okanagan and see the forests give way to the arid climate of this rain shadow region. The highway drops crazily in a series of switchbacks and swooping turns but if you can tuck in behind a slow truck you can look around a little at the tremendous panoramas.

Even though I've driven and even bicycled this same tour, it is a real stunner and you will be quite humbled by it all if you've never seen it yet. The weather was clear and cool that first day but I got settled into the place and soon was out cycling through the maze of bench roads and crossroads that serve the many large orchards and vineyards. The whole winery tour thing is big here but clearly orcharding is the number one industry and I think I'll go back for some warmer bicycle touring in several more weeks when the blossoming season starts, from mid-April through May.

The local Indian bands have built a spectacular desert cultural centre on the east side of the valley that is nearing completion. This dry climate is quite distinct and this area is really similar to parts of central California in terrain and some flora. There are even some pocket desert areas with tiny sand dunes. There's plenty of roads to explore and loop tours are easy with the way settlement has taken place here.

The second day was clear again and very cold at the outset but calm. After breakfast I drove to Haynes Point Park to kayak around the remarkable long spit in Osoyoos Lake and paddled around the adjoining wildlife lagoons. Just north of town you can paddle across the lake to where some dry sand dunes come right to the water, and the whole environment is so different than the forested shores of the Kootenay Lakes. Later on I paddled around parts of the nearby Vaseux Bird Sanctuary, but things were pretty quiet due to the early stage of the season.

The final day I kayaked the south end of Skaha Lake from Okanagan Falls for a couple hours then loaded out to drive some of the beautiful backroads near Oliver. The lakes were perfectly quiet at this time of year, and the backroads are basically all farmers and orchardists busily getting set for the new season. I stopped later in Kelowna to do some needed shopping and got fully back into the rat race, but I do plan to get back to the south valley again in late April to enjoy the quieter beauty of that desert like climate.

with Jamie Barber

Doc's building project results in tree removal

I've recently started a big project in the fair village of Silverton. The backyard of the old site of Doc Spanner's Motorcycles has been a mess of vegetation and hummocks for as long as I can remember and it was time to clean it up. I want to build a small rental house on the back of the property, facing the laneway, but before anything can even be started, it was necessary to deal with the mess in the yard.

For those of you with long memories, you will recall that this site was the original Silverton Fire Hall. Nobody was ever too keen on tackling site clearing and as a result, there was about 100 years of indiscriminate tree growth and garbage accumulation to clean up. Some of the trees were giants and one fir tree in particular must have been one of the largest trees in the village. As well as about 15 cedar trees, 8 large cherry trees also had to be removed. Although these were large, mature cherry trees, they were very much too large to be used as fruit trees, and over the years, had become a magnet for bears and wasps during the season that they rained cherries onto the ground.

I had been scheming for some time on how to remove the trees without dropping them on one of the many buildings that lie in the drop zone, and finally concluded that it might be prudent to get someone with a few more falling skills than I have accumulated. Jim Hicks Jr is a good guy to do this kind of work, as he has an excavator and many years experience as a logger. It was the right decision.

Jim managed to drop all the trees without wiping out the neighbour's houses and then dug out the roots. I loaded all the branches and stumps in a tandem axle trailer and brought them to my place in the country to be burned. It was a real workout to unload the trailer by hand and I soon had a pile half the size of my house. The logs were all cut into the appropriate length and hauled to my neighbour Terry's mill site on the same trailer. The idea is to use as much lumber from the site as possible. This will keep the cost down and at the same time, use up the logs that came from the site the house will be built.

Everything went as planned until we hit one of the main roots of the giant fir when excavating the house foundation. Although all the other trees on the property had to be removed, there was no pressing need to take out the giant fir, so it was slated to stay where it had been growing for the last century or so. It was a magnificent tree and Penelope and I were quite content to leave it be. Once the main root had been damaged though, there was no guarantee it would remain standing in a large windstorm. If it was to come crashing down, it would be very dangerous and undoubtedly cause much damage. The decision was taken to remove it. This was easier said than done.

Even Jim was unwilling to try to fell it in one piece, so we had to engage the services of Rodger who works for one of the local logging contractors. It took him less than an hour to climb up the tree, remove off all the branches and take it down in three pieces, starting from the top. Penelope was so upset about losing her favourite tree that she refused to watch us take it down. I loaded all the pieces onto my trailer, and again took them down to Terry's mill site.

The place looks very different now with all the trees down and a big hole in the yard. It is hard to imagine that we can ever make things presentable again, but if there is one thing I have learned about building over the years, it is to do a proper job of land clearing before contemplating constructing. Things will go back together.

For one thing, we have decided to use the lumber from the giant fir as the backbone of the house. The main structural components and the exposed beams in the living room will come from this one tree. It will live on supporting the house that has taken its place on the site. The main aesthetic components will also be born of it. The cedars will be changed into cedar decking that will resist the weather for years to come and the cherry trees will also be utilized where they will add their own beauty.

From destruction will arise something new and useful. Somehow, this resonates with me.

Gardening 101: April- Where is it?

Only a few days in and many of us are wondering- where is April? The birds are singing away, the worms are crackling through the still somewhat frozen ground, and all of our green thumbs still have their mitts on!

Some of us have been successful with keeping our little starts warm; others are flashing profanities at the icicles still hanging around. The good news is that for those who are so busy they haven't even got seeds yet- you're not behind this year!

Despite the prevailing coolness of this spring, seeds are sprouting on heating cables, a top fridges, in sunny windows, over top the still burning wood stoves and there is still lots of time to get going. I am assuming my tomatoes may sleep a little longer, not giving up, but also not watering as often. As they rest inside their little seed cocoons, they have all they need until the first leaves come out. Our only job is to work on the consistent heat. Various lengths of heating cables are available at Nelson Farmers Supply and sand is all along the shores of the lake. Build a table, or use one of the many one can find at thrift stores, line the edges with some 1x1 to fill with sand, bury the cable in the sand about ½ an inch, get some chicken wire and mold it to make a mini greenhouse, then drape it with some clear plastic. Make sure you have a thermometer and watch as the sun comes out, it can get very hot, very quick.

Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and basil will all need bottom heat to germinate. Basil seed actually needs some direct moisture for germination. After seeding it and before covering, water the seeds, and then cover them. They have a gummy like substance watering produces that is required for good germination.

Most of your salad greens, lettuces, kales, arugula, cress's, sorrels, and chicories are good to germinate with colder temperatures, but if there is room , there is no harm in also having them on the heating cable.

Besides staring your seeds, it is a great time to be weeding and prepping your garden beds. Weeds are much looser this time of year then they would be in late spring. A great garden job this time of year is build soil with all of your green manure. Any grass roots, dead stalks, leaves, ect… pile high in an area where you would like to build soil. Once you have all of your spring weeding done, throw some shovels of horse, chicken or cow poop on the top, then cover with a lumber tarp- black facing out and let the sun do the rest. This process breaks it down, heats it up. When it is time to plant your squash, May Days weekend, uncover the pile and flip it, add some more poop and cover again. Poke some holes through and plant your squash! This makes the soil building process dual purpose, as it further breaks down, your squash will do its beautiful job of growing yummy food for you. This process after two summers generally will have created some beautiful soil and built you some more garden space.

The real beauty this time of year is all the little sprouts, flowers and buds peeking through. May we all see how wonderful life can be despite the snow, ice, and coolness still hanging around.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the Slocan Valley Threads Guild's 7th annual Yard & Yardage Sale, Sunday April 20 from 10 - 2. A fundraising extravaganza, featuring perennial plants for sale outside, yardage and craft supplies inside; as well, a tea-room for refreshments, a display of members' work, and tickets available for "Indigo Connections", a beautiful raffle quilt made by Threads Guild members.

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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.

CALL FOR VENDORS

VALLICAN WHOLE 9TH SPRING MARKET. May 10, 10am-3pm. $10/table. Info/Booking call Jen 226-7029.

CARD OF THANKS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK everyone who helped make our upcoming trip to Mexico for Project Save the Turtles a success: Jordan King, W E Graham Community Services, Polestar Calendars, Slocan Royal Canadian Legion, Kootenay Restorative Justice, W E Graham Parent Advisory Council, RDCK, Swetland Enterprise, Slocan Valley Arts Council, Village of Slocan, Slocan Valley Lions Club, CUPE 748, Women's Institute, Earl Hamilton, Alf Crossley, Bob Inwood, Yvonne Munroe, Melody Greger, Laura Tiberti, Susan McIntosh, Jenny Ash, Noam Ash, Lance Hall, Kevin Kratz, Carlos Berger, Eloise Charet, Cowan's Office Supplies, Matias Pace, Ron Mulvey, Chris Waller, Rasmussen House, Zenith Shpeley, Sam and Ada McNeil, Sara Robchaud, Grigg Stone, Christine Smith, Pete Corbett and everyone else who has helped us accomplish our goal.

COMING EVENTS

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

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

COFFEEHOUSE - LUCERNE & COMMUNITY WRITERS FEST. May 2 at 7 pm at Lucerne School Gym. Come hear reading performances by high school students, poet laureate George Bowering, Toronto poet Stuart Ross, and children's authors Nikki Tate and Don Sawyer. Wonderful treats!

MAY 2 / 08 FUNDRAISER DANCE with Raspberry Rockets for Doug Sexton at Silverton Memorial Hall from 9 pm to 1 am. Door prizes. Great food. Silent auction ends at midnight. Artwork for auction displayed at Panini's. Joanne 358-2658.

VALLICAN WHOLE READY, SET, LEARN EVENT! Bring your 3-5 year olds to the Whole School on Wednesday, April 23, from 10:30 – 12:00. We will have an exciting array of activities, learning opportunities and healthy snacks for them and you! More information call Rachel at 226-7737.

PASSMORE HALL is hosting their annual Garage Sale Saturday, April 19 9:00-4:00. Donations welcome and can be dropped off Friday. $5.00 table rentals available for anyone interested.

THE VALLICAN WHOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE presents a series of ongoing workshops on LIVING RURALLY & SUSTAINABLY starting this spring. Topics include: Grafting and Pruning Trees; Raising & Slaughtering your own Chickens; Planning, Growing & Harvesting a Veggie garden; Preserving, Storing & Cooking Your Harvest; Basic Electricity, Carpentry, Plumbing, Water & Septic Systems. And more! Watch for upcoming press. To register or to suggest other rural skill ideas contact the Slocan Valley Rec Commission at 226-0008.

SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER Saturday April 12 at Winlaw School from 9:00 am to noon. Plants, baked goods, garage sale items, concession and a manure raffle. Tables only $15. Rain or shine with thanks to Big Event Tent Rentals. For more info and to book your table call Shannon at 226-7708.

NEW DENVER MAY DAY MARKET, Monday, May 19. For info - Anita 358-7731. $15/space.

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OBITUARY

NOTICE OF PASSING
GERTRUD BERTA SCHAEFER

On Friday, March 21, 2008 Gertrud Berta Schaefer of Silverton, BC passed away after a short illness in the Slocan Community Health Centre in New Denver, BC at the age of 80 years. Gertrud was born in Baltersweil, Germany on February 3, 1928 to Karl and Berta Weiler. She was married in Switzerland. Gertrud came to Canada in 1992, following her daughter Karin and her husband Bruno Burgermeister to Silverton. She became a Canadian Citizen in 2001. Gertrud was a very loving mother and a hard worker, helping her daughter at the Blue Sky Resort until the fall of 2007.

Gertrud is lovingly remembered by her children; son Roland Schaefer of Hinwill, Switzerland, daughter Karin and son-in-law Bruno Burgermeister of Silverton, BC, a grandson Ilias Schaefer of Hinwill, Switzerland, and a sister Gisela Mueller of Switzerland.

By Gertrud's request there will be no service. Cremation has taken place.

The family of Gertrud Schaefer would like express their gratitude and thanks for the care and support given to Gertrud by Dr. Burkholder, Dr. Malpass and all the staff at the Slocan Community Health Centre.

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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.

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Last Chance to do The Next Step

Tomorrow, Friday, April 11, is the first day of a groundbreaking, experiential three-day workshop for teens and adults in Burton. This is the first 'Next Step' workshop to be done in Canada. The Next Step is a workshop including teens (15 years and up) and adults that builds community through activities and games. It is said to be playful, empowering, and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Call Alice Watson at 265-3328 if you'd like more information or to register.

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I wish to thank family and the many friends who gave such constant comfort and support throughout my wife Nancy Anderson's long illness. Thanks also to Drs. Diana Kelland, Chuck Burkholder and Brian Skrenes for their thoughtful care and concern, and to the nurses, staff and caregivers at Slocan Community Health Centre for their exceptional care, guidance and support. To the remarkable volunteer members of the New Denver Hospice Society, my sincere and grateful thanks. The kindness and support of all shall not be forgotten.
- John Anderson

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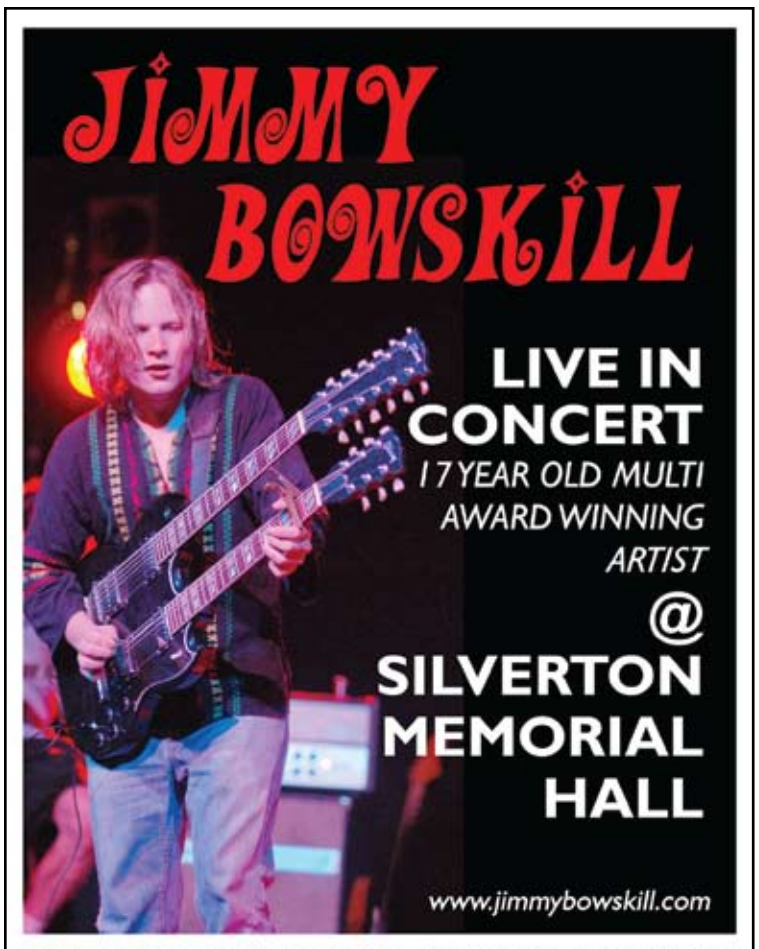

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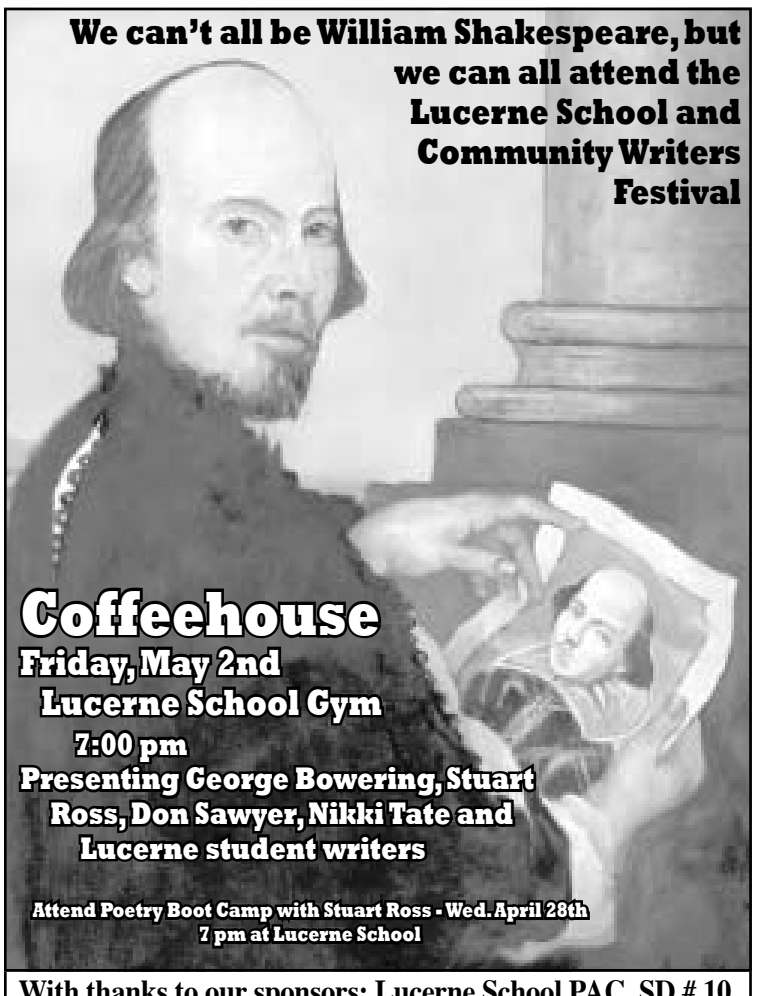

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Three great FLIKS films wrap up season

submitted

FLIKS' season finishes up in Vallican and Nakusp with a trilogy of award-winning films*: Up the Yangtze*, *Garbage Warrior* and *Caramel*.

The multi-award winning Up the Yangtze screens Monday, April 14 at 7 pm at the Bonnington in Nakusp. Take a ride down the Yangtze River and see how the rising water of the Three Gorges dam is changing the landscape and people of the river valley.

Then in *Garbage Warrior*, renegade architect Michael Reynolds creates homes that provide their own heat, air conditioning, water, food, and power, and they can be built anywhere by anyone out of the things society throws away.

Reynolds and his band of green architects have been building self-sufficient, off-grid communities for years in the New Mexico desert. However these experimental structures confound authorities and Reynolds has his work cut out for him lobbying for the right to create a sustainable living test site.

Garbage Warrior screens Friday, April 18 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre at 7:30 pm and Monday, April 21 in Nakusp's Bonnington Arts Centre at 7 pm.

The final film of the season is the long awaited *Caramel*, a dramatic comedy (and Lebanon's Oscar entry) about five women in a Beirut beauty shop. Each woman has her own trials: one is having a hopeless affair with a married man, one is an aging actress, one is attracted to a female client, one has foregone marriage to care for her ailing sister, and one is engaged to a Muslim and is consumed with hiding the fact that she is not a virgin.

Caramel screens Friday, May 2 at the Vallican Whole Community Centre at 7:30 pm and Monday, May 5 at Nakusp's Bonnington Arts Centre at 7 pm.

Details, trailers, reviews and more information can be found at www.FLIKS.ca.

Jimmy Bowskill plays Nelson and Silverton

submitted by Bart Scannell

The Jimmy Bowskill Band returns to the Kootenays for two shows. There will be an all ages event on Friday, April 18 at the Civic Theatre in Nelson. Tickets for this show are $20 at Eddy Music. On Saturday April 19, there is an Adults Only performance at the Silverton Memorial Hall. Tickets are limited and are available for $20 at Winlaw Mini-Mart, Mountain Valley Station in Slocan and at Silverton Building Supplies. Both shows begin at 8 pm with local favourites Holly and Jon.

The first time I saw Jimmy Bowskill play was at the 2006 Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival. He was doing a short set with his band, which then consisted of drummer Richard Brown and bassist Wayne Deadder. A large crowd of music fans were packed in around the blues stage in the mid morning heat, for what turned out to be the undisputed highlight of the entire weekend at Salmon Arm. Jimmy and his band were laying down some seriously hot blues riffs, which wouldn't have been out of place in some dark, smoky club, in say, Chicago or Mississippi. The last song of their set was a Willie Dixon tune called Sittin' On Top of The World, and they were just nailing this song down hard and building up to the big finish when all of a sudden, the power failed!

The band all looked at each other for a moment and started to laugh. Instinctively, like a true showman, Jimmy belted out the ending with no guitar or microphone. I think everyone who was there is going to remember that moment for a very long time.

At the time, Jim was 15 years old and had been playing guitar for about five years. His obvious skill as a guitarist is only accentuated by his unique stage presence, which is both passionate and sincere, as well as playful.

After this performance I had a chance to talk with Jimmy and what struck me immediately about him was how genuinely modest he was about his talent.

The next time we met was last year, when I had the good fortune to convince Jimmy's manager, his Dad Steve, to bring the band to Nelson's Capitol Theatre.

Jim and his band put on an incredible show for a packed and very appreciative house.

This was truly a labour of love, as the band had to travel from Penticton to Nelson and then get right back on the road at midnight to get to Whistler and play an afternoon show.

When Steve is not behind the wheel of the van driving the band to the next gig, you can find him at the sound board making sure Jimmy's tone is just right.

The two of them have a very special relationship. When they are on the road together, they tell me, they really have a lot of fun.

Lucerne School and Community Writers Festival returns

submitted

The Lucerne School and Community Writers Festival is back with a bang this year, featuring four amazingly talented and accomplished writers: poet laureate George Bowering, New Denver's favourite Stuart Ross, and dynamic children's authors Nikki Tate and Don Sawyer.

During the week of April 28-May 2, the whole school becomes immersed in writing. George Bowering will teach some poetry in high school English classes, and all high school students will have six to eight hours of workshops and work with Bowering and Ross. Elementary students will spend half of their time at school that week with Nikki Tate and Don Sawyer.

A unique feature this year is the movable word wall, the brainchild of Lucerne teacher Katrina Sumrall. The word wall has always been an important part of the festival, with students displaying their writing on a school wall in past years. This year, Sumrall begged, borrowed or stole shoeboxes from people and businesses within a 100-km radius. Each student has their own shoebox – 'another brick in the wall' – and the whole thing can be re-located at whim.

George Bowering, from the Okanagan, was appointed Canada's first Poet Laureate in 2000. He has published more than 40 books in a variety of genres and has won the Governor General's Award twice.

Stuart Ross is a Toronto fiction writer, poet, editor and creative-writing instructor. No stranger to the Lucerne and Community Writers Fest, Ross is a hit with the students and adults alike.

Nikki Tate is an author, storyteller and workshop leader who gets rave reviews wherever she goes. She loves animals, outdoor activities and performing. Born in England, she now lives on Vancouver Island.

Don Sawyer has authored several books for children and young adults. He is also a teacher, and has been teaching and managing development projects in West Africa for the last 15 years. He lives in Salmon Arm.

The week culminates in a writers' coffeehouse at the Lucerne gym on Friday, May 2. The four guest celebrity authors and high school students will entertain with their reading that evening. On Friday afternoon, Nakusp Secondary students will come to Lucerne for a high school writing event in the gym, while elementary students will invite their parents to hear them read at a tea at the library.

SLOCAN VALLEY RECREATION

BELLYFIT WITH HEATHER HOLDENER - Tuesdays - Winlaw School 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Slocan Park Hall.
YOGA IN SLOCAN - Mondays at 6:30 with Peggy, Tuesday at 3:30 with Malin.
COPOEIRA IN WINLAW - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
SLOWPOKE REGISTRATIONS - Are still being accepted for our spring Youth Soccer League as well as T-Ball for Tikes.
CREATING A HANGING BASKET - With Fred Dutoff, Sat. April 19th.
LOW MAINTENANCE GARDENING - With Eric Clough. Wed., April 23rd at the Slocan Park Hall.
SLOCAN VALLEY BIKE SWAP - Find a bike, sell a bike - it all happens here. Sunday, April 27th. Slocan Park Hall 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.
SPRING LEISURE GUIDE - Is coming soon, watch for lots of great programs for the months ahead.

226-0008

Regional District of Central Kootenay
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
AUTOMOTIVE BATTERY RECYCLING

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is seeking proposals for the secure storage, and pick up on an 'as needed basis' for the recycling of automotive batteries at our landfill and transfer station facilities. The RDCK anticipates entering into a three year agreement with the successful proponent.

For more details contact:

Jon Isfeld, Site Operations Technician
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Nelson, BC V1L 5R4
PH: (250) 352-8178 / FX: (250) 352-9300
Email: jisfeld@rdck.bc.ca
Web: www.rdck.bc.ca

Proposals will be accepted until
2:00 pm (local time), Wednesday, April 30, 2008.